

**Six Months after Typhoon Haiyan:
Save the Children Restoring Hope for
Children and Families in the Philippines**

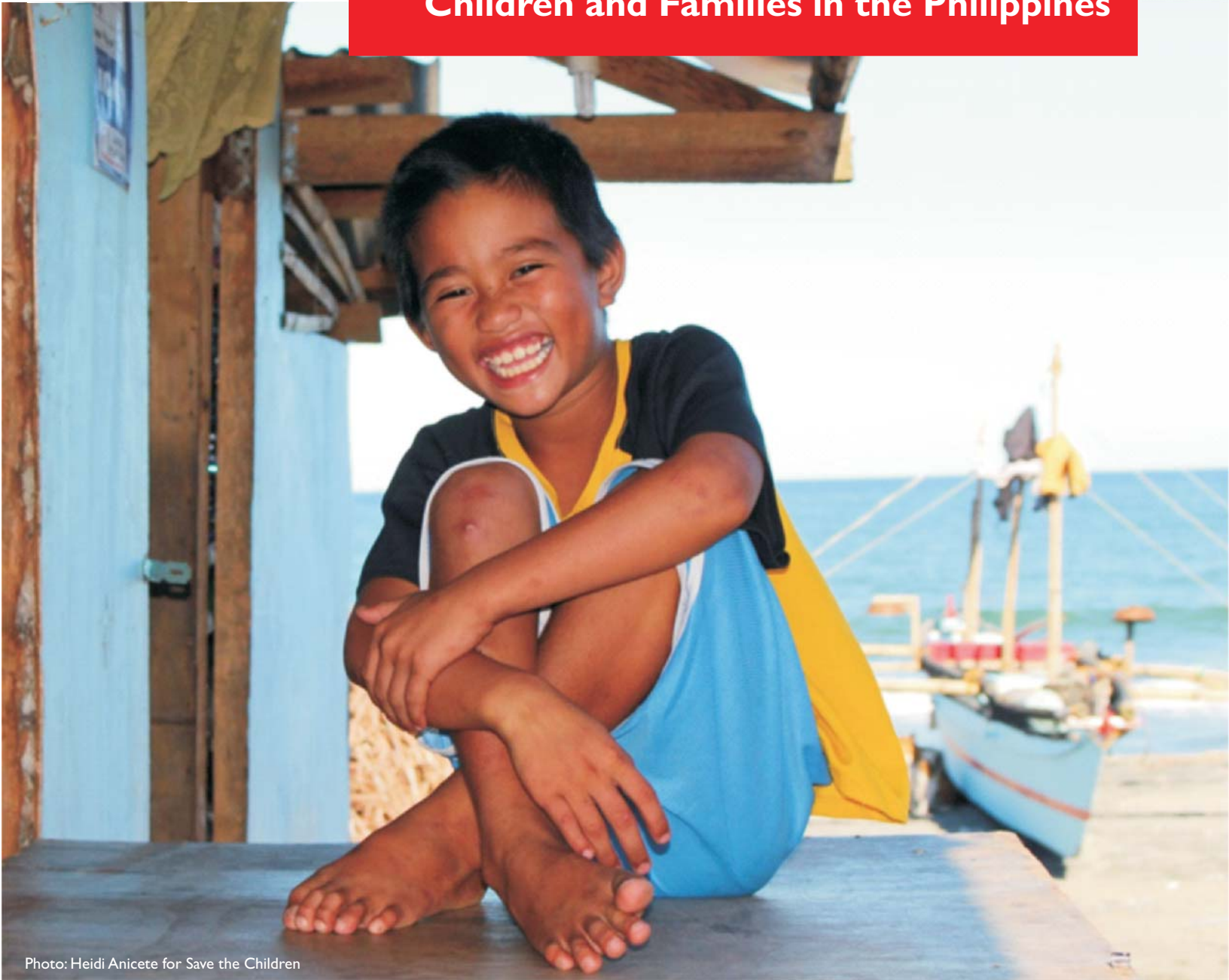


Photo: Heidi Anicete for Save the Children

A Special Report for our Global Donors



Save the Children

A Message to our Global Donor Family

It's not hard to recollect the chaos of six months ago. When Typhoon Haiyan struck, its power was something we had never seen, even in such a disaster-prone country as the Philippines.

