

United Way Worldwide Disaster Update: August - September 2009

October 1, 2009

Earthquakes Shake Indonesia

On September 30, 2009, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake caused significant damage in Indonesia. Officials there say hundreds of people have been killed and thousands more are trapped beneath collapsed buildings. The earthquake triggered a landslide that cut off transportation, communication and power lines. A second earthquake rocked Indonesia on October 1 further magnifying the scope of the disaster. This morning, United Way Worldwide successfully reached its affiliate in Jakarta.

Tsunami Hits Samoa Islands

A powerful 8.0 magnitude earthquake in the South Pacific launched a tsunami at the shores of Samoa and American Samoa, flattening villages and sweeping cars and people out to sea, leaving at least 111 dead and dozens missing on September 29, 2009. The Governor of American Samoa expects the death toll to rise as emergency crews recover more bodies from devastated areas. United Way Worldwide does not have an affiliate in Samoa however we do have partners that are active in the area.

Flooding in the Philippines

Tropical Storm Ketsana, which roared across the northern Philippines on September 26, dumped more than a month's worth of rain in just 12 hours, fueling the worst flooding to hit the country in more than 40 years. The death toll currently stands at 240 people and is expected to rise. Overwhelmed officials called for international help, warning they may not have sufficient resources to withstand another storm that Weather Services warn could hit the island nation later this week. The United Way affiliate in the Philippines has earmarked emergency funds for initial relief and is raising donations for additional disaster needs and recovery initiatives. The affiliates' member companies have also pledged donations for flood response and recovery efforts.

In addition, the United Way affiliate in the Philippines is supporting the Sphere project. This initiative was developed by a group of NGOs and first responders to provide humanitarian relief packs to assist a family survive for five days. Relief packs include things like rice, sardines, mango, dried fish, cooking oil, salt, sugar, soap and a pot or blanket.

Flooding in Atlanta, Georgia

Torrential rain prompted flooding in and around Atlanta on September 21, 2009. United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta is working with a disaster network of more than 560 partners to support the community's first-responders and to begin planning for the short and long-term recovery of those affected.

United Way is working with its disaster network to assist first-responders; accurately assess the full scope of damages caused by the flood; and assisting in disaster volunteer management. Individuals and organizations interested in donating resources or supporting volunteer needs in the metro-Atlanta area can dial United Way Atlanta 2-1-1 at 404.614.1000.

Typhoon Slams Taiwan

Our colleagues in Taiwan are assisting the survivors of the devastating typhoon that killed an estimated 500 people, destroyed the homes of 7,000 families and caused agricultural and property damage in excess of \$1.5 billion when it passed over the island on August 9, 2009. Reconstruction in the mountainous southern region is expected to cost \$3.4 billion.

United Way of Taiwan is helping damaged agencies resume services as soon as possible; collecting data on unmet needs; providing a service table at refugee shelters; training and mobilizing volunteers to assist refugees complete forms for emergency relief and housing reconstruction subsidies. Throughout this process, United Way Taiwan is screening for post-traumatic stress disorder and families with special needs and partnering with other non-governmental organizations to plan for long-term recovery and community reconstruction.

You can help communities struggling to recover from disasters by giving to the [United Way Disaster Fund](#)

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