

PHILIPPINES TYPHOON



EMERGENCY UPDATE, 8 MAY 2014 – SIX MONTHS ON

"After Yolanda, there was nothing to sell; the boats were all destroyed. My heartfelt thanks to Oxfam. I am so glad we have received support. Thank you to the donors. Thank you, thank you, thank you." Imelda Esgana, fish saleswoman and participant in Oxfam's cash-for-work and boat rebuilding programme on Bantayan Island, Northern Cebu.



Workers launch a fishing boat that has been repaired as part of Oxfam's livelihoods recovery work. Photo: Caroline Gluck/Oxfam.

On 08 November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan (or Yolanda as it's known locally) wreaked havoc across much of the central Philippines. Terrifying winds combined with a huge storm surge to smash through coastal communities. More than 8,000 people were killed, and four million people were forced from their homes.

The disaster delivered a double blow to the people of the Philippines. In the short term, it left more than 14.1 million people in need of immediate, life-saving assistance. But it also pushed millions of poor people further into poverty and debt. Rice crops, coconut trees and fishing boats were wiped out, leaving people struggling to grow food and earn an income.

In response, Oxfam has now reached more than 730,000 people. Our initial focus was on life saving assistance, such as clean water, toilets, hygiene kits, tarpaulins, and cash to buy food and other essentials. Then we started to help people recover their livelihoods which had been destroyed by the disaster, for example providing rice seeds for farmers to replant lost crops, and chainsaws to clear fields made unusable by fallen trees. Six months on from the disaster we are focusing on ensuring that recovery work meets people's needs, now and in the future. This includes finding alternative ways for families to earn an income and influencing government policy on rebuilding and resettlement projects.

WHERE OXFAM IS WORKING



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PHILIPPINES TYPHOON



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WHAT WE'RE DOING

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, our focus was on preventing the spread of disease by providing clean water, toilets and hygiene essentials. We have:

- Distributed more than 100,000 hygiene kits containing buckets, soap, clean underwear, mosquito nets and sleeping mats.
- Provided 81,000 water kits, containing a jerry can, bucket and water treatment materials.
- Built or repaired far more than 7,300 families toilets and constructed washing blocks and handwashing stations.
- Provided brushes, gloves and wheelbarrows to keep pumps, wells and toilets clean.
- Worked with local government to organise rubbish collections and improve how rubbish is managed and removed.

Six months after the disaster we are:

- Supplying 'replenishment kits' to more than 96,000 families who initially received a hygiene kit, to replace perishable items like soap.
- Improving hygiene practices for tens of thousands of people by training community volunteers, running workshops, producing theatre and radio shows, and even making a music video for YouTube featuring local people from Tacloban.
- Improving hygiene in schools for more than 17,000 children by installing child-friendly taps, distributing essentials such as soap, and training parents and teachers.
- Building and repairing toilets, washing facilities, and water, drainage and sewage networks. For example, we have installed a water supply for 650 families living in emergency accommodation in Ormoc.
- Working with the local authorities to monitor water quality and ensure families have the knowledge and equipment to treat water and store it safely.
- Helping to prevent diseases, such as dengue and malaria, which are spread by mosquitoes. We are working with the local health authorities to monitor the numbers of larvae, document any outbreaks of disease, and to drain standing water where mosquitoes breed.



Photo: Eleanor Farmer/Oxfam.

RECONNECTING THE WATER SUPPLY IN TACLOBAN

In Tacloban, we worked with the local water department to repair and reconnect the municipal water supply. Within days, we helped them get fuel to start their generator, and provided an extra generator for backup. We also repaired the distribution pipes, installed new distribution points and tapstands, and helped the water department to test and monitor water quality. It all meant more than 200,000 of the worst affected people received clean, safe water within days of the typhoon hitting.

As we move from emergency assistance to recovery we are working with local authorities and partner organisations to plan sustainable solutions to the long-term water, sanitation, sewage and rubbish management challenges that communities face.

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WHAT WE'RE DOING

HELPING PEOPLE GET FOOD



Providing cash. After the disaster hit, families were desperate for food. Our first step was to assess whether local markets were open for business, and whether people could buy what they needed. If the markets were functioning, we gave cash wherever possible. More than 213,000 people received either cash grants or cash in return for work such as clearing debris, draining ditches or removing rubbish. Cash gives people choice and control over their lives, and keeps the local economy going during difficult times.

EARNING A LIVING

Of course, cash can only be a temporary measure. If communities are to come back stronger, we need to help people start earning a living again, so they can support and feed their families, repair their homes and rebuild their broken country.



