

# TYPHOON HAIYAN

ONE-YEAR UPDATE | NOVEMBER 2014



**American  
Red Cross**

## Message from the Senior Vice President American Red Cross International Operations

A year ago, Typhoon Haiyan—one of the strongest typhoons ever recorded—struck the Philippines, leaving behind devastated communities and heartbroken families. Since that terrible day, the American Red Cross and our partners in the global Red Cross network have been hard at work helping Filipinos recover from this deadly storm.

Over multiple visits to the Philippines in the past year, I have seen first-hand the profound impact of generous donations from our supporters. The American Red Cross quickly collaborated with the Philippine Red Cross to provide lifesaving assistance, and we continue working side-by-side, helping recovery in affected communities.

The Philippine Red Cross began work immediately after the typhoon passed, with emergency response teams handing out much-needed items like tarps, mosquito nets and clean water. In those early months, the Red Cross network also began distributing small sums of cash that provided people who had lost everything the flexibility to meet their most pressing needs.

I saw the positive impact of Red Cross cash grants on the lives of survivors on my most recent travels to the Philippines. I met Irene Collera, whose home was badly damaged in the storm. Irene and her husband used some of the grant money they received to start a business, buying coconuts and selling coconut water on the roadside. Now she owns two large coconut stands and has earned enough money to support her family and repair their home. She has also begun saving for a truck and plans to expand her business.

With a helping hand from the Red Cross, Irene and other typhoon survivors are recovering with creativity and determination. In the coming year, Typhoon Haiyan donations to the Red Cross will continue to help rebuild lives and communities through integrated projects, which will focus on infrastructure repair, job generation, water and sanitation improvements, household construction, disaster preparedness and health initiatives.

We are working closely with our Red Cross partners to ensure that we are spending every dollar efficiently and effectively. Because of the generosity of the American people and the dedication of Red Cross volunteers, we continue to care for those in need, help them become better prepared for future disasters, and bring hope, comfort and stability back to their lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Harold Brooks".

Harold Brooks, Senior Vice President,  
International Operations



Haiyan survivor Victoriana Saldo shows off the guava tree in front of her newly-repaired home on the island of Leyte. The tree was knocked over by the typhoon's high winds, but it stayed rooted and continues to bear fruit.

## Bringing Relief to Typhoon Survivors

Typhoon Haiyan brought catastrophic losses throughout the central Philippines. Thousands of people died, millions more across 40 provinces were affected, and more than 1 million homes were damaged or destroyed. In support of the Philippine Red Cross, Red Cross and Red Crescent societies around the world sent relief teams and provided vital supplies, health care services, assistance with sanitation, rehabilitation of clinics and hospitals, and clean water.

During the emergency response, donations to the American Red Cross were used to purchase and distribute

relief items such as food, blankets, shelter, hygiene kits and mosquito nets. We also led the Red Cross effort that delivered cash grants to 59,000 families, allowing typhoon survivors to address their most urgent storm-related needs.

In addition, teams of American Red Cross disaster specialists have deployed to support the relief and recovery operation over the past year, providing expertise in logistics and relief distributions, cash grants, sheltering, water and sanitation, mapping, emergency communications and information management.

## Red Cross Donors Empower Ongoing Recovery

As of September 30, 2014, the American Red Cross has received \$87.7 million in donations and pledges from our generous supporters, and so far we have spent or committed \$79.5 million for Typhoon Haiyan response and recovery efforts.

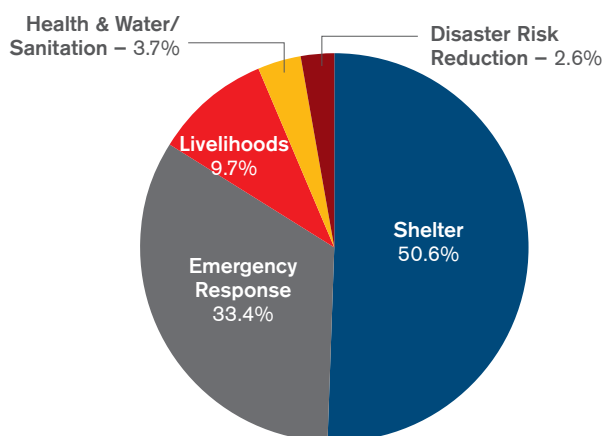
Donations are supporting recovery work by the American Red Cross and other national Red Cross societies with extensive experience operating in the Philippines. We are working with the Philippine Red Cross to help lead

longer-term recovery efforts in communities facing the myriad challenges of rebuilding their lives and livelihoods.

Together, we are focusing on meeting some of the most critical recovery needs. As the American Red Cross works to revitalize local economies and improve access to sanitation, safe shelter and health services, we are taking a comprehensive approach that makes communities safer and improves the lives of affected families.

### American Red Cross Typhoon Haiyan Response\*

Expenses and Commitments as of September 30, 2014 – US \$79.5 M



\*An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs.

**Shelter:** Includes funding and expertise to rebuild safer homes along with rental support for displaced families and materials to repair homes.

**Emergency Response:** Includes relief items such as food and blankets, unrestricted cash grants and deploying disaster specialists.

