



Decent Work for All

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A worker under the ILO's emergency employment programme sorts out debris gathered from Luntad Elementary School in Palo, Leyte—one of the areas hardly-hit by Super Typhoon Haiyan. (Photo by ILO/K. Lapitan)

Rebuilding livelihoods after super typhoon Haiyan

It has been three months since the strongest tropical storm ever recorded on land – known as Super Typhoon Haiyan – hit the shores of the Philippines, leaving behind a trail of massive devastation. In addition to the loss of lives, the disaster had a massive impact on the local communities, many of which will take months, if not years to recover.

As of today, at least 14.2 million people have been affected by the Typhoon, including over 5.9 million who lost their primary source of income. Out of those workers, more than 2.6 million were already in vulnerable employment and living at or near the poverty line even before the disaster.

“During my recent visit to the Philippines, I could see for myself the massive damage and devastation caused by the Typhoon,” said Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Børge Brende. “The Philippines is in the middle of a critical process of reconstruction. It is crucial that the international community continues to support the recovery efforts. Norway has increased its allocation to a total of NOK 255 million (approx. USD 42 million), including NOK 20 million

(approx. USD 3.2 million) to the ILO's support for livelihood recovery. It is clearly pressing to create opportunities for those affected to earn an income, start returning to their normal lives and rebuild their local communities.”

With the help of a number of donors and through allocation of ILO resources, emergency employment programmes were put in place under the Early Recovery and Livelihood humanitarian cluster.

“The contribution from the Norwegian Government has been very timely. Together with the financial support from the International Maritime Employers' Council and Japan, coupled with a quick internal ILO allocation of funds, we were able to start-up the first emergency employment activities shortly after the disaster,” said Lawrence Jeff Johnson, Director of the ILO Country Office for the Philippines.

“Importantly, this is fully in line with the strategy of the Philippine government, which calls for actions that enable people to return to income-generating activities as soon as possible,” he added.

Since Haiyan struck on 8 November, the ILO supported the Department of Labor

and Employment (DOLE) in creating over 20,000 jobs under the emergency employment programme, reaching out to 100,000 people during the initial phase in 2013 to help improve their living and working conditions. The support from donors and partners will further bolster on-going initiatives with the Philippines government through DOLE and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

“Norway and the international community have not forgotten the Philippines. Now that the acute emergency relief phase is over, it is important that priority is given to providing enough resources for reconstruction of the affected communities and giving them opportunities to generate sustainable income through decent jobs,” said Ambassador Knut Solem, of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila.

The ILO programme consists of both short and medium-term measures, which together aim to address the immediate needs of those affected by the typhoon and offer them a pathway to re-establish livelihoods and regain self-reliance.

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ILO pursues its medium-term rebuilding strategy in Davao Oriental

By: Jedel Ervin Tabamo, Project Coordinator

Typhoon Bopha: Joint response for post calamity interventions, local resource-based employment generation and livelihood recovery interventions in affected areas

More than a year after Typhoon Bopha's (locally known as Pablo) devastation in the eastern part of Mindanao, much has yet to be done in the municipalities of Baganga, Cateel and Boston.

Rebuilding activities previously carried out have to be done after Typhoon Lingling (Agaton) crossed the same path as Bopha and battered the province early this year. However, majority of donor-funded projects have already exited the three affected municipalities.

Meanwhile, the International Labour Organization (ILO) with funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Australian Government has accelerated its medium-term interventions on sustainable livelihoods. This is on-going until the first half of the year. Workers who were trained formed their local organizations, which enabled them to engage in reconstruction and pursue developmental projects.

Through the ILO process, local organizations are actually experiencing the full cycle of project development, management, monitoring and evaluation.



Workers who lost their livelihoods to Typhoon Bopha (Pablo) are now earning, as they also have access to social security, accident and health insurance while rebuilding their communities. (Photo by ILO)

The process help in further building their capacity to enter into contracts and to ensure safe and decent working conditions.

Rebuilding livelihoods after super typhoon Haiyan

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In the first months, in line with the overall humanitarian Strategic Response Plan, the ILO is providing immediate short-term jobs using the emergency employment approach, which contribute to the massive efforts for debris clearing, clean-up work and temporary repairs of critical community facilities.

Other priorities involve gender responsive technical vocational training and skills development provided for affected workers as well as sustainable employment generated through recovery of enterprises.

"With the currently available funding, the emergency employment programmes will engage approximately 700 workers per day over the coming four months," said Lawrence Jeff Johnson." We will aim at equal participation rate of men and women in all activities."

In the second phase of the programme, the ILO will aim to create jobs and generate income at the community level through local resource-based approaches for infrastructure and environmental investments, by using labour-based technologies and community-contracting, and by working through local partners in the calamity stricken areas.

About 20 per cent of workers initially involved in the emergency employment are expected to engage in the second phase of the project, receiving skills training and transitioning into community-based work. It is expected that the programme will create 100,000 work days before the end of December 2014.

In addition, about 250 potential entrepreneurs will receive support on business development and recovery.

Finally, US\$1.3 million will be injected into the local economy through wages and materials as well as tools purchase.

Must reads



Creative Labour Regulation: Indeterminacy and protection in an uncertain world

Creative labour regulation is an interdisciplinary response to the central contemporary challenges to effective labour regulation. Drawing on contributions by leading experts from the Regulating for Decent Work Network, it offers new ideas for research and policy.

<http://www.ilo.org/publications>

5-7 March 2014

8 March 2014

13-14 March 2014

Calendar

Training on freedom of association for young women workers in economic processing zones
Manila

Hildegard Awards: Batang Malaya Red Card to Child Labour
Manila

Training on Sloping Agricultural Land Technology for Typhoon Bopha (Pablo) affected communities
Davao Oriental

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