

# Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda): Emergency Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods

*Norwegian Support to Philippine Recovery from Super Typhoon*



International  
Labour  
Organization

## Background



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*Out-of-school youth affected by the super typhoon were trained on food and beverage services in Bantayan Island, Northern Cebu.*

Super Typhoon Haiyan did not just claim lives when it hit some parts of the Philippines on 8 November 2013. Nearly 6 million workers were stripped of their source of livelihoods. Of these, 2.6 million were in vulnerable employment living at or near the poverty line before the typhoon struck. Most of these lost everything: their homes and their livelihoods.

Affected workers needed access to employment opportunities and sustainable livelihoods to help them get back on their feet.

Emergency employment and sustainable livelihoods help improve working and living conditions by ensuring minimum wages, occupational safety and health and social protection in line with existing

national laws. Providing safe and decent work for one person can support an entire family and stimulate local economic recovery.

## Project Strategy

Banking on more than 90 years of experience on disaster response, the International Labour Organization (ILO) started to provide immediate employment, to help people, whose livelihoods have been lost or disrupted, regain self-sufficiency.

Through the support of the Government of Norway, the ILO has been implementing projects on employment intensive investment using local resource-based approaches for community infrastructure repairs, reconstruction, environmental protection and rehabilitation work. Activities have also included gender responsive technical vocational training and skills development. Sustainable income opportunities have also been generated for local entrepreneurs by providing assistance in the recovery of small enterprises in Haiyan-affected areas.

Workers hired under the ILO Haiyan response were ensured access to minimum wages, accident and health insurance and social security coverage. They were also provided with personal protective equipment to ensure their safety while at work. Alongside the implementation of the subprojects, advocacy efforts on the pillars of decent work were undertaken with implementing partners and beneficiaries on the ground, while highlighting gender balance in all activities. Aside from the promotion of decent work and sustainable livelihoods, the ILO continues to provide technical support to governmental and non-governmental partners in order to build their capacities.



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*Residents of Guadalupe, Coron, Palawan while weaving sawali mats.*



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For 19-year-old Rochelle Delos Angeles, weaving handicrafts to earn extra to help her single mother with basic daily needs.

She is one of the members of the recently established Guadalupe Sawali Weavers' Association (GUSAWA) being supported by the ILO and its partners in Coron, Palawan, Philippines.

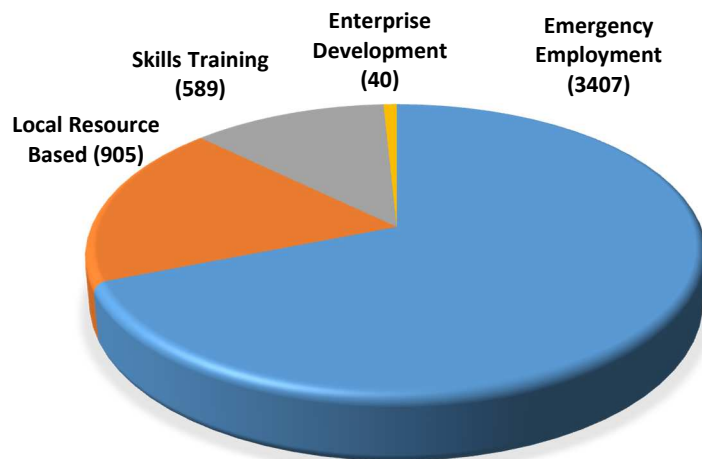
Rochelle shares that the weaving of Sawali panels and handicrafts is a skill that has been passed on to generations in their family, but admits that they did not have enough knowledge and resources to make it a sustainable source of income.

Members of GUSAWA, including Rochelle, attended trainings on Community-Based Enterprise Development, where they were taught on how to sustain the business they are about to build.

She thought she would have to leave Guadalupe in order to earn money for her family. "We are grateful that we do not need to leave our families (to earn)," says Rochelle.

## Key Achievements

- 3,407 (2,004 men; 1,403 women) individuals have been given the chance to earn immediate income through emergency employment. They were engaged in clearing debris and repairing their communities.
- Seven local resource-based work projects have been completed or launched benefitting 905 workers (738 men; 167 women). These are mainly focused on repairing and reconstructing public infrastructure.
- 589 individuals (367 men; 222 women) have completed skills training on welding, carpentry, and food and beverage services. They were all given a nationally accredited certificate to help increase their employability and income.
- Workshops on Community-Based Enterprise Development (C-BED), an ILO business tool, have been conducted to assist 80 government officials and small entrepreneurs, which will help them support the establishment of micro- / small enterprises and in strengthening their respective business ideas.
- In Coron, Palawan, 40 women were given assistance on enterprise development and have started producing woven handicraft products. Sawali production and display centers were built in the area.



Number of beneficiaries who have benefitted from each component of the project (Figures as of August 2014)

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## Project Key Facts

**Donor:** Government of Norway

**Start Date:** January 2014

**End Date:** June 2015

**Budget:** US\$5.7 million

**Total Number of Target Workers:** 6,850

**Partners:** Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Chamber of Commerce, World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Provincial Governments and Non-government Organizations

**Project Sites:** Leyte, Northern Cebu, Negros Occidental, Coron in Palawan, Bohol



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