

AN APPEAL ON BEHALF OF TYPHOON PABLO VICTIMS

Last December 04, 2012, a super-typhoon made landfall in Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley, and Agusan del Sur Provinces in Mindanao; in areas that were once billed as typhoon-free. Typhoon Pablo swept across the area with wind gusts of up to 200 kilometers per hour, flattening farmlands, blowing away houses, igniting landslides, and killing people.

The locals in the area did not have any firsthand experience yet on what a super-typhoon could do even if others did not actually believe that a super-typhoon was coming their way. Hence, they did not know what to prepare and/or they did not see the urgency to prepare even if they were properly warned of the incoming onslaught. But maybe there was really no time and no way to prepare because after all, houses and other structures in the area were not constructed with typhoon in mind. Houses were made of light, non-sturdy materials even as others were constructed in a manner that could not withstand strong winds.

When Typhoon Pablo finally exited, it left numerous lives and large swathes of areas in ruins. Thousands of families were left homeless, wet, anguished, hungry. Mountains/Forests were flattened. Farmlands were totally destroyed. Once bustling towns were turned into ghost towns. Thousands left dead or missing. Indeed, the destruction Pablo wrought was beyond description.



The government says that the typhoon damaged P24.1 billion worth of properties, a huge amount. But immeasurable is the cost of lives lost, the emotional trauma, the cost of rehabilitation and recovery efforts. Pictures above were taken at Barangay Angas, Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur. Typhoon Pablo caused enormous damages in Agusan del Sur, but the damages have not caught enough attention of national media and International Donors because there were "only" 16 recorded deaths in the whole province.

While the international community has pledged and has actually delivered millions of pesos in aid for those ravaged by Typhoon Pablo, it is disheartening to see many people in dire circumstances and falling prey to desperation and even violence.

But the big question really is this: when the mass media's interests to the event will have waned even as the attention of the international community will have shifted to somewhere else, what will happen to individuals whose lives have been totally altered by Typhoon Pablo: no more families, no more houses, no more livelihood?

The Agusan for People's Health Development Foundation, Inc. (ADFI) holds that it is the moral responsibility of those who have the means to take part in bringing life back to the victims. Hence, ADFI engages in relief and rehabilitation operations, with funding from Kindernothilfe Germany. But with only a modicum amount of funds, ADFI can only do little. Indeed, there is so much work to do – especially in the coming days when the outside help would already stop coming. It is here that ADFI appeals to all of you to do your share.

ADFI shall engage in bringing livelihood back to typhoon victims. It is where your contribution shall be used, for interventions that have lasting impacts to the victims. Please note that ADFI was granted donee status by the Bureau of Internal Revenue starting in 2006 after the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC) found its (ADFI's) systems and processes compliant with the set standards. Hence, your donation is tax-deductible and is donor's tax-free after ADFI shall have issued you Certification of Donation.

Being a PCNC-certified, it is implied that ADFI adheres to the highest standards on governance and project management. Donors are then assured that their money shall benefit the most number of Typhoon Pablo Victims in Agusan del Sur.

Lastly, ADFI is the Chair of the ***Oplan Pablo INGOS/NGOs Coordinating Committee***, a grouping of International Non-Government Organizations/Local Non-Government Organizations that have interventions for the typhoon victims in Agusan del Sur and whose primary task is to ensure non-duplication and complementation of efforts of state and non-state actors. Somehow, any donations through ADFI are assured to be put to good use in areas that need help the most.



REX T. LINAO, MSERM, Ph.D.

Executive Director

PHRC Building, DOPMH Compound

Patin-ay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur

Telefax Number: 085 – 343 – 7185

Mobile Phone Number: 0928 – 550 – 2317

Email Address: xer72@yahoo.com

ADFI ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

The Agusan for People's Health Development Foundation, Inc. (ADFI) is a non-stock, non-profit organization that was founded in 2004 through a support grant from the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). The grant was for the establishment of a Community Trust Fund (CTF) for use in the augmentation and supplementation of the funds of Local Government Units for the purchase of critical malaria control and prevention drugs and equipment.

ADFI is based in Patin-ay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur. It was duly registered in the Securities and Exchange Commission (CN200415290), in the Bureau of Internal Revenue (OCN2003-104-006171), in the Department of Health (C.A. No. 01-2011), among other government organizations.

ADFI is a member of the CARAGA Regional Development Council, member of the Regional Poverty Reduction Action Team, member of the Caraga Conference for Peace and Development, and the Regional Coordinator of the National Greening Program – Civil Society Engagement. Further, ADFI is a member of the Provincial Development Council, the Chair of the Consortium of Civil Society Organizations in Agusan del Sur, the Co-Chair of the Agusan del Sur Environment and Sustainable Development Council, the Chair of the Alliance of Agusan Marsh Conservation Organizations, and the Provincial Service Provider of the National Anti-Poverty Commission.

Currently, ADFI implements various projects that revolve around a general theme dubbed as Full Humanity Development and PEACE Paradigm of Development, the most prominent of which is its implementation of a program dubbed as INTEGRATIVE HEALTH MANAGEMENT SYSTEM INSTITUTIONALIZATION. A book to elucidate Full Humanity Development and PEACE Paradigm of Development concepts was published by ADFI in 2010.

Aiming to be a major player in the protection of Children's Rights in its area of operations, APHDFI partners with Kindernothilfe in the major endeavor dubbed as Children - Focused Community Development, partners with Save the Children International, and with ChildFund International.

For information, please contact:

REX T. LINAQ, MSERM, Ph.D.

Executive Director

PHRC Building, DOPMH Compound

Patin-ay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur

085 – 343 – 7185, 0928 – 550 – 2317

xer72@yahoo.com