



Peace Boat Disaster Relief Volunteer Center (PBV)

# Philippines: Typhoon Haiyan Relief Project Report

**Project Period:** 15 November 2013 ~ 05 July 2014

**Main Locations:** Cebu & Biliran Islands, Philippines

[English-language Website] <http://peaceboat.jp/relief/>

[Japanese-language Website] <http://pbv.or.jp/>

# Typhoon Haiyan: Nature's Toll in the Philippines

Typhoon Haiyan (local name: Yolanda) formed and gained extraordinary strength over the Pacific Ocean, making landfall in the Philippines on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2013. Eastern Samar and Leyte Islands were the first to feel the full force of the typhoon, which then moved onto Cebu, Panay and other central islands where it also wreaked widespread devastation. The typhoon continued on its path through China and Vietnam before eventually dissipating.

Peace Boat Disaster Relief Volunteer Center (PBV) dispatched an advanced team on 15<sup>th</sup> November to conduct an initial damage assessment and establish contact with key stakeholder groups. Despite the best efforts of a wide range of humanitarian actors, including the United Nations and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the situation was dire due to the scale of the disaster and the disorder that ensued.

## Statistics

<b>No. of Deaths</b>	<b>6300</b>
<b>Homes Damaged/ Destroyed</b>	<b>1.1 million</b>
<b>No. of Displaced</b>	<b>4.1 million</b>
<b>No. of People Affected</b>	<b>16 million</b>



## Damage Report

The typhoon caused a tsunami-like storm surge that reached 7 meters in some areas, as well as wind speeds that topped 100 meters/second, similar to those experienced during tornadoes. The hardest hit were the impoverished and marginalized communities living along the coast and even many designated emergency shelters were not able to withstand the strong winds and flooding.

The economic losses incurred were unprecedented; fishing and agricultural industries (especially coconut farms) were devastated and many livelihoods were lost. With food, shelter and other basic necessities in short supply, a mass exodus of affected families to surrounding islands followed in the days and weeks after the passing of Haiyan.

PBV worked closely with community groups, local governments and international aid organisations to provide effective and timely assistance to disaster-stricken communities across the Philippines.



# Project Overview

## Emergency Relief (Cebu Island)

Many survivors from Samar and Leyte Islands evacuated to Manila and Cebu. PBV provided medical supplies and food items to families taking refuge in evacuation centers.

Period: 15 Nov 2013 ~ 26 Nov 2013  
Focus: Provision of medical & food supplies to Evacuees  
Partners: FJERA(Filipino Japanese Emergency Response Association)



## Financial Support (Leyte & Samar Islands)

Communities worst affected did not have access to lifelines such as water and electricity. These communities needed basic supplies from other areas to survive. PBV provided funding to 2 partners, enabling them to purchase and transport needed emergency supplies to Leyte and Samar Islands.

Financial Aid: US \$6,500  
Provided to: FJERA (Filipino Japanese Emergency Response Association)  
Procurement and Transportation of Emergency Supplies to Leyte Island  
PGX (People's Global Exchange)  
Procurement and Transportation of Emergency Supplies for Female Survivors on Samar Island



## Recovery Support (Biliran Island)

PBV focused on delivering kitchen kits and emergency shelter repair kits to underserved communities on Biliran Island. International NGOs and local groups shared knowledge, personnel and funding in order to deliver effective assistance to these communities who were receiving very little aid from the outside.

Period: 6 Dec 2013 ~ 5 July 2014  
Activities: Provision of Kitchen Kits and Emergency Shelter Repair Kits  
Partners: PDRRN (People's Disaster Risk Reduction Network)  
CWS Pakistan/Afghanistan



## Activities Calendar

8 Nov 2013	Typhoon Haiyan makes landfall in the Philippines
15 Nov 2013	PBV Advanced Team dispatched to the Philippines
25 Nov /2013	Begin provision of medical & food supplies to evacuees on Cebu Island
26 Nov 2013	Second Team dispatched for recovery support projects
30 Nov 2013	Begin Participation in UNOCHA cluster meetings
12 Dec 2013	Begin distribution of emergency shelter repair kits
17 Dec 2013	Agreement with local government and recovery project on Biliran Island confirmed
7 Feb 2014	Begin distribution of kitchen kits
30 Jun – 5 Jul 2014	Follow-up meeting with local partners and project evaluation, End of Project



## Emergency Relief & Financial Aid

PBV's advanced team arrived in the Philippines within the first week of the disaster to assess needs and establish contacts with other organisations in the field. Within the first few weeks, the race was on to provide the most basic of necessities (food, water, shelter and hygiene products) to minimize loss of life. There was a dire shortage of these supplies, especially in the rural, harder-to-reach areas in the weeks following the disaster.

