

Typhoon Haiyan's toll: More than 1,800 dead, 580,000 displaced

By Paula Hancocks, Ivan Watson and Chelsea J. Carter, CNN

November 13, 2013 -- Updated 0047 GMT (0847 HKT)



Evacuees wait to board a military aircraft in Leyte, Philippines, on Tuesday, November 12. Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest storms in recorded history, laid waste to the Philippines. President Benigno Aquino III said as many as 2,500 people may have been killed by the storm.

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- **NEW:** Death toll climbs to 1,833, disaster officials say
- Tacloban "is like something fresh out of a movie. It's like survival of the fittest," one survivor says
- Bodies lay uncollected in the streets of Tacloban and still more are believed buried under buildings
- Aid groups, nations race to get aid to Philippines, but wreckage, weather slow relief

Are you in the affected area? Send us images and video, but please stay safe.

Tacloban, Philippines (CNN) -- Desperate pleas for food and water forced aid organizations and nations around the world to scramble Tuesday to deliver supplies four days after Typhoon Haiyan flattened areas of the Philippines, where bodies still litter the streets in one devastated province.

Rain from a tropical depression grounded some relief flights, while blocked roads and poor conditions at some airports made delivering other aid a difficult proposition, increasing the misery of survivors and raising anxiety.

"I fear anarchy happening in Tacloban City," said CNN iReporter Maelene Alcala, who was on vacation in Tacloban where the typhoon struck and was evacuated Tuesday to Manila. "It's like survival of the fittest."

Tacloban, the provincial capital of the island of Leyte, was ground zero for the typhoon that struck Friday, leaving the city in ruins and its population of more than 200,000 in desperate conditions.

*Photos: Haiyan's wrath from above
Damaged roads, airports slow storm relief
Storm survivors desperate for aid
Haiyan's track*

"The whole scene was like something fresh out of a movie. It was like the end of the world," Alcala said. "...Survivors are walking everywhere carrying sacks of goods they were able to get."

The lack of food and water drove famished survivors to desperate measures.

Typhoon Haiyan: Faces of the storm

They've taken food and other items from grocery and department stores in Tacloban, where shop owners have organized to defend their goods with deadly force, said local businessman Richard Young.

Authorities have sent police and military reinforcements to try to bring the situation under control.

Still, little aid was reaching victims, especially those in remote locations.

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said Tuesday that "women and children are begging on the streets for donations, exposing themselves to abuse and exploitation."

"With power lines still down, the lack of lighting has made women and children at home and in evacuation centers more vulnerable, especially at night," the agency said.

More than 2 million people need food aid, the Philippine government said.

[READ: Typhoon Haiyan crushed town 'like giant hand from the sky'](#)

In one rare bit of good news, President Benigno Aquino III told CNN's Christiane Amanpour that the initial death projection of 10,000 was "too much," and that the final accounting would more likely be around 2,000 to 2,500.

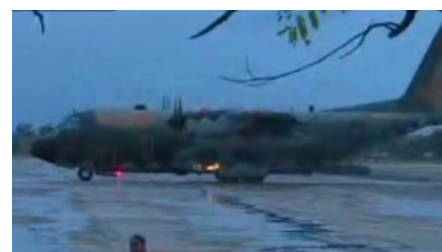
The casualty toll from Typhoon Haiyan -- known in the Philippines as "Yolanda" -- grew to 1,833 dead and 2,623 injured, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said Wednesday. At least 84 people are missing, the council said.

The number of dead and wounded may grow as search and rescue efforts continue.

Among the dead, the State Department said Tuesday, were two U.S. citizens. Their identities were not immediately released.

More than 580,000 people in the Philippines have been displaced in the aftermath of the storm, disaster officials said. Of those, about 286,000 people are being housed in 993 evacuation centers, the officials said.

Aquino defended the pace of relief to some of the hardest hit areas.



The typhoon simply overwhelmed the ability of two or three local governments to do their jobs, which include taking care of the initial response, Aquino said. For example, in Tacloban, only 20 of 290 police were available when disaster struck; many were tending to their own families, he said.

The national government "had to replace a lot of the personnel with personnel from other regions to take care of government's vital functions," Aquino said.

The Philippines Armed Forces has increased troops and military engineers in Tacloban, and the army will fly aid to survivors in remote areas around the city with 11 helicopters and as many trucks.

The exodus from the ravaged areas is adding to road congestion, further slowing help from getting in.

Help on the way

At least 29 nations or government groups have sent or pledged aid, according to the Philippines government. The aid includes \$25 million from the United Nations, \$4 million from the European Union, \$16 million from Britain and \$10 million from the United Arab Emirates, home to a large population of expatriate Filipino workers.

In Hong Kong, the U.S. Navy rounded up sailors on shore leave from the USS George Washington and ordered the aircraft carrier's strike group to make "best speed" for the Philippines. Its air wings will deliver supplies and medical care to survivors.

