

Emergency Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods after Super Typhoon Haiyan



Normalcy was the first thing that went when Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) devastated Leyte. From day one of the aftermath, the International Labour Organization (ILO) was at ground zero with its emergency employment (EE) programme to restore normalcy within the shortest time possible.

Lilibeth Sevilla, a 37-year-old resident of Tacloban City, lost her husband and three children to the violent wind and waves. Only she and her seven-year-old son managed to evacuate to a nearby public school.

Before Haiyan, her husband had maintained a small fruit stand, which, while it did not earn much, provided for the basic needs of their four children. But the typhoon swept away their supply of fruits and even their house. "My son and I had nothing left when the typhoon hit Tacloban — only the clothes we were wearing," she said.

A former neighbour informed her about a forthcoming ILO project, and then a Barangay captain facilitated her participation in it. Lilibeth helped in clearing debris from the public hospital located right across from where her house used to stand.

With the minimum wage she earned in the 15-day Emergency Employment programme she was able to buy food for her son. She was also enrolled in social security, accident insurance, and health insurance, and received personal protective equipment (PPE).

Lilibeth is moving on after the catastrophe, with the educational needs of her son being a top priority. She is actively looking for sustainable sources of income, and is particularly interested in rebuilding their small retail enterprise. She is also determined to build a new house, so they can finally move out of the makeshift shelter that neighbours had built for her.



*Immediate
recovery from
disaster through
emergency
employment*



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