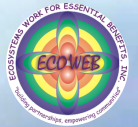


DECEMBER 2021

ECOWEB SITREP NO. 3: TYPHOON ODETTA (RAI)



Situational Analysis and Needs Assessment Report (SANAR)

DINAGAT PROVINCE



MAP OF DINAGAT PROVINCE



Legend

- Municipality (capital)
- Municipality
- Roads
- Rivers, streams
- Water (seas, lakes, rivers)
- Land (Philippine territory)
- Land (Foreign territory)
- Land

Map Reference: <https://www.philatlas.com/mindanao/caraga/dinagat-islands.html>



THE PROVINCE

The Province of Dinagat is the second newest province in the Philippines. Carved from its parent province of Surigao del Norte, Dinagat was created a province in 2006. Its main island, Dinagat, is about 60 kilometres (37 mi) from north to south. The province has a land area of 817.47 square kilometers or 315.63 square miles and subdivided into 7 provinces: Loreto, Tubajon, Libjo, San Jose, Dinagat and Cagdianao. Dinagat is among the Philippine provinces that faced the Pacific Ocean.

Dinagat province is home to the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), a non-sectarian religious group founded in 1965 by Ruben Ecleo Sr. whose members believe him to be a Christ-like figure.¹ The group also figured in violent confrontation with law enforcers in 2002.² The group remains strong in most of the municipalities of the province.

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHY

Based on the 2020 Census, Dinagat has a total population of 128,117, of which 62,777 (49%) are female and 65,340 (51%) are male. The province population represented 4.57% of the total population of the Caraga region, 0.49% of the overall population of the Mindanao island group, or 0.12% of the entire population of the Philippines.

[1] Gomez, Herbie; PBMA founder a 'Christ-like' figure. Manila Times, June 9, 2002.

[2] Serrano, Ben and Echeminada, Perseus; 23 Surigao Cultists Killed as Law Enforcers Arrest Ruben Ecleo Jr., Philippine Star June 20, 2002

Dinagat has a total estimated household of 29,118 in 2020. Majority of these households are living in single detached houses of various make-up. In 2015, 93.2 of the province population is rural and 6.8 urban.³ For the period 2015-2020, the province recorded near negative growth of 0.16%. The municipalities of Dinagat, San Jose and Tubajon recorded negative growth. Only Cagdianao experienced 1.87% growth rate.⁴ The province experienced rapid population growth from 1970 to 1980 when thousands of members of the PBMA migrated to the province. From 1970 to 1975 the population grow by 10.68% and from 1975 to 1980 by 8.22%. After then it slowed down as economic opportunities in the island became scarce. FGD participants said that for the last 5 years, there is an

increasing pattern of more migration from the rural area to areas with employment opportunities like Cagdianao where a mining is operating. Many migrated to Surigao City and other cities with better economic opportunities as both farming and fishing became less productive. The other main employment available in the province is tourism and the mining.

The province has a young population based on the 2015 census from which young children aging 2 years old and below was 6%, 3-12 was 22% and 13-18 was 12% or a total of 40% which is slightly lower than the 49% of adult population aging 19 to 59. (See Figure1) The median age is 24.21 and dependency ratio of 66.39, among the highest in the Philippines.

Municipalities	Population (2020)	Household Size, 2015 ¹	Est. No. of Households ²	No. of Barangays
Basilisa (Rizal)	36,911	4.3	8,584	27
Cagdianao	18,350	4.4	4,170	14
Dinagat	10,621	4.8	2,213	12
Libjo (Albor)	18,051	4.3	4,198	16
Loreto	9,690	4.1	2,363	10
San Jose (Capital)	26,375	4.8	5,495	12
Tubajon	8,119	4.5	1,804	9
Total / Average	128,117	4.4	29,118	100

¹ Table 2. Annual Per Capita Poverty Threshold, Poverty Incidence and Magnitude of Poor Population, by Region and Province - 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2015, PSA. There is still no available data on household size for municipalities based on the 2020 Census.

² Computed by dividing the Population by the Household Size. This is also use in computing the maximum number of houses per municipality.

