The daily struggle of a Haiyan widow

Like so many of the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in hard-hit Tacloban City, Lilibeth Sevilla, 37, says getting a job is one of her most pressing needs.

She lost her husband and three of her children to the storm’s wrath, and is now left to fend for herself and her surviving son. The killer storm that devastated parts of the central Philippines three months ago robbed millions of people of their livelihoods, and many widowed mothers now find themselves the sole breadwinners in their households.

“We did not earn much, but we did not have problems in buying the things we needed.” Now, even the little they had is gone. Her husband worked as a vendor, but his supply of fruits was lost when Haiyan destroyed their home.

Sevilla says she’s struggling to cope, but she knows she needs to be strong for her son.

She says she has managed to make ends meet thanks to the cash she earned clearing rubble under an emergency employment programme. “Through the wage I earned, I was able to provide for the immediate needs of my son.”

Since Haiyan struck on November 8 and until the end of 2013, the Philippine Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) created over 20,000 jobs under the emergency employment programme, with assistance and co-financed by the ILO.

Sevilla says she appreciates the fact that attention was paid to the health and safety of the workers, who were given protective gear, such as masks, boots, long sleeve shirts and hats, and were guaranteed social security and health insurance.

She feels the work was also a great help to her community.

In a second part of the programme, the ILO plans to create jobs and generate income at the community level, and provide skills training, such as carpentry, masonry and basic accounting. About 20 per cent of the workers who were involved in the emergency employment are expected to take part in the second phase.

Sevilla, meanwhile, has high hopes for her seven-year-old son who recently returned to school. She is determined to work hard to make those hopes come true.

“All I need … is a house to live in, food and work.

### Key figures on female workers affected by Super Typhoon Haiyan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By age</th>
<th>Affected female workers</th>
<th>Affected female vulnerable workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-24 years old</td>
<td>420,000 (18%)</td>
<td>100,000 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-55 years old</td>
<td>1.5 million (64%)</td>
<td>690,000 (64%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 years old and above</td>
<td>410,000 (18%)</td>
<td>290,000 (26%)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By industry</th>
<th>Affected female workers</th>
<th>Affected female vulnerable workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>550,000 (24%)</td>
<td>430,000 (40%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>220,000 (9%)</td>
<td>90,000 (8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>1.56 million (67%)</td>
<td>560,000 (52%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2.3 million (67%)</td>
<td>1.1 million</td>
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Japanese Government donates US$3 million to help Typhoon Haiyan victims

Typhoon Haiyan (also known as Yolanda) struck the southern Philippines on 8 November 2013. More than 6,000 people were killed at least 14.2 million people were affected, including 6 million workers. Of these around 2.6 million were in vulnerable forms of employment and it is these people in particular that the ILO aims to support.

The grant will fund a new project, “Integrated Livelihood Recovery for Typhoon Haiyan Affected Communities”, that is expected to provide employment support, including creating new jobs, for approximately 6,740 poor and vulnerable workers affected by the Typhoon. This amounts to approximately 90,000 work days to be created before the end of 2014. The project work will build on the ILOs existing work in Tacloban, Ormoc/Leyte province, Northern Cebu/Negros Occidental, Bohol and Coron, Palawan. Together with the contributions made through this project the ILO expects to be able to reach out to just over 20,000 workers.

This project will focus on the transition phase of the recovery, moving from emergency response to the long-term and sustainable recovery of livelihoods. The ILO’s integrated approach to livelihood recovery combines labour-based rehabilitation of public infrastructure, developing vocational skills that can offer alternative livelihoods, and re-establishing micro, small and medium-sized businesses. The project will also work to ensure workers benefit from existing government standards on minimum wages, occupational safety and health standards and social protection.

Yoshiteru Uramoto, Regional Director of the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, said, “I am grateful for the contribution made by the Government of Japan to the ILO. This contribution is critical in restoring employment of the vulnerable population in the areas affected by Typhoon Yolanda that hit the western Philippines last December. Employment is the top priority of ILO at the start of any emergency and also the indicator for successful recovery from a disaster.”

Lawrence Jeff Johnson, Director of the ILO Country Office for the Philippines, said that by building on previous disaster experience, the project would ensure decent work and working conditions were an integral part of the recovery process.

“The Government of Japan’s funding supports the Philippines in placing decent jobs and sustainable livelihoods at the forefront of disaster response” he said. “Decent work and working conditions are not only a matter of human rights, they help put dignity and dynamism back into local communities and economies.”

Power restoration in Mindanao worst typhoon-hit areas

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

The ILO with funding from the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade supports the call of President Benigno S. Aquino III to reenergize all barangays in the municipalities of Baganga, Cateel and Boston.

Applying labour intensive approach, the ILO partnered with the Baganga Electricians Association (BEA) and Davao Oriental Electric Cooperative (DORECO) for power restoration in five communities located in Cateel and Baganga. These areas are part of the priority communities of the DORECO which need to restore electrical infrastructure and reenergize power lines in a span of 45 days. Through the joint effort of the ILO, BEA and DORECO, targeted communities can expect electrification on or before the end of March 2014.

Using the ILO’s community contracting approach, the BEA will provide overall management and employment of 18 working days to 110 workers that will be assisted by the DORECO in the reenergization activity. BEA, being the local organization will process and pay for the workers’ wages, process the workers’ social protection, ensure social security and health insurance coverage and procure personal protective equipment.

The ILO Project Team held successive orientations with the BEA, DORECO and workers on 7 and 8 March. The orientations covered labour standards and policies, safety and health at work, and guidelines for local organizations and workers, including a technical briefing of the DORECO. Activities to restore electricity started on 10 March.

Must reads

Building a preventative safety and health culture


http://www.ilo.org/safework

March to April 2014

Calendar

Training on respecting, protecting and fulfilling workers’ rights

Armed Forces of the Philippines

Luzon: 18-19 March

Visayas: 1-2 April

Mindanao: 25-26 March

Philippine National Police

Luzon: 20-21 March

Visayas: 3-4 April

Mindanao: 27-28 March