

Tzu Chi Disaster Relief Model

By: Michael Siao

Getting to Know Tzu Chi



Tzu Chi Foundation is a volunteer-based organization headquartered in Hualien, in eastern Taiwan. It is funded by donations from the public. Today, more than 55 years after its founding, Tzu Chi has volunteers in over 66 countries and regions, with millions of supporters and tens of thousands of certified volunteers carrying out Tzu Chi's missions around the world.

Getting to Know Tzu Chi

Our Vision



Tzu Chi concentrates its efforts on its four missions of **charity**, **medicine**, **education**, and **humanistic culture**, as well as **international disaster relief**, **bone marrow donation**, **community volunteerism**, and **environmental conservation**.

We hope to become a “global model” of charity, through the practice of empowering communities with the “Six Goodness”-Goodness of Hope, Goodness of Life, Goodness of Community, Goodness of Environment, Goodness of the Earth, and Goodness of the World.

Getting to Know Tzu Chi



As of March 2021, Tzu Chi has provided relief aid
in **122** countries/regions

Over the years, Tzu Chi has delivered relief to needy in 122 countries/ regions. While bringing aid to regions hit by natural catastrophes, the organization has witnessed the devastating results of climate change around the globe.

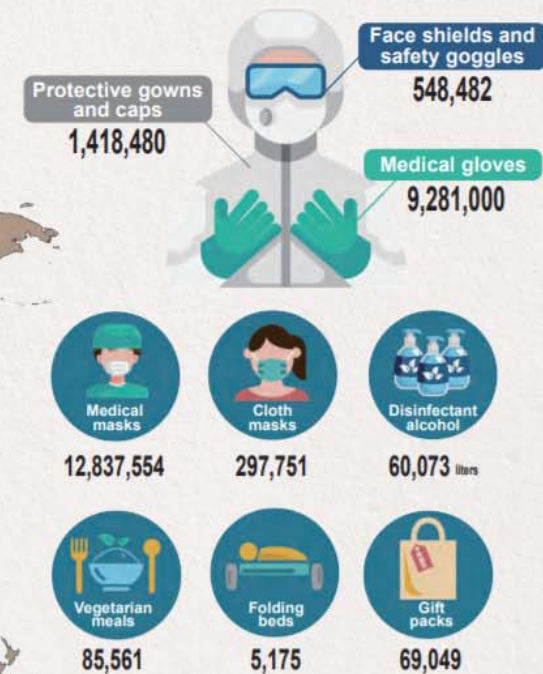
Getting to Know Tzu Chi

Love and Care during COVID-19

No corner of the world has escaped COVID-19. Tzu Chi's aid to combat the virus has reached 90 countries and regions, across the continents of Asia, Oceania, the Americas, Africa, and Europe. In addition to giving personal protective equipment, Tzu Chi has provided food and daily necessities to the needy to help them weather the financial hardship caused by the pandemic.



As of March 30, 2021, Tzu Chi had provided COVID aid to **90** countries and regions around the world



Tzu Chi has provided more than 2.5 million pieces of PPE (personal protective equipment) to 90 countries/regions and carried out relief distribution in 38 countries/regions, benefiting over 1.19 million households.

Getting to Know Tzu Chi



On July 19, 2010, Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation became an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC). This is a significant recognition of the Foundation's contributions around the world.

As a member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council with special consultative status, Tzu Chi participates in high-level conferences held by the United Nations and other international bodies.

Getting to Know Tzu Chi



Master Cheng Yen, a Buddhist nun from Taiwan, established the Tzu Chi Foundation in 1966.

She deeply believes that all people are capable of the same great compassion as the Buddha. True compassion, however, is not just having sympathy for another's suffering—it is to reach out to relieve that suffering with concrete actions. Under her leadership, the Foundation has grown into an international Buddhist charity recognized for its compassionate relief efforts.



“Great Love should transcend race, nationality, religion and geographical distances.”

- Master Cheng Yen

Among the awards and honors received by Dharma Master Cheng Yen were:

Ramon Magsaysay Award (considered the Asian Nobel Prize), Philippines 1991

Eisenhower Medallion, People to People International, U.S.A. 1994

Outstanding Women in Buddhism Award, World Buddhist University 2002

Roosevelt Institute's FDR Distinguished Public Service Award, 2011

TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential People, 2011

Rotary International Award of Honor, in recognition of her humanitarian efforts and contributions to world peace, 2014



TABLE 1
WRI MOST AFFECTED COUNTRIES, 2020

Rank	Country	Index
1	Vanuatu	49.74
2	Tonga	29.72
3	Dominica	28.47
4	Antigua and Barbuda	27.44
5	Solomon Islands	24.25
6	Guyana	22.73
7	Brunei Darussalam	22.30
8	Papua New Guinea	21.12
9	Philippines	20.96
10	Guatemala	20.09

Source: WorldRiskReport (WRR) 2020

World's Risk Index 2020

The Philippines ranked 9th in the world as the most affected country from extreme weather events in the 2020 World Risk Index (WRI) with a score of 20.96 (Table 1).

