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THE U.S. POST–TYPHOON RESPONSE IN THE PHILIPPINES: HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH, GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS, AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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THE U.S. POST–TYPHOON RESPONSE IN THE PHILIPPINES: HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2013

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH,
GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS, AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 3 o'clock p.m., in room 2172 Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Christopher H. Smith (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. SMITH. The subcommittee will come to order. And I want to apologize for being a few minutes late. We did have a vote on the floor, and some of the members will be arriving as they finish their business on the floor.

Nearly 1 month ago, the deadliest typhoon ever to hit East Asia devastated portions of the Philippines including the islands of Leyte, Samar, and Cebu. With sustained winds of 155 miles per hour, Typhoon Haiyan and Yolanda, because they call it Yolanda locally, reached as high as 270 miles per hour at one brief point. The storm surge reached a maximum height of 40 feet. It is the deadliest Philippine typhoon on record, killing more than 5,600 people. Another 1,759 are listed as missing. Approximately 26,000 were injured. Yolanda is also the strongest storm ever recorded at landfall, and unofficially the fourth strongest typhoon ever recorded in terms of wind speed. Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto del Rosario told us that the storm was 3½ times the size of Hurricane Katrina.

Last week, I led a congressional delegation to the Philippines to witness the devastation unleashed by the typhoon and to gain a better understanding of the unmet needs going forward. Joined by my distinguished colleagues Trent Franks and Al Green, and staff director Greg Simpkins and counsel Piero Tozzi, we were unanimous in our deep respect and abiding gratitude for the accomplishments of the U.S. military, USAID leaders, and NGOs on the ground including Catholic Relief Services who alone have committed over $20 million to assist the victims. For their part, the Philippine military was also playing a vital role along with remnants of local governing bodies.

In the immediate aftermath of the storm, right up until our arrival, highly motivated U.S. servicemembers brought desperately

needed supplies including food, water, medicine, and housing materials by the planeload to the ruins of Tacloban, with homeless, destitute victims—over 19,000 and counting—hitching flights back to Manila for safety and shelter. As was the case after the 2004 tsunami, the United States deployed an aircraft carrier, this time the USS George Washington, and other major military assets to provide assistance. Smart, rapid response combined with unique airlift capability has made all the difference in the world.

In the Philippines, I had the privilege of meeting Colonel Eric Mellinger, Chief of Staff of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force. I would note parenthetically that I nominated Eric to the Academy in 1982 in my first term, and it was clear watching him in action that he had earned extraordinary respect, from the top of the command, down to the lowest private. His leadership and that of Generals Kennedy and Wissler ensured that a desperate, shell-shocked population of victims got immediate, tangible aid. Every Marine I saw, every Marine we saw, including three from New Jersey—Lance Corporal Anthony Pellegrini, Lance Corporal James Soccodato, and Lance Corporal Michael Nappa—was working around the clock to protect victims. "Sleep? What is that?" one Marine told me with a smile. "We are saving lives."

Al Dwyer, Principal Regional Advisor for East Asia and the Pacific at the USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Relief said that "when the U.S. hit the ground things got moving. This was a model response," he said. "We saved lives here—I know that for a fact." The cooperation and teamwork of our military and disaster assistance leaders from USAID, including Jeremy Konyndyk, Director of the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance who traveled with us, the NGO community, and Philippine officials was a textbook example of how disaster assistance ought to be done. But of course the relief efforts are far from over. The emergency phase has no matriculated into the recovery phase and much more needs to be done.

With Donal Reilly from Catholic Relief Services, and we were with him the entire day when we were in a devastated city, our delegation visited a sanitation kit distribution at a local parish and received a briefing from Mayor Petilla of Palo whose daughter Jessica Petilla, coincidentally, is a medical doctor in my own State of New Jersey. And we met with numerous survivors who told us heartbreaking stories, and yet somehow radiated a calm and inner peace. One man told us how his father had drowned only a few feet from we stood and how he had stoically carried many waterlogged dead bodies to a mass grave. He said he nearly collapsed emotionally however when he carried the lifeless body of a 3-year-old girl. He said he just broke down. He was overwhelmed, and he felt he could continue no more. Yet amazingly, a few days later there he was, determined to rebuild and overcome, and he was all full of faith.

That resiliency was best summed up by Archbishop Jose Palma of Cebu who said and I quote, "The typhoon was the strongest in the world . . . but our faith in the Lord is even stronger . . . no calamity or natural devastation can quench the fire of our hope. The Filipino soul is stronger than Yolanda."

