

Alert Type: Rapid onset crisis

Alert Title: Magnitude 6.9 earthquake strikes Cebu, Philippines

Alerting Organisation(s): Viva Denmark

Date Received: 03.10.25

Decision Date: 07.10.25

By: DERF Fund Management

Crisis country and location(s): Philippines

Decision: Not to activate the DERF to respond to Magnitude 6.9 earthquake strikes Cebu, Philippines

Reason: On 30 September 2025, a magnitude 6.9 earthquake struck off the coast of Bogu City in northern Cebu Province, affecting several municipalities including Medellin, Daanbantayan, San Remigio, and parts of Cebu City. The event caused at least 70 deaths and hundreds of injuries, damaged more than 5,000 houses, and disrupted power, communications, and transport infrastructure.

Although the severity of the situation in Cebu is fully acknowledged, the DERF must decline to activate a Rapid Response call at this time. Despite the significant localised impact, the response capacity within the Philippines remains strong. The Philippine Red Cross is being supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), which has launched an international emergency appeal to mobilise resources for the ongoing response and recovery efforts. The Government of the Philippines has declared a state of calamity in the affected areas, granting access to national emergency funds and enabling the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to provide humanitarian assistance.

Humanitarian partners, including OCHA, WFP, UNICEF, IOM, and numerous INGOs, are coordinating through national mechanisms. Based on the DERF criteria for issuing a call, it has been assessed that although there are humanitarian needs, there is no critical unmet emergency or protection need at a level that would justify a DERF call, and no significant funding gap given the ongoing national response.

Given the adequate national and international funding coverage and the limited scale of unmet needs, the DERF will not activate a call in response to this event.