

# A decade after the storm

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DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE —  
CARITAS CANADA'S REPOSENSE TO  
TYPHOON HAIYAN IN THE PHILIPPINES



Development  
and Peace  
CARITAS CANADA



On November 8, 2013, **Typhoon Haiyan** made landfall in the **Philippines**, where it was called Super Typhoon Yolanda. Generating wind gusts of up to 315 kilometres per hour,<sup>1</sup> the storm quickly became the deadliest in the country's history. It claimed 6,300 lives; left 28,000 people injured and 4 million people displaced; and damaged or destroyed 1.1 million houses.<sup>2</sup>



## A massive initial response

Right away, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada allocated \$100,000 to the National Secretariat for Social Action (NASSA, i.e., Caritas Philippines). Then, our joint appeal with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops,<sup>3</sup> along with matching contributions from Global Affairs Canada, **raised over \$11 million**. In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, support from us and from across the Caritas network allowed NASSA to provide:



Food packets to  
**23,425 households**



Cash grants to  
**29,911 households**



Shelter kits to  
**13,154 households**



Non-food items and  
hygiene kits to  
**55,088 households**



Psychosocial support to some  
**60,000 people** through musical  
concerts and radio programming

In addition, we helped **Church World Service** distribute 2,502 shelter repair kits and provide carpentry, construction and hygiene training in 32 *barangays* (districts). A \$2-million grant from **Global Affairs Canada**<sup>4</sup> also allowed our partner **Catholic Relief Services** to build 1,302 houses and 1,160 latrines and to train 131 health officers and members of 905 households in hygiene promotion.

## A principled long-term approach

Given its long history of engagement in the Philippines and its strong network of local partners, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada led the adoption of a long-term recovery and development approach focussed on sustainability, participation, capacity building, coordination and targeting the most disadvantaged people.

To facilitate its implementation, we set up a small in-country support team. A year after the typhoon, we also organized a two-day conference in Tacloban to promote an exchange of ideas, insights, stories and strategies among leading civil society actors.



## Capable partners who build capacities...

For our longer-term response, we partnered with local organizations chosen for their capacity to reach the most vulnerable communities; their creativity and holism; and their relationships of trust with the people they served. These included:

- **Institutionalising Change through Support for Transformation (ICST)**, an organization spun off from the in-country support team, that assisted other partners in need identification, project planning and capacity building
- **The Rural Poor Institute for Land and Human Rights Services (RIGHTS)**, which worked to organize and train fisherfolk, peasant farmers and small community groups in 57 *barangays* to advocate for their rights, avail government benefits, establish their land titles, monitor relief efforts and represent themselves
- **NASSA**, which spearheaded sustained efforts in the fields of shelter; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); livelihoods; disaster risk reduction; ecosystem services; community organizing; and capacity building
- **Community Organizers Multiversity (COM)**, which worked with NASSA to strengthen community mobilization, including by training 70 community organizers and nine diocesan social action committees
- **Urban Poor Associates (UPA)**, which developed community-led solutions for reconstruction and livelihood recovery that included forming and training homeowners' associations to secure land rights and implement savings programs; providing agricultural inputs and training to peasant farmers; securing free agricultural land use agreements for landless farmers from landowners; and negotiating with government agencies and private institutions to secure shelter-related benefits for displaced families



## ...and achieve results

Over the years, we **reached nearly a million people** through **20 projects** supported with a **total outlay of \$12.3 million**. These projects have provided:



Food and cash grants to  
**75,761 households**



Shelter services to  
**100,000+ households**



Livelihood support to  
**68,316 households**



Non-food items  
and hygiene kits to  
**58,533 households**



Water, sanitation and  
hygiene (WASH) services  
to **127,827 households**



Disaster risk  
reduction services to  
**82,739 households**



Help with securing  
land titles to  
**900+ households**



Community organizing  
support to over  
**22,000 people**



### An enduring legacy

Our response to Typhoon Haiyan included one of Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's most ambitious undertakings ever: the **Pope Francis Village**.

In addition to contributing nearly **\$4 million** (which helped attract twice as much funding from Philippine government agencies), we helped establish and supported FRANCESCO, a consortium comprising NASSA, UPA, the Redemptorist Missionaries of Tacloban and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Palo, that planned and implemented the project.

Applying an integrated, people-driven approach, an entire **township of 566 houses**, including purpose-built utilities infrastructure, was constructed in Tacloban City. Residents had a say in designing the village and were empowered to manage it themselves.

The project became a model for displacement-free, post-disaster community rehabilitation. It was the subject of "After the Storm: Building the Pope Francis Village," an award-winning documentary<sup>5</sup> available at [bit.ly/afterthestormvideo](https://bit.ly/afterthestormvideo).

### A tribute to "heroic strength"

Like any sustained effort of scale, our response to Typhoon Haiyan would not have been possible without the support of countless people. Development and Peace — Caritas Canada is particularly grateful for the invaluable contributions of **Global Affairs Canada**, the **Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops**, our local partners in the Philippines and thousands of generous Canadians.

Above all else, we are thankful for what Pope Francis called "the heroic strength, faith and resilience demonstrated by so many Filipinos in the face of this natural disaster." As the Holy Father noted, "At great sacrifice, they gave of their time and resources, creating networks of mutual help and working for the common good."<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://bit.ly/3TXqX9X>

<sup>2</sup> <https://bit.ly/3PGCAQ5>

<sup>3</sup> <https://bit.ly/49dTA74>

<sup>4</sup> <https://bit.ly/3xf6Xqe>

<sup>5</sup> <https://bit.ly/4aMoO6s>

<sup>6</sup> <https://bit.ly/43Vf0F1>



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