



Resident Coordinator
United Nations System's Operational Activities
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100 days after Sendong Time to restore livelihoods through decent jobs

Manila | 26 March 2012 – One hundred days after Sendong, many storm-affected individuals are in search of decent jobs to rebuild their lives and to restore their livelihoods.

Regie Loyola, 29, was one of the 624,000 people whose livelihoods had been affected when Tropical Storm Sendong hit many parts of Northern Mindanao last December 2011.

“Livelihoods were washed out by the storm,” said Regie, a helper and mechanic assistant. “Many storm-affected people are searching for jobs after the storm to feed their children and to help their families survive. But it is hard for me to look for a job because I did not finish high school.”

Loreta Villacencio, 56, said it was hard to survive after the storm. “As a cigarette vendor, I do not have social security to avail of a calamity loan. I am just thankful to be part of the cash-for-work.”

Livelihood starter kits, emergency employment and cash-for-work programmes were provided to help survivors recover and sustain lost sources of income. The Government along with national and international aid agencies have been working together through the Livelihood Cluster to assist storm-affected individuals and vulnerable groups. Restoring livelihoods continues to be a priority in the response.

“Livelihood recovery is crucial to help communities recover from the crisis and to build people’s confidence that they can move on,” said Jacqui Badcock, United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in the Philippines.

Livelihood recovery cuts across the various stages of crisis response. Through the Livelihood Cluster, led by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the International Labour Organization, in close partnership with the World Food Programme, developed and are currently implementing livelihood and employment generation approaches to address infrastructure and non-infrastructure requirements. A total of US\$3.3 million have been raised to promote sustainable livelihoods and to ensure decent and productive work in the overall recovery efforts.

Some US\$2.3 million have been further allocated for a cash-for-work programme targeting remote, harder to reach communities and the rehabilitation of schools. This will be complemented by a school feeding programme to protect and prevent the deterioration of the nutritional status of 45,000 children, and to meet the immediate food needs of 75,000 highly vulnerable people.

A project to rehabilitate damaged community infrastructure through skills development, particularly construction skills, has received US\$641,132 as part of the revised Flash Appeal in February.

Meanwhile, the Government, the UN and partners working on livelihood recovery recently launched a prototype consolidated database that aims to identify and rank beneficiaries to better target planned interventions. Maps have likewise been drawn up, showing the areas where livelihood recovery assistance has been provided, and where it is lacking, in order to help guide future actions.

“The UN acknowledges the generosity of donors and aid organizations and their continued support towards full recovery among the storm-affected people of Northern Mindanao,” added Ms. Badcock. “By working together, we have made a lot progress but we do recognize that much more needs to be done. Although people found alternative sources of income, it is crucial to sustain livelihoods. In the end, this will benefit not just individuals but the country towards rebuilding lives and recovering from the crisis.”

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