



**STORIES OF
CHANGE**

PH Cash Working Group
CASH STORIES



BRIEF HISTORY

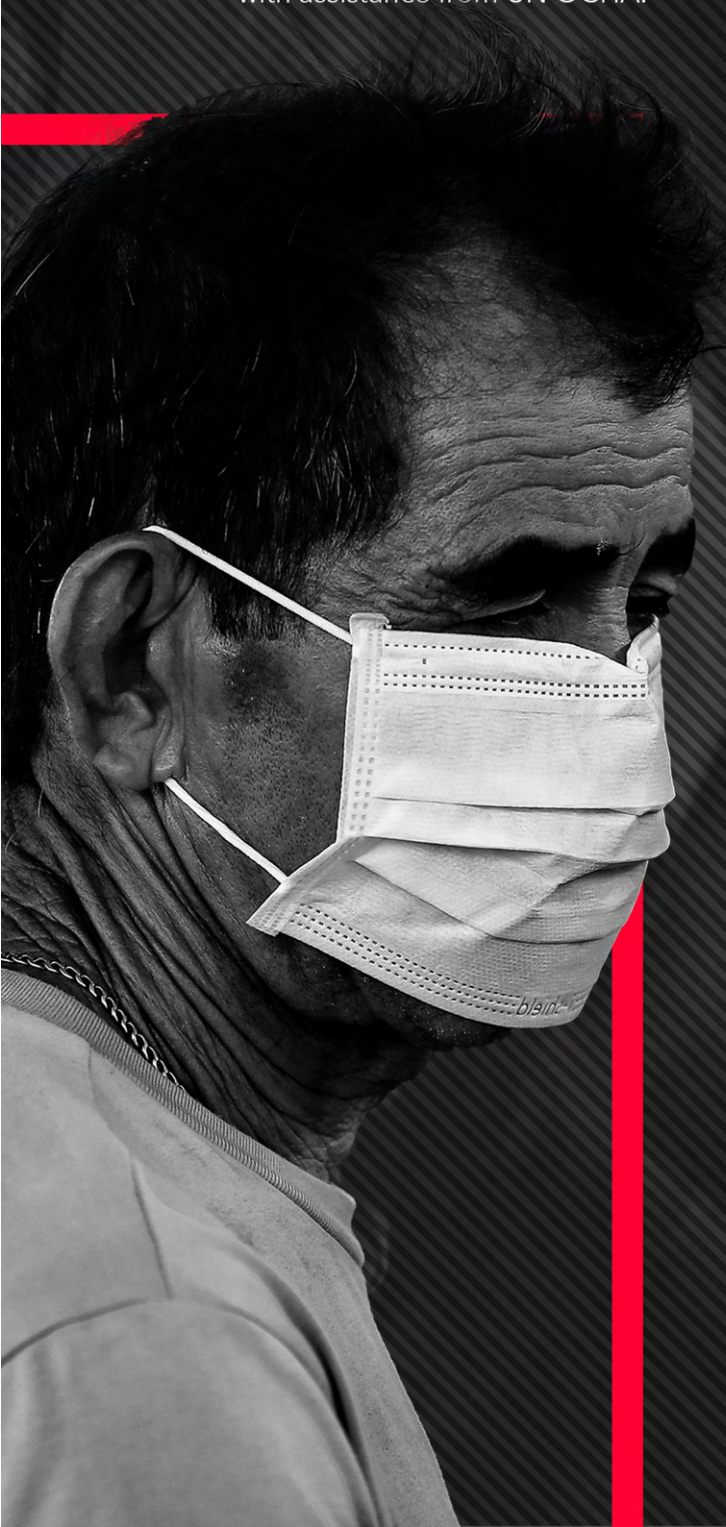
In 2009, humanitarian agencies in the country implemented cash transfer programming (CTP) as a relief and recovery response post Typhoon Ketsana that struck densely populated urban areas in the northern parts of the country, forcing more than 150,000 families out of their homes. Since then, agencies have progressively used CTP in humanitarian programming: in 2011 for Tropical Storm Washi, to assist more than 20,000 flood-affected Filipinos in Northern Mindanao; and then again in 2012 for Typhoon Bopha (Pablo), which struck Eastern Mindanao, central Visayas, and Palawan, killing more than 1,000 Filipinos and affecting over 6.2 million people.

