## RAPID needs assessment in emergencies

### 1. General information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and the nature of the disaster</th>
<th>Typhoon: Typhoon Melor (local name Nona)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date/s on which the rapid needs assessment was done.</td>
<td>December 16, 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Areas Visited by the Team | 1. Municipality of Lao-ang  
2. Municipality of Palapag  
3. Municipality of Mapanas  
4. Municipality of Gamay  
5. Municipality of Lapinig  
6. Municipality of San Roque  
7. Municipality of Catarman  
8. Municipality of Catubig  
9. Municipality of Las Navas |
| Team Composition: | From the Province of Northern Samar  
1. Public Information Officer  
2. Provincial Engineer  
3. Representative of PSWD  
4. Department of Education Division Engineer  
5. Photographer from Public Information Office  
From Plan International Philippines  
1. ER Team Leader  
2. Communication Officer |
| Methodology use during RNA | a. Key Informants Interview  
b. Direct Observation |
| Date on which the rapid needs assessment report is being written. | December 17, 2015 |
| Full name, job title, e-mail and phone number of the team leader/ person writing the report. | Telesforo B. Laplana  
Plan International Philippines National Program Manager – Child-Centered DRR;  
Telesforo.laplana@plan-international.org |

### 2. Situation Overview

Typhoon Nona, internationally known as Typhoon Melor, made landfall on December 15, 2015, first hitting Batag Island in the Municipality of Laoang Province of North Samar.

Plan International Philippines (Plan) has implemented long-term programming in North Samar for more than 10 years, with approximately 30 staff and an office in Catarman city. Immediately following the typhoon, Plan deployed a rapid assessment team, working in conjunction with the provincial government. This report is the initial results of the rapid assessment and the latest government information provided by the North Samar PDRRMC, which Plan has been attending coordination meetings with.

Typhoon Melor affected the entire province of Northern Samar as well as its neighbouring provinces.

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According to the draft initial report of the PDRRMC presented on December 17, 2015, the 569 barangays of the 24 Municipalities in North Samar were hit by Typhoon Melor. The most affected municipalities are those facing the Pacific Ocean these are Laoang, Palapag, Mapanas, and San Roque. In the RDRRMC report, over 126,185 families and 585,532 individuals were affected, and 46,490 houses are listed as totally damaged. This figure however, is still not official and needs to be further verified. The Plan assessment team noted that there are many destroyed houses, in some areas up to around 80-90%, especially in coastal areas, but was not able to count the total.

Following the heavy impact left by Melor, on 15 December, the provincial government of North Samar declared the entire province to be under the state of calamity.

There were number of casualties and damages to infrastructures and agriculture. As of December 17, 2015 some 341 people suffered injury, 6 were dead and 9 are still missing. Melor left Ph974,017,792 worth of damages to infrastructure and agriculture.

While mobile phone signal and internet were cut off during and in the immediate aftermath of the typhoon, Globe Telecom signal was restored, as of evening of 16 December. Email access is still difficult as signal is fluctuating. Plan has set up a BGAN (Broadband Global Area Network) to enable internet connectivity.

Electricity is still out across the entire province, and interior villages, particularly island barangays are still either unpassable or hard-to-reach due to blockages brought by fallen trees, toppled electrical posts, and pockets of landslides in hilly areas. The Plan International office in Catarman also sustained damages and a Plan staff’s house was completely destroyed.

Most of the families in Northern Samar rely on coconut as their main source of livelihoods. With heavy impact on coconuts, the families assessed it will take years to recover.

The Department of Education (DepEd) representative reported in the PDRRMC meeting on December 17 that of the 520 Elementary Schools and 78 High Schools of Northern Samar, 56 schools were totally destroyed and 261 were partially damaged. Total damage estimate was pegged at Ps186 Million. Plan observed many classrooms with roofs blown off, textbooks and learning materials destroyed. Computers and other facilities were likewise destroyed due to the rain and heavy winds. While the Christmas break provides sometime for children and teachers to be away from school, the teachers and parents worry that with the huge damage to classrooms, there will be no classrooms to use, when classes resume in January 4.
3. Needs

Based on consultations, field visits, various coordination meetings attended, the more pressing needs are the following:

**Food.** The municipal Social Welfare Office has provided food packs consisting of rice and canned goods to the affected families. This is estimated to sustain food needs of families for at least a week. The supply will be augmented by stocks of goods expected to be released by DSWD regional and national offices. However, the families fear that once the stocks are depleted, there will be no supply as their main sources of livelihoods have been severely damaged.

