



TYPHOON HAIYAN: PORTRAITS OF RECOVERY



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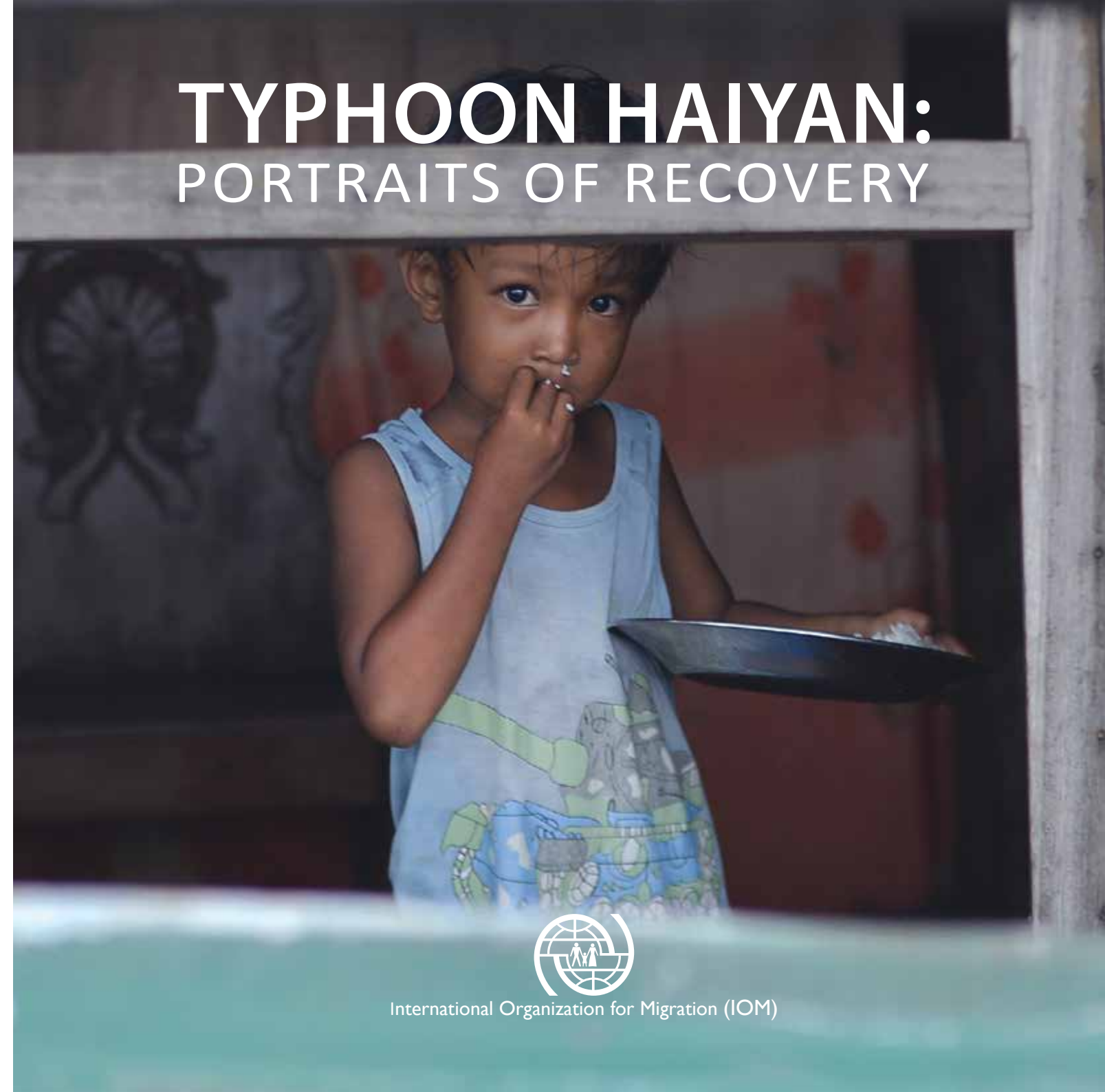
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28F Citibank Tower,
8741 Paseo de Roxas
Makati City, Philippines 1226
Tel: +63 2 230 1999
Fax: +63 2 848 1257
E-mail: mac@iom.int
Internet: www.iom.int

Editors: Amy Rhoades, Naomi Mihara
Reporting: Naomi Mihara
Photographer: Alan Motus
Editorial support: Joe Lowry, Leonard Doyle
Layout: IOM Publications Unit
Graphics: Ray Leyesa, Alfred Caballero
Website: Darryl Avila (<http://philippineresponse.iom.int>)

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International Organization for Migration (IOM)

MESSAGE from the Government of the Philippines

Secretary Dinky Soliman,
IOM Director General,
William Lacy Swing and
IOM Chief of Mission in
the Philippines, Marco
Boasso on the ground in
Tacloban.

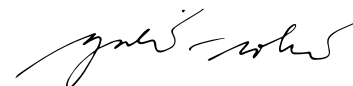
Typhoon Yolanda has been a heartbreaking tragedy for all citizens of the Philippines, at home and abroad. We have lost so many of our people, and our economy has suffered deeply as well. Six months on from the disaster, it is still like a raw wound in our national psyche – we can never forget the ferocity of the storm and how painful it was to watch the initial reports.

