

## to leave no one behind

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UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Gustavo Gonzalez during a focus group discussion with youth from Saint Bernard, Southern Leyte.  
© WFP/ James St. John Cox



### Message from the Resident Coordinator

March 25 marks the 100th day since Typhoon Rai (local name: Odette) swept through 11 of the country's 17 regions, bringing with it torrential rains, violent winds, floods and storm surges that affected almost 12 million people. More than two million houses were damaged or destroyed, with over 424,000 destroyed and over 1,694,000 partially damaged.

One hundred days on, approximately 32,203 people are still displaced with some living in evacuation centers and others with relatives. Many people are still in need of food, clean water and access to medicines and sanitation facilities. Classes have not resumed for a number of children, especially where learning materials and schools were damaged. Hundreds of thousands of people who have lost their livelihoods need help to get back on their feet.

Arthur looks at old photos of his former home in Surigao City, reduced to scrap by Typhoon Rai. Arthur had built his family home with his retirement pay and by selling the only property his brother passed onto him.

His family now shares a makeshift home with another family after patching together salvaged remnants of their torn houses with donated tarpaulins. Arthur wonders if he could build another house for his family.

He is trying to apply for jobs but due to his age, no company has been interested in employing him. Each month, Arthur and his wife receive P1000 (US\$19) from their social pension, which is all they have to sustain their family.

A long recovery awaits Arthur and thousands like him.

But help has is underway. Through funding to the Philippines from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) of

Php 628 million (US\$12 million), and through collaborative partnerships with local governments, UN agencies have been able to respond to the most pressing needs, such as shelter, food security and water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and protection.

Diocela, a copra producer who lost her livelihood when her coconut trees were felled by Typhoon Rai, is one of the 1,850 coconut farmers in Southern Leyte Province that are receiving livelihood assistance from FAO and the Government of Belgium. Ervin is grateful to be able to move out of the evacuation center in Southern Leyte after receiving shelter repair kits and some money from IOM. Mariel is the first to give birth in a mobile clinic for women which was deployed by UNFPA after the birthing facility in her town was washed away by the rains. Marielle and her sister are volunteering in the Child Friendly Space set up by UNICEF in the Dinagat Islands. Residents of a town in the Siargao Islands are grateful to receive water and sanitation kits from UNICEF.

Our humanitarian partners are just as steadfast in their support. The crisis brought on by Typhoon Rai cannot be addressed by any single player but requires the sustained partnership between the Government and all humanitarian partners.

As we mark the 100 Days after Typhoon Rai, we must renew our commitment and reinvigorate our work so that the thousands of affected Filipinos are not left even further behind.

Gustavo Gonzalez

# 100 Days After Typhoon Rai/Odette

## Child-Friendly Spaces



Children enjoying the Child-Friendly Space in Bagumbay, in the Dinagat Islands © UNICEF/2022/ Narine Aslanyan

## Young volunteers tend to children in the Dinagat Islands

Marielle Mason, an 18-year-old student in Grade 12, is one of the 10 volunteers working in the child-friendly space established by UNICEF and Community and Family Services International (CFSI) in the village of Bagumbay in the Dinagat Islands following the devastation wrought by Typhoon Rai (local name: Odette).

UNICEF teams installed a tent and brought along many toys and recreational items. Inside, different structured, supervised sessions are scheduled in the mornings. In the afternoons, children enjoy each other's company.

Marielle's family had been staying in an evacuation center for several days until her parents were able to repair part of their house. When CFSI and UNICEF

started looking for volunteers, Marielle, her sister Mari-Rose, and her friends, were excited to join because they wanted to help minimize the impact of the typhoon on the children in the village.

"Many children ask their parents to be allowed to go to the child-friendly space as early as possible, right after the breakfast, even if it is still dark outside," says Marielle. "UNICEF will need to open more of this type of centers in Dinagat. These are very popular with children as there is not much else to do for them here," she adds.

You can help us reach more children and families affected by Typhoon Odette.

Donate at [bit.ly/UNICEFEmergencies](https://bit.ly/UNICEFEmergencies)

## Higher Incomes for Fisherfolk

### Fishers profit from sun and air

In the town of San Pascual, in Masbate province, fisherfolk had not been earning enough to provide for their families. They were selling their catch for low prices because they could not refrigerate what they could not immediately sell.

The supply of electricity in their town was limited and so unsold fish would go bad and had to be thrown away.

The drying of fish in the sun and in open air was an option. In fact, a fisherfolk organization in the town--the Pinamandayan Fisherfolk Association (PFA)-- had a facility for the drying of bisugo, or threadfin bream, a major commodity in the area. However, the organization needed more raw materials and equipment to make the drying facility fully functional.

