



31 January 2014

Dear friends at the Dutch Philippine Solidarity Movement,

Warm greetings of peace!

Karapatan, its member organizations and chapters in the Philippines, thanks the Dutch Philippine Solidarity Movement for your invaluable support for the victims of typhoon Yolanda (international name: Haiyan).

With your support, along with the donations of other organizations and individuals, we were able to undertake the following relief and initial rehabilitation activities (pictures and reports of teams attached):

- 1) November 15, 2013: Relief packs for 423 families containing 3 kilos of rice, 5 canned goods, half kilo of dried monggo beans, half kilo of sugar, a pack of coffee, biscuits, and clothes each pack were sent for affected residents in Brgys. Acuna, Aglinab, Bato-bato, and Katipunan in the town of Tapaz, Capiz province. The distribution was done by our partner Panay Center for Disaster Response.
- 2) November 21-26, 2013: Four members/volunteers of Karapatan National Office and a member of the Philippines Solidarity Network of Aotearoa joined the national relief mission led by Balsa and the Council for Health and Development (CHD).

Ten boxes of medicines (paracetamol and vitamin C syrups for children, lagundi and paracetamol tablets for adults) were distributed in Brgys. Panugmunon and Palaypay in the town of Basey, province of Samar; and in Brgys. San Miguel and Batang, in the town of Hernani, province of Samar. Two of our staff members assisted the nurses and doctors who conducted the medical missions in the said areas.

Relief packs for 500 families were containing 5 kilos of rice, 500 ml cooking oil, ¼ kilo of salt, ½ kilo of sugar, ½ kilo of dried monggo beans, ½ kilo of dried fish, 2 packs of biscuits, 6 cans of sardines, 3 pcs bottled water (500 ml each). The goods were distributed to residents from two barangays in Tacloban City by three members from Karapatan.

The Karapatan teams tried to locate or obtain updates from Selda members in the affected areas. They were able to locate former mayor of Hernani town Leo Magno, chairperson of Selda-Eastern Visayas; village councilor Rene Bahen, Adela and Nerio Esperas all of Tacloban. They were able to get in touch with Selda members in Leyte,

Eastern and Western Samar, and get updates on their situation. Attached are the lists they submitted containing the names, addresses, the situation and needs of the affected members of Selda. The first list contains names and addresses of affected residents whose homes were damaged, while the second list contains details on the extent of damage to Selda members in Leyte.

- 3) December 17-21, 2013: Relief packs for 300 families containing 3 kilos of rice, 5 canned goods, half kilo of dried monggo beans, half kilo of sugar, a pack of coffee, biscuits, and clothes each pack were sent for affected residents in Estancia and Balasan towns in Iloilo province. The distribution was done by our partner Panay Center for Disaster Response.
- 4) January 23-27, 2014: Five members/volunteers of Karapatan National Office and member organization Selda, together with a member of the Philippines Solidarity Network of Aotearoa joined the Balsa National Solidarity Relief Mission to Eastern Visayas.

They attended the gathering of People's Surge, an alliance of victims and supporters of victims of typhoon Yolanda in the Eastern Visayas region, held at the Eastern Visayas State University (EVSU) last January 25. More than 12,000 people from all over Eastern Visayas attended the said gathering, after which they had a protest program at the Sagkahan or port area in Tacloban City, as they called for accountability for the gross neglect of the victims of Yolanda in the region.

A team of four volunteers of Karapatan went to Brgy. Legaspi, Marabut, Western Samar and Tacloban City and conducted a medical mission and acupuncture/ventosa sessions among 50 residents in the said areas.

Two members of the Karapatan team distributed five water filtration systems to affected Selda members based in Tacloban City while left five others for Selda members in Hernani, Eastern Samar. They also distributed 20 packages of shelter kits for Leyte-based Selda members, with each kit containing twelve pieces of corrugated galvanized iron sheets (12 feet long), twelve pieces of plywood (10 feet long), 3 kilos each of 3", 4" inches and umbrella nails.

