



December 23, 2011

Dear Friends,

A joyful hope for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ!

Most of us have known the tragedy that struck the southern part of the Philippines when the Tropical Storm Washi locally known as Sendong caused heavy flash flood in cities and villages of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan. The strong typhoon claimed hundreds of lives and left thousands of people homeless.

Caritas in the Philippines with the collaboration of other Caritas colleagues immediately went to the villages in Iligan *"that were totally swept by the rampaging waters"* to assess the situation and for relief operation.

According to the Caritas Team, *"the situation in the interior villages is very much the same as in the urban areas. However, what they considered as immediate needs are nails, roofing materials, a chainsaw for cutting the fallen coconut trees for their new homes, and food while they reconstruct their houses. Most of them still have farms that were partially destroyed but still could provide food. There is a visible need for improving their water supply.*



*They need shelter, along with farm tools, draft animals and other things for their crops. A big challenge is where to locate their new houses.*

While in Cagayan de Oro, *"a river flows down a mountain, through a ravine, into the city and out to the ocean. But there had been storms before that didn't cause such widespread death and destruction. More than 50,000 people are now living in emergency evacuation centers."*



CARITAS Taiwan appeals for your gesture of help and support for the typhoon victims. Our spirit of solidarity can help rebuild lives and brings hope to this great loss.

Donations can be sent to CARITAS Taiwan Postal Account:

Account Name: 財團法人台灣明愛文教基金會 (CARITAS TAIWAN ROC)

Account Number: 19143701

Thank you.