

Community-Based Emergency Employment, Reconstruction and Livelihood Recovery in response to Typhoon Pablo (Bopha)



International
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Organization

The Challenge



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Typhoon Pablo (Bopha) has affected many parts of the Southern Philippines and damaged thousands of properties and livelihoods. Typhoon Pablo was the strongest to hit the area in decades. On 7 December 2012, the Philippine government declared a state of national calamity.

Agriculture and agricultural industries, service sectors and infrastructure are critical areas for livelihood recovery.

Emergency employment through cash-for-work, employment and livelihood restoration are needed for typhoon-affected families, especially vulnerable groups such as displaced workers, female-headed households and indigenous peoples.

The Response

Strategies for sustainable livelihoods are vital, with social protection, climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness as key elements. The Livelihood Cluster has responded to help assess damages and losses on livelihoods and to coordinate efforts related to employment and livelihoods after Typhoon Pablo.

The ILO co-convenes the Livelihood Cluster with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, in coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment. The Livelihood Cluster involves national government and local government, employers and workers organization, non-government organizations, development partners, the United Nations and its sister agencies. Through the Livelihood Cluster, clearing and cleaning of surroundings of the tons of mud and debris are being done in affected areas by way of cash-for-work and emergency employment.

The ILO has initially mobilized its internal resources amounting to USD 50,000. The ILO has also sought the assistance of its development partners related to culture-sensitive disaster response for indigenous peoples, decent work and sustainable livelihoods as well as establishment of community-based organizations for the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of community infrastructures.

Application of local resource-based employment generation approach provides immediate income to affected households, extend social protection and ensure safety

and health. Moreover, the approach not only help improve living conditions but also revitalize the local economy. The ILO experience in several post-calamity situations, such as the ongoing partnership with Australian AID after the deadly Tropical Storm Sendong (Washi), led to the development of a process in implementing short-term cash-for-work towards employment and livelihood recovery through decent and productive work.

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Key Statistics

- An estimated 2.5 million workers have been directly impacted as of 17 December 2012. Of these:
 - ⇒ 37 per cent (931,000) are women
 - ⇒ 24 per cent (587,000) are youth aged 15-24
 - ⇒ 40 per cent (1 million) are vulnerable or unpaid family workers with limited income and social security.
- The majority of affected workers (2 million) as of 17 December 2012, are in Region XI where the impact has taken a toll on the livelihoods of 780,000 agricultural and fishery workers.
- The total loss to the agricultural sector is estimated at P11.56 billion and P10.37 for agriculture commodities as of 11 December 2012 (Department of Agriculture and Food and Agriculture Organization).