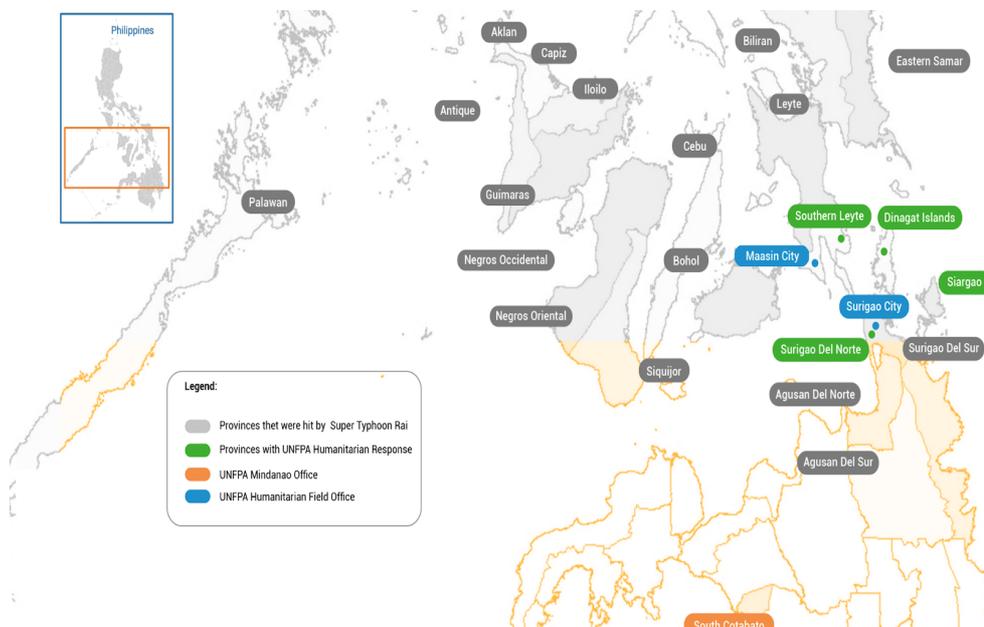


### Map of UNFPA's Areas of Intervention for Typhoon Odette (Rai) Response



### Summary Figures



### Highlights

- UNFPA continues to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable, including women and adolescent girls in typhoon-affected areas, ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care and information, and protection from gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Typhoon Odette affected communities in Southern Leyte hosted Dr. Natalia Kanem, UNFPA Executive Director, Björn Andersson, UNFPA's Director of the Asian Pacific Regional Office (APRO), and UNFPA Philippines Country Representative, Dr. Leila Joudane on 27 March 2022 to discuss UNFPA programming and the effects of the disaster on vulnerable populations, including women and girls.
- During the mission, the local government leaders alongside other dignitaries observed a Reproductive Health Medical Mission (RHMM). A Women's Health on Wheels (WHoW) was officially handed over from UNFPA to the Regional Government for use in providing care for the Odette response and to geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA).
- Tropical Storm Agaton hit the Visayas and Caraga regions on 10 April 2022. As of April 27th, there were 212 deceased, 132 missing<sup>1</sup>, and 570 injuries recorded.<sup>2</sup>

Funding contributions from:



- After a high positivity rate of 49% in January, the weekly COVID-19 positivity rate decreased to 1.2% by April 24th (1,771 cases per week).<sup>3</sup>
- UNFPA supported the deployment of regional and provincial Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) teams to Baybay and Abuyog in Southern Leyte in response to Tropical Storm Agaton, including members trained by UNFPA on GBV fundamentals / MHPSS prior to deployment.
- On 5-6 April 2022, UNFPA, WFP, IOM, and partners hosted a delegation from the Australian Embassy to visit Siargao Island response activities funded by the Australian Government.

## Situation Overview

More than four months since Super Typhoon Rai (local name Odette) ravaged the Philippines on 16 December 2021, its devastation is still apparent in the country's 11 regions with Surigao del Norte, Dinagat Island, Southern Leyte, Bohol and Cebu being the most affected. Strong winds and torrential rain severely affected over 11 million people, damaging over 2 million homes,<sup>4</sup> and initially displacing over 600,000 individuals.<sup>5</sup> The storm hit weeks before the January surge in COVID-19 cases, amplifying the needs on the ground and complicating response efforts of humanitarian actors.

To date, the response is on-going and many essential services have not been reestablished. Families continue to be displaced and are living in evacuation centers, in friend or relative homes, or in substandard shelters exacerbating protection risks and potential exposure to GBV. Many of the health care facilities continue to be non-functional, or in process of being reconstructed, requiring many to travel further for services and pay more for transportation. This barrier directly influences how and if women and girls access care, and can contribute to increased morbidity and mortality.

