

HelpAge International Secondary Data Review – Cyclone Haiyan (Yolanda). Last updated 13/11/13

Key findings

- DEMOGRAPHICS

Based on estimates available on 13/11/13, 774,048 older people are affected, and 46,103 older people have been displaced.

However, the three areas most severely affected by the cyclone **ALL** have proportions of older people higher than the national average, so the figures for numbers of older people affected **are likely higher**. Sex and age disaggregated data is included in the document below.

- Regions VIII (Eastern Visayas) 7.8%
- VI (Western Visayas) 8.6%
- VII (Central Visayas) 8.2%

- HEALTH

- The top three causes of mortality amongst the general population in the Philippines are chronic diseases, which often disproportionately affect older people.
- The leading causes of morbidity amongst the general population include acute respiratory infection (ARIs) which older people in emergencies are at particular risk of - particularly those living in cramped, cold conditions. Hypertension is the third most common cause of morbidity further reinforcing the importance of continuity of care during the emergency response to ensure deaths are avoided.

- PROTECTION

- Data suggests numbers of older people living alone are growing, and that older men and women who live alone come from the most impoverished families. Poverty incidences were highest amongst older people living alone.
- 77% of older women living alone are widowed, compared to 56% for men.
- Among families in the bottom 30 per cent per capita income group, expenses on food accounted for two-thirds (62.7%) of the total family expenditure.

- FOOD SECURITY and NUTRITION

- A recent study in the Philippines showed about 30 per cent of older people were underweight
- The 1993 National Nutrition Survey showed: 30% of Filipino adults aged 60 and over had a BMI <18.5 kg/m² indicating chronic energy deficiency, 11% were obese with BMI ≥25 kg/m², 41% were hypertensive and 45% anemic.
- Given the underlying nutritional risks faced by older people in the Philippines, it is critical that the nutritional needs of older people are identified and where required older people are included in nutritional assistance programmes and prioritised in food distributions.
- Analysis of data on commercial and municipal fishing operations indicates the degree to which older people form a central part of fishing activities. In light of the level of damage to coastal areas, it will be critical to recognise both the immediate and longer term economic impact on older people.

- DISABILITY AMONGST OLDER PEOPLE

- Low vision, deafness and partial paralysis are statistically serious concerns for older people in the Philippines
- Lower levels of functional literacy amongst older people, combined with vision and aural challenges experienced suggest the need to consider dissemination of disaster information in a range of accessible formats.

How to use this document

The review on ageing provides a summary of the needs of older people in the Philippines and should be used as a tool to support the planning of assessments and for programmes to ensure they are sensitive to the specific needs of older people. It is produced using data from reliable sources but is not an exhaustive resource. The review will be updated by HelpAge as new information becomes available.

Philippines Secondary Data Review - last updated 13/11/13

Total population: 105,720,644ⁱ

50+ = 14% of total population

Life expectancy: Male: 68.99

Female: 75.03 (2012 est.)ⁱⁱ

Sex and age disaggregated dataⁱⁱⁱ

In the Philippines senior citizens are those aged 60 years old and over and make up 6.8 per cent of the population. Based on estimates available on 13/11/13, 774,048 older people are affected, and 46,103 older people are displaced.

Age	Male Population	Percentage of total population	Female Population	Percentage of total population	Total Male and female population	Percentage of total population
60-64	1,191,170	1.12	1,405,653	1.32	2,596,823	2.45
65-69	837,788	0.79	989,590	0.93	1,827,378	1.72
70-74	571,910	0.54	732,536	0.69	1,304,446	1.23
75-79	351,828	0.33	496,541	0.46	848,369	0.80
80+	261,592	0.25	445,418	0.42	707,010	0.65
Total	3,214,288	3.03	4,069,738	3.82	7,284,026	6.85

The three areas most severely affected by the cyclone **ALL** have proportions of older people higher than the national average. Regions VIII (Eastern Visayas) 7.8%, VI (Western Visayas) 8.6%, and VII (Central Visayas) 8.2%.

