



SOS Children's Villages Programme Tacloban, Philippines

Emergency Programme



Background

- Tacloban is a Philippine province situated in the south of the country. It is a poor rural area although most of the children nowadays attend school.
- Approximately 15 million people were affected and more than 4 million displaced after Typhoon Haiyan.
- Children's village of Tacloban was badly damaged, but no casualties among staff and children.

SOS Children's Villages in the Philippines

SOS Children's Villages has been present in the Philippines since the 1960s. Our organisation has been responding to the challenging conditions by providing day care, essential services such as health care, assistance to families in need, and loving homes for children and young people. SOS Children's Villages is presently supporting children, young people and families in eight locations throughout the island state. At present there are eight SOS Children's Villages in the Philippines, seven SOS Youth Facilities, four SOS Kindergartens, various SOS Social Centers and Family Strengthening Programs, and two SOS Vocational Training Centers.

Typhoon Haiyan

In 2013 the Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines, and death and destruction followed in its wake. The official death count following the Typhoon Haiyan is 6 000, but local estimates are much higher. This is due to many victims not being registered and therefore not part of official statistics. More than 4 million people lost their homes and thousands of families were separated and children orphaned. The children's village in Tacloban suffered severe infrastructural damage, and although

there were no casualties among staff or children, many were traumatized by the events and/or by losing loved ones.



The SOS village is situated nearby a river – some say the river saved their lives as the water could find a fast way out. Now the river is reinforced with solid concrete walls.

SOS Children´s Village Tacloban

- 11 family houses in the children´s village
- 83 children currently live in the village
- 31 young boys live in the youth facility outside the village
- 11 girls live in the youth facility in the village
- 6 new children have recently been welcomed to the village, in family house St. Clare

Emergency programme

After the typhoon, 11 Child Friendly Spaces were established around Tacloban City and Tanuan, Leyte. Through these centers the children had access to a secure and creative environment in the midst of a chaotic situation. The Child Friendly Spaces were closed gradually as schools were

rebuilt and opened. The last one closed in June 2014. 600 families received help through livelihood, 2 schools were rebuilt.

Emergency program currently includes

- Livelihood support to help families generate income (fishing boats, bicycles, cattle or seeds for farmers)
- Reconstruction of houses and schools
- Kinship Program supporting relatives that take care of orphaned children

New and improved village

Two years after the Typhoon, a new, improved village has risen from the rubble that was the SOS Children's Village. The village now consists of solidly built two-story houses. The family houses are larger than before, with a modern kitchen and bathrooms and space for the families to live. Great attention has been paid to security issues, and each house has a staircase to the roof for evacuation purposes. The administration building has a wheelchair ramp to the roof as well as a staircase.

Emotional trauma healed

Children and mothers still are suffering psychological effects from disaster, and everyone have lost someone they loved. Through SOS Children's Village they get help to overcome their trauma and the emotional state of staff and children has greatly improved.



Mother Evelyn is one of the heroes from the typhoon. Her family was evacuated to a neighbor when Evelyn and her eldest son went back to get some food from the fridge. When the flood came she tied herself to the child with a rope and managed to get them both out of the house on safe ground. "I thank God every day, that all children were safe," she says. But although she has told the story a hundred times she can hardly talk about it without getting tears in her eyes.