

*Mr. Tule*  
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Note to the Secretary-General



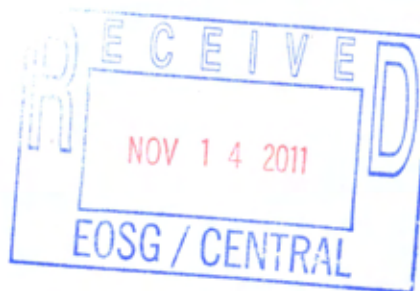
**MISSION OF THE DEPUTY EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR  
TO THE PHILIPPINES, 19-23 NOVEMBER 2011**

1. I plan to visit the Philippines from 19 to 23 November 2011. The overall objective of my mission is to take stock of the humanitarian situation and response, particularly in Mindanao. My agenda will include meetings with the Government, UN agencies, NGOs, the ICRC, the International Monitoring Team and the diplomatic corps, and also a field trip to humanitarian projects in Mindanao funded by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). In my discussions, I will maintain a dual focus on armed conflicts and natural disasters, both of which have significant humanitarian consequences in the Philippines.
2. Over the past two years, there has been steady improvement in the humanitarian situation in Central Mindanao in relation to the conflict between the Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. After both parties agreed to suspend military operations in July 2009, most of the 750,000 people displaced returned home or were resettled in relocation sites. However, most returnees remain vulnerable following years of displacement and insecurity, compounded by underdevelopment and natural disasters. Today, according to the Humanitarian Country Team, at least 698,000 displaced, returnees and other conflict-affected people continue to require emergency relief and livelihoods support.
3. The Philippines is one of the most natural disaster prone countries in the world. Natural hazards include typhoons, floods, landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. Parts of Mindanao have also been susceptible to flooding caused by seasonal monsoon rains. In May and June 2011, the Government called for international assistance after torrential rains triggered widespread flooding in Central Mindanao, affecting nearly 860,000 people in five provinces. In response, the CERF released US\$5 million for life-saving projects.
4. During my mission, I will consult with all the key stakeholders on what more can be done to strengthen emergency preparedness and response in the Philippines, and particularly in Mindanao. Key issues in the discussions will include humanitarian access, security of staff and operations, coordination, and resource mobilization. I will also emphasize to all interlocutors the importance of responding according to humanitarian principles, in order to ensure that the affected people receive adequate humanitarian assistance and protection.

*Catherine Bragg*  
Catherine Bragg  
11 November 2011

cc: Ms. Clark  
Mr. Nambiar  
Mr. Pascoe  
Mr. Kim

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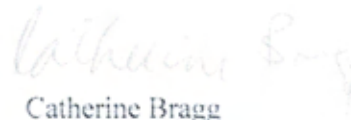


**Note to Mr. Nambiar**

**Mission to the Philippines**

Please find attached a note to the Secretary-General regarding my upcoming mission to the Philippines, which will take place from 19 to 23 November 2011.

I would be grateful if you could kindly submit this to the Secretary-General.



Catherine Bragg  
11 November 2011