En route from Tacloban to Manila aboard a C–130 commanded by Major Jason Kauffman, our plane was diverted to seek the

whereabouts and rescue of a helicopter that crashed into Manila Bay. After a flawless, just above the deck, systematic search for survivors, because the helicopter had long since sunk to the bottom and it was kind of like looking for a needle in a haystack, the pilot spotted two individuals who had no life jackets who were swimming frantically, opened the back of the C–130 and kicked out a yellow life raft to the two lifejacket-less swimmers. With night darkness fast approaching, it was clear that their lives had been saved.

That was emblematic, a symbol of what everything that was going on on the ground in Taclaban and elsewhere was all about. Aboard, the crew was Colonel John Peck and a group of individuals who were just ecstatic that they saved two more lives, in addition to all the others they had a hand in saving.

Back in Manila we had productive meetings with both the Health Minister Doctor Enrique Ona and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario. We also met with people from the Millennium Challenge Corporation, one of whom was Matt Bohn who told us that roads constructed pursuant to a contract of some $435 million, a 5-year MCC grant, had been only minimally damaged and that the road actually paved the way for humanitarian supplies to make their way to the victims. We also met with a plethora of NGOs and U.N. agencies. Our interest was not only how effective our emergency aid coordination had been throughout it all, but going forward where our assistance ought to be directed in the medium and in the long term.

We felt that two areas deserved very special attention, preventing and addressing potential epidemics and minimizing the scourge of human trafficking. It normally takes 2 or 3 weeks for a marked increase in disease prevalence after a natural disaster such as a typhoon, but international health experts on the scene told us that dengue fever was already endemic in the storm-ravaged areas and could increase four- to five-fold in the coming weeks. In addition to dengue fever, cholera, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, leptospirosis, pneumonia, and other diseases can proliferate in a post-storm environment. There are vaccines for cholera, hepatitis A, and typhoid, but there are no vaccines for dengue fever, leptospirosis, and other diseases that might manifest in huge numbers.

Efforts to address the potential epidemic are complicated by several factors. First, the Philippines is undergoing a rainy season that will not only increase breeding grounds for mosquitos and other disease-bearing pests, but will also hamper relief efforts. Furthermore, many residents without shelter or with inadequate shelter will be more susceptible to the elements. The lack of electricity could mean no cold chain for medicines that must be refrigerated to remain usable including safe blood for women. There are some 90,000, some estimates are higher, of women who are pregnant, who have lost their ability to go to a venue where safe delivery can occur.

We know that some 200 health clinics have been destroyed in whole or in part, so a venue for them to give birth safely and with access to safe blood remains a very serious challenge going forward. Third, many roads remain uncleared or badly damaged, making

transportation for health workers or patients more difficult. Fourth, many Filipino health workers have either left the affected areas or they died in the storm, and the continued presence of foreign health workers will depend on ongoing donor funding and the health needs demanded by subsequent crises elsewhere.

Internationally funded protection efforts currently focus on family reunification, personal identification, and creation of safe spaces for women and children. USAID grantees are establishing women-friendly and child-friendly spaces in strategic locations to address the needs of women and adolescent girls as well as male children. The lack of electricity and insecure housing raises their risk of falling prey to abusers and traffickers, especially at night. However, while there is acknowledgement of the increased risk of human trafficking in the wake of the storm, the lack of reports of increased trafficking has meant that this issue is not yet in full-focus for protection. Maybe it is a good news story, for we know traffickers are ready to prey on the vulnerable and we know the Philippines has a huge problem of women being trafficked and children as well.

Also important will be providing shelter for the 1.2 million families whose homes have been damaged or destroyed. The Secretary of Foreign Affairs told us that $1.3 billion will be needed to repair and to erect homes that have been destroyed. The Philippines, as we all know, is a major American ally and a great trading partner. There are an estimated 350,000 Americans living in the Philippines and 4 million Filipinos living in the United States. We are bound by a common value system and a great deal of friendship that spans well over a century. We have an important stake in seeing that our friends and neighbors in the Philippines can recover from this devastating storm.

The purpose of this hearing is, what do we do next? How do we proceed and go forward? I would like to yield to my good friend and colleague Ms. Bass for an opening statement.

Ms. BASS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. As usual, I want to thank you for your leadership in holding today's hearing and also for making the trip to the Philippines. I want to extend the warm welcome to Assistant Administrator Lindborg and for her leadership and in agreeing to come before the subcommittee. And to our other witnesses, thank you for your participation and the important work each of your organizations is doing to provide relief and support to those in need.

