



HIGHLIGHTS

- **FAO is providing assistance in four critical areas of intervention, in support of 155 600 families:**
 1. **Rice and corn farming** – FAO has supported some 100 000 rice and corn farmers since December 2013. Livelihoods were restored rapidly, with big returns. For example, the rice seed distributed by FAO to more than the targeted 44 000 farming households¹, in time for the December/January planting season, yielded enough rice to: feed over 740 000 people for a year; generate vital income; and save seed for the next planting season.
 2. **Fisheries and coastal communities** – FAO is providing 20 100 small-scale fishers with livelihood inputs, technical guidance and trainings on aquaculture, post-harvest processing and hybrid boats.
 3. **Coconut-based farming systems** – FAO is helping 32 500 small-scale coconut farmers build alternative livelihoods and 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.
- **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 category 5 storm affected 14.1 million people and caused severe damage 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 more than the targeted 44 000 farming households¹, filling the gap in rice seed requirements identified by the Government for Regions VI and VIII. About 13 500 rice and corn farmers have been assisted with hand tools. In complement, FAO provided fertilizer to 80 500 farmers who had received seed from FAO, Government and other partners, and to an additional 6 000 corn farming households in Northern Cebu in Region VII.

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 (e.g. rice threshers).



Fisheries: building back better

The typhoon caused massive damage to everything 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; (ii) boat safety and quality; and (iii) distribution of selective and non-destructive fishing gear. FAO is providing technical guidance and training on seafood post-harvest and processing, aquaculture,

AGRICULTURAL DAMAGES

Source: Department of Agriculture
(Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda, 16/12/13)

- **Damage to the agriculture sector**, estimated immediately after the typhoon: USD 724 million
- **600 000 ha of farmland devastated**
- **1.1 million tonnes of crops lost**, 80% in Region VIII
- **Principal crops in affected areas**
 - Coconut (73% of crop area)
 - Rice (16% of crop area)
 - Corn (4% of crop area)

¹ Based on Monitoring & Evaluation information up to August 2014, more than 60 000 beneficiaries received certified rice seed from FAO (instead of 44 000). This is due to the fact that, whilst FAO planned to distribute 1 sack of rice / 1 hectare / 1 household, several of the affected farmers had access to less than 1 hectare. Numerous beneficiaries in such situation, therefore, agreed to share the rice seeds bags to maximise the benefits of inputs received. On the other hand, for farmers with access to more than 2 hectares, a maximum of 2 bags of certified rice seeds was provided. This process was documented by the Municipal Agriculture Officers and recorded in the distribution vouchers, which are currently still being encoded (95% encoded so far)

management of marine-protected areas and the building, maintenance and repair of hybrid fiberglass and wooden boats. Fisheries- and aquaculture-related inputs will be provided to 23 000 small-scale fishing families, with a special focus on women (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 again, affected families need support to diversify their livelihoods in the interim. 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. In addition, FAO is carrying out Integrated Pest Management awareness campaigns and implementing pest control strategies in at-risk areas.

As part of the intervention, women's 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. Small-scale upland farmers affected by the devastation of nearly half of tree plantations will receive fruit tree seedlings and training to establish community nurseries and contribute to the rehabilitation of damaged agroforestry systems.



Coastal/mangrove forest rehabilitation: restoring 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
Rice and corn farming. Restore productivity and income generation Promote safe storage of the crop harvests. Fisheries. Rehabilitate production assets and post-harvest facilities Provide fisheries inputs, technical support and training, focused on resilience. 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. 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.

- Enable the environment.** FAO is providing technical guidance to ensure disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation agendas are in synergy and mainstreamed effectively into agriculture sector programming and financing.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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