



## **DOCTORS OF THE WORLD DEPLOYS ITS TEAMS TO THE MOST AFFECTED AREAS OF THE PHILIPPINES**

### **DOCTORS OF THE WORLD DEPLOYS MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS TO PROVIDE AID IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Paris, France —November 14, 2013— Doctors of the World (Médecins du Monde), activated their emergency response to Typhoon Haiyan, deploying doctors from their international network to provide emergency and medical relief in the Philippines. With a team on-site in the Philippines before the typhoon made landfall, Doctors of the World was able to respond quickly. Additional emergency teams arrived Tuesday in Cebu.

With 90% of the medical infrastructure destroyed, the health situation in the field raises fears about the development of pathologies which, without treatment, would worsen, notably with cases of secondary infections and malnutrition.

“Beyond emergency care, we fear for the general state of health for the surviving population,” said Astrid Heckmann, the program coordinator of Doctors of the World in the Philippines.

As an NGO with permanent aid structures in place before the natural disaster struck, MdM was one of the first responders to the devastation. Doctors of the World was able to assess the immediate basic needs based on feedback from the exploratory mission done by the team of Filipino doctors before sending in logisticians to establish an operational base in order to access the most isolated areas.

Doctors of the World will operate mobile units to provide primary healthcare and healthcare for pregnant women and children. Doctors of the World is also working to provide mental health support and nutritional assistance where possible. An additional team with two doctors will arrive on Saturday to support the staff already on-site. Doctors of the World has sent 50 tons of medical supplies in its initial response.

In order to meet its mission of meeting the needs of the most vulnerable people everywhere, Doctors of the World appeals to the public for their continued generosity at this time.

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### **About Doctors of the World:**

Doctors of the World USA (MdM USA) is the US-based chapter of the international network of Médecins du Monde, dedicated to providing emergency and long-term healthcare to vulnerable populations around the world. Established in 2011, MdM USA works with

communities both locally and globally, committed to improving access to quality medical services for populations suffering from poverty, disease, conflict, natural disasters and health disparities. MDM provides direct medical care under all circumstances, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation, or political beliefs. Doctors of the World was founded in 1980 in Paris, France by 15 doctors seeking to address healthcare gaps and inequality. For more information please visit <http://www.doctorsoftheworld.org/>

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