

A Humanitarian Non-profit Approved by IRS Code 501(c) 3 & California Section 23701D

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Typhoon Ketsana ravages Vinh Son

Your support has never been needed more



At Vinh Son 1 kids were moved to the upper floor for safety during the storm



With schools closed, the clean-up began and everyone pitched in

Although we aren't there to console the children, or lend a hand to help restore and rebuild, we can make "smiles" possible again.

September 29th, Typhoon Ketsana hit Kontum and surrounding villages, resulting in severe flooding and loss of crops. The Dak Bla River overflowed its banks, inundating the countryside beside it, ruining the rice fields that were to be harvested later this month. All are gone now. Gardens were wiped out, as were the animals caught in the typhoon's path. Drinking water has been contaminated, leading to serious health concerns like typhoid fever. The standing water could lead to a mosquito infestation, and the threat of malaria. This is a fearful and dangerous time, the worse flooding in recent memory.

As the clean-up begins, the children at the Vinh Son orphanages count their blessings. No one perished during the storm's fury. However, their future is uncertain, as they attempt to rebuild, repair and start over. They can't do it without help, but they know FVSO will do everything in its power to restore a safe and productive environment for the children and their caregivers.

The most immediate need is FOOD, and FVSO reacted right away by sending the orphanages \$9,200. This will suffice for now, but more will be needed in the weeks and months ahead. A full assessment of the damage and long term consequences has yet to be completed. With the loss of their rice harvest, vegetable gardens and animals, Vinh Son will need us more than ever. It's going to take a great deal of effort before life-as-usual returns to the people of Kontum.

As usual, 100% of all donations will go directly to their aid. They need you more than ever, so please consider giving. **Thank you!**

**Please join the FVSO fund raising effort
to restore and rebuild Vinh Son**

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Vinh Son Facts

- Population – more than 500 Montagnard children in five facilities
- Administered by the Sisters of the Miraculous Medal
- Location - Kontum, Vietnam
- About \$12 feeds, shelters, and educates one child for one month

Another matching challenge doubles your gift

Challenge #2 Benefactors

- * Bruce Meyer
- * Al & Chris Brooks
- * Pat & Susie McKee

**These folks will match
your donation
(dollar-for-dollar)**



Last month, we kicked off our annual fund drive by featuring a generous \$10,800 matching fund challenge. So far, we've reached 84% of that target. This leaves about \$1,700, and when added to our "Typhoon Challenge," we have \$8,000 of matching funds available. Maximize your donations now, and help with the recovery of Vinh Son in the wake of Ketsana. Together, let's beat the typhoon!

Typhoon Ketsana: news and reports

23 dead as Typhoon Ketsana slams into Vietnam

(AP September 29, 2009) Typhoon Ketsana roared into central Vietnam on Tuesday, killing at least 23 people as it brought flooding and winds of up to 90 mph (144 kph), disaster officials said. Some 170,000 were evacuated from its path. After gathering strength over the South China Sea, the typhoon made landfall in midafternoon, about 37 miles (60 kilometers) south of Danang, according to the National Weather Center. Two people in Quang Nam province were killed by falling trees, and another died when struck by a power line, said Nguyen Minh Tuan, a provincial disaster official. "The rivers are rising and many homes are flooded, and several mountainous districts have been isolated by mudslides," Tuan said. As the storm moved inland toward Laos, nine people died in **Kon Tum province in the Central Highlands**, including a family of five whose house was buried in a mudslide.

Initial report from the Sisters in Kontum

1) VS2: houses flooded: all materials are drowned and gone with the flood and strong wind: rice, noodles, Computers, TV, Pianos, washer-machines, clothes, kitchen utensils, fence walls fallen down, school supplies, all gone with the water. Only the buildings are still there. The rain stops so they are doing the cleaning.

2) VS1: building of the boys, pigsty flooded, submerged fence-walls fallen down.

3) Vinh Son 1, 2, 3, 4, 5: all have their plants, their crops in the fields destroyed: no more products. (note that many of these crops are sold so that the money can be used to pay the orphanage caregivers).

All need help for food: they are hungry; no crop, no harvest of rice, or corns or other vegetables they planted. All is gone with the typhoon and the flood.



We can only imagine how terrified the children were, as Ketsana blackened the sky and turned their world into a raging river



Vinh Son 2 received the worse damage, and actually had to evacuate to the old Wooden Church at Vinh Son 1. There will be much to do in the days ahead.

Typhoon Ketsana claims 122 in Vietnam

www.chinaview.cn 2009-10-03 23:35:50

HANOI, Oct. 3 (Xinhua) -- The Vietnamese Central Steering Committee for Flood and Storm Prevention and Control said Typhoon Ketsana has left 122 people dead, 12 others missing and 522 others injured in central and highland provinces so far, Vietnam News Agency reported Saturday.

The typhoon has submerged or destroyed more than 360,000 homes, school rooms and other public buildings.

Over 73,000 hectares of crops have been ruined. Property loss has been estimated at about 560 million U.S. dollars, said the committee.

Food and medicine are being transported to affected areas so that residents there do not have to suffer from hunger and diseases, according to the report.

Typhoon Ketsana swept into Vietnam on Tuesday. It caused damages to 15 central and highland provinces in the country.

10/5/09: News from Kontum and Vinh Son

Rice is available in Kontum, as well as water. Items are available at the markets, although the prices are high (\$400/ton for rice). And meds are available at the pharmacies.

Vinh Son 2 needs anti-fever, anti-diarrhea meds, plus 70kg of rice per day.

Also need clothes, uniforms for the kids going to school, shoes, mosquito nets and blankets. They saved some of the clothes, but not all.

Hi everyone,

Thank you for concerning. I was busy last days for my office. One my staff loss house and I was more busy. So I called the nuns to get information.

Today stop raining and sunny again. Kontum has no electricity last days, today just center area is supplied and countryside still not yet.

All of children and sisters in orphanages are safe but asset is damaged much.

Until yesterday I visited Vinh Son 1 & 2. All children stayed home for cleaning up but no water. They had to use muddy waters from flood for clean up. At VS1, only the wall is boken; all VS2 area was flooded in the water so damage so much, storage food is wet.

I will visit VS today and supply some medicine and liquid for antiseptic.

Thien

With the electricity out, it was difficult to get information during the first 24 hours after the storm. Ms. Thien does a great deal of work on behalf of the children and was able to make this report on the 30th.



Somewhere under the water is the garden



This is what devastation looks like for the rice paddies in Kontum

From

Friends of Vinh Son Orphanage
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To

Please share this important newsletter with friends and associates



Now Available

The Friends of Vinh Son Collectable Cap

This great looking, one-size-fits-all, cap is still available for sale at \$20 each. Simply ask for it when making your donation to FVSO. All proceeds will go to the kids.



Please make checks payable to FVSO or Friends of Vinh Son

100% of FVSO administrative costs are paid by the Board and Officers