**Livelihoods:** Includes job skills training, hiring typhoon survivors to perform repair/reconstruction work and grants to help entrepreneurs and small businesses.

**Health and Water/Sanitation:** Includes repair and construction of water/sanitation infrastructure in schools as well as training in provision of critical health services.

**Disaster Risk Reduction:** Includes disaster and evacuation planning with improved maps and early warning capabilities as well as identifying and mitigating potential hazards.

## Following Up With Cash Grant Recipients

With leadership and funding from the American Red Cross, the global Red Cross network distributed unconditional cash grants to help people rebuild in the storm's immediate aftermath. Red Cross workers recently visited families in Alangalang to find out how these grants helped them recover.

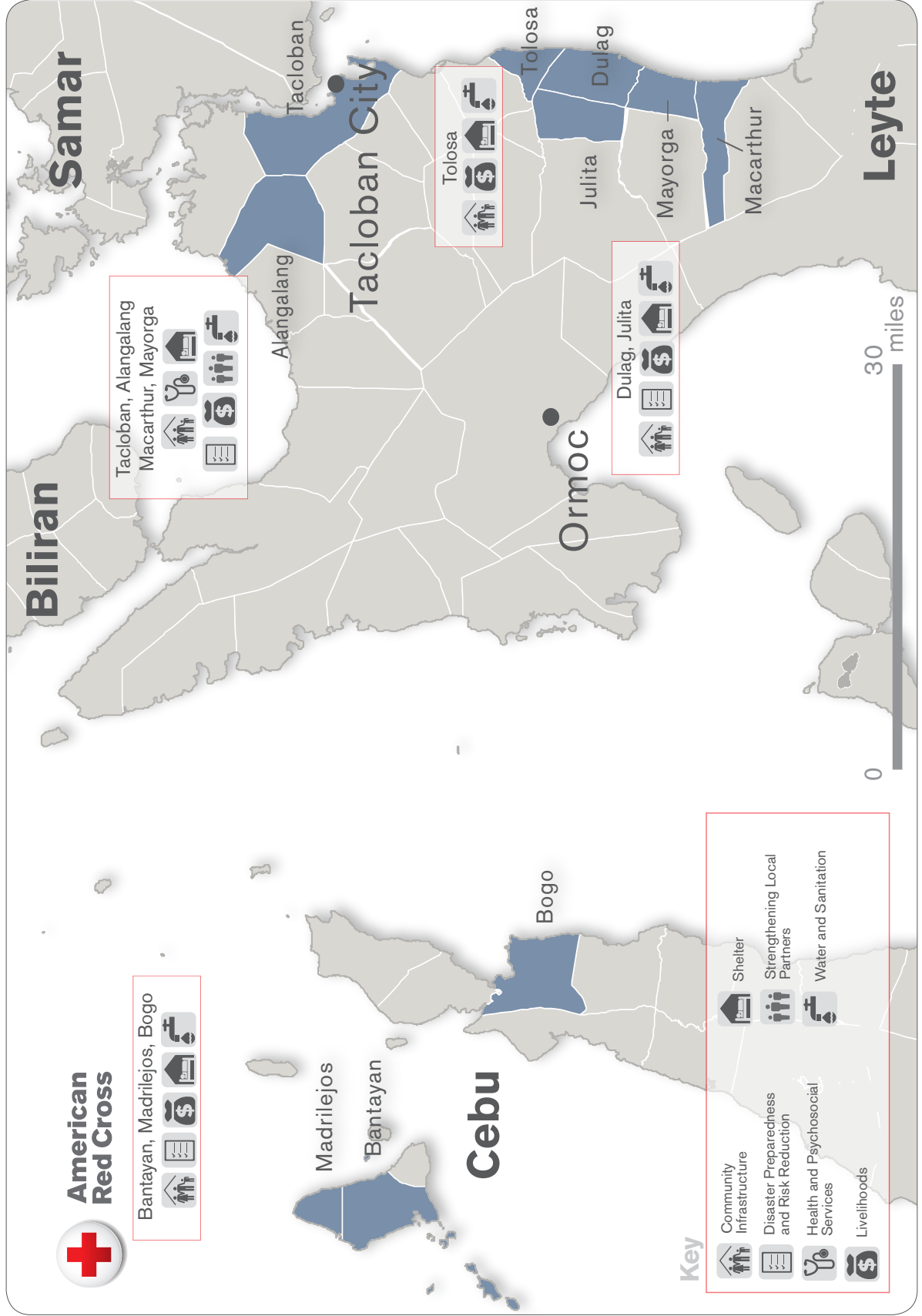
When **Ricky and Michelle Sister** returned home after Typhoon Haiyan, all that was left was the cement floor and the kitchen sink. They lost everything. “We only brought the clothes we were wearing, one shirt for our child and a biscuit,” Ricky said. Ricky also lost his main source of income, since he earned money as an agricultural worker before the storm. The family used an unconditional cash grant from the Red Cross to hire workers to cut fallen coconut lumber, buy nails and pay carpenters to rebuild their house.



