

SERVE THE PEOPLE BRIGADE

CORDILLERA DISASTER RESPONSE NETWORK

No. 55 Ferguson Road, Baguio City Hotlines: Tel No. 063-074-304-4239, Mobile Numbers 09209286370, 09189199007.

October 14, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HUNGER BESETS CORDI COMMUNITIES DUE TO PEPENG'S DISASTERS; GREATER SUPPORT REQUESTED FROM PUBLIC

This is the fourth alert issued by the Serve the People Brigade Cordillera Disaster Response Network since October 9. While many areas have been serviced, a greater number still needs our help as some towns and communities are now confronted with hunger. Thus, we continue to appeal for urgent support for the communities and provinces below, as we also share the efforts the Brigade undertook in the past five days.

BAGUIO CITY –The devastation typhoon Pepeng caused Northern Luzon is distressing. But the overflowing generosity and volunteerism of our *kakailian* is inspiring. Truly, the Filipino *bayanihan* spirit is alive. This growing and widening support enabled the Serve the People Brigade Cordillera Disaster Response Network to provide relief and medical missions in affected communities of Baguio City (Pinsao, Fairview, City Camp, Bakakeng Central, Cresencia Village) and some parts of Benguet, such as Itogon, La Trinidad and Tublay. CPA Mountain Province meanwhile helped in the retrieval operations in Kayan East, Tadian municipality, which ended today.

An estimated **P 949,744,50** worth of food supplies, clothing and medicines was raised and a total of **P165, 876. 75** cash donations were collected since October 10. Volunteers consisted mostly of Volunteers, mostly high school and college students swarmed the relief operation center at #55 Ferguson Rd, Baguio City.

Baguio City

The Serve the People Brigade distributed bags of food supplies, drinking water and clothing to over 500 affected families in Baguio City, Tublay and Itogon municipalities in Benguet. In Baguio, the Brigade's monitoring and documentation teams reported around 104 families or 881 individuals evacuated from the communities of Cresencia Village, Bakakeng Central, City Camp (Lower Quarry and Lower QM) and Irisan (Purok 1). The community of Lower QM still needs medicine (anti-pyretic, anti-diarrhea), Cresencia Village is in need of clothing, food supplies and Purok 1 in Irisan needs food for work; In the above communities, 13 were



Wrecked houses in Bakakeng Central and Bokawkan Road, Baguio City

reported dead (Bakakeng Central, Purok 1 and Balembeng in Irisan), and 21 injured (Purok 1, Balembeng and Cypress all in Irisan; Bakakeng and Cresencia Village).

Provincial Updates

The Cordillera Peoples Alliance chapters and affiliates in Benguet, Abra and Mountain Province have reported the following:

Benguet

15 individuals dead, 2 missing and 9 families displaced in the mined out area of Sto. Nino, and parts of Sayatan and Baayan, Tublay, while 45 households or roughly 270 individuals affected in Sitio Sapuan in the same municipality. Forty five families have been evacuated into Pontino Elementary School, where it was noted that families therein need food supplies and water, new underwear, cooking utensils, toothbrushes. **Road conditions leave Tublay still isolated at the moment, and needs food supplies. Mankayan is in urgent need of food supplies especially rice, as local residents are now suffering from hunger. The mining town is totally isolated and only a limited number of canvans were brought in from Cervantes, Ilocos Sur.** In the same municipality, 27 bodies were retrieved in the boundary of Abatan, Buguias and Guinaoang, Mankayan, 4 workers were reported dead at Nayak and Taneg. 17 families from the sinking area of Poblacion were evacuated into safer grounds. In Pukitan, cracks were observed from the airstrip down to where several homes are built, posing further threat and danger. Kilometers 18-19 is still impassable, and Kms. 26 to 36 can only be reached by 3 hours' hike.



Massive landslide in Sto. Niño, Tublay and roadcut in Ambassador in the same municipality

In the southern mining town of Itogon, 57 families in Luneta were evacuated into the Alejo Pacalso National Highschool evacuation center while 5 were reported dead and 1 is missing, 14 houses were totally damaged in Dalicno and another 20 are at the brink of collapse; **Dalupirip is isolated and faces food insecurity**, 6 died in Ucab while 1 is missing in Gumatdang. In these areas today, the Brigade conducted relief operations and provided food for work with UP Baguio academe and the Social Action Center of Baguio and Benguet.

An undetermined number of injured people was recorded in Pasdong, Atok due to landslides. Fortunately, no one died. Two persons died in Dada and Lameo in Bakun, and most of the vegetable gardens which is their main source of livelihood, has been flooded. In Bokod, a huge landslide has blocked the Benguet-Viscaya Road, **disabling the entry of food supplies.** Two houses were totally damaged in Ambuklao, 6 houses and clinic totally washed out in Labey, while 5 houses were affected in Minac.

Kabayan is also totally isolated and residents are confronted by hunger.

Meantime, relief and rescue missions continue to pour in La Trinidad.

Mountain Province

Today, the last body was retrieved in Kayan East, Tadian, totaling 35 since the first day of retrieval. Rituals and burial will immediately follow. 18 families or 108 families have nothing to return to as their homes were totally covered by the landslide. They are now confronted with starting all over again, starting from their basic needs.

Rice is very needed in Tadian. Lizardo Trans has meantime gone for test run today in Bontoc, Sagada and towards Ifugao to check road conditions.

Abra

CPA KASTAN reported last night that 3 are reported missing in the towns of Lagangilang, Luba and Sallapadan. In Lacub, some P1.4 million worth of crops were damaged with 100 families affected; 7.1 million worth of crops damaged in Malibcong with 423 families affected ; P7.5 million worth of crops damaged in Baay Licuan with 583 families affected; P32.1 million worth of crops damaged in Sallapadan with 265 families affected, and P1.5 million worth of crops were damaged in Tubo with 200 families affected.

Further Appeal for Support

In this regard, the Serve the People Brigade continuous to ask for your continuing support. Bring your donations to #55 Ferguson Rd, Baguio City. To donate, volunteer and coordinate call Santos Mero at 304 4239, 09209286370 or 09189199007. Please refer to our **URGENT APPEAL** posted at www.cpaphils.org and www.bayan.ph. Financial donations may be channeled through the following account:

Cordillera Peoples Alliance

Savings Account:

1-326-72354-8, RCBC Baguio

Swift Code: RCBC PHMM

Routing Code: 120280014

The floods are receding, the landslides are clearing out, and the roads are opening but there is still much to be done. We hope that other individuals and organizations can channel their relief operations in some of the areas mentioned above. Let us help each other rise above the ruins. # *With reports from CHESTCORE, KASTAN CPA Abra, CPA Mountain Province, MAQUITACDG*

SERVE THE PEOPLE BRIGADE-CORDILLERA DISASTER RESPONSE NETWORK

Center for Development Programs in the Cordillera

Cordillera Peoples Alliance