With support from IFAD's Fisheries, Coastal Resources and Livelihood (FishCORAL) Project, PFA upgraded their dried fish production. The FishCORAL Project not only provided PFA with materials such as fresh bisugo as initial input, freezer, crates, weighing scales, and other essential equipment, but also conducted technical assistance and capacity training to enhance the skills of the members in the production of quality dried fish using modern and hygienic methods.

Read [Thrive in Dried](#)



San Pascual, Masbate. Youth members of Pinamandayan Fisherfolk Association actively participate in the fish drying livelihood of their organization. © FishCORAL Project



Dried threadfin bream produced and packed by the Pinamandayan Fisherfolk Association © FishCORAL Project



## Keeping dried fish producers afloat

Virginia is a *danggit* maker from Bantayan, one of the many small island communities in the country.

*Danggit* is a breakfast favorite among Filipinos. Making it, however, takes a considerable amount of time for danggit makers like Virginia. From obtaining fish, slicing and salting them overnight, washing them in the sea the next day and drying them in racks under the sun before being packed and sold. On days with little sunshine the process takes much longer.

In the past, *tabagak*, a special kind of fish to make *danggit* was used. With more people interested in this local delicacy, demand for it has increased

over the years. Yet the supply has significantly dwindled due to frequent changing weather patterns and overfishing.

IOM Philippines works with communities to empower women who face the direct impact of the climate crisis. Through its programming, IOM builds climate resilience and explore how women can be agents of change to ensure migration may serve as an adaptation strategy in the context of the climate emergency.



Virginia, a *danggit* maker, is one of the many residents in Bantayan who rely on the sea for their livelihood. © IOM Philippines

## Resilience through Livelihood



Nanay Diocela amidst her family's destroyed house and coconut farm. © FAO



Diocela points to her flattened chicken coop. Only 4 out of her 80 chickens survived. © FAO

## Beyond Rai's devastation: The story of Nanay Diocela

Diocela Estrada, 67, a coconut farmer in the village of Sabang, Hinundayan, Southern Leyte, had 50 coconut trees circling her home and from which she and her family harvested coconuts to make copra. In the onslaught of Typhoon Rai (local name: Odette), all of the trees were completely destroyed.

"My husband and I used to earn about PHP 8,000 to PHP 10,000 (about USD 160-200) from selling copra each month. Now it's zero," says Nanay Diocela ("Nanay" being a Filipino salutation of respect for elderly women).

The farm gate price of copra currently stands at Php33 (US\$0.63) per kilo. This may not sound much, but for the thousands of coconut farmers affected by Typhoon Rai, this is still a significant loss, especially as this is their only source of income. For coconut farmers who lost their trees to Typhoon Rai, getting back on their feet would literally take years. According to the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), when grown from seed, traditional coconut varieties start producing fruit in six to 10 years, but will only reach peak production in about 15 to 20 years after planting.

"Our two small fishing boats were also destroyed," says Diocela. "Without them, my husband or my son cannot go out to sea to fish, so that at least we could have food and something to sell. At the same time, my son is also out of a job because the coconut farm where he works as a laborer was also wiped out."

"I really do not know what we will do," she adds with desperation in her voice.

For now, to compensate for lost income, Diocela does laundry for a small fee. On the other hand, her husband and son do construction and repair jobs on other damaged houses.

To tide them over, Diocela's family rely on aid given by relief organizations for their daily sustenance. Although grateful for the assistance that she has received from the government and other humanitarian entities, Diocela and others like her are aware that these are temporary.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with financial support from the Government of Belgium, is assisting 1,850 severely affected coconut farmers and their households in Southern Leyte Province, specifically targeting female-headed households. FAO will provide these households with agricultural inputs, including fertilizers, intercrops such as Cardaba banana, assorted vegetable seeds, sweet potato and garden tools. FAO will also build their capacity to engage in alternative income-generating activities, as it will take at least six years for newly planted coconut tree seedlings to mature and become productive.

### Read Beyond Rai's devastation: The story of Nanay Diocela

Call for assistance: As part of a general UN appeal, and working closely with the government, FAO aims to support farmers and fishers affected by Super Typhoon Rai by helping them re-establish their livelihoods and improving their food security and nutrition through timely recovery and rehabilitation interventions. Read FAO's urgent call for assistance [here](#).



The Women's Health on Wheels facility in Saint Bernard in Typhoon Rai/Odette-affected Southern Leyte was stationed next to a school compound being used as an evacuation camp. © UNFPA Philippines



Mobile clinic for women arrives in typhoon-hit town

Mariel Bucag, 29, was dismayed when Typhoon Rai (local name: Odette) and its torrential rains washed away the birthing facility in the town of Saint Bernard, Southern Leyte, where she lives. She was pregnant at the time and she worried about how she would deliver her child safely.

In February 2022, a new mobile sexual and reproductive health clinic called Women's Health on Wheels (WHoW) was deployed to Southern Leyte. Designed to reach remote areas, WHoW provides rapid response to women in dire need due to climate disasters and other emergencies.