Los Angeles and my congressional district is home to a large Filipino population who has family that have been impacted by the typhoon, and I personally have friends who could not find their family members for many days. The U.S. response to this crisis has been nothing but immediate and swift, and I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the important work currently underway by USAID and DoD whose rapid response has undoubtedly saved lives and prevented death and injury. And also let me extend my deep appreciation to the many U.S. based NGOs that leaped into action and to those who continue to take on the long and arduous work of rebuilding and helping mend people's lives.

I want to yield the rest of my time to Representative Green, who I know—oh, okay, Mr. Chair. Go right ahead.

Mr. SMITH. Before I go to Mr. Green, I do want to go to Chairman Royce. But I will yield to my friend and colleague Chairman Royce, chairman of the full committee.

Mr. ROYCE. Well, I will yield to Mr. Al Green at this time if that is all right, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Mr. GREEN. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to Mr. Royce. Mr. Royce, I want to thank you because you immediately started this process with a resolution and I know you will say more about it so I won't step on your words, but I do want to thank you for moving as expeditiously as you did.

Mr. Chairman, I sincerely thank you because you were not only a great leader, you were a great inspiration while we were there. I will tell you that your summary that you just accorded us is entirely accurate, and I would like to associate myself with each and every word that you articulated. I am very proud to say that the codel was bipartisan, and our effort was truly a sincere, nonpartisan effort. We went there to be of assistance, and I am proud to have been associated with the endeavor. To my ranking member, I thank you for allowing me to be a part of this as an interloper. I seem to find my way into places, and you have greeted me warmly, and I have great respect and admiration for you, and I thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of this august body today.

I would like to extend my condolences to the people in the Philippines. They have suffered greatly. They are in a recovery phase, but there is still great work to be done. And I want to assure them that my visit has only strengthened and reinforced my belief that there is much that we can do to be of assistance. I would like to thank the witness. I did have an opportunity to read your testimony, Ms. Lindborg, and I found it quite compelling and very extensive, and it validated what I saw while I was there. So I thank you.

I was inspired by the unity of the effort when I was there. There was a tripartite process that involved our Embassy which was right there at the forefront. The leadership was stellar and outstanding. We had USAID all over the place. Signs, people, it was remarkable to see how the organization managed to become almost ubiquitous. You were there and everywhere. And then of course we had DoD. I was very proud to be an American and to be there, because our Marines landed and people applauded. And the Marines didn't just show up. In the parlance of many of my friends who live where I live, they showed up and they showed out. They really acquitted themselves well.

The chairman talked about the rescue mission which was something that happened while we were en route to do something else, but they were efficacious and they did it with alacrity and I was proud of the way they handled themselves. The Marines that I met, about 15 from Texas, gave me phone numbers, and on Thanksgiving Day I received one of the greatest rewards you can receive when you call a family member and say I saw your son, I saw your daughter. I saw your husband or your wife, and they are doing well and serving our country well. And there were tears of joy that emanated from some of these relatives, and others were just gratified to know that we took the time to go.

So Mr. Chairman, I think we did a good thing, and again thank you for your leadership. Mr. Franks isn't here. I would like to mention him and say to him that I am proud to have been associated with his efforts. He has arrived now. Excuse me, Mr. Franks. Excuse me. My apologies. Mr. Franks from Arizona, he and I had an opportunity to spend a lot of time together, and I am gratified that we had that chance to see and understand many things about the Philippines. Mr. Chairman, I don't know how much time you have given me, but if you would just allow me a couple more minutes I would greatly appreciate it.

I do want to mention that our relationship with the Philippines is one that is solid, in my opinion, because the relationship is based in part upon business. We are their second largest trading partner. But it is more than a relationship, it is a partnership. We have a visiting force agreement with the Philippines. It is more than a partnership. It is also a kinship because we have many Americans who live in the Philippines, about 300,000, and we have Americans with children that are being born in the Philippines. And this relationship, this partnership, this friendship, this kinship, makes our association quite unique, and I am proud of it.

I read the testimony, and in your testimony, ma'am, you mentioned that about 800,000 people were moved out of harm's way. That answers a question that I had when I went over to Tacloban. When I saw the devastation, I immediately asked myself why weren't more people killed? It was a miracle in my opinion that more people were not killed. But a part of the answer has to do with the way the government was able to evacuate 800,000 people in short order. That was a fantastic effort, and I am proud to say that I know we had a hand in it, but I am proud to say that that saved a lot of lives. I don't know how many, only God knows how many, but a lot of lives were saved by this effort to evacuate people.

