

Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan), Philippines

External Situation Report No 1

15 November 2013



This Situation Report is issued jointly by the World Health Organization-Western Pacific Regional Office and the Philippines Country Office. This covers the period 10-15 November 2013. The next Situation Report will be issued on 17 November 2013.



*Coastal areas of Tacloban City were completely wiped out, killing people and displacing communities.
Photo: WHO/P. Carlson*

Highlights

- Super typhoon Yolanda (international name Haiyan) hit the Philippines on 8 November 2013. Storm surges caused widespread flooding in coastal areas and brought damages to 44 provinces, in many Regions in Central Philippines. The most severely affected areas identified so far are Tacloban City, Leyte, Northern Iloilo and Eastern Samar.
- As of 15 November 2013, the Philippine Government (National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Situation Report No 20), indicated the following damages:

<u>Dead</u>	<u>Injured</u>	<u>Missing</u>	<u>Persons affected</u>	<u>Families affected</u>	<u>Persons displaced</u>
2 360	3 853	77	9 073 804	1 962 898	1 487 040

- Health services in affected areas are completely hampered. Health priorities include injury management, preventing the spread of communicable diseases, maternal and child health services and mental health and psychosocial support.
- The World Health Organization (WHO), in support of the Government of the Philippines, is coordinating all health-related aspects of the emergency response. WHO works with DOH as co-lead of health cluster in responding to the health needs of the affected communities through a coordinated action across the three levels of the Organization.

Health Impacts

(Source: Department of Health)

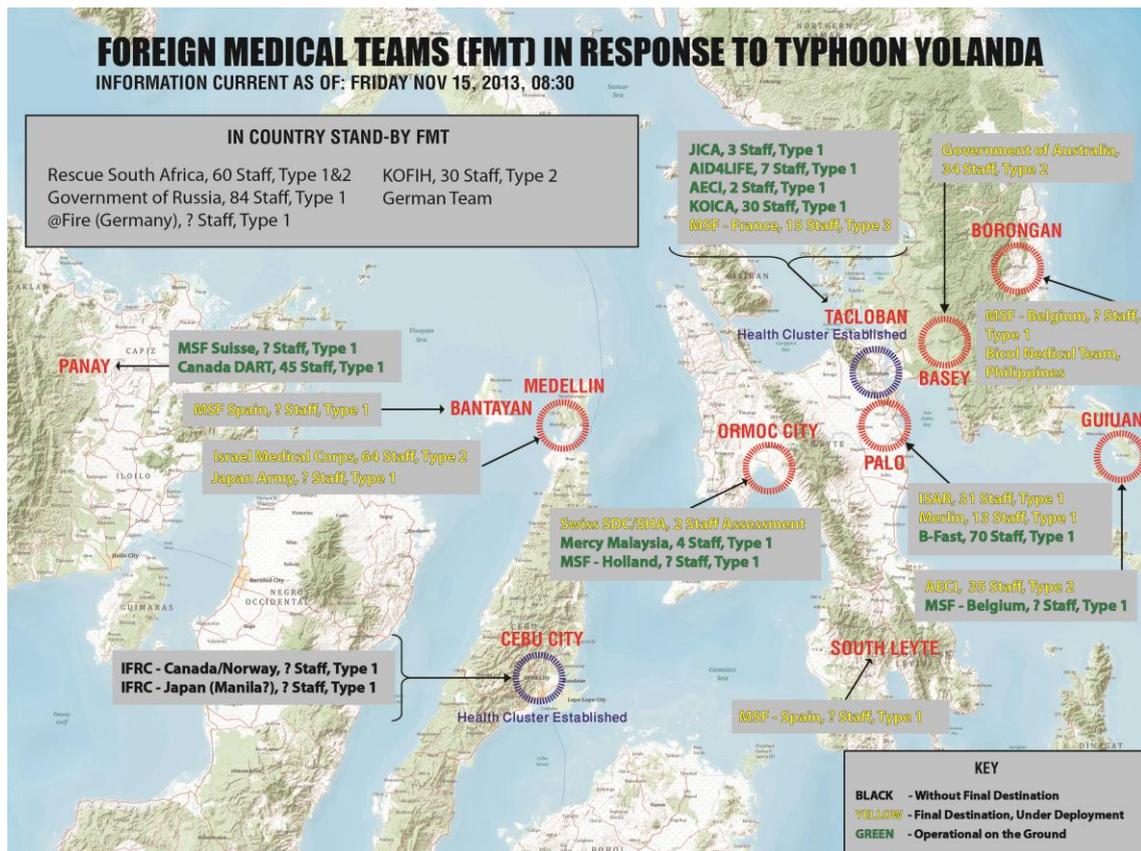
- According to preliminary reports, Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center is the only hospital remaining operational in Tacloban and is being manned by teams from Metro Manila Hospitals. All other health facilities are non-functional.
- In Ormoc, two hospitals and around 40 Rural Health Units and Barangay Health Stations were damaged and reported not functional.

