

TYPHOON HAIYAN

SIX-MONTH UPDATE | MAY 2014



**American
Red Cross**

Message from the Senior Vice President American Red Cross International Operations

Typhoon Haiyan was one of the strongest typhoons ever recorded. In two trips to the Philippines, I have seen the widespread devastation left in the wake of the disaster. But I also witnessed how the American Red Cross and the international Red Cross network responded with immediate relief for people who had lost everything and how we are providing hope as they begin to heal and rebuild their lives.

The scope of the damage is hard to describe. When I visited shortly after the typhoon hit, I was shocked by the countless fallen coconut trees, which are a vital cash crop for farmers in the affected region. Additionally, many fishing communities were wiped out by the storm.

A few weeks ago, on my second visit to the Philippines, I met with our Red Cross partners to plan ongoing recovery efforts. I accompanied Red Cross teams as they delivered relief supplies to affected communities, and also saw firsthand how American Red Cross cash grants offered families the opportunity and dignity to address their individual needs.

I was also struck by the teamwork of American Red Cross and Philippine Red Cross volunteers, working together to deliver relief supplies with speed and efficiency, but also with love, respect and kindness to those affected by this disaster. Since November, the Red Cross has reached more than 1.3 million typhoon survivors, ensuring that they had lifesaving supplies and resources in the storm's aftermath.

Today, we are focused on rebuilding communities that also are better prepared and more resilient in the face of future disasters. Since Haiyan's landfall, we have worked to ensure that these communities have the right help at the right time, from relief supplies such as water cans and mosquito nets to cash grants once markets reopened. In the months ahead, we will help to provide shelter and job opportunities as people put their lives back together.

Our job is far from over. The American Red Cross will continue working in the Philippines, helping thousands of families move into safer communities and ensuring that people across the country are better prepared for future disasters.

I am deeply grateful to our donors for their generous support. Your contributions make our work possible, and will continue to support recovery efforts in the Philippines in the months and years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Harold Brooks".

Harold Brooks, Senior Vice President, International Operations



American Red Cross and Philippine Red Cross volunteers cross the typhoon-damaged footbridge to Balud, Tanuan, for an emergency cash distribution. The American Red Cross later provided construction materials for the residents of Balud to repair and shore up the bridge, making it safer for delivery of heavy relief supplies.

Patrick Fuller/IFRC

Providing Help and Hope in the Wake of the Storm

Typhoon Haiyan swept through the Philippine central islands in November 2013, leaving behind catastrophic damage and heartbreaking loss. Millions of people across 40 provinces were affected, and more than 1 million homes were damaged or destroyed.

The Philippine Red Cross was among the first organizations delivering relief to the affected areas. Thousands of volunteers—many of them typhoon survivors themselves—overcame nearly impassable roads and badly damaged infrastructure to provide food and water, emergency relief supplies and comfort to people who had lost homes and loved ones.

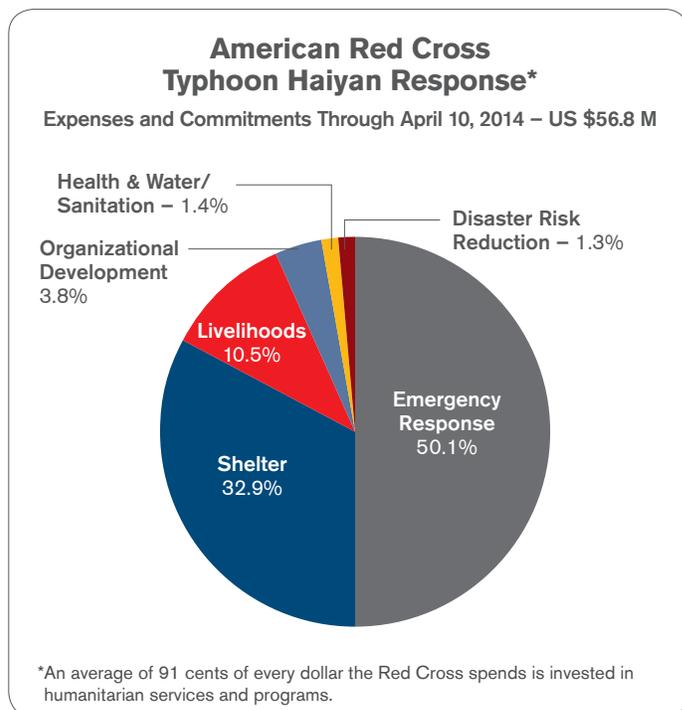
Red Cross and Red Crescent societies around the world also sent relief teams and provided vital supplies, health care services, sanitation assistance, rehabilitation of clinics and hospitals, and clean water. The American Red Cross stepped up with relief supplies, financial support for cash grant programs, specialists with logistics, mapping and communications expertise, and family tracing services that help families locate missing relatives.

American Red Cross Supports Relief and Recovery

Thanks to generous contributions from our supporters, the American Red Cross has received \$85.7 million in donations and pledges and has spent or committed \$56.8 million for Typhoon Haiyan response and recovery efforts (as of April 10, 2014).

During the emergency response, donations to the American Red Cross were used to purchase and distribute relief items such as water containers, blankets, shelter and hygiene kits, and mosquito nets. We also led the Red Cross delivery of cash grants to 59,000 families, enabling typhoon survivors to address urgent storm-related needs, such as purchasing food and clothing, materials to repair their homes, and seeds for the planting season.

