12 November 2013

Excellency,

On 8 November, Typhoon Haiyan (known locally as Yolanda) made landfall in the Philippines, bringing death and destruction to 36 provinces. An estimated 11.3 million people have been affected and 673,000 people remain displaced. There are still several areas from which no information has been received, and we sadly anticipate that the number of people affected and killed will continue to grow.

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has declared a national state of calamity and is responding quickly and effectively. To support the Government’s efforts, the United Nations and its partners have activated our highest level of response (Level-3 Inter-Agency Standing Committee System-Wide activation). We are reinforcing humanitarian leadership on the ground, sending our most experienced and skilled staff, releasing emergency funds and mobilizing relief supplies from around the globe. Our UN Disaster and Assessment Coordination (UNDAC) team arrived in Tacloban City the day after the storm struck and additional UNDAC teams have deployed to other areas. We are also coordinating closely with ASEAN’s Humanitarian Assistance Coordinating Centre and the ASEAN Emergency Rapid Assessment Team in the affected areas.

Immediate needs are, however, enormous. Removal of the vast amounts of rubble and debris, along with provision of clean water, food, shelter, essential household items and medical supplies, is critical. We must act immediately to help the millions of families who have had their lives torn apart by this disaster.


All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations
I encourage your Government to give generously to this Action Plan, as well as to the CERF, which is itself severely depleted. Attached is a two-page guide on how you can help and Guidance on the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets (MCDA).

I thank you in advance for your Government’s commitment to saving lives and restoring the livelihoods of those affected by Typhoon Haiyan.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Valerie Amos
Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs
and Emergency Relief Coordinator