

Helicopter Operations

Following catastrophic flooding caused by tropical storm Ketsana (“Ondoy”) on September 26 and then Typhoon Parma (“Pepang”), the situation in the Philippines remains urgent for those worst hit, especially in the north, where many villages still remain inaccessible due to bad road conditions, landslides and damaged bridges. Added to this, new emergencies have been arising as dams overflow from the heavy rains, and another typhoon (Lupit) is forecasted for the coming days.



UNHAS (United Nations Humanitarian Air Service) has established a helicopter operation to support the Philippines government and the humanitarian community in the delivery of much-needed relief goods to areas which are cut off or hard to access. Two WFP-contracted MI-171s of 4 mt capacity began operations on October 15th, carrying a joint assessment team with representatives of the food, health and WASH clusters, high energy biscuits for WFP, and emergency health kits for WHO. An aerial assessment was done of the area south of Umingan where a river blocked by landslide debris had caused an 80 km extensive flooding.

UNHAS (United Nations Humanitarian Air Service) has established a helicopter operation to support the Philippines government and the humanitarian community in the delivery of much-needed relief goods to areas which are cut off or hard to access. Two WFP-contracted MI-171s of 4 mt capacity began operations on October 15th, carrying a joint assessment team with representatives of the food, health and WASH clusters, high energy biscuits for WFP, and emergency health kits for WHO. An aerial assessment was done of the area south of Umingan where a river blocked by landslide debris had caused an 80 km extensive flooding.

The helicopters are based at the Villamor airbase in Manila, with sorties currently being flown out of La Trinidad for deliveries to Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte in Region I, and Tuguegarao and Laoag for Cagayan and Isabela in Region II. With the predicted onset of Typhoon Lupit, prepositioning of relief cargo is underway using trucks provided by the Logistics Cluster and 2 PAF (Philippines Air Force) fixed wings so that goods will be ready for helicopter deliveries to areas which may be left cut off by this new disaster.

The helicopters are based at the Villamor airbase in Manila, with sorties currently being flown out of La Trinidad for deliveries to Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte in Region I, and Tuguegarao and Laoag for Cagayan and Isabela in Region II. With the predicted onset of Typhoon Lupit, prepositioning of relief cargo is underway using trucks provided by the Logistics Cluster and 2 PAF (Philippines Air Force) fixed wings so that goods will be ready for helicopter deliveries to areas which may be left cut off by this new disaster.



Sling operations are planned to begin in the coming days in order to deliver supplies to areas where helicopters cannot land. Aerial assessments for sling delivery sites are underway. All helicopters are accompanied by an UNHAS staff member to facilitate the air operations and a PAF safety pilot.

The aircraft accept passengers to destinations on the day’s manifest for cargo delivery. The UNHAS passenger booking office is located in the NDCC compound at the Military HQ Camp Aquino. Cargo and passenger movement request forms are available on the Logistics Cluster website at www.logscluster.org/phl09.