The situation was made even more difficult with the arrival of Tropical Storm Megi (local name Agaton) starting on 9 April 2022 and lasting for several days, across many of the same areas affected by Super Typhoon Odette in the Visayas Region (Southern Leyte) and in parts of Mindanao (Dinagat and Surigao del Norte). A series of landslides and severe flooding buried portions of Baybay and Abuyog towns, causing significant loss of life and property. The storm cut transportation routes (water and land), power and phone networks, and affected almost 2 million people, leaving an additional 250,000 displaced<sup>6</sup> across the region. The appearance of a tropical storm of this magnitude, at this time of year, is indicative of the shocks being experienced due to climate change in the Philippines.

The Commission on Election (COMELEC) issued a resolution on the prohibition of any public official or employee to release, disburse or expend public funds, effective 25 March 2022 until 8 May 2022. This prevented government agencies from directly disbursing cash, food, and material assistance to survivors of GBV, especially at crisis centers. The GBV Sub-Cluster, working with the Protection Cluster, continued its advocacy for the principles of Centrality of Protection, Do No Harm and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP).



UNFPA field team in Southern Leyte supported a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) intervention for displaced families affected by Tropical Storm Agaton on 27 April 2022.

## Humanitarian Needs

- More than 12,000 people remain displaced after Super Typhoon Odette
- 6,300 people are displaced and living with friends and relatives
- 5,800 people are displaced and continue to live inside evacuation centers
- Only 33.5% of funding requirements have been met across all humanitarian sectors to respond fully to the disaster<sup>4</sup>
- Communities in GIDA require assistance for access to basic services
- Capacity building of health care workers needed for basic emergency obstetric and neonatal care (BEmONC) to rapidly respond and stabilize obstetric and neonatal emergencies
- Capacity building and development needed for case management services for GBV survivors, using a survivor centered approach
- Integration of SRH and GBV into the interventions of other sectors, including food security, shelter, health, nutrition, protection, and livelihoods



To date, UNFPA has distributed:

Emergency kits to provide clean delivery supplies for **1,800 births**

Midwifery packs to equip **35 midwives** providing outreach in the community

Primary care level equipment for **315 deliveries**

Referral level medications and equipment for **225 cesarean deliveries** and **90 obstetric emergencies**

Medications and supplies to respond to sexual violence for **250 women** and **50 children** through clinical management of rape

## UNFPA Response

### Sexual Reproductive Health

- Continued support for alternative service delivery models is ongoing at Emergency Maternity Tent Facilities (EMTF), RHMM, and to clinical staff of the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) stationed in Women and Child Protection Units (WCPU).
- Facilities supported by UNFPA reported **527** safe deliveries by skilled providers in the month of April.
- RHMMs reached an additional **1,148** women and girls with reproductive health services and information.
- 469** additional cash for health payments were distributed through implementing partners Plan International and World Vision to women and adolescent girls attending postpartum care.
- UNFPA supported the deployment of regional and provincial MHPSS teams to Baybay and Abuyog, Southern Leyte on 27 April 2022 in response to Tropical Storm Agaton.
- MOSEP (Mindanao Organization for Social and Economic Progress) joined the UNFPA response to support the continuation of integrated SRH and GBV services and community information dissemination in Caraga.
- UNFPA, through implementing partners Plan International and World Vision, are continuing to work with local governments to complete refurbishment on ten health care facilities to ensure safe deliveries and access to reproductive health services.
- Three EMTF are operational and delivered services to an additional **123** women and girls in the reporting period.
- Eight** field monitoring visits conducted to oversee implementation of SRH services in typhoon affected areas.
- UNFPA participated in the Post Incident Evaluation - After Action Review (PIE-AAR) on 21-22 April 2022 organized by Caraga Department of Health (DOH), and on 29-30 April 2022, organized by the Province of Dinagat Health Quad Cluster to generate lessons learned and recommendations to strengthen early recovery and future responses.



**1,541**  
safe deliveries  
supported



**1,781**  
Family Planning  
Consultations



**1**  
Women's Health on  
Wheels Deployed

### Sexual Reproductive Health Coordination

- UNFPA provided a Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) orientation during the Maasin, Macrohon, Malitbog, Bontoc and Limasawa Interlocal Health Zone (M3BL ILHZ) during the Technical Management Committee (TMC) meeting on 5 April 2022.
- Explored possible collaboration with the DOH and UNICEF, and assessed needs for a BEmONC training of RHU personnel to ensure the provision of safe deliveries and the ability of clinical staff to respond quickly to birth-related emergencies.
- UNFPA co-led **three** provincial-level (Dinagat Islands and Southern Leyte) and two regional-level (Caraga) SRH coordination meetings in the month of April.
- UNFPA, representing SRH partners, participated in discussions with the Reproductive Health Coordination Team to advocate for a meeting with Caraga DOH to discuss status on birthing facilities repair and "License to Operate" (LTO) standards for those facilities that are currently closed.