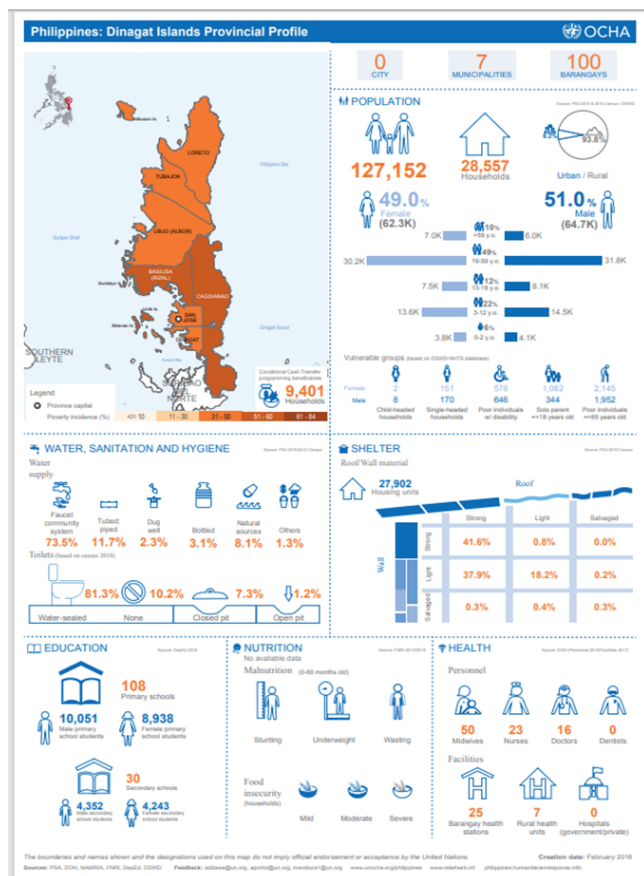


Figure 1: Dinagat Provincial Profile. (UNOCHA)

THE ECONOMY

The province' economy depends on fishing, agriculture, tourism and mining. Surrounded by the Pacific Ocean, the Surigao Strait, the Philippine Sea and Leyte Gulf, the province is abundant of almost all marine products that they export to nearby Surigao and Cebu City. Its fishing industry consisted of coastal and deep-sea fishing operations that provided unsecured employment and income to largely male workers. Women workers are largely employed in the trading and vending of sea products.⁵ The province has 36.7% poverty incidence as of the first quarter of 2019.

Dinagat has patches of forests in its rugged terrain where the rare and famous but endangered magkono (iron wood) can be found. Magkono is the main material of expensive carved furnitures. The IUCN Red List included Magkono among the threatened and vulnerable species of fauna.

[3] PSA, 2015 Census of Population.

[4] <https://www.philAtlas.com/mindanao/caraga/dinagat-islands.html>

[5] <https://www.rappler.com/nation/256430-dinagat-islands-containment-key-coronavirus-response/>

Owing to its rocky and rugged terrain, the province has limited potential for agriculture, however it still produces rice, corn and bananas but not enough for its population. It also produces coconut, cassava, seaweeds and other high-value crops. Recently, the provincial government encourage farmers to grow cassava, a crop that thrives will in the province' soil and climatic condition, and embark on an effort to difficult a cassava industry in the province.⁶

The province depends its food supply, particularly cereals, vegetables and fruits from Surigao City which is also the main market of its surplus in agriculture and fisheries. The previous administration of the province, strongly promote tourism and mining but the current administration, in power since 2019, put emphasis on agriculture and fisheries.

Dinagat is rich in gold, silver, copper, chromite, and other precious metals and it is wholly part of the Surigao Mineral Reservation (SMR) delineated under Proclamation No. 391 in 1939. At present, the island is subdivided into not less than 40 mining tenements, the most concentrated in a single province of its size, that include 19 approved mineral production agreement at various stages of exploration and development.

The province' electric power is based on fossil fuel fed generators run by the National Power Corporation (NPC). The province has high renewable energy potential sourced on solar, wind and tidal energy.

[6] <https://www.agriculture.com.ph/2020/12/12/dinagat-islands-province-to-become-cassava-capital-in-caraga-region/>

IMPACT OF TYPHOON ODETTE



Typhoon Odette (Int'l. Name: Rai) made its second landfall in Cagdianao town at 3:10 PM more than an hour after having its first landfall in nearby Siargao Island at around 1:30 PM of December 17, 2021. Strong winds, sporadic heavy rain and giant waves battered the whole island most especially in the towns of Cagdianao, Dinagat, San Jose and Basilisa. The other towns were also affected but on a lesser degree compared to the four.

Owing to its relatively high poverty incidence, depen-dence of food supply from outside and absence of basic facilities like hospitals, the impact of Typhoon Odette is severe. FGD participants and key informants made their assessment summarized below:

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENTS

Photo collage: Damages in Libjo, Dinagat Islands

SHELTER

- Up to 90% (18,400) totally and 10% (2,000) partially damaged in the municipalities of Cagdianao, San Jose, Dinagat and Basilisa
- Up to 70% (5,800) totally and 30% (2,500) partially damaged in municipalities of Libjo, Tubajon and Loreto.
- Damaged: Totally= 24,400; Partially = 8,300

FOOD

- 80% of food come from Surigao City, municipalities in Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Norte, and Cebu City.
- Stores and warehouses were damaged, food stocks wet, washed out or totally destroyed.
- Food shortage will occur in a week's time after the typhoon.

