DSWD DROMIC Report #16 on the Maritime Incident in Brgy. Baluk-Baluk, Hadji Muhtamad, Basilan

as of 18 February 2026, 6AM

I. Situation Overview

On 26 January 2026 at around 1:00 AM, a maritime incident involving passenger vessel MV Trisha Kerstin 3 occurred near Baluk-Baluk Island, Municipality of Hadji Muhtamad, Basilan Province. This is after the vessel bound for Jolo, Sulu, reportedly sank while en route. Based on the vessel manifest, a total of 332 passengers with 27 crew members were affected, of which, 42 of them were confirmed fatalities.

Rescue and retrieval operations are ongoing, led by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in coordination with local rescue teams and civilian vessels that immediately responded to the incident area.

In response, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), through its Field Office (FO) IX, in coordination with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Hadji Muhtamad, Basilan, immediately provided Ready-to-Eat Foods (RTEFs) and financial assistance through Assistance-to-Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) to address the immediate needs of the affected families and individuals.

As part of its ongoing support and in upholding the dignity of the affected families and individuals, DSWD FO IX also provided Family Food Packs (FFPs) and hygiene kits.

Source: DSWD FO IX

II. Status of Affected Areas and Population

A total of **359 persons** are affected in **Brgy. Baluk-Baluk, Hadji Muhtamad, Basilan** (see Annex A).

III. Cost of Humanitarian Assistance Provided

A total of **₱5,206,567.65** worth of assistance was provided to the affected families; of which, **₱2,791,738.65** from **DSWD**, and **₱2,414,829.00** from the **LGU** (see Annex B).

IV. Response Actions and Interventions

a. Standby Funds and Prepositioned Relief Stockpile

OFFICE	STANDBY FUNDS	STOCKPILE					TOTAL STANDBY FUNDS & STOCKPILE
		FAMILY FOOD PACKS		OTHER FOOD ITEMS	NON-FOOD RELIEF ITEMS	OTHER NON-FOOD ITEMS	
		QUANTITY	TOTAL COST	TOTAL COST	TOTAL COST	TOTAL COST	
TOTAL	**811,720,959.04**	**1,360,188**	**852,354,320.60**	**124,456,225.35**	**250,174,582.30**	**70,356,905.55**	**2,109,062,992.84**
DSWD CO	808,720,959.04	-	-	-	-	-	808,720,959.04

OFFICE	STANDBY FUNDS	STOCKPILE					TOTAL STANDBY FUNDS & STOCKPILE
		FAMILY FOOD PACKS		OTHER FOOD ITEMS	NON-FOOD RELIEF ITEMS	OTHER NON-FOOD ITEMS	
		QUANTITY	TOTAL COST	TOTAL COST	TOTAL COST	TOTAL COST	
NRLMB LDRC	-	769,446	485,363,022.66	94,282,630.63	193,005,668.96	47,868,262.68	820,519,584.93
NRLMB VDRC	-	415,975	258,196,524.52	18,935,020.72	12,202,425.65	20,713,432.44	310,047,403.33
NRLMB MDRC	-	20,550	18,186,750.00	-	-	-	18,186,750.00
DSWD FO IX	3,000,000.00	154,217	90,608,023.42	11,238,574.00	44,966,487.69	1,775,210.43	151,588,295.54

Note: The Inventory Summary is as of 18 February 2026, 6AM.

Source: DSWD-DRMB and DSWD-NRLMB

1. **Standby Funds**
   - ₱808.72 million Quick Response Fund (QRF) at the DSWD Central Office.
   - ₱3 million available at DSWD FO IX.

