



The Philippines - Typhoon Durian

REPORT FOR STATES OF JERSEY OVERSEAS AID COMMISSION

Background

In November 2006, Typhoon Durian hit the Philippines, and was the third of a series of closely-spaced disasters that hit the Bikol Region in a span of five months. Typhoon Durian brought mudflow carrying volcanic debris from the earlier volcanic eruption which buried communities, causing the loss of thousands of lives as well as property.

Christian Aid's partner COPE (Community Organization of the Philippines Enterprise Foundation Incorporated) is working in partnership with local churches. The main focus of their work is crisis and emergency relief and rehabilitation as well as development work.

Emergency relief assistance

COPE provided 2,800 households in the worst affected communities in Daraga City and Legaspi City in Albay with non-food items including mosquito nets, mats, blankets, kitchen utensils, and hygiene kits.

In December 2006, COPE also provided emergency food relief and psychosocial support to 3,500 typhoon-affected households in villages affected by the mudflow and flash floods. The food items included rice, millet, sugar, mango and corned beef, and by the end of December 2006, COPE had provided food packs to 3,330 families.

Psychosocial activities were organized for affected families in Daraga, Legaspi City, Tabaco City and St. Domingo. During the relief phase 115 children participated in 4 psychosocial plays.

About 1,800 families and 130 children have taken part in therapeutic sessions and Memorial masses have helped them accept the deaths of family members.

COPE also provided emergency shelter, including all-weather, sturdy tents, to 1,000 families in the municipalities of Legasp, Daraga, Guinobatan, Kamalig and St. Domingo. The project covered the construction of 200 permanent houses for the most vulnerable families in the selected villages.

The livelihood programme has given the evacuees new hope and new life after the loss of lives and properties at the end of 2006. Throughout the rehabilitation phase, community organizing and mobilization are important elements. This has ensured people's participation in all stages of the relief and rehabilitation project.

The States of Jersey has generously contributed £25,000 to the cost of Christian Aid's emergency intervention in the Philippines after Typhoon Durian .