



**Three Months After the Storm
Update on CARE's Response to Typhoon Haiyan**



One of the Strongest Storms in History

Typhoon Haiyan (known locally as Yolanda) battered the Philippines on November 8 and 9. Powerful winds, heavy rains and storm surges wiped out many coastal areas of the islands in the center of this nation.

- Around 16.1 million people affected with 4.1 million people displaced
- More than 6,200 people dead
- 28,626 people injured
- 1,785 people missing
- At least 1.1 million homes damaged, around 550,000 completely destroyed
- Some 5.9 million workers in nine regions affected, with livelihoods and sources of income destroyed, lost or disrupted. Of these, 2.6 million people have been identified as most vulnerable.

Three months later, roads have been cleared of debris, markets are opening and aid is getting through to vulnerable communities. However, given the scope of the devastation, a long-term response effort is needed.

CARE's Response

Immediately after the typhoon, CARE and our local partners responded with emergency relief to reach affected communities.

Meanwhile, our supporters also responded. CARE has raised over \$20 million (USD) from private and institutional donors towards our emergency response and recovery efforts.

Thanks to this generous support, CARE is now working with partners to deliver emergency relief in three areas of the Philippines: Leyte (20,000 households), Samar (10,000 households) and Panay (10,000 households).

CARE's emergency response is focused on providing lifesaving food, shelter and livelihood assistance, helping communities recover in the months and years to come. Overall, our relief operations are expected to reach 250,000 people.

Your Support in Action

Since the storm first hit, CARE has reached more than 200,000 people This includes:

- **185,000 people with food relief** plus an additional **3,700 people with cash transfers to purchase food**
CARE and our partners have delivered more than 1,115 metric tons of food.
- **36,000 people with emergency shelter supplies** including tarpaulins, tools and kitchen sets
Tarps distributed by CARE would cover the equivalent of 4,040 basketball courts—one of the most popular sports in the Philippines.
- **3,800 people with high quality shelter repair kits** including corrugated metal sheets, tools, specialized nails and other items; an additional cash supplement for extra costs; and training on building back safer techniques

EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

As we respond to the devastating effects of Typhoon Haiyan, CARE and our partners are working closely with local communities to help them better prepare for the next disaster.

For example, with our shelter approach, we are working to empower families to repair and rebuild their homes stronger to face the next storm. This includes training local carpenters and community members on improved building techniques to make homes sturdier.

Also, CARE is working with a number of local partners in our programming, as these partners best understand the needs of the local communities. At the same time, it is our goal to help develop the capacity of these partners so they can take more responsibility in the management of programming and strengthen their ability to respond to future disasters.

Meeting Immediate Food Needs

CARE and our partners began distributing food on November 14, only a few days after the typhoon. To date, we have provided food to more than 185,000 people in Panay, Leyte and Samar.

In general, food packages contain rice, corned beef, sardines, salt, sugar, monggo beans, cooking oil and dried fish. These items were chosen based on local diets and tastes. The portions are adequate enough to take care of the food needs for a family of five for at least two weeks.

Where markets have reopened, CARE procured food items locally, which helps revitalize the local economy. For example, in Panay, CARE spent nearly \$175,000 (USD) purchasing food and providing cash transfers for the purpose of buying food, further assisting the regional recovery effort.

It is important to note that the locations of food distributions are chosen in the center of communities, close to people's homes so they do not have to carry the items far. This is especially important for vulnerable populations such as women and the elderly.





Opposite page: In the village of Patag on the island of Leyte, a grandmother sits with her grandchildren with their food package they received from CARE and local partner ACCORD (Photo: Peter Caton/CARE).

Above: Volunteer Noemi Panal assists with a food distribution run by CARE and partner OCCCII in Basey, Samar. We would not be able to do our work without the help and enthusiasm of our volunteers (Photo: Darcy Knoll/CARE).

Left: A food distribution held in Panay in early December run by CARE and partner PVDCI. (Photo: Santosh Sharma/CARE).



Shelter From the Storm

The typhoon tore the roofs off warehouses, churches and schools, and robbed thousands of people of their homes.

Living in broken makeshift houses built with debris left over from the storm is a constant source of stress. Parents fear for the safety of their children.

For many survivors, finding safe shelter is an essential starting point to recovery.

That is why CARE is providing shelter assistance to families whose homes are heavily damaged or destroyed. Some 36,000 people have already received emergency shelter kits (that include an ax, saw, hammer, nails and wire), tarpaulins and kitchen sets from CARE.

With the support of our donors, we are currently distributing high-quality shelter repair kits. These kits include corrugated sheets, specialized nails, wire, mosquito screen, tools and other useful items meant to help people rebuild their homes to be stronger and sturdier. In addition, families will receive an additional 3,000 pesos (roughly \$68 USD) to pay for labor and buy extra items they may need to rebuild.