2. **Prepositioned FFPs and Other Relief Items**
   - 1,205,971 FFPs available in Disaster Response Centers; of which, 769,446 FFPs are at the Luzon Disaster Resource Center (LDRC), Pasay City and 415,975 FFPs are at the Visayas Disaster Resource Center (VDRC), Mandaue City; and 20,550 FFPs are at the Mindanao Disaster Resource Center (MDRC), Butuan City.
   - 154,217 FFPs available at DSWD FO IX.
   - ₱444.99 million worth of other FNIs at LDRC, VDRC and DSWD FO IX warehouses.

b. Food and Non-food Items (FNIs)

DATE	ACTIVITIES
01-18 February 2026	• DSWD FO IX facilitated the distribution of additional FFPs and hygiene kits to the affected individuals at City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO), Zamboanga City.
29-31 January 2026	• DSWD FO IX facilitated the distribution of additional FFPs and hygiene kits to the affected individuals at CDRRMO, Zamboanga City.
27-28 January 2026	• DSWD FO IX facilitated the distribution of FFPs and hygiene kits to the affected individuals.
26 January 2026	• DSWD FO IX facilitated the distribution of RTEFs to the affected individuals.

c. Other Activities

DATE	ACTIVITIES
01-18 February 2026	• DSWD FO IX Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU) provided financial assistance through AICS for additional survivors and bereaved families. • DSWD FO IX continuously coordinated with the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) Basilan Province for updates and requests for further relief assistance and augmentation needed by the survivors.
30-31 January 2026	• DSWD FO IX CIU provided financial assistance through AICS for additional survivors and bereaved families.

DATE	ACTIVITIES
	● DSWD FO IX continuously coordinated with the PSWDO Basilan Province for updates and requests for further relief assistance and augmentation needed by the survivors.
29 January 2026	● DSWD FO IX DRMD Chief Myla Villaverde attended the operational briefing and emergency meeting led by LGU of Zamboanga City to discuss operation concerns and response to ICOW MV Trisha Kerstin 3 incident. ● DSWD FO IX CIU provided financial assistance through AICS for additional survivors and bereaved families. ● DSWD FO IX is continuously coordinating with the PSWDO Basilan Province for updates and requests for further relief assistance and augmentation needed by the survivors.
27-28 January 2026	● DSWD FO IX facilitated the distribution of financial assistance through AICS to the rescued survivors. ● DSWD FO IX closely coordinated with the affected LGU and other concerned offices for significant updates and any requests for relief augmentation.
26 January 2026	● DSWD FO IX facilitated the initial distribution of financial assistance through AICS to the rescued survivors. ● DSWD FO IX, through the SWAD Office in Isabela City, Basilan, assisted in profiling and administered Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) to survivors. ● DSWD FO IX Regional Director Hadjimuddin directed DRMD to facilitate immediate assessment of affected individuals in Basilan for the processing of financial assistance, if necessary. ● DSWD FO IX closely coordinated with the affected LGU and other concerned offices for significant updates and any requests for relief augmentation.

Annexes

Annex A. Number of Affected Families / Persons

REGION / PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF AFFECTED		
	Barangays	Families	Persons
GRAND TOTAL	**1**	**359**	**359**
BARMM	**1**	**359**	**359**
Basilan	***1***	***359***	***359***
Hadji Muhtamad	*1*	*359*	*359*

Source: DSWD FO IX

Annex B. Cost of Assistance Provided to Affected Families / Persons

REGION / PROVINCE / MUNICIPALITY	COST OF ASSISTANCE				
	DSWD	LGU	NGOs	OTHERS	GRAND TOTAL
GRAND TOTAL	**2,791,738.65**	**2,414,829.00**	**-**	**-**	**5,206,567.65**
BARMM	***2,791,738.65***	***2,414,829.00***	**-**	**-**	***5,206,567.65***
Basilan	***2,791,738.65***	***2,414,829.00***	**-**	**-**	***5,206,567.65***
Hadji Muhtamad	*2,791,738.65*	*2,414,829.00*	-	-	*5,206,567.65*

Note: The reflected DSWD assistance covers the cost of FNIs and AICS provided to the affected families / persons.

Source: DSWD FO IX

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The Disaster Response Operations Management, Information, and Communication (DROMIC) Division of DSWD-DRMB is closely coordinating with DSWD FO IX for significant disaster response updates and assistance provided. For inquiries and concerns related to this DROMIC Report, you may contact the DSWD-DRMB through its official email address at drmb@dswd.gov.ph.

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