

# TYPHOON HAIYAN

THREE-MONTH UPDATE | FEBRUARY 2014



**American  
Red Cross**

## **Message from the Senior Vice President American Red Cross International Operations**

Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest typhoons ever recorded, brought devastation to multiple islands and communities in the Philippines three months ago. I've personally seen how your generosity to the American Red Cross has helped ensure that critical relief supplies and services are reaching those affected by this destructive storm.

I saw both the heartbreaking impact of this disaster and the work that's been done when I first visited the Philippines two weeks after the November 8 typhoon, and again when I returned earlier this month.

In northern Cebu province, what struck me the most was the extent of the damage—houses, crops, the water supply and people's livelihoods had been badly damaged, or in many cases, completely destroyed. I saw many coconut trees, a major cash crop in the local economy, that were broken in half, meaning years of lost income for farmers. It was clear right then that recovery will take time and a sustained commitment.

I met with American Red Cross disaster specialists on the ground as they delivered crucial relief items—such as tarps, water cans and mosquito nets—to people who had lost so much. I saw the impact of the two satellite antenna networks that we sent, which ensured that all Red Cross disaster responders were able to communicate and coordinate their efforts.

Additionally, I saw Red Cross and Red Crescent teams from the Netherlands, Spain, Turkey, China and around the world coming together to contribute in different areas while working from a common set of principles. I am especially proud that local volunteers in the Philippines, who know the community, lead the work of the Red Cross. They were the first ones to arrive, often putting aside their own loss and grief to assist their neighbors.

Seeing this global effort come together to reach those affected by this terrible disaster was very powerful. Because of our dedicated volunteers and the generosity of the American people, we are able to provide compassionate support to people at their time of greatest need.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harold Brooks".

Harold Brooks, Senior Vice President, International Operations



Red Cross volunteers deliver emergency water and food to a local hospital in the Philippines.

Jarkko Mikkonen/Finnish Red Cross

## International Cooperation in the Wake of the Storm

With sustained winds reported at more than 145 miles per hour, Haiyan was the second category 5 typhoon to strike the Philippines in 2013. This deadly storm impacted an estimated 16 million people, according to the Philippine government, and, at the height of the storm, more than 4 million people were displaced from their homes.

In the aftermath, thousands of volunteers braved difficult conditions and damaged infrastructure to provide lifesaving assistance, shelter and reassurance to people impacted by the storm. With the support of the global Red Cross network, the Philippine Red Cross has provided food to more than 1.1 million survivors.

Teams from Red Cross and Red Crescent partners around the world rushed to the Philippines to help, and pitched in with a wide range of support, including crucial relief supplies, health care services, assistance with rehabilitation of clinics and hospitals, communications equipment, clean water and sanitation. The American Red Cross stepped forward with financial support, relief supplies, experienced disaster specialists and help with family tracing services that can reunite families with missing loved ones. Across the Philippines, local and international volunteers contributed from their diverse pools of expertise, united by the shared Red Cross mission to prevent and alleviate suffering.



The Philippine Red Cross was one of the first organizations to distribute food relief to residents in the hard-hit town of Dagami, Leyte.

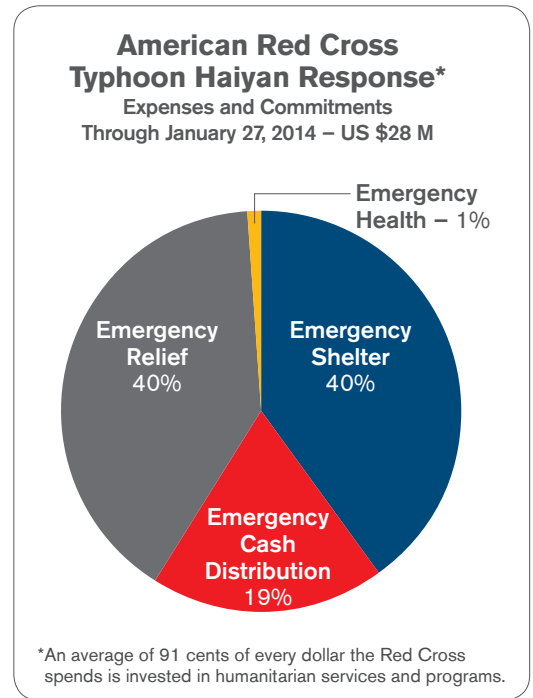
## The American Red Cross Responds to Haiyan

Thanks to the generous help of our supporters, the American Red Cross has received US \$76 million in donations and pledges for its Typhoon Appeal (as of 1/27/14) and has spent or committed US \$28 million to the global Red Cross response to Typhoon Haiyan through January 27th.