The Pentagon ordered more Marines from Japan to join the relief effort, and the U.S. Navy was also preparing three amphibious assault ships to head for the region, a senior Pentagon official told CNN. Among other things, such ships can turn seawater into desperately needed potable water.

PHILIPPINES AID (IN U.S. \$)

U.N.: 25 million

U.S.: 20 million

UK: 16.1 million

UAE: 10 million

Australia: 9.5 million

Canada: 4.8 million

European Union: 4 million

Norway: 3.4 million

Denmark: 3.1 million

New Zealand: 1.75 million

Ireland: 1.4 million

Vatican: 150,000

China: 100,000

Source: U.N. OCHA

The road to Tacloban

Survivors tell stories of terrible loss



Experts from Doctors Without Borders, Oxfam and other organizations, as well as U.N. and U.S. civilian disaster assessment teams, were on the scene.

Belgium and Russia sent field hospitals. The European Union sent €3 million (\$4 million) and two Boeing 747 aircraft loaded with supplies. Israel loaded up two 747s with 200 medical personnel and supplies.

Difficult deliveries

But it will almost certainly continue to be difficult to get that aid to survivors.

Many roads remain blocked, and electricity is out in many areas, making it difficult to operate at night.

[READ: Typhoon creates health crisis in the Philippines](#)

Complicating matters, a new tropical storm, Zoraida, blew in Tuesday delivering more rain, the Philippine national weather agency PAGASA reported.

Zoraida is not a strong storm, but it has dumped just under 4 inches of rain in some places, CNN meteorologists say.

It was holding up desperately needed aid in at least one province, Iloilo, where Gov. Arthur Defensor Sr. grounded relief flights until it passed.

Zoraida also slowed air aid in the neighboring province of Cebu, an official said, although military planes continued flying at the maximum allowed level of risk there.

[INTERACTIVE: 'The one building that survived the storm'](#)

'God, thank you for this big miracle'

Amid the despair, there were moments of joy.

In Cebu, Fritz Anosa was reunited with his parents, who live in the hard-hit city of Guiuan where the storm made its first landfall in the Philippines. They were able to make it onto a Philippines Air Force C-130 making a return flight to deliver aid to the devastated community.

"When I first saw them, I was just so happy that we all broke down in tears," he said. "When I saw them, it was like, 'God, thank you for this big miracle.'"

Late Tuesday, CNN iReporter Debra Thomas found Sebastian Makison, the young man she has raised since high school. He was in the Philippines for volunteer work. Family members worked through Facebook and Twitter to find him, and a volunteer worker saw the posts and connected them. They visited over Skype late Tuesday night, bringing tears of joy.

"I am praying for the rest of the families and I hope they are as lucky as we are," Thomas said.

[CNN OPEN STORY: Typhoon Haiyan's impact](#)

Utter devastation

The storm struck Friday with powerful, possibly unprecedented, winds and enormous storm surges that flattened more than 20,000 homes, hurled ships far inland and forced 800,000 people from their homes, according to the United Nations.

Thousands are injured. The dead are lying everywhere.



"We have bodies in the water, bodies on the bridges, bodies on the side of the road," said Richard Gordon, chairman of the Philippine Red Cross. Aid workers see them floating in the water.

Some are crudely covered, others left out in the blazing sun. Some journalists covering the story wear masks to blunt the growing stench as the bodies decompose.

Many corpses are out of view, mixed up with the rubble spread out as far as the eye can see. Some of them may be buried inside homes covered by mud and debris.

[CNN BELIEF BLOG: Where was God in the Philippines?](#)

CNN's Ivan Watson reported from Cebu and Paula Hancocks reported from Tacloban; Chelsea J. Carter reported and wrote from Atlanta. CNN's Ben Brumfield, Michael Pearson, Barbara Starr, Matt Smith, Jessica King, Saad Abedine, Jethro Mullen, Catherine E. Shoichet, Neda Farshbaf, Andrew Stevens, Kristie Lu Stout, and Jessica King contributed to this report.

Part of complete coverage on

ADVERTISEMENT

Typhoon Haiyan

[How it happened: Tracing Typhoon Haiyan's havoc](#)

November 12, 2013 -- Updated 1205 GMT (2005 HKT)

The unbearable stench of rotting flesh. The search for relatives under heaps of rubble. The desperate pleas for food and water.



[Emotional extremes for families of typhoon victims](#)

November 12, 2013 -- Updated 2239 GMT (0639 HKT)

People thousands of miles from the Philippines still felt their hearts stop and their bearings spin as Typhoon Haiyan slammed into the island nation.



[How to help Typhoon Haiyan survivors](#)

November 12, 2013 -- Updated 1718 GMT (0118 HKT)

The stories coming out of the Philippines are unimaginable. Rushing water and wind tearing children away from their parents' arms. A city of 200,000 in which no buildings appear to have survived intact.



[Typhoon creates health crisis](#)

November 11, 2013 -- Updated 2316 GMT (0716 HKT)

The unprecedented natural disaster is a potential medical disaster for the Philippines, according to emergency crews on the ground.



