



UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

SITUATION REPORT

Tropical Cyclone Opong (Bualoi) in the Philippines

25 September – 16 October 2025

Highlights

On 23 September 2025, Tropical Cyclone Opong (internationally known as ‘Bualoi’) entered the Philippines as a tropical depression before wreaking infrastructure devastation and widespread displacement in the island of Masbate on 26 September.

UNFPA, together with other UN agencies and local government units in Masbate Province, conducted rapid needs assessments and surveyed the hardest-hit areas. Power interruption and loss of telecommunication signals were experienced throughout the province due to damaged utility posts. Main roads and secondary roads were impassable, impeding logistics for emergency response.

These damages significantly compromise the timely provision and access to sexual and reproductive health and protection from risks of gender-based violence (GBV). Key figures of affected populations and individuals supported by UNFPA include:



657,320

Total people affected¹



142,495

Women of reproductive age²



11,089

Currently pregnant women³



75,700

Adolescent girls (10-19 years old)

¹ Department of Social Welfare and Development-Disaster Response Operations Management, Information and Communication Report, 6PM, 13 October 2025.

² Estimated figures are based on the Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings calculator.

³ Ibid

Situation Overview

As of 13 October 2025, according to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD),⁴ Typhoon Opong affected a total of **657,320 individuals (163,294 families) across 620 barangays in 21 towns**, while leaving a trail of extensive destruction across Masbate Island. The storm critically compromised provision and access to essential sexual and reproductive health services, and gender-based violence risk mitigation and response services. According to the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO), **275 evacuation centres** are accommodating **28,184 internally displaced persons**. Among them are vulnerable groups requiring urgent support:

- **6,110** women of reproductive age
- **475** pregnant women in need of antenatal care and safe delivery options
- **3,246** adolescent girls facing heightened risks of gender-based violence and interruption of education

A primary challenge in Masbate is the widespread loss of electricity and telecommunication signals due to damaged and collapsed utility posts, disrupting health service continuity.

- The Masbate Provincial Hospital sustained partial structural damage and urgently requires at least 1,000 liters of fuel daily to maintain operations.
- Six key birthing facilities in Butuan, Monreal, San Fernando, Placer, Uson, and Dimasalang have **no available generator sets**, putting mothers and newborns at severe risk.
- The loss of power and connectivity has rendered the **Health Information System inactive**, halting timely data collection and coordination.

This power infrastructure damage has also created profound safety and access issues. Unlit areas in communities and evacuation centres, including restrooms, significantly increase the risk of gender-based violence for women and girls.

Compounding the crisis, limited equipment has left main and secondary roads impassable, which impedes the transport of life-saving supplies, hinders emergency travel for pregnant women in labor, and delays immediate treatment for survivors of gender-based violence. This situation on the ground severely compromises both the quality of, and access to, essential lifesaving sexual and reproductive health and GBV response services for women, girls, and persons with disabilities across Masbate.

The province is still under a state of calamity, requiring additional assistance to meet the needs of women, girls, mothers and their newborns in hard-hit areas.

⁴ Department of Social Welfare and Development, Disaster Response Operations Management, Information and Communication Report #51, as of 6PM, 13 October 2025



UNFPA Response

UNFPA is actively supporting the Government of the Philippines at both national and subnational levels, to address critical health needs, particularly in Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and GBV risk mitigation and response.

UNFPA has prioritized the restoration of dignity and health by distributing pre-positioned supplies, including maternity packs, to support government-led relief efforts, based on the official request from the Department of Social Welfare and Development and local governments of Masbate.

On 5 October, the prepositioned commodities in Manila had been onloaded to trucks going to Sorsogon port, directly to Masbate Island. The delivery of the supplies was given a priority pass by the Department of Social Welfare and Development for expedited delivery; the initial batch of commodities arrived in Masbate on 7 October.

Sexual and reproductive health: UNFPA deployed **662 Maternity Packs** for expectant and new mothers. With support from the Government of Australia through its Multi-Year Prepositioning Initiative, **200** maternity packs, containing essential items for mothers and newborns, were distributed. To reach more affected mothers, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific's Regional Prepositioning Initiative, also supported by the Government of Australia, complemented the deployment with an additional **462** maternity packs. These kits were distributed in the towns of Aroroy (156), City of Masbate (116), Milagros (86), Monreal (37), Pio Corpus (165), and San Fernando (102).

Gender-based violence: GBV Risk Mitigation orientations were conducted prior to the distribution of kits in every distribution point. House-to-house deliveries were conducted to reach women with disabilities. **1,550 Dignity Kits** were distributed to women of reproductive age in the 21 towns of Masbate, including the City of Masbate, to ensure hygiene, personal care and well-being as part of GBV risk mitigation measures.

With most communities still without electricity two weeks on, UNFPA also distributed **4,400 solar radios with light to women and girls**, enabling access to timely information, and giving confidence to women and girls when walking in dark, unlit areas with the built-in alarm system of the radios.

Results Snapshot



6,612
Non-food items (such as dignity kits)
distributed to individuals.

Coordination Mechanisms

UNFPA, as co-lead for both the GBV and SRH Sub-Clusters, actively supported the Inter-Agency Needs Assessment led by the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of Health on 28-30 September. This strategic coordination ensured the rapid identification of specific SRH needs, the assessment of GBV risks, and the evaluation of survivor service functionality. These efforts immediately facilitated the government's request and swift deployment of life-saving emergency SRH and GBV commodities in the province.

Funding Status

The funding requirement needed for UNFPA to respond to the SRH and GBV needs of the most vulnerable women and girls in the Province of Masbate is USD \$1,124,370.59. However, this figure is subject to revision as further information from field assessments becomes available. As of 16 October 2025, the total value of deployed commodities in Masbate amounts to US \$188,945.68 through the Multi-Year Prepositioning Project with the Government of Australia and UNFPA's Emergency Fund.

Communications

UNFPA is actively undertaking public communications by posting routine updates on the emergency response via social media (Facebook, Instagram, and X). These public communications are calling for additional support on the government-led response, and are highlighting the SRH and GBV needs of affected communities. Frequent live updates are also being shared via Facebook and Instagram stories. Below details the social media content posted as of reporting period:

- October 5, 2025 - Warehouse Loading | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [X](#)
- October 9, 2025 - Masbate Status Update | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [X](#)
- October 14, 2025 - Masbate Response Update | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [X](#)
- October 17, 2025 - UNFPA Asia and the Pacific | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [X](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

“I’m actually having contractions now, but I had to push through to get the maternity pack in time for my delivery. I’m relieved I made it here to get the pack. I’m gonna give birth today. It’s really just a matter of hours now.”

Patricia, 22, revealed that it was her due date and she was already feeling contractions when she arrived at the covered gym where she received a maternity pack.



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