



Civic Force provides emergency relief supplies consisting of rice, oil, and plastic sheets to disaster-affected people who are lined up in the rain waiting for their turn. Alangalang, located in the northern part of Leyte province in central Philippines, is one of the most devastated areas hit by Typhoon Haiyan.

Civic Force Provides Emergency Relief Services in the Philippines

Super Typhoon Haiyan pounded central Philippines, including Leyte and Samar provinces on November 8. The number of dead and missing has climbed to more than 7,200 people. According to the Philippine government, Haiyan affected over 14 million people in one way or another, which accounts for more than 10% of the total population. Although one month has passed since the powerful typhoon swept through the region, many people are still taking shelter in evacuation centers or devastated areas near the ruins of their homes.

Typhoon Haiyan kept its intensity while approaching the Philippines and registered a maximum wind velocity of 325 kph. In addition to the strong winds and torrential rain, it also brought powerful storm surges resembling flood tide, which added to the damage. Moreover, many people in Leyte province have been living in poverty to begin with and the area had not been equipped with sufficient disaster management systems. Many of the residents of this province originally lived along the coast where the land is almost at sea level. But with the rapid development and economic growth of urban areas, the outflow of the poor spurred, resulting in more than half of the population living in crude housing--another factor that caused extensive damage.

Our aid activities went through difficulties due to

disruptions in communication and transportation. We have faced many challenges: delays in shipping emergency relief goods from Manila to disaster-hit provinces; difficulties in obtaining transportation, such as ferries to the affected areas and trucks to deliver relief supplies; and deterioration in public security making it difficult for beneficiaries to reach distribution sites.

Clara, a 62-year-old native of Leyte province, said, "I have been making a living as a rice farmer. The typhoon took away all the harvested rice and seeds for the next season. What am I supposed to do?" Next was Romel, 42, who told us about his struggle to survive. "I live in an area far from the main road, so no relief deliveries had been made to my area. And on November 15, I finally received my first food ration dropped from a helicopter. It was the only emergency aid made available to me after the disaster."

In order to aid those who are overcome by the dire situation, Civic Force set up a designated bank account for donations for those affected in the Philippines starting November 11. At the same time, we dispatched our staff members, including those who are originally from the Philippines and provided emergency supplies. In our report this month, we will introduce the relief activities we have been involved in from the day Haiyan hit the area until now.

Monthly Topics

Civic Force selects hot topics among various projects of this month.

Distribution of Relief Goods to Three Regions in Leyte

“It was the most catastrophic scene I’ve ever seen and the most difficult project I’ve done so far,” said Mr. Carlos Padolina, who immediately went into action to help after the disaster and conducted field surveys in Samar and Leyte provinces in central Philippines, where severely damaged by Typhoon Haiyan. Mr. Padolina is the Deputy Executive Director of the Citizens’ Disaster Response Center (CDRC), which has many regional centers in the Philippines and is a partner of Civic Force. He said, “Everything was lacking in the disaster-hit areas and the distribution system was not functioning.”

Severed roads created isolated areas which could only be reached by helicopters. There, safe drinking water is not available nor can dead bodies be collected, so its sanitary condition is worsening. Under such devastating conditions, staff members of Leyte Center for Development, Inc. (LCDE), CDRC’s regional center in Leyte, are working hard to support those in need, despite themselves also being victims of the disaster and losing homes.

Civic Force had been working with CDRC in disaster response even before Typhoon Haiyan hit the country. We opened a designated donation bank account on Nov. 11, 2013 to support their activities and to distribute as many relief goods as possible. On Nov. 13, we delivered 960 emergency tents (for emergency evacuation, max. 10 persons per tent) to Leyte and Samar via Cebu Island. The tents were previously stored in a facility in Fukuroi City, Shizuoka Prefecture--another partner of Civic Force. On Nov. 15, we dispatched three staff members from Japan. They procured relief goods in Manila and elsewhere, repackaged rice, dried fish, blankets, plastic sheets, etc. and distributed them to 1,900 households in Alangalang Municipality of eastern Leyte, Albuera Municipality of western Leyte and other locations.

