

Diopen Claros sets out his fishing net off the coast of Malangabang, a small island where he lives near the Philippines city of Concepcion. His gear was ravaged during the passage of Typhoon Haiyan. Both deaf and mute, Claros helped carry other survivors to high ground as the storm surge swept over their low lying community.



Philippines – Rebuilding lives and livelihoods

Typhoon Haiyan (also known as Yolanda) struck the Philippines in November 2013. It was the strongest storm recorded at landfall. Millions were displaced when their homes were destroyed or washed away and more than 6,000 died from the storm.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance’s mission partner the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) is working with our ecumenical partners the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) and ACT Alliance in providing a variety of assistance to survivors. Early efforts supported by PDA included providing immediate assistance of emergency food, plastic sheeting, water and sanitation repair, programs of cash for work, shelter assistance, and blankets for more than 200,000 persons.

Priorities are shifting towards the longer term challenges of helping to rebuild people’s lives to include permanent housing, schools, water and sanitation facilities, and the restoration of fishing and agricultural livelihoods.

Gifts of financial support to help in the rebuilding and recovery efforts can be designated to DR000012.

Paul Jeffrey, ACT Feb 2014



Paul Jeffrey, ACT Feb 2014

Philippines man carries food supplies home to Estancia



A man builds a new boat in Tanauan, a city in the Philippines province of Leyte that was hit hard by Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013. The storm was known locally as Yolanda. Hundreds of families here have received water filters from the United Methodist Committee on Relief, a member of the ACT Alliance. UMCOR is also working with city officials to help residents here build permanent houses to replace those they lost in the storm.



Paul Jeffrey, ACT Feb 2014

Heart Bunda, a 4-year old girl displaced by Typhoon Haiyan, carries water containers to fill in a temporary shelter at the West Campus of the Northern Iloilo Polytechnic State College in Estancia, Philippines. More than 100 families remained in the camp in February 2014, many of them refusing to return to a coastline soaked by an oil spill during the typhoon, and uninterested in a government offer to relocate them to a remote location well out of the city.



Relief goods from PDA mission partner the National Council of Churches of the Philippines (NCCP) are passed along by volunteers in preparation for a distribution to survivors in Estancia, a village in the Philippines that was hit hard by Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013. NCCP is a member of the ACT Alliance.



Ninfa Necesario paints a boat that her son has rebuilt following the destruction caused in the Philippines by Typhoon Haiyan



Men pull on a rope to guide a coconut tree that is being felled. The felled tree will be cut into lumber for the construction of temporary houses.



A worker sprays rocks along the shoreline in Botongon, a neighborhood of Estancia, Philippines, in an effort to remove oil that spilled there when Typhoon Haiyan swept through the area in November 2013. Most residents who lived along the affected coastline remain in temporary shelters, despite government efforts to get many to return.



Jeanette Quilitano fabricates new fishing nets on Jinamoc Island, part of the municipality of Basey in the Philippines province of Samar. Following Haiyan, most of the boats were damaged or destroyed, and almost all the fishing nets left unusable.



Rogelio Francisco, who has one prosthetic leg, builds a new house for his family



Several people use a motorized tricycle to carry relief supplies home following distribution by NCCP



Ville Askainen ACT FinnChurchAid

Brenda Dizon is a school teacher in the Barangay Salvacion in Jinamoc Island, Samar. Her school was badly destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan. "Children keep asking, when does the school start again."



Paul Jeffrey, ACT Feb 2014

Children in the Philippines province of Samar return to school.



Laurie Kraus

Outside Palo, near Tacloban, a farming village church of the UCCP begins to rebuild with coco wood, a plentiful building resource now that the area's coconut trees and plantations have been destroyed by Haiyan. This important crop tree will have to be replanted. With no coconut fruit yield expected for 5-7 years, the farming economy, dependent on coconut and rice, will be severely challenged



Laurie Kraus



Paul Jeffrey, ACT Feb 2014

Old enmities are overcome by compassion as this Buddhist organization from Japan brings healing, rebuilding, and reconciliation to their neighbors in the typhoon-affected



Paul Jeffrey, ACT Feb 2014

A boy walks along the beach. Some residents have rebounded from the storm with help from the Philippine government and the international community