Super Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest storms ever recorded in the world, plowed across the central Philippines on November 8, 2013. The lethal combination of 175 mph winds and heavy rains brought unprecedented devastation.

An estimated 16.1 million people were affected, with 1.1 million damaged or destroyed homes and as many as 4.1 million people displaced – nearly four times as many as those left homeless by the 2004 India Ocean tsunami. At least 6,300 people lost their lives and another 5.9 million workers lost their livelihoods and source of income to support their families.

In the immediate aftermath, CARE collaborated with the United Nations and some 40 other agencies to rapidly assess the situation and needs of people across nine provinces. Food, shelter and the restoration of livelihoods were the biggest priorities identified. Despite severe logistical challenges due to flooding and blocked or destroyed roads, CARE began distributing food relief packages just eight days after the storm.

As we continued to reach needy families with food supplies, CARE also mobilized our local partners to assist in providing survivors with shelter repair kits and initial cash transfers to support the recovery of livelihoods.

From Emergency to Recovery...

Conditions have steadily improved as a result of the resilience of survivors and concerted response by various governments and international and local humanitarian organizations.

Thanks to the timely support and generosity from our donors, CARE surpassed the target of reaching 40,000 households in the three worst affected areas in the Visayas region: Leyte, Western Samar and Panay. As of October 2014, CARE assisted 68,170 households (or 318,650 people) with food, shelter and financial assistance.

CARE has now transitioned from an emergency to recovery phase, meaning our food distributions have ended and we are focusing on helping more people rebuild their lives through an integrated shelter and livelihoods program approach. Given the scale and scope of the devastation, this form of humanitarian development assistance – helping families build back safer and revive the local economy and livelihoods – will need to be sustained over the coming years to ensure the full recovery of affected communities.
Top-line Achievements

- 54,284 households (or 252,115 people) received emergency food assistance. Overall, CARE and our local partners delivered more than 1,115 metric tons of food.

- 13,905 households (or 59,984 people) received emergency shelter supplies, including tarpaulins, tools and kitchen sets. The number of tarpaulins distributed by CARE could cover the equivalent of 4,040 basketball courts.

- 9,484 children were fed as part of a CARE-supported government school feeding program.

- 15,413 households (or 77,068 people) received high-quality shelter repair kits, including corrugated metal sheets and tools, and cash to cover the purchase of lumber and construction costs.

- CARE trained more than 500 community carpenters on “build back safer” techniques to support people in rebuilding their homes.

- 27,040 households (or 135,200 people) benefited from livelihoods start-up grants of US$181 and orientations on livelihoods planning and household money management to help them restore previous work or engage in new income-generating activities.

- Over 220 trainings were conducted on livelihoods planning and good household money management.

- In total, CARE reached 318,650 people affected by Typhoon Haiyan.
Emergency food distributions

Survivors had nothing to eat the days and weeks after Typhoon Haiyan, especially people in areas that were completely devastated.

CARE, together with local partners, quickly responded with life-saving food assistance in some of the most remote locations. Off-road vehicles were required to access upland villages and in some cases boats were needed to access island communities. In the face of these challenges, CARE managed to reach more than 250,000 people in three months.

Where possible, CARE and our partners harnessed the support of local communities. Volunteers from each village helped to set up food distributions sites and organized their communities.

Men and women assisted with the registration process and the distribution of the food packages. This community spirit resulted in successful and well-organized food distributions in all locations.

Each food package met household needs for up to four weeks and special consideration was given to the most vulnerable people, such as the elderly, pregnant women and people with disabilities, to ensure they received food assistance when it was most needed.

Having food on hand lifted a huge burden, allowing families to save money that would have been spent on food and focus their time and energy on home repairs and restoring their livelihoods.

Emergency shelter and household items

Typhoon Haiyan caused catastrophic destruction to shelter and housing in communities along its path. Many families were left homeless. Without adequate shelter, women faced a higher risk of gender-based violence, especially sexual violence, within communal shelters.

