



UNICEF in the Philippines: One Year After Typhoon Haiyan

November 2014

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Overview

Last November, ‘super typhoon’ Haiyan, known locally as Yolanda, made landfall in the Philippines touching down in five of the country’s densely populated provinces. Haiyan is considered one of strongest storms on record, reaching shores with 195 mile-per-hour winds and unprecedented levels of storm surge. The Typhoon’s widespread reverberations were felt throughout thirty-six provinces, **claiming the lives of over 6,000 residents and impacting over 17.8 million individuals, including 7.4 million children.**

Typhoon Haiyan generated billions of dollars in economic loss throughout the Philippines, devastating infrastructure and valuable resources, including homes, schools and hospitals. In the Leyte province, Tacloban City experienced the greatest level of damage with most of its population losing access to water and power. Children required urgent assistance to survive the aftermath of the storm and to begin on the road toward recovery. The Typhoon’s devastating impact on water supplies and sanitation systems made health a priority, along with creating safe and protected spaces for children to play and receive psychosocial support.

Within 48 hours after Typhoon Haiyan struck, UNICEF was on the ground working alongside Government and other partners to provide clean water, sanitation and hygiene, restore access to education, restock health supplies, and scale up nutrition and child protection support services. The following is a report of UNICEF’S emergency response efforts to build back better in the Philippines. Thank you to our generous supporters for making this recovery possible.

UNICEF in Action

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

Typhoon Haiyan damaged water networks and contaminated water sources making access to safe drinking water an immediate challenge. Congested living conditions within the evacuation centers increased the risk of water-borne diseases, leaving women and children particularly vulnerable to infection and illness. UNICEF’s response included:

- **Water Supply:** UNICEF’s effective ground mobilization **provided safe access to clean water to 1.3 million people affected by Typhoon Haiyan.** Quick strategic resource allocation brought water kits, water treatment products, bladders and home storage containers to impacted areas. UNICEF immediately responded by working to rehabilitate contaminated water sources, allowing people to access a safe water supply.

Cover Photo: Maria Rhonalyn Grabidio, 14, lives in San Roque, Tanauan, which was one of the areas worst-hit by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. She attends the Tanauan School of Craftsmanship and Home Industries, which received assistance from UNICEF in the form of roof repairs. “My favorite subject is Math,” says Rhonalyn. A year after Typhoon Haiyan, children and communities continue to recover and rebuild. “Now I feel happy.... not like before. After Typhoon Haiyan, the people were scared and traumatized,” says Rhonalyn. © UNICEF / Hema Balasundaramtitle.

- Sanitation: Through provision of toilet slabs and portable toilets, **UNICEF has helped 310,017 people gain access to sustainable sanitation.** Fifty-six villages have now been declared 'zero open defecation zones', as UNICEF continues to educate local residents on solid waste management and disease prevention and encourage the use of toilets and other methods of improved sanitation. Additionally, generous funding has allowed **UNICEF to provide 504,209 children with hygiene kits since the beginning of the emergency.** As the situation continues to improve, UNICEF workers have turned their focus to restoring water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure at 600 Typhoon-damaged schools.

Education

Typhoon Haiyan left 3,200 schools and daycare centers damaged or destroyed, and many other schools were immediately converted into evacuation centers. **More than a million pre-school and school-aged children were out of school and close to 31,600 teachers were affected by the storm.** Bringing children back to learning became an immediate priority in order to prevent severe disruption in childhood education. **In November 2013, schools in affected areas began with a 'soft re-opening', with classes fully resuming on January 6, 2014, and daycare centers resuming a few weeks later.** UNICEF's response included:

- **UNICEF workers distributed learning materials and supplies to 624,783 pre-school and school-aged children.** UNICEF supported the implementation of 2,132 'Temporary Learning Spaces' fully equipped with WASH resources, in order to curb the disruption in education to children in Haiyan-affected regions. UNICEF and partners continued to promote a 'back to learning' campaign in schools and daycare centers by working to improve the facilities available, and communicating the benefits and importance of education to local families.
- Access to Quality Education: **In the response to Haiyan, UNICEF provided 7,894 teachers' kits along with 165,850 learning materials, 1,225 bookcases complete with library sets and 1,602 blackboards to schools in high impacted areas.** This stream of supplies helped UNICEF to establish temporary classrooms immediately after the Typhoon. Over the year, UNICEF mobilized funds to repair 1,443 classrooms, which will be certified and reopened in an effort to limit any continued disruption in education.
- Capacity Development for Education Providers: UNICEF trained 3,470 education personnel on education in emergencies and Disaster Risk Reduction.