Government Response (Health)

- The Government of the Philippines has declared a National Calamity (11 November 2013) in the provinces of Samar, Leyte, Cebu, Iloilo, Capiz, Aklan and Palawan. Local governments of Dumangas, Iloilo, Janiway, Antique and Bacolod have also announced a State of Calamity.
- Department of Health (DOH) composite team of 27 members (public health, technical and surveillance) was assigned in the nearby towns of Tacloban to conduct rapid health assessments. An operation centre in Center for Health Development (CHD) VIII is operational at Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC). Temporary command is being established in Ormoc City.
- A total of 22 medical teams from CHDs X, CARAGA, VII, V, IV-B, Bicol Medical Center, Vicente Sotto Medical Center and Metro Manila Hospitals were deployed in the areas affected by Typhoon Yolanda. Likewise, a total of 20 foreign teams were also deployed or on arrival as of 15 November 2013 (see map).
- DOH is also coordinating the deployment of local and foreign volunteers and supplies and leading the management of mass casualties.

WHO Response

- In light of the scale and complexity of this emergency, WHO has categorized this event as grade 3 – the highest internal emergency category - and is mobilizing organization-wide support for the country.
- Emergency operations centres across the three levels of the organization were activated starting 8 November 2013. The Philippines Country office established its Emergency Management Team, while Emergency Support Teams were organized in the Western Pacific Regional Office and at Headquarters.
- Following WHO's Emergency Response Framework (ERF) procedures, and to fulfill WHO's core functions in emergencies, staff from the Western Pacific Regional Office, Headquarters and other regional offices have been repurposed and deployed to support the Philippines Country Office in the response. External health experts in various fields have also been deployed.
- The Global Health Cluster and the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) have also been activated to mobilize support.
- WHO works with DOH as co-lead of Health Cluster in responding to the health needs of the affected communities.



Green: FMT in place

Yellow: FMT on arrival

Black: FMT in coordination's hubs waiting for deployment

- Support is also provided to DOH in coordinating the deployment of medical teams from overseas ensuring they are deployed where major needs are and avoiding duplication.
- Daily health cluster meetings have been held in Manila, co-chaired by DOH and WHO, with the participation of health cluster partners.
- Two sub-national health clusters have been established in Cebu and in Tacloban.
- Four WHO staff have been deployed to Cebu and two to Tacloban. More deployments are underway.
- A health needs assessment was conducted on 11 November in Tacloban and the result showed severe damages to health facilities. Needs assessments are underway in Cebu City, Northern Iloilo and surrounding areas. However, there is limited access to the affected areas due to impassable roads, shortage of food, water and fuel and security concerns.
- Four emergency kits with medicines and supplies to cover basic health needs of 120 000 persons during one month have been shipped. Supplies to perform 400 surgical interventions have been deployed to Tacloban.
- Four diarrheal disease kits with medicines and supplies to treat 3000 cases of acute diarrhea are also being sent.
- Support is provided to DOH in coordinating the deployment of medical teams from overseas (Japan, Belgium, Australia, USA, New Zealand, Switzerland), nationally and on the field. Four new medical teams are deployed in the field as shown in the map above.

Health Priorities

- Injury management has been identified as the immediate life-saving health need.
- The lack of access to safe water, overcrowding and displacement pose serious risk of outbreaks of communicable diseases.
- Measles vaccination is a major priority to prevent measles outbreak.
- Maternal and newborn health services have been identified as an important health priority, especially considering that estimated 203,250 pregnant and 135,500 lactating women need service -- in a setting where health services have been substantially depleted.
- Mental health services need to be provided to people affected by the disaster.

Contact

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