

# Alert/Update

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## Philippines

# Typhoon Haiyan, Philippines

Geneva, May 6, 2015

### 1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

Typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda) slammed into the eastern Philippines on November 8, 2013. The strongest typhoon recorded in history killed more than 6,300 people and caused catastrophic damages to 44 provinces, 57 cities, 591 municipalities, affecting more than 16 million people. Total damages were estimated to have reached \$2.04 B, including major damages to the agricultural sector. Fisher folk and small coconut farmers, already among the poorest sectors suffered tremendous losses.

### 2. Why is an ACT response needed?

More than a year after Haiyan, the latest reports from the Office of the President indicate that, while progress has been made in assisting the affected families and communities to recover, key sectors like housing, WASH, livelihood recovery and DRR remain seriously in need of continued assistance and focus. This report was corroborated by findings by the consolidated OCHA cluster (March 2014) which showed that, by and large, the clusters for food and agricultural security, early recovery and livelihoods and shelter were underfunded. While there had been significant achievements for the recovery projects that the four ACT members (Christian Aid, ICCO, LWR and NCCP) have initiated through PHL131, there is a need to build healthier, more economically sustainable disaster resilient communities. The follow-on appeal will provide the avenue to achieve this.

### 3. National and international response

Reports from the government and international humanitarian agencies indicated that key sectors including housing, WASH, DRR and livelihood remain in need of continued attention and focus. The significant results of the responses cannot yet be considered sustainable due to the vulnerability of some of the affected populations to extreme weather events and the delay in sustainable livelihood and shelter solutions. As the UNOCHA clusters have been disbanded; coordinated support between ACT members has become even more important.

### 4. ACT Alliance response

To date, the ACT members have focused their interventions to the most impacted areas of Samar, Leyte, Northern Cebu, Panay and Palawan. The combined population reached by the ACT members is 498,050 through relief goods and early recovery support, through livelihoods restoration, WASH, cash transfer, provision of shelter repair kits and semi-permanent/core shelters. These were supported with interventions in psychosocial support, disaster risk reduction and quality and accountability.

### 5. Planned activities

For the follow-on appeal, the four ACT members (Christian Aid, ICCO, LWR and NCCP) will undertake interventions in key sectors of shelter, WASH, DRR, and early livelihood recovery and diversification, within the same response areas in Samar, Leyte, Northern Cebu, Panay and Palawan. Community-Based Psychosocial Support (CBPS) and Quality & Accountability will continue to be mainstreamed throughout the response.

## 6. Constraints

The subsequent typhoons after Haiyan slowed the recovery efforts as these caused damages in the ACT members' response areas. Other constraints include the unavailability of resettlement sites, land tenure issues, no build zones and lack of available inputs following the typhoon.

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**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel ([Line.Hempel@actalliance.org](mailto:Line.Hempel@actalliance.org)).**

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