

PRESS RELEASE



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November 14, 2013

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 13, 2013

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT OBAMA ENCOURAGING AMERICANS TO SUPPORT RELIEF EFFORTS IN THE PHILIPPINES



U.S. Marines prepares to unload a pallet of meals ready to eat at Villamor Air Base, Philippines.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the people of the Philippines as they mourn so many loved ones and neighbors lost in the awful destruction of Typhoon Haiyan. Here in the United States, we're offering our support to our fellow Filipino-Americans who are worried for family and friends back home. The friendship between our two countries runs deep, and when our friends are in trouble, America helps. That's why, as I pledged to President Aquino yesterday, the United States will continue to offer whatever assistance we can.

Our support is rooted in the compassion and generosity of the American people who, time and again, have stepped up and helped those in need around the world. Today, I encourage Americans who want to help our Filipino friends to visit whitehouse.gov/typhoon, which offers

links to organizations working in the Philippines and ways to support their efforts. With so many families and communities in the Philippines in urgent need of food, water, shelter and medicine, even small contributions can make a big difference and help save lives.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government continues to do our part. Our USAID and military personnel are on the ground and working around the clock. The first American planes carrying emergency supplies and food for 10,000 families have arrived. U.S. ships, including the aircraft carrier USS George Washington, are on their way to the scene to help expand search and rescue operations, provide logistical support and medical care, and provide a platform for helicopters to move supplies to remote areas.

Recovering from one of the strongest storms ever recorded will take years. But the strength, resilience and faith of the Filipino people are legendary, and the areas affected by this storm are some of the same places where Americans and Filipinos sacrificed together to liberate the Philippines during World War II. Today, our message to our Filipino allies is that we stand with you once more. In the difficult days ahead, we'll do our part to help you recover. And as you rebuild from this terrible storm, you will continue to have a friend and partner in the United States of America.

For more information about the U.S. Government response to Super Typhoon Haiyan, please visit: <http://www.state.gov/p/eap/ci/rp/typhoon/index.htm>