Transportation was a major challenge; the Philippines is a nation of over 7,000 islands and so most items are transported via boat. Not only were many boats destroyed during the typhoon, but many roads were also damaged, further hindering the smooth delivery of aid. PBV worked closely with local communities and local aid organisations to overcome these obstacles and deliver much-needed supplies to the communities affected on Cebu, Leyte and Samar Islands.

### Distributing Food and Healthcare Items to Evacuees (Cebu Island)



Whilst much of the aid was being focused on the islands that were severely affected, evacuees who fled to other islands received less attention. Many evacuation centers set up on surrounding areas were under-resourced and many survivors experienced food shortages and medical problems due to the difficult circumstances. These issues, compounded by the fact that survivors faced uncertainty for the future, caused great stress and anxiety.

To assist evacuees on Cebu Island, PBV worked closely with local partner FJERA and delivered both healthcare supplies (thermometers, blood pressure gauges and wheelchairs) and food items (meal packages, fruits and juice) to those in need. Fresh food provides both nutritional value and psychological benefits in emergency situations.

### Financial Support for Emergency Aid (Leyte & Samar Islands)

Local partners had the knowledge and networks to implement effective assistance programs for those most in need, but were in need of monetary support. PBV provided local partners with much-needed funding, empowering them to buy and send vital supplies to survivors on Leyte and Samar Islands.

## Support from the Private Sector



Many kind individuals and companies supported our relief activities in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan. We gratefully received monetary donations from **Tesa Tape** and **Lush Japan**, as well as communications support from **Softbank** and outdoor equipment from **MontBell**. PBV would like to thank these generous individuals and companies for their support.

**LUSH** FRESH  
HANDMADE  
COSMETICS

**tesa**

**mont·bell**

# Recovery Support on Biliran Island



Whilst media and humanitarian aid focused on Tacloban and other populated areas, Biliran Island was largely neglected. Communities on this island in the Central Philippines received very little external assistance after the disaster and struggled to cope: 112,000 people were affected, over 20,000 homes damaged and thousands lost their livelihoods in the aftermath of the typhoon (Source: Province of Biliran, Initial Damage Report, 27 Nov 2013).

After consulting with key stakeholders, PBV saw the need for immediate action here and commenced relief operations in partnership with local partners PDRRN and CWS Pakistan/Afghanistan. Together, we assessed affected *barangays* (sub-district of a town/village), identifying those most in need, such as elderly, disabled, and unemployed residents. Emergency shelter repair kits and kitchen kits were then delivered to help rebuild their homes and assist families in the recovery process.

**Number of Households Served = 1125 (across 15 *barangays*)**

## Emergency Shelter Repair Kits: Rebuilding Disaster Resilient Homes



PBV supported local partners to provide affected households with emergency shelter repair kits (including roofing materials, nails, sealant and wire) to rebuild their homes. Orientations and training sessions were held prior to distribution to educate and encourage residents to build disaster resilient homes with these materials.

## Kitchen Kits: Enabling Families to Get Back on Their Feet



Many survivors lost their homes and the basic household items that are essential to living a healthy lifestyle, such as cooking equipment. PBV supported local partners to provide affected families with kitchen kits (including pots, pans, kitchen utensils and equipment) to support families by enabling them to cook meals and return to a regular daily routine.



## Providing Effective Relief through Cooperation



PBV believes that local communities should always take the lead when it comes to disaster response and recovery. This is why communicating, cooperating and collaborating with stakeholders at all levels is so crucial to boosting overall operational capacities. The UN coordinated many different humanitarian groups (UN agencies, civil society & government groups) through a number of 'clusters', or platforms for groups to share information and work together effectively in the field.

Whilst working with community groups and local governments (such as *barangay* councils), PBV also cooperated with many of the UN agencies and International NGOs through the UN cluster system. This allowed PBV to gather and share crucial information and find suitable partner organisations to maximize the impact of operations at the grass-roots level.

## Voices of the Beneficiaries

*"We are so glad that they are helping families like us; families without a stable income and who struggle from day-to-day after the typhoon. We have a lot of mouths to feed and I do not have a steady job, so I cannot guarantee that I can feed my entire family every day. I am thankful that they take into account our living circumstances and what we really need."* - **Gary Gaviola**

*"It's good that the assistance came because no other agencies have given us anything – not even the government. When you came, the most deprived among us received a helping hand. Thank you so much for your help."* - **Rodney Rosales**

*"When we badly needed it, help came."* - **Felicidad Donato**



## From Japan's Tsunami Survivors to Communities in the Philippines ~ Support from Ishinomaki City Residents ~



PBV began collecting donations for survivors of Typhoon Haiyan from our Tohoku operations base in Ishinomaki City, where we conduct long-term disaster recovery projects serving communities affected by the 2011 tsunami. The response was overwhelming; not only did the local residents donate generously, they offered their time and energy to help us by volunteering as donation collectors on the streets. As a result, PBV was able to raise 1.2 million Japanese Yen, or approximately 15% of the total budget, for our Philippines projects with the help of our friends in Ishinomaki.

