



GLOBAL IMPACT

CHARITABLE VENTURES FOR GREATER GIVING



How this farmer is rebuilding after she lost everything

CARE

When Rosemarie Arante, recalls surviving 2013's Typhoon Haiyan — one of the most difficult experiences of her life — the emotions are still raw.

"I don't want to see ... to remember ..." she trails off as tears well up.

Typhoon Haiyan, known locally as Super Typhoon Yolanda, was a Category 5 storm that hit the Philippines in 2013. With winds at more than 150 mph, Haiyan is still considered one of the most powerful typhoons of all time.

The aftermath was devastating for the 14 million people impacted. Over 4 million people were displaced and 6,000 people died. The livelihoods of nearly 6 million people were lost or disrupted. More than 1 million houses were destroyed in the country, with some areas losing 90 percent of their houses. When Haiyan hit her village of Barangay Pontoc in Lemery, Iloilo, Rosemarie, a 48-year-old farmer, was among those who lost everything.

"After [the typhoon] came, everything was destroyed. All the crops were gone, so the community had to start from the beginning."

Determined to rebuild, Rosemarie participated in a project with CARE, a Global Impact charity partner, called Asenso sa Good Agriculture Package (aGAP). The project helps farmers work more sustainably and increase their incomes by diversifying their crops and creating more opportunities to access markets. Rosemarie also worked with CARE providing financial management and business trainings to farmers severely affected by the typhoon.



GLOBAL IMPACT

CHARITABLE VENTURES FOR GREATER GIVING

It's all a part of CARE Philippines's work with communities to help rebuild their lives and livelihoods, in addition to the emergency relief efforts after Haiyan.

Rosemarie embraced CARE's business and agricultural training. She was one of the first participants in the aGAP program and has been instrumental in its development. Now, she is a small business owner with a brick-and-mortar shop selling seeds, tools and other farming supplies. Rosemarie has both diversified and increased her income and has been able to send her three children to college.

Rosemarie works around the clock, waking up at 1 a.m. to transplant seedlings. By 9 a.m., she makes her way to her community, to help train other farmers on how they can improve their businesses.

"I help people in my community — especially the vegetable farmers, especially the vulnerable people — to plant vegetables for our daily needs and to support their families," she says.

Through growing vegetables, Rosemarie explains farmers can earn money twice a week. Previously, farmers would grow produce such as corn, and would not earn money for months at a time. She says earning money more frequently is helping farmers better support their families and pay for their children's educations.

Recalling the typhoon's impact is still difficult for Rosemarie. "It destroyed my community," she says. "I lost everything in Yolanda and my heart was broken."

Fast forward six years later, life has significantly improved for Rosemarie. "My life is getting better... I hope for the future. I am a farmer and I am proud!"