And finally, I want to just acknowledge that we have a bill, H.R. 3602, and any bill that I file is one that I am amenable to changing. There is nothing in the bill that is sealed in any sort of permanent way. But what it does simply is accord Filipinos who live in the United States of America temporary protective status. We can change the name. We can find another way to do it. But here is why I think it is imperative that we do this in some way by some name. Because the people there in the Philippines, 42 percent approximately live off of less than $2 a day. To send people back into harm's way, in a sense, I think that is a little bit, to be very kind, insensitive. There are many other adjectives.

But I think we, as a great country, can allow them to stay for some period of time, all negotiable, and work and send remittances back to the Philippines. Last year, more than $10 billion in remittances were sent from the United States to the Philippines. More than $10 billion. We can help the people of the Philippines help themselves with something. Right now we are calling it temporary protective status. Call it anything you want. Anybody can sponsor it that can get it done. I just think we need to do something to allow people to help themselves, and this is a way that it can be accomplished. $2 a day, not a lot. We have people working here, their visas will expire. Let them continue to work and send those

remittances back home. Those people who say I want to send money, I am not sure who I should send it to, well, this way the money will get to people who need it because these are family members and friends of people who are living in this country.

Now to Major Angel Hooper. She was the commander of the C–130 when I had an opportunity to go on the flight deck, and I just want to put in a good word for the women who serve in the Marines. They are doing an outstanding job as well, and I salute her. She is from Texas, yes, and she had her copilot in training. And I was so proud of the way she was training her copilot. And I salute all of our men and women who serve. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back the time that I do not have.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. Green, thank you very much, and it was a pleasure to join you and Trent Franks on the trip. I would like to now yield to the distinguished chairman of the full committee, Ed Royce.

Mr. ROYCE. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to yourself, to Mr. Franks, to Al Green. Mr. Green, you are right. We have a kinship with the people of the Philippines and I think that our hearts really go out for the families and the victims, the 5,600 people who lost their lives. But the reason I want to commend the three of you is because your focus on this trip was what additional steps could the United States take to make certain that we did not have an epidemic that would follow those who lost their lives that day, that malnourishment wouldn't add to that toll.

And I just tell you as chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I strongly support the U.S. effort here to help the Philippines recover and rebuild, and I think the U.S. Agency for International Development is playing a critical role in this effort along with the brave men and women of our armed forces. To date we have allocated $60 million to recovery efforts. The USS George Washington is stationed offshore to support relief efforts. And I think many in the Filipino-American community were directly affected. I know we hear from families about how this typhoon, the worst on record, took from them friends and family members that in many cases are still unaccounted for.

So we applaud the community's effort to come together, to raise funds, to donate humanitarian supplies. Filipino-Americans are rightly proud of their heritage, and they are committed to helping those affected by the typhoon. I wanted to just also thank Karen Bass and Randy Weber. We had a hearing not long ago, a field hearing, where we heard from a Filipino who had gone through this tragedy of being trafficked, labor trafficking in this case. And it is in the wake of disasters like this that there could be more exploitation, and jointly we are working to make certain that does not happen. So I want to thank Karen Bass and Randy for their work on that issue.

And I want to say that I had the pleasure of meeting with Assistant Administrator Nancy Lindborg in the days immediately after the typhoon made landfall, and I wanted to say that it is quite extraordinary the work that USAID is doing there. We thank you. We thank your team for bringing comfort and compassion to those who need it most.

And I do have one issue that I want to raise concerning our nation's disaster relief efforts. We met with Bill Gates, the committee members met with Bill Gates several hours ago, and it is one of the issues in which he addressed the meeting was the unacceptably long transit times for supplies to reach those who need them most. The 60-year-old law that governs food aid prevents the timely delivery of assistance by requiring the commodities be sourced directly from the U.S. and then transported overseas. Sixty years ago this made sense, but today it has become an unnecessary barrier. In the case of the Philippines, USAID made a cash contribution directly to the World Food Programme so that commodities can be purchased locally.

In comparison, the first shipment of U.S. rice to the Philippines is arriving now. It just arrived, 3 weeks after the typhoon made landfall. So surely we can do better than that, and it is time we updated our laws. And I did want to say that Mr. Engel and I have language that we believe, that we hope is going to be in the farm bill in order to make that reform. So Mr. Chairman, I am heartened by the outpouring of support that the international community has shown to the Philippines. I thank you again for your hard work on this issue, and 2 weeks ago this committee voted unanimously in support of a bipartisan resolution that I authored expressing our condolences for the people of the Philippines and in support of the recovery effort being waged now by USAID and by the Department of Defense.

And earlier this year, I led a bipartisan delegation with my good friend, Ranking Member Eliot Engel to the Philippines to strengthen our bilateral relationship with that country. We are going to do that again in the wake of these issues, but in the interim I want to thank all the members of the committee and to say we are all Filipinos during this difficult time, and I look forward to hearing from our distinguished witness. Thank you.

