

In photo: MPCA beneficiaries from Brgy. Pangyan, Glan showing wha purchased after receiving the cash assistance. (Photo byYasser Kasla for Action Against Hunger)

22 SEPTEMBER 2026

HUMANITARIAN SNAPSHOT

Magnitude 7.8 Earthquake in Mindanao, Philippines

OVERVIEW.

On 8 June 2026 at 7:37 AM local time, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck off the coast of Maasim, Sarangani Province, at a depth of 33 kilometers.

The earthquake was felt across much of Mindanao and neighboring regions, affecting communities in Regions IX, XI, XII (SOCCSKSARGEN), and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). The strongest shaking, reaching Intensity VIII (Very Destructive), was recorded in Glan, Kiamba, Malapatan, and Malungon in Sarangani Province, as well as General Santos City.

The region has been battered by a relentless combination of thousands of aftershocks and consecutive severe weather disturbances. While overall seismic activity has gradually declined, the persistent tremors keep the risk of secondary geological hazards such as landslides and water damming. Compounding these dangers are weather systems from July through September, including tropical cyclones and enhanced monsoons, which have brought intermittent heavy rains and heightened the threat of localized flash floods.

These overlapping hazards continue to severely impact the approximately 23,000 individuals still displaced across 66 active evacuation centers. The ongoing ground shaking and lingering safety concerns have left many families deeply fearful and reluctant to return to their weakened homes. At the same time, sudden shifts in weather and intense thunderstorms create highly difficult and stressful living conditions for those taking refuge in temporary shelters. In the past days, these communities have also had to grapple with the intensifying effects of El Niño; dry spells are rapidly depleting critical local water sources and withering surrounding banana and rice farms, threatening both food security and agricultural livelihoods.

This continuous mix of seismic and extreme meteorological events heavily burdens the humanitarian response and delays long-term recovery operations. The unstable environment regularly disrupts the restoration of vital lifelines and rebuilding efforts in severely damaged municipalities like Malapatan and Glan.

HIGHLIGHTS

1,674,308 PEOPLE AFFECTED

395,626 ESTIMATED FAMILIES AFFECTED

4 REGIONS

14 PROVINCES

66 EVACUATION CENTERS (CUMULATIVE)

128,604 DAMAGED HOUSES

19,320 TOTALLY DAMAGED

92,407 PEOPLE DISPLACED

23,125 FAMILIES DISPLACED

94 DEATHS

1,316 INJURED

IMPORTANT NOTE: Information presented above is based on latest DSWD-DROMIC Report #85, NDRRMC, and reports from affected local government units as of 22 September 2026, 06:00 AM.

READ: LATEST DROMIC REPORT

KEY HUMANITARIAN IMPACTS.

Three months after the earthquake, humanitarian needs remain significant across the affected areas, particularly in Sarangani Province, where impacts were most severe. While response operations continue and some families have started returning home, **92,407 people remain displaced, with nearly 75% staying outside formal evacuation centers** due to concerns over structural safety.

More than 1.6 million people have been affected by the earthquake. **More than 128,000 homes were damaged**, disrupting access to water, health services, education, telecommunications, transport infrastructure, food, markets, and livelihoods. Recent rainfall has further increased the risk of flash floods and landslides in earthquake-affected communities.

Shelter

- Damaged 128,604 homes leaving 22,626 people inside evacuation centers and another 69,781 individuals displaced outside ECs.
- Need for transitional shelters and permanent relocation sites following the mandatory decampment of schools used as temporary evacuation centers.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

- Damage to water systems, pipelines and reported drying up of water sources as a result of the earthquake, aftershocks, and an impending drought.
- Reduced access to safe drinking water in several communities.

Health

- Access to essential medicines, immunizations, and primary care is critical especially for evacuation centers and isolated barangays.
- Overcrowded evacuation centers lacking sex-segregated hygiene facilities and privacy posed increased protection and gender-based violence (GBV) risks for women and girls.

Education

- Many classrooms remain structurally unsafe and require repair before learning can safely resume. At least 778 classrooms completely destroyed.
- School water and sanitation facilities are severely degraded from months of overuse as evacuation centers.

Livelihoods

- The earthquake devastated local agriculture and withering farms like corn and bananas.
- Prolonged displacement has affected home-based micro-enterprises and forced halt to daily wage labor.

Protection

- Prolonged displacement exposes children to abuse and exploitation and increase gender-based violence (GBV) risks.
- Undermined community protective structures, weakening local capacity to prevent and respond to abuse, exploitation, and neglect.

