

OPERATION RENAISSANCE: CANADIAN ARMED FORCES SUPPORT TO CANADA'S RESPONSE IN THE PHILIPPINES IN THE AFTERMATH OF TYPHOON HAIYAN



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Between November 10 and December 15, 2013, the Canadian Armed Forces' humanitarian assistance and disaster response capabilities were deployed to the Philippines in support of Canada's whole-of-government response following Typhoon Haiyan. Canada's Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) operated on Panay Island in order to focus on the hardest-hit northern regions. With more than 315 Canadian Armed Forces personnel deployed, DART purified approximately 500,000 litres of water, treated nearly 6,525 medical patients, cleared 131 kilometres of roads, conducted 184 helicopter sorties, delivered approximately 104 metric tonnes of food and 4 metric tonnes of shelter and building materials on behalf of non-governmental organizations, and delivered approximately 27 metric tonnes of humanitarian assistance goods on behalf of local authorities. The rapid deployment of DART, combined with successful civil-military coordination on the ground, had a positive impact on the lives of those affected by Typhoon Haiyan on Panay Island.

The United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator noted that Canada provided exceptional support to the humanitarian effort to the Philippines and the most effective civil-military coordination ever seen at the field level, recommending that it be used as a model for future disaster response operations. The 21st Annual Report to the Prime Minister on the Public Service of Canada also highlighted Canada's response to Typhoon Haiyan as a notable achievement.

TYPHOON HAIYAN

On November 8, 2013, Typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda) made landfall in the Philippines, a densely populated country of 96.7 million citizens. The typhoon killed more than 6,000 people, displaced 4 million from their homes, and severely damaged infrastructure, including homes, roads, schools and health centres. Haiyan was the strongest-ever recorded typhoon to make landfall, and served as a reminder that the frequency, severity and catastrophic nature of natural disasters is increasing.

Canada deployed a rapid and significant humanitarian assistance response in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan. Within the first two weeks following the typhoon, the Government of Canada led a lifesaving response that included significant contributions to UN agencies, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and Canadian non-governmental organizations. This support included the financing of a Canadian Red Cross 12-person medical team and field hospital through DFATD's Strategic Partnership with the Canadian Red Cross, which provided emergency health support in the typhoon-affected province of Leyte. Canada's contributions provided assistance to meet urgent food, water and sanitation, emergency shelter, medical and basic household needs.

On April 4, 2014, the Government of Canada announced that individual Canadians contributed more than \$85 million in eligible donations through registered Canadian charities between November 9 and December 23, 2013. The Government of Canada fulfilled its commitment to match these individual donations through the Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund, which continues to support the work of experienced Canadian and international partners working to address the needs of those affected by the typhoon.

In addition, Citizenship and Immigration Canada prioritized the processing of citizenship applications on request from Filipinos who were significantly and personally affected by Typhoon Haiyan. At the end of 2013–2014, 1,097 applications for both temporary and permanent residency from Filipinos affected by the typhoon were approved, which includes immigration-related adoptions.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SYRIA

The Syrian conflict has led to the most important humanitarian crisis of the 21st century, with significant economic, political, and security consequences for the region. The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate and the needs are expected to continue to grow as 10.8 million people inside Syria are in need of humanitarian assistance and 3 million Syrians are registered as refugees in neighbouring countries. The Syrian people have been subject to high levels of violence and brutality, and it is estimated that more than 170,000 people have been killed since the beginning of the crisis in March 2011.