

STORIES FROM THE FIELD



Back to Work – Prior to the fateful day on November 8, 2013, Raymond Rodrigo (pictured left) was a fisherman of Daanbantayan, a municipality located at the north most tip of Cebu. For several years he relied on the sea to support his family of six. But, after typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) struck there was no work anymore as 90% of the fishing boats were out of commission, including the one he shared with other fishermen in the area. But, four months on things are looking up as Raymond is about to graduate from a UNDP-supported skills training course. He, along with 100 other graduates, have also been guaranteed jobs with a private-sector company following graduation. UNDP is working across the typhoon-affected areas to help restore and expand livelihoods. By expanding income opportunities people will become less reliant on a single source of income and thereby more resilient against future shocks.



Open for Business! Thousands of communities like this one on the tourist island of

Kalanggaman have been able to kick-start their local economies thanks to UNDP's emergency employment effort. Here the effort allowed a large cruise ship to dock in the harbour of nearby Kalanggaman Island bringing thousands of European tourists. "If it weren't for your cash-for-work, there would have been no ship," the mayor said. "We could not have cleaned the island in time." The small burst of emergency employment is the first step in a larger effort by UNDP to bolster the livelihoods needs for tens of thousands of those affected by the typhoon. UNDP will offer assistance to coconut farmers in the area by deploying mobile saw mills to begin the massive task of recovering thousands of downed coconut trees.

Funding

By the beginning of March 2014, UNDP's Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) recovery and resilience programme had received USD 15.5 million from the Governments of Japan, Ecuador, the Russian Federation, the Central Emergency Response Fund and UNDP. UNDP still required US\$ 49.5 million to meet the urgent needs of devastated communities who are now trying to rebuild their lives.

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SUPPORT TO TYPHOON RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE IN THE VISAYAS

Philippines
MARCH 2014 - UPDATE



Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) made landfall on 8 November causing tremendous destruction and loss of life. Three months later, these children at Fisherman's Village were able to return to school after an intense UNDP clean-up effort.