Rice farming. The typhoon destroyed much of the country's rice harvest, including the seeds for the next planting season. Thousands of families could have gone hungry if farmers were unable to plant crops in December and January. We moved quickly to get rice seed to 7,700 farmers in Leyte, so families could earn a living again and help prevent a serious rice shortage.



Mangrove rehabilitation. Fishing communities in Bantayan, Cebu, reported severe damage to mangrove forests as a result of the typhoon. Mangrove forests are essential for fish production. They act as spawning grounds and nurseries for fish and are a habitat for an array of organisms. They protect coastal areas from wave action and can prevent some of the inland damage associated with storm surges. Oxfam has partnered with a local co-operative to pay people to clear debris and replant mangrove shoots as part of a cash-for-work project supporting 1,600 families.



Luzriminda Abello collects shells in the mangroves at Obo-ob, Bantayan.

Photo: Tessa Bunney/Oxfam.

Luzriminda lives on Bantayan Island in Northern Cebu. "Mangroves are very important to us. They protect us from big waves and provide a source of food and income. The last typhoon was Frank in 2007. Our source of income was destroyed. The coconut trees were blown down and we could no longer make coconut wine."

"I thought when Yolanda [the local name for Typhoon Haiyan] came it was the end of the world. We were crying and thinking, what happened to our surroundings, our source of income?"

Luzriminda is a member of Oxfam's partner organisation, O-MAGICA. She worked with other members of the association to clear and replant mangroves. "With the money from this project, I bought food to eat and paid for some of my children's school fees. I am so thankful to Oxfam. It was a big help for our daily needs. Especially our children and their studies. We are praying that god gives us strength and the help will continue."

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WHAT WE'RE DOING

REBUILDING LIVELIHOODS



Fishing. Life for villagers on Bantayan Island remains a struggle. Three-quarters of the island's population of 136,000 depend on fishing as their main source of income. Thousands of people lost their boats, nets and tools in the storm – the essentials they need to produce food and earn a living.

Oxfam is working with fishing communities to rebuild boats and repair nets. We have established boat repair stations and more than 1,200 fishing families have had their boats repaired and registered for insurance.

Women are central to fishing activities, but are not always included in surveys or recovery plans. Oxfam is working with local organisations to support women affected by the disaster, and to call on the government to ensure that women are included in the official registry of fisherfolk alongside men, so that they can access government support services, and have their property rights recognised.



Seaweed farming. Before the storm, Bantayan Island was the largest seaweed producer in Cebu province. Seaweed provides a reliable source of income for people who would otherwise rely solely on fishing to earn a living. It grows fast and is ready to harvest within one to two months. Once harvested, it is dried and sold to a commercial processing plant in Cebu, where it is turned into a powder; a high-value product used by many industries including cosmetics and food.

The typhoon destroyed seaweed farms in all but one neighbourhood, leaving more than 2,000 farmers without the equipment and seedlings they need to start again.

Oxfam is giving cash grants of 9,000 PHP (£120) to around 700 families who farmed seaweed before the typhoon to help them buy equipment, including ropes, lines and poles. We are providing seaweed seedlings, and working with the Municipal Agricultural Office and with seaweed buyers to ensure that farmers are paid fairly for their crop. Seaweed is sensitive to changes in temperature, salinity and pollution and Oxfam is preparing training for farmers in how to manage measure and manage these variables. We are also planning to set up a field school for seaweed farmers that will be managed by our partners.



Seaweed farmer, Marissa Gegante, prepares lines of seaweed in Tamiao, Bantayan.

Photo: Tessa Bunney/Oxfam.

Marissa lives with her husband and two children on the west coast of Bantayan Island. The family rely on seaweed farming to make a living, but the storm destroyed their nets and seaweed crop. *"When the typhoon hit I thought it was the end of the world. I first thought about my children, we were frightened to lose our lives. The typhoon destroyed our house. Our seaweed business was totally damaged."*

Oxfam has provided the family with rope and other equipment for seaweed farming. Marissa also took part in Oxfam's cash-for-work project, receiving payment in return for clearing debris and fallen trees. The family used the money to repair their boat and buy seaweed seedlings.

"It is really fun working together. Even when it is difficult, we are happy. We are thankful again for having Oxfam. They helped us to recover from the typhoon. And to the donors, for the love we received from them."

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WHAT WE'RE DOING

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Coconut farming. Coconut farming is the second most important agricultural sector in the Philippines after fishing. Typhoon Haiyan damaged an estimated 33 million trees, leaving more than one million farming families without the means to make a living.

