

Project Information

- **Country:** Philippines
- **Project Name:** The Urgent Development Study on the Project on Rehabilitation and Recovery from Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines (Technical cooperation for Development Planning)
- **Cooperation Period:** 2014 - 2016
- **Implementing Organization:** Department of Internal and Local Government

1. Background and Project Summary

In November 2013, Typhoon Yolanda hit the center of the Visayas in the central part of the Philippines, resulting in more than six thousand deaths, one million destroyed houses and four million displaced people. Immediately after the typhoon, JICA dispatched three batches of Japan Disaster Relief Medical Teams as well as Expert Teams for a needs survey and provided 60 million yen worth of emergency supplies.

In January 2014, "the Urgent Development Study on the Project on Rehabilitation and Recovery from Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines" was commenced by JICA and the Government of the Philippines. The project aims to support the formulation of a mid-term reconstruction plan for rebuilding communities resistant to disaster. In addition, a series of quick impact projects (QIPs) are also underway to respond to the needs of people who have lost the means to make a living and are in straitened circumstances. The QIPs include restarting economic activities, restoring public services, and strengthening the capacity of government organizations in disaster management. The project also invited the resource persons from Higashi-Matsuyama city in Japan, which was severely affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, to share the Japanese experiences and lessons learned on recovery and reconstruction from the natural disaster.

2. Natural Disasters and Recovery/ Reconstruction from the Gender Perspective

In general, women tend to be more vulnerable to and disproportionately affected by natural disasters. Studies have also shown that incidences of domestic and gender-based violence increase following disasters. At the same time, women are key actors in disaster preparedness and reconstruction of communities affected by natural disasters. However, opportunities for women to play a vital role in "building back better" are not necessarily secured. It is essential to secure women's participation in all stages of planning, decision-making and implementation processes in disaster risk

management.

3. Gender-responsive Activities

The QIPs include the following gender-responsive activities. On planning the QIPs, the project obtained useful information about the situations in the affected areas and needs of the affected people from female staff at the local administration, which has supported women's groups since before the disaster and has kept in contact with them.

(1) Regeneration of livelihoods by women's groups

In Tolosa Municipality, five women's groups have been engaged in food processing activities with the aim of improving livelihoods. The activities, however, have been suspended because of severely damaged buildings and food processing equipment at the production site. The project has been supporting a restart of the activities by reconstructing the building and providing training programs on processing techniques and management to the women's groups.

(2) Sales promotion for improvement in livelihood

A retail outlet for display and sale of the products produced and processed by the women in the affected areas is established for sales promotion. The project also provides trainings to the women's groups working as food processors and retailers.

(3) Rehabilitation of Daycare Centers

Daycare centers in the Philippines are obligated to be set up in each Barangay (village) to provide services of child healthcare, pre- and postpartum support for mothers and to function as shelters from child abuse. A large number of daycare centers were seriously damaged by the typhoon. The project reconstructs daycare centers, which also serve as day nurseries, to support working mothers and their children.

In the areas affected by Typhoon Yolanda, it is not unusual for a man in the family to migrate for work while a woman stays at home to support the family. The immense contributions women make to sustain their families and communities need to be properly recognized, and more resilient communities are expected to be rebuilt by incorporating women's skills and knowledge into disaster response and post-disaster reconstruction.