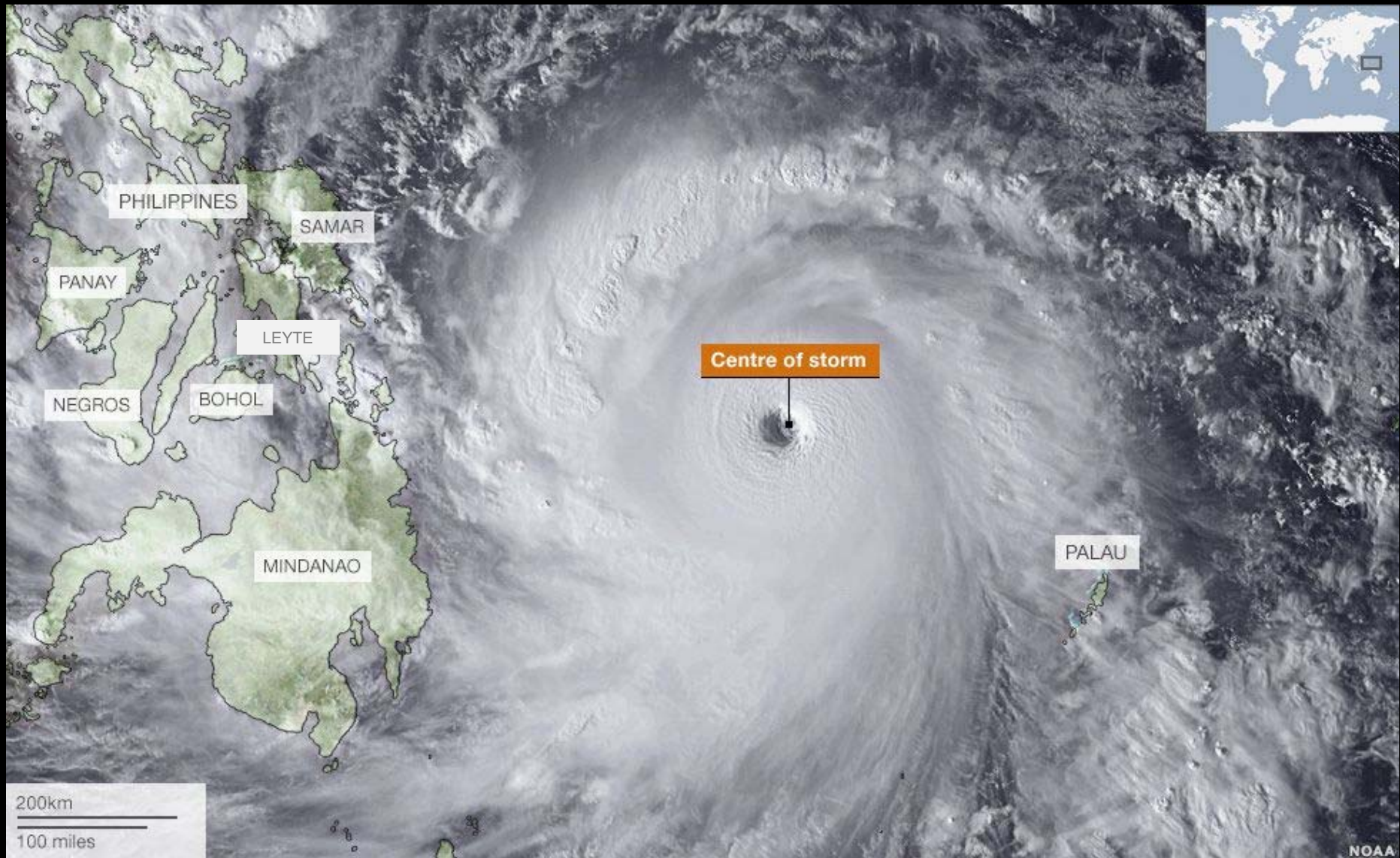
TABLE 2
EXPOSURE TO NATURAL HAZARDS
MOST AFFECTED COUNTRIES, 2020

Country	Score	Level
Vanuatu	86.77	Very high
Tonga	61.21	Very high
Dominica	62.74	Very high
Antigua and Barbuda	68.92	Very high
Solomon Islands	40.04	Very high
Guyana	44.92	Very high
Brunei Darussalam	57.61	Very high
Papua New Guinea	30.79	Very high
Philippines	42.30	Very high
Guatemala	36.52	Very high

Source: WRR 2020

Exposure to natural hazards. The Philippines' exposure to extreme weather events in 2020 was very high with a score of 42.30 (Table 2). This indicator determines the level of exposure of a particular population to extreme climatic events.

