



media release

Australian Council for International Development

2 October 2009

7/09

Australian NGOs send relief to Asia and the Pacific

Currently, twelve Australian aid and development agencies have launched appeals and will be assisting in providing household kits, water, temporary shelter and food to the communities affected by the various natural disasters that have struck Asia and the Pacific in past days.

“People across Asia and the Pacific are in need of relief and assistance,” said Mr Marc Purcell, Executive Director of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), the peak body for Australian aid and development agencies.

“The best and most appropriate way of helping the affected communities overseas is through a cash donation to a relief or development organisation. In this way, funds can be allocated immediately according to need: to purchase goods locally, support leaders and communities, or provide life saving relief such as medicine or food,” he said.

“ACFID has been overwhelmed by the number of enquiries and offers of assistance from the Australian and Samoan/Australian communities,” said Mr Purcell.

He continued: “At this early stage however, the focus is on the immediate consequences of the disasters, working closely with the local communities. ACFID members are working with local partners and using their well-established links within affected communities to ensure a rapid process of recovery.”

In Sumatra, Indonesia the rising death toll and aftershocks require a high recovery effort. An 8.3-magnitude earthquake struck in the Pacific affecting Samoa, Tonga and American Samoa. Tropical Storm Ketsana, which struck the Philippines late last week, has left 500,000 people displaced. Recent fierce storms across Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos have left a trail of destruction and damage.

ACFID congratulates the Australian Government on its prompt response to the multiple emergencies and looks forward to continued cooperation between the government and NGO sector.

NOTE: please see next page for details on all 12 Australian NGO with appeals for one or more of the disasters. In addition, the Samoan Council Sydney, has launched an appeal for help for their families and friends in Samoa.

NOTE: please visit www.acfid.asn.au for updated information on appeals and other details

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The Australian Council for International Development is an independent national association of Australian non-government organisations (NGOs) working in the field of international aid and development.

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Appeals in response to the current disasters in region (2 Oct)

Act for Peace - NCCA (www.actforpeace.org.au)

Phone: 1800 025 101

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (www.adra.org.au/)

Phone: 1800 242 372

Australian Red Cross (www.redcross.org.au)

Phone: 1800 811 700

Australian Relief and Mercy Services (www.arms.org.au/)

Phone: +61 3 9888 4537

CARE Australia (www.careaustralia.org.au/)

Phone: 1800 020 046

Caritas Australia (www.caritas.org.au)

Phone: 1800 024 413

Opportunity International Australia (www.opportunity.org.au)

Phone: 1800 812 164

Oxfam Australia (www.oxfam.org.au)

Phone: 1800 088 110

Plan International Australia (www.plan.org.au/)

Phone: 13 7526

Save the Children Australia (www.savethechildren.org.au)

Phone: 1800 760 011

Uniting World (www.unitingworld.org.au)

Phone: +61 2 8267 4267

World Vision Australia (www.worldvision.com.au)

Phone: 13 32 40

Samoan Council Sydney (<http://www.wix.com/samoancsi/samoancouncilsydney>)

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