## Gender Based Violence

- A total of **1,500** vulnerable women and girls have received cash for protection assistance in Southern Leyte and Caraga.
- UNFPA supported an *Introduction to GBV in Emergencies* training, provided as part of UNHCR's Protection Mainstreaming and Information Management Workshop for planning officers on 7 April 2022 for a total of **35** participants (21 females, 14 males).
- The DOH Eastern Visayas Center for Health Development in collaboration with UNFPA conducted a three-part *Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and GBV* training for MHPSS focal points and other health and social welfare actors throughout the region.
- **35** participants from the first MHPSS workshop in March were deployed on an on-the-job training to apply what they learned, and this was tied into the provision of psychological first aid to communities affected by Tropical Storm Agaton.
- An MHPSS and GBV Workshop was conducted on April 27-28 at Tanauan, Leyte for **33** participants (29 females, 4 males) to complete the three-stage training.
- In a UNFPA-WFP collaboration, the GBV referral pathway and referral mechanism was presented to beneficiaries during **27** distribution sessions in the Province of Dinagat Islands.
- **200** trained women facilitators continue to engage women and girls in their respective communities and in Women Friendly Spaces (WFS) established by UNFPA. A cash for work modality is on-going for 60 WFS facilitators in Southern Leyte, and has been completed after the final distribution of cash to 109 facilitators in the Provinces of Surigao del Norte and Dinagat Islands.
- **1,639** Dignity Kits that give women and girls access to proper hygiene materials during emergencies were distributed from 16 March to April 2022 in Southern Leyte and Caraga, including for Tropical Storm Agaton.
- **1,134** solar lamps were distributed as a way to reduce the risk of sexual and gender-based violence in Southern Leyte, Surigao del Norte, and the Province of Dinagat Islands.
- **1,639** women and girls were reached through GBV information and awareness sessions in Southern Leyte, Surigao del Norte and the Province of Dinagat Islands.
- UNFPA increased focus on the inclusion of men and boys in GBV information and sensitization sessions, reaching **3,027** in April.



**10,673**

# of women and girls reached by life-saving messages on GBV info sessions in WFS



**1,500**

women provided with cash for protection assistance



**6**

Women friendly space (WFS) tents established

## Gender Based Violence Coordination

- UNFPA co-led **three** GBV Sub-Cluster meetings in Southern Leyte, and Caraga addressing challenges and gaps faced on the ground, provision of timely and quality services, including referral pathways and needs for continued capacity building of various duty bearers of GBV services.
- UNFPA participated in the **Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) Community of Practice (CoP)** meeting on 8 April 2022 which included discussions on planning and interventions for the post-disaster recovery phase of the Typhoon Odette response. GBV inputs were contributed to the Gender Alert: Philippines Super Typhoon Rai Response.<sup>7</sup>
- UNFPA met with local officials of the municipalities of Saint Bernard, Libjo, and Dapa to discuss the donation of **three** prefabricated and fully equipped containers to serve as the WCPU where services were disrupted by the typhoon.
- UNFPA met with local officials of the municipality of Macrohon, as well as leaders from the women's organization Pinangga to discuss LGU-led interventions to combat GBV and promote women's rights; and challenges faced by women in the community, with particular focus on economic disempowerment and its link to GBV, and possible solutions to address these.

## Information Management

- UNFPA Information Management has agreed to support the Health Emergency Management Staff (HEMS) Report of the Caraga DOH to ensure that technical support is provided for data reporting and consolidation and to inform the local rehabilitation and response plan



Mr. Thanh Le, Counsellor for Development at the Australian Embassy in the Philippines and team visited the UNFPA-supported Reproductive Health Medical Mission on Siargao Island affected by Super Typhoon Odette (Rai) in April 2022.

A total of USD 56.6 million has been mobilized through the international community to date to support Typhoon Odette relief operations – or 33.5% of total funding requirements under the revised Humanitarian Needs and Priorities (HNP) plan – which resulted in humanitarian agencies implementing over 11,000 multi-sectoral interventions to support the government’s response.



**\$12 M required**



**28% funded**

UNFPA is committed to ensuring the continuity of lifesaving SRH and GBV-related services now that the response is transitioning into early recovery. To date, only 28% of the total funding required for the response has been committed. Appreciation to the **Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)**, the **Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)**, and the **UNFPA Emergency Fund** for their support to the humanitarian response for Super Typhoon Odette.

## Communications & Media Coverage

The communications team has continuously advocated for situational awareness of the response and recovery effort of UNFPA Philippines and partners in severely affected areas by typhoon Odette. It is shared through press releases, stories, and other content published on the country office website, and social media channels.

