

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**14 September 2018**

**CDRC Office, Quezon City**

**CDRN activates community-led Disaster Preparedness Committees in areas  
to be hit by Typhoon Ompong**

Quezon City – As Typhoon Ompong (international name: Mangkhut) is projected to make its landfall on Saturday morning, September 15, 2018, Citizens' Disaster Response Center (CRDC), the national secretariat of Citizens' Disaster Response Network (CDRN), is closely monitoring its regional centers in Region I, II, III, and CAR for on-site situational updates and needs assessment being conducted by Disaster Preparedness Committees (DPCs) stationed at high-risk towns. The DPCs, formed by the CDRN in typhoon-prone areas, are now conducting community information dissemination about Typhoon Ompong, working with local officials for simultaneous evacuations, and initiating rapid needs assessments at evacuation centers, low-lying areas, coastal communities, and communities that are most likely to be isolated when Typhoon Ompong hits. The disaster response regional centers: Cagayan Valley Disaster Response Center (based in Tuguegarao City); Cordillera Disaster Response and Development Services (based in Baguio City); Ilocos Center for Research, Empowerment and Development (based in Laoag City); and Alay Bayan-Luson, Inc. (based in Pampanga City) are coordinating with LGUs to identify possible aid that complements government resources that will be distributed in evacuation centers. The on-the-ground information shared by the regional centers and their DPCs are being sent to CDRC for the overall needs assessment and mapping out of target areas for relief and response. On September 13, CDRC has deployed its staff as first responders who would work with the regional centers for efficient information gathering and preparation for relief and response. CDRC prioritizes relief and response initiatives for the least-served, hard-to-reach, and most vulnerable communities.

Robert Pascua, the Executive Director of Cagayan Valley Disaster Response Center, said that their DPCs are monitoring coastal towns of Sta. Ana, Gonzaga, Buguey, Sta. Teresita, Ballesteros, Aparri, Sanchez Mira, Pamplona and Claveria; the areas at risk when Cagayan River swells - Amulung, Sto. Nino, Alcalá, Solana, Iguig, Baggao and Tuguegarao City; and the

towns at risk in landslides and flooding - towns of Cabagan, Sta. Maria, Tumauni, San Mariano, Benito Soliven, San Pablo, Cauayan City and Ilagan City.

“The teams continuously provide situational updates on high-risk areas in Isabela and Cagayan, while we are gearing for the initial relief and response to our communities who most need it,” Pascua added.

CDRC is being tapped by various international NGOs for a joint fast and comprehensive data gathering in CDRN areas that are most likely to be devastated by Typhoon Ompong. As the typhoon makes its way to Northern Isabela and Cagayan on Saturday, CDRC has called for local and international donations for the priority target areas for relief and support. Through CDRC, the following international humanitarian organizations have expressed their support as of today: Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (Germany) will provide emergency relief and cash assistance to affected regions; Asia-Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD Japan) deploys Search & Rescue Teams with their dogs who are now on stand-by in Manila for possible emergency response at areas being monitored by CDRN; Mercy Relief (Singapore) provides emergency hot meals for evacuees in Ilocos; CARE Philippines and OXFAM Philippines joined CDRC teams in Cagayan to conduct rapid damage needs assessment.

CDRC is continuously seeking support (financial and in-kind assistance, volunteers) from its local and international partners.

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