During the initial weeks after the storm, CARE distributed emergency shelter materials that included tarpaulins, nails, hammers, axes, shovels, hoes, handsaws and wire in the city of Tacloban and other neighboring municipalities in Leyte. We also provided cooking utensils, plastic mats, blankets, flashlights and mosquito nets in Albuera andOrmoc municipalities. A total of 13,905 households (or 59,984 people) in Leyte benefited from these provisions.
Rising above floodwaters: A story of survival

Lyza Ingsol, 20, was five-months pregnant in a single-story home with her 2-year-old and elderly grandmother when the storm hit. Her husband was away at the time. Lyza recalls how the floodwaters rushed inside and how the winds shook the walls.

From a distance they watched the water rise above the roofline of their home. The rest was a blur.

She could no longer remember how she found the strength to save the lives of her family members. It just happened.

Over the next few days, she found out that her house and her husband’s boat and fishing gear (their family’s livelihood) had been washed away.

CARE provided families like Lyza’s with food packages. Lyza says the assistance was truly essential. Her family had to rely on such distributions for two months as they worked to rebuild and restore their lives.

Now, Lyza lives a much better life with her healthy seven-month baby. Her family also received livelihoods assistance from CARE to support their basic needs. Lyza shared that the tragic experience was something unforgettable but she believes that the recovery process made her stronger and fully determined to work harder for her child.
Shelter Recovery: Building Back Safer

Most homes in the affected areas were poorly constructed before November 2013 and could not withstand the force of strong winds. The Philippines experiences more than 20 storms per year and is also prone to landslides and flooding. It’s important to ensure shelters can withstand future natural disasters.

CARE is assisting 17,000 households in building safer shelters through the provision of shelter repair kits, cash support to purchase additional construction materials and skills building.

We focused this intervention in the most affected and hard-to-reach areas. People were selected based on their income and vulnerability, so households with a higher number of children, senior citizens, pregnant and lactating women, and people with disabilities were prioritized.

Selected beneficiaries participated in workshops where they learned “building back safer” techniques that include finding a safe location and constructing a solid foundation, bracing and proper roof and wall design.

CARE distributed the kit containing materials that were difficult to find in the local market, such as corrugated iron sheets, nails and tools.

We then provided households with cash to buy lumber to build a strong structure and pay carpenter’s fees. Most households received $70 while extremely vulnerable households (or about 45% of households) received $180 as they required more support to rebuild. CARE also organized roving carpenters to provide technical assistance to families, in particular vulnerable families.

More than half of the people who received shelter repair kits with cash assistance from CARE have completed repairs.

Overall, communities have been deeply involved in CARE’s response efforts. As we help communities to rebuild, our shelter program staff have received support from local residents who serve as carpenters, community mobilizers and progress monitors. This collective action reflects Filipinos’ innate sense of bayanihan or providing each other with mutual aid, as communities give their time to assist the most vulnerable families.

8 Build Back Safer Messages

1. Build on strong foundations.
2. Tie-down from bottom up.
3. Brace against the storm.
4. Use strong joints.
5. A good house needs a good roof.
6. Site your house safely.
7. Simple shape will keep you safe.
8. Be prepared.
Rebuilding: A labor of love

It was late afternoon in the community of Maricum on the island of Leyte and Nenita and Nicolas Bardalo were working together to build their home. She lifted heavy corrugated sheets over her head and carried them over to the house frame. He took them onto the roof and hammered them in place. The couple was installing a roof with corrugated metal sheeting provided by CARE.

When Typhoon Haiyan struck their community in November 2013, their home was utterly destroyed. The couple lived with their two children in a makeshift house. Nenita said she had a sore back from hunching over all the time in their makeshift dwelling and they constantly banged their heads on the ceiling.

Nenita and Nicolas have been married for over 20 years and are committed to building their new home together. However, it was difficult work as Nicolas needed to split his time earning money working in the nearby rice fields and building their home. Nicolas previously worked as a part-time carpenter so he is confident he can handle the shelter repair with his spouse. He said he was briefed on “build back safer” techniques from a community roving team that helps pass on lessons learned.

