

PCEC-PHILRADS DISTRIBUTES FOOD PACKAGES AS FLOODS DISPLACED THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES

PCEC-PHILRADS RELIEF ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD VICTIMS: Progress Report. August.15.2012

This year, the traditional southwest monsoon winds (“Habagat”) brought unusually heavy rains for two weeks, induced by two succeeding typhoons in the Pacific (“Saola” and “Haiku”). The rains started on July 28, 2012, intensified a week later and only stopped on August 11. This resulted in the heaviest flood in Metro Manila and the low-lying provinces in Luzon island in three years. According to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the flood affected 667,450 families (or more than three million persons) at its height; with more than 170,000 families (824,000 persons) displaced and needing emergency assistance, particularly food and temporary shelter. So far, 95 persons have been confirmed dead. Worst affected were congested urban areas and river basins in Metro Manila (Manila, Quezon City, Marikina, Pasig, Malabon) and the provinces of Rizal, Laguna, Bataan, Pampanga and Bulacan.



The rains have since stopped but several areas are still under water, like Pasig City and the lakeshore towns of Laguna; but the worst hit are the delta towns of Bulacan (Calumpit, Hagonoy and Malolos) and Pampanga (San Fernando, Apalit, Macabebe and Masantol). As of their latest bulletin, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) listed 89,448 families still in 911 evacuation centers, dependent on outside help for food and other needs.

ON-GOING RELIEF OPERATIONS.

PCEC-PHILRADS started its emergency relief operations on August 7 when the rains worsened and heavy flooding was reported in riverbank communities in Metro Manila. We provided food to 110 families in Batasan Hills and Bagong Silangan in Quezon City. Soon we were flooded with requests of food and other assistance as families flocked to school buildings and other structures in the higher parts of the cities. Right now, the demand far outstrips the available supply of food, household and hygiene items that the people needed as they lingered in evacuation centers.



As of August 14, PCEC-PHILRADS distributed 4,306 relief packages in 38 areas, in Metro Manila, Rizal, Bulacan and Pampanga provinces. Each bag contains food items like rice, noodles, canned fish and corned beef, cookies, coffee and milk, plus clothing, and worth an average of P350. These were distributed through local partner churches which provided volunteers in the repackaging and delivery of relief goods to the sites. Donor partners and local churches generously provided the funds and goods for our operations.

PLANS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.

So far, the food relief distribution of PCEC-PHILRADS and various organizations, including the government, has not been able to cope with the sheer size of need. We are stepping up our relief efforts to fill in the gap. In the next few days, we intend to reach other areas of the affected provinces of Rizal, Laguna, Bulacan and Pampanga with similar assistance, targeting 5,000 to 6,000 more families. Many parts are still under water, or the people's means of livelihood, mainly farming, were destroyed. We are also planning to provide cleaning tools (like shovels, push brushes, mops, brooms, pails and cleaning agents) to the households to help them clean up their houses and communities, and to form volunteer teams from churches to provide actual cleaning service using high-pressure water equipment to speed up cleaning heavily muddied houses. About 1,400 families from Marikina, Pasig, Quezon City, Bulacan and Pampanga are targeted to receive these services. We are planning for possible follow-up assistance like medical outreaches, to prevent further spread of diseases; and farm inputs to help the farmers recover from their crop losses.

Donations for our flood victims can be sent through PHILRADS bank accounts:

Account Name:	PHILRADS
Account Number:	Peso SA No.: 003980000251 USD SA No.: 103980032226
Swift Code:	BNORPHMM
Bank:	BDO Anonas-Kamias Branch
Address:	Anonas cor. K-6 St., East Kamias, Quezon City, Philippines

Thank you very much.