

PHILIPPINES TYPHOON

Typhoon Haiyan, one of the most powerful storms in recorded history, has left a trail of wreckage. Oxfam and partners have launched a major response to the emergency. Priority one: help protect the lives of the survivors.



In the wake of Typhoon Haiyan, Oxfam aims to assist 500,000 of the most vulnerable survivors. So far, we have reached more than 350,000 people with emergency aid.

THE FACTS

- On Nov. 8, Typhoon Haiyan made landfall in Guiuan, Eastern Samar, the Philippines, affecting 14 million people.
- Known locally as Yolanda, the super typhoon brought sustained winds of up to 195 mph.
- While the number of deaths remains uncertain, the government is reporting a toll of more than 6,000 as of Jan. 3.
- Wind and water damaged or destroyed more than 1 million homes.
- More than 4 million people have been displaced from their homes.
- The most immediate needs are food, clean water, shelter, and sanitation.

BEFORE THE STORM

A storm of Haiyan's immensity would pose a hardship for any nation. But this typhoon is only the latest in a series of crises affecting the Philippines. For the island nation, home to an estimated 96.5 million people, 2013 has been a year of disaster: a magnitude 7.2 earthquake in Bohol province last month, which displaced more than 300,000 people; a storm that wiped out rice harvests worth millions of pesos; and a deadly standoff between the military and rebel forces that left hundreds dead and thousands homeless in September.

Even before this year, things weren't made any easier by the country's position in the seismic "ring of fire," which leaves it vulnerable to earthquakes and landslides. Compounding those natural events are on-going civil conflicts in the Mindanao region, which have forced approximately two million people to leave their homes since the 1960s. And for Filipinos, breaking free from poverty

// The relief effort— including the work of the government and the local communities themselves— has helped millions of people survive this disaster. //

—Michael Delaney, director of humanitarian response for Oxfam America

and building a secure future becomes even tougher when high levels of government debt continue to hamper economic growth.

Like most disasters, Haiyan hit the poorest and most vulnerable people hardest. The affected provinces are poorer than the national average, with about four out of 10 families living below the poverty line. The average household income in Eastern Visayas, which includes the hard-hit areas of Samar and Leyte, is about \$3,400 a year. Many people there are small-scale farmers

// Many storms have passed here. But we did not expect a storm that brought a 'tsunami' with it. We only know of rain and wind. We did not expect the sea would devour the land. //

—A mother of two small children describing her experience of the storm to Oxfam



or fishermen, or earn their livings from low-paying jobs and microenterprises in the towns and cities.

Ranked the world's third-highest disaster-risk country, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Philippines will continue to face multiple and possibly simultaneously occurring emergencies because of its high rate of poverty and its exposure to natural hazards.

FIRST DAYS OF THE RESPONSE

The destruction in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan is almost indescribable. The storm flattened entire communities, reducing them to piles of rubble, and many people who lived through the onslaught of wind and water are now struggling to get back on their feet.

The storm interrupted telecommunications, and debris jammed many of the roads, making it difficult for aid workers to assess the full scale of the crisis and deliver vital aid, but Oxfam teams on the ground quickly began distributing vital supplies like soap and blankets, building emergency latrines, and improving access to clean drinking water.

WHAT OXFAM IS DOING

Oxfam plans to reach 500,000 people with lifesaving assistance. Our priority is to support the most vulnerable families. Along with providing water and sanitation, we are also working to ensure that survivors have access to food and have a way of generating income so they can supply their own needs.

WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES:

- Installing large water storage tanks and expandable bladders complete with tap stands
- Providing mobile water treatment units, with generators and fuel to run them
- Building communal temporary latrines
- Distributing blankets, water purification kits, and hygiene materials like soap, toothbrushes, and underwear

FOOD AND WORK:

- Helping people feed their families—sometimes in exchange for accomplishing critical tasks like removing debris and building latrines
- Helping ensure the next rice harvest by supplying seeds and supporting communities to clear agricultural land
- Providing sawmills to turn uprooted coconut trees into lumber for rebuilding

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

We urgently need your help to reach 500,000 people with emergency supplies. Donate now: oxfamamerica.org/haiyan



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ABOVE: Guiuan, in Eastern Samar province, was devastated by Typhoon Haiyan. EPA / Dennis M. Sabangan

FRONT: Residents in Samar province walk past the wreckage left by the super typhoon. Jire Carreon / Oxfam