



"Working with Peoples in Difficult Circumstance"

AN APPEAL FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR THE FLOOD VICTIMS IN COTABATO CITY, MAGUINDANAO AND NORTH COTABATO PROVINCES

BRIEF BACKGROUND

Twenty-six (26) barangays in Cotabato City, 48 barangays in Maguindanao and about 20 barangays in North Cotabato have been submerged in heavy flooding some in strong flashfloods when series of typhoons and low pressure area weather conditions hit the city and the neighboring municipalities of the two provinces. From the besetting typhoon Bebeng in May followed by typhoons Chedeng and Dodong in June, now the continued torrential rains left many low-lying barangays in heavy flooding when influx of water hyacinths clogged up the river path under the Cotabato City's Delta Bridge. These City and Provincial Government Units here have already declared these areas in state of calamity.

In Cotabato City, 27,862 affected families are now in evacuation of which 13,931 families are on home-based (evacuees taking refuge in safer houses of relatives and friends), 10,966 families are in official evacuation centers which are usually public school facilities, and 2,965 families on are plastic tents in higher grounds.

Maguindanao Vice Governor Dustin Mastura told media outlets here on Friday (17 June 2011) that flashfloods have already affected 16,644 families or 89,000 people from 48 villages where 4,563 hectares of farmlands are submerged in deep water and wrought damages to agricultural crops amounting to over Php 332 million. These 48 villages are in the towns of Sultan Kudarat, Sultan sa Barongis, Rajah Buayan, Pagalungan, Datu montawal, Paglat, Northern Kabuntalan, Mother Kabuntalan, Datu Odin Sinsuat, and Datu Abdullah Sangki.

In North Cotabato, about 20 barangays in the towns of M'lang, Midsayap, Pikit, and Pagalungan are in deep flooding and flashfloods along the Liguasan Marsh. Residents are forced to leave their homes, as floods reach the roofs of their houses. In Midsayap, 91 houses were wiped out Thursday night

by the flashflood according to the Office of Civil Defense. The floods reach up to some national highways and barangay road paths that made few of these villages impassable.

Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, chairperson of the Mindanao River Basin Development Council, accepted helplessness in the water hyacinths clogging of the river paths under the Delta Bridge due to lack of funds support from the national government, hence, the past few days this council relies in the “bayanihan” approach among public servants and volunteer-residents to remove the water lilies in order that rain waters flow freely to the sea. A couple of heavy equipment came as support from the National Government along with the ocular visit made by DILG Secretary Robledo on Friday, but the same equipment remains in-adequate with the 10 hectares of water hyacinth accumulated over time which is expected to increase as more water lilies flows from higher grounds of Maguindanao, North Cotabato and Bukidnon areas.

Concerned government agencies such as DSWD, CDRCCs, OCD, NGOs, public and private humanitarian institutions responded to the emergency situation from organizing the safety evacuation of affected families to distribution of food and non-food relief assistance. But due to the freezing of Funds of the ARMM, little assistance has been delivered to the affected families especially in Maguindanao. While in Cotabato City, the DSWD distributed food packs to 8,423 affected families with some tents, water containers and few portalets. As of this writing, about 60% of evacuees have not yet received any assistance and are still waiting for emergency assistance.

CONDITIONS OF THE EVACUEES

As of Thursday, 16 June 2011, there are already around 40,000 families or 201,843 who are in evacuations centers, public open spaces and in the houses of their relatives. According to the DSWD record, about 70% of these evacuees are home-based (taking refuge in the houses of friends and relatives), 25% in evacuation centers (which are usually public schools facilities) and 5% in open public spaces along the roads who are living in tents.

Majority of the populations in evacuations centers or under housed-based evacuation are women and children because their men members are usually left behind to watch over some properties left in their houses. The intense poverty situation reflects a trend that despite of calamity emergency situation, properties of victims left behind are stolen by thieves. Worst, when some families hastily flew in safer areas with empty handed due to the fast increasing water level that submerged their entire shanties or when everything is wiped it out in flashfloods.

To date, fleeing families are in urgent needs of clothing, carton boxes to cover the cold ground/flooring, sleeping mats and blankets, food stuff, water containers and drinking water. For several days now of staying in evacuation centers, sickness have come to some of them especially on children such as fever, diarrhea, skin rashes and allergies, coughing, colds and body pains. There were few women reported to have delivered their babies in evacuation centers and in need of vitamins and babies kits.

As some school officials did not allow the use of electricity, evacuation centers are shrouded in darkness under heavy rains, hence, emergency lamps, flashlights with batteries and kerosene lamps can also help aid their conditions. Though, reminders in the use of kerosene lamps are also an important by responding agencies and organizations.