Emergency Response to Super Typhoon Disaster

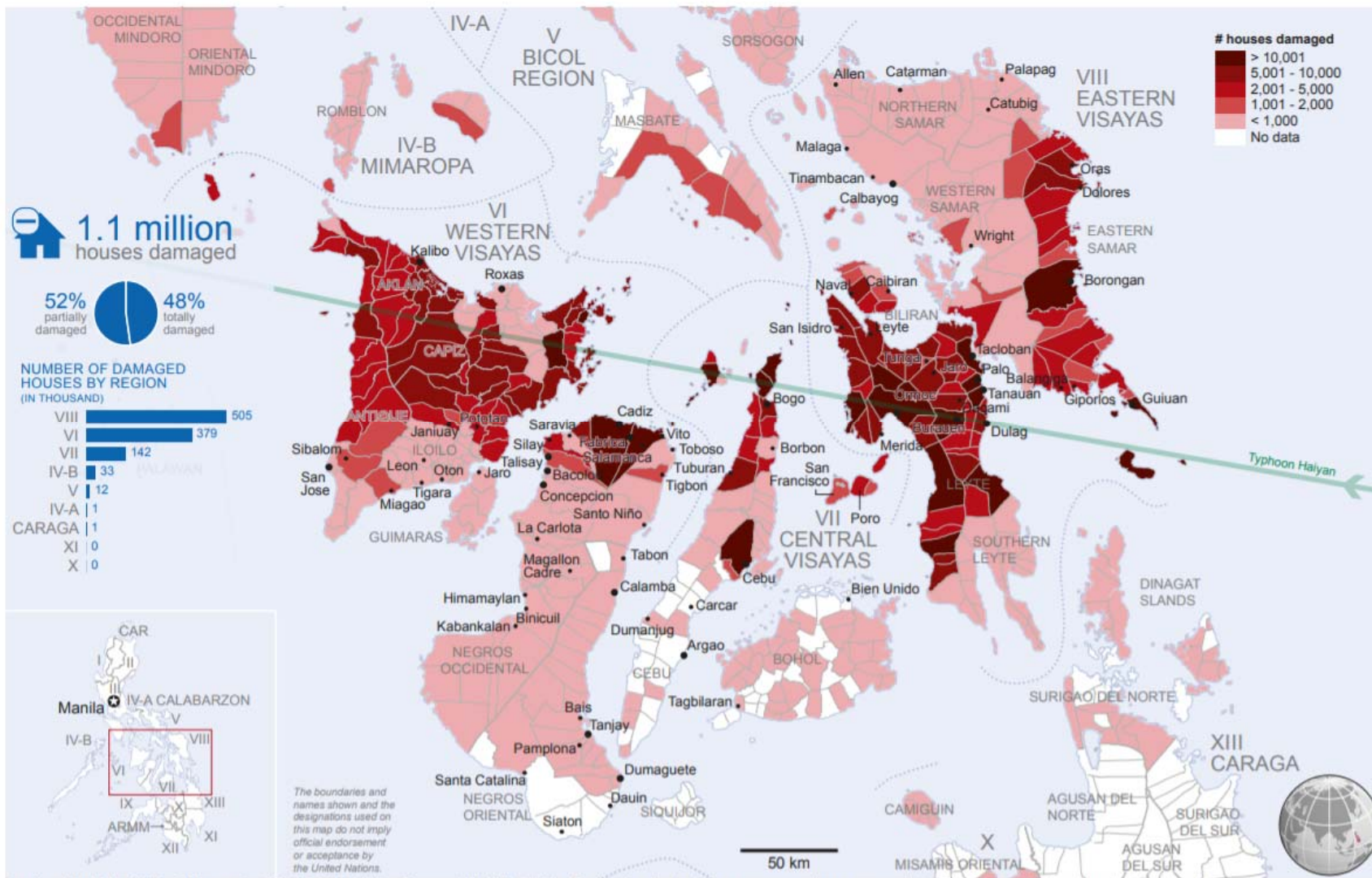


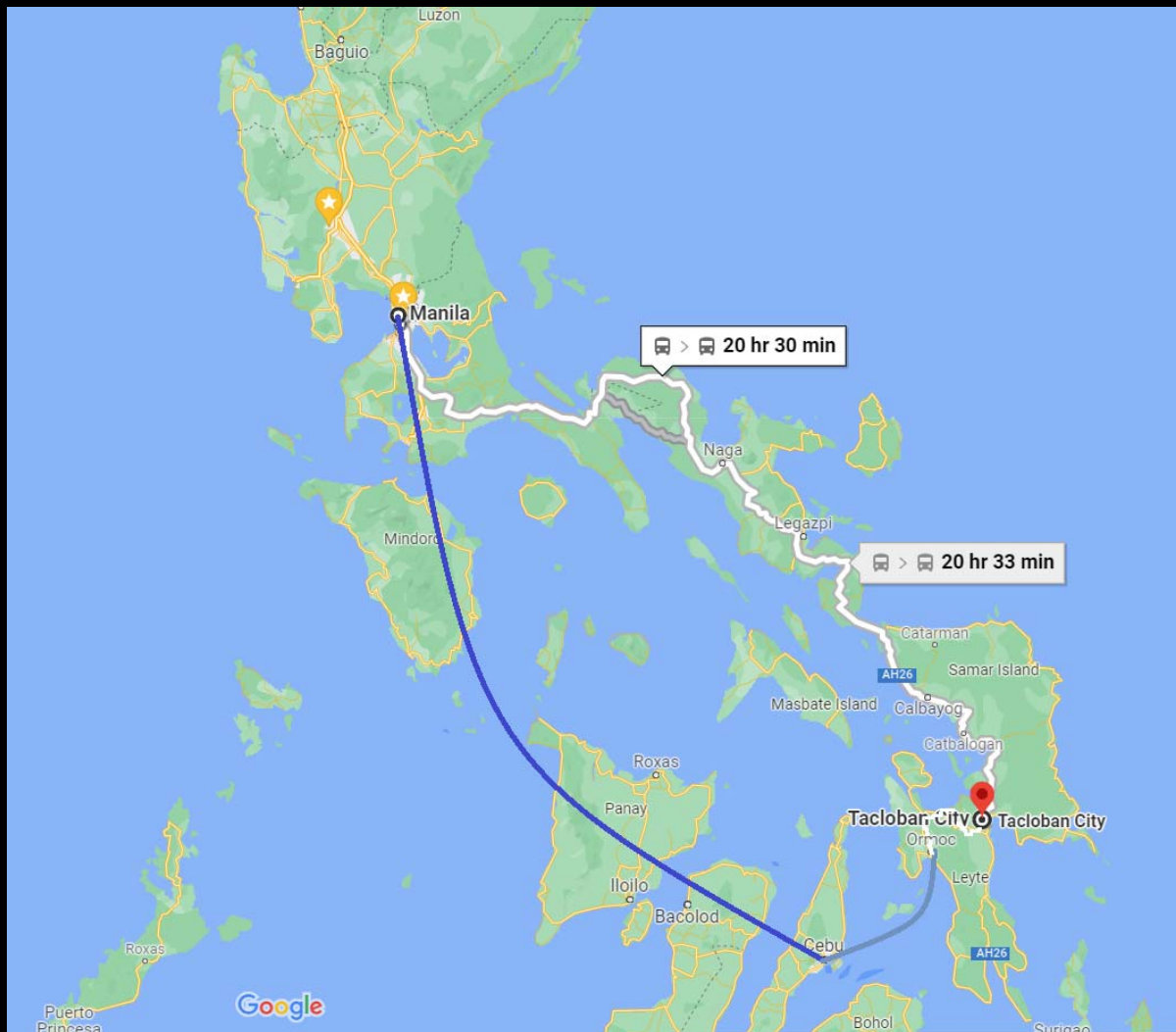
Typhoon Haiyan, known in the Philippines as **Super Typhoon Yolanda**, was one of the most powerful tropical cyclones ever recorded. On Nov. 8, 2013, it battered the Philippines with ferocious winds of up to 315 km/h, killing more than 6,300 people.



Master Cheng Yen summoned volunteers from the Philippines to discuss disaster relief plans. She instructed to initiate emergency disaster response, hoping to allow victims to settle down and be at peace.

PHILIPPINES: Damaged houses (as of 18 Nov 2013 18:00 UTC+8)





Tacloban City, located in the island province of Leyte, is reported as the ground zero of the typhoon disaster.

With its airport damaged by the typhoon, two alternative routes are available to reach the city. One via air and sea, the other via land travel.



Nov. 13, 2013. Tzu Chi's disaster survey team reached Ormoc City. The local government provided our transportation allowing us to visit disaster-stricken communities.



While gathering info on security and accessibility of the road going to Tacloban, Tzu Chi volunteers started to conduct disaster survey in Ormoc City. More than 90% of residential houses sustained heavy damages.



Disaster survivors jampacking ferries leaving their hometown which is devastated by the super typhoon.



On Nov. 15, the disaster survey team reached Tacloban City. The city is totally devastated. Houses are wiped out, thousands perished due to the storm surge.



City officials brought us to the open field in front of the City Hall where corpses are temporarily stored. We offered a simple prayer for the deceased.



