

Safety first: Demolition of earthquake-damaged public structures and recycling of debris in Loon, Bohol



When a 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit the Philippines in October 2013, the Municipality of Loon in Bohol suffered the most in terms of number of totally and partially damaged infrastructure, both public and private. The devastation was exacerbated when Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) hit a month later. In response, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) partnered with the Loon United Workers Organisation (LUWO) to support the community's effort to rise above the catastrophe.

The Commission on Audit's (COA) assessment of Loon's municipal hall, public markets, and the entrance to the public swimming pool practically condemned them for demolition. To address the problem of debris accumulation, reusable materials such as roll-up steel shutters, railings, glass windows and doors, wood panels, floor tiles, toilet



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Workers are safeguarded by personal protective equipment (PPE) as they pull down the damaged roof of Loon's public market.

furnishings, and electrical installations were retrieved for later recycling in reconstruction efforts. The remaining rubble was hauled by the local government unit (LGU) of Loon and used as embankment material in farm-to-market road rehabilitation projects.

A total of 214 workers (136 women, 78 men), both LUWO members and non-members, were engaged in the sub-project. While many of them were already skilled and certified in construction work, the ILO with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) provided further trainings and enhancement of their skills.

All workers were given at least minimum wages, one-year accident insurance, three months' contribution to PhilHealth, three months' contribution to SSS, and personal protective equipment (PPE).

The ILO is grateful for the support it has received from the Government of Norway for its Haiyan Response and vision to truly Build Back Better.

Emergency Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods after Super Typhoon Haiyan

Implementing Partner

- Loon United Workers Organization (LUWO)

Stakeholder Organizations

- Municipal Local Government Unit (MLGU), Loon
- Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
- Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)

Funding Partner

- Government of Norway



Contact information:

ILO Country Office
for the Philippines
19th Floor, Yuchengco Tower,
RCBC Plaza 6819 Ayala Avenue,
Makati City, Metro Manila
Philippines

Tel. +632 580 9900
Fax. +632 856 7597
Email: MANILA@ilo.org
www.ilo.org/yolanda