Farmers returning after the storm faced several problems. The land was blocked by broken trunks that needed to be cleared to make way for new trees to be planted. Coconut trees left on the ground for more than six months rot and become a breeding ground for pests. New coconut trees take up to ten years to mature, and families need alternative ways to make a living now.

Oxfam has formed partnerships with local co-operatives to clear damaged coconut trees. We have provided chainsaws, sawmills, protective clothing and training, and paid farmers to clear the land to provide a short-term income. When the wood has been processed, it can be used to rebuild houses in the community or be sold on to small-scale wood merchants.

We also consulted farmers about the recovery process. The survey revealed farmers wanted to grow vegetables as a short-term source of food and income, but would need help such as seeds, fertiliser and tools from the government. They also expressed concerns about land rights and the relationship between tenants and landowners. In addition, government data about the industry does not always include women, which prevents effective analysis of women's roles and needs when making recovery plans and budgets.

We have made recommendations to the government about changes it should make to improve recovery plans, including:

- Fast-tracking the distribution of equipment such as chainsaws
- Providing seeds and tools to enable farmers to grow vegetables as an emergency food and income activity
- Creating policy guidelines on how to share costs and profits of land clearing between landowners and tenants, and ensure farmers get a fair share
- Ensuring that the voices of small-scale coconut farmers, particularly women, are considered in recovery plans, and that women coconut farmers are included in official data.



Arlene Arceo (29), Manager of Latufa Farmer's Cooperative, stands next to freshly cut coconut lumber at the Latufa sawmill.

Photo: Eleanor Farmer/Oxfam.

Arlene Arceo lives in Tugop on Leyte Island. "We earn our main income from coconut trees. We use the coconuts to make copra (dried coconut kernel), coconut wine, vinegar, and snacks. 85% of our trees were damaged." Arlene is part of Oxfam's coconut lumber project. "The sawmill project is a great help for us because we learned how to operate the machines – it is new for us. At first this job was difficult because I don't know about lumber; the sizes, what makes good lumber, prices, operating the machines, and how to manage the people who work here. Now, all members of our association get their daily income from this project. We hope that this project will continue because it is where we get some money to buy food and send our children to school. We thank Oxfam for helping us to recover after the typhoon. You give us new hope for our livelihoods and a new job on our coconut lumber project."

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WHAT WE'RE DOING

SHELTER AND RESETTLEMENT



Larry Tondo, a carpenter and chainsaw operator in Oxfam's cash-for work programme, builds a sales kiosk from coconut lumber. Photo: Eleanor Farmer/Oxfam.

Typhoon Haiyan left four million people homeless. Many were living below the poverty line even before the disaster. Often they did not own their land, and had to live close to the seashore in flimsy shelters. Some have been able to repair their houses with help from friends and neighbours, cash received through cash for work programmes, and lumber from fallen trees. Others have not been able to return home and are living in government-built bunkhouses.

Local authorities have now started a major relocation process to move people away from coastal areas. This is an opportunity to 'build back better', creating stronger homes in safer locations. However not all of the plans meet people's needs.

Oxfam worked with local partner organisations to survey people affected to find out their opinions and concerns. The results showed that 81% were not aware of their rights regarding relocation, and only 7% had been consulted by a government official.

Physical safety is the official argument to justify relocation and is indeed important. However, half of those surveyed by Oxfam said that their livelihood was the most important factor to them when selecting a site for relocation, and are worried that the sites chosen do not offer adequate opportunities to earn a living.

We have used the findings of the survey to call on the government to improve the relocation process, to prioritise the suitability and sustainability of relocation solutions, and to avoid wasting scarce resources and increasing the poverty of vulnerable groups by rushing the process.

USING MOBILE TECHNOLOGY



Oxfam used mobile phones to survey the needs and perceptions of groups affected by relocation plans. We interviewed 450 people in focus groups, and spoke with more than 30 individuals across three provinces in Eastern Samar, Leyte and Northern Cebu. We used the findings to make recommendations on how the government can improve relocation plans and to consult better with the people affected. The handsets were used without SIM cards, with GPS turned off, and we didn't capture names or photos. This protected participants' identities and data, saved battery life and ensured the handsets could only be used for the survey. Using a mobile tool called Mobenzi to collect the responses, the data could be uploaded and analysed quickly, turned into graphs and charts and shared using a secure URL. While paper-based surveys can take up to six weeks to write up, the mobile results were available within 15 minutes and we were able to report back to participants on the findings within days of their interview.

