Typhoon Haiyan: Plan International Emergency Response

8 December 2013
Plan in the Philippines

Typhoon Haiyan [known locally as Yolanda] which hit the Philippines on 8 November 2013 is the largest storm ever to make landfall.

The typhoon left widespread devastation in its wake: it has affected over 14.9 million people, damaged or destroyed 1.2 million homes and displaced more than 4.1 million people – including an estimated 1.8 million children.

Children are especially vulnerable during times of disaster; some will lose their lives, others will lose parents, siblings and extended families. Those who have survived are living in very distressing conditions.

Plan has been working in the Philippines since 1961 and is one of the country’s longest-serving aid and development organisations. We work in 420 communities nationwide, and our projects benefit more than 80,000 families.

Typhoon Haiyan affected all areas where Plan works (Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Western Samar, Southern Leyte, Masbate and Occidental Mindoro). More than 40,000 Plan sponsored children and families live in the affected areas.

Note: The information provided is correct as of 8 December 2013. Figures are likely to change as ongoing assessments continue.
A boy from Guiuan stands amid ruins of his home
Plan’s Response

Plan has issued a global appeal for $75 million to cover a comprehensive response and recovery plan to be implemented over five years. This aims to cover at least 264,841 people (approximately 52,968 families) in four of the worst-affected provinces (Eastern Samar, Western Samar, Cebu and Leyte).

Plan staff on the ground are also working with other humanitarian agencies to assess the immediate needs of those affected by the typhoon so we can provide targeted relief to children and families. Since Haiyan made landfall on 8 November, Plan’s teams have been working around the clock delivering life-saving aid in some of the most remote and difficult to reach communities, including food, emergency shelter, clean water, essential sanitation and hygiene supplies.

Plan is recognised for its expertise working with children, and this is where we are focusing our emergency response efforts. Additional work is therefore focusing on child protection and child-centred projects. This includes providing ‘emotional first aid’ to children who have survived the typhoon, creating safe play and educational areas, closely monitoring increases in child trafficking, child labour and potential abuse of boys and girls in the aftermath of the disaster.

Once the immediate needs of survivors have been met, we will work with communities to rebuild and to help survivors get back on their feet.

Note: The information provided is correct as of 8 December 2013. Details of Plan’s response will be updated as assessments continue.
TYPHOON HAIYAN IN THE PHILIPPINES

one month on

Thanks to your swift and generous support, Plan is working around the clock to help the girls, boys and families affected by Typhoon Haiyan. We’re on the ground in all affected areas delivering life-saving aid and helping communities to recover from this devastating storm. In the last month we’ve made sure that:

- **126,610** nutritious meals have been delivered
- **120,575** people now have somewhere dry and warm to sleep
- **7,030** people have water kits so they can prepare clean and safe drinking water
- **33,370** people have hygiene kits to help maintain their dignity and protect them from diseases
- **687** children have been supported to play, learn and get emotional support while aid is being delivered

Millions of people have had their homes, schools and livelihoods destroyed. Please support our appeal so we can continue to help children and families recover and rebuild their lives.

planresponds.org
Child Protection

There are large numbers of missing and separated children, who have lost their parents due to displacement, medical evacuations, or death. Right now, 1.8 million children are internally displaced.

Children, particularly girls, face an increased risk of trafficking, and the high pre-crisis rates of children engaged in child labour are likely to rise significantly as families struggle to cope with the loss of assets and income, affecting more boys than girls.

Families who are struggling to cope with the disaster may send children to cities in search of work, preventing them from returning to education and reaching their full potential. There is also an increased risk that children who are sent to cities will end up involved in sex work and other harmful activities.

A Plan specialist in child protection in emergencies is helping set-up child friendly spaces. Plan staff are also raising awareness of child protection and psychosocial support. We are coordinating closely with several actors active in the response, including the UN, government and partner NGOs.
Education

Most children affected by the crisis will experience a disruption in their schooling and this is an impediment to psychosocial recovery.

Plan is working to ensure children are able to returned to temporary education as soon as possible.

“Children are always badly affected by disasters like this... Everything that is familiar and safe is disrupted or destroyed, including homes, schooling and family livelihoods. These children will have seen things that no child should have to see.”

Carin van der Hor
Country Director Plan Philippines

A school in Cebu province destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan
The situation of girls

As well as having to contend with the basic human need of finding food and water, shelter, hundreds of thousands of women and girls face a heightened risk of violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse, rape, and trafficking.

Plan is recognised for its expertise working with girls and on issues that affect them. Our new report, In Double Jeopardy: Adolescent Girls in Disasters, has found that girls are being drastically failed when they are at their most vulnerable.

In times of disaster, girls have particular needs for protection, healthcare and education which are often not met, or even recognised, by governments.

Specific funding should therefore be made available for interventions targeting the particular needs of girls, with regular monitoring and reporting on progress made.

Plan staff talk to a girl whose house has been destroyed
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