Six months after Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines, progress has been made, but the need remains enormous. Millions of survivors not only lost their homes, but their livelihoods too. After six months of providing immediate aid, we started working on the post-emergency phase and reconstruction.

Now, our goal is to restore basic infrastructure (water systems, homes, markets, roads, etc.) We’re also helping survivors recover their livelihoods, such as farming and fishing, so they can regain self-sufficiency.
THE PHILIPPINES, REBUILDING SIX MONTHS AFTER HAIYAN

THE SITUATION SIX MONTHS LATER

14 MILLION people affected

4 MILLION people displaced

THE UNITED NATIONS has called for:

$808 million in emergency funds

(we have reached 52% of the goal)

25,000 people living in evacuation centers

320 PROFESSIONALS from the Action Against Hunger network working on emergency relief efforts

A young Filipino man in Santa Fe, on the island of Leyte, assists in the reconstruction of a water source reconstructed by Action Against Hunger, six months after the typhoon Haiyan damaged it. Rehabilitating water networks is a critical step in providing clean water to households. Photo: ACF-Philippines, Daniel Burgui.
THE PHILIPPINES, REBUILDING SIX MONTHS AFTER HAIYAN 03

OUR NUMBERS

Intervention provided by Action Against Hunger: $34 million

Volume invested by area of activity:

Percentage of people served by sector:

200,000 people served
Post-emergency interventions:

**NUTRITION AND HEALTH**

**Objective:** To prevent and treat malnutrition and other life-threatening diseases, and to improve the nutritional status of vulnerable communities.

**How?**

We’re preventing acute malnutrition by:

- Providing nutritional care for vulnerable populations
- Distributing nutritional supplements and food rations
- Providing a safe space for pregnant and nursing mothers to recover and resume care practices like nursing
- Supporting infant nutrition with solid foods in addition to nursing
- Strengthening the capacity of local agencies to test for and treat acute malnutrition

The existing acute malnutrition rates in the affected regions are higher than the national average:

- **2.94 million people** are at risk of malnutrition
- **6,000 children** ages 6-59 months suffer from severe acute malnutrition
- **24,000 children** ages 6-59 months suffer from moderate acute malnutrition
- **More than 100,000 pregnant and nursing women** are at risk of malnutrition
FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Objective: To restore the livelihoods of populations affected by the typhoon, so they can once again generate income to buy food and meet their other basic needs.

How?

We’re helping rebuild livelihoods by:

• Providing cash transfers and vouchers
• Distributing unconditional cash grants during the first month of post-emergency aid
• Distributing in-kind aid, depending on local supplies
• Rehabilitating local trade

Typhoon survivors not only lost their homes, but their livelihoods too. The post-emergency phase focuses helping survivors recover their livelihoods, such as farming and fishing, so they can regain self-sufficiency.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Objetivo: To reconstruct and improve water and sanitation facilities for families and communities.

How?

We’re improving access to clean water and safe sanitation by:

• Rehabilitating and constructing latrines, laundry facilities, and drainage systems.
• Supplying and installing water treatment tanks and plants
• Coordinating with local governments
• Training local water, sanitation and hygiene committees
• Supplying hygiene kits and clean water for vulnerable groups

“It’s important to move from building temporary structures to rehabilitating sanitation networks, mainly in urban areas. We must ensure that homes that are being rebuilt have quality water, and emphasize activities to promote public health, as a still fragile context in which epidemics can occur.”

- Pablo Alcalde, head of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Action Against Hunger
INTERVIEW WITH EDUARDO DE FRANCISCO

Eduardo Francisco (Cordoba, 1972) has coordinated Action Against Hunger’s post-emergency response since February. Mr. Francisco has extensive experience in emergency contexts, including Central African Republic, Afghanistan, Darfur, Chad, and Haiti Occupied Palestinian Territory. He gives us an analysis of the current situation in the Philippines, and how it evolved.

What has made this emergency different from others?

Above all, the scale of the disaster. Although the Philippines is accustomed to typhoons, never in its history has there been one of such magnitude. Typhoon Haiyan left more than six thousand dead and fourteen million people affected, many of which cannot yet return to their normal lives. For example, with the previous typhoon emergency, many families spent months in shelters. But in this case, there are families who are just now moving to these shelters from their own makeshift tents.

Six months later, how has the situation evolved? What are the priorities now?

The basic needs (water, food, sanitation, health services) have been covered effectively by humanitarian response and the efforts of the Philippine government. The most significant need that has yet to be met is housing: over a million homes need to be rebuilt. Also, families have not yet recovered their main sources of income, like agriculture and fishing, in the affected areas. This process will be very slow, and the priority now is to help them rebuild livelihoods.