“THE GOVERNMENT TOLD US TO RELOCATE – WE DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE. I HAVE A MINI STORE. I WANT TO TELL THE PRESIDENT THAT IF WE ARE RELOCATED, WE WANT A SMALL BUSINESS AND CAPITAL TO START IT. THE GOVERNMENT TOLD US TO NOT BUILD CONCRETE HOMES BECAUSE WE WILL BE RELOCATED BUT THEY DIDN'T SAY WHEN.” Survey respondent (male), Leyte.

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HOW WE WORK

RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF WOMEN

Throughout our response efforts, our priority is to understand how women and men have been affected differently by the disaster, and to ensure their needs are met. For example:

- We're ensuring that toilets and washing areas have separate areas for men and women, and include space for washing clothes and caring for children.
- We've provided more than 3,700 special hygiene kits to mothers of newborn babies, and we prioritise pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers when providing support.
- We're producing posters on preventing domestic violence, and ensuring women know where and how they can report incidents.
- We're designing activities to enable women to earn a living, many for the first time, for example training women on organic farming in Northern Cebu, and on carpentry in Leyte.
- We're working with government agencies to ensure that both men and women are able to register for assistance, and that the concerns of both men and women are taken into account in processes such as relocation and resettlement.

LEARNING ALL THE TIME

We have been constantly monitoring and adapting our activities, to ensure we are giving people the best support. From the outset, we have spoken with families and consulted local communities to find out what they need so we can design our work to fit. We conducted reviews of all activities after six weeks, and will continue to do so at regular intervals for the next three years, so we can make ongoing changes and improvements. And we're sharing what we've learned with other organisations and Oxfam teams across the world.

We've also set up a free phone and SMS hotline so people can send us feedback. We've received hundreds of messages from people suggesting improvements, challenging our selection criteria or just asking for information. All comments are referred to the appropriate teams so we can improve our projects if we need to.



Cheryl Garcia took part in Oxfam's cash-for-work programme, clearing debris from public spaces. "It's the first time I have ever earned money. I felt so happy to earn an income."

Photo: Tessa Bunney/Oxfam.

WORKING WITH WOMEN

Cheryl Garcia lives in Bantayan where Oxfam's cash-for-work programme supported 12,000 families in 15 barangays (neighbourhoods). In order to ensure the safety of the community and to provide people with much-needed cash, Oxfam paid members of the community to clear debris from water and sanitation facilities, public spaces, roads, schools and health centres. Workers were paid the regional minimum wage and were provided with protective gear and equipment including wheelbarrows, spades and cleaning materials.

"We cleaned the land, separated the debris and cleaned the houses. My husband and I bought material for our house and spent the rest on food and other necessities. It's the first time I have ever earned money. I felt so happy to earn an income. There's no way I can earn an income aside from [this project]. I am the person who looks after my children."

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Photo: Tessa Bunney/Oxfam.



IMELDA'S STORY

Imelda Esgana (47) lives in Santa Fe, Bantayan Island.

She separated from her husband last year and looks after her five children alone. On the day of the typhoon, Imelda was having breakfast with her children. *"We knew the storm was coming, but very early that day there were no signs of it. The winds were sudden and incredibly strong. I was so scared. I told my children we had to stay together. If we were going to die, we would be together. It's the first time I have experienced a storm strong enough for coconut trees to fall down and for the roofs of houses to lift off. After Haiyan, there were concrete houses on the floor. My house was totally destroyed."*

Imelda earns her main income selling fish, but her equipment was damaged in the typhoon. *"My boat was crushed by a coconut tree. My fish-drying nets were also destroyed."*

Oxfam has established boat repair stations in 14 barangays (neighbourhoods) in Bantayan, and more than 660 boats – including Imelda's – have been repaired and registered for insurance. Imelda's nephew Robert uses the boat to catch the fish Imelda sells.

"After Yolanda, there was nothing to sell; the boats were all destroyed. Slowly now the fishermen are getting fish. I have no capital now, so I pay the fishermen after my customers have paid me for the fish. The fishermen trust me. There are fewer women selling fish now. I am doing it alone for my children. I don't sell the fish at the market because I cannot leave my children. Instead I sell the fish locally by going from house to house."

Imelda also took part in Oxfam's cash-for-work project as a team leader. She used the money she earned to buy building materials. *"I am currently living with my children in my sister's house. A coconut tree fell through the roof there. We repaired it through Oxfam's cash for work. We used some of the money to buy nails and GI [iron] sheets. We started cash for work during the first week of December. We cut fallen coconut trees, cleared the coastline, and cleaned gardens and the well. I helped to manage 50 people – I can handle it! The men feel comfortable having a female team leader. They know I do it for our own good."*

"My heartfelt thanks to Oxfam. I am so glad we have received support. Thank you to the donors. Thank you, thank you, thank you."



