

Strengthening and Rebuilding Healthcare Infrastructure throughout the Philippines

Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) Programmatic Activities and Financial Expenditures: *One-Year Report on Relief and Recovery Efforts*

Overview

Thank you for your commitment to, and support of, Direct Relief's ongoing response and rebuilding efforts in the Philippines. Direct Relief is extremely grateful to its supporters who have made the response to Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda, locally) possible. This report details Direct Relief's ongoing efforts to help its on-the-ground partners rebuild local health systems and strengthen resiliency in the hardest-hit regions throughout the Philippines.

Since Typhoon Haiyan made landfall on November 8, 2013, Direct Relief has received \$5.1 million in cash contributions and more than \$16.5 million worth of donated medicines, medical supplies, nutritional products, personal care items, and services. In total, Direct Relief has shipped 286 tons of aid, which has been delivered to partner agencies and healthcare facilities throughout the Philippines to strengthen their capacity to care for the most vulnerable people in communities that were impacted.

Consistent with Direct Relief policy, **100 percent of contributions received for Typhoon Haiyan have been and are continuing to be used to assist people affected by the typhoon in the Philippines.**

Work Completed

Over the past year, Direct Relief has worked closely with on the ground healthcare facility partners to enable access to essential resources throughout regions of the Philippines most affected by Typhon Haiyan. By working closely with the Philippine Department of Health, nonprofit medical response organizations, hospitals, and other health facilities, Direct Relief has committed to helping partners rebuild local health systems and strengthen long-term resiliency for the future.

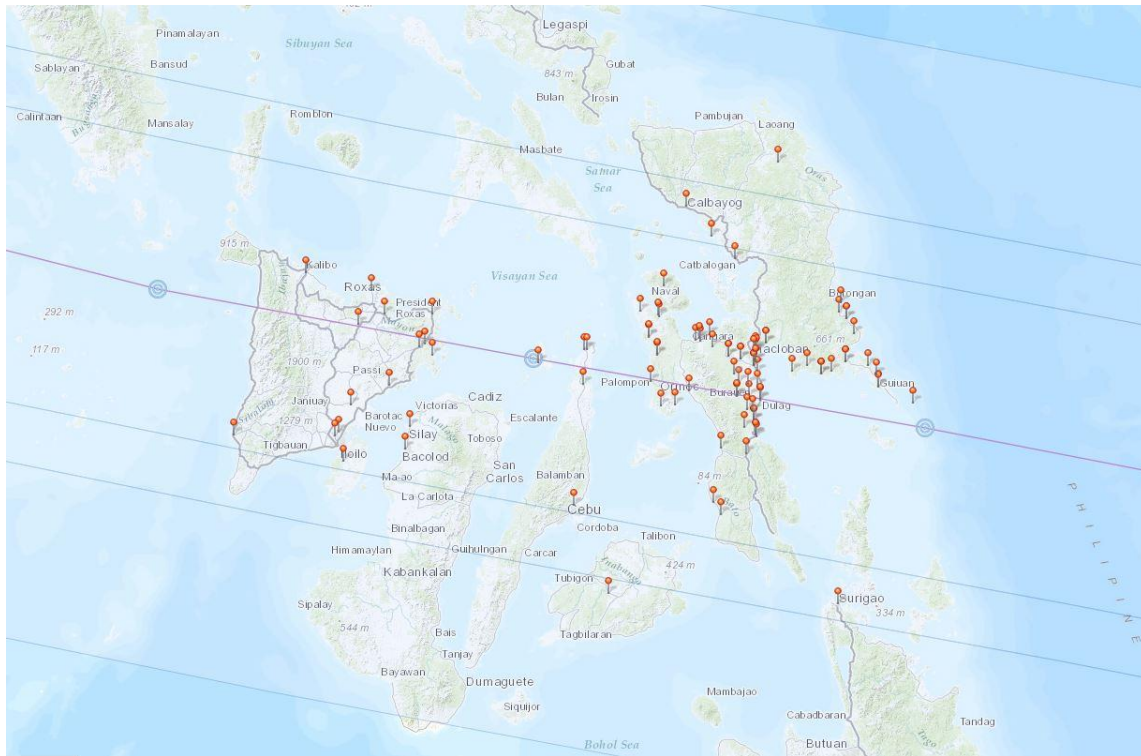
Direct Relief has coordinated its relief and recovery efforts with Enrique Ona, the Philippine Secretary of Health, and Dr. Maylene M. Beltran, the Director of the Bureau of International Health Cooperation, to ensure that appropriate resources are received by health facilities in greatest need. Direct Relief has also worked closely with regional directors throughout the country to make sure that aid is distributed throughout the affected areas.