Six months after CARE visited the couple, Nenita and Nicolas are proud to show their completely finished home. As one of the most vulnerable households in their community, the couple also received higher amount of cash assistance from CARE to complete their home repair with strong walls.

Nenita says they prioritized the completion of the repair by devoting quality time and effort. She also ensured that the money they received was spent wisely on shelter repair materials.
Livelihoods recovery

Eastern Visayas was the second poorest region in the Philippines before November 2013. When Typhoon Haiyan swept across the region, it caused extensive damage to livelihoods, leaving rural families even poorer and more vulnerable than before. The worst affected were landless fishermen and farmers. Some 30,000 fishing boats were destroyed and approximately 1 million tons of crops were lost. Over a third of families also lost their livestock. Finding the will and way to restart their livelihoods would be the biggest challenge of the region.

As part of the early recovery and reconstruction effort, CARE initiated a livelihoods assistance program, aimed at the most vulnerable families in villages assisted under the food distribution and emergency shelter program. CARE was one of the first agencies to start livelihoods support in April 2014.

Support is provided at three levels; 1) for households in the form of livelihoods cash grants; 2) support to women entrepreneurs; and 3) support to organized community groups. CARE uses the market and value chain approach to strengthen communities’ links to local markets.

Household cash grants

CARE targeted families in 17 affected municipalities in Leyte (8), Western Samar (1) and Panay (8). We selected the most vulnerable households with the lowest monthly income to benefit from a livelihoods cash grant. Selected households nominate a household member to participate in seminars on improved money management and livelihoods planning. Once a simple plan is completed families receive approximately $181 in two installments to restart a 6-12 month quick impact livelihood. This is equal to three to four times the normal monthly earnings of a household.

“To date, CARE has reached over 27,000 households (or 135,000 people) with cash grants.”

More than 90% of households pursued their planned income-generating activity. On average, 52% of activities were led by women. We also found that decision-making between husbands and wives was equitably shared across most households, although there are certain livelihoods that are led mainly by men or women. Most felt the cash transfer amount was appropriate and stated the second transfer, 1-2 months later, helped them sustain activities.

Key facts
- The main livelihoods chosen were pig raising, farming, poultry raising and retailing.
- Over 60% of households had tried the livelihood activity before and 80% of households stuck with the plan that they chose.
- Over 30% of households made some income one month after the cash grant was given. This is used mainly for food, education and health.
Building more resilient community livelihoods

CARE is also providing longer-term financial and training support for livelihoods for up to two years aimed at rural communities, particularly organized community groups and women entrepreneurs. We use the value chain approach as a framework for supporting community livelihoods recovery. In each municipality, CARE and our partners are undertaking gender-responsive value chain sessions with community members to highlight weaknesses and opportunities for change in important local value chains such as upland rice and poultry. The results guide the strategy for CARE’s longer-term livelihoods support for the Women’s Enterprise Fund and Community Enterprise Facility.

Empowering women entrepreneurs
In recognition of women’s significant contribution to the recovery efforts and their track record in successful enterprise management, CARE has created a Women’s Enterprise Fund to provide financial assistance to women engaged in businesses that have a benefit to their local community.

CARE aims to support entrepreneurs in all villages where we provided household cash transfer support. As part of this initiative, women will produce a business plan and present it to a panel of CARE and partner staff. Successful applicants will receive up to $1,000 in the form of a cash grant.

Supporting community groups
The Community Enterprise Facility provides financial support, training and value chain support to community groups such as women’s organizations and cooperatives to help strengthen the development of local value chains like livestock, rice, root crops and retailing. This project has been launched with local government and nongovernmental agencies in 17 municipalities. CARE has received more than 20 proposals for projects. These proposals will be reviewed against CARE’s criteria. The group must have a bank account, a financial track record and the project should bring benefits to vulnerable households in rural communities.

