

Environment-friendly enterprise: Green charcoal briquette production and sales enterprise in Tolosa, Leyte



The magnitude of Super Typhoon Haiyan's (Yolanda) devastation was such that a wide swath of Leyte society was severely affected. In Barangay Opong in the municipality of Tolosa, coco farm workers, fisherfolk, and small-time vendors were all deprived of their livelihoods. The International Labour Organization (ILO), in partnership with Magbinuligon Bayanihan Association (MBA), and Women in Development Association (WDA), helped establish a Green Charcoal Production and Sale Enterprise in Barangay Opong, Tolosa, Leyte to help its residents recover from the devastation of Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda).

The enterprise focused on the production of green charcoal briquettes from cellulosic waste such as coconut husk and shell, rice hull and straw, grass, and twigs, all of which are in abundant supply in an agricultural – and post-disaster – setting. "Green" charcoal is a smokeless and more

efficient alternative to traditional wood-based cooking fuel. Essential to production was the construction of a briquette processing plant in Barangay Opong. The Department of Science and Technology Region 8 (DOST R8) provided the technical production expertise, while the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Tolosa facilitated the use of a plot of land for the plant.



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Green charcoal — made of compressed cellulosic waste such as coconut husk and shell, rice hull and straw, grass, and twigs — is a smokeless and more efficient alternative to traditional wood-based cooking fuel.

A complementary component of the sub-project was training in Community-Based Enterprise Development (C-BED), an innovative ILO programme intended to strengthen the business and financial skills of aspiring entrepreneurs and small enterprise owners. C-BED taught the beneficiaries how to effectively market their green charcoal.

A total of 150 worker-beneficiaries (67 women, 85 men) were employed in the sub-project. They 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

- Magbinuligon Bayanihan Association (MBA)
- Women in Development Association (WDA)

Stakeholder Organizations

- Local Government Unit (LGU), Tolosa
- Department of Science and Technology, Region 8 (DOST R8)

Funding Partner

- Government of Norway



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