



HIGHLIGHTS

- **FAO is providing assistance in four critical areas of intervention, in support of over 157 600 families:**
 1. **Rice and corn farming** – FAO has supported some 103 100 rice and corn farmers since December 2013. Livelihoods were restored rapidly, with big returns. This included, the distribution of certified rice seed by FAO to more 44 500 farming households in time for the December/January planting season, which resulted in an improved rice yield to: ensure food security; generate vital income; and save seed for the next planting season.
 2. **Fisheries and coastal communities** – FAO is providing some 19 000 small-scale fishers with livelihood inputs, technical guidance and trainings on aquaculture, post-harvest processing, marine protected areas management and hybrid boats.
 3. **Coconut-based farming systems** – FAO is helping 32 500 small-scale coconut farmers build alternative livelihoods and is providing 3 000 upland farmers with seedlings and training to rehabilitate agroforestry systems.
 4. **Coastal/mangrove forest rehabilitation** – FAO is promoting the natural regeneration of coastal ecosystems and the recovery and protection of related livelihoods by distributing seeds and planting materials.
- **Resilience building is a key part of FAO's ongoing interventions**, complementing efforts to meet the urgent needs of farmers whose seed stocks were lost or damaged by the typhoon, while enhancing farmers and government capacities and apply approached to avoid or limit the adverse affects of future hazards.
- **FAO has mobilized over USD 39.7 million** – more than 100 percent of the funds appealed for under the Typhoon Haiyan Strategic Response Plan. Contributors include: Central Emergency Response Fund, European Commission Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, FAO and the Governments of Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

BACKGROUND

Typhoon Haiyan (locally called Yolanda) swept the central Philippines on 8 November 2013. The storm affected 14.1 million people, devastated 600 000 ha of farmland and caused over USD 700 million-worth damages to the agriculture sector. **FAO is working closely with the Philippines Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other Government agencies at all levels**, addressing priorities of the Government's Damage and Loss Assessment, the Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda Plan and the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Rehabilitation and Recovery.

FAO ACTIVITIES IN RESPONSE TO TYPHOON HAIYAN



Rice and corn farming: ensuring staple food harvests

The typhoon struck between two planting seasons – destroying ready to harvest, harvested and newly planted rice. Without timely support, rice farmers would have been unable to plant and been dependent on external food aid for one full cropping cycle. FAO provided certified rice seed to 44 500 farming households, filling the gap in rice seed requirements identified by the Government for Regions VI and VIII. FAO also provided fertilizer to more than 89 300 farming households who had received rice seed from FAO, Government and other partners. Among the farming households receiving fertilizer, 8 600 received corn seed from FAO. An additional 13 800 farming households have been assisted with hand tools sets, including shovel, machetes, and hoes.

A post-harvest study conducted by FAO in April-May 2014 showed that farmers need additional support to maximize the benefits of this year's harvests. Farming families will receive water- and pest-resistant storage containers to protect their seeds, training on techniques for reducing post-harvest losses, drying nets and value-adding post-harvest equipment. FAO is supporting small-scale family farmers by linking them with local markets to sell their agricultural produce.

In the recovery and rehabilitation phase, affected farming households receive agricultural inputs, including certified rice seed, corn seed, vegetables packets, livestock and relevant capacity-building training such as on climate-smart farming strategies and livestock management to build back better livelihoods through the introduction of alternative and sustainable livelihood strategies in the target areas.



Fisheries: building back better

The typhoon caused massive damage to the fisheries sector, from fishing boats (30 000 were affected, including 10 000 lost or destroyed) and gear, to aquaculture, onshore facilities and markets. FAO is playing a key role to ensure (i) pre-typhoon fishing capacity is not exceeded, hence preventing over-fishing; (ii) boat safety and quality; and (iii) distribution of non-destructive fishing gear. FAO has provided training on seafood post-harvest and processing as well as on improved aquaculture and management of marine-protected areas techniques to over 7 000 beneficiaries. FAO has further provided trainings on the building, maintenance and repair of hybrid fiberglass and wooden boats. Fisheries- and

aquaculture-related inputs, such as boat engines, crab cages and seaweed production kits have been provided to 4 600 households of fishers and aquaculture producers. In total, FAO will reach some 19 000 small-scale fishing families, targeting women in particular, who constitute 40 percent of people involved in post-harvest activities.



Coconut-based farming systems: securing alternative livelihoods

An estimated 44 million trees were damaged or destroyed by the typhoon, affecting around 1 million coconut farmers. As coconut seedlings take on average six-eight years to become productive trees, FAO is helping around 32 500 small-scale coconut farmers to build alternative livelihoods through intercropping, crop diversification, value-added production and livestock/poultry-raising activities. Climate Smart Agricultural technologies, including drought and flood resistant varieties of key crops, are being promoted to improve resiliency to disasters. In addition, FAO is carrying out Integrated Pest Management awareness campaigns and implementing pest control strategies in areas at-risk. To date, a variety of trainings such as in crop care and management, livestock production and management, entrepreneurship and asset-building, contour farming and risk assessments and other themes, have been attended by over 7 900 participants.

As part of the intervention, women farmers' groups and small-scale farmers will receive chickens, carabaos, cattle, goats and piglets to supplement their income, generate savings and help diversify their diets. 3 000 small-scale upland farmers affected by the devastation will receive local appropriate root crop planting materials, fruit tree seedlings and training to establish community nurseries and contribute to the rehabilitation of damaged agroforestry systems.



Coastal/mangrove forest rehabilitation: building resilient livelihoods and a natural barrier against future storms

As a cross-cutting component of the fisheries and coconut-based farming systems interventions, FAO is working closely with communities and local organizations to rehabilitate coastal ecosystems and livelihoods. Appropriate propagules, seeds, seedlings and planting materials will be distributed and approaches for the successful recovery, protection and natural regeneration of coastal/mangrove forests will be promoted.

| FAO ONGOING PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS | > USD 39.7 MILLION |
|--|--------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rice and corn farming. Restore productivity and income generation Promote safe storage of the crop harvests. 2. Fisheries. Rehabilitate production assets and post-harvest facilities Provide fisheries inputs, technical support and training, focused on resilience. 3. Coconut-based farming systems. Restore income while replanted coconuts are maturing through: intercropping crop-diversification livestock/poultry raising training (processing, storage and conservation techniques) focused on women Safeguard health of livestock critical to small-scale agriculture (draught power) Rehabilitate agroforestry systems. 4. Coastal/mangrove forest rehabilitation. Provide options to communities to combine mangrove development and livelihood diversification. | |

BEYOND EMERGENCY RESPONSE – Building resilience

FAO is effectively integrating relief efforts with longer-term development objectives in response to Typhoon Haiyan. Together with partners, FAO is helping to build the capacity of families to anticipate and manage future shocks, in line with the Organization's multidimensional resilience agenda.

- 1. Enable the environment.** FAO is providing technical guidance to and working closely with the government to mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation agendas into agriculture sector policies and programming.
- 2. Watch to safeguard.** FAO is complementing national efforts in the collection, analysis, reporting and utilization of food security and nutrition data for evidence-based decision-making and programme planning.
- 3. Apply risk and vulnerability reduction measures.** FAO programmes are contributing to resilient fisheries management, sustainable and climate change responsive fishing technologies/products, livelihood diversification (especially among coconut and upland farmers), improved market access and storage capacity and boosting family farmers' productivity.
- 4. Prepare and respond.** The provision of seed and other critical agricultural inputs in the immediate aftermath of the typhoon enabled the quick restoration of staple crop production. This helped families generate vital income and store seed for the subsequent planting season.