

OFDA  
**Disaster  
Case Reports**

Philippines Earthquake  
August 16, 1976

**Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance  
Agency for International Development  
Washington, D.C. 20523**



## PHILIPPINES - Earthquake

### Data

Date: August 16, 1976 (Transitional Quarter)

Location: The Celebes Sea south of the Moro Gulf area; Philippine areas affected: Subu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan, and the mainland of Mindanao to southern portions of east and west Visayas and Palawan

No. Dead: 5,000-6,000

No. Injured: 6,348 injured; 4,000 missing

No. Affected: 175,000 were made homeless

Damage: Extensive damage to houses, and public and private structures; value of damage estimated between \$95 million and \$135 million

### The Disaster

An earthquake registering 8.0 on the Richter scale occurred in the Celebes Sea south of Moro Gulf in the Philippines. Damage from the earthquake affected the southern and western portions of Mindanao Island, especially the cities of Cotabato, Zamboanga, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, Jolo, and Pogadian. The earthquake also generated an 18-foot tsunami that swept across coastal towns in Moro Gulf and islands in Sulu archipelago, and accounted for 95% of the deaths following the quake. Many of the victims were poor Muslim fishermen.

### Action Taken by the Government of the Philippines (GOP)

Stressing self-reliance in times of emergency, the GOP organized and executed its own relief operations following the earthquake. The Philippine Air Force conducted helicopter search and rescue missions, while 4,000 troops, plus thousands of Red Cross, local government, and other relief workers assisted in caring for the homeless and needy victims. Following his tour of the disaster-stricken areas, President Marcos announced a \$150 million rehabilitation plan for Mindanao Island.

### Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

Although USG assistance was not requested, the U.S. Ambassador made \$25,000 available from the disaster assistance fund. In addition, a \$100,000 cash grant was provided to the Philippine Red Cross through the American Red Cross.....\$125,000

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Catholic Relief Services (CRS) was authorized to divert \$54,286 worth of P.L. 480 Title II food-stuffs from existing stocks in the Philippines (see Voluntary Agencies).....\$54,286

TOTAL \$179,286

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies \*

CRS - contributed 750 bales of clothing, 68 cartons of medicine, and 150 tons of blankets and clothing, all valued at \$581,910. In addition, CRS was authorized to divert 40,000 lbs. of rolled oats, 90,000 lbs. of corn soya milk, 10,000 lbs. of non-fat dry milk, and 77,000 lbs. of soy fortified flour

CARE - donated tents, stretchers, water jugs, beds, and food valued at \$189,655

Church World Services (CWS) - contributed 5,040 blankets worth \$30,400, and 160 bales of clothing worth \$27,603

Episcopal Church Bishop's Fund - \$10,000 cash

Foreign Missions Board of the Southern Baptist Convention - \$50,000 in cash

Food for the Hungry - contributed medicines worth \$10,000

Foster Parents - contributed \$10,000 worth of medicines and \$2,508 in cash for a total of \$12,508

Salvation Army - \$20,000 in cash

Seventh-day Adventist World Service (SAWS) - contributed clothing, blankets, food, and tents worth \$90,000, and \$60,000 in cash for a total of \$150,000

World Vision - gave 10 tons of baby food worth \$29,976

TOTAL \$1,112,054

Note: In addition to the contributions mentioned above, the following food was diverted by the various agencies from in-country stocks for emergency use: 210,000 of corn soya milk and rolled oats, 100,000 lbs. of soy fortified flour, and 20,000 lbs. of non-fat dry milk.

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Assistance Provided by the International Community \*

International Agencies

UNDRO - \$20,000 in cash

Governments

Canada - \$40,000 in cash

Hong Kong - \$9,200 in medicines

Ireland - \$2,493 in cash

Japan - \$20,000 in cash

Korea - \$14,939 in cash

Switzerland - \$16,330 in cash

United Kingdom - \$32,000 in kind contribution

Voluntary Agencies

Alliance International de tourisme - \$676 in cash

Australian Red Cross - \$7,650 in cash

Australian Council of Churches - \$6,200 in cash

Austrian Red Cross - \$577 in cash

Belgian Red Cross - \$2,041 in cash

Canadian Red Cross - \$43,557 in cash

Caritas/Belgium - \$2,352 in cash

Caritas/Rome - \$23,952 in cash

British Columbia Agricultural Aid - \$25,306 in cash

Caritas/Vatican - \$27,027 in cash

Chinese Red Cross - \$103,673 in kind

Filipino/Chinese Amity Club - \$11,351 in cash

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French Red Cross - \$1,033 in cash  
Free China Relief Association of Taiwan - \$14,899 in cash  
Egyptian Red Cross - \$6,980 in cash  
Germany, Democratic Republic - \$13,730 in kind  
Great Britain Red Cross - \$3,429 in cash  
Indian Red Cross - \$18,375 in kind  
Irish Red Cross - \$3,481 in cash  
Japan National Committee on Economic Cooperation - \$5,959 in cash  
Japanese Red Cross - \$153,745 in kind  
Korean National Council for Disaster Relief - \$996 in cash  
Netherlands Red Cross - \$9,517 in cash  
New Zealand Red Cross - \$5,126 in cash  
Norwegian Red Cross - \$8,163 in cash  
Overseas Chinese Affairs Committee (Taiwan) - \$10,203 in cash  
Philippine/Chinese Chamber of Commerce - \$36,486 in cash  
Philippine/Japanese Friendship Association - \$6,757 in cash  
Romanian Red Cross - \$80,816 in kind  
Swiss Red Cross - \$17,224 in cash  
Spanish Red Cross - \$2,916 in cash  
Swedish Red Cross - \$45,797 in kind  
Thai Red Cross - \$1,004 in cash  
United States Red Cross - \$177,021 in cash  
Yugoslavian Red Cross and Government - \$76,408 in cash

TOTAL            \$1,109,389

\* Please note: the figures for total U.S. voluntary agency and international assistance are an approximation. In many cases the cash value of in kind aid is unavailable.

This publication does not require CRB approval.