Skills building
One of the main reasons for failure of enterprises in the Philippines is lack of management. A major component of both the Women’s Enterprise Fund and Community Enterprise Facility is simple and practical training on enterprise development and management. CARE, in partnership with the International Labor Organization, will provide entrepreneurs and community group members with practical advice on budgeting, business planning, marketing and management. CARE will follow participants on their journey to see how they apply the learnings.
Woman entrepreneur gets a taste of success

Haiyan damaged the home, cooking materials and small convenience store of 79-year old widow Veronica Jaingue of Basey, Samar. She used to cook vegetables which she would sell to neighbours, as well as sell limited small items like condiments in her store.

Veronica has always been self-sufficient, and in the past, even found ways to support her two children who have their own big families to take care of. But the destruction from the disaster has rendered her without income for several months.

When CARE delivered livelihoods assistance, Veronica used the first cash transfer to restart her small store and added more items like drinks, snacks, basic toiletries and other household stuff to her commodities. For the second and bigger cash grant, Veronica decided to invest in something she has always been good at -- making ginger tea and pickles. She used her USD 181 to buy the ingredients to make her products.

She has since recouped her capital, selling the items in her store, and peddling her stuff to government offices and other establishments in the town center.

Veronica wakes up as early as 3 a.m. to start cooking and preparing her products. She is also very diligent in listing down her expenses so she could keep track of her little enterprise’s progress and her income.

She says ginger tea and pickle making are good business, especially when she gets big volume of orders whenever there are occasions like weddings, fiesta, and family gatherings in their village. In fact, three kilos worth of ginger can make 14 plastic packs of ginger tea and earn for her twice her capital. Veronica has also started putting a label to her products for more strategic marketing. And she is not about to rest on her laurels either. She dreams of one day seeing her products reach the shelves of a huge and popular mall.

“I was so happy when I started earning again, that I even bought sandals for myself. It was so rewarding to be able to afford that for myself.”

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CARE believes in the power of collaboration, partnership, capacity building and knowledge sharing. In the Philippines, CARE actively engages with and works alongside national local partner organizations working in communities. Having these partnerships in place allows CARE to easily target and reach the most vulnerable people because of partners’ familiarity of the area, culture and local dialect. This relationship has also increased our partners’ capacity to respond and initiate new and innovative activities.

CARE has collaborated with seven local partners for our Typhoon Haiyan food, shelter and livelihood programs:

- **Assistance and Cooperation for Community Resilience and Development (ACCORD)** – Supported food distributions in Leyte; shelter repair in Leyte, Iloilo and Aklan; and livelihood recovery activities in Leyte.
- **Leyte Center for Development Inc. (LCDE)** – Supported food distributions in Western Samar and shelter repair and livelihood recovery in Leyte.
- **Metro Ormoc Community Multi-Purpose Cooperative (OCCCI)** – Engaged in food distributions in Western Samar, shelter repair (cash component) in Leyte, and livelihoods in Western Samar and Leyte.
- **Sara Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SMPC)** – Supported food distributions, shelter repair (cash component) and livelihoods in Iloilo.
- **Pontvedra People’s Development Cooperative (PVDCl)** – Supported food, shelter repair and livelihoods in Capiz.
- **Laau-an Multi-Purpose Cooperative (LMPC)** – Assisted with food and livelihoods activities in Antique.
- **Uswag Development Foundation Inc. (UDFI)** – Assisted with food and livelihoods activities in Aklan.

CARE also is part of a collaborative effort with various international organizations and agencies responding to the emergency. CARE reported to and actively coordinated with the UN Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, Early Recovery and Livelihoods Cluster, and Shelter Cluster at both Manila and regional levels, to prevent activity overlap and duplication.
CARE’s experience in the Philippines and around the world shows that natural disasters and armed conflict affect women, men, boys and girls differently.

In “Sex and Age Matter,” a research study carried out by CARE and Feinstein International Center, showed that programming is rarely informed by the experiences of women and girls and the collection of sex and age disaggregated data. In the Philippines, widows became the sole providers and caretakers of their households, women and girls risked sexual and gender-based violence in evacuation centers and makeshift houses. Also, girls faced particular challenges attending school in the aftermath of the storm, pregnant women suffered from unsafe deliveries, and there was an increased risk of domestic violence amongst households who had lost their livelihoods.