Ensuring Access to Critical Medical Resources

Direct Relief has worked with a number of local medical outreach organizations to enable access to medical care for as many typhoon survivors as possible. Its support for [Health Futures Foundation, Inc. \(HFI\)](#) helped the organization to conduct specialized outreach missions targeting medical, dental, and psychosocial health issues in Eastern Samar. HFI continues to strengthen health systems in Eastern Samar

by providing ongoing support to local barangay (village) health centers. Direct Relief has also supported medical mission operations conducted by the IPI Foundation and [One World Institute \(OWI\)](#) to distribute medicines and medical supplies to affected remote and underserved regions of the country.

To visualize the impact of its ongoing medical material distribution activities, Direct Relief designed a [map](#) that shows the more than 100 health facilities which have received donations of medical products since Typhoon Haiyan made landfall.



Rebuilding Damaged Health Systems

Direct Relief continues to work with partners to help repair, rebuild, and re-equip local health facilities in the hardest-hit regions of the Philippines. Through support from Direct Relief and its network of contributors, [Access Aid International](#) has successfully restored Macatunao and Bagongon Barangay Health Stations in the Municipality of Concepcion which were heavily damaged by the storm. Following the typhoon, [Yayasan Bumi Sehat](#), a long-term partner whose on-going and disaster-related work Direct Relief has supported multiple times in the past, began working to bring medical relief to survivors in Dulag, Leyte. After the typhoon, Bumi Sehat has successfully transitioned its clinic operations from tents to a new building so that it may provide quality care to people left vulnerable in the surrounding region.

Support given to Direct Relief has also enabled the organization to work with the IPI Foundation to acquire a mobile medical van to provide care to thousands of vulnerable people at no cost in Typhoon Haiyan-affected regions. By mobilizing essential medical resources in the hardest-hit regions of the Philippines, the IPI Foundation has been able to reach vulnerable typhoon survivors who do not have the means to pay for treatment.

Partner Story: Ormoc District Hospital



In Leyte Province, one of the areas hardest hit by Typhoon Haiyan, Ormoc District Hospital (ODH) is the primary public and referral hospital for the region's population. After the typhoon, the province's entire health infrastructure was severely damaged. This reduction in capacity from damaged or destroyed health stations resulted in a large and rapid influx at ODH of patient referrals, and others with nowhere else to go.

ODH's Chief of Hospital, Dr. Maria Lourdes De Lara-Banquesio, told Direct Relief that -- though Ormoc's population is 190,000 -- the hospital serves a catchment area closer to 500,000 people throughout the region as many health stations are no longer operating. This increase in patient population is evident in the number of births at ODH. Between January 1 and September 30, 2013, ODH delivered 1,800 babies; however, during the same time period in 2014, the hospital delivered 2,800 babies. According to Dr. Maria, the typhoon damaged or destroyed so many birthing facilities that mothers have been forced to come to ODH to receive care.

One year after Typhoon Haiyan, though ODH has a 100-bed capacity, the hospital averages 210 in-patients daily, resulting in strains to care for those in high need. Dr. Maria continues to work tirelessly to keep operations running at ODH, though the hospital's infrastructure was severely damaged by the typhoon.

When asked how she has coped for the past year, Dr. Maria replied, "We do the best we can with what we have. We want ODH to provide the proper and required specialized services to indigent populations so we don't have to send them to Tacloban [City] two and a half hours away. Right now, we have 10-20 deliveries a day and we can't admit any more babies because we don't have enough incubators."

When asked how she keeps operations running at ODH, Mr. Maria replies, "I just keep praying... The burden after Yolanda was not as bad as it is now because everyone was helping... Now everything still needs to be done, but help is harder to find and there is less interest. We are still getting patients from a much wider area because of damage to the broader healthcare system, like we did after the typhoon.

"We are doing our best to provide for the people who have nowhere else to go."

Strengthening Resiliency in Vulnerable Regions



In addition to providing a coordinated and rapid response to the typhoon, Direct Relief is also working with its partners in the Philippines to strengthen resiliency among health systems in regions prone to disaster. In collaboration with the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines (IMAP), Direct Relief has equipped birthing centers throughout the Visaya Islands with 20 midwife kits – each containing enough supplies to deliver 50 babies safely – so that trained healthcare providers can provide free medical services to pregnant women in need.

