

THE DANISH EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

ALERT NOTE

Section A: Basic information

Organisation:	<i>Viva Danmark</i>
Title of alert:	Magnitude 6.9 earthquake strikes Cebu, Philippines
Type of crisis:	<i>Rapid onset humanitarian crisis</i>

Section B: Rapid onset humanitarian crisis:

b.1 Where is the crisis? Describe the areas affected

The earthquake's epicenter was in northern Cebu, with Bogo City most severely affected by collapsed buildings and loss of life. Surrounding municipalities—San Remigio, Daanbantayan, Medellin, and Tabuelan—also sustained extensive damage to homes, roads, and public infrastructure.

b.2 What is the nature of the crisis?

On 30 September 2025, a 6.9 magnitude earthquake struck northern Cebu, Philippines, killing 72 people and displacing over 77,000 residents. The disaster hit communities already weakened by Typhoon Ragasa, compounding humanitarian needs and severely straining local coping capacities. Vulnerable groups—including children, the elderly, and low-income families—are struggling to access safe shelter, food, clean water, and healthcare. Aftershocks continue to fuel fear and hinder recovery. While government assistance has begun, bureaucratic delays mean that thousands remain without urgent relief, exposing them to heightened risks and prolonged hardship.

b.3 What information do you have about the situation? What is the source of that information?

The 6.9 magnitude quake, with a shallow depth of 5 km, caused extensive destruction across northern Cebu. A total of 335 infrastructures—including government buildings, bridges, health facilities, and cultural heritage sites—were damaged. The disaster resulted in 72 deaths, 559 injuries, and severe damage to 5,013 houses, displacing over 77,000 people and affecting more than 80,000 families, or approximately 366,000 individuals. [\[1\]](#)

Vulnerable groups—including children, older persons, low-income households, and patients in overstretched health facilities—face urgent needs for safe shelter, food, clean water, medical care, and protection services. Many displaced families remain outside evacuation centers due to fear of aftershocks, heightening their exposure to risks. [\[2\]](#)

The Philippine government has declared a state of calamity, releasing emergency funds and facilitating response measures. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. pledged ₱225 million in assistance and directed the establishment of tent cities with basic services such as water, electricity, and food. Key national agencies have mobilized resources, while local governments activated emergency operations centres to coordinate relief. [\[3\]](#)

International and community actors have also mobilized. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is monitoring developments, while the Philippine Red Cross deployed medical teams and relief units. Nearby cities such as Cebu, Mandaue, and Lapu-Lapu dispatched paramedics, rescue teams, and water filtration systems. The RAFI Foundation activated its Emergency Operations Center to support coordination and early recovery efforts. [\[4\]](#)

b.3.1. Describe as specific as possible when the crisis has started.

The earthquake crisis in Cebu began on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at exactly 9:59 PM Philippine Standard Time (PST).

- PHIVOLCS (Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology) reported the quake at 9:59 PM PST, with the epicenter located 19 kilometers northeast of Bogo City. [\[5\]](#)
- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) also documented the event in its Flash Update No. 1, stating the same time and location. [\[6\]](#)

b.3.2. How could DERF grants make a difference for the crisis affected population?

DERF (Danish Emergency Relief Fund) can play a critical role in addressing the urgent needs arising in Cebu during the first months of the crisis. Its rapid disbursement mechanism enables funds to be released within days, allowing immediate action where communities require shelter, clean water, food, medical care—including psychosocial support—and protection services. DERF-funded interventions can provide life-saving assistance through cash transfers, relief distributions, temporary shelters with sanitation, and mental health services.

DERF is uniquely positioned to fill gaps left by larger donors who often focus on long-term recovery. It can also prioritize vulnerable and underserved populations—such as remote barangays, low-income families, and persons with disabilities—who are frequently overlooked in mainstream humanitarian response. By supporting local civil society organizations already embedded in affected areas, DERF can bridge the gap between immediate disaster onset and the slower rollout of government aid, often delayed by bureaucratic constraints.