

Operation Migrante Sagip Kababayan

(Operation Migrants Rescue Compatriots)

An emergency relief program for the victims of flooding in the Philippines
(updated as of 30 September 2009)

Dear friends,

We are writing to seek your support to our emergency relief operation for the victims of flooding in the Philippines caused by typhoon "Ondoy" (international code name Ketsana).

Last Saturday, the unprecedented rainfall caused by typhoon Ondoy shocked the whole world. The heavy rain poured nearly the same amount of one-month rainwater in just six hours flooding 80% of Metro Manila with water reaching as high as 16 feet in some areas.

With clogged and damaged drainage and the government's poor urban planning; the plunder of forests by the logging concessions of powerful families and politicians – rainwater gushed directly to the streets and communities. And with so much corruption in the government's public works department, sewage system repairs are usually left unfinished if not totally unattended.



As of 3:00am Tuesday, 30 September, at least [310](#) are confirmed dead while an undetermined number of people remain missing as reports from different localities are still coming in. Around 435,000 victims who are homeless, injured or have lost all of their belongings. There are still at least 1 million people without electricity.

What made things worse was the ineffective government response to this combined man-made and natural calamity. At the height of the flooding, only 13 rubber boats were dispatched by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). The lack of disaster preparedness and rescue operation equipment is so obviously visible. Families with their children were left shivering on top of their roofs overnight with no government rescue.

Migrant workers' families hit

In Hong Kong, Filipino domestic workers are not spared as the flood destroyed their homes and properties. Many of them are now homeless while their families back home are forced to stay in refuge centers.

Partial list of affected Filipino migrant workers in Hong Kong:

Name	Organization	Place in the Philippines	Effect of typhoon
Wilma Buenaventura	Chairperson, POWER	Marikina, Metro Manila	House submerged, brother still missing
Edwina Antonio	Director, Bethune House	Marikina, Metro Manila	Nephew with his wife still missing
May	Bethune House client	Quezon City, Metro Manila	House submerged
Tet Faminiano	Secretary General, FMWU	Marikina, Metro Manila	2-storey house, motorcycle submerged, family now in evacuation center
Liza Bides	Member, FMWU-CGC	Taytay, Rizal	House submerged, family now in evacuation center
Agnes Paz	Public Relation Officer, FMWU	Tanay, Rizal	House submerged, lost all cloths of her grandchild
Ria Pulga	Member, FMWU-CRC	Ampid, San Mateo, Rizal	House submerged
Amelia Taea	FILWOM	Del Monte, Quezon City	House submerged
Delia Abelia	Member, FMWU-CRC	Superville, Marilao, Bulacan	House submerged, 370 families affected in their area
Gilbertin Bueno	Migrante, Naguilian	Provident, Marikina	House submerged
Soledad Pillas	Vice Chairperson, UNIFIL-MIGRANTE-HK	Pandacan, Metro Manila	1 st level of 2-storey house submerged

Communities, especially the urban poor, devastated

In the communities where our partner organizations are present, thousands lost their homes and properties. While the flooding did not discriminate on its victims, the urban poor communities living in makeshift shelters and squatter areas are the most devastated with the impact unimaginable to most of them who have nothing left and are now homeless.

Below is the consolidated list of affected communities as per reports from affected local community-based chapters of BAYAN, Gabriela, MIGRANTE International, Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and Anakbayan.

<p>Manila Area: Dam Site 452 families Hapiland 450 families Parola 520 families Basco 600 families Dapo Ilang Ilang 2,325 families Kahilom 250 families Banana 300 families</p> <p>Quezon City Area: Payatas 2,000 families Bagong Silangan 1,000 families (29 dead 109 missing) Tatalon 1,000 families Frisco 1,000 families Damayang Lagi 800 families Brgy. Old Balara 1,500 families (3 dead San Jose, 20 missing) Brgy. Bagong Bayan 100 families Brgy. Pansol 300 families Daang Tubo 50 families Quirino 500 families Project 4 450 families Brgy. E. Rodriguez 400 families Kalawaan 500 families</p> <p>Muntinlupa Area: Sucat Creek and Lawa 1,785 families Buli 120 families Cupang 1600 families Alabang 200 families Putatan 1,650 families Poblacion 450 families Tunasan Sukatville 120 families Advan BWLU 250 families</p>	<p>Caloocan Area: Dagat Dagatan 500 families Bagong Silang 500 families</p> <p>Valenzuela Area: Marulas 150 families Malinta 150 families</p> <p>Marikina Area: Tumana and Malanday 1,000 families</p> <p>Malabon Area: Tonsuyan 500 families Panghulo 500 families Catmon 500 families Daanghari 300 families San Roque NBBS 300 families NBBN Tanza 400 families</p> <p>Pasig Area: Maybunga, Floodway 1,500 families Sta. Lucia Eastbank 569 families Westbank Floodway 700 families</p> <p>Taguig Area: Tipas 30,000 families Bagong Bayan 3,000 families West Bicutan 2,000 families</p>
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These communities and the affected families of our members here in Hong Kong will be the beneficiaries of our Operation Migrante Sagip Kababayan.

Cash donations are preferred because of the difficulties and the cost in sending goods to Manila. This will be used to purchase the most urgent things they need such as food, medicines, water and fuel.

We will directly send the contributions to the communities directly affected through the resident organizers and chapters of our partners in the Philippines.

HELP AND SAVE LIVES NOW!

CASH/Cheque Donations

Payee: **MFMW Limited**
A/C #: 210 116448 883
Bank: Hang Seng Bank

**** Donations of HK\$100 or more are tax deductible. If directly transferred or deposited to the above account, please send us a copy of your deposit slip by fax or e-mail ****

You may send your cheques by mail to:

Operation Migrante Sagip Kababayan
c/o UNIFIL-MIGRANTE-HK
2/F., New Hall, St. John's Cathedral,
4 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong SAR
Fax no.: 2526-2894
E-mail: secretariat@unifil.org.hk

Contact Persons:

Dolores T. Balladares – 9747-2986
Eman C. Villanueva – 9758-5935

Because of the extent of the damage done by typhoon Ondoy, the recovery and reconstruction period might still take some time. We still have plenty of time to send in-kind donations like canned goods and cloths to them later.

We will still welcome in-kind donations like canned goods and clothing. You can send them to the following drop-in centers:

Kowloon Drop-In Center

Bethune House
No. 2 Jordan Road, Kowloon
Tel. 2721-3119 / 2723-7536

Hongkong Island Drop-in Center

MFMW Limited
2/F., New Hall, St. John's Cathedral,
4 Garden Road, Central
Tel. 2522-8261 / 2522-8264



The “Operation Migrante Sagip Kababayan” is a joint emergency relief operation by MIGRANTE International; Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN-HK); Gabriela Hong Kong; United Filipinos in Hong Kong (UNIFIL-MIGRANTE-HK); Abra Tinguian Ilocano Society (ATIS); Cordillera Alliance in Hong Kong (CORALL-HK); Filipino Migrant Workers’ Union (FMWU); United Pangasinan Hong Kong (UPHK); Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM); Mission for Migranmt Workers (MFMW Ltd.); and the Bethune House Migrant Women’s Refuge.

This initiative is part of the multi-sectoral efforts of BALSA or “Bayanihan para sa Sambayanan”. BALSAs is a BAYAN-initiated network put up more than 10 years ago to concentrate on relief for victims of natural and man-made disasters in the Philippines.

