



Philippine Tropical Cyclones Emergency Response Project

Press Release
February 16, 2010
(For immediate release)

EUROPEAN COMMISSION VISITS BENGUET COMMUNITIES HIT BY TYPHOON PEPENG

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines – A delegation from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department visited the municipality of Bokod in Benguet province Tuesday to be appraised of the progress of implementation of a relief project the Commission is supporting in the Cordillera Administrative Region. Ms. Anne-Francoise Moffroid, Desk Officer for Southeast Asia of the European Commission Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO), together with Ms. Maria Olsen, Rapid Response Coordinator, visited Labey and Cobabeng, communities that were hit by landslides and floods triggered by typhoon Pepeng (international name: Parma) in October 2009. The landslides and floods destroyed houses, school buildings, and the economic assets of the two communities.

The communities of Cobabeng and Labey, and 100 other communities in CAR, Region 1, Region 4 and NCR will benefit from a relief project being implemented by CARE Nederland in collaboration with the Cordillera Disaster Relief and Development Services (CORDIS RDS) and the Corporate Network for Disaster Response (CNDR). The relief project, with a budget of EUR400,000 or about PhP26 million, is fully funded by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department.

Some 13,000 households will benefit from the project. The selected households will receive cash, food or short-term livelihood support in exchange for their participation in activities that will benefit their communities such as repair of classrooms and community infrastructure such as irrigation canals, roads and foot paths, and water distribution points. Communities will also engage in sanitation activities such as clean up of garbage and debris left by the floods, and de-clogging or digging of drainage canals. The targeted households will also benefit from public awareness activities on water, sanitation and hygiene, while some 20 select communities will undertake disaster risk reduction training and planning.

The ECHO monitoring mission, aside from monitoring CARE Nederland's project implementation, will likewise visit the projects being implemented by the World Food Program, German Red Cross/Spanish Red Cross, and Handicap International.

The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department supports relief activities for vulnerable people in crisis zones around the world. A total EUR9 million in relief assistance was extended to the Philippines in response to the series of typhoons that hit the Philippines in 2009.

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