With the growing use of CTP in the country to respond to both disasters and conflict, humanitarian agencies needed a forum to share knowledge, lessons, and to have technical discussions and workshops.

In 2012, in the heels of the Typhoon Pablo response, the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP), through its Asia Regional Office, facilitated the establishment of the first Cash Working Group to provide such a forum to CTP actors in-country. The CWG convened several meetings in Manila, but by 2013, without a leadership and governance structure, the group had effectively disbanded.

Post Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda), when it was well predicted that CTP would be highly considered as a modality of assistance, given the country's experience in CTP and the scale of the disaster, CaLP Asia came to the Philippines to revive the CWG, with assistance from UN OCHA.

Throughout the humanitarian response, the Manila CWG has provided the space for a variety of actors involved in cash transfer programming in Haiyan: NGOs, UN agencies, financial service providers, government stakeholders, and donors. From January through March 2014, the Manila CWG was chaired by USAID's Scaling up Innovations in Mobile Money (SIMM) project, with facilitation support from OCHA. From March through the transition phase from humanitarian to recovery in July 2014, OCHA acted as the CWG Chair. During the response, part of OCHA's role in cash coordination included designating a dedicated cash coordinator, participating in cluster meetings, providing guidance and resolving some burning issues around cash and promoting coordination among agencies with CTP, encouraging clusters and partner agencies to have—at the very least—CTP-focused meetings that could help address duplication, targeting and other issues, as well as sharing technical/operational expertise at the hub-level.





**Always First,
Always Ready,
Always There.**

The Philippine Red Cross is a non-profit, donor-funded, volunteer, humanitarian organization committed to providing quality, life-saving services that protect the life and dignity of the most vulnerable Filipinos.

Typhoon Vinta Operations:





COVID-19 CASH ASSISTANCE

Philippine Red Cross (PRC)

is one of the National Societies in the Asia-Pacific region that has supported and consistently used cash and voucher assistance (CVA) across its emergency operations may it be small to medium scale. In 2013, PRC made a significant accomplishment to reach a large-scale cash in emergency response reaching 90,000 households in three months' time. Since then, cash transfer has been consistently used by PRC in its emergency responses from 2014 to present. In 2020 alone, PRC covered 35,205 household beneficiaries in six emergency operations in 19 provinces. Lessons from the COVID-19 response and other emergency operations suggests that there is a need to have a robust and flexible financial service provider (FSP) that offers cash disbursements mechanisms in the varied context that PRC operates.



CASH ASSISTANCE TO AFFECTED FAMILIES

COVID-19 Cash Support

This is an evolving, complex scenario with an increasing number of cases and quarantine situations that may be extended from one month to three months or more depending on the situation.

Existing humanitarian support is planned, while the government support is being provided, but considering the number of affected families that need to be assessed and supported in the epicenter Metro Manila, other highly urbanized areas and other provinces, the movement and the organization must consider all necessary key measures for the challenges that may arise.

Based on the current situation, the key operational challenges will include the unsure situation of the health and economic status of the cities, province and the country as well as difficulty in targeting and community engagement due to the possible transmission of the diseases to beneficiaries and to the humanitarian workers. Moreover, considering that the profile of the priority areas are urban in context which comprises 37% (4.0 million) slum or congested communities, this should be taken into account for targeting strategies.

The epicenter of the COVID in the country is located in the National Capital Region which is the center of trade and governance of the country, dependency on cash is relevant for daily activities. In addition, based on the continuous health reports, the province of Cebu and its cities are now being affected by the pandemic and due to the increasing case, Cebu City was included among areas with high cases in terms of morbidity.

Further, other areas in Visayas are now being affected and the local government unit with the advice of national agencies, people movements are being controlled by declaring enhanced community quarantine. Most of the areas affected by the pandemic are urban in nature, and the main source of commodities of the households in urban areas are mostly coming from the market and relief provision due to limited space for alternative sources for backyard gardening and the like. And due to the declaration of quarantine situations, there were closure of restaurants, malls, merchandises and others and this led to the affectation to the livelihood of the people.

The Government and humanitarian agencies are scaling up their emergency assistance on provision of health protective equipment, food, cash for daily needs and other necessities including support on the scarcity of health practitioners in the country.

Given the situation of the area, Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) have the potential to make the humanitarian response to the crisis is more cost-efficient while addressing a range of different needs.