In distributing goods, we used our survey results and primarily chose areas that lacked support from the government and other organizations.

A man who walked two hours to the distribution site said, “For two weeks from the disaster, we barely survived by sharing two kilograms of rice rationed by the government with our neighbors.”

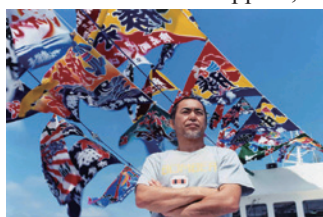


Fishermen’s Calendar on Sale

The Platform for Creation of Ria Coast Tourism, a general incorporated association in Kesennuma City, have launched sales of the “Calendar of Kesennuma Fishermen” from mid-November, aiming to help in the reconstruction of the fishing industry in the region. Civic Force has been involved with the organization since its foundation and currently, we are taking part in the management as a member of the board of directors.

Calendars can be purchased via the Internet and “Loppi” , the online shopping system of Lawson, one of the largest convenience store chains in Japan.

The size of the product is 364x257mm and comes in a folio. The retail price per copy is 2,000 (tax included).



Look Ahead to Restoration

Meanwhile, some shops and restaurants have reopened in downtown Ormoc City and Albuera City on the west coast of Leyte even though water supply and electricity are not yet fully restored. However, the demand of the local market could be unmet if relief goods continue to be provided in these areas.

With this issue in mind, people are starting to look for other kinds of support which will lead to autonomous and sustainable reconstruction of the disaster-affected areas in the next stage following emergency relief. The next phase is about providing temporary employment to disaster victims and paying cash instead of simply providing them goods and funds. This is called the “Cash for Work” method which helps reconstruction of the local economy and victims to rebuild self-reliance. The same method was utilized during the reconstruction process after the Great East Japan Earthquake.

In cooperation with CDRC and LCDE, Civic Force is also examining and assessing the next phase of support to match needs on the ground. Some of the programs high in need are psychological care for the elderly who have lost their community spaces in the neighborhoods and children who have lost their schools, and support for locals who made their living by fishing or farming before the disaster.

Christmas is just around the corner. It is the most important season for people in the Philippines where the majority of the population is Catholic or Christian.

Support Typhoon Victims!

We look forward to your support for those who are suffering from the effects of Typhoon Haiyan that hit on Nov. 8. Your support would help them think positively and gain hope for the future.

■Mitsui Sumitomo Banking Corporation (Aoyama branch): Savings Account-- 7027403, Account Holder--Civic Force

■Credit Card: Search by “Civic Force” or “KUREKA” on the Internet

■JP Bank: 00140-6-361805, Account Holder-- Civic Force

Please write “Donation for typhoon victims in central Philippines” in the “Remarks” column.

As a Member of Asia Pacific Alliance

Civic Force has conducted an emergency relief program to cope with Typhoon Haiyan as a member of the “Asia Pacific Alliance,” which was established in October, 2012 with disaster aid organizations from five Asian nations. We are making efforts to distribute relief goods that properly meet the needs of the affected regions by exchanging information with other members of this alliance, such as the Citizens’ Disaster Response Center, or CDRC, of the Philippines and the Korea Disaster Relief Association, or KDRA, a non-governmental organization based in South Korea.

The Asia Pacific Alliance aims to be an organization that provides prompt and effective support in case a large-scale disaster occurs in the Asia Pacific region. Information, aid workers, funds, and goods will be shared and leveraged among member countries and regions through cross-border coordination by businesses, NGOs and governments or officials of various Asian countries and regions.



Now is the Time for Perseverance

“The Leyte Center for Development, Inc. (LCDE),” which is a regional center of disaster relief NGO, “Citizens’ Disaster Response Center (CDRC)” , run development projects mainly for the poor as well as disaster risk reduction projects.

Even though the November 2013 typhoon destroyed our office in Leyte province, through the cooperation of CDRC, we began to distribute emergency supplies right after the disaster in Leyte and other areas, where government and other organizations could not reach. Leyte is the third poorest province in the Philippines and half of the population make their living in fishery, agriculture and street vender. From here on, in addition to distributing supplies, it will be important to provide assistance to people who lost jobs so that they can work again.