After the typhoon swept through the areas, disaster survivors are traumatized. Some walk around without a direction, some just sits idly, some stared blankly...



Residents and foreigners tried to catch a flight out of Tacloban Airport after seeing the devastation caused by the typhoon. Water and electricity are cut, and food supplies are scarce.



Under the scorching sun, many people loiter around awaiting assistance from the government or from international relief groups.



With such massive destruction, rehabilitation will take enormous efforts. Coastal areas are condemned as “No Build Zone”



Life is impermanent and filled with suffering. Facing a catastrophe that is alarming to the world, we must have an awakening on the realities of the world. ~ Dharma Master Cheng Yen

5 Principles in Disaster Response

1. Priority
2. Direct
3. Respect
4. Speed
5. Conservation



On Nov. 20, the cash-for-work cleanup program was initiated. People do not believe that they would be paid P500 for a day's job of cleaning debris. Daily wage is only P260/day.



At the end of the day, cleanup participants received their P500 for their service. The money is not intended as a salary, but rather considered as an aid to the disaster survivors.



Tzu Chi volunteers consulted local government and talk to the residents to identify areas in need of cleanup. Everyday, volunteers set out to visit recommended sites, and identify assembly area to be set as a new cleanup station.



Treading along the trail of destroyed communities and interacting the disaster survivors allow the volunteers to assess the situation better and allowed us to identify the true needs of the disaster survivors.