WATER AND SANITATION

- Municipal water systems damaged.
- People in coastal areas most vulnerable to shortage.
- Some barangays have unprotected springs and wells.
- Some people reported to fetch water in potentially contaminated water supply.
- Include activities on forest and watershed protection in cash-for-work schemes.

HEALTH

- Health facilities – hospitals, birthing clinics, rural health units - badly damaged.
- Pharmacies/drug stores destroyed or closed due to no power.
- Inability to sleep despite being tired.
- Cough and colds among children.
- Persons with maintenance run short of medicine.
- Pregnant women have no proper place for safe delivery.

PUBLIC FACILITIES

- Roads are damaged by water or are blocked by debris; needs massive clearing operation with community participation.
- Power source partially damaged need repair.
- Electric posts toppled down, lines cut or downed by falling trees. NPC is doing repair operations.
- Mobile phone sites damaged.
- Ports are still operational but need repairs



EDUCATION

- All schools suffered damages; 60% needs major repair and 40% minor repairs.
- Learning materials damaged – wet or blown off; furniture damaged.
- No internet connectivity
- Teachers were also affected with houses totally damaged.
- Public market badly damaged.

COVID-19

- People stop wearing protective equipment and social distancing not practiced in evacuation centers.
- Basic PPEs like face-masks in short supply.
- Local testing capacity reduced, facilities destroyed or partially damaged.
- Front-liners suffered damaged in their own homes.

LIVELIHOOD

- At least 60% of small fishing boats damaged.
- A number of ocean-going fishing vessels need major repairs and fishing gears damaged.
- Tourist resorts and facilities damaged, employees lost jobs.
- 80% of coconut in Dinagat uprooted or broke down. There's an opportunity to use fallen coconuts for shelter repair.
- Many local employers like stores, warehouses, refilling stations, etc. are wrecked and workers lost jobs.



Kahimtang namo lisod kaayo. Ang problema namo run **unsaon pag-recover [sa] among balay** kay naguba naman gyud ni... Nagkalisod man gyud hinoon mi pero naa man pud among mga tanom tanom pero nagkinahanglan pud mi ug bugas.”

Translation: "Our current situation is very difficult. Our problem now is how to fix our totally damaged house... We are really struggling but it is a good thing that we still have crops, however, we still really need rice."

Photo: During an interview, **Victoriano Lastimoso**, senior citizen and a resident of Brgy. Llamera, Libjo, Dinagat Island, narrated how hard their situation is after Odette's landfall in their locality. He expressed that they received an estimated 2 kilos of rice from the 8 sacks distributed by the barangay – since it was divided to the families affected. He wished to have their house rebuilt because they are having a hard time taking shelter in a small tarpaulin, or *trapal*.

URGENT NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The urgent needs summarized below are based on the rapid assessment conducted by ECOWEB and members of CLEARNet bases in Caraga Region. The recommendations are based on the rapid assessment and the profile of the province. These recommendations are intended for emergency response and recovery of the province.

SHELTER

- Establishment of tent cities.
- Immediate provision of materials for temporary shelters: plastic sheets, lumber, nails, amakan
- Repair kits for damaged houses.
- Cash assistance or loans for housing repairs.
- Delineate danger zones/no build zones of coastal areas.
- Review land use plan of the whole province and zoning ordinances in all municipalities.

FOOD

- Immediate food aid to 129,118 families.
- Food for work for capable residents.
- Re-establish food supply lines and shift from food aid to food-for-work and cash-for-work or voucher schemes
- Encourage Food Always in the Home (FAITH) gardening in all communities through plots in rural areas and through container gardening in the urban areas.
- Provide seeds for quick growing food crops especially those high in nutritional value.



Property damages in Basilisa, Dinagat Islands



Landslide in Brgy. Llamera, Libjo, Dinagat Island

LIVELIHOODS

- Organize trainings for organized works like carpentry, masonry and tree pruning.
- Prioritize the employment of survivors in all emergency response and recovery projects.
- Support groups to do salvaging of materials like fallen coconut trees, provide them with capital to enable them to pay coconut owners. Needs to coordinate with PCA for clearance.
- Provide fishing boats and gears to fisherfolks.
- Train farmers to shift to restorative methods and support their initiatives.
- Provide materials for urban gardening and train households on urban agriculture.
- Support local communities to establish their composting areas near their food production areas.
- Encourage communities to establish materials recovery facilities and compost areas.
- Conduct soil-crop-climate suitability in all municipalities and educate people on appropriate methods of smart agriculture.
- Train farmers and all interested person on smart agriculture methods and techniques.

