



Increasing economic and disaster resilience for young people and community members affected by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines

Following the devastating Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, Y Care International and the Asia Pacific Alliance of YMCAs (APAY) implemented a recovery and resilience programme in Iloilo province from Jan 2015 – Dec 2016.

We helped disaster-affected young people and community members develop skills, access employment and enterprise opportunities and build their resilience to future crises.

The results

Developing Skills

In 2014, Y Care International and the Asia Pacific Alliance of YMCAs assessed the needs of communities in Iloilo province affected by Typhoon Haiyan to identify the most effective ways to support their long-term recovery. In collaboration with Iloilo YMCA, the remote community of Tapacon was selected as the location for our recovery and resilience project, based on evidence of need and the absence of other support organisations.

We found that most young people (75%) were involved in agricultural or farming cooperative activities as a means of livelihood. The main barriers to young people building their livelihoods were limited access to resources including education, skills and vocational training.

Through this project, we provided vocational training to 136 young people and 60 older people to improve their skills in carpentry, cooking, baking, cosmetology, and welding. These trainings were designed based on a market assessment to identify employment and business opportunities. Close mentoring and follow-up support was also provided to young people to help them develop their life skills, financial management, accounting and marketing skills.

Access to Work

Our final evaluation found that by 2016, 59% of the people trained were earning an income through employment or businesses set up through this project. We also helped establish linkages with a large shipyard in Manila for welding graduates, and some graduates went on to become trainers at the YMCA's Livelihood Training Centre.

By the end of the project, the average monthly income of training graduates had increased from 718 PHP (approx. £10) to 1314 PHP (approx. £18.45).

Improving Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH)

In 2014, our Needs Assessment identified early marriage as a key limiting factor to education and employment for young women. We trained 108 young people (54% Female) in Sexual and Reproductive Health alongside their vocational skills training. In our final evaluation, 100% of young people reported increased knowledge of disease

prevention (including HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections), reproductive health, how to manage pre-marital sex and preventive measures to avoid pregnancy.

Developing Young Leaders

This project provided youth leadership skills to 130 young people through two Youth Leadership Summits held in partnership with the Philippines Army. Young people reported that this helped them to explore their strengths and weaknesses, increased their self-confidence and taught them how to react to different situations and become a role model to others.

100% of young people reported increased self-confidence, social and communication skills. For many of these young people, they stated that "becoming a good leader, a good person and knowing I can make a change" was the most significant change that had happened in their lives.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

According to our Needs Assessment, young people had very little knowledge on how to address and reduce risk. Young people said that they would like to learn how to develop and use early warning systems to help them and their communities stay safe. During Typhoon Haiyan many young people stayed where they were instead of evacuating as they believed this was the safest course of action.

The project trained 152 people (53% Female) in DRR, water search and rescue, and climate change adaptation through partnership with the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. Hazard drills were conducted in the community on a quarterly basis. A DRR Committee of 60 people (including 20 young people and community leaders) was set up and equipped with basic tools, equipment and a First Aid kit. An early warning system for storms and heavy rains has also been set up which will be managed by the DRR committee.

All respondents in our final evaluation had undertaken at least one activity to reduce disaster risk in their communities, including running or participating in hazard drills, tree planting, community clean-up drives and rain water harvesting.

What changed?

Our project in numbers

824 young people and community members were reached



83%

increase in average monthly income



100%

of young people have improved their confidence



100%

of young people and community members have increased knowledge of how to prepare and respond to disasters

59%



of young people have been able to access employment or set up a business

100%

of young people and community members have actively reduced disaster risk in their communities



Improving Well-being and Community Relations

All respondents from the final evaluation stated that they feel confident because they now have a plan. 83% agreed with the statement: “I can remain calm when there is a problem because I have the skills to cope”. 92% now feel treated fairly by their community, and 80% believe that decision-makers listen to their concerns.

The project contributed to strengthening community relations and cohesion which are key to increasing

long-term resilience at community level. The YMCA project team reported that at the beginning of the project, people in the community hardly spoke to each other. For many community members, participating in project activities and events led them to leave their village for the first time and interact with people outside their own community. This exposure increased self-confidence and improved community relations within and between villages in Tapacon. Almost everyone consulted (young and old) identified this as being one of the biggest changes in their life.

What next?

As this project was funded following an emergency response, and the Philippines is not currently included as a core focus country in YCI’s strategic plans, no further engagement is planned in the

Philippines. Lessons learned from this project as detailed in our Evaluation Report will be incorporated into YCI’s wider programming with vulnerable young people.

Stories of change

“ Before [the project], I was just roaming around – I had no work and no experience. I was afraid of looking for a job because I knew I’d be rejected because of my lack of qualifications and experience. Now, I have educational qualifications and some work experience, so I’m more confident in applying for jobs. Other than gaining the qualification, the biggest change in my life is that I’ve learned to be independent: how to cook, how to fix things. I have improved self-discipline and am not afraid to face challenges in my life. ”

Kenneth, 22, Male

“ We discovered our talent, how to associate and socialise with others, how to help others. We learned that we have to be determined to reach our dreams and goals and we should be patient and love one another. We now feel that anyone can be anything! ”

ASRH and Youth Leadership Summit participant

“ Before the training, she was very shy. She only used to help me on the farm and cleaning the house. She works in a restaurant in Iloilo City now. She has learnt how to deal with people and our relationship is stronger. She knows how to respect the rights of others and she looks after the welfare of others. ”

Mother of Female trainee, 19

“ In case there is the threat of a natural hazard happening, the Barangay Council and DRR Committee members work together to prepare food and water, and tell people to bring some clothes when they evacuate. Sari-sari stores are mandated to provide consumables at the evacuation centres. We also have a Quick Response Fund from the Barangay for relief equipment and pre-positioning stock. ”

DRR Committee member, Female

Project dashboard: Increasing economic and disaster resilience for young people and community members affected by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines

Goal

To build the economic and disaster resilience of young people, their families and other community members affected by Typhoon Haiyan in Tapacon.

Implementing partners:

Asia Pacific Alliance of YMCAs
National Council of YMCAs in the Philippines

Funders:

Y Care International Emergency Appeal
Asia Pacific Alliance of YMCAs
YMCA Germany

Duration:

January 2015 - December 2016

Cost:

\$201,750

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Read the full evaluation report here:

<https://www.ycareinternational.org/publications/philippines-economic-and-disaster-resilience-programme/>



Y Care International creates opportunities for vulnerable young people across the globe to change their lives for the better. Inspired by and faithful to our Christian values, we work with people of all faiths and none to build a more just world, free from poverty.