However, we knew that we cannot let the pain linger as we have to move and help our people. From the earliest hours, we have already felt the reassuring hand of international solidarity being offered to our nation. We knew there was much that we had to do for ourselves, but knowing that organizations like the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as well as national governments, international and local NGOs were on our side helped us immensely.

Your support, your constant partnership and encouragement has helped us – literally – to weather the storm. I was honoured to meet your Director General and his senior staff amid the rubble of Visayas, and there has been an open phone line from my office to the IOM Philippines mission in daily use for the last six months.

IOM's contribution to the recovery effort has been impressive. You were among the first to go with us to the informal settlements to help us organize shocked survivors to express their needs and to make sense of a massively complex picture. Your international and experienced Filipino staff generously shared their knowledge and expertise with our teams, working long hours to reach the remotest communities.

You gave us shelter, medicines, food and water, but most importantly, you gave us hope and some measure of reassurance that there is no obstacle too impossible to be overcome if we all work together. For this, on behalf of the Government of the Philippines, the people of Visayas and the global Filipino population, I say *maraming salamat po*. Thank you very much.



Corazon "Dinky" Juliano-Soliman
Secretary, Department of Social Welfare
and Development (DSWD)

© IOM 2014 (Photo: Leonard Doyle)

FOREWORD

No news report, no TV images fully prepared me for the desolation caused by typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda. Our first aerial approach revealed only the material destruction.

Standing at ground zero, however – first in Roxas, then in Tacloban – barely a week after the disaster, I stood in solidarity with the victims, the survivors, my IOM staff and all the people of the Philippines. Working with other humanitarian leaders, we were collectively mustering our best teams to complement local capacity.

I was immediately struck by two things – the courage of the affected communities and the tenacity of my IOM colleagues, particularly the Filipino staff, many of whom had lost their loved ones and homes. Yet, they, like the market traders, the entrepreneurs, the bicycle taxi drivers and the debris removal teams, were turning up for work at dawn and labouring into the dark to lift their beloved land out of the despair of this calamity.

The word "resilience" has been much used in the aftermath of terrible tragedies like the Indian Ocean tsunami, the earthquake in Haiti and now typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda. I struggle to find another word that sums up the triumph of human spirit, the ability to face adversity with a smile that I saw in the Philippines.

Resilience alone, however, will not stave off disasters nor the secondary disasters caused by homelessness, disease, loss of livelihood and exploitation of the vulnerable.

We must not only heed the call, we must also sound the alarm that changing weather patterns are destabilizing our world, disrupting our society and shaping a new urban–rural, cross-border dynamic. How we respond to this changing mobility will shape humanity's future. The challenge we face is simply that stark and that vital.



William Lacy Swing
Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

MESSAGE from IOM Philippines

The words of the Mayor of Dulag, a small town on the island of Leyte, still ring in my ears six months after super typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda. With tears in his eyes, he asked a visiting IOM team, “Why us?”

At the time, I thought there is no easy answer. Of course, it is not divine retribution. A natural disaster is just that, the random forces of nature unleashed in a brutal, overwhelming manner. There is no blame to be attached to any person or community. A natural disaster is no one’s “fault”.

And the Philippines, lying in the hurricane corridor, feels the merciless rush of Mother Nature more often than any other part of the world. Typhoons and storms hit our islands every year, though none with the ferocity of Haiyan, branded the strongest storm ever.

When the typhoon hit, the Philippines was already grappling with the displacement caused by the conflict in Zamboanga, as well as an earthquake that had traumatized the island of Bohol. IOM was still operational in both locations, as well as in Davao where 2012’s typhoon Bopha/Pablo made landfall.

We, the international community, the Government of the Philippines, non-governmental organizations and local communities were unprepared for the full wrath of Haiyan. Despite the most modern of technology, everything was ruptured in the crucial first hours. Telecommunications, electricity and transport – all the essential services we need to survive disasters and reduce their impact – were wiped away.

It took time, perhaps too much time, to mount a response, and despite the good work that has been done, the many thousands of people that have been helped, much more is still needed.

If there is to be a legacy for this mega-disaster, it should be this – we can never invest too much in disaster risk reduction and community preparedness. Our connected world makes it easier than ever to share warnings, information and good ideas as well as material aid.

Let’s turn the Mayor’s question back on ourselves as an international aid community: “Why us?” Why are we entrusted to respond? Are we meeting our responsibilities?



Marco Boasso
Chief of Mission, IOM Philippines

MESSAGE from the UN in the Philippines

Six months after typhoon Yolanda touched ground, we can now see significant results from the emergency response led by the Humanitarian Country Team’s Strategic Results Plan, supported by the many donors that have worked with us right from the first moments and even during the preparation phase 10 days before the typhoon struck.

However, significant needs still remain on the ground, and will do so for some time to come. We will continue to work with national and local governments as we have done in previous calamities. National relief and recovery response authorities remain in the lead on this work.

Less than two months after the event, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited the affected areas, demonstrating the commitment of UN and the international community to the country’s recovery. We also had the honour to receive IOM Director General Ambassador William Lacy Swing, whose quick appearance on the scene also ensured the world’s attention on this disaster. IOM has been a fundamental actor in this response, capable of establishing a fruitful interaction with national and local actors and delivering quickly and systematically on needs in the areas of shelter, protection and camp management, among others.