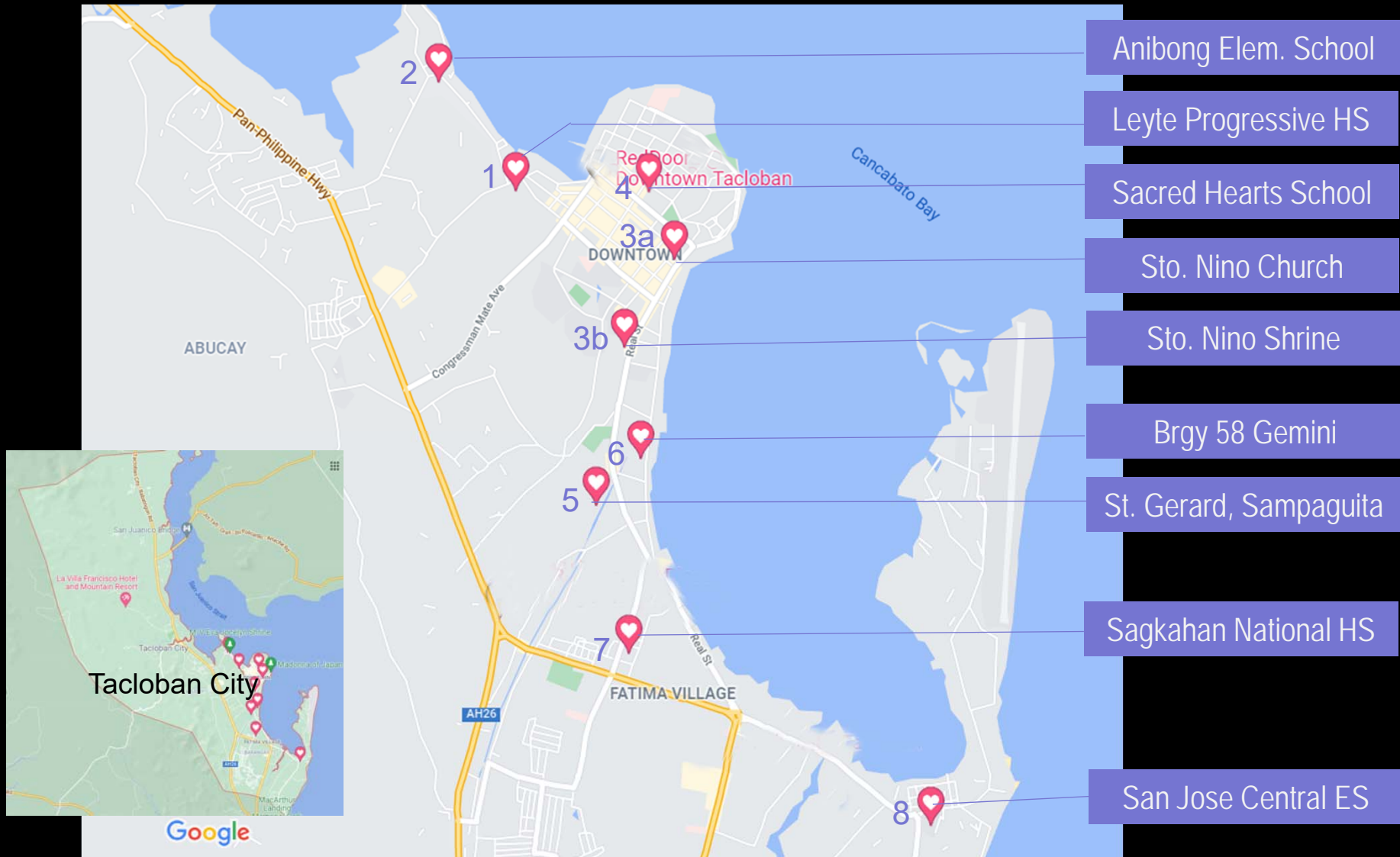
Several properly anchored ships were also swept ashore destroying properties along its path. The cleanup program helped a lot in finding missing bodies.



Vigia Lingan cannot hold her tears as she prayed for her grandfather and other relatives who perished in this calamity.



Container vans were also



8 Staging areas were identified for cash-for-work participants to assemble. This allowed Tzu Chi to conduct cleanup simultaneously, thereby achieving faster recovery.



With more cash-for-work stations being setup, so more man-power are needed to run the program. Tzu Chi Volunteers from 13 countries came to support the relief mission.



So as not to hamper the ongoing relief mission, batches of volunteers even booked chartered-flight to go to Tacloban when regular flights are scarce. All volunteers paid for their own transportation and accommodation.



Tzu Chi volunteers have cooked and served instant rice to augment the food needs of the typhoon victims, especially during the cash-for-work program. More than 30,000 meals are served daily.



Aside from working with the available heavy equipment from the government, Tzu Chi also borrowed several heavy equipment to hasten the cleanup efforts.



More than 12,000 people gather in San Jose Elementary School for the cash-for-work cleanup program in Tacloban City.

Global Fund Raising Drive

Mobilized
46
countries



Tzu Chi volunteers in 46 countries were mobilized to conduct street donation and fundraising drive to help disaster survivors in the Philippines.

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During a gathering for the cash-for-work participants, local residents rush to practice the spirit of Giving, represented by the coin bank brought around by volunteers.



After launching relief programs in the heavily devastated city of Tacloban, victims made signboard to express their gratitude to the Tzu Chi volunteers and donors all over the world.



Participants of the relief program are all smiles as they express their gratitude towards the volunteers.

Positive Result of Cash-for-Work Cleanup Program

1. Clean up the environment
2. Prevent spreads of disease
3. Provide financial income to the family
4. Brings back economy
5. Rehabilitation for the survivors
6. Awakens the innate kindness among people.