BUILDING BACK SAFER

Beyond distributing high-quality shelter repair kits, CARE and our partners are empowering families to repair and rebuild their homes stronger to face the next storm.

This long-term “building back safer” approach involves training local carpenters and community members on improved building techniques to make homes sturdier, holding information sessions and having roving teams of local building experts available to offer helpful advice.

Looking Ahead: Livelihood Support

As local markets open and food is more available in the communities, CARE will look to scale back our food distribution activities and shift our focus to livelihood support. The goal is to help people meet their own food needs and earn additional income in the months ahead.

The typhoon was devastating for local livelihoods. Some 5.9 million workers in nine regions were affected, with their sources of income destroyed or disrupted. Of these, 2.6 million people have been identified as most vulnerable.

For example, the destruction of the coconut trees will have a serious impact on associated livelihoods in the industry. More than 33 million of these trees were damaged or destroyed. It generally takes six to nine years for new coconut trees to become productive again.

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Typhoon Haiyan also destroyed one third of the Philippines' rice growing areas – an important source of livelihoods and a staple food for the local community.

As many locals say, “It was Yolanda that took our harvest this year.”

Working closely with our local partners, in the coming weeks CARE will begin assisting vulnerable families with financial support to restore such livelihoods as vegetable farming, rice production, fishing and other income-generating activities. The goal of this programming will be to help families meet their basic needs, while earning additional income.

CARE is working with the government, UN and other non-governmental organizations at a national and field level to develop a common strategy for livelihood recovery, so the approach is consistent and we avoid overlap and duplication.



Opposite: Michael Dacillo happily takes his new corrugated sheeting home (Photo: Darcy Knoll/CARE).

Left: CARE and ACCORD host a building back safer training session for local carpenters in the community of San Miguelay, Leyte (Photo: Efren Mariano/CARE).

Rebuilding Their Home, Helping Their Community

Aileen Militante's husband Edgar earns a living helping build other people's homes as a carpenter.

But just as the couple wanted to build their own home, they were unable to do so due to lack of resources.

The 37-year-old housewife is a resident of Cutay, a village located in the province of Leyte and badly ravaged when Typhoon Haiyan hit.

During the storm, her family moved to their neighbor's bigger and, they hoped, stronger house. Aileen hid her children under a table, but at one point the storm was raging so intensely that a coconut tree fell through the roof, part of the tree painfully hitting Aileen on the head.

She says she was just thankful that she managed to get her children out before they were harmed by the falling tree as well.

But this was not what scared her the most. It was when her three-year old child was shivering so bad from the cold and almost turning blue, aggravated by the water falling through the broken roof.

When the worst of the storm passed several hours later, Aileen and her family emerged from her neighbor's house, but soon discovered her own home was completely washed out by the typhoon.

Her husband made a makeshift house from the wood they managed to get from the storm's debris and used a tarpaulin as a roof. But Aileen says she has never felt comfortable in the set-up, constantly fearing for the safety and health of her kids, especially for her toddler and another child who has special needs.

Their situation worsens each time it rains hard and water enters their house through the makeshift roof. Unfortunately, prices of basic commodities have gone up because of the disaster and they simply do not have the money to buy new housing materials.

That's why Aileen was thrilled when she found out CARE and our local partner ACCORD would be distributing shelter repair kits to the residents of her community whose homes were totally damaged. Given her situation, Aileen's family qualified to receive shelter support plus an additional supplement of 3,000 pesos (or roughly \$68 USD) to buy extra housing materials needed or pay for additional labor costs.

Aileen's husband has also volunteered his carpentry skills to the community effort to rebuild homes in the spirit of the Filipino value of "bayanihan" or helping each other out.



“I am super thankful to CARE for this huge help. If it was just up to us, it would take time to save enough money to buy housing materials, since we're still recovering from the disaster. Having a real house again for my young kids is my priority, to keep them safe. It is very important for us to be able to move on,” says Aileen.



Salamat

Over the past three months, CARE's staff in the Philippines have been amazed with the resilience and determination of families to rebuild their lives. Yes, there remains a lot of work to do, but communities are pulling together to move forward. CARE and our partners are committed to supporting this effort.

The deep appreciation expressed from people who have lived through one of the strongest storms in history has touched our team deeply. These storm survivors are extremely thankful for the support they have received. They say so repeatedly to anyone associated with our relief efforts, a thank you they clearly want passed on to all involved in supporting CARE's work.

And so, to you, our donors and supporters, *Salamat* — Thank you!

OUR PARTNERS

CARE's local partners include: Assistance and Cooperation Community Resilience and Development Inc. (ACCORD Inc.), Leyte Center for Development (LCDE), Metro Ormoc Community Credit Cooperative (OCCCI), Laua-an Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Pontevedra Peoples Multi-purpose Cooperative (PVDCl), USWAG Development Foundation Inc., and Sara Multipurpose Cooperative. International logistics company Kuehne + Nagel also provides ocean and ground shipping for CARE.