

Post-Disaster Recovery and Resilience in Typhoon Yolanda Affected Areas

Immediate Response Initiatives from UNDP



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

In the early morning of 8 November 2013, typhoon Yolanda (internationally called Haiyan), made landfall in the eastern Visayas region of the Philippines. With winds up to 250 kph sweeping through the region, accompanied by a storm surge of up to 5m, the typhoon caused wide spread damage and losses. As of 10 December, 5,924 people were reported killed and 1,779 were missing. Along the north-west trajectory of the typhoon, a total of 14 million people across nine of the country's poorest provinces were affected. More than 1.1 m houses were destroyed. The eastern coasts of Samar, Eastern Samar and Leyte were among the worst affected. The city of Tacloban, the fifth fastest growing urban centre in the country, recorded the highest loss of lives and property. The national government, the local government units, national and international NGOs, relief teams from more than 20 countries, and the UN launched a large humanitarian response to the disaster. Although the affected communities have already begun their own recovery efforts with the limited resources available, the magnitude of the disaster is so severe that it will take several years for them to recover fully. UNDP is working closely with the Government of the Philippines – at the national, provincial and local government levels – to support these recovery efforts.

UNDP's approach to post-disaster recovery in the Visayas is built on the following key elements:

- Meeting the **immediate needs** in the affected region to **kickstart recovery** (e.g. through debris and waste removal, and emergency employment) while also creating conditions for **long-term recovery, resilience** (to multiple shocks including natural hazards) and **sustainable development**. Without losing focus on the immediate needs and priorities of affected populations, UNDP's approach will integrate a longer-term developmental and resilience perspective built on its extensive engagement with local issues and needs in the affected regions.
- Taking an **area-based approach** to recovery as opposed to a **sectoral** approach. UNDP's approach will integrate immediate, short-term and medium-term interventions across disaster responses, resilience to climate impacts, poverty alleviation for affected populations, and

strengthened local governance and service delivery systems. This integrated, multidimensional approach will be tailored to the needs of individual regions, municipalities and local community groups as identified through ongoing bottom-up assessments. This programme will be coordinated through five programme hubs in Tacloban, Guiuan, Ormoc, Roxas City (for Panay and Palawan) and Bogu (Cebu and Negros Occidental), and delivered in partnership with local governments, non-government organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), UN partner agencies, and other UNDP counterparts in the region.



*Clearing rubble in Barangay (village) 88.
photo credits to OCHA/Jose Reyna*

- **Building on prior UNDP engagement and partnerships in the affected areas**, including extensive work on disaster risk management, climate adaptation, support to local governance, rural development with Indigenous Peoples, and environmental resilience and sustainability. UNDP has been active on development, resilience and post-conflict issues in the Yolanda-affected region for many years, and has ongoing relationships with local actors extending back more than a decade. These partnerships will be leveraged to identify needs and deliver support in the quickest and most effective ways possible.

UNDP support to recovery takes into account the high level of decentralization in the Philippines, the opportunity to partner with an active civil society, and the critical role of central line departments in emergency response and recovery.

Within an area-based approach, the key pillars of UNDP recovery programming and major actions in the immediate, short-term and medium-term are summarized below. These actions are structured into a set of immediate response initiatives, which are summarized in individual two-page project fiches appended to this document:

I. Support to local governments for managing recovery

- Immediate (Six months): Supplemental capacity to 43 municipalities through provision of national and international UN volunteers and through mutual support arrangements with other municipalities; provision of basic infrastructure and equipment to restore basic functionality; information management for coordination; and helping communities to replace documentation to access recovery assistance.
- Short term (7-12 months): Support to risk assessments; land use planning (with UN-Habitat); community consultations for resettlement planning in 43 municipalities; establishment of accountability mechanisms; and support to service delivery.
- Medium term (13-36 months): Support to effective implementation of building codes; land use planning; and economic diversification and more participatory planning mechanisms, including strengthened community oversight.

Proposed Immediate Response Initiatives under this Pillar:

1. Restoration of local governance & reestablishment of service delivery.
2. Resilient and renewable energy systems for local government centers and designated resettlement sites within the Yolanda corridor.

II. Livelihood restoration

- Immediate (Six months): Debris and waste management in 43 municipalities through cash-for-work programmes.
- Short term (7-12 months): Support to small and micro-enterprises.
- Medium term (13-36 months): Livelihood diversification, mobile cash payments, support to value chains, and improved access to markets.

Proposed Immediate Response Initiatives under this Pillar:

1. Emergency employment: Job creation through debris and solid waste management.
2. Livelihoods Stabilization and Economic Recovery through Green Jobs.
3. Inclusive social and economic growth: Tapping overseas remittances and microfinance for local economic recovery
4. Small grants for recovery of Yolanda-affected communities.



In addition to cash-for-work programmes, UNDP's recovery plan includes, among other efforts, providing start-up kits and quick grants for small business developments, for instance in solar and wind energy. Credits: OCHA/Jose Reyna

III. Disaster risk reduction and Environmental Resilience

- Immediate (Six months): Compilation of existing hazard maps/ risk assessments to inform reconstruction; review of early warning systems; and preparation of hazard-resistant building designs.
- Short term (7-12 months): Updating of risk assessments, and local level disaster preparedness plans.
- Medium term (13-36 months): Revision of disaster risk reduction policy for local level people; and community-based disaster risk management planning.

Proposed Immediate Response Initiatives under this Pillar:

1. Disaster risk reduction

IV. National-level support to response systems and capacities

At the national level, UNDP is providing priority support to the Government of the Philippines through:

- Strategic advice on management of the recovery process (e.g. through high-level exchanges with the Government of Indonesia on the post-tsunami response in Aceh).
- Providing specialist technical inputs to the government's Yolanda Recovery and Rehabilitation Plan.
- Supporting the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (along with the other UN system partners, the World Bank, and the European Union).

These initiatives are currently being supported by core UNDP funding and leveraged resources, and additional resources are not being solicited for these initiatives at present.

For further information contact:
United Nations Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza, 20th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Yuchengco Tower 1 RCBC Plaza, 30th Floor
Ayala, Makati
www.undp.org/cpr
December 2013



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.