Well into the recovery phase, continued support is still required as sustainable shelter, housing and infrastructure is in the process of being rebuilt and the foundations for economic recovery being set up. Our commitment is to support and complement the efforts of the Government of the Philippines and we can continue to do so with the help of donors and the humanitarian community.

Luiza Carvalho cheering children at a temporary learning centre in Palo Central School, Leyte.



The damage inflicted by the biggest typhoon ever to make landfall in recorded history is gigantic. It devastated lives, homes, cities, livelihoods and infrastructure across a large geographical area. It did not break the Filipino spirit though, and this has been our major source of inspiration as we have sought to enhance our presence and work in support of their efforts.

Salamat po.



Luiza Carvalho
UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator
for the Philippines



Houses along the no-safe zone in Guiuan.
© IOM 2014 (Photo: Alan Motus)

INTRODUCTION

The people whose stories are recounted on these pages represent the survivors of typhoon Haiyan, known as “Yolanda” in the Philippines. On 8 November 2013, the super-typhoon swept from east to west through the islands of the Visayas region, making landfall six times and causing massive death and destruction in the towns and surrounding areas of Guiuan, Tacloban, Ormoc and Roxas. Over 6,000 people lost their lives and more than 4 million were left displaced.

Guiuan, on Samar Island, was the first to feel the force of the storm, in the early hours of the morning. The damage to houses and infrastructure was catastrophic, though a well-managed evacuation plan kept the casualty rate low.

Tacloban, the seat of government of the Eastern Visayas region, was engulfed by a wall of water, an unexpectedly strong storm surge reaching up to 5 metres in height and travelling at great speed up to a kilometre inland. The majority of deaths occurred there, with large parts of the seafront completely submerged.

While attention focused on Tacloban, the port city of Ormoc on the west coast of Leyte was left inaccessible for days. There, too, 90 per cent of the structures were damaged leaving thousands displaced.

By noon, the typhoon reached Roxas City, on the western island of Panay, before heading out across the South China Sea. The smaller islands surrounding Panay were particularly badly hit, with aid struggling to reach remote communities.

In the immediate aftermath, stunned survivors sheltered in evacuation centres scattered throughout the region. Some people returned to damaged homes, others moved into temporary shelter in tents, and many fled the area for other parts of the Philippines.

Six months on, these typhoon-ravaged places are looking like functioning towns again. But go down to the seafront in Tacloban, or the countryside around Guiuan still strewn with tens of thousands of fallen coconut trees, and the scale of the challenge ahead is clear.

People who survived the storm are rebuilding their lives as best they can. In interviews for this book, they shared their experiences with a smile and talked of their hopes for the future. There is a story of human strength and courage in the face of adversity.





“ OUR MAIN GOAL NOW IS TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT AGAIN ”

MARIETA BELLO, 33 YEARS OLD
Barangay Jagnaya, Salcedo, Eastern Samar

As the Barangay Captain of a small coastal village, my main role now is to make sure that our community can recover. Our village lies right on the beach, and many people rely on the sea for their livelihoods. Tourists come to relax and play in the water. We never expected it would be so deadly.

I was elected by the community to be Barangay Captain in October 2013, just before typhoon Yolanda. Prior to the typhoon, I went round to each house to tell them to evacuate to the village school, a sturdy building which lies further away from the shore. Some families living in concrete houses on the beach decided not to move to the evacuation centre – they thought they would be safe. No one knew what a storm surge is. If it had been explained to us, we could have moved to higher ground.

The water came right up the beach but away from the school, so we were safe there. But we lost 19 people, mostly those who had stayed in the concrete houses.

After three days, food and water were airlifted in for us. But there was no access road for vehicles for several weeks so relief goods could not be delivered by road. In the end, we had to construct the road manually with the help of volunteers.

Many of the survivors in our community now live in a temporary bunkhouse which lies just in front of the school we sheltered in. Others, including myself, have rebuilt their homes as much as they can. But we are no longer allowed to stay here because we're now living in a land declared to be a no-build zone by the Government. It's going to be difficult for our community because a lot of the people are fishermen. They don't want to have to move away from the sea, even if it could kill them. Their lives depend too much on it.

If anything, our community has become stronger because we've had to really work together. But I'm worried that after the aid agencies have left and the relief goods have stopped coming, we'll struggle to get by on our own again. At the moment, a lot of people are relying on cash for work because the fishing boats were destroyed and many coconut trees fell. So we're encouraging farmers to plant trees and vegetables so they can develop a stable source of income. We're looking to the future and we're focusing on how to become self-sufficient again.

“ THIS WORK IS PUTTING FOOD ON THE TABLE FOR THE TIME BEING ”

DANNY EDER, 44 YEARS OLD
Barangay Taytay, Guiuan, Eastern Samar

I was working as a night watchman at a cockfighting pit in Guiuan when the typhoon came. Three of us hid in the toilet while the building was mostly blown away. I had already evacuated my family to a concrete house due to advance warnings. When the winds died down, I immediately went to find them. The roof had been ripped off the building they were in but the walls were still standing, and, thank God, they were okay. Later, we found that our home had been completely destroyed.

