URGENT APPEAL FOR SUPPORT FOR RELIEF AND IMMEDIATE REHABILITATION FOR VICTIMS OF TYPHOON OMPONG (MANGKHUT) IN THE CORDILLERA, PHILIPPINES

UPDATE NO. 2
September 25, 2018

We deeply THANK all organizations and individuals who supported the relief operations of the Serve the People Brigade – Cordillera Disaster Response Network for communities greatly affected by typhoon Ompong in Benguet province.

From September 18-24, four relief operations were conducted in 12 communities in Barangays Ucab, Loacan, Gumadang and Dalupirip in Itogon, Benguet, which benefited 457 families (roughly 2,285 individuals). A total of 55 sacks of rice were given to four communities in Ucab and Gumadang and one family in Ambiong, Baguio for the food-for-work during the communities’ collective clearing of mudslides along pathways, roads and residential areas.

In partnership with CARE Philippines, Coalition of Services of the Elderly, and Help Age International, relief goods and cash assistance were extended to 21 households in Sitio Surong and Sitio Dalisay in Barangay Gumadang and cash assistance to almost 70 senior citizens in Sitios Ucab Proper, Garrison and Goldcreek in Barangay Ucab, Itogon.

The Serve the People Brigade has also been conducting continued Damage, Needs and Capacity Assessment for its continuing relief operations and for immediate support in the rehabilitation of damaged houses and livelihood.

For the coming weeks up to December, the Serve the People Brigade will continue its relief operations, and will also provide medical missions, psycho-social services, and support for the immediate rehabilitation needs of affected communities.
The Brigade maintains as priority areas the communities that barely receive immediate relief and rehabilitation support from government units/agencies and other groups. Its focus areas for the coming months will be in the provinces of Benguet, Abra, Kalinga and Apayao.

**SITUATION UPDATE**

Another typhoon (Paeng/Trami), declared as super typhoon by the US-based Joint Typhoon Warning Center, is feared to bring heavy rains in the Cordillera over the next few days, which may cause more landslides. Government agencies and local government units are currently implementing preemptive evacuation, especially for thousands of residents of Itogon.

As of 6PM of September 24, the death toll in the region reached 103 as several bodies were retrieved from the Itogon landslide. 35 people remain missing in Baguio City and Itogon, Benguet. Retrieval operations for the missing persons buried in landslides are continuing.

As of 4AM today, September 25, the Department of Social Welfare and Development has recorded the number of affected families at 53,799 families (roughly 218,164 individuals) in 73 towns all over the Cordillera. At least 1,203 houses were totally damaged and 25,839 were partially damaged. Electricity has yet to be fully restored in the region, and remote communities remain hardly accessible due to road closures from landslides and road slips.

In Itogon, Benguet, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has started the forcible closure of small-scale mines after it ordered a stop to all small-scale mining in the region on September 17. Local residents continue to demand the accountability of the Benguet Corporation for the killer landslides in Itogon, maintaining that it is the large-scale mining operations that are the root cause of tragedies and continuing threats of massive landslides and ground subsidence in the area. They also call on the government to provide livelihood for the displaced small-scale miners and a total stop to large-scale mining.

**APPEAL FOR SUPPORT**

As requests for immediate relief and early recovery support is pouring, the Serve the People Brigade, Cordillera Peoples Alliance and Cordillera Disaster Response and Development Services continue to appeal for support for immediate food relief, shelter repair kits, hygiene kits, food for work for the
collective clearing and immediate rehabilitation of houses and other vital infrastructures, and livelihood assistance.

- **Food items**: Rice, monggo/dried beans, dried fish, sugar, salt, cooking oil, canned goods, drinking water
- **Non-food items**: Laundry soap, bath soap, underwears, cooking pot, flashlight with batteries, light blankets and sleeping mats
- **Medicines**: paracetamol, pain relievers, anti worm or mebendazole, antacid, antibiotics such as amoxicillin, Cotrimoxazole and cloxaxillin, elastic bandages, gauze, hydrogen peroxide and betadine)

FOR FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL DONATIONS, AND TO VOLUNTEER:

Please visit us at No. 55 Middle Ferguson Road, Baguio City and look for Mr. Santi Mero (+63 917 685 5886), Serve the People Brigade Spokesperson and Cordillera Peoples Alliance Vice Chairperson for Internal Affairs, or Ms. Bestang Dekdeken (+63 917 155 1570), CPA Secretary General, at email address cpa@cpaphils.org. You may also visit the Cordillera Disaster Response and Development Services office at 119 Guisad Surong Barangay, Baguio City or call/text Amian Tauli at 0998 510 1465.

Financial donations may be channeled by bank (details below) or through Paypal (email account cpaphils.1984@gmail.com):

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PESO ACCOUNT</th>
<th>US DOLLAR ACCOUNT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC), Session Road, Baguio City. Account Name: Cordillera Peoples Alliance, Inc. Account Number: 1-326-72354-8 Swift Code: RCBCPHMM Routing Code: 120280014</td>
<td>Banco de Oro – Session Road Branch, National Life Building, Session Road, Baguio City Account Name: Cordillera Peoples Alliance Account Number: 105470156541 Swift/Routing Code: BNORPHMM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Those based in Manila may contact:
Raven Desposado of TAKDER at 0956-996-5823, email takderkordi@gmail.com, or LINGKOD KATRIBU at email katribu.campaigns@gmail.com.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On behalf of the families and communities that benefited from the relief goods distributed by the Serve the People Brigade (STPB) – Cordillera Disaster Response Network in Benguet and Baguio City from September 18 to 24, the STPB, Cordillera Peoples Alliance and Cordillera Disaster Response and Development Services sincerely thank the following:

INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
BPO Industry Employees Network
CARE Philippines
Coalition of Services of the Elderly, Inc. & Help Age International
Community Health Education Services and Trainings in the Cordillera
Cordillera Human Rights Alliance
Cordillera Elders Alliance
DL Silver, Inc.
Easter College students
Filipino American Health Workers Association, Inc.
Friends of the Earth – Japan
Innabuyog-Gabriela
International Union for Nature Conservation - Netherlands
Land is Life
Liberal Party Baguio-Benguet
Matadores Riders
Philippine Nurses Association – Cordillera
Philippine Nurses Association – Region 2
Pinatud - Anakbayan
Priory Disaster Response, Socio Pastoral Apostolate, Missionary Benedictine Sisters
Progressive Igorots for Social Action
Regional Development Center – Katinnulong Dagiti Umili iti Amianan
Rico’s Fine Foods and Purified Drinking Water
Saint Luis University students
Salidummay – Benguet State University
The Pimate’s World Relief and Development Fund
The Samdhana Institute
The CORE Workhub
The United Church of Canada
Tulong Kabataan
University of the Cordilleras students
University of the Philippines Baguio students

INDIVIDUALS

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