

Typhoon Mangkhut Relief



In the remote northern town of Itogon, Luzon Province, Philippines, locals called Typhoon Mangkhut by its local name “Ompong.” Ironically, “Ompong” means toothless in Indonesian and Mangkhut was anything but that! In Itogon alone, 40 bodies were recovered from a miners’ bunkhouse after the monster storm triggered a landslide that tore down the mountainside. Authorities estimate that the number of dead will rise to triple digits as recovery efforts move forward.

Mangkhut struck the Philippines as a Category 5 storm on Saturday, September 15, but while the storm barreled its way onward toward China, the disaster in the Philippines continued to evolve and leaves in its wake long-term consequences. The northern provinces are the agricultural heartlands of the country. Even before Mangkhut, continuous monsoon rains had saturated the fields leaving nowhere for the water to go. With the coming of the typhoon, crops, just weeks away from being harvested, were lost, endangering the lives of thousands. Authorities estimate that losses will top \$53 million.

FAIR is responding to this disaster with your support. Through FAIR’s partner organization, Operation Mobilization (OM), we are able to provide resources to help the people affected by Mangkhut as they rebuild their lives. OM has already been able to provide mattresses for families from Itogon currently finding refuge at a local evacuation center. Food has been supplied by other organizations. OM is also in the process of responding to a need for psychological aid for the 950 students in the local school, and is preparing a plan and a proposal for the funding necessary to put the plan into action.

Food packs are also needed for areas hit, not only by Mangkhut but by another major typhoon that hit a couple of months before Mangkhut arrived. All the crops in the area, the breadbasket of the region, have been destroyed. Once this need is looked after continued partnership with the people of the region is needed to provide materials for the houses in the area communities that have been destroyed.

Thank you for prayerfully consider how the Lord would have you respond to this situation.