Tzu Chi Foundation's Emergency Relief Aid in Leyte after typhoon Yolanda

LEYTE

- ■ ■ ■ ■ Tunga
- Jaro
- Alangalang
- ■ ■ ■ ■ Tacloban
- Santa Fe
- ■ ■ ■ ■ Palo
- ■ ■ Tanauan
- ■ ■ ■ ■ Ormoc
- ■ Dulag
- ■ ■ Cebu

Legend:

- Cash-for-work Cleanup Program
- Heavy Equipments Cleanup Operation
- Cash Assistance Distribution
- Relief Goods Distribution
- Medical Mission
- Hot Meals Provision
- Installation of Pre-fabricated Classrooms

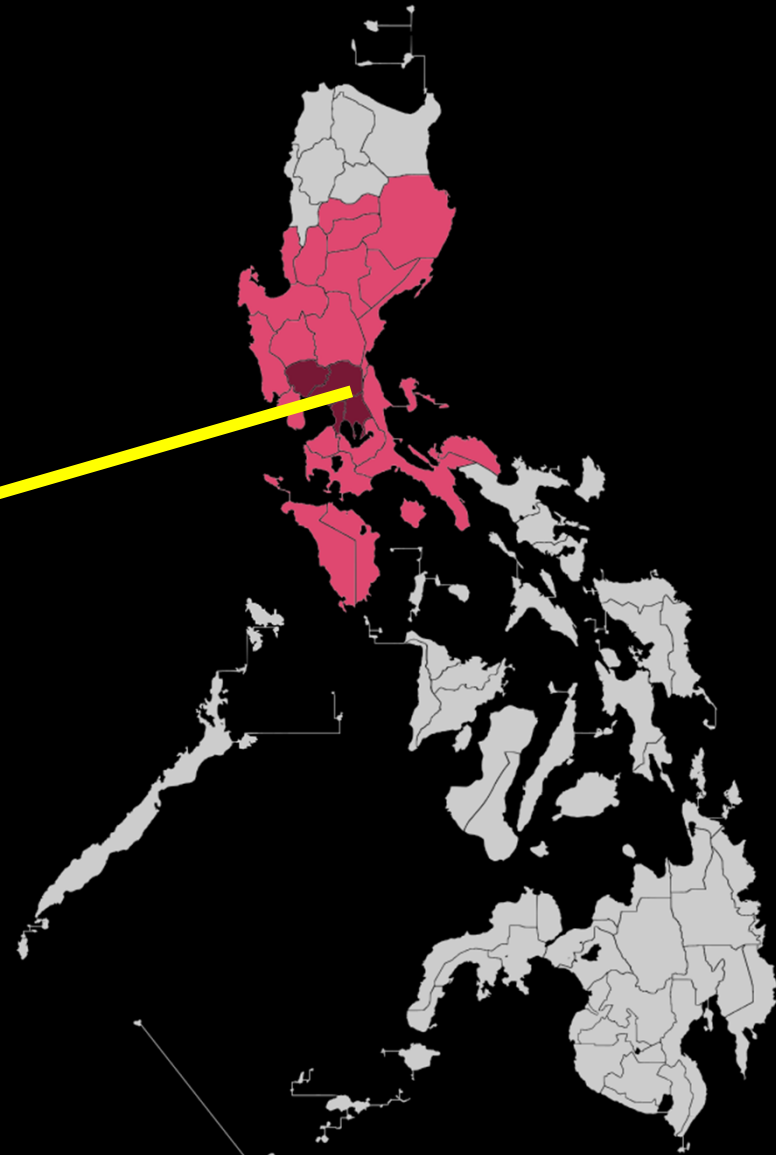


First Application of Cash-for-work Cleanup

Disaster Response After Typhoon Ketsana
“Ondoy”



Sept. 26, 2009. Typhoon Ketsana swept through Luzon, bringing massive flooding in Metro Manila. Some areas are even flooded up to 6 meter deep. At least 464 deaths in the Philippines were officially reported from the typhoon.



Ketsana's rainfall cause an unanticipated flash flood, which led to many deaths and extensive destruction of property. Marikina City of Metro Manila was identified to be the most affected areas from the flash flood.



The downpour of rain within 10 hours, which is equivalent to 3 month's rainfall, caused Marikina River to swell affecting communities in low-lying areas.



Disaster survivors are stunned on the swift rise of flood water, leaving many of them trapped on their roof tops. After the flood receded, tons of mud were left behind causing damage to their house and belongings.

