

Typhoon Vinta/Tembin - New Disaster in Mindanao (Philippines): An urgent call for financial solidarity

Monday 25 December 2017, by [MiHANDs](#) (Date first published: 24 December 2017).

We received an urgent call from Mihands after typhoon Vinta / Tembin struck Mindanao from East to West on December 22.

ESSF collaborates regularly with the coalition Mihands in the event of humanitarian disasters. We endorses this call to give it an international reach.

We are ourselves preparing a wider solidarity initiative beginning January which will look into the general state of humanitarian crisis in Mindanao caused by climate change, the lasting consequences of the Marawi war, the devastation due to mining and forestry lobbies, the reign of martial law, the generalisation of fighting between the CPP-NPA and the governmental army ...

AN APPEAL FOR THIS YULETIDE SEASON

(Updated as of 5PM December 24, 2017)

As the world celebrates the Yuletide Season, many people in several parts of the Philippines, mostly poor families, are badly hit by the two succeeding typhoons Typhoon Urduja (International Codename Francisco) last week to Typhoon Vinta (Codename Tembin); that left not only huge amount of damage to farms, properties and livelihoods but also severe physical and psychological injuries and many deaths. Our network partners from Lanao del Norte namely DKMP, LAFCCOD and KILOS KALanao have reported to have their houses and offices submerged in water when a surprising flashflood rushed in last night and hit their areas. Some municipalities severely affected are Munai, Salvador, Sapad, Tubod, Lala and Kapatagan municipalities. As of this time, the Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte reported that 42 persons died and 336 are still missing while 4,500 people are spending Christmas day in evacuation centers. Post disaster assessment is ongoing to determine the actual damage caused by the flooding in this area.

In Lanao del Sur, Assemblyman Zia Alonto Adiong of the Provincial Crisis Committee reported 27 casualties from 9 municipalities of District 1 and 2. Most of the casualties he said are from the municipalities declared watershed areas in District 1 namely Bubong, Ditsaan Ramain and Buadipuso Buntong. On the other hand, in Zamboanga Peninsula 56 bodies were retrieved and thousands of families are on evacuation. Several farms, houses and road networks are also damaged by the flashflood and heavy flooding in Maguindanao and North Cotabato. These are the same areas reported to have sporadic skirmishes and fleeing civilians past few weeks ago due to increasing armed confrontations between the government forces and the New People's Army.

Stories from the survivors reveal a common experience - they were caught by surprise when heavy

muddy water swiftly flashed down from the mountains bringing in along several debris - mud soil, stones, tree trunks, etc.; - a blatant indication of the worsening ecological destruction (such as logging and mining) that has never been sufficiently addressed to in contrary to reports of improved and good governance. While local government units insist that enough early warning and advisory was given but the people chose to remain stubborn.

Not so long ago, 6 years to be exact, when we heard almost of the same sad story of a killer flashfloods named Typhoon Sendong (Washi) that hit the cities of Iligan and Cagayan de Oro. Today, many Sendong survivors are still waiting for the promised reparation and rehabilitation programs. Not to mention the need to build the capacities of the survivors and those others who by then were lucky not directly affected yet remain vulnerable because of poor living condition.

Typhoon Urduja and Typhoon Vinta did not leave without giving a taste of the sufferings to the survivors of the Marawi Crisis where tents and evacuation centers are also flooded with rainwaters. As of now, when only around 20% of the IDPs population was able to return to their original places in Marawi majority remain languishing in their tents and crowded evacuation centers and host families. Specially, that humanitarian aids have come less and less as the days go by.

In this Yuletide Season, may we reflect on what wrongdoings these poor Internally Displaced Persons may have done for them to have experienced such great punishment? Are we just to wait until the next typhoon, or earthquake, or armed conflict to happen again?

Our prayers is for the rest of the days of 2017 be joyful amidst the current humanitarian crises and may the New Year 2018 brings us peace, justice and prosperity!

Lastly, MIHANDs continues to receive donations or solidarity support for the continuing humanitarian response for the disasters' survivors in Mindanao. If you want to help, you may channel your donation/support to this paypal account - paypal : [paypal.me/janpesons](https://www.paypal.me/janpesons) or to MIHANDs bank details below:

Account Name : Mindanao Humanitarian Action Network
Account No. : 9353-1085-54
Bank Name : Bank of Philippine Islands (BPI)
Bank Address : Quezon Avenue, Iligan City
SWIFT Code : BOIPHMM

Thank you so much!

International donations can be sent through ESSF solidarity account

To send donations

Cheques

cheques to ESSF in euros only, payable in France, to be sent to:

ESSF

2, rue Richard-Lenoir

93100 Montreuil

France

Bank Account:

Crédit lyonnais
Agence de la Croix-de-Chavaux (00525)
10 boulevard Chanzy
93100 Montreuil
France
ESSF, account number 445757C

International bank account details :

IBAN : FR85 3000 2005 2500 0044 5757 C12
BIC / SWIFT : CRLYFRPP
Account holder : ESSF

Through PayPal

You can send money through Paypal: see the [PayPal button](#) on the upper right side of ESSF English home page: <http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?page=sommaire&lang=en>

Through HelloAsso

You can also send money through the association HelloAsso: see its button on the upper right side of ESSF English home page: <http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?page=sommaire&lang=en>
Or go directly to:
<https://www.helloasso.com/associations/europe-solidaire-sans-frontieres/formulaires/1/widget>

We will keep you informed through our website of the state of the permanent solidarity fund and how it is utilized.

P.S.

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