



ACT Alliance/P Jeffrey

Empower to Restore

Rebuilding Homes and Livelihoods after Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines
Methodist and Presbyterian Women's Special Project 2015 –16
in association with Christian World Service

Developers Foundation works with very poor farmers, fisher-folk and their families in a remote area of the Philippines. Before Typhoon Haiyan struck in November 2013 they were largely self-funding thanks to a piggery set up with CWS's help. The super typhoon destroyed the piggery and left almost every house damaged or destroyed. Crops and fishing equipment were wiped out.

Last year Developers distributed corrugated iron for roofing protecting 3,061 households from further rains thanks to your gifts to CWS. They repaired classrooms and water systems of remote schools and helped families back on their feet.

"With small yet consistent, united steps we can all have a chance to recover from the damage this typhoon has brought among us." Tet Naraval, Developers Foundation

In a Nutshell:

Developers is part of the community. They work with eight villages in the isolated eastern coast of Aklan province. Their key activities are:

- ◆ Helping families rebuild homes, schools and community facilities
- ◆ Improving livelihood opportunities, including reliable food supplies
- ◆ Strengthening communities and local government
- ◆ Environmental protection, education and advocacy
- ◆ Disaster Risk Reduction including planning and tree planting
- ◆ Gender awareness and rights of women and children.



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Typhoon Haiyan

On November 8, 2013, the super typhoon known locally as Yolanda hit Aklan province with winds up to 300 kilometres an hour. Damage was extensive affecting 94-98% of homes in the area where Developers live and work. Across the province 14 people died and many more were injured, tree plantations felled, crops wiped out and livestock lost. The scale of destruction was unprecedented and affected one sixth of the country's population, displacing 4.1 million people. The changing climate means more intense and erratic storms as well as rising sea levels.

Responding to the Disaster

Developers used their local knowledge and networks in the coastal *barangays* (hamlets) to identify how best to help. They worked with each *barangay* to respond to community needs and made sure no one fell through the cracks.

When CWS offered practical assistance, at first Developers proposed tarpaulins to protect people from the rain but when they spoke with local people they found they



wanted corrugated iron for longer term protection. Developers ordered supplies directly from Manila and arranged the delivery and distribution of 3 or 4 sheets per family. After the first year they reported 12,999 people in eight communities had better roofing on their homes (repaired or rebuilt from salvaged materials) and six schools had been repaired/rebuilt. More help is underway. The barangay leaders expressed their thanks to Developers and CWS for the collaborative way they worked.



“In our visits to the barangays, the greatest challenge for the residents is still economic development/rehabilitation. Typhoon Yolanda destroyed livelihoods and made struggling people poorer.”

Tet Naraval, Developers Foundation.

Restoring Livelihoods

Losing farming and fishing equipment, coconut trees, crops and livestock meant that it was much harder for Filipinos in Aklan to survive. Most families had little more than enough to survive on before the typhoon, so finding food and an income were high priorities after it. Developers helped the *barangays* involve the whole community in drawing up their own Development Plans. A key component of each plan was an objective to create livelihood opportunities to support families. For example, breeding chickens and pigs would replace lost livestock and commercial vegetable production would

improve food security. Technology training such as welding, carpentry and food processing would increase opportunities to earn income. The *barangays* agreed on community priorities and devised an action plan that relied on their own efforts supplemented by government and outside funding. Developers helped 100 farming and fishing families severely affected by the typhoon with a NZD\$67 interest-free start up loan. They have to repay 65% of it within a year by making twice monthly payments.

Preparing for Next Time

Deadly typhoons, drought, floods and landslides are regular reminders of the need for communities to prepare for disaster. Developers has been leading the way in five *barangays*. They worked with the *barangay* government and people themselves to survey each household and compile an inventory of resources including personnel. With base data in place, it was much easier to report on typhoon damage. Unable to afford stronger homes, many remain in makeshift shelter. Community resilience is stronger but they need the resources to build typhoon-safe shelters. They know there will be a next time—fishing people live on the coast.

Climate Change

Already ravaged by 20 typhoons a year, The [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) predicts the Philippines will become “more severe with greater wind speeds and more intense precipitation”. Days after Haiyan struck, Yeb Sano, the lead negotiator for the Philippines at United Nations climate talks gave an impassioned [speech](#) calling for urgent action. Shocked by what was happening at home he announced his intention to fast for the duration of the talks. He has left the Filipino climate commission to join [Our Voices](#), a global and spiritual network for climate action. He is inspiring people to be part of the [People's pilgrimage](#) leading up to negotiations in December and the church supported [Fast for the Climate](#).

Your assistance made us Stronger



Elizabeth David aged 45 said life before Typhoon Yolanda was already hard. During the day her husband worked as a labourer building and repairing fishing gear and then in the evening went fishing for crabs and shrimps. It was a simple life and although the family of 13 struggled at times, they were happy.

She says when the typhoon hit, they realised their house was not strong enough so joined three other families in a neighbour's house made of concrete. Out of the window she watched as sea water flooded their home before breaking it into pieces. Their fishing boat and equipment soon followed leaving the family with nothing. When the storm subsided the next day, all the families in the *barangay* were greeted by the same scene. Homes and livelihoods gone, trees uprooted, and wet and muddy debris scattered everywhere. Immediately they began helping each other to salvage what they could.

They were given food, cooking utensils, groceries, clothes and a cash grant. Elizabeth was grateful for the corrugated iron roofing which the family used on their home made from salvaged materials.

“Thank you for your help and for easing our burdens. Your assistance has made us feel stronger and look at our lives and our future brighter. God bless you all!”

Natural Protection: Mangroves

Planting mangroves is one way of protecting coasts from major damage. Their tight and extensive



root systems create a buffer against tidal surges and strong winds. During Typhoon Haiyan wave surges reached five metres in height.

Mangroves are important breeding grounds for aquatic life as well as nesting places for birdlife and absorbers of carbon in the atmosphere. They grow in land sediment between fresh and sea water. Their wood can be used as fuel and for building. Concerned about the overharvesting of mangroves in the past, Developers replanted local seedlings with a 70-80% success rate.

About the Philippines

The Republic of the Philippines is made up of over 7,000 islands and has a population of 98.39 million people. It is currently 117th of 187 countries on the United Nations Human Development index—18.4% of people live on less than US\$1.25 a day (the UN measure of poverty). At any given time, an estimated 10 million Filipinos are working overseas to help families back home. Respect for human rights remains a concern within the country.

Scripture for Devotions

Deuteronomy 30:1-5 God's promise under the covenant.

Psalms 80: 7-19 A prayer for restoration of life.

Prayer for Developers

We give thanks for Developers and the work it does as part of the community. Give them the



strength and resources they need to make sure everyone has food, water and shelter now and in the future. May the local community plan effectively for future disasters so that everyone is safe. Help us all to take better care of our climate and share resources so those affected can survive drought, rising seas and more intense weather patterns. Amen.

Final Message from Tet Naraval

“It is my utmost pleasure to extend our warmest greetings from the Philippines to our friends in the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches in New Zealand. The donations you will give... will add light and inspiration to our work with the comfort and joy of knowledge that you are with us along the way as we journey together with our work in the communities.”

CWS has produced a PowerPoint about the work of Developers for the Special Project. It comes with a talk that you can adapt. Contact us for a copy.

