



Uniting Church launches Typhoon Washi Appeal

For Immediate Release

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The Uniting Church in Australia has launched an emergency appeal in response to the devastating impact of Typhoon Sendong (Washi) that struck southern Philippines on Friday, December 17, 2011.

Washi has claimed the lives of hundreds of people in Visayas and Mindanao, particularly in the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan. Rising as high as 11 feet, the flood swamped houses to the rooftops and drowned unprepared residents in communities including children.

UnitingWorld is in contact with the leadership of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) and is preparing to send an initial \$5,000.

The disaster is the worst that the Philippines has experienced in years. Local churches and conferences in disaster affected areas are mobilising disaster response units to conduct needs and capacity assessment to bring about effective relief operations.

UCCP General Secretary Bishop Reuel Norman Marigza has called for the support of partners and local churches.

“We enjoin all in fervent prayer to God for the victims of disaster in Visayas and Mindanao. Let us sow hope amidst despair. The spirit of Christmas is more meaningfully expressed through our generosity in giving help and comfort to those whose lives have become bleak because of this horrible experience.”

Bishop Melzar Labuntog of the UCCP Northwest Mindanao Jurisdictional Area has added a local voice to the call.

“We need all the help we can get for relief work.”

Kerry Enright, National Director, UnitingWorld said “Flooding has brought devastation and death to Mindanao in the Season people were preparing to celebrate new life. Our partner, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, has a network of churches and capacity to support devastated communities so that in these terrible circumstances, life is still compassionately affirmed.”

The funds raised will be in support of delivery and distribution of essential food items, clean water, medical supplies for disaster victims and rebuilding programs.

More information about the appeal, including donation forms and church bulletin inserts, is available on UnitingWorld’s website at www.unitingworld.org.au

Donations can be made to UnitingWorld:

Online www.unitingworld.org.au

Call 1800 998 122

Via mail PO Box A2266 Sydney South 1235

Fax the donation coupon from the website: 02 9262 7936

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UnitingWorld is available for further comment. Please contact Rob Lutton, Communications and Fundraising Manager 02 8267 4223 or 0409 609 822