Mariel was the first woman to give birth in the mobile facility; she had a baby girl.

Funded jointly by UNFPA and the government, the mobile unit is the first of its kind in the country to

address medical issues surrounding reproductive health and gender-based violence in the aftermath of a crisis.

"I've wished for something like this," says Dr. Karen Villanueva, the Municipal Health Officer of Saint Bernard. "It enables our staff to reach the isolated and disadvantaged with basic health services."

Read In a deadly typhoon's wake, a women-led mobile facility meets sexual and reproductive health needs



Long road to recovery

Iron sheets crumpled like paper, piles of broken wood and roofless houses are still a common sight among the most devastated areas, three months after Super Typhoon Rai (local name: Odette) slammed into the central Philippines. Most affected people are trying to rebuild by piecing together salvaged remnants of their torn houses with donated tarpaulins to serve as their new homes.

In Surigao del Norte, in Eastern Mindanao, more than 645,000 people were affected and over 121,000 houses were either damaged or destroyed.

Arthur Manlangit's home in Surigao City is one of those houses.

"I cried when I saw what was left of our house," he says. "My family wonders if we can have a house again. Right now, we are living with a friend, with his family. We put together all the scraps from our torn houses to build a makeshift home which we are sharing now."

Arthur had built his family home with his retirement pay and by selling the only property his brother passed onto him. With no means of earning money to rebuild, all Arthur can do now is look at old photos of their house.



Arthur Manlangit in front of the house he built with his friend from the scraps of their torn houses. Both their families share the house. © Lisa David/IFRC

Arthur tries to apply for jobs but due to his age, no company has been interested in employing him. Each month, Arthur and his wife get P1000 (US\$19) from their social pension, which is all they have to sustain their family.

The Philippine Red Cross is providing multi-purpose cash grants to help affected families buy what they need, from shelter materials to food supplies and books for their children.

Read Long Road to Recovery

## The dream is to leave the evacuation center

For three months, since Typhoon Rai (local name: Odette) washed away his house, Ervin Beringull, 62, has been living with his wife, son and daughter in a school in the village of Himbangan, in the town of Saint Bernard, Southern Leyte. The school had been converted into an evacuation center and houses three other families.

Ervin used to earn a living by extracting oil from coconuts. Typhoon Rai destroyed all of the coconut trees, and along with it his only means of providing for his family.

One day, IOM came and gave him shelter repair kits and some money to buy essential goods. Ervin is grateful that he and his family can finally leave the evacuation center and rebuild their lives.



Ervin Beringull standing in front of the place where his house was before Typhoon Rai washed it away.  
© OCHA/Stefania Trassari

## Shelter as necessary step to recovery

Jessa, 23, and mother of one, lives in the coastal village of San Juan, Surigao City. They are now temporarily staying at the Surigao City High School Evacuation Center, along with 31 other families, after her home was totally damaged by Typhoon Rai (local name Odette).

Her husband works as a laborer at a local shopping store. Their meager income of Php300 (USD5.7) a day is not enough to pay for their daily expenses.

"Our dream is to have our own house," says Jessa. "We were supposed to fix our house but my child got sick."

With funding support from the **Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**, Jessa's family is one of IOM's 123 transitional shelter beneficiaries. The site on which these temporary houses are being built is in the local government relocation site at Barangay Cagniog, Surigao City.

"We're thankful because we now have a [temporary] shelter. I am overjoyed. Thank you, Surigao City LGU, IOM and the [Government of] Australia, for your generosity!" says Jessa.



Jessa stands beside her transitional shelter that is one of the many currently being constructed across most-affected areas of Typhoon Rai.



