
Typhoon Haiyan: Looking back, looking forward

On the morning of Friday 8 November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan (known locally as 'Yolanda') hit the Philippines; an unprecedented Category 5 storm that affected two-thirds of the country. Typhoon Haiyan is thought to be the strongest storm ever to make landfall, taking the lives of more than 6,200 people and affecting over 14 million people across 44 provinces. This included some 5 million affected children and 1.7 million displaced children. More than 1.14 million houses were damaged or destroyed in the storm and all vital services were affected, including power, water supply and health services. Over 600 schools were badly damaged or destroyed. Plan International had worked across the affected areas for more than 50 years; many staff lost their homes, others lost family members and loved ones.

The scale of this disaster required an unprecedented response. Plan International rapidly deployed staff from around the world to work alongside the Plan International Philippines team, including those staff who were directly affected but chose to prioritise the response and helping others over personal needs. As the communities affected by this disaster embark on the long recovery process, Plan International has been there to deliver aid and support to recover and build back better, stronger, together.

Achievements in numbers

Plan has raised US\$61 million to help 1.3 million Filipinos affected by Typhoon Haiyan to rebuild their lives. We need another \$9.5 million to complete our recovery work in these badly affected areas over a 3-year period.

In the last year we have worked with children and communities in six typhoon-affected provinces (Eastern Samar, Western Samar, Leyte, Masbate, Cebu / Camotes Islands and Occidental Mindoro) to support their recovery in the following ways:

Water, sanitation and hygiene

SUMMARY: *Safe drinking water kits were amongst the life-saving items that Plan pre-positioned in several communities in the typhoon's path. Within hours of the typhoon passing we had distributed kits to support 20,000 people to prepare safe drinking water, eventually reaching 225,000 people. Plan has also worked to reach 121 communities with critical hygiene and sanitation information, supporting this with the construction or rehabilitation of temporary and permanent water, hygiene and sanitation facilities, including 80 daycare centres and schools.*

- 225,000 people received safe drinking water kits and information on treatment of drinking water
- Over 276,000 people received hygiene kits and key health information
- Hygiene and sanitation promotion sessions (focused on Community-Led Total Sanitation) held in 121 communities
- 2,280 pit latrines established in temporary camps for typhoon-displaced people
- 77 daycare centres and schools provided with access to safe drinking water and new or repaired sanitation facilities.
- 80 daycare centres and schools provided with new or repaired hand-washing facilities
- 12,500 children in 89 schools provided with Back-to-School Hygiene Kits
- 165 daycare and school teachers trained and supported to undertake hygiene promotion, benefitting 20,000 children
- Water and sanitation facilities provided as part of Temporary Learning Spaces, Child Friendly Spaces, Women Friendly Spaces and Health Stations
- New canals constructed and cleared in Tacloban as part of Plan's 'Building Back Better' project.

Health

SUMMARY: *Plan has supported more than 32,800 people to receive critical medical care through 'one-stop-shop' mobile health clinics and construction of new permanent, disaster-resilient health clinics. This has included medical missions to hard-to-reach and remote island communities, and training of health providers to ensure that typhoon-affected communities receive quality care.*

- More than 32,800 people received critical medical care through 32 'one-stop-shop' mobile health clinics
- 14 disaster-resilient combined Health Stations and Birthing Facilities are being constructed
- 15,717 women and children received maternal and child health services and/or supplies
- 4,747 children under 5 years of age and pregnant or lactating mothers provided with ongoing health screening
- 3,239 women received family planning counselling and referrals
- 587 adolescents targeted in sexual and reproductive health awareness campaigns
- 392 health providers enhanced their skills and knowledge on a range of critical topics, including Maternal and Child Health, Infant and Young Child Feeding, Nutrition, Community Management of Acute Malnutrition and Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
- Medical missions to hard-to-reach and island communities provided 'one stop shop' health outreach for remote communities.

Nutrition

SUMMARY: *From the earliest days of the response, Plan worked around the clock to get emergency food supplies to more than 1.5 million typhoon-affected people. As communities began to recover we focused on ensuring that children and mothers at risk of malnutrition were screened and supported in a region where malnutrition levels were high even before the typhoon.*

- 1.5 million people received emergency food distributions
- 17 Therapeutic Feeding Centres were established to treat severely malnourished children and screen children and mothers for malnutrition. 3,702 children under 5 years of age and 1,045 pregnant and lactating mothers were screened and assisted on an ongoing basis
- 1,921 pregnant and lactating mothers received advice and support on infant and young child feeding practices.

Education

SUMMARY: *Plan has supported more than 44,000 children to return to school through the provision of 'Back-to-school' kits, rebuilding classrooms, training teachers and supplying school equipment. Teachers in typhoon-affected communities are now better equipped to support children after an emergency and to help children to develop and learn from a young age.*

- More than 44,000 children resumed their education with 'Back to school' kits
- 2,226 'School in a Box' and Teachers Kits supplied to schools
- 63 disaster-resilient classrooms built (another 137 planned)
- 86 damaged classrooms repaired (another 214 planned)
- 272 blackboards supplied to damaged schools
- 6,263 children reached by mobile Early Childhood Care and Development services
- 17 disaster-resilient daycare centres built (another 83 planned)
- 632 daycare workers trained in early childhood care and development techniques
- 205 Kindergarten teachers trained to support school-aged children who have not attended daycare to catch up on their early childhood learning and development
- 1,214 Elementary and Secondary School teachers trained on Education in Emergencies and Psychosocial Support.
- Plan has worked with the Government of the Philippines to develop and improve on disaster-resilient designs for schools and daycare centres. The new schools and daycare centres being built are 3x stronger than before and can withstand winds of up to 310kph. The Government is now recommending that other NGOs also adopt these Plan-developed standards.

