

**Advisory Note on the provision of Humanitarian
Assistance in No-Build Zones
Typhoon Rai (Odette) Response**

March 2022

Endorsed by the HCT in March 2022

Philippines Humanitarian Country Team

Advisory Note on No-Build Zones

Typhoon Rai (Odette) response

The “no-build zone” (NBZ) policy¹ is to be implemented by the local government units and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the areas² heavily impacted by Typhoon Odette. In order to ensure that there is a holistic approach in the implementation of the NBZ policy for the protection of the affected population and the internally displaced persons (IDP), the Humanitarian Country Team expresses the following recommendations for consideration of the State.

Recommendations

- An urgent call for the Government to issue clear guidelines on the proposed NBZ policy and explore the possibility of conducting a comprehensive hazard mapping of all the affected areas at the local government units (LGUs) level to determine particular risks for each area to address any exceptional circumstances.
- The primary solution for displaced populations post disaster is voluntary return to their habitual residences or voluntary resettlement as highlighted under Principle 28 of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.³ As such, any forced relocation must be strongly justifiable and a measure of last resort to reinforce concerns, such as public safety. Where relocation is justifiable, authorities should conduct meaningful consultations and information campaigns towards the affected communities about the risks faced in unsafe zones, their rights, and alternative options.
- Government to ensure affected communities’ full and meaningful participation in the development and management of relocation plans, both temporary and permanent.
- Ensure non-discrimination and provision of equitable emergency assistance (i.e., emergency shelter kits, food, WASH, protection) to IDPs, including those that are currently within the proposed NBZ and temporary shelters/evacuation sites, to help save lives and alleviate suffering. This should be done in conjunction with the ‘leave no-one behind’ principle by ending discrimination and exclusion, and reducing inequalities and vulnerabilities.
- Organize “go and see visit” for the affected population prior to any relocation decision.
- Ensure availability of basic services in the relocation sites as well as livelihoods opportunities, preferably in the same line of livelihoods they were engaged in before, to ensure sustainable income and rebuilding of the community.
- Put in place a functional and effective grievance mechanism for formal processing of complaints by the affected population.

In line with this advisory, the HCT stands ready to provide technical support and guidance on protection principles as may be required to address the needs of the IDPs and the affected population.

¹ Informed by meetings with local government units, non-governmental organisations, and the affected population heavily impacted by the typhoon

² Regions VII (Cebu and Bohol), Region VIII (Southern Leyte) and Caraga

³ See Annex A: Copy of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (UNGPID)