



Solidarity in Action

Typhoon Haiyan: Our Response



When Typhoon Haiyan devastated the Philippines in November, the Redemptorists and SERVE who have long worked in partnership in the Philippines were quick to respond. The Redemptorist church in Tacloban was providing a vital lifeline of shelter, support and relief supplies for 3,000 people after the typhoon struck. As well as providing a place of safety and shelter, a temporary clinic was established at the Redemptorist Church where people received vital medication and vaccinations to prevent illness and disease.

Committed volunteers, members of the public and generous donors were moved into action following the Redemptorist / SERVE Emergency Appeal 'call for support'. These donations allowed us to purchase food, clean water and essential medical supplies. It was not sustainable for families to continue living in the church as it was not suited for such needs and the sanitation facilities on the church grounds were not sufficient to cope with the number of families living there.

A 'cash for work' programme was put in place in which people were paid up to 500 peso a day (€8) to help with the clean-up operation. This money kick started the local economy and people began to set up stalls, selling fruits and other items that are being brought in from neighbouring islands.

The Redemptorists and SERVE also provided the following for this stage in the relief effort:

- A relocation allowance of 1500 pesos (€30) per family
- Home repair kits
- Hygiene kits and mosquito nets



The response did not end once the families had been evacuated from the church, and the current phase of the relief operation is to support people in rebuilding their lives. Work is currently underway in the community of El Reposo, in which we are rebuilding and repairing homes that have been damaged or destroyed in the Typhoon. Our aim is to help people leave the crowded evacuee centres and return to their homes.



The second project being undertaken is focusing on agricultural livelihoods. The typhoon has caused widespread destruction with many homes in rural areas destroyed, crops lost, agricultural land damaged and fishing boats destroyed or missing. The rural farmers that will benefit from this project



lost their coconut trees, farm tools and rice seeds, depriving them of their main source of income.

With destruction of city centres of livelihoods, the poor members of community have been deeply affected. The project will help them to replace farm inputs, seeds and tools lost in Typhoon. This will help them to return to their main income generating activity and provide food to rebuild livelihood security. In turn, this will decrease their dependence on emergency relief supplies.

The third project is focusing on rebuilding the lives of the fishing communities. They have lost their shelter, all personal belongings and livelihoods. Specifically, they lost fishing boats and nets, depriving them of their main source of income. This project will help families to return to their main income generating activity, provide food for their families and sell excess fish to rebuild livelihood security. In turn, this will decrease their dependence on emergency relief supplies.



This summer, the [SERVE](#) volunteer programme will visit the areas that have been affected by Typhoon Haiyan and will be involved in the next stage of the relief effort. [SERVE](#) volunteers have travelled to the Philippines for the past ten years and so it is important that we continue to show our support and work in partnership and solidarity with our partners who are working to overcome this disaster.