In addition, we deployed 46 American Red Cross disaster specialists to support the relief and recovery operation over the past six months, providing expertise in logistics and relief distributions, cash grants, sheltering, water and



sanitation, emergency communications, and information management and mapping.

Today, the American Red Cross is working in partnership with the Philippine Red Cross and other Red Cross national societies to help affected communities with short-term recovery, paving the way for long-term reconstruction. As part of this effort, we will focus on some of the most critical needs, including shelter—helping people rebuild their homes with more storm-resistant materials and techniques. We will also assist people who lost jobs and livelihoods due to the typhoon by replacing or repairing lost or damaged assets, such as a fisherman’s boat, a farmer’s tools or a shop owner’s merchandise.

Our recovery assistance will be carried out in coordination with—and build off the work of—our international Red Cross partners. In working to revitalize the local economy and restore essential services, such as water, health and sanitation, we will address multiple needs at once. Hiring local workers to repair houses provides jobs for the community and shelter for affected families. Providing a cash grant to a fisherman to buy a new fishing net helps the local economy while allowing the fisherman to return to work. Addressing needs in a comprehensive manner

reinforces the overall recovery effort and makes communities safer and more livable for the long term.

Finally, as recovery continues, the American Red Cross will support disaster risk reduction, not only by helping build safer communities, but also by working to make them better prepared for future emergencies. We will also support organizational development—planned efforts led by our partners in the Philippine Red Cross to increase their organization’s effectiveness, adaptability and sustainability.

Delivering the Right Help at the Right Time

While each disaster has unique characteristics, disaster response shares some common rhythms—from meeting immediate needs for shelter, food, emergency health care and emotional support to providing a variety of assistance for individuals, families and communities as they begin to put their lives back together. One of the constant challenges of responding to disasters is delivering the right help at the right time.

Winnie Romeril, a flight paramedic from upstate New York who is a veteran of the American Red Cross international response team, found that right help at the right time years ago, when she became ill while working in Mexico and was treated with compassion and care at a nearby Red Cross clinic.

That experience spurred Romeril to become a Red Cross volunteer, and she spent February in the Philippines assisting with relief and recovery efforts, seeing firsthand the many ways the Red Cross is bringing vital support to typhoon survivors when and where it’s needed most.

She saw the impact of this work in the smile of Braulina Cadion, whose home was destroyed by the typhoon in the barangay (village) of Capangihan in Leyte province. The Red Cross provided her with food, mosquito nets, jerry cans to hold clean water, and a shelter kit with tools and building implements to help improve her living conditions.

Romeril also saw the spirit of Balud, a barangay in Tanauan, Leyte. Haiyan badly damaged the only means of access to the village, a wood-plank suspension footbridge spanning 80 feet over the deep and swift Binahaan River.

“The footbridge was still passable for unburdened pedestrians, but unsafe for delivering heavier relief supplies, such as large sacks of rice, repair toolkits and hygiene kits,” she said.

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“Having seen lots of disasters, I was amazed and overwhelmed by the gratitude of the people of the Philippines. They are so thankful for the help provided by the Red Cross.”

—Winnie Romeril, American Red Cross

The people of Balud asked for building supplies to make the footbridge safer for the passage of relief materials, and the American Red Cross provided them with boards and metal cable. “Dozens of men from the village fixed the bridge in an hour,” Romeril said. The repaired footbridge meant that more relief supplies could reach Balud. The Red Cross also provided villagers with cash grants that helped families meet their most pressing needs.



Braulina Cadion, 78, proudly holds up the “beneficiary card” that entitles her to a variety of relief support from the Red Cross after her house was destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan.

In her time in the Philippines, Romeril worked alongside local volunteers, so many of whom had lost homes and loved ones, yet continued on to help neighbors. Together, they ensured that the right help could reach people when it was desperately needed.

Mapping Volunteers Help Find the Way

Another major challenge to delivering vitally needed assistance is finding the best path—choosing passable roads and routes to isolated villages for heavy trucks of Red Cross relief convoys.

Robert Banick, a Geographic Information Services (GIS) mapping coordinator for the American Red Cross, spent a month in the Philippines on a worldwide mapping effort, which helped the global Red Cross network get relief supplies to the many hard-to-reach locations impacted by the storm.

“When Haiyan made landfall, it destroyed roads, buildings and infrastructure, so maps of the affected areas were no longer accurate,” Banick said. Eager to pitch in, volunteers from around the world started contributing to OpenStreetMap—crowd-sourced mapping technology—to create detailed maps of the areas affected by the typhoon. The OpenStreetMap was loaded onto GPS devices when American Red Cross teams deployed to the Philippines.

“When I was in Tacloban, I ran into a Red Cross team handing out relief supplies,” he said. “They told me the maps saved them from getting lost or wasting time when they had to reroute off damaged roads. It all leads to more efficient delivery of supplies to people affected by Typhoon Haiyan.”

To continue this vital work, the American Red Cross has sent another mapping specialist, Daniel Joseph, to provide GIS expertise to the Red Cross recovery efforts over the coming year.



American Red Cross GIS team member Robert Banick works on maps of Haiyan-affected areas.

Thank You

The American Red Cross responds to disasters around the world by mobilizing financial support, providing pre-positioned relief supplies, deploying disaster response experts and, in some cases, implementing recovery and preparedness programs. The remarkable generosity of our supporters—individuals, corporations and foundations—drives our ability to provide relief and assist our partners in the global Red Cross network. We are grateful for your trust.



Children at a Philippine Red Cross relief distribution point in Tacloban City, Leyte.