



SUPER TYPHOON ODETTE EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Save the Children

Super Typhoon Odette (international name: Rai) is the strongest typhoon that hit the Philippines in 2021 and severely affected more than 1.8 million families (around 6 million persons, of which 1.8 million are children), in 38 provinces in the Eastern and Central Visayas, and Northeast Mindanao regions.

Within 48 hours after the typhoon made landfall, Save the Children deployed a Category 3 humanitarian response and launched an emergency appeal to provide relief and recovery assistance to 80,000 persons, (16,000 families) of which 24,800 are children, in Southern Leyte, Surigao del Norte, Bohol, and Dinagat Islands. Save the Children's Emergency Response Teams conducted rapid assessment, including Children's Multi-cluster Initial Rapid Assessment (CMIRA), and provided immediate assistance to affected families.

The road to recovery and rehabilitation from the impact of Super Typhoon Odette may be felt throughout the year and continue to affect the lives of children and their families who are not yet out of the woods from the existing threats of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, Save the Children is now focusing on long-term programming which includes distribution of life-saving essentials, livelihood recovery assistance, protection services and referral pathways, and technical support to the local government units (LGUs) and social welfare offices, particularly in the localization of the Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children (CEPC), to strengthen child protection systems.



ODETTE IN NUMBERS

AFFECTED POPULATION



1,814,538
Families



6,047,666
Persons



1.8 Million
Children



337,802
Displaced
Persons

IMPACT



1,360,447
Damaged
Houses



405 Dead
(70 children)



65 Missing



1,261
Injured

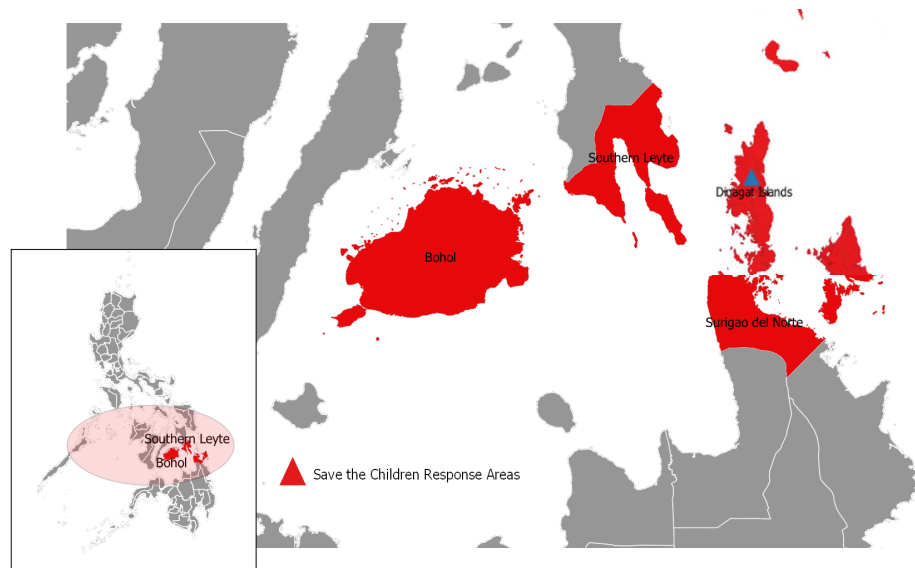


5,635 totally damaged and
10,557 partially damaged classrooms
from 2,845 schools

11 Regions, 38 Provinces,
530 Cities/ Municipalities, and 5,904 Barangays



SAVE THE CHILDREN PHILIPPINES RESPONSE



22,911 reached | **9,236** are children
as of March 2022

Distributed:

2,928 Food Packs

2,655 Plastic Sheets

2,533 Household Kits

2,352 Water Kits

1,100 Family Hygiene Kits

1,312 Children and adolescents registered/ attending Psychosocial Support Services, Child-Friendly Spaces, and other recovery programs

111 Child-Friendly Spaces Trained Facilitators

7 Community-based Child-Friendly Spaces Established

EDUCATION

Super Typhoon Odette affected more than 12 million learners across 29,671 schools in 11 regions which could lead to the disruption of schooling of students for an extended period of time. Save the Children's assessment revealed that 1) the lack of safe learning spaces limits children's access to education, particularly in schools which were supposed to resume face-to-face classes, 2) the typhoon damaged learning and teaching supplies and equipment, and 3) children and teachers are struggling with mental and physical readiness to return to school. Save the Children Philippines

coordinated with the Department of Education (DepEd) and concerned regional and division offices for the provision of education-related interventions. Save the Children is also distributing school and teaching supplies, and providing Education in Emergencies trainings for teachers in basic education and Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD).