From day one up to now, responding agencies have been calling the public for any amount of donations in cash and/in kind to help provide for the emergency needs for food, medications and sanitary items. Please find some attached photos reflecting the situation of the evacuees.

APPEAL FOR FOOD AND NON-FOOD PACKAGES

As of this writing, torrential rains in this part of Mindanao continue. The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) announces that apart from Typhoons Chedeng and Dodong, another two (2) new Low Pressure Areas (LPA) are now in the Philippine territory, with both of them likely to intensify into a cyclone, state weather forecast said Wednesday, 15 June 2011. If the situation happens, all the more that affected populations increase and put the people further in difficult situations. More populations are also endangered due to eventual spread of viruses and diseases.

With the present number of evacuees, if the other 40% of the number of families affected in Cotabato City have not yet received relief assistance, one can imagine the worst situation of evacuees in remote areas of Maguindanao and North Cotabato. Yet, this is an emergency and a matter of life and death situation.

Thus, TRIPOD made this URGENT APPEAL TO YOU AND YOUR ORGANIZATION to help address the most urgent needs of food and non-food relief assistance of the flood victims based on their different needs and situations:

A. For Evacuation Center-Based Evacuees:

<u>Food Relief Items</u>			<u>Non-Food Relief Items</u>		
5 kilos Rice	-	175	3 pcs. Bath Soap	-	75
6 pcs. Canned Goods	-	150	1 bar detergent soap	-	35
1 kilo Dried Fish	-	140	1 Family-size Mosquito Net-		300
6 packs Noodles	-	40	Flashlight & Batteries	-	150
1 bottle Oil	-	40	1 Family-size Blanket	-	250
¼ kilo salt	-	15	1 Sleeping Mat	-	350
1 kilo sugar	-	60	Medicine Pack	-	350 (For
200 grams powdered milk-		120	fever, diarrhea, skin rashes, coughing, colds)		
5 Gallon Mineral Water -		180	1 big Empty Gallon	-	250
(with Container)			Used Clothing	-	450
			10 meters Plastic Tents	-	750

B. For Home-Based Evacuees:

<u>Food Relief Items</u>			<u>Non-Food Relief Items</u>		
5 kilos Rice	-	175	3 pcs. Bath Soap	-	75
6 pcs. Canned Goods	-	150	1 bar detergent soap	-	35
1 kilo Dried Fish	-	140	Medicine Pack	-	350 (For

200 grams powdered milk-	120	fever, diarrhea, skin rashes, coughing, colds)
6 packs Noodles	- 40	Used Clothing
1 bottle Oil	- 40	- 450
¼ kilo salt	- 15	
1 kilo sugar	- 60	

Our appeal is for any donations IN CASH and OR IN KIND based on the above-listed needs of the affected families. The items to be packed depend on the donations collected. TRIPOD will send updates and feedbacks to the donors and public about the relief delivery operations

TRIPOD is working with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and other responding agencies to facilitate coordination and proper documentation in the delivery of relief assistance.

To help in the human resource and facilities for the relief delivery operations, TRIPOD works in partnership with partners from grassroots organizations and networks such as Kaagapay OFW Resource and Service Center, IM4Peace-Cotabato, Mindanao Peoples' Peace Movement, Ummah Development Foundation, Inc., Mindanao Tri-People Women Resource Center, Lumad Development Center, Young Advocates for Peace, IMGLAD, and the AKMK-Youth Women.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Please channel your support to TRIPOD main office at 37 Tulingan Street, Usman Subdivision, Bagua 2, 9600 Cotabato City, Philippines, telephone No. +63 64 421 1369, Email: tripodcc@yahoo.com.ph. Or send your donations to:

1.) PESO BANK ACCOUNT:

Account Holder : TRI-PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION AGAINST DISASTERS (TRIPOD)
ACCOUNT NUMBER : **370-5518121**
Name of Bank : PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK (PNB)
Bank Address : Makakua Street, Cotabato City
SWIFT CODE : **BRSTN-27008-001-2** (if it won't work, try **PNBMPHMMTOD**)

2.) DOLLAR ACCOUNT:

Account Holder : TRI-PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION AGAINST DISASTERS (TRIPOD)
ACCOUNT NUMBER : **306471900027**
Name of Bank : PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK (PNB)
Bank Address : Makakua Street, Cotabato City
SWIFT CODE : **BRSTN-27008-001-2** (if it won't work, try **PNBMPHMMTOD**)