[UN: Logistics are biggest challenge](#)

November 12, 2013 -- Updated 0219 GMT (1019 HKT)

Richard Quest speaks to a rep from the World Food Programme about the challenges faced in getting aid to the Philippines.



[Inmates threaten break out after Haiyan](#)

November 12, 2013 -- Updated 0022 GMT (0822 HKT)

Prison inmates threaten a mutiny if they aren't given food in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan. Andrew Stevens reports.

[Hear typhoon slam into the Philippines](#)

November 11, 2013 -- Updated 2359 GMT (0759 HKT)

CNN reporters capture sounds and images of Typhoon Haiyan's devastating trek through Tacloban, Philippines.

[Typhoon victim: This is worse than hell](#)

November 11, 2013 -- Updated 2300 GMT (0700 HKT)

Officials worry the increasing number of decaying bodies will become a health hazard for survivors of Typhoon Haiyan.

[30 members of one family missing](#)

November 12, 2013 -- Updated 0735 GMT (1535 HKT)

Their faces stare from old photos, their voices silent since Super Typhoon Haiyan swept through Tacloban in the Philippines on Friday.

[Children among Haiyan victims](#)

November 12, 2013 -- Updated 1715 GMT (0115 HKT)

Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest storms in recorded history, left thousands of victims in its wake.

[Devastation on the road to Tacloban](#)

November 11, 2013 -- Updated 1719 GMT (0119 HKT)

CNN's Paula Hancocks reports on the grim scene around the city of Tacloban, Philippines, following Super Typhoon Haiyan.

[Town crushed by 'giant hand'](#)

November 11, 2013 -- Updated 1240 GMT (2040 HKT)

'I was gob-smacked as we made our final approach into the ruins of the airport in Tacloban,' says CNN's Ivan Watson.

[Photos: Haiyan's wrath from above](#)

November 11, 2013 -- Updated 2105 GMT (0505 HKT)

Flattened forests and flooded villages in the Philippines seen from the air.

[Philippines official: Worst storm ever](#)

November 11, 2013 -- Updated 2058 GMT (0458 HKT)

Christiane Amanpour speaks to the Philippines Secretary of Health about the devastation brought on by Super Typhoon Haiyan.

[Typhoon Haiyan relief efforts](#)



November 12, 2013 -- Updated 2229 GMT (0629 HKT)

Troops and aid organizations help Filipinos struggling to survive the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest storms in recorded history.

[Water, wicked wind, fire create chaos](#)



November 11, 2013 -- Updated 0727 GMT (1527 HKT)

It was the cruelest of ironies unleashed by Super Typhoon Haiyan.

[Tacloban residents plead for help](#)



November 10, 2013 -- Updated 1403 GMT (2203 HKT)

CNN's Andrew Stevens was on the ground in Tacloban as Typhoon Haiyan brought a storm surge to the Philippines coast.

[Photos: Typhoon Haiyan](#)



November 12, 2013 -- Updated 1830 GMT (0230 HKT)

The storm affected 4.3 million people in 36 provinces and displaced more than 340,000.

[CNN crew helps rescue typhoon victims](#)



November 9, 2013 -- Updated 1801 GMT (0201 HKT)

CNN Producer Tim Schwarz and CNN Anchor Andrew Stevens help rescue people inside a hotel during Typhoon Haiyan.

[Children ripped from parents' arms](#)



November 10, 2013 -- Updated 1637 GMT (0037 HKT)

No building in this coastal city of 200,000 residents appears to have escaped damage from Super Typhoon Haiyan.

[Are you there? Share your story](#)



Are you in the affected area? Send us your images and video but please stay safe.

[Philippines gets more than its share of disasters](#)



November 10, 2013 -- Updated 1954 GMT (0354 HKT)

Powered by ferocious winds, the fast-moving Super Typhoon Haiyan swept through the Philippines, a country of more than 92 million people all too familiar with destructive storms.

[Typhoon aftermath 'apocalyptic'](#)



November 10, 2013 -- Updated 1421 GMT (2221 HKT)

Storm chaser, James Reynolds shot some incredible video of the super typhoon as it hit Tacloban City.

[U.S. offers aid, sends rescue teams](#)



November 10, 2013 -- Updated 0021 GMT (0821 HKT)

The U.S. government had pledged an array of support from monetary aid to search-and-rescue missions to help typhoon-devastated Philippines.

[Cleanup begins after super typhoon](#)



November 8, 2013 -- Updated 2217 GMT (0617 HKT)

Cleanup efforts are beginning after Super Typhoon Haiyan left the Philippines devastated. CNN's Paula Hancocks reports.

[Witness: Typhoon was 'intense'](#)



November 8, 2013 -- Updated 2137 GMT (0537 HKT)

Witness Joe Curry, with Catholic Relief Services, was on Bohol Island when the typhoon hit.

[Water levels reached second floor](#)



November 9, 2013 -- Updated 0340 GMT (1140 HKT)

Paula Hancocks describes what she saw while flying over the region devastated by Super Typhoon Haiyan.



ADVERTISEMENT