Sheila Mae Gigante teaches her fellow pupils about proper handwashing. This is one part of the school's WASH activities as supported by UNICEF post Typhoon Haiyan to encourage better hygiene habits and life-skills. © UNICEF / Karen Gray.

Health

Haiyan's vast destruction took health centers out of operation, leaving people without access to standard services and routine immunizations. Even before the Typhoon, the region had reported low overall measles coverage and between 70 to 90 percent coverage for diphtheria. These factors, along with a need to continue vaccinations for pertussis and tetanus, made mass immunization campaigns a paramount priority.



Richelle Alcaraz received supplies from UNICEF to help her family recover. Richelle says that things are a little bit better now. "It gives me the hope and strength to continue on, knowing that we are not alone; that help is there when needed." © UNICEF / Gay Samson.

Access to maternal and newborn health care was a primary concern, with 230,000 women in affected regions estimated to be pregnant, and another 150,000 lactating. Both restoring access to health and strengthening the health system with tomorrow's emergencies in mind, continue to be UNICEF's priorities. UNICEF's response included:

- **Measles Campaigns and Expanded Routine Immunization:** Last December, measles cases were reported in affected areas, while crowded living conditions in evacuation centers and lack of access to safe water and sanitation compounded serious health risks, such as diarrhea and pneumonia. **UNICEF quickly focused efforts to fully immunize 15,707 children through routine vaccination programs, and 1.3 million children have since been vaccinated against measles.** In September 2013, UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) supported a mass immunization campaign in the region, providing 3 million doses of measles-rubella vaccine and 1.2 million doses of polio vaccine.
- **Rebuilding a resilient cold chain:** UNICEF immediately worked to restore temperature controlled supply chains, or cold chains, by providing resilient cold chain equipment, cold rooms, refrigerators, generators, cold boxes, vaccine carriers and fridge thermometers. These vital resources allowed UNICEF workers to provide safe vaccination services across areas impacted by Haiyan, as well as vaccine management training, monitoring and supervision.
- **Health Capacity Building: Over the year, 286 health personnel and 111 service providers have received updated health training.** An estimated 600,000 inter-agency emergency health kits have been provided to storm-damaged regions, including supplies to mothers and newborns.

Child Protection

Before Typhoon Haiyan, over 40 percent of children in the region lived in poverty. Trafficking and other forms of gender-based violence were among the greatest risks for women and children. The disaster exacerbated existing vulnerabilities, creating added risks for children from displacement, loss of loved ones, disrupted livelihoods and deteriorated access to basic social services. **With 7.4 million children affected and 1.7 million displaced**, UNICEF worked to make structured psychosocial support widely available, ensured environments were protective and child-friendly, and supported community-based child protection mechanisms to help throughout the recovery process and for future emergencies. UNICEF's response included:

- Child friendly places and psychosocial support: **Restoring access to psychosocial support within Child Friendly Spaces for 40,060 children was an immediate priority of UNICEF.** These spaces are designed specifically to promote recreational engagement and informal learning to aid in psychosocial reintegration. Additionally, UNICEF has extended psychosocial support activities to caregivers in an effort to provide more comprehensive recovery assistance. Since implementation, the Child Friendly Spaces have been highly utilized by their surrounding communities, with 80 percent of children registered.

- Typhoon Haiyan's devastation separated family members and interrupted standard support services. In the days following the storm, UNICEF worked closely with local Government to reestablish services for birth registration and family reunification. **UNICEF's commitment to replace 100,000 birth certificates of women and children adversely affected by Haiyan highlights their dedication to serving this priority.**



Althea Jane, age 8, in class in Tacloban City. The school was damaged by Typhoon Haiyan and received support from UNICEF in the form of school repairs, teaching and learning materials, and repairs and upgrades of handwashing facilities and toilets. © UNICEF / Hema Balasundaram.

