

Responding to emergencies in Syria and the Philippines



Syrian children at an education project supported by Trócaire in Jordan.



One year ago the Catholic Church in Ireland responded to massive need in Syria and the Philippines. **Trócaire Executive Director, Éamonn Meehan**, reports on how support from Ireland has impacted on people's lives.

On November 8th, 2013, the Philippines was struck by the worst storm in the country's history.

Typhoon Haiyan saw 300 kilometre per hour winds and giant waves devastate large parts of the country. Over 6,000 people were killed and over four million people were forced from their homes. In total, over 14 million people were affected.

The level of destruction was incredible. Entire towns were reduced to rubble. Homes, farms and lives were swept away in a matter of hours.

Eight thousand kilometres away, over nine million Syrians were also in desperate need of support. With their country ravaged by war, ordinary Syrian civilians were trapped, their lives torn apart by brutal violence.

The humanitarian crises caused by Typhoon Haiyan and conflict in Syria affected approximately 24 million people—roughly four times the population of the entire island of Ireland.

Through Trócaire, Catholics in Ireland responded to these crises. Over €7.8m (£6.1m) was donated to support Trócaire's response, €5.1m (£3.9m) of which was collected at a national church collection held on the weekend of November 16th and 17th.

One year on, we are continuing to help people whose lives were torn apart. Your support has allowed us to reach approximately 725,000 people with vital aid.

We thank you for your generosity and your continued committed support for Trócaire's work.

Supporting Syrians caught in cross-fire

Trócaire is supporting Syrians caught in the crossfire of a brutal civil war.

Working with partners in the Caritas network of Catholic relief agencies, Trócaire is providing an estimated 425,000 people with food, medicine and other vital support.

We are working with church partners, in particular Caritas Lebanon, Caritas Syria, Caritas Jordan and the Jesuit Relief Services (JRS) to support Syrians who have fled to neighbouring countries, as well as those who remain inside Syria.



Caritas staff distribute aid to Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

Re-building hope in the Philippines

Typhoon Haiyan completely destroyed large parts of the Philippines, leaving millions homeless and without any way to earn income.

Working with Caritas partners and Irish missionary orders, Trócaire has helped approximately 300,000 people to rebuild their lives after the disaster.



Julie Anne and Argie Barigon outside their Trócaire-funded house.

Our initial response was focused on giving people shelter, food and water.

With the support of people in Ireland, we have been able to also deliver longer term support for people who lost everything.

Julie Anne and Argie Barigon (pictured left) were amongst those who lost their home when giant tidal waves came in from the sea. One year on, they are now living in a house built by donations from Ireland.

Trócaire's policy is to 'build back better', meaning that the houses we build for people in the Philippines are stronger and better constructed than the homes they lost. This will help to protect them against future storms and give them confidence that they will not have to relive the dreadful memories of November 2013.

Trócaire is the official overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

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