This money is being used to purchase and distribute emergency relief items such as food, shelter supplies, hygiene kits and mosquito nets, and to provide cash grants that help typhoon survivors address storm-related needs.

In addition, the funds have supported the deployment of 43 disaster specialists from the American Red Cross to the Philippines. They have provided a wide range of support for sheltering activities and relief distribution, as well as technical expertise in mapping, telecommunications and information technology.

The American Red Cross will make additional financial commitments to the typhoon response in the Philippines as we support ongoing and long-term recovery efforts. We expect to spend remaining funds to support recovery needs, including home repairs, improved access to water and sanitation, and preparing communities for future disasters.



## Cash Grants Help Families Recover

Immediately following Haiyan's landfall, the global Red Cross network distributed supplies and provided support to meet people's immediate needs, and since then has been meeting different needs and priorities as people begin to rebuild. Cash grants were initially set by the Philippine Red Cross at \$45 each, based on a calculation of two weeks of food for a family of five, and have increased to \$111 each in the hardest hit areas. These grants are empowering families to make their own decisions about how to rebuild their lives.

Tracy Reines, an American Red Cross disaster specialist who helped launch the program, knows the difference these grants can make for people struggling to put their lives back together. When Tracy asked a survivor what she planned to do with the money, the woman responded, "I'm just going to buy some food for my grandchildren."

"Cash gives people the ability to decide what's important to them and their family," Reines said. "That's a good thing. It's efficient. It's fast. And it's dignified." In past disasters, people have used cash to purchase items to meet pressing needs like seeds, school uniforms, bicycle parts and mattresses.

The Red Cross has provided cash during previous emergencies, but this is the largest and most ambitious cash transfer effort yet.

"The American Red Cross and the Red Cross network have invested a lot of time and energy into cash transfer programming," Reines said. "We are distributing cash to tens of thousands of people in just a matter of weeks. Our investment has really paid off."

The Red Cross network's support will help ensure that people in rural communities have access to additional income as the next planting season approaches. Typhoon Haiyan toppled thousands of coconut trees and destroyed rice paddy fields, leaving families without the income from farming on which they depend. Around 90 percent of the rural population in affected areas consists of small-scale farmers that will require support before the planting season ends this month.

Local businesses also will benefit from the surge of cash into the local economy. Sheila Thornton, an American Red Cross team member overseeing the program, explained, "Markets often struggle to reestablish themselves after catastrophes, and cash can support that process—reviving the demand for goods and supporting local businesses."



Luis Matnog and Rani Cruz worked together in 1990 and 1991 for Philippine Red Cross relief efforts, and were recently reunited in Tacloban.

## Boston Red Crosser Returns to Help in the Philippines

Luis Matnog was one of the first American Red Cross workers on the ground in the Philippines. Luis, who was born in the Philippines and now lives in Boston, had worked with relief agencies for years in the Philippines before following his wife to the United States.

After joining the Red Cross in Boston, he trained with international responders, taking assignments in logistics support in Asia and Africa. His previous big deployment was to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake, where he slept in a tent for a month while helping move relief supplies.

In the Philippines, Luis helped coordinate relief efforts and assess the urgent needs of people affected by the storm. Luis described the powerful impact of supporting relief efforts in his native country: “Handing out relief items to people in need is priceless. You can devote yourself to this type of work, but when you see people lining up, waiting patiently for these lifesaving items, you realize how priceless it is.”

This assignment differed from others that Luis had experienced, since relief distribution took place island by island. “We had to coordinate logistics by air, land and sea,” he said. “It required patience and flexibility.”

And he knows that the continued support of the American Red Cross is vital, as those affected by this devastating storm take their first steps toward recovery. “People in the Philippines still need help,” he said. “This recovery process will take a long time.”

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**“Being Filipino and knowing the country and language helped me and my team build trust.”**

—Luis Matnog, American Red Cross

## 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.



Thanks to our supporters, the Red Cross was able to provide critical food relief to typhoon survivors across the Philippines.

# Global Red Cross Network Service Delivery

## Typhoon Haiyan Response

January 2, 2014