- Strengthening Child Protection Systems: Focusing on local capacity for caregivers and service providers working with children, UNICEF provided training to police officers from the Philippines' Women and Children Protection Desks, daycare staff, health and nutrition workers, teachers and NGO partners. UNICEF and partners trained teachers to support children in classroom environments in addition to **training 2,244 social work professionals, including police officers, community members and caregivers on psychosocial support for children and prevention of violence, exploitation, abuse and trafficking.**

Nutrition

Although the damage from Haiyan did not create a large-scale nutrition crisis, the aftermath highlighted underlying challenges in regions with already higher malnutrition rates compared to the country’s national average. Limited access to clean water and food in affected areas became a further compounding factor potentially jeopardizing relatively good pre-emergency infant and young child feeding practices. As of last February, approximately 12,000 children were suffering from severe acute malnutrition, along with 100,000 women, lactating or pregnant, at risk of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. UNICEF’s response included:

- **Micronutrients, Infant and Young Child Feeding: UNICEF supported infant and young child feeding counseling to 68,858 caregivers of children between 0-23 months.** Additionally, UNICEF provided training to 2,600 health and nutrition service providers in order to further promote proper infant and young child feeding practices. Approximately 20,104 pregnant women received a total of 180 iron and folic acid supplementation tablets, administered daily.
- **Community Based Management of Acute Malnutrition:** When UNICEF arrived in the Philippines, workers immediately sought to screen impacted regions for acute malnutrition, evaluating 516,960 children between 6-59 months old. Of those evaluated, 948 children were identified as suffering from acute malnutrition and placed in therapeutic care. Of this group, 411 children have made a successful recovery after receiving treatment. In July, UNICEF supported a “Nutrition Month” campaign and distributed information and materials promoting breastfeeding and nutritional monitoring guidelines to 50,000 people within impacted regions.

An Innovative Response

In order to provide financial support to families in the highly impacted regions and cover their most basic needs, UNICEF implemented an unconditional cash transfer program. An estimated **15,801 households received \$100 per month through the program, in addition to the regular cash grants provided by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.** Half of these funds are typically spent on food and improving nutrition for children, with the other half typically defraying shelter, healthcare and education costs. UNICEF has strengthened its humanitarian monitoring in response to Typhoon Haiyan and developed an integrated Humanitarian Performance Monitoring Information System (HPMIS). The system provides real-time monitoring of humanitarian supply inputs, tracks distribution to partners, monitors UNICEF partner results, and assesses appropriateness, quality and beneficiary satisfaction.



15,801 of the most vulnerable households receive cash transfers from UNICEF, enabling them to purchase basic needs and start small livelihoods. © UNICEF / Joey Reyna.

The Way Forward

The generous and immediate response of our donors fully funded UNICEF's humanitarian response and early recovery efforts through November 2014. UNICEF would like to encourage donors to give flexible funding to continue to build resilience across the Philippines, as well as to respond to the humanitarian needs in other parts of the country. Focused on longer-term recovery, UNICEF is working with the Government and its reconstruction plan for 2015.

Thank you for helping us support the children of the Philippines and beyond. Our job is not finished yet and with your help, we will keep working until every child can survive, go to school and be protected in every corner of Philippines and around the world.

On behalf of the children of the Philippines, we thank you for your support.



Teacher Chyrine Medino and her students at Quinapondan Central Elementary School, where UNICEF supported students and teachers at the school with temporary classrooms, repairs, and teaching and learning materials. © UNICEF / Hema Balasundaram.

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The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) works in 190 countries and territories to put children first. UNICEF has helped save more children's lives than any other humanitarian organization, by providing health care and immunizations, clean water and sanitation, nutrition, education, emergency relief and more. The U.S. Fund for UNICEF supports UNICEF's work through fundraising, advocacy and education in the United States. Together, we are working toward the day when no children die from preventable causes and every child has a safe and healthy childhood. For more information, visit www.unicefusa.org.