As a former construction worker, I was able to build a temporary house, and I hope to be able to make it more permanent once I can earn enough money to buy the materials. Straight after the typhoon, though, it was difficult to find work anywhere. I heard that it was possible to earn a decent wage as a chainsaw operator cutting coco lumber from the thousands of fallen trees. I've known how to operate a chainsaw since I was 16, so I signed up to the programme and now I work for eight hours a day, six days a week, cutting lumber into planks that will be used for rebuilding homes.

I work in a team of three, with two helpers. Usually, a slicer is only given one helper but I have diabetes, meaning I am not so strong and can't easily lift heavy logs.

I now earn 600 pesos a day, which is more than double what I used to earn in construction. Last week, I was given an ATM card so from now on, I'll be picking my salary up at the bank. Actually, I don't know how to use it! The machines are all in English, not Tagalog. But I'll bring a relative along to help.

I want to continue with this work for as long as I can. If I wasn't doing this, I know I would be struggling to get by and feed my family.



© IOM 2014 (Photo: Alan Motus)



“ AS LONG AS THERE’S LIFE, THERE’S HOPE ”

LEONARDA APUJA, 62 YEARS OLD
San Jose, Tacloban City, Leyte

I lost my husband in the typhoon. There were six of us at home at the time – the two of us and four grandchildren. Our house was no match for the waves. The water came gushing in so quickly and violently, it completely swept us out. Four of us managed to grab onto a truck, but my grandson and husband couldn’t reach it. My grandson was swept all the way to a bridge about a kilometre away, but he was able to stay afloat until the water subsided. My husband did not know how to swim. His body wasn’t found until two weeks later.

My former home lies just across the road from the tent city where I am living now. Most of this neighbourhood was completely destroyed, and in fact the people living here are all my former neighbours.

Right after the typhoon, looting was going on everywhere. We were homeless and desperate; we managed to get one tarpaulin to use as a roof and put together some walls using whatever material we could find. After a few days we decided to go to Cebu, where one of my sons lives. However, two weeks later we returned to Tacloban as people were telling me that aid organizations had come and were giving out relief goods and food.

When we came back, all of my neighbours were already here in tents. It was nice to be surrounded by familiar faces. But inside, I felt a deep and painful sadness that I had lost my husband, my everyday companion in life.

More than anything, I want to be with my children and grandchildren in a place I can call my own. Living in the tent city is not that comfortable. We’re still right next to the sea and any time there is news about a typhoon coming we become worried about what will happen next. At the beginning, I felt scared to sleep because a few times, people from outside came in and tried to steal things. After we told the camp manager about this, three men from the community were selected to take turns patrolling the area with flashlights.

Despite everything that’s happened, I still feel hopeful about the future. But I need help to support myself and my family. I’m on daily medication for tuberculosis. Ideally, I want to set up a *sari-sari* store* so I can have an income, but I don’t have any money to invest in making that happen at present.

*a small convenience store

“ IT WAS HEARTWARMING THAT SO MANY PEOPLE HELPED US WHEN WE NEEDED IT THE MOST ”

MARIMEL OBALLO, 26 YEARS OLD

Mother of Mercy Hospital, Tacloban City, Leyte

I'm a nurse and was on duty here at the hospital on the night of the typhoon. The hospital is on high ground so we weren't affected by the storm surge, but at around 6 a.m. the winds started to get really strong and rainwater was coming into the higher floors and running down the stairs. At that point, we evacuated all the patients to the lower levels. Thankfully, we didn't have any patients in intensive care, as we lost all electricity. We stayed here in the hospital for five days, and the staff took turns to look after patients. We had stocked up on water and some medical supplies before the storm, but like everyone else we hadn't anticipated it would be so bad. For the first few days, all we had to serve our patients were hotdogs and noodles.

Many of the injured – around 300 a day – came to the hospital in the first days and weeks after the typhoon. We treated them as best we could with basic first aid and tetanus vaccinations. After discharging our inpatients, we went out into the community to another hospital which suffered a lot of damage because it lies nearer the shore. That hospital is still closed. There were dead bodies all around that area.

When I finally left the hospital to return to my home I saw many people carrying things they had stolen. With no money, food or water, I think they were desperate and traumatized and this was their way of surviving.

The hospital collaborates with several aid organizations, which bring internally displaced persons from the evacuation sites for free consultations and treatment here. The most common health problems I see are pneumonia, coughs and colds, tuberculosis and dengue fever.

In those early days, things were very traumatic but the survival spirit came out, even though people had lost homes and family members. It's really heartwarming that so many people came to help us, and also to see the people of Tacloban helping each other. In Filipino, we call it *bayanihan*.





A resident of Barangay Banica, Roxas City, reinforces the roof of his house.
© IOM 2014 (Photo: Alan Motus)



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“ AS PEOPLE START TO RECOVER, THEY STILL NEED INFORMATION ”

ALFREDO PADERNOS, 44 YEARS OLD
Barangay Apitong, Tacloban City, Leyte

I'm a broadcaster at heart and have worked in radio and TV for over 20 years. But "humanitarian radio" is something I've only learned about in the past six months.

The morning of the typhoon, I was feeding reports to a local radio station from my home. At about 6.30 a.m., the station shut down because conditions were deteriorating; I later found out my colleagues were stuck in the roof of the building for three hours up to their necks in water.

