

Nations convey support, solidarity in wake of Rolly

By [BusinessMirror](#)
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Countries and delegations, including the European Union, have pledged aid to the Filipinos after Rolly slammed into the Bicol Region and parts of Luzon early this month.

THE Philippine government has received a torrent of support and messages of solidarity from the global community in the aftermath of Supertyphoon Rolly's (international name Goni) onslaught early in November.

For one, the European Union (EU) has allocated €1.3 million (almost P63 million) in rapid humanitarian-aid funding for emergency-relief assistance delivery to families affected by the planet's strongest storm of the year.

EU Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič said that the contribution will support Filipinos through humanitarian-aid partners on the ground who are providing critical support to those hit hardest by Rolly: "It will not only cover immediate needs of the most affected populations, but will also help the Filipino people restore their homes and livelihoods so they can get back on their feet as soon as possible."

"The EU stands in solidarity with those affected in the Philippines," he added.

The funding, part of the bloc's Acute Large Emergency Response Tool or ALERT, will support humanitarian-aid partners to respond to the pressing needs of those most in need. These include shelter, food and livelihood assistance, as well as access to clean water and health care. ALERT addresses large natural disasters where over 100,000 people, or more than 50 percent of the population, are affected. Depending on the type of disaster, the aim is to allocate funds within 24 to 48 hours of the onset of the emergency.

According to the EU in a tweet, a humanitarian-aid expert has been deployed to the affected areas to further assess the situation and needs.

Meanwhile, the United Kingdom has earmarked £1 million, or about P62.9 million, to assist the victims of recent typhoons in the Philippines as well as Vietnam, which was also in the direct path of Rolly.

“[The...aid package will help deliver] life-saving food, clean water and safe shelter to those who need it most, and help both [countries] recover from such destructive natural disasters,” UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Minister for Asia Nigel Adams said.

The aid will be coursed through the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and local Red Cross partners, which will provide shelter, clean water, food, and support livelihoods to around 80,000 in the Philippines and 160,000 people in Vietnam. Adams said the IFRC has already launched separate “emergency appeals” for both countries to scale up the Red Cross response.

In the Philippines, the IFRC, along with the government and other partners, is currently assessing the damage by Rolly in locations urgently needing assistance.

Ambassador Daniel Pruce hoped the grant would assist badly hit areas and affected families to reel from the effects of the howler. “It has been such a tragedy to see the devastating impact of Rolly on so many people here in the Philippines. I hope the UK contribution to IFRC helps families and communities recover.”

Aid agencies involved

FOR their part, the United States and Australia have mobilized humanitarian assistance to support the Philippines's recovery from the super typhoon. US Embassy's Chargé d'Affaires John Law said Washington is working with various global organizations in the Philippines to provide relief to the most affected areas.

“Our thoughts are with those affected by...Rolly The US stands ready to help,” Law posted in a tweet. “We are working with [the Philippine offices of the World Food Programme and the International Organization for Migration] to deliver relief supplies and provide emergency shelter supplies in Bicol.”

The US Embassy in Manila also deployed 35 trucks to the government to assist in the delivery of supplies.

Australia's Ambassador Steven J. Robinson AO said Canberra has also provided relief items through the Philippine Red Cross (PRC).

“I extend my sympathies to the [Filipinos] for the loss of life due to Rolly,” Robinson tweeted. “Australia is supporting the Philippine government's response efforts. With the [PRC,] we are assisting 1,000 vulnerable families in the Bicol Region with sleeping, hygiene and emergency shelter kits.”

He likewise commended the Philippines's preparedness despite the challenges of the pandemic: “Australia stands ready to support the Philippine government, and we are working with humanitarian partners in identifying needs. This is a time for mateship and *bayanihan*.”

Help from all over

CHINA also said it is ready to join the government's recovery efforts to help those affected by the typhoon, as it sent a message of solidarity to the Filipino people.

“We are deeply saddened by the massive destruction caused by...Rolly. Our heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the victims and the families who have suffered immense losses of lives and properties, and [we] sincerely hope for speedy recovery in the affected areas,” the Chinese Embassy in Manila said in a statement.

Turkey’s Foreign Ministry likewise extended its condolences to relatives of the victims and the Filipino people affected by the typhoon immediately after. The ministry said it “learned with sorrow about the loss of lives and extensive damage it caused,” and wished speedy recovery to the injured.

The Embassy of Japan in the Philippines also expressed its deepest sorrow over the significant flooding and severe damages caused by Rolly that hit the southern part of Luzon. It conveyed its condolences to the families of disaster victims as well as to the Philippine government, and wished immediate recovery to overcome immediate challenges.

The Embassy of Switzerland has also conveyed its solidarity with the Philippines as it continues “to learn about the destruction caused by Rolly.” Ambassador Alain Gaschen sent his sincere condolences as the Swiss peoples’ thoughts are with the victims and their families, while they are hoping for the quick recovery of the affected areas.

With regard to the death and destruction wrought by Rolly, the Embassy of France to the Philippines has sympathized with “all [who are affected by this catastrophe, as we] express our solidarity with the Filipino people and...local authorities.”

Condolences, commiseration

THROUGH its embassy in Manila, Bangladesh’s Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, M.P. wrote to Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. conveying his country’s “deepest condolences” for the loss of lives and livelihood due to Rolly. Citing the South Asian nation’s vulnerability to frequent natural calamities like the Philippines, Momen assured Locsin that their countries will work together on climate-change adaptation and mitigation issues.

The Embassy of Singapore in Manila has also announced that its government “will contribute \$200,000 as seed money to support the Singapore Red Cross’ public fund-raising appeal to aid disaster relief and recovery operations” in the Philippines, as well as Vietnam, Cambodia and Lao PDR. Said aid will supplement SRC’s earlier donations of S\$50,000 to the PRC. Its Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that as “a close friend and fellow Asean member-state, Singapore stands by Vietnam, Cambodia, [Lao PDR] and the Philippines at this difficult time.”

The government of the United Arab Emirates has also provided humanitarian assistance through the PRC to support Filipinos affected by the devastation wrought by Rolly. The Embassy of Germany has likewise transported relief goods, which were shipped by the Philippine Coast Guard to Catanduanes on November 4.

In their respective social-media posts, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the Philippines wished for everyone’s safety on November 1, while the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Philippines sent its peoples’ commiseration to the Filipinos suffering from Rolly’s plight, especially those in Bicol.

Canada also said its humanitarian partners and experts have assessed the situation, as it “stands ready to assist as appropriate.”

Rolly has so far affected more than 2 million Filipinos across five regions in the central and northern parts of the country, including the National Capital Region. More than 500,000 have been forced to flee their homes and seek shelter in government-run evacuation centers.

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