

REBUILDING **Hope** **& Lives** **In VISAYAS**



Typhoon Haiyan's impact and the people's struggle to REBUILD

Progress Report
December 05, 2013
www.hopeww.org



November 8, 2013 will be remembered by the people of the Philippines, especially the islands in the middle section of the Philippines, called the Visayas. It was a day like any other during the monsoon season. Each year these people face about twenty typhoons. They grew up with strong storms, experience some damage to their communities – but they bounce back each time. However, this time Mother Nature released the largest typhoon ever recorded. Typhoon Haiyan, called “Yolanda” by the local population, came from the east and traveled west across the Visayas, ripping apart these beautiful islands with 13 million inhabitants, who are already extremely poor. To them, this day was will not be forgotten.

All hope seemed to be lost as 235 mph winds ripped apart houses, babies were snatched from the hands of their fathers and thousands died. The typhoon’s speed was one third of average speed of jet plane. As of December 4, 2013, the Philippines government released this official report:

DAMAGE REPORT	
5,719	deaths
1,779	still missing
26,233	injured
11,260,069	persons affected (2,380,013 families)
4,022,868	persons displaced (873,434 families)
1,210,179	houses destroyed/heavily damaged
34.4	billion pesos lost (US\$800 million)

Source: NDRRMC – December 04, 2013

Thanks to modern-day meteorology technology, the government and communities received advanced warnings about the category 5 storm’s arrival. Some heeded the early warnings quickly and rushed to safety, many fled to not-so-safe evacuation centers. Many of these centers were ripped apart by the storm, and a large number of people planned to ride out the storm thinking that it was just another storm.

The aftermath was beyond imagination. The impact was comparable to the 2004 tsunami in Aceh, Indonesia however the number of displaced people is almost eight times greater (532,898 – USAID report, 2005). The storm surge is something these people had never experienced. The tsunami-like water took many lives in the islands of Leyte and Samar. Although many western areas were spared from the storm surge, high winds left a path of death and destruction.

This is definitely a tough time for the people of Philippines, where much of the population already lives in poverty. A mayor from one of the affected areas stated, “43% of these people lived in poverty before the typhoon according to a 2010 survey. With this typhoon, I think the number is now around 60%. We have a long journey ahead as we rebuild and fight poverty.”

Unimaginable Devastation



Above: Storm surge lifted ships into houses in Tacloban (left) Families try to survive in Tacloban City (right)



Above: Houses are damaged or destroyed across provinces (left) Families survive in makeshift shelters (right)



Above: Sunrise in the ghost town Tacloban (left) People scavenge for valuables in piles of garbage (right)

Devastation covers the once beautiful Visayan Islands. Tacloban was once a thriving city that attracted various growing businesses. Today, the streets are littered with trash - even though the major debris was cleaned up quickly following the storm. Electricity is only a dream at this point. The Energy Minister can only promise to have power available before Christmas. Clean water is scarce. Municipal water supplies are reported to be contaminated due water pipes being broken by displaced communities fighting for survival. People looted stores and warehouses searching for food a few days after the typhoon. The chaos was beyond description. Since then, martial law and curfews have been implemented to restore order. Rebels in the area have ceased their gunfire and are now supporting relief efforts.



Above: The military patrols the streets of Tacloban (left); Many chose to stay in the ruins (right)

HOPE worldwide Responded with Life-Saving Supplies and Services

After the storm passed Cebu and Bohol, our staff rushed to deliver relief supplies to those in need in Bohol, Northern Cebu, Ormoc, and Tacloban. Volunteers poured in to mobilize resources to help affected communities. Partner organizations joined us in serving the neediest communities. Churches members mobilized to help their neighbors. It was an amazing effort, with one goal in mind - to bring hope for the storm survivors. Drinking water, ready-to-eat meals, water filters, medical supplies, clothes, cleaning kits, roof sheets, chainsaws, shoes and shelters were mobilized to storm victims. We also collaborated with the United Nations' agencies and government agencies to effectively reach citizens in need.



Above: Food packs for 1,330 families were distributed in Daanbantayan (left) Volunteers distributed 1,895 hygiene kits(right)



Above: Food packs were distributed directly to families in coordination with local government (left)

Women with hygiene kits they received (right)



Above: A water filter installed in a hospital (left) Clean water is distributed (right)



Above: Children's psychosocial activities in Bohol (left) Psychosocial debriefing for Tacloban survivors in Cebu (right)

An Overlooked Area: Fishermen Village in Daanbantayan



Above: Fishermen salvage roof sheets and bricks to make huts for their families (left), Jan explained how he kept leaves to keep his hut cool from the scorching sun (center) A boy keeps watch over his baby brother and neighbor's baby as parents try to return to work (right)

As numerous relief agencies rushed to hard hit areas like Tacloban, other less populated areas are often overlooked. In one fishing village, where residents eke out a livelihood through fishing from plywood boats, the typhoon ravaged every facet of their lives. Their boats, homes and communities were damaged, tools destroyed and hopes crushed. Without the ability to make a living, many families will succumb to effects of poverty.



