

**PROJECT REPORT**  
**TYPHOON BOPHA RELIEF ASSISTANCE (PHASE 1)**

Project Title : Typhoon Bopha Relief Operation  
Type of Disaster : Typhoon and Flood  
Date of Occurrence : December 4-5, 2012  
Implementing Organization: Philippine Relief and Development Services, Inc. (PHILRADS)  
Contact Person : Bishop Efraim M. Tendero, General Director  
Date of Operations : December 14-15, 2012  
Assistance Provided : Emergency Food; Items for Personal Hygiene  
Fund Source : Samaritan's Purse

**Brief description of the disaster.**

Typhoon Pablo (ICN: Bopha) struck the southern and central regions of the Philippines and caused the biggest disaster in the country this year. It was also the strongest typhoon that hit Mindanao in several decades, packing center winds of 160 kph, with gusts of up to 210 kph. Most affected were the provinces of Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley where Pablo entered Philippine landmass on Dec. 4, 2012 after battering small Pacific islands. The cyclone displaced more than a million families or more than 5 million persons, at its height, in 22 provinces in eight regions, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). So far, 1,043 persons have died and another 844 missing, the NDRRMC reported.



In Compostela Valley, the typhoon brought raging waters and mud from the mountains separating Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental. The flood swept through school buildings, town halls and health centers in New Bataan town where residents had taken shelter from the strong winds. Damage to infrastructure and agriculture in the province was initially placed at 4 billion pesos, with the typhoon destroying 70-80

percent of plantations, mostly bananas for export. In Davao Oriental, “Pablo” completely wiped out the towns of Banganga, Cateel and Boston, according to the governor. “Every structure there collapsed – houses, public buildings, hospitals, churches; nothing was spared,” she said. The residents recalled that it was their first time ever to experience the fury of a cyclone, as this area of Mindanao is outside the so-called typhoon belt.



Most of the typhoon victims lost everything they had, including farm crops which were their primary source of living. They have become dependent on outside help to survive. It would take from six to 12 months before they could produce again and rely on their own capacities for living.

PHILRADS has initiated an emergency relief operation in partnership with local Christian churches that would meet priority needs in these areas. The church leaders have seen and even experienced the disaster themselves, and emphasized the urgency of assistance. The project would come in several phases, as resources would enable.

### **Emergency Relief Response.**

This Initial project, implemented on December 14 and 15, 2012 with funds from Samaritan’s Purse, served 1,135 families (15 areas) in New Bataan in Compostela Valley province. The town which sits at the foot of the eastern Mindanao mountain range was probably the worst hit locality. Thirteen of the villages and sub-villages were located in Barangay Andap, while the other two were Poblacion and San Miguel. Most of the recipients were scattered in various relocation centers, mostly schools or were staying in houses of relatives. They were a mixture of Visayan lowlanders and members of the Mandaya and Mansaka hill tribes.



The relief assistance consisted of food and non-food items, which are very basic to their day-to-day living. Each bag, **worth P500**, contained rice (5 kilos), corned beef (2 cans), milk (1 pack), dried fish, laundry detergent (2 bars), bath soap (2 bars), toothbrush (2 pieces) and tooth paste (3 sachets), plus cooking pot or pan. Discounts were given to pots and pans' purchase, hence, the number of recipients increased.



The relief work was coordinated with the local churches (led by the Foursquare Gospel Church) and the council chairmen of different puroks (sub-villages) of Andap. The distribution was held at the Andap National High School grounds. Hopefully in the next few days, additional relief assistance would be provided to other hard hit towns and villages. Besides food relief, they needed clean water supply, alternative livelihood and materials to rebuild their houses.