Mr. SMITH. Chairman Royce, thank you very much for your leadership and for your comments today. I would like to now recognize Mr. Meadows.

Mr. MEADOWS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for calling this hearing. And as we start to look at the issue, the personal firsthand testimony of you and others who have visited the region is certainly one that can't help but touch your heart when you hear about people being displaced. Some 3.8 million people have been displaced. It is hard when we start talking in millions to really recognize the size, but it is the size of the State of Oregon. If everybody in Oregon were displaced it would be just monumental in terms of the impact.

And so I think that in a town where many times we can be very critical of agencies, their roles, and what has happened, the testimony that has been shared by my colleague Mr. Green and the chairman certainly is something that needs to be applauded, and we need to celebrate those successes and hopefully put a model going forward on how we can make sure that our response is not only rapid, but it is one that is sustainable. Because I think the difficulty we have as with so many tough situations throughout our world is being able to replicate that and make sure that the bu-

reaucracy does not get in the way of providing good support, but yet at the same time where we just don't throw money at it.

And Chairman Royce just mentioned this particular issue on a 60-year-old law that we need to address and look at that in a real way to make sure that in times of emergency people can work together. And I just want to thank the chairman and Ranking Member Bass for the continued bipartisan support. There is very little that is bipartisan in this town, and time and time and time again I find that on this committee and with the interest of the people, not only the United States citizens but in this particular case the Filipino people that are hurting and suffering, my heart, my prayers and my continued support to advance the cause to provide relief is unyielding. And with that I yield back.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you very much, Mr. Meadows.

Mr. Weber?

Mr. WEBER. Thank you for the meeting, Mr. Chairman. I have got lots of questions but I am short on time because I have a 4 o'clock meeting. So I am going to be quiet and let it go.

Mr. SMITH. Okay. Mr. Franks?

Mr. FRANKS. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I want to thank, I guess Chairman Royce has gone on to another committee, but we appreciate his forbearance in all of this, and it has certainly been a precious honor to have been part of this delegation. It seems like Congressman Chris Smith is always at the forefront of doing anything he can to recognize the image of God in every person across the world or in our midst, and I have always seen him to be the first one to care about and love those that everybody else has forgotten about. And he is a hero to me, and I have just the greatest respect and appreciation for all he does and has done, and again it was one of the great memories of my life to be able to accompany him there.

And Congressman Green was someone that I held to be a friend before we went, but now I hold to be a precious friend, and was so touched by the way as he put it so aptly that this was a truly bipartisan effort to making a nonpartisan goal to try to reach out to the Filipino people. And I appreciate Congressman Green very, very much.

As it happens, I have the privilege—and I mean that—the privilege to have been married to a lady from the Philippines for 33 years. And I don't know how in the world that happened, but if she ever leaves me I am just going to go with her. It seems I can save a little trouble that way. But she has been the delight of my life and is representative of the noble nature of the Filipino people. This is a people that refused, as Congressman Smith said, to be brought down ultimately by the storm. They were stronger than the storm. And I couldn't help but notice a banner that someone had taken a picture of out on a high hill there that had been devastated all around it. And the banner simply said, "Roofless, homeless, but not hopeless." And I was deeply moved by that.

The Filipino people are people of deep abiding faith and have a courage that sometimes belies their stature and their gentleness, and I just can't express to you the warmth that I feel toward the Filipino people. And maybe I am a little biased, but I assure you it is well justified. And it is also I suppose of note to point out that

they have been strong allies of the United States in times past, critical allies of the United States. One of the places where the storm actually came to shore was a place that marked General MacArthur coming to shore at Leyte decades ago, and I thought the symbolism was pretty profound.

I would be really lax in not pointing out my agreement with both Congressman Green and Congressman Smith related to the exemplary coordination that occurred there among USAID and all the groups, all the NGOs, and I have to say especially the American military. I suppose there is no enemy on earth more to be feared than the American military, but there is no friend that can be more capable and more committed than this same group of men and women that I think exemplify everything that America is all about. And they provided the base of operation there and the muscle to make this all work.

And I know that there are so many of the Filipino people that we didn't get there in time to help, that this help didn't get there in time, and I only hope that somehow they are not forgotten and that their memory is kind of a catalyst in our hearts to recognize that to be an American is a privilege and also one of those things that we sometimes forget how much easier we have it than just about anywhere in the world. And so it is everything about being appropriate to do what we can to extend the hand of freedom and hope to those that are in need and this is what this was about. And I think it not only exemplifies what America believes and stands for, but I think, Mr. Chairman, it can have the effect of seeing the light of freedom someday fall across every lonely place, every lonely face on this planet.