Detailed SADD is available for **ALL** cities and areas in the affected regions here

<http://www.census.gov.ph/content/age-and-sex-structure-philippine-population-facts-2010-census>. See attachments at the bottom of the page.

Region VI - Western Visayas^{iv}

Age	Both sexes	%age of regional population	Male	%age of regional male population	Female	%age of regional female population
60 - 64	195,950	2.763	91,734	2.549	104,216	2.984
65 - 69	148,535	2.095	65,855	1.83	82,680	2.367
70 - 74	118,416	1.67	49,342	1.371	69,074	1.978
75 - 79	76,420	1.077	30,085	0.836	46,335	1.326
80 - 84	43,063	0.607	15,277	0.424	27,786	0.795
85 and Over	31,923	0.45	10,298	0.268	21,625	0.619
Total	614,307	8.662	262,591	7.278	351,716	10.069

Region VII - Central Visayas, 2010^v

Age	Both sexes	%age of regional population	Male	%age of regional male population	Female	%age of regional female population
60 - 64	110,106	2.692	53,175	2.53	56,931	2.862
65 - 69	85,442	2.098	39,995	1.903	45,447	2.285
70 - 74	64,754	1.583	28,957	1.378	35,797	1.8
75 - 79	40,582	0.992	17,422	0.829	23,160	1.164
80 - 84	22,555	0.551	8,796	0.418	13,759	0.691
85 and Over	13,342	0.326	4,838	0.23	8,504	0.427
Total	336,781	8.242	153,183	7.288	183,598	9.229

Region VIII - Eastern Visayas, 2010^{vi}

Age	Both sexes	%age of regional population	Male	%age of regional male population	Female	%age of regional female population
60 - 64	173,357	2.555	82,457	2.406	90,900	2.706
65 - 69	130,107	1.917	59,350	1.732	70,757	2.106
70 - 74	101,311	1.493	43,938	1.282	57,373	1.708
75 - 79	64,918	0.956	26,858	0.783	38,060	1.133
80 - 84	36,547	0.538	14,246	0.415	22,301	0.664
85 and Over	23,958	0.353	8,615	0.251	15,343	0.456
Total	530,198	7.812	235,464	6.869	294,734	8.773

National level data on:

Male/female ratio^{vii}

Of the 92.1 million household population in the Philippines, 50.4 per cent are males and 49.6 per cent are female - a sex ratio of 102 males per 100 females. The ratio shifts with age **suggesting the importance of considering the needs of older women, older women living alone and widows during the crisis response.**

All ages	102:100
0-14	107:100
15-64	102:100
65+	73:100

Dependency ratio^{viii}

The overall dependency ratio of the Philippines was 61, which indicates that for every 100 working-age population, there were about 61 dependents (54 young dependents and 7 old dependents).

Food security and livelihoods

Fishing

Analysis of data on commercial and municipal fishing operations indicates the degree to which older people form a central part of fishing activities. In light of the level of damage to coastal areas, it will be critical to recognise both the immediate and longer term economic impact on older people. It is also important to notice the gender divisions, and the high percentage of female municipal fishing operations run by *older women*.

Number of Municipal and Commercial Fishing Operators by Age Group and Sex, Philippines: 2002^{ix}

Municipal fishing

Age group	Total older managed fishing operations	%age of total operations	Total older male managed fishing operations	%age of total male fishing operations	Total older female managed fishing operations	%age of total female fishing operations
60 - 64	73,369	4.95	66,538	4.474	6,329	9.1
65 years and over	81,048	5.468	72,152	5.147	8,271	11.892
Total	154,417	10.418	138,690	9.621	14,600	20.992

Commercial fishing

Age group	Total older managed fishing operations	%age of total operations	Total older male managed fishing operations	%age of total male fishing operations	Total older female managed fishing operations	%age of total female fishing operations
60 - 64	213	3.196	207	3.153	6	6.122
65 years and over	166	2.491	149	2.296	17	17.34
Total	379	5.687	356	5.449	23	23.462

Agriculture

While damaged caused by cyclone Haiyan is predominately in coastal areas, the long term impact on agricultural operations should also be considered in both relief and recovery activities. Again, it is important to recognise the role played by older people within agricultural activity, and specifically the role of older women.

