

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

UN launches \$75M drive for...

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 "I think what was a strong indication coming out was a lot of commitment and they are going to look carefully at the appeal," Badcock said.
 In the UN Flash Appeal, the \$74 million will be used for:
 • Food (\$19.699 million)
 • Shelter and non-food items (\$13.703 million)

- Water Sanitation and Hygiene (\$10.350 million)
- Health (\$7.35 million)
- Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications (\$6.666 million)
- Early Recovery (\$4.5 million)
- Agriculture (\$3.98 million)
- Camp Coordination within evacuation centers (\$3.913 million)

- Child Protection (\$1.248 million)
 - Coordination (\$1.094 million)
 - Livelihoods (\$552,000)
 - Nutrition (\$490,000)
 - Education (\$475,000)
- Badcock said she received news from UN Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes that \$6.79 million has been allocated from the Central Emergency Response fund for the identified "priority projects."

"A major response from the international donor community is now absolutely essential if the current operation is to be scaled up to meet the needs on the ground," Badcock said.

But she clarified that the fund being raised does not include money needed for long-term rehabilitation.

"That (rehabilitation fund) is something that will have to be

part of the recovery plan that needs to follow. But right now we are talking of the immediate needs of the people which is food, temporary shelter, water, terribly important and education, getting children back to school," Badcock said.

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro, Jr., Agriculture secretary Arthur Yap and Social Welfare and Development Secretary Esperanza Cabral and Health Secretary Francisco Duque, III, attended the launch as representatives of the Philippine government.

For his part, Teodoro thanked the UN for responding to the Philippine appeal for aid.

"Our friends and donors from the international community can rest assured that the Philippine government, with the assistance of the international humanitarian community, will strive to uphold the humanity of the victims of the Typhoon Ondoy disaster by bringing normalcy to their lives, restoring their means of livelihood, and rebuilding their communities," Teodoro said. ■

Ethnic-Americans support...

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 those surveyed do not know how they and their community can benefit from the stimulus package.

"The story is what would you do if you had the largest infrastructure program and you didn't tell anyone how anyone can benefit from it," said Aaron Glantz of New America Media during a teleconference about the poll's result.

"We have the largest public investment since the Great Depression that has prevented fire fighters and police officers and teachers from being laid off. It has provided loans to many small businesses," added Glantz. "It has provided tax cuts ... it has tremendous opportunity for people who apply for job training and unemployment benefits and yet our poll found that most Americans do not know about this. They do not know how to access the stimulus [package]."

NAM Executive Director Sandy Close said the poll found that since passing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, President Barack Obama's administration "has not done a good job of informing Americans about the economic opportunities that currently exist because of the stimulus package."

Passed in February, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act poured billions of dollars in tax cuts for individuals and companies; and billions more to aid in healthcare, and aid to low income workers, unemployed and retirees, among other investments.

The survey found that many ethnic Americans are struggling to survive in the difficult economic times.

More than 60 percent of Hispanics worry about their ability to pay housing expenses; 50 percent of Native Americans worry whether they can afford basic food, medicine and clothing for their families; and more than 30 percent of African Americans and Asian Americans worry about losing their current full-time job, according to New America Media.

Overall, approximately half of Hispanics, Asian Americans, whites and Native Americans say that—as of now—the stimulus package has had "no effect" or that it has "made the economy worse." Only African Americans believe the stimulus package "has made the economy better." There are also regional differences regarding the impact on the economy: 48 percent of those polled in the Northeast said the economy better but only 29 percent felt that way in the Midwest.

"The good news is that there's still time for all Americans to get help from the Recovery Act," said Close, noting that less than half of the stimulus funds have been spent so far. "The problem is that across racial and ethnic lines most Americans don't know this. They feel like the stimulus train has left the station and they're still waiting on the platform." ■

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