

FEATURE STORY | IN FLOOD-HIT PHILIPPINES, UNHCR AID OFFERS A GLIMMER OF HOPE



MANDULOG, Philippines December 28, 2011 (UNHCR) – After surviving decades of conflict, Imelda Anugud never expected it would be the wrath of nature that finally destroyed her home.

"We were asleep when the river began to flood our home around midnight," said the 43-year-old mother of three girls, recalling how, just over a week ago, tropical storm Washi hit the village she has always called home.

"We left everything, crossed the river and ran for higher ground," the shaken woman said. "Within two hours, our home and the bridge we had crossed to get to safety were washed away."

On Wednesday the first glimmer of recovery arrived when UNHCR became the first aid agency to deliver relief supplies to her mountain village east of Iligan city in the Philippines' southern Mindanao island.

This is not the first time residents of this largely Moro (Muslim) community have been displaced. In 2010, the most recent chapter in the long-running conflict between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Philippine government sent them packing. Just over a month ago, a family feud, known here as a rido, which can be epic and deadly, forced them to flee their village.

The UN refugee agency began working with communities affected by the Mindanao conflict in May 2010. Shortly after tropical storm Washi hit, it joined the UN response to support government relief efforts, as the lead agency for the protection cluster. UNHCR decided to target its first emergency assistance to communities that have suffered a double whammy – weakened by years of conflict and now hit by floods.

On December 23, the agency started flying in supplies from its warehouses in Dubai. Plastic sheeting was distributed within 24 hours to provide emergency shelter for at least 10,000 people who have lost their homes to the floods, among the worst ever to hit the Philippines.

Other supplies include some 10,000 blankets, 4,000 Jerry cans, and more than 2,000 kitchen sets (cooking pots, pans, bowls, knives, cups and cutlery), each of which will help a family of five prepare their own food.

"This plastic sheet is the first step in rebuilding our lives and our homes," said Imelda's friend and neighbour, Dairi Bansil, who also has three children.

Until last weekend, the Baug and Kapai rivers, which meet in this mountain village, had never overflowed the embankment walls. But once they did, landslides cut the village off from the rest of the country, and government officials did not even know these highlands had been affected.

Even for a community hardened by years of conflict, these floods were more devastating than anything else they have experienced. Their three-room school was washed off its foundations and deposited 100 metres away.

"I don't know what we are going to do. I am still in shock and living a day at a time," Dairi said. "I may leave this village because of the trauma I am facing. "We lost everything: our home, my kitchen equipment, clothes, absolutely everything."

Distribution of UNHCR's relief items is done through national non-governmental organizations who have been working with the communities for years.

"In helping communities recover from conflict, our approach has been to fund quick, relatively low-cost projects (sewing centres, fishing boats with nets, water wells, and market stalls) that involve entire communities," Bernard Kerblat, UNHCR's representative in the Philippines said last week. The agency plans similar projects to help rebuild fragile communities after the floods.

UNHCR staffers were stunned at the scale of the damage wrought by tropical storm Washi, known locally as Sendong. "I have been working with communities who are forcibly displaced by the armed conflict affecting Mindanao for the past decades," said UNHCR field associate Rasul Kulat. "My own relatives have been forcibly displaced in the past. But these floods have had a more severe consequence to these villagers than most of the conflicts."