To better prepare health facilities in the Philippines with resources needed during emergencies, Direct Relief has pre-positioned typhoon preparedness modules in-country containing enough medicines and medical supplies to treat 15,000 people for up to one month. These supplies will be ready to be utilized by Direct Relief’s partners immediately when emergency strikes.

Responding effectively to any emergency requires a rich information base from which to make the most well-informed decisions possible in a short amount of time. Direct Relief collaborated with Palantir Technologies to implement a data preparedness network to ensure that the unique needs of health facilities and organizations are met. By collaborating with partners in the Philippines – including [Gawad Kalinga](#), the local health department of Tacloban City, and community health organizations IPI Foundation and HFI, among others – Direct Relief has trained teams to assess, collect, and analyze data from local communities throughout the country. Using the Palantir platform to collect emerging health needs, Direct Relief’s partners were able to share recorded data in real-time to assess where health needs were highest.

Expenditures

Funds Raised	\$5,100,000
Funds Spent	\$1,882,804
Outgoing Grants to On-the-Ground Partners	615,000
Management, Distribution, and Transportation of Medical Resource Aid	566,585
Emergency Response Staff & Contractual Personnel	465,210
Mobile Technology / Data Collection Devices	43,738
General Supplies & Equipment Rental	41,033
Prenatal vitamins	40,000
Travel	110,709
Funds Committed	\$772,000
Outgoing Grants to On-the-Ground Partners	272,000
Procurement of Equipment for Partner Facilities	500,000
Funds Spent & Committed	\$2,654,804
	52% of Funds raised

In total, Direct Relief has raised \$5.1 million to mobilize and provide emergency medical resources to people affected by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. Of the funds raised, \$1,882,804 has been expended to-date, including: cash grants to local partners on the ground (\$615,000); management, distribution, and transportation of medical resource aid (\$566,585); emergency response staff and contractual personnel (\$465,210); mobile technology implementation and data collection devices (\$43,738); general supplies and equipment rental (\$41,033); prenatal vitamins for pregnant women (\$40,000); and travel expenses to assess and respond in the hardest hit areas (\$110,709). Direct Relief has committed an additional \$772,000 (\$272,000 in outgoing grants to partners on the ground continuing to provide care and services, and \$500,000 in procurement of equipment to help rehab hospitals and build resiliency for future disasters) to help ensure long-term recovery.

Next Steps

Looking forward, Direct Relief will continue to support its on-the-ground partners in the Philippines to help strengthen health systems left fragile by Typhoon Haiyan. Direct Relief has maintained strong relationships with Department of Health officials and nonprofit organizations in the Philippines, and these relationships continue to guide Direct Relief's efforts to plan and implement long-term solutions to strengthen resiliency among vulnerable communities. Two specific projects are:

Investing in the Capacity of Ormoc District Hospital: In Leyte, the province most heavily impacted by the typhoon, Direct Relief has mobilized critical, life-saving medical supplies for the intensive care unit at Ormoc District Hospital (ODH). ODH is the referral hospital for more than 190,000 people who reside in Ormoc City and surrounding areas of western Leyte, and currently lacks the capacity to adequately treat patients in urgent need of intensive care. Following Typhoon Thelma in 1991, a flash flood in Ormoc City

killed more than 5,000 people. In 2013, the city suffered even greater damages from Typhoon Haiyan. Direct Relief is committed to strengthening the capacity of ODH to be better equipped to provide medical care to its patients in greatest need.

Preparing for Future Disasters: In October 2014, Direct Relief distributed 20 durable emergency medical packs, designed for first-responders and consisting of medicines and supplies to be able to treat people affected by disaster, to partners serving high-risk communities throughout the Philippines. Building on previous experience in other vulnerable regions, Direct Relief plans to equip its partners in the Philippines with more typhoon preparedness modules in 2015.

Equipping Midwives with Essential Resources to Enable Safe Births: Direct Relief will also distribute an additional 100 midwife kits in the municipalities of Samar and Leyte to ensure that pregnant women have access to care during delivery. Each midwife kit contains essential medical resources needed to ensure 50 safe births, enabling skilled birth attendants to fully implement their life-saving skills.

Conclusion

One year after Typhoon Haiyan made landfall in the Philippines – the most destructive storm in the nation’s history – health systems have been left vulnerable and thousands of people are still rebuilding their lives.

There is still much to do in the Philippines, and Direct Relief is committed to supporting its in-country partners to ensure that long-term recovery is achieved, and health stations in the most vulnerable regions are prepared for the future. Thank you for entrusting Direct Relief with your support to make this work possible.



1,000 families turn out for a Direct Relief-sponsored health mission on Bantayan Island