As I ate breakfast with my family I didn't notice that outside, dark water – the colour of squid ink – was rising rapidly. The water started pushing at the doors and windows and I yelled at my kids, "Run upstairs!".

Shortly after, the water streamed in until there were only three steps remaining of the staircase. It stayed at the same height for one hour before subsiding. When I went outside, I saw houses on the road, cars on top of houses and dead people everywhere. It was heartbreaking. I thought to myself, "My God, this is a dead city".

Those days and weeks immediately after the typhoon were chaotic. I decided to take my family out of Tacloban and away from the stench of death. We walked for three hours through roads full of people walking, debris and bodies in order to find public transport to get to Batangas [in Luzon]. Then I heard from my former colleagues that, although many media outlets had been destroyed, there were opportunities for work in Tacloban, as guides for the international media, for example. So I returned.

The biggest thing that helped me was PECOJON - the Peace and Conflict Journalism Network. It's an NGO that supports media workers affected by crises. They helped us regain our livelihoods by setting up Radyo Abante. They are our angels.

Radyo Abante started broadcasting in January. First, we had to go through training to learn what it is to be a humanitarian broadcaster. It means being the voice of the community. We go out and ask people what they need and then use radio to raise their concerns to the international organizations and government. It's about giving information and letting people talk.

I'm now the station manager. Our programmes cover everything from building back safer to ensuring accountability among aid organizations, and we even have a weekly karaoke show to allow people to de-stress. We're not a commercial station so we rely on funding; I only hope we can keep going for as long as possible because there's still an urgent need for information.

“ MY HEART LIES IN THIS COMMUNITY ”

MYLENE DEMAINE, 23 YEARS OLD

Barangay Concepcion, Ormoc City, Leyte

I live in a bunkhouse with my family and I am also working for IOM as an administrative assistant. I got this job about a month after the typhoon. I had been working in Manila before, in a restaurant. At the beginning of November I came back to Ormoc to visit my family. I was only planning to stay for a week and then return to Manila, but after the typhoon, I realized that my family could not stand alone without me. My three older brothers have already moved away and I have young siblings. My mother is raising them on her own and she is looking for work at the moment. She sells furniture for a living and a lot of her items were damaged by the typhoon.

We moved here at the beginning of March when the bunkhouse opened. Before that, we were living on the site of our original house in a temporary shelter. The typhoon had left only the bath still standing. We stayed in an evacuation centre for a week along with hundreds of other families, living on the food that was leftover in the school canteen.

My younger brothers actually enjoy staying here at the bunkhouse because they have many playmates. For myself, I am learning to adjust. The hardest thing is the lack of privacy. There are seven of us – my sister, four brothers, my mother and me – all sleeping in one room. The walls are thin and we can hear every movement from the rooms next door. However, at least I feel quite safe here. There is a 24-hour watchman and we are given orientations on safety.

I'm not sure yet what the future holds for my family. There are rumours that we're going to be evacuated to a permanent shelter. Also, one of my older brothers owns a piece of land where he has built a temporary shelter. I put up a foundation for a permanent house on that site when I learned about building techniques through IOM.

It feels good to know that through my work, I am helping other internally displaced persons as well as myself and my family. I think it helps people to realize that there isn't such a big divide between the aid organizations and the people they are trying to help. People have asked me, "Why are you living here? You're an IOM staff, you should be living somewhere nicer". But I tell them that even though we all live here, we shouldn't think of ourselves just as victims.





“YOLANDA DIDN'T KILL MY SPIRIT; IT'S MADE ME FIGHT HARDER”

RAYMUNDO MORILES, 21 YEARS OLD
Barangay 18, Ormoc City, Leyte

I'm directing a play at the moment. It's about young people falling prey to human traffickers when they find themselves homeless after typhoon Yolanda. Unfortunately, it's a familiar story in the area that I'm from.

I grew up in a village surrounded by sugar cane plantations. As tenants of the landlord who owned those fields, my family had no choice but to work in the plantations and I did it on weekends and holidays, from the age of 13.

I stopped working in the fields about six years ago, when a youth organization called Eclipse came to my village to speak about children's rights. After that, I started spending more and more time volunteering, speaking with young people in different communities that rely on sugar cane. My parents wanted me and my siblings to get a good education but after I finished high school they couldn't afford to send me to university. I'm now studying mechanical engineering in Ormoc and Eclipse is supporting me with funding. I can honestly say that if it weren't for this organization, I wouldn't be where I am today.

When typhoon Yolanda struck, I was at home with my family because it was the semester break. We went to the barangay hall, which had been turned into an evacuation centre, and stayed there until the storm was over. Afterwards, we found our home had been completely destroyed. For a week, I was an internally displaced person – although I didn't know the meaning of the term then. We had no food and no money. We rebuilt our house using salvaged materials from the debris. But despite everything that's happened, we can still smile. It's the Filipino way.

Eclipse helped me get through this by holding stress debriefings. Along with other members, I also attended a training about issues affecting young people, including human trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence. Because of the destruction to the sugar cane fields, many people in rural areas were left without a source of income. I've heard stories about girls being offered jobs in the cities and then being taken advantage of by their employers.

We decided to do a play about what we learned so that other young people become aware of these dangers. We'll be performing it at my university, and hopefully we'll also tour it around typhoon-affected communities.