Protection Cluster
Mindanao, Philippines

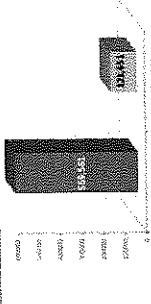
Areas Affected per Barangay

as of December 2011 to January 2012

Legend

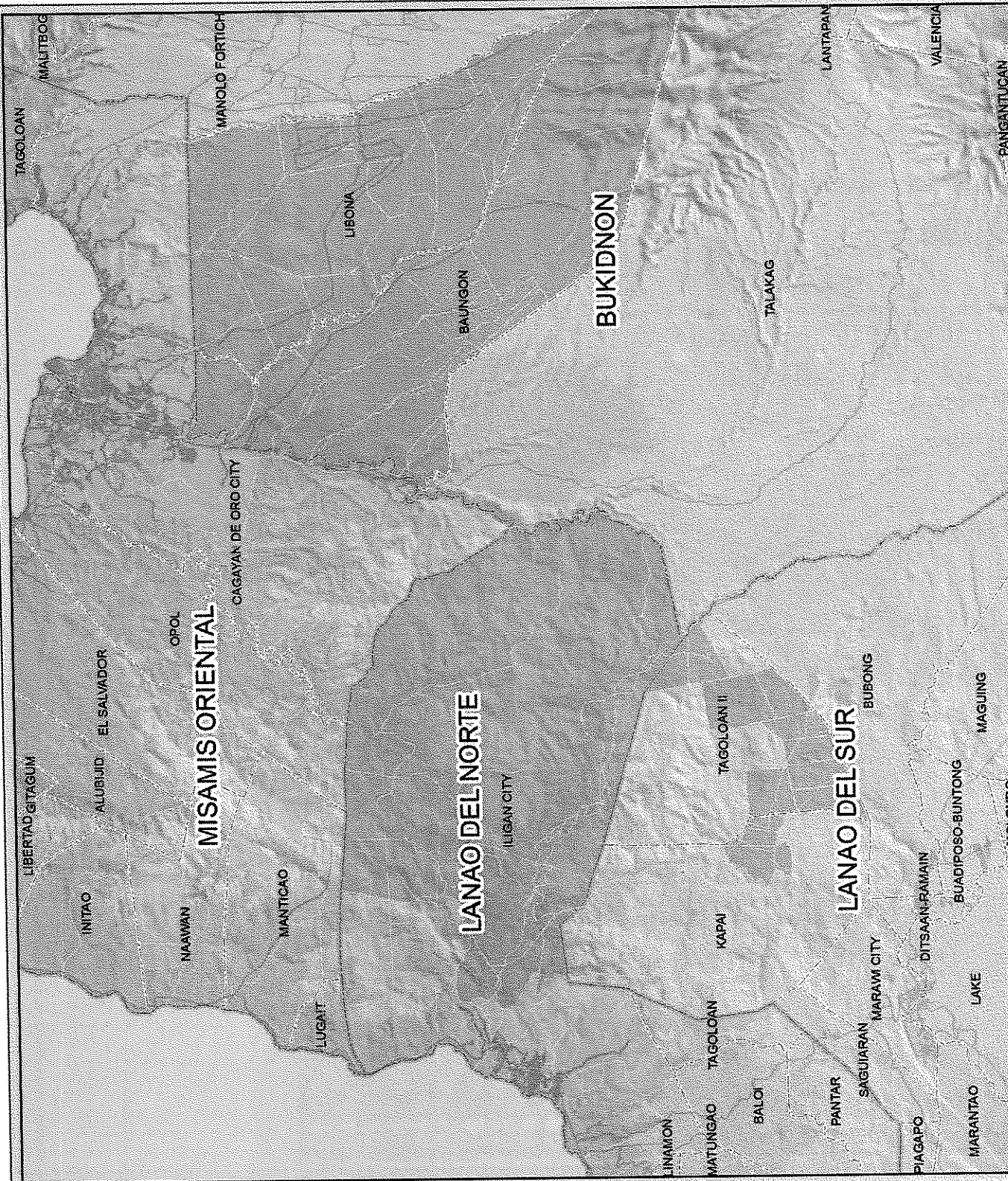
- Area affected by tropical storm only
- Area affected by tropical storm and is unstable due to riot/conflict

Number of Affected Individuals (NSO 2007)



Map Data Sources

Base Map - Open Street Map
 Administrative boundaries - Phil GIS
 PCODES - National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB)
 POPULATION - NSO 2007
 Disclaimer:
 The boundaries and names shown and the designation used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
 Location of river and roads are approximate.