In the Philippines, the use of CVAs to respond to humanitarian needs, such as those caused by typhoons and flooding, is very common, with cash transfers often the immediate first response of many actors. The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) has been working in Metro Manila with its local chapter for years with positive acceptance of the organization and volunteer mobilization. PRC are well established and crucially experienced in the implementation of cash-based interventions, going back as far as the 2013 Haiyan response, where cash was distributed to affected families.

PRC ASSISTANCE TO AFFECTED POPULATION

COVID-19 Cash Story

Oliver, a father and a jeepney driver from Pasig City, Metro Manila experienced COVID-19 as a challenging situation for him and his family. His meager daily earnings as a jeepney driver were cut because he was not able to drive his jeepney due to the enhanced community quarantine level raised by the national government.

In this quarantine level, the general public were advised to stay at home, and the operation for all public utility vehicles was not allowed. With this nature of “No Work, No Pay” his family was among thousands of Filipinos affected by the pandemic forcing them to be dependent on the government’s provision of assistance.

Through the cash for work program, Oliver was mobilized for 7 days to support PRC in the house - to - house delivery of the food items consisting of 25 kg sack of rice and groceries intended for the identified vulnerable families with members inflicted with COVID-19 in Pasig City.



Oliver used his cash assistance to buy food for his family, milk for his children, and pay some of his debts.

TYPHOON RAI OPERATIONS

Multipurpose Cash Grants

Typhoon Odette brought about heavy rainfall and gale force winds causing severe flooding, threat of storm surges, and landslides. In effect, it brought down power and communication lines, caused water disruptions, made quite a number of roads and bridges not passable, and dealt substantial damage to properties and several essential infrastructures.



Ultimately, a significant percentage of the population from the affected areas was displaced and sought temporary shelter in evacuation centers.

The Philippine Red Cross, through its local chapters is continuously executing extensive efforts in responding and addressing the immediate needs of affected families relative to the impact of Typhoon Odette (RAI) through the provision of multipurpose cash grants and other service delivery across nine (9) prioritized provinces or eleven (11) areas in the country.

TYPHOON RAI OPERATIONS

Full Shelter Assistance

PRC is planning to reach 164 families under full shelter assistance (FSA). Total of 112 families will be supported via IFRC Emergency Appeal (EA) and 52 families will be supported by the Korean Embassy. To-date 72 houses out of 112 houses have been completed.

PRC is planning to reach 164 families under full shelter assistance (FSA). Total of 112 families will be supported via IFRC Emergency Appeal (EA) and 52 families will be supported by the Korean Embassy. To-date 72 houses out of 112 houses have been completed. Families who lost their houses due to lahar and rock flow of Mount Mayon were prioritized for the volunteers from the community, and local chapters are working hand in hand in unloading the corrugated galvanized iron sheets (CGIs) for distribution. The LGU indicated the disaster affected areas as non-safe zones. Hence, houses are built in the relocation site in Guinobatan, Albay. PRC received the full support and cooperation from different levels of government agencies in Albay for the implementation of shelter assistance. The local government provided the land and supported the site development for relocation. An agreement was made between the government and the recipients indicating that the lot in the relocation site will be donated to them, with a provision that they will not be selling the house and lot. PRC initiated the program through conducting a pilot construction to present the actual design to the household recipients.



Construction of the model houses as a pilot also serves as “on-the-job training” for members of the shelter project team and as a visual demonstration of safer construction techniques to households and the wider community. PRC revised the house design from half concrete house to fully concrete house to ensure increased durability, as the area is typhoon prone. Each family was provided with a conditional cash grant, 22 CGI sheets for roofing and labor charges. Furthermore, assistance will be complemented with latrines, handwashing facilities and awareness raising/training on safe shelter awareness. Cash grant allocation and labor charges per family was revised based on the new design, increased market prices and slope of the lot. Depending on the slope of the lot, required materials and labor hours vary. Cash grant amount ranges between PhP 165,000 (CHF 3,056) - PhP 185,000 (CHF 3,426), while labor cost is between PHP 52,500 (CHF 972) to PHP 63,000 (CHF 1,167).

TYPHOON ROLLY OPERATIONS

Livelihood Assistance

PRC deployed teams composed of both PRC / IFRC technical persons to conduct detailed assessments. Based on the assessment most of the economically vulnerable households were battling to cope with economic losses and at a risk of facing repeated cycle of indebtedness.



