

Catholic Relief Services Responds to Typhoon Haiyan

Background

Super Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines on November 8th striking Guiuan, Eastern Samar Island, with wind speeds of 195 mph, making it the strongest tropical cyclone on record to have made landfall anywhere in the world.

Thousands have died and an estimated 9.5 million people are suffering from destruction on par with that seen after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. The needs are immense – shelter, food, water, sanitation, and medicine.

“This is the worst storm ever to hit the Philippines,” said Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Country Representative Joe Curry who noted that this country often suffers from extreme weather. Curry says that there is total devastation in a 30 mile-wide swath cut by Haiyan as it passed over three heavily populated islands - Leyte, Panay, Cebu.



A mother takes refuge with her children as Typhoon Haiyan hits Cebu city, central Philippines. Photo by Reuters/Zander Cases, courtesy Trust.org

How Catholic Relief Services is Helping

CRS staff began preparing a response as the storm neared and is working in coordination with Caritas Philippines, the Philippine government and other humanitarian organizations.

- CRS is immediately distributing thousands of temporary A-frame shelters. Each can house a family of five and 32,000 of these shelters are arriving in Cebu City, near the zone of destruction, in the next few days.
- Along with the shelters, CRS is handing out thousands of hygiene kits that include soap, towels and toothpaste as well as kits that includes plastic basins, cooking pots, utensils and other items that may have been lost in the storm.
- CRS has committed an initial \$20 million in immediate relief and recovery.

Donations from People of the Archdiocese of Seattle

These funds will be used to support the efforts of the US Catholic Church and CRS to respond to the immediate emergency need for water, food, shelter and medical care and assist in the long-term recovery from the disaster. Our donations will also be used to support the long-term need to rebuild the Church after widespread destruction.

How You Can Help

- **PRAY:** Please pray for the people affected by the floods.

God, who quiets great winds and stills rough seas

We ask your protection for the people of the Philippines.

Comfort them in their fear.

Stay close to them in their danger.

And we ask the intercession of Your Blessed Mother

That together with her and with all your holy saints

We may stand in solidarity with our Filipino

brothers and sisters

through their darkest hour

through their longest night.

Give us the courage to remain steadfast

To reach out to them in their need

To comfort them in their sorrow

To hold them as closely as You hold them

To see them through to morning. Amen.

- **VISIT** crs.org to donate online or call 877-Help-CRS (877-435-7277)
- **MAIL** donations to: CRS/Missions Office, 710 9th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104.
- **STAY INFORMED:** Current information can be found at crs.org