In the immediate aftermath, Save the Children's teams raced to Tacloban and the other worst-affected areas. There was debris everywhere, making access to those who needed us extremely difficult.

It is difficult to overstate the traumatic effects of a disaster on a country in which one out of every 25 people lost their home. More than double that figure were affected in other ways. In the end, more than 6,201 people were killed and 1,785 more were never found.

Save the Children is now moving from relief work to the recovery stage. Emergency relief is ending, and we are adapting our activities to support the rebuilding of people's homes and livelihoods.

Over the next three years, we plan to reach over 1 million people, among them over 826,000 children. That's certainly ambitious, but thanks to the incredible support of our donors across the globe. I'm confident we'll be able to make real, lasting and positive change for those who need it most.

I speak for every member of our team – and the communities affected by Typhoon Haiyan – in thanking you for your generosity.

Ned Olney
Country Office Director



Photo: Dervie Balido for Save the Children

Typhoon Haiyan: Six Months On

Typhoon Haiyan, known in the Philippines as Typhoon Yolanda, was one of the most powerful storms ever recorded. It made landfall in the Visayas region of the Philippines on November 8, 2013, leaving a massive trail of devastation. Over 6,000 people were killed and millions were left homeless. Infrastructure crumbled, thousands of fishing boats were wrecked, and entire plantations of coconut trees were flattened, leaving many families unable to earn the incomes they depended on.

Save the Children was one of the first agencies on the scene, and we remain the largest aid agency in some of the worst-affected areas. As we reach the six-month mark after Haiyan, we have reached more than 490,000 children and adults with aid, including food, water, medicines, shelter and hygiene items. We are also working to keep children safe and continue their schooling.

“The winds were howling – we couldn't see anything, it was almost like smoke. The trees fell down one by one, and the houses too.”

- Dayrene, 27, West Leyte

Although children, families and communities are well down the road to recovery, needs remain enormous. Thousands of families don't have permanent homes and are struggling to rebuild their livelihoods. Without our continued support, they will struggle to overcome Haiyan's legacy.

Save the Children's commitment to the people of Philippines is one for the long term. Unfortunately, future disasters are inevitable and because of climate change they may become even more common. Our response is therefore not only supporting the huge recovery effort, but also is helping affected communities adapt and prepare for future disasters.





Photo: Jonathan Hyams for Save the Children

Sheltering Families

In total, Haiyan destroyed a staggering 581,000 homes, with 583,000 more damaged. Without proper shelter, children and their families are left vulnerable to the elements, with severe consequences for their health, nutritional intake, protection and livelihoods. In the immediate aftermath, we provided emergency kits, including tarpaulins, repair kits, tools and household kits (including blankets, cooking pots and kitchen utensils) to reach 47,500 families.

Since then, we have:

- Established a shelter program that is enabling over 5,000 households to start rebuilding more durable, storm-resistant homes with materials, cash grants, training and technical assistance.
- Provided training and tools to over 600 carpenters, helping them rebuild both the infrastructure of their communities and their own livelihoods.

“ Afterwards, the children were shocked. Renan, my four-year-old, said: 'Mum, where will we stay, we don't have a house anymore, where will my little brother sleep? ”

– Dayrene, 27, West Leyte

Our Plans:

- We will continue to help communities rebuild and support the construction of safer homes, given how vulnerable to extreme weather these communities are.
- We will provide cash grants, materials, and training and technical assistance.
- An education program for schoolchildren will help them to understand the fundamentals of what helps to make a house a safer home.

Providing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Haiyan tore up water pipelines and contaminated much of the water supply. Communities had no access to clean drinking water and many people had to travel long distances to find water. There are ongoing sanitation concerns in affected areas, which is especially worrisome for children's health.

So far we have:

- Reached more than 200,000 people, including over 90,000 children, with water, sanitation and hygiene activities.
- Distributed 49,000 hygiene kits, along with jerry cans, water purification tablets and treatment kits.
- Constructed over 1,100 latrines for households and schools, repaired water systems and conducted hygiene promotion activities.

Our Plans:

- We are creating a new, innovative hygiene promotion project in which children will serve as ambassadors leading efforts to promote good hygiene in their communities. This will engage other children in the recovery process and help to disseminate information widely.

