

Press Release  
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## AMIDST THE DEVASTATION OF ODETTE, INAYAWAN LANDFILL RECEIVES A GLIMMER OF HOPE

Maria Lina, a 71-year-old widow, had to walk for almost an hour to reach the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) Food Truck parked right outside the barangay hall in Inayawan, Cebu City. Diagnosed with heart disease, she wanted to ride a tricycle going to the barangay hall but chose not to since a one-way trip costs Php 10.00, an amount that is too valuable right now, especially after the strong winds of the recent typhoon blew her roof away.

At the back of the line is Rowena, a fifty-five-year-old grandmother, who takes care of her five grandchildren, including a six-year-old child, whom her daughter left with her. Both, Maria Lina and Rowena, are currently living in roofless homes without electricity and water in the Inayawan Landfill, one of the hardest-hit towns in Cebu City after typhoon Odette made landfall.

As residents were instructed to line up practicing proper social distancing in the basketball court beside the Inayawan's barangay hall, PRC volunteers and staff prepared bowls of porridge and bottles of water from PRC Cebu Chapter's Hot Meals on Wheels Food Truck, sending a glimmer of hope in one of Cebu City's most devastated communities.

Rowena smiled as she received her meal from one of the Red Cross Youth volunteers. "I am thankful for the Red Cross for coming to our community, this is a big help for us," she said.

By the end of the distribution, PRC Cebu Chapter was able to provide more than 537 meals to the residents of Barangay Inayawan, a community made up of mostly low-income residents residing near Cebu City's Inayawan Sanitary Landfill. The barangay has also been a long-time beneficiary of the PRC's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Unit project called Sustainable and Resilient Pro-poor Water Supply improving access to clean drinking water and sanitation in the area.

Right after the super typhoon made landfall last Thursday, December 16, PRC volunteers and staff immediately rushed to assess the damages on the ground. Today, PRC Cebu Chapter continues with their response as they target to conduct more operations in Inayawan Landfill and other nearby areas that were hit the hardest by the recent storm. As of January 1, 2021, PRC Cebu Chapter has provided 2,772 hot meals, distributed 256,750 liters of water, and held a hygiene promotion session for 9,857 individuals. The Chapter also continues to send relief items, promote health, assist patients through the ambulances, provide first aid, restore family links, conduct child-friendly activities, and other response operations.

Despite losing the roof of her home, Maria Lina remains resilient as she slowly walks back home with her child as she held on to the meal she has just received. " We're doing okay, my neighbors are helping me out right now to fix my home. We are hopeful about the future," she shared.