Jazmin distributes emergency supplies in Northern Leyte province. She is a professional disaster relief worker and leads the team in a variety of aid activities, from selection of distribution areas to implementing measures in running the distributions smoothly.

Face Face

Civic Force is supported by various companies, NPOs and government. This corner features the latest messages from our partners.



Jazmin Jerusalem,
LCDE Executive Director

For example, it will take ten years or more for fallen coconut trees to grow; in the meantime, we have to help the poor achieve self-support by supplying seeds of rapid-growing vegetables that can be sold and by providing agricultural guidance.

I have engaged in emergency aid activities as a member of LCDE since 1999, but Haiyan is the worst disaster I have ever experienced. All of our staff is working hard even though they have also suffered from the disaster. I believe that this is the time to show our capability and perseverance. We will continue our aid activities to help the victims gain self-reliance.

Here are some reports on what we are doing in Tohoku region, as of December 11, 2013.

Mid- to Long-Term Reconstruction Projects

Civic Force has been running several “Mid- to Long-Term Reconstruction Projects” since the summer of 2012, in order to tackle the challenges that were identified in the disaster areas during the aid projects we conducted for roughly one and a half years following the disaster.

■ Tourism Revitalization Project

— Enhancing cooperation between the public and private sectors to make Kesennuma “an attractive city for tourists”— Civic Force has been supporting the development of strategies for the “Revitalization of Tourism,” project which is one of the most important challenges for the reconstruction of Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture. In July 2013 we participated in the foundation of the “Platform for Creation of Ria Coast Tourism,” a general incorporated association, and will continue to support the project as a member of the board of directors.

■ Wings for Life Project

—Supporting helicopter transport service for emergency medical purposes—

Even before the disaster, lack of medical services had been a problem in the coastal areas devastated by the earthquake. We aimed to start a helicopter service to provide better access to advanced medical institutions. The operations were launched in October 2013.

■ Green Circle Project

—Developing a sustainable forest industry and effective utilization of woody

This program aims to promote a sustainable society by utilizing woody biomass. Together with local companies and other NPOs, Civic Force is supporting the training of individuals engaged in forestry, management of lumber yards, and trial use of community currency.

■ Community Revival Project

—Supporting local communities in creating and reconstructing homes and jobs—

Cooperating with local NPOs and local administrations, Civic Force has continuously supported the development of new towns for disaster victims who have decided to relocate and the redevelopment of existing towns by sending specialists and providing human resource development programs.

■ Dream Support Project

—Supporting local youths through scholarships and locally-developed educational programs—

Many high school students face financial difficulties as a result of the earthquake. To ensure that they can continue with their education through to university, this project provides JPY 30,000 scholarships per month for such students. The group held a meeting for scholarship students in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, in November.



Brief Report on Our NPO Partner Projects

We have been supporting projects that are run by the disaster victims for the reconstruction of their local communities. Since April 2011, Civic Force has supported 37 organizations and 49 projects. As of December 2013, we are supporting five projects. <http://www.civic-force.org/emergency/higashinihon/npo/>

•Platform for Creation of Ria Coast Tourism: Embodying the strategy of tourism in Kesennuma City, the organization leads pilot projects.

•nina jinseki-Kogen : The organization encourages evacuees from Fukushima Prefecture to relocate to Hiroshima Prefecture and supports them to sustain their community in the new environment.

•Network Orange :The organization held Tohoku Marche and Entrepreneur Contest in October. The prize winners of the contest will join a workshop in France next March.

•Mori wa Umi no Koibito :The project promotes environmental education to review how human beings can coexist with nature.

•Kesennuma Future Plan Osawa Team :Specialists in the fields of urban design and architecture support group relocation and reconstruction projects.