Number of agricultural operators by age and sex: Philippines: 2002 (in thousands)^x

Age groups	Total No. of agricultural operators		Total older male agricultural operations		Total older female agricultural operations	
	Number	%age of total	Number	%age total male agriculture operations	Number	%age of total female ag operations
60-64	396	8.2	324	7.6	69	13.4
65-69	277	5.7	218	5.1	56	10.9
70-74	186	3.9	143	3.4	42	8
75+	169	3.5	122	2.9	45	8.8
Total	1028	21.3	807	19	212	41.1

Poverty and income

The gap in income between the richest decile and the poorest decile remains wide. Families in the richest decile, earned an annual income of 715 thousand pesos in 2012. On the other hand, the families in the poorest decile, earned an average annual income of 69 thousand pesos.

Among families in the bottom 30 per cent per capita income group, expenses on **food accounted for two-thirds (62.7%)** of the total family expenditure, followed by expenditure on house rent/rental value at 7.9 per cent, and expenditure on water, electricity, gas and other fuels at 7.5 per cent.^{xi}

Almost two-thirds (63 per cent) of currently married women whose husbands receive cash earnings report that decisions about the use of the husband's earnings are made jointly by the husband and wife. 27 per cent of women say that they themselves are the ones who mainly decide how their husband's earnings are used.^{xii}

Health

Leading causes of mortality (general population), 5-Year Average (2004-2008) & 2009^{xiii}

CAUSES	5-Year Average (2004-2008)		2009*	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
1. Diseases of the Heart	82,290	94.5	100,908	109.4
2. Diseases of the Vascular System	55,999	64.3	65,489	71
3. Malignant Neoplasms	43,185	49.6	47,732	51.8
4. Pneumonia	35,756	41.1	42,642	46.2
5. Accidents**	34,704	39.9	35,990	39
6. Tuberculosis, all forms	25,376	29.2	25,470	27.6
7. Chronic lower respiratory diseases	20,830	24	22,755	24.7
8. Diabetes Mellitus	19,805	22.7	22,345	24.2
9. Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	11,612	13.4	13,799	15
10. Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	12,590	14.5	11,514	12

The data presented above shows that the top three causes of mortality are chronic diseases, which often disproportionately affect older people. The 2009 mortality statistics show that deaths due to heart diseases were higher for older men.^{xiv}

Health is a critical determinant for survival in a disaster, and older people are particularly vulnerable to the consequences of the disruption of health services. They need to have regular access to curative and preventive services, **particularly if they are affected by a chronic disease.**

Further analysis of the leading causes of morbidity again indicates reason to ensure the specific vulnerabilities and needs of the older disaster affected population are addressed. Older people in emergencies are at particular risk of ARI – particularly those living in cramped, cold conditions - while the risks posed by hypertension further reinforce the importance of ensuring continuity of care during the emergency response to ensure deaths are avoided.

