



# XAVIER UNIVERSITY

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In Consortium with  
ATENEO DE DAVAO UNIVERSITY  
ATENEO DE ZAMBOANGA UNIVERSITY

Office of the President

## APPEAL FOR HELP

Typhoon Sendong (International Name: Tropical Storm Washi) has wrought heartbreaking devastation to the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan in Northern Mindanao. Sendong came in the dead of night, tearing through swaths of Mindanao not usually in the path of storms, inundating houses up to the rooftops and drowning scores of sleeping residents in the most destructive calamity to hit the South in years.

Cagayan de Oro was at the center of the storm, which could explain why it suffered the most - 23 flooded barrios in all. Sendong dumped more than a month of average rain in just 12 hours. As much as 180 millimeters of rain fell on the city early Saturday, according to the weather bureau. In some areas, water rose to 11 feet (3.3 meters) in less than an hour. The rains triggered floodwaters more than a meter deep. And made swollen Cagayan de Oro river.

The Philippine National Red Cross said the latest toll on Saturday (17 December) was based on a body count in funeral parlors: 215 died in the city of Cagayan de Oro and 144 in nearby Iligan, and the rest in several other southern and central provinces, including Zamboanga del Norte and Compostela Valley. Many of them were women and children confirmed killed in floods and landslides spawned by Sendong. Hundreds of families have been rendered homeless and have lost almost all of their material possessions.

Xavier University – Ateneo de Cagayan in Cagayan de Oro City has set up a Relief Center to receive donations of food, water, medicine, medical supplies, blankets, etc and to distribute them to the many victims of this natural disaster. The University has also opened its campus as an Evacuation Center to provide shelter to those whose houses have been destroyed by the floods. The University Clinic has been open to treat patients.

Many University staff and students are volunteering in buying, packaging and distributing relief goods; in making sure that the evacuees are as comfortable as possible. They are also helping out in the other Evacuation Centers in the City. University medical personnel and students have been deployed to provide first aid and trauma debriefing. The University will also engage in rehabilitation efforts.

We appeal to your sense of solidarity. Your donations will go a long way and we will make sure they reach our many suffering sisters and brothers. Please send your donations to:

Bank: Bank of the Philippine Islands  
SWIFT: BOPIPHMM  
Routing No: CH005873  
Branch: Divisoria Branch  
Capistrano Street  
Cagayan de Oro City  
Philippines  
Account No: 9331 0133 63  
Account Name: Xavier University  
Address: Corrales Avenue  
Cagayan de Oro City  
Philippines

This tragedy is an invitation to show the true Christmas spirit of courage and compassion and faith in Emmanuel, God-with-us.

  
Roberto C Yap/SJ  
President