To support affected abaca and rice farmers, PRC prioritized providing Household Livelihood Assistance (HLA) through a conditional cash grant which aims to replace assets lost, re-start livelihood activities or diversify livelihood opportunities. Each family was provided with a cash grant of PHP 10,000 (CHF 185). It was provided in two installments; PHP 6,000 (CHF 111) and PHP 4,000 (CHF 74) respectively, to ensure right usage of the cash grant. In-line with the funding raised, PRC targeted a total of 2,702 families to support with HLA assistance. Through the IFRC EA 1,000 families each in Camarines Sur and Catanduanes were targeted totalling to 2,000 families. With the funding assistance from the American Red Cross 702 families were targeted in Catanduanes. The HLA activities were completed by the end of November 2021. Of the 2,000 families targeted, 1,894 households were reached through the assistance. The HLA component was complemented with training. Training on poultry and fish pond management, and agriculture related training were provided to household recipients. The training was conducted by the local agriculture's Office, in close coordination and collaboration with the PRC chapters. Families were also provided with vegetables seeds for food security. The Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) was conducted, and the report is being finalized.

PRC ASSISTANCE TO AFFECTED POPULATION

Cash for Work

The primary aim of Cash for Work is to supplement household level income through employment on community works in clearing debris, restoring or rehabilitating community infrastructure which can be executed with local technical skills and human resources. Consultation with LGUs, relevant Government departments, is a must and should not be duplicating the work of the state public works department.



Barbers and Hairdressers were among the skilled daily wage earners whose job was affected by the enhanced community quarantine during the pandemic. With this in mind, this group was among the selected to be recipients of the cash for work program of PRC's - COVID 19 Support to affected communities.

This group, together with PRC Marikina Chapter, held a one (1) day "Operation Libreng Gupit" and offered free haircuts for interested residents in Marikina City. This activity was conducted with coordination and approval of the local government unit in compliance with the government quarantine protocols.

Community Mobilization

ACTIVITIES DURING PANDEMIC (AUG 19, 2022)

The target group for the cash for work program under the PRC's COVID-19 assistance to affected communities is to look for Socially Vulnerable Families affected by the "No Work, No Pay" scheme and are physically able to work or render services. The prime purpose of this is to identify local RC143 community volunteers that are able to conduct PRC community mobilization activities for seven (7) days. The activities were identified in collaboration with the members of the PRC barangay committee and local officials in the barangay, and each household recipient was able to receive a multipurpose cash grant after their mobilization. The following are highlighted community mobilization activities conducted during the pandemic in the areas of implementation:

Urban Gardening

IN BARANGAY HOLY SPIRIT, QUEZON CITY



Urban gardening is one of the local projects spearheaded by the officials of Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City. Their aim is to promote clean and green in urban areas and as a secondary effect, support food security in their locality. PRC was able to support this local initiative through the RC143 volunteers mobilization activities under the Cash for Work program. They were tasked to maintain the cleanliness in the garden and take care of the plants.

Foot Rag Weaving

IN BARANGAY BATIA, BOCAUE, BULACAN



RC 143 Volunteers in Barangay Batia, Bocaue conducted a 2- day foot rag weaving workshop as part of their mobilization activities. One of the RC 143 volunteers, who is also a mother leader in the barangay and a member of the group with that kind of livelihood, was tasked to teach her co-volunteers how to do foot rag weaving. This aims to impart additional skills learning that could be a potential part time income source for their families since most of them stay at their homes because of the lockdown.

Mobile Blood Letting Activities



Blood Supply in the country was greatly impacted during the pandemic. Blood donation was at its all time low because donors are unable to donate due covid scare and lockdowns. To support this, PRC through the RC143 volunteers promoted blood donation and blood donor recruitment as part of mobilization activities. Communities under PRC's COVID Support organized a 1 day mobile blood letting activity to ensure sufficient blood supply in the cities to support hospitals and patients in need.

COVID -19 Information Dissemination Campaign



PRC also mobilized its RC 143 volunteers through the cash for work program to disseminate and provide information materials to households and communities about the COVID 19 disease and ways to prevent it by Installation of posters to strategic locations, flyers distribution and conduction of hygiene promotion.



PH CASH WORKING GROUP