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

Difficulties in accessing clean and safe water for drinking and domestic use have resulted to children and adults suffering from dehydration and water-borne diseases like diarrhea. These also led to the spike in the prices of water refilling stations in some areas. Open defecation and unsanitary facilities can also lead to reproductive health problems, especially among girls and women menstruating, and with pregnant and lactating women. To help affected families get access to clean and safe water and sanitation, Save the Children distributed family hygiene kits to 5,167 households, as of March 2022, which contain essentials that can last up to a month. The distributions were complemented with hygiene promotion.



FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD

Farmers and fisherfolks face serious food insecurity due to the massive damages in agriculture and fishing which are their main sources of livelihood and income. The lack of financial capacity and food supply can force them and their families, especially the most vulnerable, to resort to different food coping strategies such as reducing the number of meals or reduced intake for the sake of other family members. In Save the Children's emergency response, 2,928 households received family food packs, including 25 kgs of rice and other items that can last for up to 15 days. Multipurpose cash assistance to 220 households in the Municipalities of Burgos and Santa Monica in Siargao Islands through Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) was also provided.



SHELTER/ NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

Save the Children's assessment in Southern Leyte, Bohol, Surigao del Norte, and Dinagat Islands showed that severe damages to houses, especially those made of light materials, are felt in the coastal communities. To help families rebuild their lives, Save the Children Philippines distributed plastics sheets for temporary shelter covering 4,517 households.

CHILD PROTECTION & CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE

The lack of a suitable shelter after Odette exposed affected families to protection risks such as illnesses and diseases, physical harm, mental health issues, conflict and violence at home, and gender-based violence. Save the Children's assessment showed that protection measures are not in place or are overwhelmed. To help mitigate this, Save the Children is providing ongoing trainings to the facilitators of child-friendly spaces (CFS) and conducted Children's Multi-cluster Initial Rapid Assessment (CMIRA) in Southern Leyte, Surigao Del Norte, and Bohol to understand the issues that children are facing and determine solutions that can help them recover from the typhoon's aftermath.



CHILDREN'S MIRA: LISTENING TO CHILDREN DURING EMERGENCIES

Save the Children Philippines conducted a series of Children's Multi-cluster Initial Rapid Assessment (CMIRA) activities to a total of 81 children (46 girls and 35 boys) in San Juan, Southern Leyte, Sison, Surigao del Norte, and Getafe, Bohol on December 23 and 26, 2021, and on February 12, 2022 to learn about their experiences from Super Typhoon Odette and identify matters they consider important to them during emergencies.

KEY FINDINGS:

- Children felt nervous, afraid, and anxious because of the strong typhoon. They fear for the safety of their family;
- Children were soaked, hungry, and witnessed the tremendous impact of the typhoon;
- Children felt sad about the destruction of their houses and are trying to help their families build temporary shelter by retrieving belongings and selling scrap metals;
- Majority of the children felt that the relief goods provided were not enough and not everyone was able to receive government assistance;
- Children welcome assessments conducted by humanitarian actors as a way of informing the public about their situation

CHILDREN'S PRIORITY NEEDS/ CONCERNS:

- Girls and boys have different roles and varying needs after the typhoon;
- Immediate relief assistance (food, water, clothing, household items);
- Support to rebuild their homes (cash assistance);
- Restoration of electricity;
- Access to clean water;
- Nutrition programs for children;
- Livelihood support for parents;
- Support to education (gadgets, school supplies, and materials);
- Restoration of the environment;
- Better physical infrastructure;
- Improved community cohesion and cooperation;
- Inclusion of all households in the relief efforts;
- Barangay officials to be more responsive to their needs



*“Nagdahunog, gi gutom
ang dagat, gikaon ang
among bayay...”*

*(Roaring, the sea was
hungry and devoured our
houses...)*

Jumong, 5, San Juan, Southern Leyte

Children are the most vulnerable sector when disasters or emergencies strike. They can be exposed to risks that can affect their health, nutrition, education, protection, and mental health which can have negative irreversible effects in the long run.

