

CRS Resilience Webinar: Rental Assistance Programs

September 18th

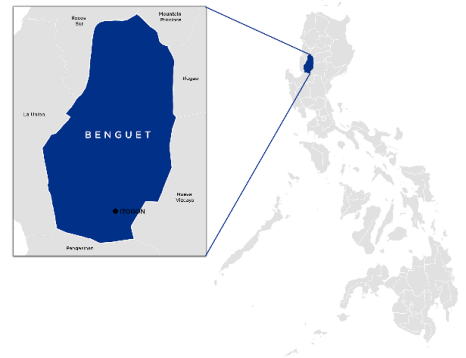
Context

Location

CRS implemented the Emergency Rental Assistance Project in Benguet Province in Luzon, Philippines.

Background of disaster

On 15 September 2018, Typhoon Mangkhut (locally named Ompong) brought heavy rains that affected seven regions in the Philippines. According to data from the government (NDRRMC sitrep 57), more than 730,000 families (more than 3 million persons) were affected. The typhoon caused widespread damage across Northern and Central Luzon, with massive flooding and landslides in Benguet. The landslides displaced families living in high-risk areas and caused damage of around \$3.5 million to agriculture and infrastructure. An estimated 6,307 people moved to evacuation centers and other places in Benguet. 95% of affected families in Benguet came from the town of Itogon according to the provincial government.



Landslide in Brgy. Ucab, Itogon, Benguet that buried more than 100 individuals during the on-set of Typhoon Mangkhut. CRS. September 2018.



A man trying to remove debris of flashflood in their house at Tuba, Benguet. CRS. September 2018.

Rental Assistance

Role of CRS and partners

CRS' local partner, the Diocese of Baguio, led the social mobilization and coordination with local government and agencies to support the project's implementation. CRS and the Diocese of Baguio assisted 435 displaced families (1,942 individuals) severely affected by the landslides by providing cash grants. These grants enabled families to rent apartments or rooms and temporarily stay in relatively safe and dignified homes while looking for permanent areas to stay.

Project Components

Market Assessment: CRS and the Diocese of Baguio conducted a market assessment to determine if there were safe rooms or apartments for rent near the displaced families' current accommodations. The assessment revealed that there were available places for rent ranging from \$28 to \$85, including water and electricity.

Social Mobilization: CRS and the Diocese of Baguio consulted with local governments and communities about the project implementation process and beneficiary selection criteria through the following activities:

- Orientation and discussion with local governments
- Orientation and beneficiary selection criteria discussion with communities
- Household registration, validation and initial posting
- Feedback and final listing of beneficiaries

Cash Assistance Pay-out: CRS and the Diocese of Baguio transferred cash in four tranches to selected beneficiaries with amounts based on the household size. Beneficiaries collected grants at cash transfer service providers on an appointed date.



Diocese of Baguio Social Action Center staff and volunteers during household registration using ComCare form on Android tablets. CRS. September 2018.

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Apartment/Rental House Visitation: After the first cash grant release and before the next subsequent releases, CRS and the Diocese of Baguio visited the apartments and houses rented by the beneficiaries to ensure that they were staying in safe and dignified dwellings that met Sphere Standards.

Population Served

A total of 435 households were supported by the project. The table below reflects the months of rental assistance received by the 435 household without double counting:

# Months of Rental Assistance	# Households
2	140
3	6
4	2
6	39
9	248
Total	435

The table below reflects the sex and age disaggregated data of people who received at least one month of rental subsidy:

Male < 18 years	437
Female < 18 years	373
Male 18-49 years	446
Female 18-49 years	411
Male >50 years	123
Female > 50 years	155
Total	1942

Key Successes

Taking advantage of available rental units led to:

- Less people congregated in evacuation centers leading to decreased need to build WASH facilities, emergency shelters and new utility connections.
- Relatively fast initial response (less than 10 days) for shelter.
- Families live with dignity in their temporary shelters or apartments rather than in evacuation centers.

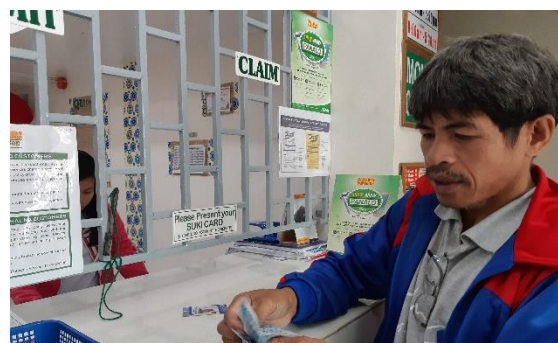
Learning

Challenges

- Government decampment of evacuation centers without knowing where people will temporarily stay.
- Movements of displaced persons from apartment to other areas not reported.
- In the absence of a durable solution, people are forced to go back to the at-risk areas after the rental subsidy ends.

Recommendations and/or lessons learnt

- There is a need to closely coordinate with the local government and agencies for holistic planning from temporary shelters to permanent dwellings. Rent subsidies provide some time for local governments to look for durable settlement solutions.



Beneficiary claiming his cash grants at partner remittance agent. CRS. September 2018.



Beneficiaries with their relatives sharing in an apartment. Diocese of Baguio. January 2019.