MAP OF IMPACT SOCCSKSARGEN



The Magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Sarangani Province, triggering a catastrophic cascading disaster.
The overview of the Post-Disaster Risk Assessment and Needs Analysis (PDNA) findings for the province shows:

COMPOUNDING AND SECONDARY HAZARDS

- **The initial earthquake damage, exacerbated by continuous monsoon rains, has severely destabilized the region's terrain, triggering active landslides, extensive ground fissures, and a high risk of flash floods that threaten local infrastructure and communities.**

CRITICAL NEEDS AND HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

- **WASH, Health & Protection:** Living conditions in both supervised and self-settled camps show significant gaps in water, sanitation, and hygiene increasing the risk of communicable diseases.There is an urgent need for psychosocial support and protection services for traumatized and vulnerable populations.
- **Displacement, Shelter & Relocation:** Tens of thousands of people remain displaced in temporary camps due to uninhabitable homes and ongoing aftershocks, driving a critical need for emergency and transitional shelter. The identification of geologically unstable "No-Build Zones" mandates the permanent relocation of affected communities and schools to safe areas.
- **Early Recovery and Rehabilitation:** To address compounding post-disaster risks, Sarangani has initiated a comprehensive Recovery and Rehabilitation Framework Plan. The strategy prioritizes fast-tracking safe relocation sites, providing Temporary Learning Spaces, and stimulating grassroots economic recovery through Cash-for-Work and agricultural restoration.

OUR RESPONSE.

Action Against Hunger, alongside our local partner, the **Mindanao Organization for Social and Economic Progress (MOSEP)**, has actively delivered multi-sectoral aid to the most vulnerable populations. These interventions were implemented in tight coordination with local government units, humanitarian consortium partners, and the WASH and Health clusters. Over the past three months, our team has prioritized the most severely affected communities, continuing to assess the situation to ensure our response adapts to their evolving priority needs.

27,890 **TOTAL REACHED BENEFICIARIES***

*with sectoral overlaps across all funded interventions

Food Security and Livelihood support	Health support	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene support
9,890 INDIVIDUALS	2,936 INDIVIDUALS	15,154 INDIVIDUALS

Emergency Assistance

- Our ongoing emergency response has reached a total of **27,890 beneficiaries** (accounting for sectoral overlaps across multi-donor interventions). The assistance spans **33 barangays** across three municipalities: Malapatan (21), Glan (11), and Alabel (1).
- Through the **ACCESS 2 Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), funded by EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid,** Action Against Hunger has reached **2,701 individuals (626 households)** across Malapatan with emergency food, WASH kits, and safe water provision:
  - 20 households (131 individuals) received emergency food kits in Sapu Masla, Malapatan.
  - 70 households (358 individuals) received WASH kits and participated in health, sanitation, and protection awareness sessions.
  - 536 households (2,212 individuals) living in evacuation centers were provided with water rationing at an allocation of 15 liters per person.
- Through the **ACCESS 3 RRM, 4,129 individuals (888 households)** across seven barangays in Glan and Malapatan received multi-purpose cash, WASH kits, and food kits. The assistance breakdown is as follows:
  - 452 households (2,005 individuals) received Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA).
  - 161 households (856 individuals) received emergency food kits in Malapatan.
  - 275 households (1,268 individuals) received WASH kits in Glan and Malapatan to address immediate humanitarian needs in hard-to-reach communities.

33 BARANGAYS
3 MUNICIPALITIES

1 BARANGAY	21 BARANGAY	1 BARANGAY
ALABEL	GLAN	MALAPATAN



In photo: Vehicules carrying food and WASH kits crosses the river into purok Malaygang, Malapatan as part of the ACCESS 2 Rapid Response Mechanism *(Photo by Brian Kae Enriquez for Action Against Hunger)*



In photo: Receivers of MPCA attend a sensitization session in Sapu Padidu, Malapatan as part of Access 3 response. *(Photo by Sonie Galambuano for Action Against Hunger)*



In photo: WASH kit distribution in the days following the earthquake in Malapatan as part of ACCESS 2 Rapid Response. *(Photo by Macy Sally Daproza for Action Against Hunger)*



In photo: Action Against Hunger team member explains the content of foot kits to a family in purok Malaygang, Malapatan *(Photo by Ana Nico Clement for Action Against Hunger)*

OUR RESPONSE.

Emergency Assistance

- Through the **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)**-funded response, we reached **18,648 individuals (3,908 households) across 23 barangays** (16 in Glan and 7 in Malapatan).
    - 1,068 households (4,393 individuals) received Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) across 6 barangays in Glan.
    - 1,094 unique individuals participated in community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) sessions, with additional sessions recently conducted for vulnerable groups. Furthermore, 34 frontline workers were trained as MHPSS facilitators.
    - 10 individuals in need of specialized mental health support received targeted cash assistance and psychological assessments.
    - Distributed 76 maternal and newborn kits to pregnant and lactating women across 8 barangays (6 in Glan, 2 in Malapatan).
    - Supported 90 vulnerable individuals (including pregnant and lactating women, medical cases, and SAM/MAM patients) across 11 barangays with financial and logistical support; 89 of these individuals received direct financial assistance.
    - Conducted Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and GBV orientations for 25 health workers and camp managers from Glan and Malapatan.
    - Conducted Nutrition Awareness Sessions and supported Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) distribution for identified SAM and MAM beneficiaries across 11 barangays (6 in Malapatan, 5 in Glan).
    - Provided water rationing to 6 barangays (4 in Glan, 2 in Malapatan), reaching 966 households (3,972 individuals) with an allocation of 15 liters per person.
    - Rehabilitated damaged WASH facilities in Glan (Población and Big Margus), restoring clean, potable water access to 6 barangays, reaching 1,798 households (7,344 individuals).