The communications effort gained traction by drawing a global audience which may increase global support for providing SRH services and protection against GBV for women and girls in typhoon-affected areas in Caraga and Southern Leyte.

### Media coverage / Social Media Feature

- Hope on wheels: Emergency maternal health units reach farthest corners of the Philippines  
<https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/hope-wheels-emergency-maternal-health-units-reach-farthest-corners-philippines>
- Women's Health on Wheels - For femtech startups, funding and faith pose challenge  
<https://www.bworldonline.com/health/2022/04/27/444679/for-femtech-startups-funding-and-faith-pose-challenge/>
- UNFPA Asia Pacific - <https://www.facebook.com/UNFPAAsiaPacific/posts/5281909435195067>
- Australia in the Philippines - <https://www.facebook.com/AustralianEmbassyManila/posts/353053500191210>
- UNFPA's Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem in the media conference during her official visit in the Philippines resulted in the following media coverage:
  - <https://www.bworldonline.com/health/2022/03/30/438852/unfpa-sounds-alarm-over-dire-state-of-health-services-in-rural-areas/>
  - <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/03/29/22/un-agency-philippines-commit-to-tackle-teen-pregnancies>
  - <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/03/28/pandemic-disasters-should-not-be-used-as-excuse-in-missing-sdg-goals/>
- UNFPA Philippines Social Media posts on UNFPA ED Dr. Natalia Kanem's visit:
  - <https://www.facebook.com/UNFPAph/posts/5050283021730992>
  - <https://twitter.com/UNFPAph/status/1511166529995706373>
  - <https://twitter.com/UNFPAph/status/1511915995115720707>

### Next steps

- Expansion of UNFPA capacity building will address MISP training for local government staff and BEmONC training for frontline providers.
- DOH requirements for LTO in birthing facilities require partner support in order to train staff and supply facilities for re-licensure.
- GBV Sub-Cluster will address limitations of available facilities, trained duty-bearers providing GBV services, and access to trained psychosocial providers.
- SRH coordination mechanisms will focus on strengthening the collaboration between humanitarian actors responding to SRH needs and priorities, particularly in the transition to early recovery.
- Survivors need continuous access to essential protection and services at all times; UNFPA through the GBV Sub-Cluster will continue to advocate for an exemption of the funding for essential and lifesaving GBV services amidst the election ban.
- Attention to the needs of vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities (PWDs) and the LGBTQI+ community, will be addressed for continued support on accessing the GBV referral services.
- Sub-Cluster partners will be supported to harmonize and improve data collection and analysis, to ensure adherence to the GBV guiding principles, and to improve coordination for evidence-based planning and advocacy.

## In the Know: Women and Child Protection Units (WCPU)



Women and Children Protection Units are hospital-based safe havens for survivors of violence against women and children (VAWC) to help them recover from the violence they experienced, as well as the trauma and other lasting impacts they may be facing. Through trained multidisciplinary teams, WCPUs are able to provide survivors with essential and life-saving medical, psychosocial, and protection services, as well as case management and referrals to more specialized needs - all in adherence to national and international protocols and standards and delivered in confidentially, sensitively and compassionately.

In emergencies, UNFPA supports WCPUs through technical assistance and human resource augmentation for multidisciplinary teams, as well as through the provision of prefabricated containers and/or equipment needed for the WCPU to provide quality services to women and children survivors.

\* \* \*

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### UNFPA Partners:



### References:

<sup>1</sup> OCHA Philippines. "Philippines: Super Typhoon Rai (Odette)." Relief Web, 27 April 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/>.

<sup>2</sup> HEALTH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BUREAU Eastern Visayas Center for Health Development

<sup>3</sup> Department of Health Covid Tracker <https://doh.gov.ph/covid19tracker>

<sup>4</sup> Philippines: Super Typhoon Rai (Odette) Humanitarian Needs and Priorities Revision (Dec 2021 - Jun 2022) (2 Feb 2022) <https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/philippines-super-typhoon-rai-odette-humanitarian-needs-and-priorities-revision>

<sup>5</sup> Philippines: Super Typhoon Rai (Odette) Humanitarian Needs and Priorities (Dec 2021 - Jun 2022)

<https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/philippines-super-typhoon-rai-odette-humanitarian-needs-and-priorities-dec-2021>

<sup>6</sup> IOM Situation Report <https://m.facebook.com/IOMPhilippines/photos/pcb.2243434929144300/2243434739144319/?type=3&source=49>

<sup>7</sup> Gender Alert: Philippines Super Typhoon Rai Response (May 2022)

<https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/gender-alert-philippines-super-typhoon-rai-response-may-2022>