Shelter and provision kits

SUMMARY: *Plan has assisted 195,000 people whose homes have been damaged or destroyed with temporary shelter or support to rebuild their homes. Another 87,000 received home items such as cooking equipment, blankets or sleeping mats to help with their recovery. Plan is working with communities to teach and apply disaster-resistant construction standards to recovery construction, ensuring that communities work together to build back better, stronger homes.*

- 195,000 people received temporary shelter or support to rebuild their homes
- 87,000 people received home items such as cooking equipment, sleeping mats and blankets
- 279 community members (men and women) trained in disaster-resistant construction techniques. These people will lead work teams in their home communities
- 20,000 families trained in disaster-resistant construction techniques for temporary shelters
- Reconstruction of 889 damaged homes is underway, benefitting 4,445 people
- The 'Building Back Better' project in Tacloban will include construction of 300 disaster-resistant homes benefitting 1,500 people and acting as a model for other community construction
- Plan is supporting discussions between landowners, the National Housing Authority and 1,100 vulnerable people currently living in informal settlements. Most of these people lived in coastal areas before the typhoon that have now been designated as unsafe for reconstruction.

Livelihoods

SUMMARY: *When a disaster strikes, communities whose sources of income have been destroyed urgently need money. Plan provided paid work that benefitted more than 61,000 people as part of the recovery process. This income helped families meet their basic needs and stimulated the local economy, while the work rehabilitated and rebuilt communities. In addition to this, 7,840 most vulnerable families also received unconditional cash transfers.*

- Over 61,000 people in two provinces benefitted from 'Cash for Work' programmes, participating in efforts to clear debris and restore or build community facilities such as latrines and school water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. This also included replanting of damaged mangrove forests and construction of sea walls to protect communities from future storms. In some cases people were also paid an allowance while training and developing new skills in badly needed areas such as disaster-resilient construction techniques
- More than 2,500 out-of-school youths were trained in skills that will help them to obtain decent work.

Protection

SUMMARY: *Children are always among those worst affected by a disaster, and among the most vulnerable afterwards. Plan worked to provide safe and supportive 'Child Friendly Spaces' for 21,000 children where they could play, learn and get much-needed emotional support. We also supported and trained nearly 10,000 parents, children and community members to avoid violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of women and children.*

- 44 separated and unaccompanied children identified and referred to support services to receive appropriate assistance
- 20,965 children supported to heal and recover through Child-Friendly Spaces, providing a safe space to play, learn and receive emotional support. Many of these Child-Friendly Spaces will be transitioned into semi-permanent community facilities with Plan's support
- 460 Child-Friendly Space Volunteers recruited and trained in creative psychosocial support techniques
- 96 service providers trained to teach others how to provide psychosocial support to those affected by stressful events
- 30 fathers of children attending Child-Friendly Spaces trained in a Cash For Work project to make age and gender-sensitive toys for Child-Friendly Spaces, using local and indigenous materials
- 103 Community Child Protection Councils re-established to lead community efforts to protect children. 1,427 community members trained to protect children from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation and provide psychological 'First Aid'
- 3,802 parents trained on positive parenting in stressful situations
- 4,101 girls and boys trained on prevention and response to gender-based violence
- Four 'Women-Friendly Spaces' established to support outreach and service delivery for adolescent girls and breastfeeding mothers. The spaces will also be used to support survivors of violence and the development of women's livelihoods in the long term.

Building Back Better, Stronger, Together

SUMMARY: *Plan's 'Building Back Better' project in Tacloban City (one of the areas worst affected by Typhoon Haiyan) is working with government partners and 6,000 community members to build a disaster-resilient community that can serve as a model for other reconstruction efforts. 'Building Back Better' means that community recovery efforts result in safer, more resilient buildings and infrastructure, access to safe drinking water and other services but, most importantly, it means working with communities on their recovery journey, involving them as partners in the recovery process, providing emotional support and building knowledge, community spirit and resilience. Things that aren't seen immediately but can withstand any future challenge.*

- 6,000 community members in Tacloban City are actively participating in Plan's 'Building Back Better' disaster-resilient reconstruction project
- 280 children in 12 communities were supported immediately after the typhoon to process and share their experiences through creative media, advocating on their needs and priorities while receiving peer support and having fun amidst a challenging situation. Eighty of this group participated in a year-long program to build their media skills and engage with the issues affecting their lives and communities as part of the reconstruction process. The 'Youth Reporters' are also involved in child-centred consultations, child-led advocacy and monitoring efforts
- 350 Elementary and Secondary School teachers trained on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
- 300 community members trained on Hazard Mapping, Risk Reduction and Management and Climate Change Adaptation
- We are monitoring the impact of our work in real time through mobile software that allows us to identify and address issues as they arise. This includes regular household surveys after distributions and engagement with adults, children, government and community leaders to ensure that our efforts reflect the needs and priorities of affected populations.

Read about [Plan's Typhoon Haiyan recovery priorities](#)

Meet [the children and communities affected by Typhoon Haiyan](#)

Learn about [Plan's work in the Philippines](#)