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Save the Children' Response on Super Typhoon Mangkhut

Save the Children Philippines is sending two more humanitarian teams to typhoon ravaged towns in Northern Luzon to assess the situation and deliver emergency kits as thousands of families composed mostly children and lactating mothers are camped in evacuation sites.

The category 5 typhoon made a landfall in the northeastern corner of the Philippines island of Luzon early Saturday morning, bringing winds of up to 287km/h.

Save the Children Philippines CEO Albert Muyot said the typhoon has devastated homes of farmers in agricultural regions and inundated their farmlands.

“We expect the devastation is extensive and prolonged knowing that many of the affected families are poor farmers who will no longer be able to harvest crops due to massive flooding,” said Muyot.

He said super typhoon Mangkhut has affected five regions, mostly agricultural lands and the impact could further aggravate soaring food prices.

A humanitarian team deployed since Thursday reported that the town of Baggao in Cagayan showed extensive damages such as flattened houses, flooded farmlands and uprooted big trees.

The two humanitarian teams are leaving Sunday to make an assessment of the conditions of poor families in Cagayan and Isabela provinces.

Muyot said there will be huge need for assistance to livelihood of thousands of families considering the extent of damage to farmlands particularly in Isabela, a primary agricultural province in the North.

A large number of provinces in Northern and Central Luzon are considered catch basins and will bear the consequences of prolonged flooding even if these provinces are outside of Mangkhut's path.

About 20,000 learners are affected in 70 public schools in Baggao town alone in Cagayan, where the typhoon made a landfall on Saturday.

Save the Children humanitarian teams will closely coordinate with local and national government agencies to distribute emergency kits such as household kits, hygiene kits as well as plastic sheets for temporary shelter.

At the least 7,472 families are now sheltering in various classrooms in affected Northern provinces.

An initial report from National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) showed that as of 5 PM Saturday at least 34000 families or 137,000 individuals were affected in 684 barangays in Regions I,II,III, NCR and Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR). However this number is likely to rise as assessments are carried out.

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MEDIA CONTACT

Lei Tapang, *Campaigns and Media Coordinator*

+63 917 873 3448| Phone No: +63 2 853 0215 Ext. 128| Lei.Tapang@savethechildren.org



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