

Aid too slow to reach Philippine needy

16th November, 2013



The United Nations humanitarian chief Valerie Amos has said aid is not reaching survivors of Typhoon Haiyan quickly enough. Ms Amos is the UN Under-Secretary-

General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. She spoke to reporters in Manila yesterday and explained how urgent it was to act more quickly. She said: "The situation is dismal. Those who have been able to leave have done so. Many more are trying. People are extremely desperate for help." She added: "We need to get assistance to them now. They are already saying it has taken too long to arrive. Ensuring a faster delivery is our immediate priority." Early efforts at providing assistance were hampered by continuing bad weather.

Typhoon Haiyan is possibly the strongest on record to make landfall. Meteorologists say the violent storm packed winds of up to 315kph. It is believed over 10,000 people perished in the city of Tacloban alone. Hundreds of thousands are now homeless after the typhoon flattened almost everything in its path. The New York Times reported there being "typhoon gridlock" as the destroyed infrastructure is making the logistics of distributing aid a nightmare. People are desperate for water. The Doctors Without Borders charity said: "Access is extremely difficult and is preventing people from receiving help." Christian Aid said: "The devastation here is unimaginable."

Sources: Sky News / New York Times / Manila Daily

Writing

Governments should forcibly evacuate entire cities / islands when a typhoon or hurricane is approaching. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

United Nations / humanitarian / emergency / relief / dismal / desperate / priority / on record / landfall / violent storm / 315kph winds / flattened / logistics / devastation

True / False

- The UN humanitarian chief is not responsible for emergency relief. T / F
- The chief spoke to reporters in the devastated city of Tacloban. T / F
- The chief described the situation in the Philippines as "dismal". T / F
- The chief said delivering aid was the most important matter. T / F
- Winds in Typhoon Haiyan were as strong as 315kph. T / F
- The article says the typhoon flattened many paths. T / F
- Trying to distribute aid is giving people nightmares and bad dreams. T / F
- A charity said people couldn't imagine how much damage there is. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. chief | a. weather forecasters |
| 2. urgent | b. prime concern |
| 3. dismal | c. knocked down |
| 4. priority | d. destruction |
| 5. hampered | e. miserable |
| 6. meteorologists | f. head |
| 7. perished | g. serious |
| 8. flattened | h. organization |
| 9. logistics | i. set back |
| 10. devastation | j. died |

Discussion – Student A

- What's the difference between a typhoon and a hurricane?
- What do you think of the aid efforts in the Philippines?
- Why is aid being delivered so slowly?
- Why do you think so many stayed in their homes when the typhoon came?
- What can you do to help those affected by the typhoon?
- Does the world act fast enough in natural disasters?
- Countries get ready for war quicker than for natural disasters. Why?
- What do you know about Typhoon Haiyan?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. The United Nations | a. record to make landfall |
| 2. The situation | b. priority |
| 3. People are extremely | c. everything in its path |
| 4. Ensuring a faster delivery is our immediate | d. is dismal |
| 5. Early efforts at providing assistance | e. thousands |
| 6. Haiyan is possibly the strongest on | f. from receiving help |
| 7. Hundreds of | g. were hampered |
| 8. the typhoon flattened almost | h. desperate for help |
| 9. making the logistics of distributing aid | i. humanitarian chief |
| 10. preventing people | j. a nightmare |

Discussion – Student B

- Do you think the city of Tacloban will ever recover?
- What's the best way people can prepare for a typhoon?
- How do people go about rebuilding their lives and towns?
- What should the world be doing now to help?
- What would you do if you knew a super typhoon was on its way?
- What should be done first after a typhoon has passed?
- How would you cope in such a catastrophic natural disaster?
- What questions would you like to ask a survivor?

Spelling

- The United Nations tamrauiianh chief
- not reaching rsvrvusio
- People are extremely pareedets for help
- nisnuger a faster delivery
- our immediate tpiroyir
- demeaphr by continuing bad weather
- the strongest on record to make ldaflnal
- tgstiosolrMoe say the violent storm...
- over 10,000 people edsehrip
- ttaenefld almost everything in its path
- the destroyed riusnerruatcft
- The titadaoenvs here is unimaginable

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. g	3. e	4. b	5. i
6. a	7. j	8. c	9. h	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Hospitals

You think the typhoon-hit areas need hospitals most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so high on the list of emergency needs. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): passable roads, electricity or law and order.

Role B – Passable roads

You think the typhoon-hit areas need passable roads most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so high on the list of emergency needs. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): hospitals, electricity or law and order.

Role C – Electricity

You think the typhoon-hit areas need electricity most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so high on the list of emergency needs. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): passable roads, hospitals or law and order.

Role D – Law and order

You think the typhoon-hit areas need law and order most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so high on the list of emergency needs. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): passable roads, electricity or hospitals.

Speaking - Logistics

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most important for the Philippines at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| • hospitals | • water treatment plants |
| • passable roads | • distribution of tents |
| • working airports | • shops open for business |
| • electricity | • police in control |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.