And so let me just suggest to you that I am very honored to be an American and to have been part of this effort, and I am grateful to all the people like Ms. Lindborg that have given their lives to these kind of causes. And I am hoping, Mr. Chairman, that I can just ask her when she has the opportunity, because my challenge is I have to leave as well, but I am hoping that she can address the whole issue about what USAID's plans and efforts are to protect trafficked children and abused children, and what are the best programs that they have to protect children from being abused in crises like this and how do we make sure these programs are in place. And I am going to go ahead and mention the whole epidemic situations that may follow whatever area they might be and what we need to do to be prepared for those kind of crises.

And finally, it was suggested while we were there that when people like Chris Smith and Congressman Green and others talk about this in the media that it keeps this issue in front of the public, which allows them to respond financially and otherwise, and it is a consequence that ends up protecting real lives. And I am hoping that you might express ways that as Members of Congress we can extend our efforts there to make sure that we are doing everything we can here in the safety of the Capitol to do what we can to see protection and help extended.

And with that Mr. Chairman, I tell you it just exemplifies this morning, anything else just a sense of gratitude. Grateful to all of you and grateful to you, sir, especially. And God bless the Filipino people.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you very much, Mr. Franks, for your eloquence and your extraordinary compassion, and you too Mr. Green. It was a privilege to travel with both of you.

I would like to now go to and introduce our first panel beginning with Nancy Lindborg who is the Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance at USAID. She has testified before our committee on several previous occasions including earlier this year on the crisis in the Sahel. Since being sworn into office in October 2010, Ms. Lindborg has led DCHA teams in response to the ongoing Syria crisis, the Sahel in 2012, the Horn of Africa in 2011 droughts, the Arab Spring upheaval, and numerous other global crises. She has also been on the ground recently in the Philippines, actually briefed me and my staff before we left, having just come back herself from the typhoon.

Prior to joining USAID she was president of Mercy Corps where she spent 14 years. She has held a number of leadership positions, including service as co-president of the board of directors of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, one of the founders and board members of the National Committee on North Korea, and chair of the Sphere Management Committee. She is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She holds a BA and MA in English Literature from Stanford University, and an MA in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Administrator, the floor is yours.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE NANCY LINDBORG, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ms. LINDBORG. Thank you very much. Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Bass, members of the subcommittee and others, thank you very much for inviting me to testify today. A special thanks to you, Congressman Smith, for leading the delegation and to all of you who went during this important time. And most of all, thanks to all of you for the ongoing support that enables us to do this kind of lifesaving work and really express who we are as Americans in these times of need. That is vitally important.

This has been the worst year since 1993 for the Philippines, and the November 8th super typhoon was the worst of those storms the worst at an already bad year with 195 miles an hour winds, a storm surge that reached higher and went further inland than the Indian Ocean tsunami. To date we know that 5,600 people have died and nearly 11 million have been affected. As did many of you, I again express my deepest condolences to the people of the Philippines. These are life-changing losses that will take many years to fully regroup from.

As you noted, I traveled to the Philippines 1 week after the storm made landfall and saw the staggering devastation. And you see the photographs, but when you are in it it is this eerie, twisted landscape of boats and cars tossed up in trees and people's lives utterly destroyed. But you also see these signs of hope, the signs of humanity that surface even during these difficult moments. I met

a brother and sister, and the sister was telling me about how her brother rescued 13 people at great personal sacrifice during the typhoon. These are the stories that are side by side with the devastation and the loss and the great resilience of the people as they begin to emerge from the worst of the storm.

I also saw a massive relief effort already in full swing. I arrived on a U.S. military C–130 that was carrying lifesaving supplies that USAID had brought in from our regional depots. I also saw the rice that we had enabled the World Food Programme to buy locally being put into family packs and distributed so that it was in the hands of 2.7 million people within the first week, making a lifesaving difference. And I visited government, a Philippine-run incident command center that was mapping out the distribution, sending out supplies on pedicabs, buses, and trucks that they had recruited into the effort. This is the result of a 10-year partnership with USAID to increase preparedness and the ability to respond.

U.S. military aircraft delivered more than 2,000 tons of relief supplies and evacuated 21,000 people out of the storm damaged areas once we got back in. To date, the U.S. Government has provided nearly $60 million in humanitarian assistance. All of that is already on the ground and has made a difference during those lifesaving days. So as we have noted, we are already looking ahead to recovery and reconstruction. I have submitted a full, detailed testimony, but let me just hit on a few highlights from the relief, the recovery, and the reconstruction aspects.

