

Emergency Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods after Super Typhoon Haiyan



Tricycle drivers in Tacloban City like **Judy Torres**, having no formal work arrangement and lacking in decent work conditions, suffered greatly from the devastation caused by Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda). Storm surges destroyed or damaged hundreds of tricycles, affecting the drivers' source of income. A comparable number of their houses were likewise wrecked.

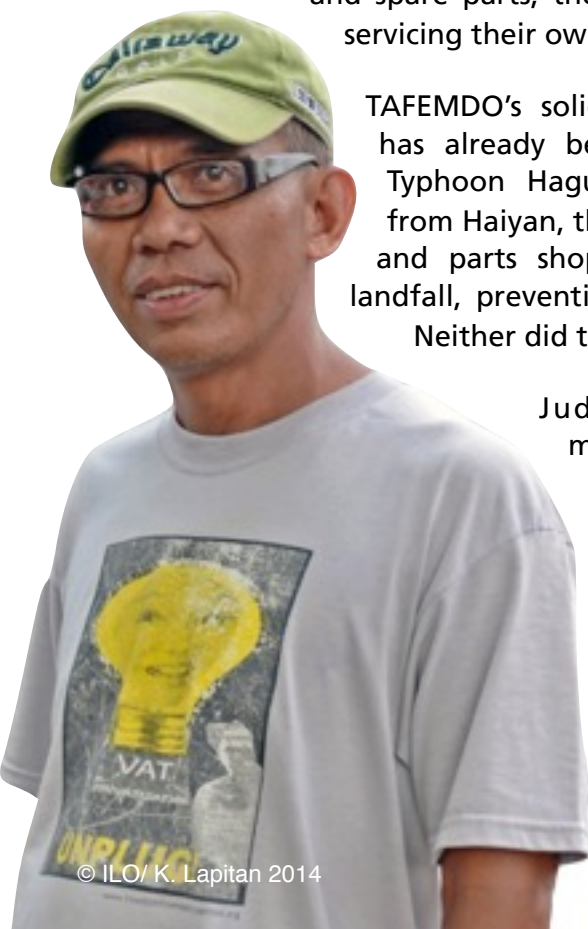
Judy was one of the more fortunate drivers — having put aside some money to finance the repair of his waterlogged tricycle he was able to return to plying Tacloban's streets. Even so it took him three months to accomplish it, and his family had to subsist on relief goods before that.

Meanwhile, as Chairman of the Tacloban Federation of Motor Car for Hire Drivers and Operators, Inc. (TAFEMDO), Judy thought of establishing a business that could help the federation's members in their recovery process. "We were thankful for the relief goods, but all of us wanted to go back to work," he said.

After several pitches to different organizations, they found hope with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the ILO who assisted their group in setting up a tricycle repair and spare parts shop. Managed and run by the Federation, the shop empowered its members to determine the course of their own livelihoods. Trainings in business management and engine repair further enhanced the group's self-reliance. Aside from enjoying easy payment terms for tricycle repairs and spare parts, they can even save some money by servicing their own vehicles.

TAFEMDO's solidarity and disaster preparedness has already been tested by the onslaught of Typhoon Hagupit (Ruby). Armed with lessons from Haiyan, they converged to secure the repair and parts shop even before the storm made landfall, preventing any damage to the structure. Neither did they suffer any personal losses.

Judy and his fellow TAFEMDO members have now expanded their operations beyond transportation: they now also sell groceries, and have even invested with a farmers' group in the neighbouring municipality of Santa Fe, Leyte, from which they expect to receive an initial 250 sacks of rice that they intend to sell as well. Truly, they have become self-reliant.



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Building back collectively through sustainable livelihoods



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