Imelda earns her main income selling fish, but has additional jobs to supplement this salary so that she has enough to buy food and items for her children. Photo: Tessa Bunney/Oxfam.



The remains of Imelda Esgana's house and her fish-drying equipment following Typhoon Haiyan. Photo: Tessa Bunney/Oxfam.



Imelda Esgana helps her nephew Robert prepare their newly-repaired boat before he goes fishing for the first time since Typhoon Haiyan. Photo: Tessa Bunney/Oxfam.

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OXFAM'S RESPONSE IN NUMBERS



35M
money raised



6,604
tarpaulins and shelter repair kits



352
staff



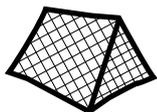
7,730
farmers received rice seed



100,761
hygiene kits



213,318
families received cash grants
or cash for work



12,772
mosquito nets



7,349
toilets were built or repaired



81,733
water kits



more than
280,637
people given access to clean water



3,731
mother and baby kits
given to new mothers



464
families helped to grow
food in kitchen gardens

* Note: some people received more than one form of support.

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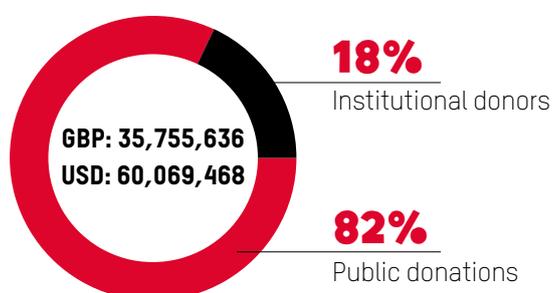
FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

PHILIPPINES TYPHOON HAIYAN RESPONSE, 8 NOVEMBER 2013 – 31 MARCH 2014

Income raised: GBP 35,755,636 / USD 60,069,468

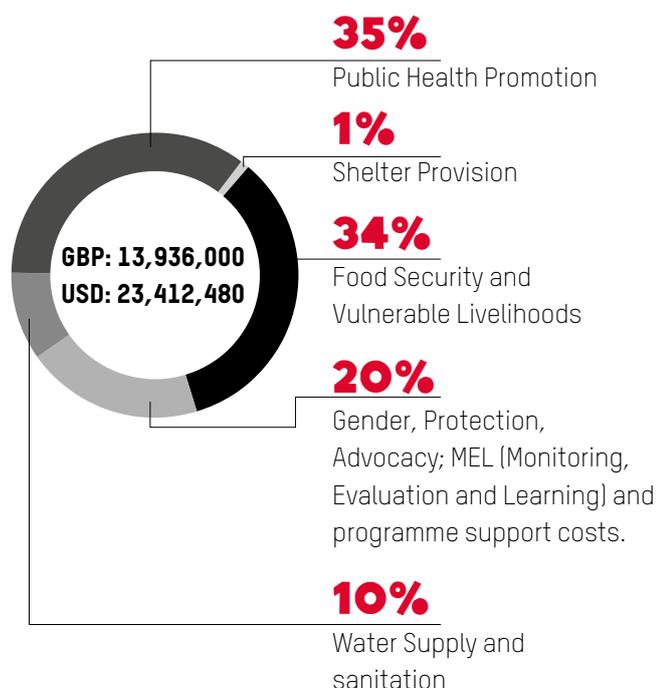
Spend: GBP 13,936,000 / USD 23,412,480

Income raised:



Source	Income GBP	Income USD
Institutional Donors. Includes DFID (UK), Irish Aid, DFAT (Australia), DFATD (Canada), OFDA (USA), AECID (Spain), NZAID, UNICEF, SIDA (Sweden), & ECHO (EU)	6,270,318	10,534,135
Appeals (e.g. DEC) and corporates (Nokia, Volvo, Unilever)	29,485,318	49,535,333

Spend by sector:



Sector	Spend GBP	Spend USD
Food Security and Vulnerable Livelihoods	4,680,000	7,862,400
Water Supply and sanitation	1,435,000	2,410,800
Public Health Promotion	4,876,000	8,191,680
Shelter Provision	90,000	151,200
Gender, Protection, Advocacy; MEL (Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning) and programme support costs.	2,856,000	4,798,080
Grand Total	13,936,000	23,412,480

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