



## Feed the Hungry, Inc. Progress Report on Assistance to Typhoon Sendong Victims December 2012

About a year ago, tropical storm Sendong (international name, “Wali”) hit the Philippines with such fury that it is considered one of the deadliest typhoons to hit the country. Over a thousand lives claimed, with still thousands unaccounted for, Typhoon Sendong affected more than half a million individuals. Worst hit were the cities of Cagayan de Oro (“CDO”) and Iligan.

**Immediate calamity assistance.** Feed the Hungry, Inc. (“FtH”) was one of the first on the site to provide much needed assistance, distributing half a million pesos worth of food and basic needs in the more remote places not reached by international aid agencies, as vetted by its partner, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (“CFO”). CFO has been very diligent in its efforts to ensure that all the provisions of the various memoranda of agreement covering projects as well as the timeline for each are adhered to.

Within the week, a deluge of immediate assistance arrived from neighboring cities, as well as from neighboring countries and international organizations. At this point, FtH, through its Program Director for CARE, made a decision to earmark donated funds for Sendong to rehabilitation projects to allow the evacuees to claim back their normal lives.

**Donations received.** As a result of the vigorous and passionate campaign launched to solicit donations for the victims of Typhoon Sendong, a total of about \$75,000 was raised (the “TS Funds”). In cooperation with various organizations in the DC Metro area like PAFC, PAMWE, PMA, WBIFA, UPAA, PAFAL, etc. individual donations were received from Nevada, Hawaii, California, New York in addition to those coming from local residents, some of whose donations were matched by their employers like American Express, the World Bank, the IMF, Exxon, Schwab, AARP, etc.

**Rehabilitation endeavors.** An evaluation team from FtH traveled to CDO/Iligan to assess the damage and determine the most suitable rehabilitation projects to be implemented based on funds on hand and donors’ mandate. A three-phased rehabilitation program was decided upon.

The first phase, completed in June 2012, entailed the funding for the water system servicing a community of about 72 homes built for families considered to be the poorest of the evacuees. FtH partnered with St. Francis Xavier Chaplaincy, putting in PhP500,000 or \$11,000 towards the total cost of PhP990,000 to get the water system operational.

The second phase involves the construction of classroom buildings, direly needed to replace the ones ravaged by Sendong in CDO and Iligan City.

The first was the construction of a two-classroom building in Indahag, CDO to where 1,500 families were relocated, for a total cost of PhP790,000. These classrooms will benefit 100 children per year, as long as the classroom is standing. The donation of \$8,000 from PAFC (Philippine American Foundation for Charities chaired by Ador Carreon) was matched by the TS Funds to complete the cost of the building of PhP790,000, or roughly \$20,000. Through the auspices of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals (“BCBP”) who managed the construction, the building was completed and launched in November 2012.



Another two-classroom building located in Opol, CDO, is in the final stages of completion, again under the auspices of BCBP. A perennial donor and supporter of FtH, Jonathan Gaw from New York donated \$8,000 which was matched by his employer, American Express. With the supplement from the TS Funds, the cost of the project of about \$20,000 was met. It is expected that this project will be completed before the end of 2012.

Simultaneously, a two-classroom building is in the final stages of construction in Iligan City, with funding coming from the proceeds of a concert held by the Visayan Club of Kona, Hawaii, headed by Jane Clement. To complete the required funding of \$20,000 for the building, TS funds were used for supplement.

It is envisioned that construction of additional classrooms and funding of water systems will be done in the third phase in both cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan. To complete the relocation of all the Sendong victims who are still housed in temporary quarters, land will have to be purchased where donated homes can be built. The venue for this new community has been identified but the land is not free though the owner is releasing it for a much reduced amount of PhP1.2 million or about \$20,000, considering that it will be used to rehabilitate Sendong victims. There is therefore urgent need to raise more funds to rehabilitate Sendong’s victims and get them back to living normal lives.