The first is that we have applied some really key lessons from past mega-disasters that helped us improve the coordination and the response for this typhoon. USAID experts were tracking the typhoon for at least a week before it hit ground, so we were able to pre-position members of our disaster assistance response team in Manila to work with the military and the Embassy both to prepare and enable an immediate response. USAID worked hand-in-glove with DoD Pacific Command to set up that vital air bridge that at a time when communications were shut down, roads were inaccessible, that we were able to immediately do assessments and begin delivering lifesaving supplies into Tacloban which was one of the hardest hit cities.

And then we invested and supported the capacity of the civilian side, both the government and the U.N., to set up land and sea bridges to help clear the roads so that we were able to wrap up the military engagement and bring forward the longer-term civilian ability to ensure that the deliveries were able to continue.

So logistics were our number one, most urgent focus followed by three key priorities—emergency shelter, water sanitation, and food. There were about 1 million homes that were destroyed by the storm, so we airlifted, right away, heavy-duty plastic sheeting to the Philippines that helped more than 20,000 families construct temporary shelters. The water supplies were ravaged, the systems were down, so we focused both on provision of clean water with chlorine tablets and very quickly worked to get the municipal water system in Tacloban back up and running with support from UNICEF. And by the time I was there, that was already providing 100 percent of the water for the municipal area in Tacloban.

The Philippines Government and the international community continue to respond to the health concerns. There are nearly 200 health teams on the ground now, and more than 2,000 children have been immunized against measles and polio. Perhaps because of the urgency you brought, Chairman Smith, there are fogging operations underway right now to address the potential for mosquito-borne diseases, especially dengue fever. And with standing water trapped in the debris, this is a particular concern, so there has been a big push for fogging operations.

As Chairman Royce noted, we used the full spectrum of our food assistance tools. That local purchase of rice got food immediately into the hands of people who needed it then. We also were able to airlift very nutrient-dense food bars and nutritious paste from our regional warehouses, and when there were no cooking facilities available families were able to get their full caloric needs out of these U.S.-produced food bars. Finally, we rerouted a ship that was just loading up in our hub in Sri Lanka and brought that to the Philippines. That ship arrived yesterday afternoon, and although it wasn't there for the lifesaving portion, it will be an important part of the ongoing response. So that is the importance of this very flexible, full suite of tools.

Finally, we know the most vulnerable—the women, the children, the elderly and those with special needs—often fare the worst during disasters. We have a State-USAID initiative called Safe From the Start which reminds all of us that we need to do protection from the earliest days of a response. We are supporting programs that are working with identification, tracing and reunification of unaccompanied children, focusing on safe spaces for women and children, and really one of the most important protection approaches is making sure that aid gets to people who need it as quickly as possible.

I wanted to say a note about the power of preparedness. We have been working with the Government of the Philippines, which is the second most disaster prone country in the region, to help prepare and mitigate the risk of natural disasters for almost a decade. This is critically important. This helped make this not as bad as it could have been. We have been training first responders on something called an Incident Command System that we brought forward from our own U.S. Forest Service that enables the government to set up these command centers and know what to do and how to bring forward the right kind of trained people. They evacuated nearly 800,000 people in advance of the storm, and this saved countless lives. This is something that we will continue to do as we grapple with the new normal of increased storms that are battering an island nation like the Philippines.

We have also learned from past response efforts that we have to move as quickly as possible into early recovery. This is vital so people can get on with their lives so they don't get mired in hopelessness and they can start standing on their two feet again. We have already seen market activities spring up even in the hardest hit areas, so we are looking at how to provide lifesaving assistance that is also very aware of local coping mechanisms and local markets. We are moving forward with our strategies for provision of livelihood support, looking at transitional shelter, continued food

security, water sanitation efforts, and continued protection of the most vulnerable populations including the human trafficking issues that are important and very much a part of our considerations.

Looking ahead, the Government of the Philippines just released its first early draft of what they think they will need for the longer-term reconstruction, and they have identified about $2.6 billion. Each year the Philippines loses about $5 billion as a result of natural disasters. That is 2 percent of its GDP. So as we look ahead to the reconstruction, one of the areas that we will look closely at is continuing this preparedness, this risk reduction and how to build resilience at the household at the systems and the country level. This was already one of the three areas of focus for our USAID mission, and this will be critical looking ahead. We are prioritizing our efforts to support the critical areas that have been identified including some of the infrastructure, the livelihoods, and essential services that are necessary to get those communities back up on their feet.

