

Emergency Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods after Super Typhoon Haiyan



Sawali weaving is an art in Barangay Guadalupe in Coron, Palawan. **Rochelle delos Angeles** is a nineteen-year-old who is not only continuing the tradition but also helping to bring it into the future.

As the eldest in the family, Rochelle is determined to assist her mother, Lucelyn, in providing for the needs of her three siblings. They have not seen their father for years, and their mother has assumed the responsibility of providing for the entire family, especially through the devastation caused by Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda).

The Guadalupe Sawali Weavers' Association (GUSAWA) are a community-based enterprise that was organized as part of a livelihood recovery project with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Partnership of Philippine Support Agencies, Inc. (PHILSSA).

As one of its younger members, Rochelle is excited about their prospects as an organization. She said that weavers in Guadalupe used to strive individually, but now they are engaged in cooperative work.

"We are still recovering, and things are easier if we are working together. It also feels good to be this productive at a young age," said Rochelle.

Lucelyn has been into sawali weaving for decades, and is now transferring this skill to Rochelle. As an association, they have been equipped through Community-based Enterprise Development (C-BED) trainings with new business skills in organizing, project planning, financial management, marketing, and networking with relevant stakeholders.



Rochelle and her family can now produce three sawali mats in a week (up from two previously), providing them with around PHP12,000 (US \$267) income a month. As an enterprise, GUSAWA members now plan to produce 100 mats per month to meet the demands of local traders and retailers, as well as supplying mats for the housing projects of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). GUSAWA are also receiving support from DTI (the Department of Trade and Industry) in product development and mechanization.

*Involving
the youth
in community
rebuilding*



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