

For many families in the Philippines, Christmas Day was not a day of celebration. Typhoon Phanfone left a trail of utter destruction. This came just weeks after Typhoon Kammuri hit the country leaving thousands homeless.

The typhoon struck close to regions hit by Typhoon Haiyan - the most powerful storm ever to make landfall - in 2013. Phanfone battered areas with gusts of 190km/h Torrential rains and rough sea have left people stranded and homeless. Power lines have been destroyed, making communication very difficult as people try to get in touch with their loved ones.

The Philippines is no stranger to natural disasters. Typhoon Phanfone is the 21st cyclone to hit the country this year. Through support from our Philippines Office, we help communities in the Philippines at least twice a year. We have also been supporting communities over Christmas, after Typhoon Kammuri wreaked havoc earlier in December.

ShelterBox Australia has made an immediate transfer of \$50,000 to assist families left homeless in this latest disaster. I seek your assistance to add to those funds, either from your District or by seeking additional donations from Rotary Clubs, perhaps Clubs that have not donated in the past year. Together, we can make a difference.

Disasters don't stop for Christmas - thanks for your ongoing support as a volunteer and sharing this news with your communities. The more support we have, the more disasters we can respond to, and the more families we can help.

Thank you for your support during the past year; best wishes for a peaceful and successful 2020.



Cheers

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