I love doing this; I think it is my passion. Even though I volunteer every Saturday and Sunday, it's not enough for me. I want to change things for the next generation of young people.

“ I WANT TO INSPIRE MORE WOMEN TO BECOME *CARPENTERAS* ”

CHARISSE LICAÑA, 33 YEARS OLD

Barangay Concepcion, Ormoc City, Leyte

I am a newly trained carpenter, having recently spent 10 days learning how to rebuild houses. I was also the only woman on the course, out of 19 participants. In the Philippines, carpentry is still seen as a man's occupation. It makes me proud to think that I'm helping to change people's minds.

After the typhoon, all that was left of my home were the concrete foundations. My family and I rode out the storm sheltering in the bedroom of our house. None of us were hurt, but with no roof and walls we were basically homeless. We built a makeshift shelter, using whatever we could find from the wreckage and tarpaulins given out by aid organizations. But it didn't feel safe and whenever the wind and rain started up again I would get worried.

We lived like that for three months, until our barangay leader recommended that we apply for a free carpentry course. My husband, who used to be a carpenter, was selected to take part but he couldn't take up the place because he was too busy trying to make money for our family doing odd jobs. My father was a carpenter and I had learned some of the basics, so I immediately put myself forward instead.

On the first day, I turned up at the course and met the other participants. I think they were shocked to see me there, to be honest. When my fellow classmates realized I could do everything just as well as they could they started joking that I was the "queen of the carpenters". Women began to approach me as I walked to the training carrying my tools, wanting to find out if they too could take part.

We were put into groups of five according to our abilities and worked as a team to rebuild each other's houses using materials provided in the shelter repair kits. At the end of the course, we were individually assessed on the practical skills we had learned. I'm happy to say I passed and received a certificate, so I now have a formal record of my carpentry skills. I want to sign up for the next course, on wiring and electrics, when it opens.

I'm thinking of arranging a workshop for the local women so I can pass on what I have learned because everyone, whether they're a man or a women, should learn how to build strong, secure houses for when the next typhoon comes. Now, I'm no longer scared when the wind begins to howl.





“ I CAME BACK FROM THE BRINK OF DESPAIR ”

RICHARD EVANGELIO, 36 YEARS OLD
Sigma, Capiz

It was 1.30 p.m. on 8 November when the storm broke down the walls of my house. From then on, nothing would be the same.

We'd been sheltering in the kitchen to escape the winds, but I could see the walls begin to move backwards and forward. I was carrying my two-year-old daughter, and my wife Vilma had our newborn in her arms. Suddenly, one of the walls and the ceiling caved in. I immediately ducked under a counter to escape the falling debris, but Vilma was hit on the head. I scrambled to reach them and immediately thought the worst. But then I heard my baby daughter crying. Miraculously, she only suffered minor bruises. But my dear wife was not so lucky. The blow to her head killed her instantly.

It has been a long and painful journey since that day. We moved into my mother's house, where there are now 17 family members living under one roof. In an instant, I had become a mom and dad to my two daughters. At first I found it exhausting tending to my children day and night, as they would often wake up crying and needing comfort. In devoting all my attention to them, I forgot to look after myself. I didn't seek help even though I was suffering from recurring memories of the moment my wife died.

Eventually, I was at the point of giving up. I couldn't concentrate on anything and was beginning to feel that I couldn't go on with life. My mother was distraught because she didn't know how to help me and I was too anxious to travel to the hospital.

During a shelter kit distribution in our area, a nurse from IOM spoke to my mother who told him about what I was going through. He started visiting me regularly, talking through what was on my mind and teaching me how to focus on day-to-day living.

Now, I keep myself busy with fixing my mother's damaged house and am able to stop myself from thinking too much about what I've lost. I know I still have a long way to go and the trauma is still there. I'll be starting to attend regular mental health and psychosocial support sessions soon. Most of all, I want to be strong enough to be the parent that my children need me to be.

“ WE DON’T WANT OUR ISLAND TO BE FORGOTTEN ”

ROBERTO FRANCISCO, 49 YEARS OLD

Barangay Capacalan, Olutayan Island, Capiz

Like most men in my community, I’ve been a fisherman since I was a teenager. I lost my right arm in a vehicle accident about 10 years ago and had to learn to cope with my disability quickly. Now I go fishing every day using a small boat and a paddle. I know I’m lucky to still be able to make a living this way.

After the typhoon, you wouldn’t have thought that Olutayan was once an island paradise. In the space of a few hours, the beach became a wasteland. And with lot of boats and equipment damaged, the economic impact has been devastating for many people.

My eldest son Leo is also a fisherman, but his boat was destroyed and he hasn’t been able to get a replacement. Boats are expensive, around 80,000 pesos*, and nobody has any money at the moment. He and his wife are now struggling to make ends meet and provide for their children. I’m pushing myself even harder these days so I can support my whole family.

During the typhoon, we were hiding in the back room of our house. I remember seeing large waves crashing onto the beach and feeling terrified that a tidal wave might wash us away. That didn’t happen, but the strong winds ripped the roof off and brought down some of the walls. When we ventured outside, we saw that the only building left still standing in the village was the church.