**Protection Cluster
Mindanao, Philippines**

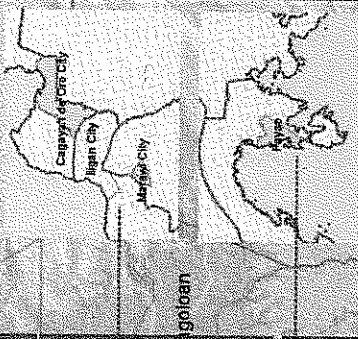
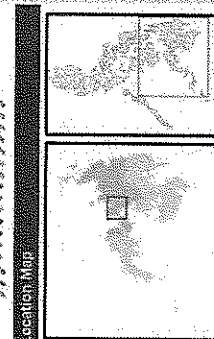
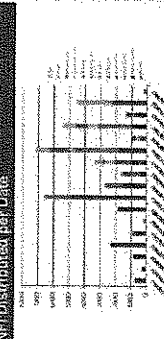
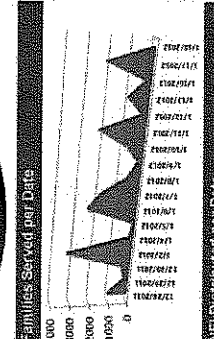
**Tropical Storm Washi
NFI Response per Municipality
Northern Mindanao**

as per UNMAS/ANR/ALS on 19 January 2012 at 9:29PM

Legend

Brangays Covered by NFI Distribution

- Family
- Blanket
- Plastic Sheet
- Plastic Roll
- Kitchen Set
- Jerry Can
- Shovel
- Hygiene Kit
- Malong
- Synthetic Mat
- Garden Hoe
- Rope
- Pail



WFP food network

TILIGAN & MARAWI CITY	400
CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY	400

PAYAO

Family	1329
Blanket	1328
Plastic Sheet	70
Plastic Roll	1328

LIBONA

Family	222
Blanket	666
Plastic Sheet	222
Plastic Roll	222

BAUNGON

Family	1054
Blanket	3162
Plastic Sheet	1054
Plastic Roll	1054

BUDIPOSO

Family	42
Blanket	42
Plastic Sheet	42
Plastic Roll	1

ILIGAN CITY

Family	11745
Blanket	5611
Plastic Sheet	2202
Plastic Roll	107
Kitchen Set	2258
Jerry Can	1971
Shovel	1304
Hygiene Kit	1605
Malong	1365
Synthetic Mat	1343
Garden Hoe	867
Rope	724
Pail	17371

KAPAI

Family	242
Blanket	111
Plastic Sheet	111
Plastic Roll	142
Kitchen Set	142
Jerry Can	142

TAGOLOAN I

Family	7
Blanket	14
Plastic Sheet	7
Plastic Roll	7
Kitchen Set	14

NAWAAN

Family	10
Blanket	20
Plastic Sheet	10
Plastic Roll	10
Kitchen Set	20
Jerry Can	10
Shovel	10

MANTICAO

Family	56
Blanket	112
Plastic Sheet	56
Plastic Roll	1
Kitchen Set	56
Jerry Can	112
Shovel	56
Hygiene Kit	56
Malong	56
Synthetic Mat	112
Garden Hoe	56
Rope	56
Pail	56

LIBONA

Family	222
Blanket	666
Plastic Sheet	222
Plastic Roll	222

DITSAN RAMAIN

Family	962
Blanket	185
Plastic Sheet	302
Plastic Roll	2
Kitchen Set	755
Jerry Can	95
Shovel	660
Hygiene Kit	755
Malong	1219
Synthetic Mat	660
Garden Hoe	600

