

Water is life: Repair of community potable water system and reforestation of community-managed watershed in Pinabacdao, Samar



The supply of potable water in the municipality of Pinabacdao, Samar was severely impeded by the successive impacts of Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda), Typhoon Hagupit (Ruby) and Tropical Storms Jangmi (Seniang) and Mekkhala (Amang). Because both water and livelihoods are essential to human life, the International Labour Organization (ILO) partnered with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Pinabacdao to restore the flow of water to 4,000 families.

Thirty-six metres of pipeline in Barangay Lale was destroyed or damaged by rock/landslides and fallen trees, adversely affecting many of the municipality's 22,725 residents. Rehabilitating the water system required refitting pipes, replacing pipe braces, rebuilding concrete bases and posts, and laying down coco-fibre for slope protection. The repair materials were provided by Oxfam.

A complementary component of the sub-project was the reforestation of 1,641 hectares in five Barangays (Canlobo, Layo, Pilaon, Magdawat, and Manaing) that serve as the watershed for the Lale water source. A



© ILO/ B. Patiño 2015

Saplings of timbre and fruit tree species are transported on foot to watershed areas a couple of hours away where they will be planted.

total of 667,000 seedlings of timbre and fruit tree species, and bamboo shoots were provided by the Department of Energy and Natural Resources - National Greening Program (DENR-NGP) and planted by residents of the said Barangays.

Five hundred and fifteen workers were engaged in both sub-project components. All of them received minimum wages, social security benefits, accident and health insurance. They were also provided with personal protective equipment (PPE).

The water system is now being maintained by staff members of the municipal LGU, but its management will eventually transition to the host community. Meanwhile, the tree planting will have bolstered the tenant-residents' land stewardship claim under the government's Community-based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA).

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

- Local Government Unit (LGU), Pinabacdao

Stakeholder Organizations

- Oxfam
- Department of Energy and Natural Resources - National Greening Program (DENR-NGP)

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