



## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF IN THE PHILIPPINES

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR)** has been working in the Philippines since the 1960s, reaching poor, rural communities with programs in agriculture and food security, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and emergency response. We support communities in Mindanao, the southernmost major island in the Philippines — where chronic armed conflict and limited opportunities for economic improvement have led to high levels of poverty — and the Visayas and Palawan Province, areas severely affected by Super Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. Our holistic approach addresses gender-based constraints at the household, community and institutional level.

### AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Lutheran World Relief is an internationally-recognized leader in transforming poor rural economies. In the Philippines, our experienced staff and partners develop and implement programs that create linkages along value chains—including abaca, cacao, coconut, coffee, vegetables and livestock — that benefit smallholder farming families. We work alongside communities to help farmers adopt climate-smart sustainable solutions so they can maximize their food production, protect their land and strengthen their resiliency to natural disasters.

We also help farmers organize and join producer associations so they are better able access to credit, enter more lucrative markets, and collectively purchase farm inputs and market crops. And we provide training on business, leadership and management skills, as well as guidance on organizational governance and networking, so producer associations are better equipped to advocate for local government support of agricultural development activities.



#### LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PHILIPPINES

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Visit [lwr.org/contact](http://lwr.org/contact) for contact information  
for LWR's Philippines country office.



Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Lutheran World Relief works to improve the lives of millions of smallholder farmers and people experiencing poverty in Africa, Asia and Latin America, both in times of emergencies and for the long term. LWR builds and maximizes community assets to develop strong local economies and resilient communities, toward our mission of an end to poverty, injustice and human suffering.

## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The Philippines is one of the world's most vulnerable countries to natural disasters due to the effects of climate change and its geographic location in the Pacific Ring of Fire and Typhoon Belt. Lutheran World Relief supports coastal fishing communities in identifying potential risks, developing community-based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plans and implementing strategies to minimize their vulnerability to disasters. Through a Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) approach, we help marginalized fisher folk diversify their income sources, effectively manage the natural resources that provide their livelihood, and strengthen the collective bargaining power of People's Organizations<sup>1</sup>. We also help these communities as well as local government units (LGUs) to establish fish sanctuaries, mangrove forests and conserve endangered marine species. Working within the local barangay, or village, governing structure, Lutheran World Relief has helped establish several Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committees, empowering individuals within a community to be first responders and risk reduction managers.



## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Lutheran World Relief's presence in the Philippines allows us to deliver immediate aid to families affected by emergencies and crises, and promote sustainable recovery so that communities are prepared to withstand the next unexpected challenge. We have responded to several major emergencies in the Philippines, including Tropical Storm Washi, Typhoon Bopha, Super Typhoon Haiyan, and conflict in Marawi. Our response programs have included:

- Shelter rehabilitation
- Cash transfers (including cash-for-work activities, unconditional cash transfer for basic survival and diverse life-saving needs, and commodity vouchers)
- Distribution of LWR quilts and care kits
- Quality & Accountability training
- Early recovery and livelihood rehabilitation programming
- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities

Lutheran World Relief believes strongly that those affected by disasters have a right to life with dignity, the right to receive humanitarian assistance, and the right to protection and security, in line with the Humanitarian Charter. Therefore, we provide appropriate and effective services to the communities we serve and is accountable to these populations, as well as donors funding our work. Since 2011, Lutheran World Relief has been the official Sphere Focal Point for the Philippines, convening trainings and leading an alliance on Sphere standards, conducting audits of Sphere adherence during emergencies, and participating with the Sphere community regionally and globally.



<sup>1</sup> People Organizations are defined in Section 15 of the Philippine Constitution as "bona fide associations of citizens with demonstrated capacity to promote the public interest and with identifiable leadership, membership, and structure."



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