

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

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Office for Peace and Justice



Post Office Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

TEL (312) 534-8637  
FAX (312) 534-3856

## Memorandum

**To:** Pastors/Administrators  
**From:** Adrienne Curry, Program Director CRS  
**Date:** 1/11/2012  
**Re:** CRS responding to flash floods in the Philippines Update

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### **Background**

Tropical Storm Washi (known locally as Sendong) hit Mindanao in the southern Philippines late on Friday, December 16th. Heavy rains in the island's mountainous areas caused severe flash flooding downstream. Cagayan de Oro and Iligan City are among the worst affected areas. The current number of dead is estimated at more than 650 and over 800 people are missing. Tens of thousands have been made homeless.

Joe Curry, Catholic Relief Services' country representative for the Philippines, arrived at the flood zone and met people who had lost everything. "Some people don't even have shoes- their sandals were pulled off their feet in the flood," he said. The flood waters came late at night. Radios were switched off the night. Residents in Cagayan de Oro didn't hear the emergency warnings their homes on the riverbank. More than 50,000 people are now living in emergency evacuation centers. Government officials say that it could be up to 30 days before water is restored to most of the city. Students at Xavier University, a local CRS partner, are using Facebook to share information about where people can access drinking water

### **How CRS is Helping**

Curry reports that CRS is prepared to help those most affected by the floods. "CRS, is partnering with the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro to find how we can help those in greatest need. We've seen that people in flood's path need basic household goods like water jugs, cooking utensils and soap. Water is most important over the next few days. The government has distributed food to some people, but they don't have water or pots to cook a meal," he said.

I'm hopeful that we will be able to reach people quickly and help them meet their most urgent needs," said Curry. In the community pulling together and share what little they have.

### **How you can help**

- Please pray for the people affected by the floods. We have included a prayer and petitions.

- Donate to the Philippine Flooding fund. Mail donations to: Catholic Relief Services, 3525 S. Lake Park Avenue, Chicago, IL 60653-1402, on the memo line write Philippines. Thank you.

**Prayer for the Philippines**

God of Creation, Please be with all of those who are suffering around the world as a result of war and natural disaster. We lift up our Filipino sisters and brothers whose lives have been devastated by severe flooding. Comfort those separated from their families and loved ones. Be with the relief workers so they may be compassionate with those who are affected by this disaster. Lord, help us to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters in the coming days and weeks. Foster in us a greater sense of solidarity, so that we are moved to help those in greatest need to find refuge and restore their communities. We ask this through your son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

**Intercessions**

Response: God of Creation, hear our prayer

For our sisters and brothers in the Philippines who are suffering from flooding, that they will find safe refuge and comfort, we pray to the Lord...

For families separated from their loved ones as a result of this destructive storm, that they will be assisted in re-uniting with their families, we pray to the Lord...

For relief workers in the Philippines, that God will provide them with the resources to respond to this disaster and the wisdom needed for effective decision making, we pray to the Lord....

For those of us gathered here, that we honor our call to solidarity and respond to the needs of our Filipino sisters and brothers without hesitation, we pray to the Lord....

**How you can help**

- Pray for the people of the Philippines
- Donate to CRS
  - Catholic Relief Services
  - 3525 S. Lake Park Avenue
  - Chicago, IL 60653

**Make your check out to Archdiocese of Chicago/CRS on the memo line write Philippines**