WATER, SANITATION AND HEALTH

- Water rationing in urban areas.
- Provide water containers to affected families
- Clean up, decontaminate and protect water sources.
- Construct latrines and install portable toilets
- Establish portable desalination systems in coastal communities very far from sources.
- Some people fetch water in unsafe water sources without purification or boiling.
- Repair water systems
- De-clog waterways and potential mosquito habitats.
- Conduct psycho-social debriefings to severely traumatized individuals and group activities for all affected.
- Control selling of liquor, prevent alcoholism and substance abuse especially among men.
- Quickly rehabilitate birthing facilities.

COVID-19

- Provide supply of face-masks.
- Include COVID-prevention education during meetings with affected people.
- Install COVID safety reminders.
- Immediately rehabilitate testing facilities.
- Debrief front-liners badly affected by the typhoon

EDUCATION

- Children's debriefing and learning sessions
- Establish temporary learning facilities for children and child friendly spaces.
- Provide learning materials to children
- Debrief teachers and education employees affected by the typhoon before they return their posts.
- Cash-for-work for parents in repair of schools.
- Mobilize community for clearing operation through food or cash for work arrangements.

PUBLIC FACILITIES

- Establish mobile phone charging hubs
- Provide antenna to improve mobile phone and internet access.
- Encourage and support communities to improve their garbage collection and disposal.
- Provide solar energy system sets for lighting and source for charging cellphones.
- Develop renewable energy generation facilities for the whole island to reduce its dependence on fossil fuel for its electricity.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ensure the involvement of survivors in the needs assessment, planning and whenever possible in the implementation of emergency and recovery responses.
- The relative high poverty (36.7%), the low population growth (0.16%) and the high dependency rate (66.39) indicates an ongoing migration trend that could aggravate due to the crisis. This trend should be considered in planning the emergency and recovery actions. Initial report says that women (some are mothers) are among those who seek work in cities and other countries.
- Regulate wage to acceptable levels but not too high in order not to artificially bloat the minimum wage during the reconstruction phase.
- The entry of national and international aid could infuse more cash to the provincial economy and could potentially increase wages without the corresponding enhancement on the quality of labor resulting to a post-crisis situation of high wage-low quality labor situation that could prevent sustainable recovery. This should be given attention in the planning for recovery and rehabilitation.



NOTES TO THE REPORT

The Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits, Inc. (ECOWEB) is a national NGO based in Iligan City, Mindanao and operates in various regions in the Philippines through local partners. The Community-Led Empowering Action Response Network (CLEARNet) is an alliance of currently 24 organizations based in different provinces and cities that campaigns for the localization of humanitarian aid and promotes the Survivors and Community Led Response (sclr) to crisis approach in disaster response.

ECOWEB and CLEARNet adheres to the development-humanitarian nexus principle. Such principle fundamentally believes that development challenges and humanitarian crisis are connected by a nexus of conditions and events intrinsically linked to each other. Hence, the response to the crisis situation should be anchored on that nexus where emergency, recovery and rehabilitation projects and programs should be based.

Crucial to the process is the conduct of participatory situational assessment and needs analysis in a particular area of operation. This Situational Analysis and Needs Assessment Report (SANAR) shall be the basis of CLEARNet and hopes to serve as reference for others in ensuring that emergency response shall build the foundation for future recovery and rehabilitation strategies. However, all response agencies should consider that needs may change in a given time along the course of intervention, hence, CLEARNet promotes community-led approaches that would be meeting real-time needs of communities.

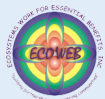
The primary information provided in this SANAR for Dinagat was based on the results of focus group discussions and key informant interviews with affected people of the disaster in the province using appreciative inquiry conducted on December 19-22, 2021. The informants also included barangay, municipal, and provincial officials. Additional information from secondary sources was provided to aid better analysis of the situation.

The field assessment was done by CLEARNet led by its member, Save Mindanao Volunteers, Inc. (SMVI) and the SANAR was prepared by the network lead convenor, ECOWEB.

To read more of the comprehensive rapid and needs assessments prior to publishing this report, visit these links:

- 1st Situational Report on the Impact of Typhoon Odette: bit.ly/ECOWEB-SitRep1-Odette
- Comprehensive Rapid Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis: bit.ly/ECOWEB-SitRep2-Odette

Photos Credit: Ruel Hipulan, SMVI/CLEARNet Response Team



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www.ecowebph.org



ecoweb@ecowebph.org



(+63) 228-9617



(+63) 917-723-0396