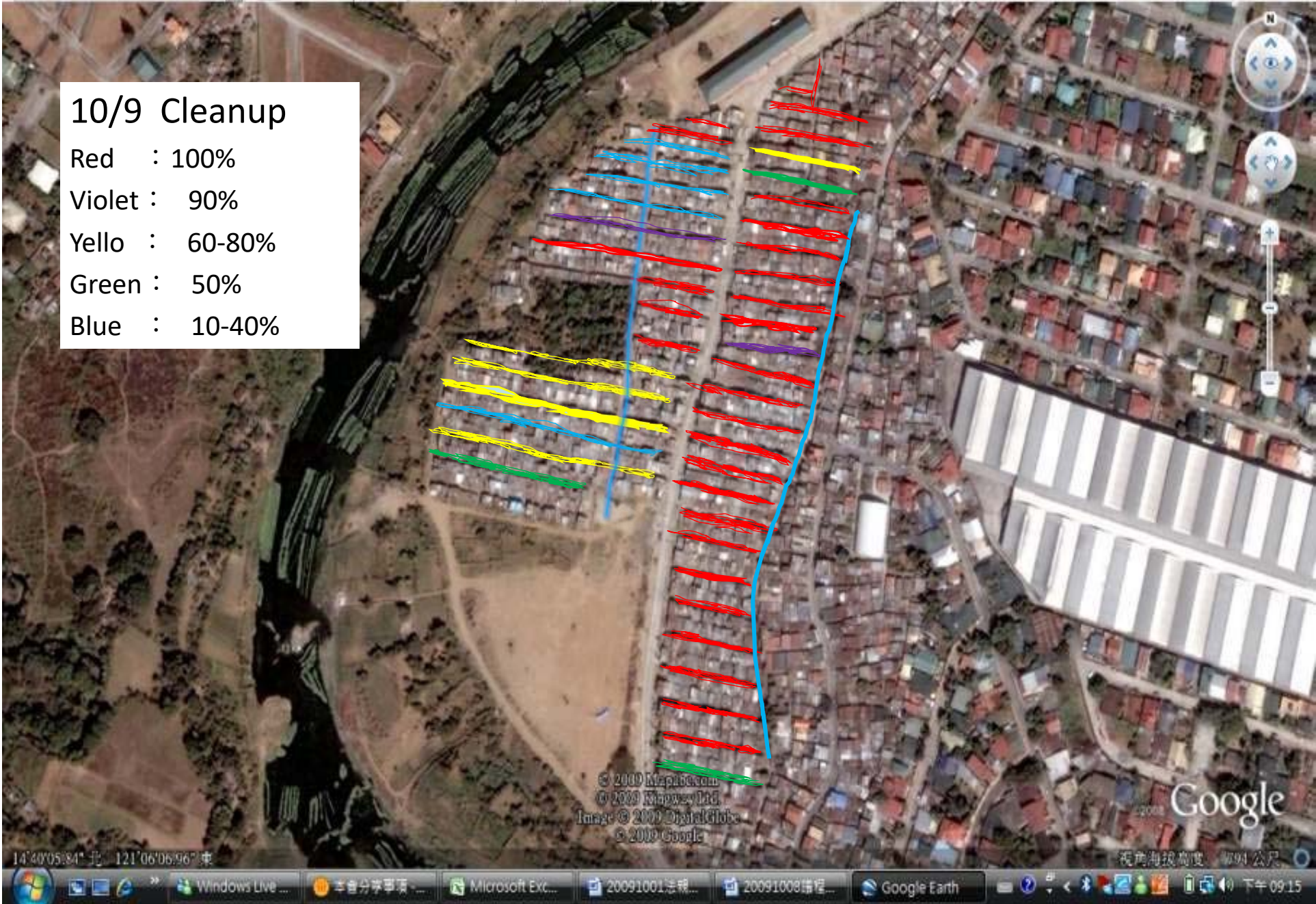


Cash-for-work cleanup was introduced allowing disaster survivors to clean up their own house and their community. But how much shall we give them for a day's work?

