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Contact: Betsy Edwards
BEwards@ChildFund.org
(804)756-2722

Preparedness by ChildFund and others pays off in Philippines typhoon

RICHMOND, Va. (Dec. 12, 2014) – Lessons learned from Super Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 helped ChildFund, other international development organizations and the Philippines government be better prepared for Typhoon Hagupit.

“The potential for a humanitarian disaster was averted due to an unprecedented mass evacuation of some 1.7 million people,” said Katherine Manik, country director for ChildFund Philippines. “Although Typhoon Hagupit damaged or destroyed thousands of homes, the rapid and successful mass evacuation before the storm hit saved many lives and is helping communities get back to normal more quickly. We have seen that good preparedness, including information to communities, has paid off.”

ChildFund supported the government-led mass evacuation and, even before, has long worked with communities across the Philippines on reducing their vulnerability to disasters and strengthening their capacity to cope. As part of the ongoing recovery from Haiyan, ChildFund works with local populations on what to do in the event of a typhoon, including strengthening cooperation with authorities with regard to evacuation.

In the aftermath of Typhoon Hagupit, ChildFund and its local partner organizations are focusing on helping children overcome their anxiety and extreme fear, by providing psychosocial assistance. “The storm lashed many farming and fishing communities that felt the brunt of last year’s Super Typhoon Haiyan, which killed more than 6,000 people and left more than 4 million homeless. Many communities are now reliving the fear and trauma of last year,” said Manik.

While Hagupit was less destructive than anticipated, it brought heavy rain and damaging winds. ChildFund is looking at the medium- and long-term recovery of affected communities, particularly the impacts on mental and emotional health and on livelihoods.

ChildFund has worked in the Philippines for more than 40 years, in recent years responding to Typhoon Ketsana (2009), Typhoon Washi (2011), Typhoon Bopha (2012) and Super Typhoon Haiyan (2013), helping thousands of children and their families rebuild their lives.

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About ChildFund

ChildFund International is a global child development and protection agency serving more than 18.2 million children and family members in 30 countries. For 76 years, we have helped the world’s deprived, excluded and vulnerable children survive and thrive to reach their full potential and become leaders of enduring change. As a member of ChildFund Alliance, we create supportive environments in which children can flourish. For more information about ChildFund, visit www.ChildFund.org.