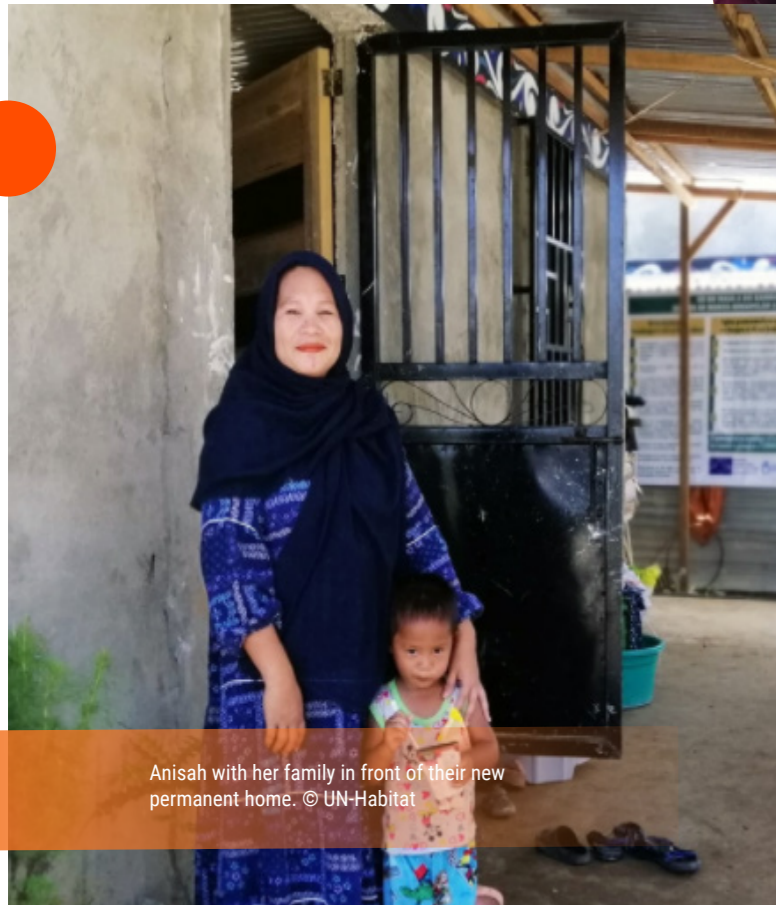
# Shelter / Women Empowerment

## Maranao women help rebuild Marawi

Anisah Ampuan Bariga, 37, is one of the 109 home-partners that were the first to receive permanent houses and lots in Hadiya Village, Barangay Dulay, Marawi City. The houses were constructed by UN-Habitat under the **Rebuilding Marawi Project** through funding support from the People of Japan.

For almost four years, Anisah had lived as an internally displaced person (IDP) following the 2017 Marawi Siege. She had gone from living with relatives to transferring to transitory shelter, and eventually going back to the war-damaged family house located within the three-to-six-meter danger zone along the Agus River. Thus, the safety of her children in their new home is one of the things she is most grateful for.

But Anisah, like the other home-partners, played a big role in building her home. For more than three years prior to her transfer to Hadiya Village, Anisah was an active member of the Saduc Riverside Homeowners Association (HOA) and led its Construction Finance Committee where she was trained and learned how to canvass and procure shelter materials. She joined in scouting for quality construction materials and negotiating for lower prices with hardware store owners. It was not



Anisah with her family in front of their new permanent home. © UN-Habitat

the usual task assigned to women, particularly to Maranao women, but she proved that she could deliver what was expected of her and more.

Get to know other Maranao women like Anisah who have greatly contributed to UN-Habitat's Rebuilding Marawi Project and the overall rehabilitation efforts in Marawi City: **Women of Marawi: how Maranao women contributed to rebuilding communities and sustaining peace**

Anisah (second from the right) at the construction site with officers of the Saduc Riverside Homeowners Association © UN-Habitat



# Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



UNICEF Emergency WASH kits are unloaded for distribution in Barangay San Juan, San Benito in Siargao © Action Against Hunger Philippines/ Benjie Montilla

## WASH kits arrive for the unreachable

On 16 December 2021, Typhoon Rai (local name: Odette) made its first landfall in the Siargao Islands of Surigao Del Norte in Caraga. Within hours of its impact, a total of 2,552,312 families across 38 provinces have been affected as the typhoon had caused massive damage in infrastructure, houses, and livelihoods that have severe and long-term effects on the affected populations.

UNICEF hoped to reach 26,000 typhoon-affected people within the Municipalities of General Luna, Burgos, San Benito, and Del Carmen, specifically to provide the children and their communities with safe water and sanitation services while promoting proper hygiene practices in times of emergency.

UNICEF jumpstarted their water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities starting in Barangay Baybay in the Municipality of Burgos and made their way to San Benito to reach Barangays Bongdo, Talisay, and San Juan. Within the first week of February, they had supported approximately 3,580 people (221 households in Burgos; 495 households in San Benito).

Life-saving WASH assistance in the form of hygiene and/or water kits (jerry cans with Aquatabs/Hypsolol) were provided to prioritized families with children under five years old, family members with vulnerable circumstances— pregnant/lactating women (PLW); single-headed households, child-headed households; persons with disabilities (PWDs); senior citizens;



UNICEF Emergency WASH kits are unloaded for distribution in Barangay San Juan, San Benito in Siargao © Action Against Hunger Philippines/ Benjie Montilla

and family members with comorbidities—or impoverished families who have not yet received emergency WASH support in the aftermath of Typhoon Odette.

One of the recipients, a mother from the village of Bongdo, expressed her gratitude upon seeing several soap items in the emergency kit. She stated that her community had little expectations that they would still be receiving WASH support. According to her, neighboring barangays already received similar aid weeks before, but her barangay was not included.

**Read Reaching the Unreached: Super Typhoon Odette WASH Emergency Response in Caraga**



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