TAGOLOAN II

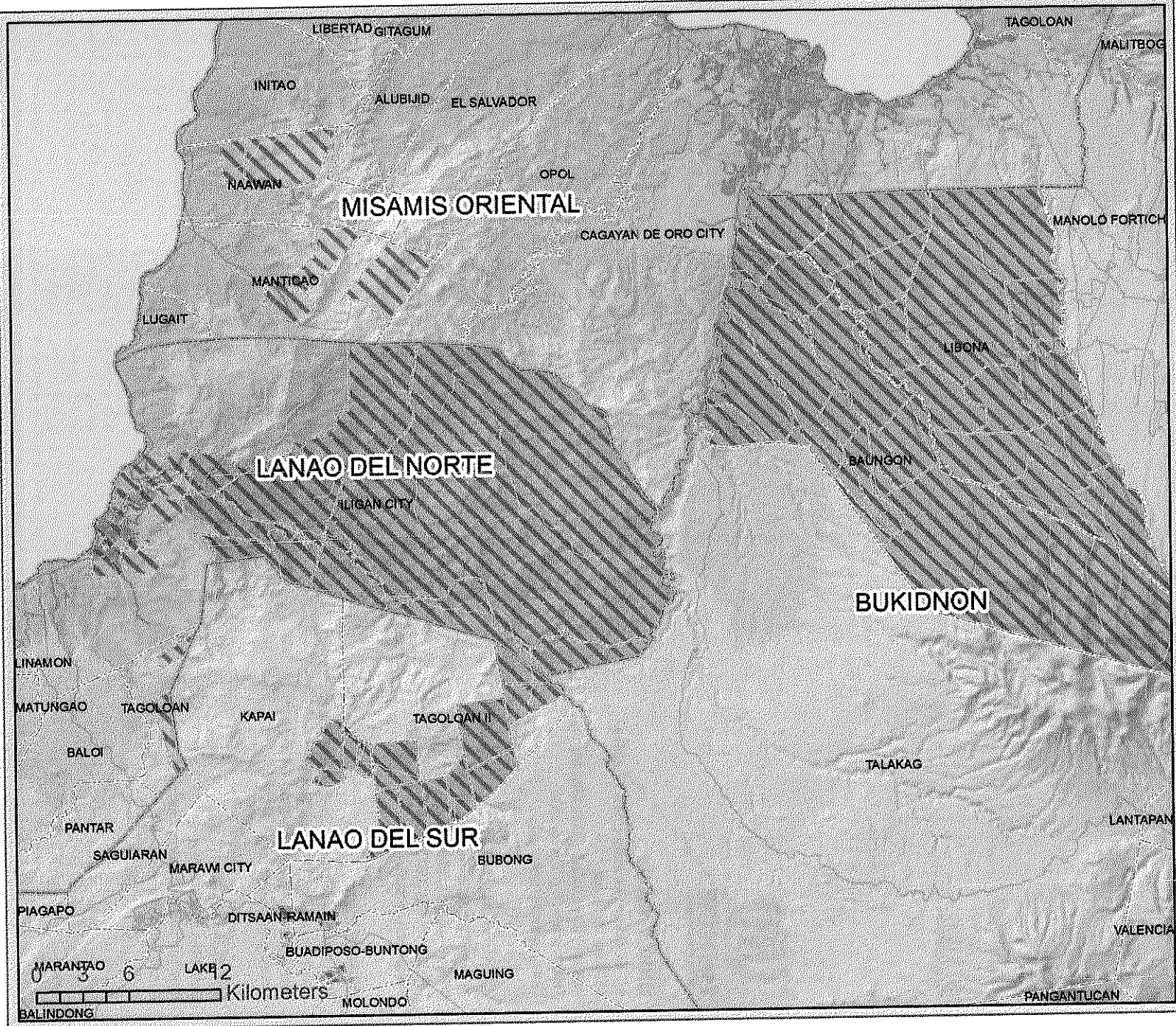
Family	435
Blanket	226
Plastic Sheet	226
Plastic Roll	1
Kitchen Set	226
Jerry Can	226
Shovel	45
Hygiene Kit	226

BUBONG

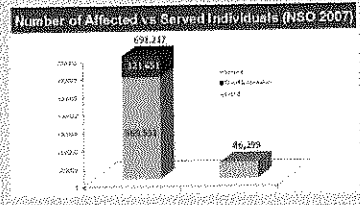
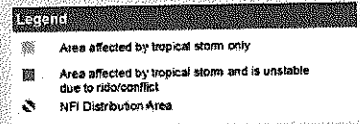
Family	207
Blanket	207
Plastic Sheet	207
Plastic Roll	137
Kitchen Set	137
Jerry Can	137
Shovel	137

TABLE 1: DISTRICTS: BAWANGIT, PLASTIC SHEET, PLASTIC ROLL, KITCHEN SET, JERRY CAN, SHOVEL, GARDEN HOE, MALONG, SYNTHETIC MAT, GARDEN HOE, ROPE, PAIL

TABLE 2: DISTRICTS: BAWANGIT, PLASTIC SHEET, PLASTIC ROLL, KITCHEN SET, JERRY CAN, SHOVEL, GARDEN HOE, MALONG, SYNTHETIC MAT, GARDEN HOE, ROPE, PAIL



Areas Affected vs NFI Distribution per Barangay
as of December 2011 to January 2012



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