**Medicine.** At the moment, there is no expressed medical needs for children and families, but interviewed affected families fear that with the cold weather and occasional rains, and the lack of adequate roofing or cover—especially for those who lost their homes—children, the elderly and...
other vulnerable groups may develop coughs and colds and upper respiratory illnesses.

**Shelter.** Shelter is one of the most pressing needs, following damages sustained by many houses. Families whose homes are made of light materials where either totally destroyed or heavily damaged. Some of those who lost their homes are staying in relatives, while others have started assembling salvaged materials to rebuild makeshift houses. The families expressed they will need housing materials such as GI sheets, lumber and nails.

**Water, Hygiene and Sanitation.** Drinking water remains available, but a number of water pipes have been damaged, especially those that cut across river barangays. This has affected water supply in some areas, and affected families needed to travel to the nearest water source for safe drinking water. A number of household toilets have also been destroyed, which collapsed along with their houses. This has compelled the families to seek the toilet facilities of their nearest neighbor or relatives to relieve themselves, or in very remote areas, defecate in the open. Others have started gathering pieces to rebuild their toilets, from what remained after the typhoon. The same condition is observed in schools. With the sustained damage to water and sanitation people are also confronted with managing/maintaining hygiene.

**NFIs.** Affected families also lost some of their belongings to the typhoon, including mats and blankets. Many of those who lost homes lost their household items too, or got soiled in the mud. Some however have recovered and washed their clothes and sleeping materials.

**Livelihoods.** As mentioned earlier, Typhoon Melor left heavy damage to agriculture and fisheries. Coconuts are damaged and the local population expressed it will take years for these recover. Other crops are also destroyed. Fishing boats, especially those in coastal communities were damaged which will required substantial amount to repair.

**Education/schools.** In addition to classrooms, books, learning materials and other school furniture were also damaged, especially those classrooms that were damaged, or left without roofing. Teachers expressed that they fear students will drop from school due to the impact of the typhoon to their livelihoods as well as in the school facilities. Teachers mentioned that Temporary Learning Spaces could help resume classes when students are back from the christmas holidays in January. Tarpaulins can be temporarily used to provide roofing for damaged roofs.

While local authorities have started efforts to clear major roads to regain access, debris clearing is a major need. Households have started clearing efforts in their respective neighbourhoods, however, schools and classrooms will require collaborative effort to clear and become ready for classes again. Melor left substantial amount of debris that require community efforts.

These are the proposed Municipalities and Barangays that Plan covered. All these are Plan programme Municipalities and Barangays.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Barangay</th>
<th># of affected Families</th>
<th>Population Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Catubig</td>
<td>Irawahan</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>1,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Catubig</td>
<td>Sagudsuran</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Catubig</td>
<td>Magtuwad</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Catubig</td>
<td>Opong</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>1,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>San Roque</td>
<td>Dale</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>1,505</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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If there are still funding opportunity, these are the proposed expansion. These communities are not Plan communities but are the mostly hit by Typhoon Melor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Barangay</th>
<th># of Families</th>
<th>Population Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lao-ang</td>
<td>Aguadahan</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>1,089</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lao-ang</td>
<td>Aroganga</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>650</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lao-ang</td>
<td>Cabadiangan</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>2,821</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Lao-ang</td>
<td>Cahayagan</td>
<td>439</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lao-ang</td>
<td>Candawid</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>860</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Lao-ang</td>
<td>Inamlan</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lao-ang</td>
<td>Langob</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>576</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Lao-ang</td>
<td>Marubay</td>
<td>286</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Lao-ang</td>
<td>Mualbual</td>
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<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Lao-ang</td>
<td>Onay</td>
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<td>Lao-ang</td>
<td>Napotioan</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Lao-ang</td>
<td>Pangdan</td>
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<td>Rawis</td>
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<td>5555</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Lao-ang</td>
<td>Talisay</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>1570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Lao-ang</td>
<td>Tan-awan</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,559</td>
<td>22,680</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

4. **Coverage and Gaps analysis**

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The local government has utilised their Quick Respond Fund to purchase sacks of rice and canned goods. Provision of relief items are done in coordination with the Social Welfare office who have done initial distribution.

Plan used existing stocks from its warehouse in Borongan—750 each of water, hygiene, and infant kits—to provide an initial response in North Samar. The goods have arrived on 16 December and distribution has started on 17 December, in coordination with the provincial, municipal and barangay government officials. While Plan intends to expand its response to include as many households as possible, it is posed with limited resources, and will need funding assistance from humanitarian donors to augment this response. **(Note – after this report was written Plan responded with additional support to 700 households, including more NFIs. Plan has also as of today gained additional funding to implement temporary learning spaces)**

According to the Municipal DRRMOs, housing remains a big concern, as their QRF have been depleted to provide for the food needs of their constituents. Housing needs include G.I. Sheets, nails and lumber. This gap in shelter poses some gender and protection risks, if not responded, especially for children and young people who will likely be in the same sleeping quarters with elders and relatives.

In addition to shelter, one other biggest impact that Melor left is on livelihoods. The families are apprehensive of the coming months, as coconuts have been destroyed. They expressed the need for alternative sources of income to help them get by, especially with the threat of El Nino at the onset of the summer season that is also feared to impact on agriculture.

The extent of damage to school schools will also have longer impact on the students’ participation and quality of learning. Teachers are confronted with the lack of proper learning environment, following damages sustained by classrooms.

Other than the local government and the DSWD and the initial assistance from Plan International, there has been little support or expressed commitment from other agencies.

5. **Risks**

Typhoon Melor poses risks to the more vulnerable population—specifically among the elderly, children and young people and pregnant or lactating women. The need to look for alternative sources of income may compel young people and adults to look for jobs outside their area, which can have negative impact on younger children, who will likely be left under the care of other members of the family or relatives, or with their elder siblings.

Young people may be forced to leave schools, and fall into the trap of trafficking.

With election fast coming, humanitarian assistance, especially those coming from aspiring local officials could be affected by partisan politics. Partisan politics could potentially also negatively impact on how aid can get to the most vulnerable and needy, as this could be used to advance some people’s political aspirations.

6. **Projected Trend**

As mentioned under section 5 above, with the national elections approaching, there may be a tendency for emergency response efforts to be used by some opportunistic politician to advance their own political agenda.

7. **Response Capacity of national and local authorities and civil society actors**

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While the provincial government has declared a state of calamity and has expressed the need for external assistance, there has been no appeal raised by the national government. (As of writing, the government has declared a national emergency)

As of this report, the Department of Social Welfare and Development of Region 8 has committed to provide Northern Samar with 2,236 sacks of rice (at 25kgs per sack) and additional 800 sacks each weighing 50kgs. DSWD has also provided 80 rolls of tarpaulin (100 meters each) to the Provincial Social Welfare Office and have been organized for distribution. An initial commitment for G.I sheets and umbrella nails was announced, but to a limited quantity.

Some private donors have also provided some food packs to the Municipal LGUs.

NDRRMC also expressed support to Northern Samar through the Regional Director of the Office of Civil Defense for region 8. C130 has started transporting rice and other relief items from the National Government.

At the household level, families have started fixing their houses, using salvaged materials. Those who lost their roof gathered GI sheets that were blown away or tarpaulin sheets as temporary cover.

As of this writing, Plan is one of the only international NGOs responding to the needs of the affected families.

8. International response capacity within the country

Plan is one of the first and only international organization responding as of this writing. Other organizations that have expressed intention to support include the Red Cross, Christian Aid and CRS.

9. Humanitarian Access

While the airport in Catarman sustained damages, it has reopened and flights have now resumed. Via land, highways have also been cleared and accessible via roads from other parts of the Visayas. While the NPAs known to exist in the hinterlands of the province, the ceasefire declared between the government and the NPA allows for smooth delivery of aid.

10. Humanitarian Country Team’s strategic Priorities

The HCT has not prioritized a response as the government has not requested international assistance. Responses from other humanitarian actors are contingent upon individual decisions of each agency, based on their own available resources and capacity to respond.

11. Analysis and recommendation on what needs and gaps Plan should respond to.

Following the assessment, expressed needs by the affected communities and the capacity of the local government, Plan is considering to complement local humanitarian efforts by supporting at least 4,000 households from the towns of San Roque, Catarman, Las Navas and Catubig, through the following:

WASH – through the provision of:
- Hygiene kits
- Water kits
- WASH education

NFI – through the provision of household kits, that comprise sleeping materials such as blankets, mats and mosquito nets.

Education – through the establishment of Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS), ECCD in a box, and if funding allows, repair of some classrooms.
Protection – through the establishment of child-friendly spaces and the conduct of psychosocial sessions with children.

To date, Plan has deployed and distributed emergency pre-positioned stocks, including 750 water kits, 750 hygiene kits, 750 infant kits, and 50 sheets of tarpaulins to support emergency shelter. (As mentioned previously, Plan has responded to an additional 700 households since writing of this report)

Based on the above information, Plan will seek additional funding for further response.

Families happy to receive relief items (water and hygiene kits) from Plan International Philippines in North Samar.

17 December/2015