Marawi: the needs remain great as families start to return home

Since the end of October 2017, the inhabitants of Marawi, displaced since the beginning of the crisis five months earlier, are gradually returning to their homes in barangays declared safe enough for return. To date, less than 50% of the population has been able to return home. Most families are not expected to go back home before mid-end 2018, until the residential areas are cleared of unexploded ordnances (UXOs), and the official documentation to prove legitimate residence in the area is obtained.

To date, 47 barangays have been declared safe. The 24 barangays of Marawi City’s ‘ground zero’ are still uninhabitable due to the extent of the damages caused by the conflict. The needs are huge, both for displaced and returned families, who found their homes and barangays damaged.

Following a multi-sectoral needs assessment in Marawi, ACTED could identify the priorities of returned families, in order to design a tailored and efficient humanitarian response to support the governmental response.

A way forward
Local authorities and displaced people are calling for cash assistance to returned households, in order for them to start re-establishing a stable source of income.
Rehabilitation of WASH infrastructures in schools following storm Urduja

Storm Urduja caused severe damages to infrastructures in Eastern Samar, notably limiting the population’s access to hygiene and safe water.

Following an assessment of the most urgent needs, ACTED focused on 8 schools in the municipalities of Salcedo and Mercedes, to ensure access to safe WASH infrastructures to more than 2,000 students.

In the framework of this intervention, ACTED’s teams will carry out small works in the targeted schools, such as rehabilitating broken latrines (for boys and girls), repairing non-functional hand washing facilities and damaged water points.

Moreover, 3 communal water sources in Salcedo and 1 in Mercedes will also be rehabilitated in order to ensure access to safe water to about 3,400 people.

Materials have been received and construction started at the beginning of April. These rehabilitations are accompanied by hygiene promotion sessions, aimed at spreading knowledge on good hygiene practices.

Update on ACTED’s faecal sludge management project in Guiuan

The 3 cubic litres vacuum truck arrived at ACTED’s office in Guiuan in the first week of April. Similarly to the tricycle, this truck will be used by ACTED’s partner, the social business in charge of the septage treatment facility, to empty latrines at household level and transport the sludge to the facility.

The facility’s buildings (drying beds, ponds and vermicompost building) are currently under construction, and should be ready in the coming weeks. The smooth running of the facility will mark the end of the first phase of this project, which is planned to be expanded to municipalities surrounding Guiuan for phases 2 and 3.

Indeed, the whole system was designed specifically to be easy to set up and replicate, in order to ensure the sustainability of the project. The social business, once fully operational, could provide sanitation services to at least 4,200 households in the targeted municipalities.

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