Leading causes of morbidity (general population), 5-Year Average (2004-2008) & 2009^{xv}

Diseases	5-Year Average (1955-1959)		2009*	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
1. Acute Respiratory Infection **	-	-	1,095,328	1203
2. Acute Lower Respiratory Tract Infection and Pneumonia	704,606	840	557,786	612.6
3. Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis	576,427	694.4	346,627	380.7
4. Hypertension	406,226	486	333,497	366.3
5. Acute Watery Diarrhea	545,362	652.5	322,799	354.5
6. Influenza	367,588	441.2	271,011	297.7
7. Urinary Tract Infection	-	-	82,867	91
8. TB Respiratory	112,302	135.4	73,614	80.9
9. Injuries **	-	-	35,396	38.9
10. Acute Febrile Illness ***	14,817	18.4	20,250	22.2

Nutrition

Surveys have shown that older people in the Philippines are at risk of being underweight or from specific nutrient deficiency disorders. A recent study in the Philippines showed about 30 per cent of older people were underweight^{xvi} while nutritional anaemia was found in 25% of the older population^{xvii}. The 1993 National Nutrition Survey describing the nutritional situation of the elderly on a national scale: 30% of Filipino adults aged 60 and over had a BMI <18.5 kg/m² indicating chronic energy deficiency, 11% were obese with BMI >or=25 kg/m², 41% were hypertensive and 45% anemic.^{xviii}

Magnitude of anemia amongst those 60 and over (FAO-WHO, 1992):

- Highest rates are recorded in Western Visayas: 46.9%
- Eastern Visayas: 10-39%^{xix}

Given the underlying nutritional risks faced by older people in the Philippines, it is critical that the nutritional needs of older people are identified and where required older people are included in nutritional assistance programmes.

Protection/social protection

Living alone/poverty:

In the Philippines many older people live within, or as heads of extended families. However, data suggests numbers of older people living alone are growing, **and that older men and women who live alone come from the most impoverished families**. Poverty incidences were highest amongst these older people living alone, a finding confirmed by data on house ownership.^{xx}

In emergencies this brings specific protection risks related to the levels of assistance and support they receive.

- **Men:** Proportions of men living alone increased from about 4 per cent for the age groups 60-64, and 70-74 to 7 per cent for age group 80 years and older.
- **Women:** living alone comprised 10 per cent, for both age groups 75-79 and 80 and older.
- **77% of older women living alone are widowed, compared to 56% for men**
- In rural areas, 85 per cent of elderly men and 79 per cent of elderly women who were living alone were poor.^{xxi}

Social pensions/Loss of identification will be a major protection risk for affected population, and specifically for the poorest older people receiving cash grants as part of national pension.

The Philippines has a means tested pension introduced in 2011, which currently provides coverage to 2% of the population over 60. The pension is targeted to those older people who have been identified poor by the DSWD's National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR), those who are not receiving any pensions from other insurance companies or organizations, without permanent source or income or regular support from their relatives to meet their basic needs as assessed and validated by the MSWDO, the OSCA and Senior Citizens organizations. Furthermore, indigent senior citizens who are frail, sickly, with disability or are 80 or above are considered priority of the program.

The monthly grants of 500 pesos (\$12), account for 5.91% of average household income, but for families below the international poverty line the transfers account for 51% of incomes. As such, loss of this income could be devastating for affected families.

Disability/Literacy

Functional literacy rate by age and gender, 2008^{xxii}

Age group	Male	Female
50-59	79.8%	82.5%
60-64	72.9%	75.2%

Attempts to include persons with disability in national census surveys have not been successful for many reasons, including the hesitancy of families to declare that they have members with disabilities.^{xxiii} However, available census data shows major concerns with low vision, deafness and partial paralysis amongst the older population (see below)^{xxiv}

Percentage distribution of disabilities developed by Filipino older people

DISABILITY	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80+
TOTAL (919,292)	7.92	7.65	7.32	6.13	8.55
Total Blindness	7.3	7.95	8.87	8.77	15.77
Partial Blindness	8.05	8.19	7.76	6.65	8.25
Low Vision	12.1	11.5	9.89	7.32	8.18
Total Deafness	5.83	7.59	10.45	11.64	26.74
Partial Deafness	7.01	9.37	12.28	13.07	21.91
Poor Hearing	6.45	7.87	10.57	11.88	21.4
Loss of one/both arms	6.26	4.28	3.44	2.22	1.67
Loss of one/both feet/legs	6.43	5.32	3.53	2.65	2.5
Paralysis of one/both arms	9.13	7.22	5.75	3.81	3.81
Paralysis of one/both feet/legs	6.22	5.78	5.21	4.36	6.36
Paralysis of one arm and one leg	11.78	10.51	8.61	6.08	5.96
Paralysis of all four limbs	7.51	7.93	8.04	6.71	10.78
Mental Retardation	1.29	0.97	0.71	0.52	0.76
Mental Illness	2.88	2.14	1.46	1.1	1.45