**Charita Adlawan's** house was destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan. Charita, who lives with her three grandchildren, was able to build a new house with the cash grant she received from the Red Cross. She used the money to buy lumber and hire a carpenter, as well as to buy rice and other food for her family. She was able to salvage the roofing materials from her last house.

# American Red Cross Recovery Efforts

**Typhoon Haiyan recovery programming implemented or supported**



## American Red Cross Supports Recovery on Leyte Island

In hard-hit Tacloban City and other municipalities on Leyte Island, the American Red Cross continues to expand our lifesaving work. We recently committed \$20 million to a major recovery project to help fund construction and repair of homes and infrastructure, along with support for livelihoods, sanitation, disaster preparedness and risk reduction, as well as clean water and health services.

### Shelter and Livelihoods

Our recovery work aims to address multiple needs at once. The American Red Cross is providing a team of highly skilled experts to work with local engineers to build safer and more efficient homes—homes that are well adapted to their surroundings and better able to weather future storms. Once residents have a roof over their heads, we are helping ensure that they will have clear ownership of their homes—a first for many people. In addition to rebuilding more secure houses, we are introducing innovative methods and materials, such as using available wood from thousands of downed coconut trees as a principal building material for housing reconstruction.

The loss of these coconut trees devastated the local agricultural economy, since it takes 7-10 years for a tree to mature and begin bearing fruit. For this reason, a critical aspect of the American Red Cross recovery project is support for livelihoods in the affected communities. We are offering job training in skilled trades and hiring typhoon

survivors to perform repair and reconstruction work. We are also providing cash grants to help people repair or replace lost or damaged items such as farm tools or fishing boats, grants to help entrepreneurs and small business cooperatives, and support for more adaptable and diverse agriculture.

### Healthier and Safer Communities

Donations to the American Red Cross also are helping build healthier and more resilient communities. For example, we are supporting repairs to water and sanitation infrastructure in schools throughout the area.

As recovery in the Philippines continues, the American Red Cross is supporting disaster risk reduction by helping build safer communities and helping people better prepare for future emergencies. We are working with local partners and families to improve disaster and evacuation planning with better maps and early warning capabilities, as well as identifying and mitigating potential hazards.

Finally, we are supporting the Philippine Red Cross to strengthen their organizational capacity and expand their vital volunteer base—training volunteers from every community where we work in the basics of first aid, disaster prevention and preparedness. People are empowered because they have the knowledge and skills needed to keep their families safe in future disasters.

## Recovery in Action

Recovery on the scale required after a disaster like Typhoon Haiyan is a team effort, involving the international Red Cross network, local governments, communities and families. As the American Red Cross takes on a massive recovery project in Tacloban City and other municipalities on Leyte Island, our generous donors have also enabled us to help countless other affected residents through recovery and rebuilding projects led by our international partners.

### Helping Families Return Home

After waiting out the fury of Typhoon Haiyan at a relative's house, Cheryl Berdan, her husband, and four children returned to the spot where their home once stood to find nothing left but posts in the ground. But this summer,



Cheryl Berdan and her children in their new home in Tolosa, Leyte Island.

Cherryl and her family moved into a new home, thanks in part to the American Red Cross.

The house—made primarily of local coconut lumber and bamboo—is built to better withstand future storms. Elevated from the ground, the home won't be prone to flooding from heavy rains or storm surges. Its strong roof is held down with hurricane straps so that the family can stay safe, even in high winds.

Cherryl appreciates the house for another simpler reason. “We can sleep well because of this house. Now, we don't have to sleep so tightly packed,” she says—recalling how the family lived under a tiny makeshift tarp shelter in the storm's aftermath.

Local carpenters—including Cherryl's husband—are being trained and paid by the Red Cross to build and repair homes and schools across the affected region, providing a means to improve their living conditions and prospects for the future.

### Supporting Livelihoods

“If the Red Cross gives us something, we will make sure it will not go to waste. It is worth the investment,” said Nicasio Gregorio as he packed little bags of garlic, pepper and bleach powder to sell at the market. Although they lost

their home and income when Typhoon Haiyan struck their town of San Vicente, Nicasio and his wife, Maricel, are on the way to rebuilding their business.

The couple had challenges even before their house was washed away. Nicasio is visually impaired, limiting his options for earning an income, and Maricel was pregnant when the typhoon hit.

A Red Cross-provided small business grant means that the couple can continue to buy and resell products to their neighbors. The cash grant serves as important capital, so they can make bigger profits and grow their business.

In the couple's hometown, other families are also receiving cash grants to grow their small businesses. Reviving income-generating activities is an important step as people recover from the destruction wreaked by Haiyan.

The couple is hopeful that, with the income they earn, they might be able to afford electricity, helping Nicasio better navigate their home in the evenings. They also are eager for all three of their children to start and graduate from school, stating with conviction that education is the best gift they can give to their children.



Children at Tanghas Elementary School, where the Red Cross is repairing classrooms, installing hand water pumps and constructing new latrines.

## Thank You

The mission of the American Red Cross is to prevent human suffering in the face of emergencies. The remarkable generosity of our supporters—individuals, corporations and foundations—drives our ability to provide relief to those in need and assist our partners in the global Red Cross network. We are grateful for your trust.