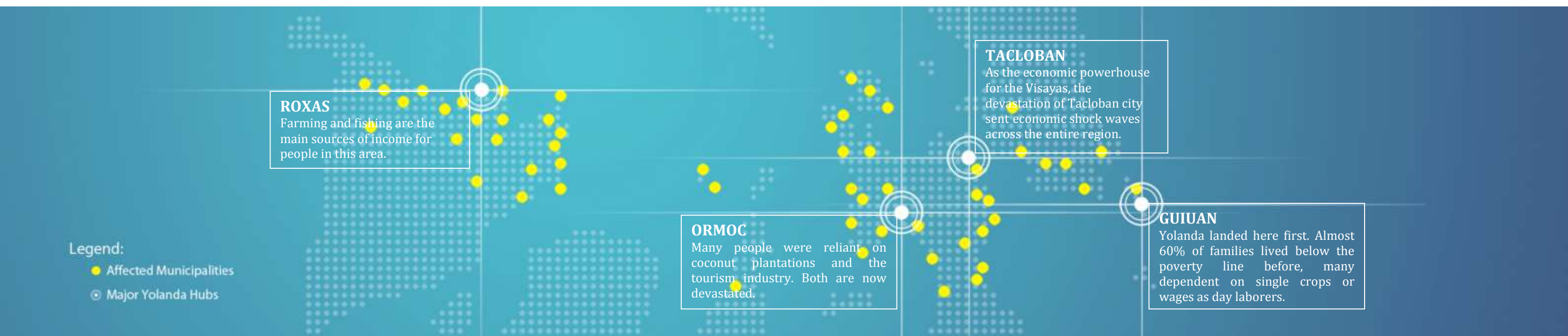
Photo credit: Baudouin Nachtergaele

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

- **39,886** vulnerable people have secured temporary jobs clearing debris – 36 percent are women. In-line with government policy, the workers earn a minimum wage. They are selected in coordination with local authorities and community leaders to ensure that the job opportunities are available to those that need it most. They are paid weekly, and each person is employed for up to 15 days.
- UNDP has positioned **65** chainsaws and ten mobile sawmills in four locations: Tacloban, Guiuan, Ormoc and Roxas. With the typhoon having felled or damaged around 33 million coconut trees, there is an opportunity now to turn this debris into livelihoods.
- **1,858** vulnerable people, with a focus on women, are enrolled in skills training efforts focused on carpentry, masonry, electrical, and plumbing. This will enable them to develop the skills to rebuild and repair their own shelters and other community infrastructure, and to seek jobs in the booming building sector.
- A UNDP-supported scoping mission on establishing a national aid management tracking system for the Yolanda response has concluded. Drawing on the experiences of Indonesia in using the Recovery Aceh-Nias database, the mission provided recommendations for creating an information management system, which will serve as the government's transparency tool. Work is now underway to operationalise a proposed system.

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

Of the **14 million** people affected by the biggest storm the world has ever seen, **40 per cent** were already living below the poverty line. The typhoon affected 14 provinces and **171** municipalities. As relief efforts wind down, there is an urgent need to restart livelihoods and the delivery of basic services.



Debris and Solid Waste Management

Four months after the disaster, mountains of debris have now been cleared, enabling hospitals, schools (like the one overleaf in fisherman's village), daycare centers, municipal buildings, small roads (spanning hundreds of kilometers) and other essential infrastructure to start working again.

UNDP has been instrumental in assisting local government units in restarting municipal solid waste systems. With financial and technical assistance, residents and businesses in the hardest hit areas in parts of Leyte, Samar and Eastern Samar have seen a return of waste collection. Most notably, **UNDP has managed Tacloban's solid waste system**, including oversight at the Santo Nino dumpsite north of the city, while city hall restores its service delivery.

Work has also begun on identifying and clearing areas contaminated with hazardous waste. As part of a sustainable response to the managing this waste, UNDP plans on developing the capacity of local government officials in key municipalities, as well as assisting hospitals improve their medical waste practices making the process safer, more environmentally sound and protecting the community at large.



Emergency Employment and Livelihoods

Since the start of the crisis, UNDP has steadily increased the number of people benefiting from the emergency employment programme. Initially, people were employed to remove debris, and this has now been expanded to include downed coconut trees. In Roxas and Ormoc, more than 3,000 people are hauling and milling coco lumber for use in the housing sector to construct temporary shelters.

As the emergency relief phase winds down, UNDP's work is gearing up. UNDP is also working with government, technical training institutions and the private sector to identify and link job seekers with relevant skills training opportunities and actual jobs.

During March, hundreds of men and women will graduate from courses in Cebu and Guinan with new skills in carpentry, masonry, electrical maintenance, and massage therapy. They have all been paired with employers seeking people with these skills. In many cases, the training has provided former fisher folk, day labourers and agricultural workers with a new skill and source of income. In Tacloban, 250 people, living in an area declared a 'no build' zone following the typhoon, have been trained in milling and woodwork. Using these skills they have built food carts (or sari-sari shops), with a view to using these to earn an income once they are relocated to a new residential area.



Restoring Government Services

At the national level, and in partnership with the Department of Interior and Local Governance, UNDP has started work on designing a mechanism for seconding officials from other parts of the country to assist with recovery efforts in typhoon-affected municipalities.

The mechanism is expected to be up and running in the coming months.

UNDP has also started deploying national and international experts to work alongside local government officials in key recovery areas, including livelihoods and disaster risk reduction.

At the local level, UNDP is now focusing its efforts on assisting 15 priority municipalities to get back on their feet. These have been selected based on existing poverty levels, municipalities' risks to disasters, and government priorities.

Each municipality will receive a tailored package of support ranging from assistance to rebuild and restore infrastructure to urban planning, waste management and other technical expertise.



Disaster Risk Reduction

A wide ranging capacity and needs assessment in the area of disaster risk reduction is underway. The information gain through this process will be used to develop a series of workshops to draw and document key learnings and to develop an action plan for reducing risk across the Visayas.

The action plan will be informed by the real-life experiences of key actors who managed the typhoon response, including provincial, municipal and barangay officials. The first workshops are planned for early April.

March will also see the fielding of a joint scoping mission between UNDP and the government. The mission will work with six coastal zone municipalities that are most vulnerable to storm surges. The purpose is to help address their capacity needs to deal with this in the future.