The response from the international community in the wake of the 2011 disaster was truly staggering; through PBV alone, over 3000 volunteers from 56 countries came to Ishinomaki to help the affected communities. This time around, the kind people of Ishinomaki showed their generosity and willingness to give back, through their enthusiastic support of our Typhoon Haiyan relief project.

We would like to express our gratitude for their support and hope to continue empowering communities around the world to help one-another in disaster time.

## Reflections

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Peace Boat Disaster Relief Volunteer Center  
Director/Typhoon Haiyan Emergency Response Coordinator  
Shigehiro Goda

*Within a week of Typhoon Haiyan making landfall, PBV's advanced team was on the ground assessing damage and establishing contact with key stakeholders. It was immediately clear that the problems posed were beyond damage to infrastructure and buildings; the economic losses incurred through the loss of livelihoods (especially fishing and coconut farming) and the wider social impacts caused by damage to schools and other public facilities would provide major long-term challenges. Given our experience with long-term recovery after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, we knew these kinds of issues would be crucial to the recovery and revitalization of the area.*

*The Philippines, much like Japan, is prone to typhoons and an array of other natural disasters. In fact, the country experiences an average of 20 typhoons a year. Given the high frequency of extreme weather-related events, the Philippines has a tested disaster management system and most disasters are dealt with internally (i.e. without help from the international community). This time, however, a range of international actors came to the aid of the government of the Philippines, including the United Nations and International NGOs.*

*With this influx of external assistance, the key to maximizing the response capacity was to cooperate, collaborate and create synergy between Philippines-based actors and those from the outside. Through sharing knowledge, resources and networks, all aid organisations involved could avoid the duplication of efforts and provide the best possible level of assistance to disaster-affected communities.*

*On a final note, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude to the many organisations and individuals who have supported our Philippines relief efforts, from our partners in the Philippines to our supporters in Japan. This project would not have been possible without your kindness, compassion and generosity.*

*Thank you.*

## Peace Boat and the Philippines

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Peace Boat has visited the Philippines a number of times during the NGO's global voyages to promote peace, human rights, sustainable development and respect for the environment. The NGO also mobilized its resources and conducted relief operations when a powerful typhoon struck the Philippines in 2009, using its existing network to distribute supplies and provide assistance.

In 2013, however, Typhoon Haiyan caused damage on an unprecedented scale, requiring a full-fledged response in order to minimize human suffering on the ground. As Peace Boat's specialist organisation working specifically in disaster risk reduction, PBV implemented one of its most comprehensive international response projects to date in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.

When considering the deeper human, social and environmental impacts of Typhoon Haiyan, the road to recovery will most likely be a long and arduous one. However, as the reconstruction of the affected areas and the rebuilding of communities continues, PBV will maintain contact with local partners and assist in any way possible. We hope to continue working together towards a brighter future and to build stronger and more resilient communities in the Philippines going forward.



## Project Finances

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(Japanese Yen)

<b>Project Income</b>	Individual & Corporate Donations	7,685,465
	PBV Contribution	717,679
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,403,144</b>
<b>Project Expenditures</b>	Financial Aid to Partners	672,900
	Biliran Recovery Project	4,715,230
	Purchase of Relief Supplies	101,913
	Human Resources	1,442,250
	Administration, Travel & Accommodation	1,470,851
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,403,144</b>
<b>Remaining Balance</b>	<b>Income - Expenditures</b>	<b>0</b>

## Media Appearances

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18 Nov 2013      NHK Tohoku  
01 Mar 2014      Setagaya Volunteer Network Community Magazine  
11 Apr 2014      Yomiuri Newspaper

## PBV would like to thank the following for their support

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ACT Alliance / ADRRN / AmeriCares / Beautiful Store / Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace / CWS Pakistan-Afghanistan / DanChurchAid / Daughters of Charity / FJERA / ICAN / Kinoya Ishinomaki Suisan / LUSH Japan / Mennonite Central Committee / MontBell / PDRRN / PGX / Shinrai Shihon Foundation / Softbank / TESA Tape

PBV would also like to thank all of the individuals who made this project possible through their generous donations.



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