

CARITAS AUSTRALIA UPDATE: NOVEMBER 2014

SUPER TYPHOON HAIYAN



"I remember during the typhoon there were strong winds and we went to the Church. Now we are living in a new house given to us by Caritas. It is very good," says Mary Faith (left), with her family.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

In 2013 and early 2014, with the generous support of the Australian Catholic community, Caritas Australia responded to the people affected by Haiyan with immediate humanitarian relief. One year on, and now in a phase of recovery and rehabilitation, Caritas Australia is assisting children, women and men to rebuild their lives, homes and livelihoods.

Thanks to funding from the Australian Catholic community and the Australian Government, Caritas Australia is working on the ground alongside 42 other Caritas agencies and local partners to build back better. Thank you for helping us do this.

On 8 November 2013, Super Typhoon Haiyan, one of the largest storms ever recorded, hit the Philippines. Known locally as Yolanda, approximately **6,300** people perished in the storm, **4.1 million** people were displaced, and **1.1 million** homes were damaged or destroyed. In all, around **16 million** people were affected, and **5.6 million** workers lost their jobs.

A disaster like a typhoon can derail a family's stability, deplete a lifetime of savings, destroy livelihoods and push whole communities into poverty.

For those already living in poverty, it can be especially debilitating. The devastation to infrastructure, the environment, the economy and reserves can last a generation.

The destruction on the islands of Leyte and Samar was staggering, with broken infrastructure, blocked roads and ports, and a scale of need that increased every day.

Our response lets communities lead their own recovery: by restarting their lives based on their own skills and strengths, they can lay a foundation for a long-term recovery.

HOW IS THE CARITAS NETWORK ASSISTING?

The Caritas network responded immediately with emergency shelter. By 31 December 2013 over **215,325** people had received either emergency shelter kits, a cash grant for repair and reconstruction, or tarpaulins for emergency protection from the sun and rain. Since then, mountains of debris have been cleared from the villages, and schools have resumed.

To date, through our worldwide network, over **376,000** people have accessed essential food, emergency shelter, health, hygiene and household kits, early livelihood recovery support, and psychosocial services.

AT A GLANCE

HEALTH & HYGIENE provision is critical in the immediate weeks of a crisis. Potable drinking water and water purifying treatments, and hygiene kits have been distributed to **55,088** households. Each kit contains bathing soap, laundry soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, nail clippers, multi-purpose cloths, towels, sanitary napkins and a 16L bucket with lid. These kits assist in preventing waterborne diseases that often occur in poorly sanitized and crowded conditions.

FOOD PACKS consisting of 10-15kg rice and 1kg lentils have been distributed to **23,425** households.

HOUSEHOLD KITS containing a jerry can, cooking utensils, matches, blankets, mosquito net and sleeping mat have been provided to **55,088** households.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT is re-establishing farming families' means for income and stability. So far:

- **328** fishing families have received **105** fishing boats and board motors.
- **17,918** farming families have received vegetable seeds and small garden tools.
- **3,179** farming families have received poultry birds.
- **1,000** island farming families have received 350 PHP (AU\$9) to establish **3,000** seaweed gardens.

CASH FOR WORK opportunities are providing thousands of people the opportunity to earn an income. In return for income, local people are building emergency shelters and helping in the clean-up process.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION is vitally important. The Caritas network is working alongside the local and national governments, United Nations, and other organisations to enhance the resilience of communities should a natural disaster of this size and scale ever occur again.



Flora lives in a small coastal village in eastern Samar. She now lives in a new house, especially designed to be resistant to future typhoons. "We prayed right from the start and we asked help from God. This is a new start for our family." Photos: Lukasz Cholewiak/Caritas.

ADVOCACY is also important. Our partners are advocating on issues such as land rights for people who were living in the declared 'hazard' zones, lack of documentation (which can hamper access to assistance), family separation, exploitation of labour, exclusion of vulnerable groups from assistance programs, violence towards women, and human trafficking.

THANKS TO YOU ...

We are continuing to engage in extensive recovery and rehabilitation efforts. We are:

- **Reconstructing** and **repairing** homes with typhoon-resilient features such as improved design, strong materials, quality workmanship and safer locations.
- **Improving** access to safe, clean water and sanitary facilities.
- **Restoring** and diversifying livelihoods.
- **Rehabilitating** the local ecosystems.

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End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity