

This report is issued by OCHA HQ in New York. It covers the period from 28 August to 1 September 2009.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- **614 deaths confirmed, 92 still reported as missing.**
- **More than 1.6 million people evacuated.**
- **Direct economic loss estimated at US\$ 5.3 billion.**
- **No significant gaps reported in humanitarian assistance.**
- **Focus of response shifted from relief to recovery.**

II. Situation Overview

The landfall and flooding caused by Typhoon Morakot, during 6-11 August 2009, severely affected the following provinces and counties: Zhejiang, Fujian, Jiangsu, Anhui, Jiangxi, Shanghai, Kaohsiung and Pingtung. As of 1 September, 614 deaths have been confirmed (including 12 people in the mainland provinces), and over 92 people are still recorded as missing. Kaohsiung County has been the most affected, with more than 400 deaths reported so far. More than 1.62 million people were evacuated. The extent of damage to livelihoods and infrastructure, including electrical infrastructure, telecommunication and hydrological facilities, was substantial. Agriculture has been the hardest hit sector. In the mainland alone, more than 3.4 million hectares of farmlands have been critically damaged by flood waters. Direct economic losses have been estimated at US\$ 5.3 billion approximately.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Needs Assessments

In the last week of August 2009, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in consultation with relevant authorities and partners, fielded two United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) missions, one to Beijing and the other to Taipei.

The first UNDAC team reached Taipei on 24 August and completed its mission on 28 August. After visiting Kaohsiung and Pingtung, the two most affected counties where 602 deaths have been confirmed, the team has concluded that there are no significant gaps in meeting emergency humanitarian needs of the affected population. There is however, a relatively small caseload of 2,676 displaced persons, living in temporary shelters, who require continued support and alternate housing in the months to come. Local authorities, Red Cross volunteers, religious groups, non-governmental organizations, and individuals actively contributed to aid delivery and massive clean-up operations at several sites. Local township leaders and volunteers are monitoring the status of, and caring for their neighbors. All parties met by the UNDAC team considered that the life-saving phase had been completed; and that the focus had shifted to recovery and reconstruction. Following the UNDAC site assessments and discussions with various officials, it was agreed that there is a need to verify stability of slopes and landslides, in particular, because of the probability of further landslides in the remainder of the typhoon season. Such a verification would also help the safe return of displaced people to evacuated villages.

Another UNDAC team reached Beijing on 25 August and completed its mission on 2 September. On 27 August, the team met with senior government officials, which was followed by a three-day visit to the most affected areas in Zhejiang and Fujian provinces. In Zhejiang, eight million people were affected and 9,000 houses were destroyed. 900,000 people had to be evacuated. Around 4,000 evacuation centers were activated for the provision of humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, several hundred townships and villages in Wenzhou and Taizhou of Zhejiang are in a state of inundation, the most affected province on the mainland. In Cangnan county of Zhejiang, water levels reached two meters, the highest in 50 years. Strong winds and heavy rainfall also caused sporadic landslides. In Fujian, 1.6 million people were affected, and more than 1,000 houses were destroyed. 520,000 people had to be evacuated. More than 1.6 million people were

evacuated. Based on field observations and information from the government, the team has concluded that humanitarian needs have been met through local, provincial and central government resources, and that there are no outstanding humanitarian gaps.

Response

The county governments bear the first responsibility for response and response coordination. Initial search and rescue, evacuation, and emergency services were provided with the support of military forces, Red Cross volunteers and local communities.

The central government provided RMB 20 million (US\$ 3 million approximately) to each province affected by the typhoon. In addition, the provincial government of Zhejiang provided RMB 30 million (US\$ 4.5 million approximately) to meet the basic needs of the affected population. The provincial government in Fujian provided RMB 3 million (US\$ 440,000) for emergency relief and evacuation, and RMB 28 million (US\$ 4 million approximately) will be disbursed for compensation payments to the affected population. The provincial government in Fujian is also providing a one-off payment of US\$ 370 for individual family members and US\$ 900 per family, as financial subsidy for temporary relocation purposes. It is anticipated that all new dwellings for people who lost their houses in the province will be completed within six months. In Fujian, compensation will also be provided to farmers who need support to plant new crops or to maintain the hydrology required for planting alternate crops.

Upon request from Taipei responders, the UNDAC team provided practical guidance materials on safe disposal of carcasses as well as on environmentally sound ways for temporary storage of disaster waste.

IV. Coordination

OCHA, through its offices in New York, Geneva and Bangkok has been monitoring response initiatives, as well as liaising with relevant authorities and partners to determine outstanding needs and gaps. The outcome and recommendations of the UNDAC missions will be shared with relevant authorities and partners, and in consultation, follow-up actions determined accordingly.

V. Funding

Till date, more than 77 countries, the European Union and 20 international organizations have donated funds to authorities in Taipei worth US\$4.2 million approximately. There have been in-kind donations of relief supplies as well. On 20 August, the Taipei Central Disaster Response Operations Center stood down, and transferred responsibilities to a newly established Reconstruction Advancement Commission. To support the work of this Commission, Taipei approved a special TWD 100 billion (US\$ 2.9 billion) budget for typhoon reconstruction.

All humanitarian aid is tracked through OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS) and is reliant on information provided by donors and recipient agencies. Please inform FTS of all contributions (cash and in-kind) by sending an email to: fts@reliefweb.int

VI. Contact

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