We managed to put a makeshift house together using scraps of wood and damaged materials we found strewn around. But water would drip in whenever it rained, making it difficult to sleep, and the house didn’t feel safe or secure.

After two days some aid reached us and we were given food, water and other relief goods. But being a small island of just a few hundred families, we began to feel that we might get forgotten. There are no medical facilities on the island, the main well was contaminated with saltwater and the generator was destroyed. The first few weeks were really difficult.

Things are slowly getting better and aid organizations have been coming to help us. Together with my family, I’m now rebuilding a permanent house using the materials we got at a distribution on the island. We received corrugated tin roofing, coco lumber, cement, black sand and nails. I’m glad that we’ll have a proper place to call home again. For the community to fully recover, there’s still a long way to go though.

* about USD 1,800



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HAIYAN RESPONSE

As of April 2014
Source: IOM Data Tracking

HIGHLIGHTS

Tacloban
Ormoc
Guiuan
Roxas
Cebu

IOM's Haiyan Response began on 9 November 2013, one day after the typhoon hit. Massive damage to infrastructure and communications meant that a well-coordinated response among UN agencies, non-UN organizations and the Philippines Government was vital. IOM has focused on four areas of emergency operations: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. This is part of its mandate to mitigate harm and prevent displacement.

In the first few weeks, IOM brought in over 40 international specialists and increased national capacity to around 50 staff members. Within a week, sub-offices were opened in Tacloban, Guiuan, Roxas and Ormoc, shortly followed by Cebu which acts as the logistics hub for the response. Over the past six months, Haiyan Response operations have continued to increase along with the number of staff, particularly Filipino staff from the affected areas.

ESP EVACUATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME (CAMP COORDINATION, CAMP MANAGEMENT - CCCM)

9,360 families

44,623 individuals
Assisted with evacuation site management support



2,500 trained
camp management staff

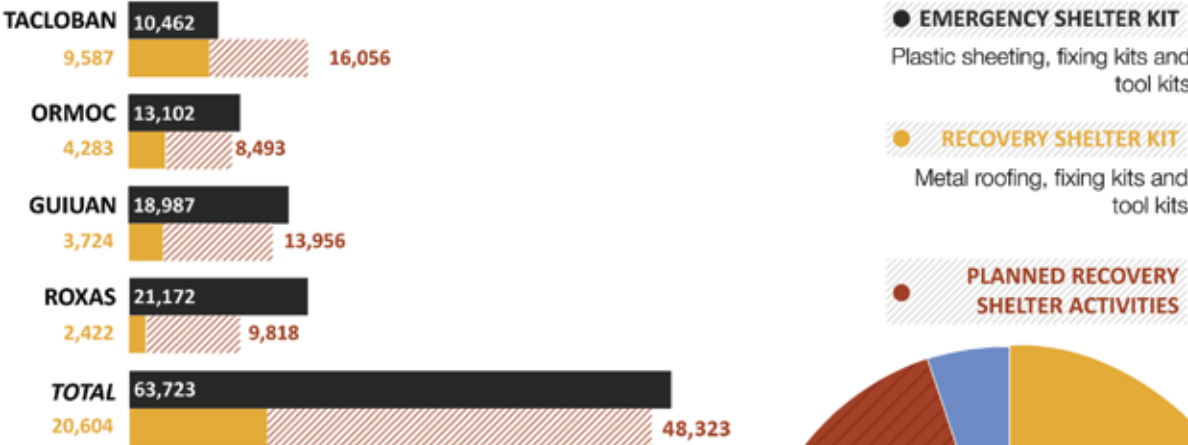
Over 5,000 families are still living in more than 60 displacement sites (evacuation centres, tent cities, spontaneous settlements and transitional sites) throughout the affected regions.

As co-lead in the global CCCM cluster, IOM works with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to ensure that these sites are adequately managed, services are well coordinated and that internally displaced persons (IDPs) are kept informed of ongoing aid and recovery activities.

IOM deploys mobile camp management support staff and provides training on camp management, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and gender sensitivity to DSWD staff and camp volunteers from various civic organizations, NGOs, universities, faith-based and private sector groups.

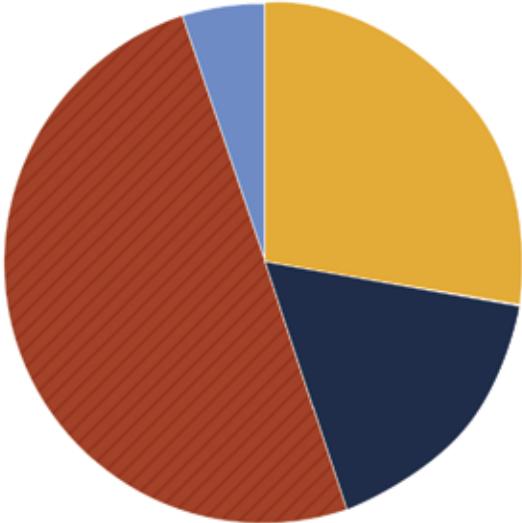
Camp management staff use the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), developed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and IOM, to gather information about needs among populations across the different displacement sites.

SHELTER



DRR TRAININGS

NUMBER OF PEOPLE TRAINED	
TACLOBAN	6,874
ORMOC	4,267
GUIUAN	12,319
ROXAS	1,308
Total	24,768



Typhoon Haiyan severely damaged or destroyed approximately 1.1 million homes, impacting an estimated 4.5 million people.