Shelle, 11, practices hand-washing at a new washing station we built at the Sua Elementary School to promote good hygiene behavior. "This hand washing facility is a big help to us students here. It can help us prevent illness brought by dirty hands" Shelle said.

“ Save the Children came here to give us toilets around the second week of December. My parents and some of our neighbors worked hand-in-hand to install it and make a sturdy housing for it using the tarpaulins that were also provided. ”

— Apple, 17, Dulag



Protecting Children

Children lost loved ones, witnessed the destruction of their homes, were forced into unsatisfactory living conditions, suffered psychological stress and serious disruption to their lives. To this day, many children are still living in inadequate shelter and face uncertainty over their future. Parents also report that children show signs of longer-term trauma, such as persistent fear of rain. One of our key areas is to protect these children from further harm and build broader awareness of the needs of children during and after emergencies.

Save the Children has:

- Established 48 Child Friendly Spaces – safe play areas for children where they can play, feel at ease and talk about their experiences with trained caregivers. They also learn about good hygiene practices and how to prepare for future disasters. More than 32,000 children have attended Child Friendly Spaces since Haiyan struck.

“ The Child Friendly Space has been an outlet for them to pour out their feelings. It's allowed them to forget about what happened and get back to normal. They always look forward to attending the sessions. ”

– Jackielo, West Leyte

- Conducted psychosocial support training with parents and caregivers, helping adults identify when a child may be in need of help and guidance – and what that should be.

Our Plans:

- We are working with communities to promote awareness of child protection issues and helping them prepare for future disasters.

We first met Justin (also pictured on the front page) shortly after the typhoon, sitting outside his family's ravaged home in Dulag. We provided Justin's family with basic necessities, including a tarpaulin for shelter and blankets. Today, Justin and his younger sister Jillian regularly attend one of our Child Friendly Spaces near their rebuilt home. We have also provided Justin with everything he needs to return to school. According to Justin's mother, the Child Friendly Space “has taught Justin how to smile again.” Justin's father has also found work again.



Photo: Jonathan Hyams for Save the Children



Children at the MacArthur School in Leyte. We trained the school's teachers to support children as they dealt with the emotional impact of the catastrophe.

Helping Children Return to School

Haiyan damaged or destroyed more than 17,500 schools and 2,500 daycare centers, along with vast quantities of school furniture and educational materials. Although children had lost so much they expressed a desire to return to learning. Save the Children was instrumental in coordinating the education response effort and was active in a Back to Learning Campaign, which advocated for and supported children to return to school as soon as possible.

So far we have:

- Provided over 100 temporary learning spaces and repaired damaged schools.
- Distributed over 7,000 school bags to children, along with thousands of teacher kits, educational materials and recreational materials for educators.

- Trained and supported teachers to help children deal with their experiences.

Our Plans:

- We are implementing summer learning programs for girls and boys who missed so much school this year. We will also keep training teachers, support repairs to schools and help replace learning materials.

“ My school bag and all my school materials were destroyed and because of that, I have been sharing a bag with my brother ever since classes started (in January). I am really happy that I finally have a bag of my own. There are a lot of new school materials inside it, like new notebooks, pencil case, boots and a lunch box. ”

— Ryan, 10, East Leyte

Access to Health and Nutrition Services

“ I need personal things for my child for her health and hygiene, like vitamins and other things, because the typhoon took them all away ... all of our clothes got wet including our child's clothes. That caused my child's high fever. ”

— Jennifer, 20, Panay

Typhoon Haiyan destroyed up to 90 percent of health facilities in the worst-affected areas, leaving children and families without access to basic health care at a critical time. Six months on, many health care facilities still stand damaged. Many patients face long journeys and high travel costs to access the care they need. Today, minor childhood illnesses such as coughs and colds are exacerbated by inadequate shelter that leaves children exposed to wind and rain.

Some highlights of our work include:

- Over 40,000 consultations were carried out by our mobile health units in the most remote areas. We provided primary health services, along with counselling and education on reproductive health, breastfeeding and other issues.
- We have carried out over 33,000 screenings of mothers and children for malnutrition and reached 14,000 children through our supplementary feeding program.
- Providing hospitals with medical supplies, equipment and manpower.