What We are
Doing in Tohoku

NOW

Where Your Money Goes

We appreciate your donations to Civic Force. The amount of donations for the earthquake reached 1.33 billion yen as of the end of November 2013. From March 2012, we spent 15% of the total amount of donations on expenditures. We will provide a tentative report on how your donation has been spent during this time. Financial contributions are screened by members of the board. You can also view the financial statement for 2013 and the project report on our website: <http://www.civic-force.org/about/>

(yen in millions)	
Emergency-relief, reconstruction support	556.5
Procurement and delivery of emergency relief supplies	233.1
Installation of handmade baths	18.8
Car ferry operation to the outlying island	20
NPO partner project (1st& 2nd phase)	161.6
Provision of multi-purpose mobile bases	72.1
Tents for volunteers	36.9
Feasibility surveys for reconstruction projects	14
Relief activities for reconstruction	378.8
Tohoku fund	95.8
Dispatching employee volunteers	2.6
NPO partner project (3 rd phase~)	168.3
Wings for Life Project (Mid- to Long-term reconstruction)	79.9
Tourism Revitalization Project (Mid- to Long-term reconstruction)	31.6
Green Circle Project (Mid- to Long-term reconstruction)	17.9
Community Revival Project (Mid- to Long-term reconstruction)	13.4
Expenditure for supporting local activities	111.8
Total	1,074.90

* including publication and fundraising costs
*The figures are rounded off to one decimal place.

※Additionally, we also implement the “Dream Support Project” with Lawson, Inc., individual supporters and organizations. We have raised 588 million yen, of which 251.8 million yen have already been used for scholarship money and expenditures for the project.

Lecture at Tokyo YWCA

Civic Force has been giving lectures in various places to inform as many people as possible about our relief activities in the disaster-stricken areas and activities for preparing for the next natural disaster. On November 20, Tokyo SHIGOTO Center held a seminar entitled “Let’s learn about the new projects for supporting reconstruction: Supporting revitalization of disaster-stricken areas through diverse means.” At this seminar we gave a presentation on our relief activities in Tohoku and the details of our work. On November 22, Kensuke Onishi, Chairperson of Civic Force, gave a lecture at the second meeting of the Committee for Promoting Provision of Medical Information,” held at the Tokyo Metropolitan Medical Association Hall. The theme of his lecture was the “present state of humanitarian aid in emergencies.” On November 30, Civic Force delivered another lecture entitled “What matters in helping disaster-stricken areas,” at a seminar organized by Tokyo YWCA.

Preparing for the next one together with partner Corporations

We need your support in case there is another disaster. We have to strengthen our tie-ups with various corporations and organizations in preparation for the next large-scale disaster. Our activities are backed by our corporate supporters. We hope you will develop an interest in our activities and become a supporting member. Please refer to the following web page: <http://www.civic-force.org/about/membership/>



A Message from the Disaster Area

It has been two years and nine months since Civic Force started activities for reconstruction in the disaster-stricken areas of Tohoku. This section introduces the people we have met in the affected areas. For this issue, we interviewed Mr. Yasutada Onodera, the owner of “Anchor Coffee,” who runs six cafés in Miyagi Prefecture, and asked about his feelings for the people in the Philippines who were affected by typhoon Haiyan.



Yasutada Onodera,
Executive Director
of Onodera Corporation

—After Kesennuma City was struck by the earthquake, we received donations, relief goods, and volunteers from all over the country. We have been really helped by them. At the same time, from my experience as one of the victims, I came to realize that what the victims need the most is money. So I decided to put a donation box at one of my cafés in Tanakamae, Kesennuma City to collect donations for the victims of typhoon Haiyan, which struck on November 8, wishing to provide them with aid that best meet their needs.

The residents of Kesennuma City, who suffered from the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, were deeply worried about the people in the Philippines immediately after the typhoon struck, because they had a strong desire to help the Filipino people in return for the help they received more than 2 years ago. This led to donations of nearly 100,000 yen in about two weeks after the box was installed. I will continue collecting donations through this box. Although it might be a small amount of money, I hope it will be of some help. As to the recipient of the donations, I left the decision to Civic Force when we heard about their plan to visit the Philippines to take part in aid activities. Civic Force has contributed to the reconstruction of Kesennuma City and their staff members often come to my café to have coffee.

The situation in warm Philippines might be different from cold Kesennuma, but I hope that people will not suffer from the vicious circle that starts with parents losing their jobs, houses and properties, which will put a heavy burden on their children, which in turn will make the parents even more miserable. I hope the disaster-stricken areas will recover as soon as possible.