



UnitingWorld launches Typhoon Ketsana, Philippines Appeal

For Immediate Release

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On Saturday, 26th September, Typhoon Ketsana brought the equivalent of one month's rain in just 12 hours, causing the worst flooding in the Philippines in more than 40 years.

As details of the immediate and ongoing impact of the flooding emerge from UnitingWorld's partner, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), the Relief and Development unit of UnitingWorld has launched an emergency relief appeal.

"Nearly 380,000 people have sought shelter in schools, churches and other evacuation centres," Bishop Eliezer M. Pascua, General Secretary of the UCCP said.

"The homes of nearly 1.9 million people in the capital and surrounding areas were inundated by flooding unleashed when tropical storm Ketsana tore through the region over the weekend," the National Disaster Coordinating Council said.

Disease and sanitation are now major concerns for the Philippines as the putrid flood water recedes.

To address the immediate need for food, medicine, sanitation, clothing and bedding and to contribute to the rebuilding effort, UnitingWorld plans to raise \$30,000 through this appeal.

UnitingWorld National Director, Rev. Dr Kerry Enright says, "Our partner, the UCCP, has begun to assess the needs of those affected and while communication is difficult, we are in discussions about the most effective way to support the work of the UCCP as they respond to this disaster and its aftermath."

"As the flood water recedes we will see an influx of waterborne diseases. As part of this appeal, UnitingWorld will seek to address the immediate challenges of the emergency and we will also be looking at ways we can support a long-term response," said Rev. Dr Enright.

More information about the appeal is available on UnitingWorld's website at www.unitingworld.org.au, including a photo gallery of images from UnitingWorld's partner, the UCCP.

Donations to UnitingWorld's Typhoon Ketsana, Philippines Appeal can be made online at www.unitingworld.org.au. Gifts of \$2 and over are tax deductible.

Donations can be made to UnitingWorld:
Online www.unitingworld.org.au
Call 1800 998 122
Via mail PO Box A2266 Sydney South 1235

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UnitingWorld is available for further comment. Please contact Rob Lutton, Community Relationship Manager, 02 8267 4223 for media enquiries.