- Through the support of the **Gobierno de Navarra,** we reached **500 households (2,502 individuals) across 21 barangays** in Glan and Malapatan with Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA). The distribution prioritized highly vulnerable families in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA), particularly those affected by Severe and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (SAM/MAM).

Preparedness and Scale-Up Capacity

- Continuing to monitor earthquake-affected communities for potential aftershocks, as well as flash floods and landslides triggered by the enhanced southwest monsoon (Habagat) and the impending El Niño-induced drought.
- Strengthening Protection and Health reporting and referral mechanisms by establishing clear referral pathways and embedding community sensitization into all project activities.
- Linking with relevant health and MHPSS service providers across the province to ensure timely referrals for individuals requiring specialized MHPSS, GBV support, and medical assistance.



In photo: Children in evacuation center are explained referral pathways as part of an MHPSS session in Sapu Padidu, Malapatan *(Photo by Brian Kae Enriquez for Action Against Hunger)*



In photo: Woman receives MPCA as part of the Gobierno ded Navarra response in Mudan, Glan *(Photo by Sonie Gambulano for Action Against Hunger)*


In photo: Family with newborn unpacks maternal kit after attending a mothers class as part of the SIDA response in purok Malaygang, Barangay Sapu Masla, Malapatan. *(Photo by Brian Kae Enriquez for Action Against Hunger)*



In photo: Action Against Hunger MHPSS Officer provides training to service providers accross the province to ensure continuity and timely referrals *(Photo by Raphael Emperio for Action Against Hunger)*

EARLY RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION NEEDS.

Following the completion of the After Action Review with communities, local stakeholders, and partners, along with Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with community leaders and the results of our Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM), the following needs and gaps were identified to support early recovery and rehabilitation efforts:

WASH AND HEALTH

- **Integrated WASH and Disease Prevention:** To mitigate imminent waterborne disease outbreaks (e.g., cholera) in congested camps, it is critical to repair damaged community water systems in Glan and Malapatan, distribute comprehensive WASH and menstrual hygiene (MHM) kits, and conduct community-led hygiene sensitization.
- **Nutrition and Mental Health Support:** Address severe food insecurity and widespread trauma through aggressive community-level MUAC screenings, infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counseling, and the scale-up of Psychological First Aid (PFA) and localized MHPSS networks.
- **Protection and Reproductive Health:** Respond to heightened vulnerabilities in temporary shelters by integrating Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services with GBV prevention, establishing discreet referral pathways, and training health workers in the clinical management of rape.

SHELTER

- **Permanent Relocation and Transitional Housing:** Fast-tracking the construction of transitional shelters and securing safe land for the permanent relocation of communities situated in geologically unstable, declared "No-Build Zones."
- **Shelter Repair Assistance:** Distributing structural repair materials and restricted cash assistance to enable families in declared safe zones to safely rebuild their partially or fully destroyed homes.

EARLY RECOVERY AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

- **Immediate Income Generation:** Implement Cash-for-Work (CFW) programs and distribute Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) to help vulnerable families meet basic needs.
- **Agricultural and Fishery Recovery**: Provide drought-resistant seeds, farming tools, and replacement fishing gear to restore food production severely disrupted by the earthquake and early effects of El Niño.
- **Enterprise Revitalization and Reskilling:** Distribute small business grants to restart local micro-enterprises and provide vocational training for communities permanently relocated from "No-Build Zones."

EDUCATION

- **Infrastructure & Relocation:** Deploy Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) for structurally damaged facilities, and permanently relocate schools situated in declared landslide "No-Build Zones."
- **Materials & Psychosocial Support:** Distribute replacement learning materials (Back-to-School kits) lost to floods and rubble, and train teachers in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to help students navigate post-disaster trauma.

PROTECTION AND GBV

- **Referral Pathways and Sensitization:** Re-establish Protection & GBV referral networks, train frontline workers in the Clinical Management of Rape (CMR), and actively integrate Gender-Based Violence and PSEA (Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) awareness campaigns across all relief activities.
- **Establishment of Women and Child Protection Units (WCPU)**: Training of Social Workers, Police and Doctors on WCPU establishment and equipping.

SUPPORT FROM OUR STRATEGIC ALLIES.

Funded by European Union Humanitarian Aid ACCESS	**6,830** TOTAL REACHED BENEFICIARIES *with sectoral overlaps between ACCESS 2 and ACCESS 3 Rapid Response Mechanism		EUR 120.000
Sweden Sverige	**18,648** TOTAL REACHED BENEFICIARIES		EUR 273.000
Gobierno de Navarra Nafarroako Gobernua	**2,502** TOTAL REACHED BENEFICIARIES		EUR 100,000



Action Against Hunger Philippines
4F Gloria Bldg., 109 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village,
Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines 1227

www.actiongainsthunger.ph

@actionagainsthungerph ActionAgainstHungerPhilippines @EndHungerPH