Finally, we must mention the psychological assistance to typhoon survivors, because the experience was very traumatic and many people lost family and friends.

What kind of projects are being launched by Action Against Hunger today?

Our first phase focused on providing immediate lifesaving assistance (drinking water, food distributions, emergency latrines, nutritional...
and psychological support, etc.). Now, Action Against Hunger is beginning to implement a second round of projects, which are intended to ensure that long-term interventions are sustainable.

An important part of this process is the collaboration with the local authorities and markets, focusing on capacity building on all fronts: chronic malnutrition treatment, small business support and training, counseling training for health workers, community water and sanitation management, etc.

**How much time will it take to bring affected areas back to normal?**

This is difficult to predict. But Tacloban, for example, has set 2020 for a more or less complete reconstruction of the city and its infrastructure.

The return to normalcy is a progress. Many schools are already running again, and most health centers are being rebuilt and functioning normally. However, there are many families that have not yet recovered any form of income.

For our part, Action Against Hunger plans to work in the areas affected by the typhoon until at least December 2015, with a strategy of giving local authorities ownership over the recovery process.

**Is it possible to prevent disasters of this magnitude?**

In a word, no. Moreover, due to climate change, it’s likely that the number and intensity of such disasters will increase in the future. The Philippines is the third country most at risk of natural disasters in the world.

What we can do is minimize the damage. Our interventions always include a component of disaster prevention so that populations are in a better position in future disasters. In this regard, we note the immense capacity of the Filipino people to cope with such disasters, to which they are unfortunately quite accustomed.
A child runs in front of the longhouse in Sanmiguelay, Santa Fe (Leyte), one of the areas affected by Typhoon Haiyan six months ago. Action Against Hunger has implemented programs here to rebuild water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure.

Photo: ACF-Philippines, Daniel Burgui.

A young farmer combs rice he saved from the last harvest that is drying under the sun. Typhoon Haiyan affected many farmers in Sanmiguelay. In the background, you can see building material Action Against Hunger is using to rebuild hygiene facilities.

Photo: ACF-Philippines, Daniel Burgui.

Children play while Action Against Hunger works with community members in Sanmiguelay to construct a water source in the town of Santa Fe, Leyte Island, six months after Typhoon Haiyan.

Photo: ACF-Philippines, Daniel Burgui.
Focus on... ROLANDO CRIADO (64 years old):
“We need more than rice.”
Sanmiguelay, Santa Fe (Leyte Island, The Philippines)

Mr. Criado examines the grains of rice in his full bag. He collected this rice after combing and cleaning it, and laying it to dry under the Philippine summer sun on a small cement basketball court in Sanmiguelay. Here, just one hundred houses stand, all rebuilt after Typhoon Haiyan devastated this small town of Santa Fe on the island of Leyte just six months ago, in November of last year.

“The rice is so black. It’s from the land that was flooded by the typhoon. The grains are dark, but they’re good,” insists Mr. Criado as he removes the grains. The truth is that Rolando was lucky: he saved the harvest grown before the typhoon, and its 1,200 kilos of rice is enough to feed his family (seven children, his wife, and one grandson). But he cannot sell this rice at the market. “Nobody will buy this,” he says. Rice of this color—wild, blackened by sludge and debris from flooded farmland—is not suitable for sale to families or companies. He says, “we can feed my family. But, of course, we need more than rice.”

Like Mr. Criado, most of the 450 residents of this village are farmers. Six months after Typhoon Haiyan, almost all of them are trying to rebuild not only their homes, but their local economy. Mr. Criado is optimistic: he’s already lived through many typhoons and hundreds of harvests, some fruitful, some disappointing. “I believe that within two plantings, I hope we’ll regain our harvests and the land will be as it was before. Meanwhile, we’ll barter with neighbors for eggs, meat, and other goods,” he says, smiling, before closing the bag. In this small neighborhood of Sanmiguelay, Action Against Hunger has been implementing water, sanitation and hygiene programs. We have build wells, repaired springs and water distribution networks, and improved sanitation.

Airam Palencia, the head of the district (known locally as a barangay), explains that Action Against Hunger has also taught classes on healthy hygiene habits for families. “The typhoon has cost parents in the community a lot,” he says. With a smile, he continues: “Without water, we can’t live in these areas. We are very grateful that in the past six months, we were able to get help to resume our daily routines.”
Hunger has a solution.

Action Against Hunger | ACF International, a global humanitarian organization committed to ending world hunger, saves the lives of malnourished children while helping vulnerable communities become self-sufficient.

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