The Karapatan team joined the Balsa relief teams to Brgy. San Antonio, MacArthur District, Tacloban, where they expected to distribute 400-600 relief packs, but there were some problems concerning the vehicle carrying the relief goods, so it was given straight to village officials and organizers of people's organizations in the said village.

In summary, we were able to provide relief and rebuilding support and services to 1,373 families, including 5,514 women and children in the affected areas in the Visayas. Most are relief goods containing emergency food packages and medicines, and initial rebuilding materials for damaged houses.

According to the January 29, 2014 report by the Phil. National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, the number of those affected by typhoon Haiyan are as follows: 6,201 persons reportedly dead, 28, 626 injured, 1,785 remain missing, while more than four million persons are displaced, with only a little over 100,000 persons in evacuation centers, while 3.9 million are struggling to live outside these centers. An estimate of almost PhP40 billion cost of damage to infrastructure and agriculture was also reported. People's organizations estimate that only 5%-7% of Eastern Visayas household have had their electricity and water systems restored, in contrast to government claims that most households in the affected areas have restored theirs.

During the second week of January 2014, reports on the overpriced, substandard and small bunkhouses or temporary shelters for displaced families surfaced, as these were considered unfit for human habitation by international humanitarian organisations. There were also reports alleging that the bunkhouses were overpriced due to the possible collusion between favored contractors and local politicians, and that contractors might not have followed the specifications set by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

What is increasingly worrying is that the Philippine government capitalises on the prevalent grim of the victims/survivors to introduce projects under the public-private partnership scheme, all meant not to alleviate the plight of the affected residents but to introduce profit-driven projects of private developers and business in the areas.

Karapatan will continue to provide people-driven relief, rebuilding and advocacy support for the typhoon victims. We shall remain vigilant on the impacts on the civil, political and socio-economic rights of the people in the affected areas.

There are more 700 families of Selda members in the following areas:

Town of Marabut, Western Samar – Brgys. Legaspi, San Roque, Kaluwayan, Canyoyo,
Town of Basey, Western Samar – Brgys. Lo-og, San Fernando, San Sebastian
Province of Leyte – towns of Sta. Fe, San Miguel, Tolosa, Palo, Mayorga, MacArthur, Javier,
Alang-alang, La Paz, Burauen, Abuyog, Babatngon, Tacloban City

The following are their rebuilding needs:

A. For economic reconstruction

Corn, vegetable seeds, corn, rice, fruit trees and root crops

Farm tools and farm implements and working animals (carabao), including post-harvest facilities (corn mill, rice mill, etc)

Trainings on multi-cropping, permanent agriculture, appropriate farming technology, contour farming, SALT, etc

Banca (fishing boats) and fishing accessories for fisherfolk communities

Livelihood assistance for urban poor communities, financial assistance for vendors, provision of *padyak*

B. For women and children

Livelihood trainings
Sustained feeding programs
Psychosocial interventions
Alternative school for preschool

C. Shelter, health and sanitation

Provision of housing materials: GI sheets, plywoods, nails, etc
Construction of comfort rooms, latrines
Systematization of waste/garbage disposals
Rehabilitation of water sources

Let us continue to help the people rebuild their lives and pursue the kind of rights-based, gender responsive and people-driven mobilisation by communities for disaster response. You can continue to support these initiatives of Karapatan by donating through:

For US dollars:

Account Name: Karapatan

Account Number: 186-2-18600268-1

Bank: Metrobank, Kalayaan Avenue Branch, Quezon City, Philippines

IBAN: MBTCPHMM

For Philippine Peso:

Account Name: Karapatan

Account Number: 186-3-18618361-5

Bank: Metrobank, Kalayaan Avenue Branch, Quezon City, Philippines

Or through (Paypal, Western Union, or other money transfers)

Our deepest appreciation for your solidarity.

Sincerely,


Cristina Palabay
Secretary General