Lower levels of functional literacy amongst older people, combined with vision and aural challenges experienced suggest the need to consider how disaster information is disseminated. Access to information about relief is critical to upholding affected population's right to dignity. Information should be provided in a range of accessible formats for those these groups.

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- ⁱ United States Census Bureau
ⁱⁱ http://www.indexmundi.com/philippines/demographics_profile.html
ⁱⁱⁱ United States Census Bureau
^{iv} http://www.census.gov.ph/sites/default/files/attachments/hsd/pressrelease/Region%20VIII%20-%20Eastern%20Visayas_0.pdf
^v <http://www.census.gov.ph/sites/default/files/attachments/hsd/pressrelease/Region%20VII%20-%20Central%20Visayas.pdf>
^{vi} <http://www.census.gov.ph/sites/default/files/attachments/hsd/pressrelease/Region%20VI%20-%20Western%20Visayas.pdf>
^{vii} The Age and Sex Structure of the Philippine Population: (Facts from the 2010 Census)
<http://www.census.gov.ph/content/age-and-sex-structure-philippine-population-facts-2010-census>
^{viii} The Age and Sex Structure of the Philippine Population: (Facts from the 2010 Census)
<http://www.census.gov.ph/content/age-and-sex-structure-philippine-population-facts-2010-census>
^{ix} http://www.census.gov.ph/sites/default/files/Chap_9_agriculture.pdf
^x <http://www.census.gov.ph/sites/default/files/attachments/hsd/pressrelease/Region%20VII%20-%20Central%20Visayas.pdf>
<http://www.census.gov.ph/sites/default/files/attachments/aodao/article/Table%202%20Number%20of%20Agricultural%20Operators%20by%20Highest%20Grade%20Completed%20and%20Sex%20-%20Philippines%2C%202002%20-%2028in%20thousand%29.pdf>
^{xi} <http://www.census.gov.ph/content/filipino-families-poorest-decile-earn-six-thousand-pesos-monthly-average-2012-results-2012>
^{xii} <http://www.census.gov.ph/content/women-empowerment-excerpts-2008-ndhs-final-report>
^{xiii} <http://www.doh.gov.ph/node/198.html>
^{xiv} <http://www.doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/PHILIPPINE%20HEALTH%20STATISTICS%202009.pdf>
^{xv} <http://www.doh.gov.ph/kp/statistics/morbidity.html>
^{xvi} <http://www.prb.org/pdf07/TodaysResearchAging8.pdf>
^{xvii} <http://archive.unu.edu/unupress/food/V183e/ch03.htm>

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- ^{xviii} <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11426288>
^{xix} http://www.fnri.dost.gov.ph/images/stories/7thNNS/nns_result.pdf
^{xx} <http://aboutphilippines.ph/filer/LivingArrangements.pdf>
^{xxi} <http://aboutphilippines.ph/filer/LivingArrangements.pdf>
^{xxii} <http://www.census.gov.ph/sites/default/files/attachments/aodao/article/Gender%20Factsheet%20-%20Literacy%20of%20Men%20and%20Women%20in%20the%20Philippines%20-%20March%202011%20No.11-01.pdf>
^{xxiii} <http://asiafoundation.org/in-asia/2011/10/26/overcoming-disability-challenges-in-the-philippines/>
^{xxiv} National Statistics Office, 1995 Census of Population (Manila: National Statistics Office).