**Typhoon Haiyan - Philippines**

**Location**: Philippines

**Project Overview**: Rehabilitation in the Philippines

**Project Contact:** Shachar Zahavi, Executive Director of IsraAID

**Requested Budget:** $1,000,000

**Background of the Need**

On November 8th, 2013, one of the strongest typhoons ever to make landfall devastated the Philippines, killing more than 6,000 people, displacing over 4 million, and affecting a total of 16 million people. A day after Typhoon Haiyan whipped through the Philippine archipelago in a straight line from east to west, rescue teams struggled to reach far-flung regions, hampered by washed out roads, many choked with debris and fallen trees. 4 million were left homeless, and 26,000 were injured due to falling houses, trees and flying debris. National and international institutions struggled to deal with the sheer scale and scope of the devastated area, and, more than 8 weeks after the typhoon, basic survival remains a concern for millions.

One of the most severely affected areas has been the city of Ormoc, previously home to over 203,540 inhabitants. Though the city took extensive precautions and limited the number of casualties to 38, the center of the storm passed directly over the city, damaging or destroying over 97% of buildings in the city. Electricity was knocked out, water supplies contaminated, and nearly all of the city’s residents lost at least part, if not all, of their roofing. Tens of millions of dollars were lost in agriculture, livestock, and fishing revenues, and thousands are now left homeless and without a means of supporting their families, let alone rebuild their lives.

**IsraAID Response**

The first IsraAID Emergency Response team (ERT) arrived in the Philippines less than 36 hours after the event, and has been active on the ground ever since, providing medical services to over 5,000 people in Tacloban and Ormoc cities, distributing food and relief items to more than 9,000 people, and donating over 2 tons of medical supplies, all while coordinating with local, national, and international bodies to provide a measured and efficient response.

The organization’s local-based medical model in Ipil district has earned rave reviews from city officials, and IsraAID has been requested to ‘adopt’ Cogon district and scale up its operations. Furthermore, the organization has been working in close cooperation with the Departments of Education, Agriculture, Social Welfare, and Health to launch relief and rehabilitation programs throughout the city.

Currently, IsraAID has identified the following areas as immediate priorities for Ormoc and its surrounding areas:

1. Health Services

During the first few days in Leyte, IsraAID supported the emergency medical needs of the St. Paul hospital in Tacloban city. Once these were on their way to being met, the team deployed to Ormoc city, where, in close coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the District Social Welfare Department (DSWD), the district of Ipil (pop. 29,751) was identified as lacking in medical services, and requiring assistance. As such, IsraAID was requested to ‘adopt’ Ipil district and lead the delivery of medical services there. Basing itself on IsraAID’s core value of sustainability, the team consulted with all relevant local institutions, and created a model for reinforcing the local existing health care infrastructure. International doctors were paired with local counterparts and the Ipil district health center, closed since the typhoon, was reopened to the public. In the first week alone over 1,000 patients were seen, with a referral system set up with the government district hospital which is currently supported by international organizations.

Following this effort, IsraAID was requested to ‘adopt’ another district – Cogon – the most populated district in the city (44,596 people), and to take over some of the shifts at the main city health center (covers the entire municipality’s population of 203,540).

1. Mental Health

Typhoon ‘Yolanda’ was one of the most powerful typhoons to have made landfall in modern history. The strength of the storm was unprecedented for all that endured it, and the ensuing days devoid of water, food, and shelter were traumatizing for many. In addition, the mental anguish of the displaced continues to this day, as thousands remain without shelter or a safe environment.

After the typhoon 29 evacuation centers were created to host together 1,080 families who lost their homes in the typhoon. Their needs are many, and the situation dire. Social workers, counselors, government officials and local NGOs have been active day and night supporting the thousands of people displaced by the disaster. At the bequest of some of these groups, IsraAID launched a ‘train the trainers’ psychosocial capacity-building program. Already, 26 evacuation center volunteers (mainly from local daycare centers), 354 local teachers/guidance counselors and nurses from the department of education, and 27 local medical and health staff have taken part in psychosocial sessions, and have since implemented their newly-learned tools in daily activities with thousands of children (under surveillance and mentoring from IsraAID’s professional staff). In addition, an introductory training session with 28 members of the Philippines National Police (PNP) revealed a dire need for stress reduction and resilience training.

Such training workshops are followed by supervision and mentoring for the participants, and IsraAID provides them with close guidance and counseling skills for their target beneficiary group from among the affected population.

IsraAID’s long-term 1 year psychosocial support program includes 3 components: capacity building training for local professionals, supervision and mentoring for TOT training participants and stress release activities for local teachers and municipal officials.

1. Livelihood – Fishery and Agriculture

A large majority of Ormoc’s population relies on agriculture and fishery for their survival and source of income. The fishery industry suffered nearly 100% loss, poultry 97%, and agriculture was also nearly completely devastated. For those whose livelihood was based on these sectors, in addition to having no food, roof, or even home, they were left with no source of income for the foreseeable future.

1. **Fishermen Rehabilitation** - IsraAID in collaboration with the City Agriculture Services Office (CASO) wishes to provide motorized boats to 100 marginalized fishermen affected by the Typhoon. The 100 fishermen will be selected according to the following criteria:

* Fishing boat was damaged by Typhoon Haiyan
* Fishing is the primary source of income
* Have no financial resources to repair or buy a new boat

1. **Coconut Farmer Support**– IsraAID, at the request of CASO, is planning to assist local agriculture efforts, with coconut farmers identified as an especially vulnerable group due to the lengthy process involved with its harvesting (first yield is only after 5-7 years).
2. School and Health facility Rehabilitation

Prior to the Typhoon, Ormoc was home to 50,488 students enrolled in 97 public schools and taught by 1,544 teachers. Yolanda damaged 95% of school buildings, destroying 92 (7%) classrooms and rendering 55% (692) of them roofless and unusable. Among these, Ipil Central School and Ipil National High School were severely damaged by the Typhoon and are in dire need of repair and reconstruction. IsraAID contracted a local engineer to assess the renovation costs in both schools. For the time being, two buildings will be renovated immediately and are scheduled to be ready by the end of January 2014.

In addition, nearly all of the Ormoc District Health Centers (DHC) and Barangay Health Stations (BHS) were damaged by the typhoon, leaving health care delivery severely affected, putting the city’s typhoon-affected population even more vulnerable. As a result, IsraAID has repaired the roof of one DHS, and is engaging in the renovation and repair of other DHC’s and BHSs in Ormoc.