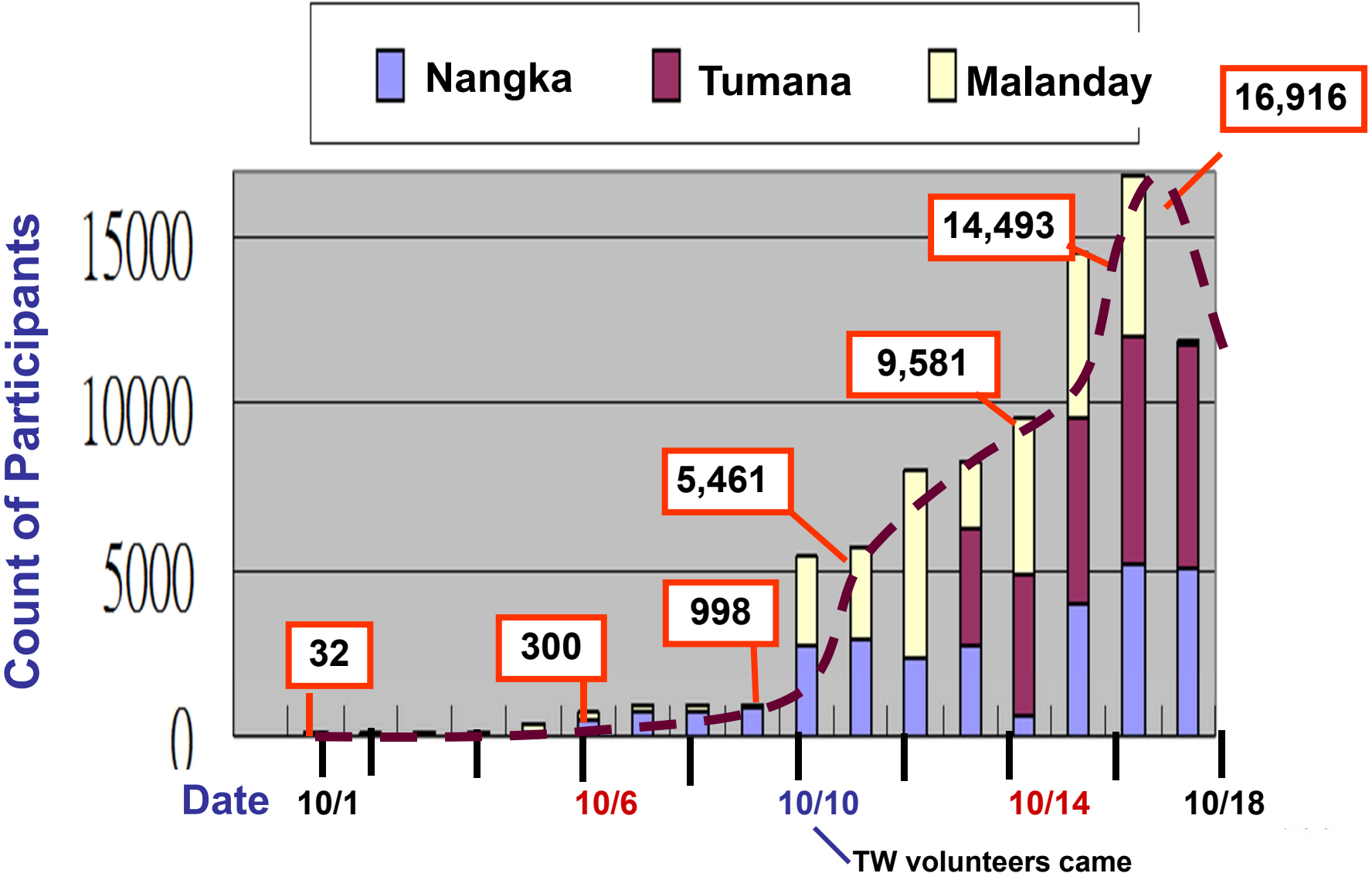


10/9 Cleanup

- Red : 100%
- Violet : 90%
- Yellow : 60-80%
- Green : 50%
- Blue : 10-40%



Marikina's Cash-for-Work Cleanup Daily Participants Tally





How do we supervise their work? FAITH!
Faith in ourselves, that our intention is pure. Faith in others, that everyone has a kind heart waiting to be awakened.



Local residents are delighted with the result, and they look up to Tzu Chi volunteers as heroes.



Tzu Chi initiated volunteer training to allow Marikina residents to get to know more about our mission, and to inspire them to join our ranks.



Prayer Vigil

Dec. 27, 2009

Marikina Sports Center



Tzu Chi's disaster response on Typhoon Ketsana allowed the foundation to develop Filipino volunteers. Working to help those in need and in turn empowering them to help others, Tzu Chi volunteers reach out to the most vulnerable within the community and work to ensure that no one is left behind.



To further extend assistance to residents who are still recovering after the disaster, the cash-for-work program was extended for environmental conservation.



Participants were recruited and assigned stations to conduct recycle activity in the neighborhood. Activities include environmental protection advocacy, educating residents, collecting and sorting recyclables.

City Resolution passed for cooperation in recycling effort with Tzu Chi



MOA signing with City government on Environmental Protection Program



MOA signing with Marikina DepEd on Environmental Protection Program



Recycling Promotion in different schools





The disaster response and rehabilitation program was successful allowing local volunteers to play a key role in Tzu Chi's mission after officially being certified as Tzu Chi commissioners and Faith Corps.

Medium and Long Term Assistance After Super Typhoon Disaster

Reconstruction of Sto. Nino Parish Church



Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation donated P50-million for the reconstruction of Sto. Nino Parish Church, which is one of the severely damage structures in Tacloban.

Reconstruction of Sto. Nino Parish Church



On December 24, the first Christmas mass after the typhoon was held in this newly-renovated church. Archbishop John Du celebrated the mass and took the opportunity to express his heartfelt thanks to the Tzu Chi.

Great Love Housing Project



More than 2,000 pre-fabricated houses were completed to provide housing for the disaster survivor displaced by the super typhoon.

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Great Love Housing Project



Tzu Chi initially distributed the JingSi Multi-purpose Foldable Platforms to 3,795 families affected by the typhoon. Later, all beneficiaries of the Tzu Chi housing project were also given.

Pre-fabricated Classrooms



For the benefit of the school children whose classes were disrupted, Tzu Chi donated 190 Pre-fabricated classrooms which were assembled in Taiwan. These allowed schools to open up in less than two months after the typhoon.

Roof Repair Projects for Public Schools



Contributing to the full rehabilitation of Leyte Province, Tzu Chi offered to renovate the school buildings damaged by Typhoon Haiyan. The roof repair of 195 classrooms among 32 schools in several towns brought motivation to the children as the school year opened.

Livelihood Programs



Tzu Chi, in cooperation with TV program Failon Ngayon, and the government's Technological Education and Skills Development Authority, launched a livelihood project in Leyte by providing 200 pedicabs to typhoon victims.

Acts of kindness from each one of
us are like nectar of love that can
enrich the hearts of many.

~ Dharma Master Cheng Yen

Thank You