

## World Vision Launches Emergency Relief in Wake of Hurricane Mitch . . .

*Hurricane Mitch has claimed an estimated 9,000 lives, left 1.4 million homeless, and another 13,000 unaccounted for, making it the world's deadliest hurricane on record.*

Earlier this week, bodies continued to be pulled from swirling rivers and drying mudslides in Central America, as the homeless grew desperate for food and clean water.

World Vision remains committed to saving lives despite the challenges of reaching cities and settlements that have become virtual islands, isolated by flooding, and cut off by destroyed bridges and roads. Reliable communication with many World Vision remote project areas has not been possible.

World Vision's relief assistance in Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and

Guatemala began on the first day of the storm and will continue for several weeks. World Vision has committed to raising \$5 million in cash and gifts-in-kind for this disaster. Long-term rehabilitation assistance may be necessary for several years to come.

### *World Vision assistance in brief:*

- **Guatemala:** World Vision is providing relief supplies (food, medicine, blankets, clothing, diapers), reconstruction, and food security assistance to 22,000 families.
- **El Salvador:** World Vision is monitoring affected areas and providing relief supplies to victims. Due to growing epidemics of cholera, dengue, malaria, typhoid fever and respiratory diseases, World Vision is giving medical assistance through its 200 Community Health Houses located throughout the country.
- **Nicaragua:** World Vision is distributing 20,857 pounds of medicines

to health facilities where refugees are staying and will continue providing victims in hard-hit areas with food, personal care items, kitchen utensils, medicine, and bedding.

- **Honduras:** World Vision is hosting an interagency commission to provide emergency relief in Honduras. Many churches and Christian organizations have united to supply this commission with volunteers and relief supplies.

World Vision U.S. will initially be sending a shipment of clothes valued at almost \$80,000 and medicines valued at \$103,000 to Honduras within the next several days.

Please pray for:

- *The injured, the displaced, the lost, and the grieving survivors.*
- *The logistics of World Vision's relief efforts.*
- *The peace and hope of Christ in the lives of the victims.*

## . . . And Typhoon Babs in the Philippines

Barely a week after super typhoon "Zeb" hit the northern part of the Philippines, another howler, Typhoon "Babs", unleashed its fury leaving 161 dead, 141 injured, and 18 missing.

Damage to crops, infrastructure and property is estimated at \$73.8 million. The rain that accompanied the October 22 typhoon caused rivers to swell, flooding low-lying areas and displacing about 250,000 people.

Thousands of families are still housed at government evacuation centers. The homes of many families have been flooded for more than a month. Government and Red Cross emergency food assistance is not expected to last past this week.

The day after the calamity, World Vision Philippines assessment teams were dispatched to hard-hit World Vision project areas to gather first

hand information on the havoc brought about by the typhoon.

World Vision's relief assistance includes providing 11,000 families with a 15-day food and relief supply (55 lbs of rice, 25 cans of sardines, 25 packs of noodles, and bedding)

Launched this week, the relief distribution project will be completed within two months.

