

WHO Kobe Centre Responds to Philippines Floods

The WHO Kobe Centre (WKC) provided technical support to the disaster response to the recent typhoon that led to serious flashfloods to 2 cities in Mindanao, Philippines. Tropical Storm Washi (locally known as Sendong) caused flooding to the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan in northern Mindanao causing more than 1 257 deaths and 280 000 population displaced.

The Kobe Centre deployed Dr Arturo Pesigan, team leader of urban health emergency management to act as a health cluster coordinator to the WHO operations in Cagayan de Oro city. WHO is the cluster lead agency for health which provides coordination support for international assistance for response to major emergencies. WHO provided emergency health kits, rapid testing kits for leptospirosis, emergency equipment and supplies to the ministry of health of the Philippines.

Mr Alex Ross, Director of WKC, mentioned that “as an WHO specialized centre for urban health, we are committed to provide technical assistance to cities of the Member States that have been affected by disasters. We hope to learn a lot from the urban approaches to emergency response to the floods that have affected Mindanao”.