Thus, local government units (LGU) should always be prepared to immediately address the needs of children by adopting Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children (CEPC), as mandated under the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act (RA 10821). The CEPC contains programs and services necessary to ensure that the rights of children, especially those who are marginalized, are respected, protected and continuously fulfilled during emergency situations. It also provides children, pregnant and lactating women, and children with disabilities, the services they need to help them cope with the impact of the disaster. Through the Mandanas Ruling, LGUs are urged to utilize allocated resources to be more prepared and be fully equipped to respond to the needs of communities, especially children, who are most affected by disasters and emergencies.



CHILD-FRIENDLY SPACES

Child-Friendly Spaces, one of Save the Children's emergency interventions, have been established in the first three months of the Typhoon Odette emergency response and currently provide children with protected environments in which they participate in organized activities to play, socialize, learn, and express themselves as they rebuild their lives.



“The most marginalized and most discriminated children, including those from poor households and those with disabilities, will bear the brunt of disasters.

We call on the effective implementation of the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act (RA 10821) by local governments to ensure that children, mothers, and the most vulnerable people in the path of the typhoon are being taken care of before, during, and after the emergency, and that security protocols are in place to prevent incidence of child abuse and exploitation in evacuation centers.”

Atty. Alberto Jesus T. Mugot
Chief Executive Officer
Save the Children Philippines

CASE STORY

"You were the first to reach us..."

- Jocelyn, 51,

Jocelyn and her husband Guidelbert, a person with vision impairment, were not able to evacuate before Super Typhoon Odette ravaged their town. They were trapped inside their house which later collapsed and was left in rubbles.

"We were not able to evacuate because the evacuation center was full. I hid under the table while Guidelbert hid under the sink. **We held on tight because the winds were too strong,**" said Jocelyn.

With no potable drinking water, Jocelyn and Guidelbert have been drinking water from a stream. They then became part of the 135 families in Union, Tagana-an, Surigao del Norte who were given hygiene kits, water kits, and plastic sheets through Save the Children's Typhoon Odette response. Jocelyn and Guidelbert were excited for the water kit. In fact, upon receiving their kits, Guidelbert immediately took a glass and drank.

"Mineral water! Finally, we were able to drink," said Guidelbert.



CASE STORY



Mercelito, 35, and Cinny, 30, have lived in the island barangay of Malingin in Bien Unido, Bohol since they were born. They have three children: Christian Ray (12), Jhon Michael (6), and Mary Crisa (5). They lived in a large house that used to belong to Mercelito's grandmother. But Typhoon Odette leveled their house, leaving only one small room on the ground floor. All of their belongings were washed away. It was the first time in decades that Malingin was hit by a typhoon of this magnitude.

"This is the first time [we experienced a typhoon this strong]. I now know how it feels like to experience a powerful typhoon. The seawater reached up to the covered court (approximately 100 meters from the shore line). I had no idea what would happen. When we came back to our house, it was destroyed," said Mercelito.

"Almost all of the boats were destroyed, including those of our relatives and neighbors. We do not have our own boat. Our only livelihood here is fishing."

"During the typhoon, our youngest child was shaking with fear. The wind and the water were very cold. The sea had really swelled up. She was crying," said Cinny.

"Thank you for the items you provided. These are a big help."



"Everybody should join hands to help those affected by the typhoon to recover in this time of pandemic. Parents and guardians should do their best to ensure that their children remain protected by taking precautions in preventing the spread of the virus and possible abuses against their children. Local governments must ensure that evacuation centers are safe and evacuees are protected and provided for with adequate supplies of food, medicine, and hygiene essentials. We should support all efforts to rebuild the affected communities."

Jerome Balinton
Humanitarian Manager
Save the Children Philippines



Save the Children

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