



TYPHOON ONDOY ACTION ALERT 3

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UCCP displacement count at 3,800

Initial data from 19 UCCP congregations indicate that at least 620 families or some 3,800 persons have been severely affected by last Saturday's Typhoon Ketsana/Ondoy. Initial data from the United Metropolis Conference indicate that at least 430 families have approached the UCCP for help. Of this are some 300 families from a nearby urban poor community who have sought shelter in the Bishop Sobrepena Memorial Church in Quezon City.

In the North East Southern Tagalog Conference (NESTCON) which covers the municipalities in the provinces of Rizal and Laguna, and the towns of Real, Infanta and General Nakar in Quezon, a total of 190 families are in need of help in the congregations of UCCP Lingga, Calamba town; UCCP Banaba, San Mateo town; and UCCP Sta Ana, also in San Mateo have lost personal belongings to the flood. In Banaba the church was flooded and pews were washed away; in Sta Ana the parsonage was under water. NESTCON was engaged in relief and rehabilitation work only 5 years ago after its northeast section was hit by heavy rain resulting in landslides.

The numbers are only a fraction of the estimated half a million persons displaced by record rainfall on 26 September. The government's National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) reported the number of fatalities rose to 246 as of afternoon of 29 September. Ondoy claimed the most lives in the Calabarzon region, where 105 deaths had been recorded thus far. Most fatalities in the region were from Rizal province, which recorded 87 fatalities. Losses to agriculture and infrastructure are estimated at P4.69 billion. Classes in the National Capital Region have been called off until Saturday. Many parts are still flooded. Numerous corpses were reported seen in the Quezon City communities of Payatas, Balara, and Tandang Sora.

Meanwhile relief efforts have been carried out by hundreds of volunteers in churches, schools and NGOs. Electronic social networks play a great role in information exchange and coordination.