Our Plans:

- Our focus is on strengthening psychosocial services for children and the health care system more broadly to achieve universal coverage of essential health services.



Feeding Families and Restoring Incomes

During Haiyan, fishing boats and livestock were swept away and crops were destroyed, leaving many families without the means to earn money. More than 33 million coconut trees were destroyed, a crop on which over 1 million coconut farmers rely. Without an income, people's ability to recover and rebuild is crippled.

So far we have:

- Distributed rice to over 40,000 families and provided unconditional cash grants to over 10,000 more, ensuring that they can feed themselves and afford basic needs.
- Provided recovery grants allowing workers to buy the materials and resources they need to re-build their livelihoods, including seeds and livestock.
- Held boat-building training for carpenters, ensuring there are enough skilled workers to meet the high demand to replace boats that were destroyed.
- Supported farmer associations to clear irrigation canals, allowing them to cultivate rice following the typhoon.

Our Plans:

- Encouraging farmers to grow new crops (crop diversification) and grow different crops side-by-side (intercropping) will be an important way to help vulnerable communities get back on their feet and survive future disasters – especially coconut farmers whose plantations will not regrow for up to 10 years.

“ This kind of assistance (a cash grant) is really beneficial to people like us who are struggling to start from scratch. I am so excited that this time, we will finally be able to enjoy most of the earnings from our harvest. ”

– Marites, 42, Leyte



Photo: Heidi Anicete for Save the Children

Marites is a mother of eight children. She and her husband, Rene, are rice farmers. They do not own their own land, so they rent a parcel of land in exchange for 10 sacks of rice, which is almost half of their total crop every harvest.

Their house was destroyed by Haiyan and the family is staying with Marites' parents. Marites and Rene also lost most of the crop that they had harvested a few days before the typhoon.

With a US\$83 cash grant from Save the Children, Marites and Rene bought rice seedlings and fertilizer to restore their primary source of income. “We started planting on February 10, and we are looking forward to reaping the fruits of our labor in May,” Marites reports.

What's Next?

Although press reports have focused on the “resilient Filipino spirit,” true resilience is more than positive attitudes and high spirits. People are resilient when they recover from disasters without depleting assets, taking children out of school or falling into debt. True recovery means that disasters do not produce serious, long-term economic, social and physical hangovers for affected communities.



Photo: Alessandro Favone for Save the Children

Governments play a vital role in ensuring communities are truly recovering after a major catastrophe such as Typhoon Haiyan. Throughout each stage of our response, we will continue to engage with the Government of the Philippines (as well as international donors and local government units) to:

- Ensure reconstruction activities are being resourced adequately, equitably and effectively;
- Urge policymakers to invest in preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction, to “build back better” from the community level up;
- Protect children's well-being and listen to children's voices; and
- Record lessons learned for the wider international humanitarian system.

Sheila, 35, who was seven months pregnant when Haiyan struck, had a horrifying time during the storm. “Our roof was blown off, and some of it collapsed on top of us. We hid under the table to protect ourselves. I was afraid that I might have a miscarriage or be hit by a nail or slip on the floor. The kids were crying because the wind was so strong and there were a lot of flying objects.”

At the time of the typhoon, 250,000 women in affected areas were pregnant and almost 70,000 were expected to deliver in the first quarter of 2014. That's more than 750 births per day expected in these areas, with more than 100 of those likely to involve a potentially life-threatening complication.

Luckily for Sheila, one of Save the Children's mobile health units came to her community and she received pre-natal check-ups - especially important as she had suffered complications during previous pregnancies. We also provided Sheila with a newborn care kit and other medicines to help protect the health of her baby in the first vital days. Two months after Haiyan, Sheila gave birth to Ken, her fifth boy. She is thankful to Save the Children and the midwife who helped her deliver in the most difficult of circumstances.

SAVE THE CHILDREN

Save the Children is the world's leading independent children's rights organisation, with operations in 120 countries around the world. We fight for children's rights and deliver immediate and lasting improvements to children's lives worldwide. Save the Children has worked in the Philippines since 1981 and, aside from our work on Haiyan, we reach more than 1 million children across the country every year, making us one of the largest child-rights organizations in the country.