Above: Ronnie fixes his nets hoping to be able to fix his damaged boat(left), his house was flattened, forcing him to make a roof of whatever he could find to keep his family from the rain and sun (right)

HOPE worldwide provided food and necessary supplies for this community as soon as possible. We are working to help families get back to normal by rebuilding homes and boats. There is no better way than to assist them in repairing their houses and restoring their employment.

The Most Vulnerable



*Above: Marilyn, a 61 year old widow is now homeless (left)
Children have to collect water in an unsafe and hazardous environment (right)*



Above: Global Protection Cluster coordinator-Katy Barnett presents information on the number of children affected and issues of concern

As the main focus in the relief was shelter, food, water and health for the general population, seniors and children remains exposed to various issues that has not yet been addressed. These age groups need special attention and care as their needs and protection is often neglected.

Before the typhoon there was a high incidence of human trafficking and child abuse. There is a real concern this will increase due to living conditions in unprotected huts, limited services and supplies, and unseparated camp latrines. The Protection Cluster reports that there is an average of one latrine is for every 63 people.

Additionally, special needs children have not been a priority. In general, 10% of population has special needs issues, whether physical disability or any learning/motoric limitations. Disasters create an even greater negative impact on their lives that requires intervention and assistance. At the Tacloban City Hall, we found young woman with the possibly of mild downs syndrome, roaming around the distribution warehouse. No one paid any attention to her or watched out for her safety.

Hope and Resilience to Rebuild

As we work to help communities in need, it is amazing to witness the resilience of individuals and families as they work to overcome the tremendous challenges. Many families stood up and rolled up their sleeves to fight. They are strong, driven and hope for a better future. They can't do this alone, they need the global community to help them rebuild.

When we walk in community, great things are accomplished. Schools that were destroyed reopened quickly on December 2, 2013. Children need to attend school, because without an education, they are exposed to variety of risks.



Above: A man work in the sun to rebuild a house that was destroyed (left); A woman washes clothes with limited water (right)



Above: A family stays together during a difficult time (left); A girl washes clothes as she hopes the challenge will wash away soon (right)



Above: A woman tries to share a message on her t-shirt (left) as children find something to smile about despite difficulties (right)

A Survivor's Story: Gilbert

A young man named Gilbert survived the storm. He tied himself to a tree as the typhoon made landfall in Tacloban. The winds and waves pummeled the tree for nine hours. When he came down out of the branches and he began to look for a safe place. After walking and swimming 10 kilometer (6 miles) in mud and water, he reached the hospital looking for help. However, the hospital was chaotic and help unavailable. He survived for days in Tacloban before escaping to Cebu where he stayed with friends and families.

Two weeks later, Gilbert went back to Tacloban. He now describes his own nightmare. During the storm, ten of his friends and co-workers died. His workplace is destroyed and he is unemployed. However, Gilbert returned to join the HOPE *worldwide* team as they work to rebuild Tacloban's communities.



above: Gilbert looks at his hometown as he came back to Tacloban (left), with his friend Louis, they want to rebuild their city (center), Gilbert has his set his eyes on bringing hope and change to his beloved city (right)

HOPE *worldwide* is bringing in people like Gilbert to help rebuild communities. Rebuilding efforts need to be accelerated, and there is no greater way to do it this than with those who love their cities. Some will work with the children center, others rebuild houses, or in health programs, with the goal of rebuilding their cities and communities.

Rebuilding Coordination and Strategy



Above: HOPE worldwide Philippines is focusing on six locations and Cebu is the hub of operations

After the assessments and discussions with our internal team, partners, and various agencies, HOPE worldwide decided to focus on six locations where we believe we can best impact the rebuilding of communities. These locations will be coordinated by our hub in Cebu as well as support from our Manila office and global headquarters. In our rebuilding, we are focusing on assisting four specific groups, they are as follow:

Key Activities	
1. CHILDREN	* Set up Children Centers in six locations * Psychosocial activities conducted through play/art/movie therapy * Trauma counseling for children * Protection from trafficking, exploitation, abuse * Protection and support of children with special needs * Basic health, nutrition, and education supplies needed
2. FAMILIES	* Provide livelihood support through micro entrepreneurship and fishing boat assistance * Temporary shelter assistance support * House rebuilding * Food and non-food-items distribution
3. COMMUNITIES	* Community clean-up * Construction of clean water source * Schools and orphanages repairs * Construction of latrines and sanitation facilities * Medical supplies support
4. VOLUNTEERS	* Equip and manage volunteers to serve those in need * Mobilize skilled volunteers, such as carpenters, plumbers, engineers, teachers, counselors and others * Mobilize medical professionals to provide of healthcare

Our work is aimed at impacting communities and at least 100,000 lives in six locations. The road is long, and we will need ongoing support and partnerships to help.

