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Schools affected by typhoon Cosme get assistance

Some 49 public schools in Pangasinan and Zambales affected by typhoon Cosme in May received teachers' and students' packs containing school supplies and reference materials from the Education in Emergencies Cluster (EEC), the Department of Education today said.

The EEC is composed mostly of private institutions that include Save the Children, Children International, United Nations International Educational Fund (UNICEF), Christian Children's Fund, Plan International, and ABS-CBN. The EEC group volunteered their assistance in response to calls for public support to mitigate the effects of typhoon Cosme.

The EEC gave some 3,500 student packs in Sta. Cruz South and Sta Cruz North in Zambales. Another 1,000 were given in Dagupan City while in Dasol and Infanta, both in Pangasinan, some 1000 and 550 packs were given out respectively. A total of 545 teachers' packs were also distributed in these areas. The assistance also included 120 reference materials that have UNICEF gameboards.

"We fully appreciate the civic minded gesture of groups like the EEC for extending assistance to the victims of typhoon Cosme," Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said.

The student packs contain writing materials, notebook and erasers while the teachers pack include writing materials, white board marker, cartolina and lesson plan notebook.

The EEC recipient schools totaled 49, where 31 were from Pangasinan and 18 were from Zambales

The ABS-CBN Sagip Kapamilya program also gave school supplies to 39 schools in the two provinces.

The UNICEF's assistance in Pangasinan and Zambales came as an immediate aid when classes re-opened in the two provinces on July 14. This was in the form of 5,000 children's packs and 545 teacher's packs with a total value of P2.4 million.

The opening of classes in the two provinces was affected because of typhoon Cosme. Earlier reports showed that Zambales in Region III had 39 damaged schools. Pangasinan and La Union in Region I had 467 schools affected. Total amount needed for new construction and repair of schools total over P800 million.

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