CARE is working hard to make sure that women’s needs and voices are heard and included in our ongoing programming. Gender-sensitive approaches and protection mechanisms are integrated into both shelter and livelihoods within assessments, trainings, distribution activities and monitoring and evaluations. Households that are female-headed, child-headed, with disabled and older persons, or with the most number of children and young girls were consciously prioritized for shelter and livelihood assistance to enable them to repair their houses and restart livelihood activities.

Women were also trained as community organizers and members of the shelter roving teams, which ensured compliance to build back safer principles. The livelihoods program specifically encouraged women to lead income-generating activities, resulting in more than 52% of women leading. Furthermore, CARE makes provision for women’s economic empowerment with enterprise grants and training in enterprise management.

CARE has been working with and through partners to strengthen capacity on gender issues. Specific trainings have been conducted with seven partners on child protection and gender and women’s empowerment. Follow-on messaging has been integrated throughout all partner activities. Both in the early stages of programming and the longer-term interventions, partner organizations are being supported and mentored to strengthen gender and protection capacities towards organizational transformation.
Quality and Accountability

CARE is committed to meeting international standards of quality and accountability. We want to make sure that the communities we work with have a say in planning, implementing and evaluating our response. CARE is involved or is a signatory to a number of initiatives: the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief, The Sphere Project, and Humanitarian Accountability Partnership International.

For the Haiyan response, CARE measured outcomes and changes as a result of our work through a series of monitoring and evaluation activities. CARE’s feedback mechanism ensured that from the emergency to recovery phase communities could communicate and receive feedback on grievances within a reasonable amount of time.

CARE involved communities, partners and CARE staff in all aspects of the program, including beneficiary selection, distribution, monitoring and evaluation. We work to ensure meaningful participation of men and women and that the lowest-income and most vulnerable groups are reached.

Disaster Risk Reduction

CARE aims to achieve a profound, long-term, and wide benefit for all the communities with whom we work. In order to ensure this occurs on a large scale and in an ongoing consistent fashion, it is critical we include disaster risk and resilience building into all our work. For this reason, CARE has identified disaster risk reduction as a priority within our humanitarian assistance, reconstruction and development work.

Typhoons are an annual event in the Philippines. As the impact of climate change grows, so does the intensity of these storms. The future will hold more storms like Haiyan for the Philippines; therefore the principle of building back safer guides CARE’s response to the crisis.

Globally, CARE has significant experience in response and reconstruction work following large scale disasters. CARE’s response and recovery programming builds on the partners’ disaster risk reduction experience, promoting community awareness and where appropriate, integrating disaster risk reduction in livelihood activities. Specific messaging and training on the key issues for safe shelter reconstruction are developed and implemented.
What have we spent so far?

- CARE has raised $27 million globally from the generous support of the public, corporate donors and government donors.

- CARE’s fundraising target is $30 million and we continue to actively fundraise to fill the $3 million gap.

- CARE spent $13.3 million between November 2013 and October 2014 on food, shelter, household items and livelihoods cash grants.

- The remaining funds will be allocated through 2016 for medium-term livelihoods activities.

Thank you for your support!

CARE has been present in the Philippines since 1949. Today, one year after Typhoon Haiyan struck, we continue to work in the most vulnerable and remote villages that were gravely affected by one of the largest storms in history. We will continue to work – as we have since the storm struck – to support communities in rebuilding their livelihoods and strengthening their resilience to withstand future shocks.

CARE’s Typhoon Haiyan response and recovery program will run until the end of 2016 and we will continue to seek funding for longer-term programming, particularly in emergency preparedness and response, livelihoods, resilience building and women’s empowerment.

Thank you for contributing to CARE’s Typhoon Haiyan response and sharing in our goal of supporting the most vulnerable communities to overcome poverty and social injustice.