



Safe Distribution of Food Assistance

All affected people need food, but some need it more than others

- The condition of elderly, sick and infants is the first to deteriorate where there is a lack of food, and pregnant and lactating women also need to be given priority in food distributions

Not everyone needs the same food

- People without teeth, such as infants and elderly, may be unable to eat some solid foods
- Indigenous people such as Mamanwa and Monobos may have different diets to other Filipinos, such as eating cassava instead of rice

We respond solely according to need

The principle of impartiality requires humanitarian responders to distribute solely according to need. This means actively identifying everyone with needs, including those who may not be immediately visible, and not discriminating between people on the basis of ethnic origin, nationality, political opinion, race or religion.

We protect people's dignity

People are not “victims” – they may presently lack food and livelihood as a result of the typhoon but they have immense strengths and capacities and should be consulted as to how they can best be assisted.

Wherever possible, conditional transfers of food should be given. This involves beneficiaries earning the food by doing work for food, such as clearing debris or undertaking building tasks (collaborate with Shelter and Early Recovery clusters). Those less physically strong can be allocated lighter tasks or supervision, and those unable to work at all should be supported with food as well so they don't miss out. This includes persons with disabilities, chronic illnesses, orphans and the elderly.

CHECKLIST

- Is the distribution site convenient for the affected people? Is it located within walking distance from their present residence, in a safe place, with enough space for orderly distribution?
- Is the distribution site set up with clear entrance and exit, barriers to allow for crowd control and to ensure only beneficiaries are able to enter? Is there shelter and shade, water and toilets available?
- Is the ration size appropriate for the beneficiaries to be able to carry home without being dependent on others to carry it for them? Has consideration been given to assisting those who cannot come or cannot carry anything (eg family support, community mobilization, mobile distributions)?
- Do the beneficiary lists include all the most needy groups without exclusion of Indigenous Peoples, or those who voted against the current barangay captain in the recent elections?
- Does the community understand when and where the distribution will take place, what they will get and how many people it is for and for how long it should last? Do they understand they don't have to do anything to get the ration? If they don't get their ration, is there somewhere they can complain?
- Is the timing of the distribution suitable? It should be in daylight hours and people should not have to line up for hours.
- Is there somewhere for children of beneficiaries to play safely while they wait for their parents to collect the food package?
- During distribution are beneficiaries informed on estimated waiting time, and are those who cannot stand in line for long periods such as elderly persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women given priority so they wait for less time?

For More Information

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