In the first few weeks of the emergency response, IOM concentrated on providing emergency shelter kits and other core relief items such as blankets, solar lamps and hygiene kits. The focus is now steadily shifting towards support for self-recovery and the provision of more durable shelter materials, combined with trainings on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and how to build back safer. Distributions are ongoing until December 2014.

Shelter DRR trainings have been carried out in a total of 200 Barangays, reaching nearly 25,000 households thus far.

HEALTH

Typhoon Haiyan caused widespread damage to health facilities and hospitals. Additional health concerns have emerged in displacement sites, where large numbers of people are living in close proximity.

IOM’s health services are currently concentrated in Tacloban and Roxas, where health teams make regular visits to displacement sites offering consultations, vaccinations, and medical referrals where needed. Health literacy workshops are also conducted with IDPs. IOM is supporting the expansion and training of existing health staff and is repairing damaged health facilities to allow for re-opening. IOM works closely with the Department of Health (DOH), WHO, the Health Cluster and other partners on these activities.



PROTECTION

COUNTER-TRAFFICKING (CT)
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



7,811 trained
84 orientations/workshops on CT and GBV

28 referrals
for protection support

22,032 reached
Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials

Many people left homeless by the typhoon were forced to flee from the affected areas to neighbouring cities in search of work and shelter, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation through labour or sex trafficking.

IOM conducts awareness raising activities and training sessions on counter-trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence for community groups, local NGOs and Local Government Units including the police and barangay officials.

In addition, protection issues arise in displacement sites in relation to vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Officers from the Women and Children’s Protection Desk of the Philippine National Police are regularly coordinating with IOM for referrals and information support.

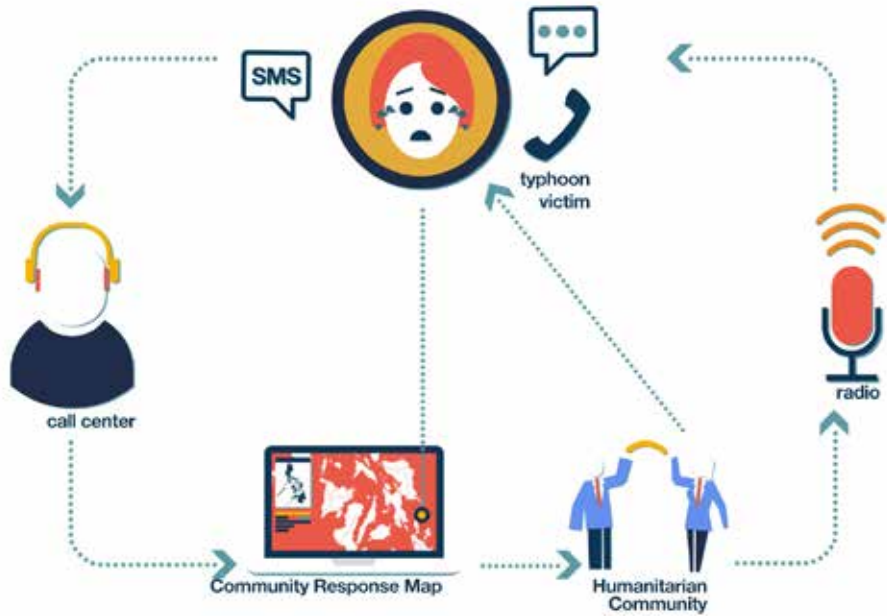
CwC

COMMUNICATIONS
WITH COMMUNITIES

3,000 flyers & 125 banners
Distributed in evacuation centres to address FAQs

16 interactive radio programmes
Aired on local radio to discuss post-Haiyan concerns

2,780,000 people
Estimated audience outreach via print and radio media



Following typhoon Haiyan, lack of information has been cited as one of the primary concerns among displaced populations. IOM’s Communications with Communities (CwC) programme focuses on providing affected communities with critical information about the emergency response and empowering them to have a voice in assessing the appropriateness and effectiveness of aid received.

In Haiyan-affected areas, IOM partners with local media outlets to produce weekly live radio interviews, FAQ flyers and banners (based on focus group discussions), print media, a radio drama series and key message songs on issues related to safer shelter, health, and protection among others.

IOM also uses ‘Community Response Map’, an online platform for engaging in two-way communications with crisis-affected communities. Community Response Map increases accountability by using radio and media to start conversations, encouraging responses via calls/SMS and informing the humanitarian community about emerging concerns of the affected population.



A group of kids in an evacuation centre in Estancia, Iloilo.
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We would like to thank our partners and those who have supported our activities in response to Typhoon Haiyan.



DSWD



United Nations
CERF
Central Emergency Response Fund



Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada
Affaires étrangères, Commerce et Développement Canada



Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection



JAPAN
Official Development Assistance



외교부
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



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USAIM
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We would like to express our gratitude to the many individuals who have contributed, in various ways, to IOM's response.



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

IOM Mission in the Philippines
28F Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas
Makati City, Philippines 1226
Tel: +63 2 230 1999 Fax: +63 2 848 1257
E-mail: mac@iom.int Internet: www.iom.int