And then finally we know that the most vulnerable will continue to be important as we go forward. So just to conclude, a number of you have noted the important relationship between the United States and the Philippines. We have seen an extraordinary outpouring of generosity from Americans across the country and especially from the Philippines diaspora. I have had the pleasure of participating in several community events, and the way people mobilize to provide help to those in their hour of need is really heartening, and it just underscores the humanity that we all share.

The United States has a deep commitment. We will stay with the people in the Government of the Philippine into the recovery and the reconstruction era. We are already seeing the cameras start to fade away, and this is becoming yesterday's story. So the kind of hearings like we are having today, the continued commitment that we, the United States, will have to the Philippines will be absolutely vital, and I look forward to answering your questions, and I thank you very much for your support and consideration today.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Lindborg follows:]

Testimony of Nancy E. Lindborg
Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
U.S. Agency for International Development

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs
Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations
December 3, 2013

"The U.S. Post-Typhoon Response in the Philippines: Health and Human Rights"

Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Bass, and Members of the Subcommittee: Thank you for inviting me to testify on the ongoing U.S. response to Typhoon Haiyan, known locally in the Philippines as Typhoon Yolanda. Thank you also for your continued support for our humanitarian programs around the world, which make a positive difference every day in the lives of millions.

I'd also like to especially thank Chairman Smith for leading a Congressional Delegation to visit our response efforts in the Philippines firsthand.

Introduction

The Philippines, which regularly faces extreme weather events, has seen its worst year since 1993. With winds whipping up to 195 miles per hour, the super typhoon of November 8 made landfall six times, creating a storm surge that in some areas was higher and reached further inland than the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. The scope and ferocity of Typhoon Haiyan leveled villages, neighborhoods and cities, creating a landscape of utter debris and eerie destruction, with mangled structures and cars and boats tossed into trees.

This natural disaster has tragically taken the lives of 5,600 people and affected nearly 11 million people. I would like to express my deepest condolences to Filipinos who have lost loved ones.

I traveled to the Philippines one week after the storm made landfall. During my visit, I saw staggering devastation, but I also saw the kind of hope and humanity that somehow manages to surface in times of crisis. And I saw a comprehensive relief effort in full swing. I arrived on day eight, on a U.S. military C-130 carrying life-saving supplies that were then dispatched from the Tacloban Airport to surrounding areas and loaded on U.S. military Osprey and Black Hawk helicopters to reach locations further afield.

Airlifts of USAID supplies from Miami and Dubai were being distributed to hard-hit locations including Tacloban, Ormoc, and Guiuan, while USAID-funded locally procured rice was distributed in food packs from the Government of the Philippines. U.S. military aircraft have delivered more than 2,495 tons of relief supplies and evacuated over 21,000 people. And the Philippine government's command centers were operational, thanks in part to our longstanding training and disaster risk reduction programs.

From cadres of organized local volunteers to food packets dispatched via pedi-cab, the relief response in the Philippines was as comprehensive as any large-scale relief effort I've seen. I am confident that our government's rapid mobilization combined with the Government of the Philippines' preparedness helped prevent a tragic situation from becoming much worse.

With the Department of Defense (DoD) in support, USAID has been able to overcome the significant logistical hurdles of providing humanitarian assistance in an island country where the most powerful recorded storm to make landfall knocked out communications and cut off access to many. The U.S. has provided nearly $60 million in humanitarian assistance to date, including food assistance to at least 2.7 million people, critically-needed water containers, heavy-duty plastic sheeting for temporary shelters, and hygiene kits to prevent the spread of disease.

Now, nearly one month since the storm, the immediate, life-saving response is beginning to shift into an early recovery effort, and longer-term recovery and rehabilitation phases will follow. Together with the international community, the U.S. government remains committed to supporting this wide set of relief, recovery, and rehabilitation efforts to meet the needs of communities across the broad swath of areas destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan—and to help build the resilience the Philippines needs to weather that next storm.

The U.S. Government Response

USAID's hydrometeorological experts tracked Typhoon Haiyan for at least a week before it hit ground, prompting us to pre-position a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) in Manila. The DART began working with the Government of the Philippines both to prepare in advance and to respond immediately. In the event that their assistance would be needed, DoD 's U.S. Pacific Command also began planning for a possible response. Separately, our Embassy in Manila issued a message to American citizens warning them of the storm.

The response in the Philippines is the result of a close, dynamic, continuous and coordinated relationship between USAID and DoD that precedes the U.S. response to Typhoon Haiyan. The U.S. military has an unrivaled capacity to move a vast amount of supplies swiftly and to establish essential infrastructure for moving materials. In line with our mandate to direct and coordinate the overall U.S. government response, USAID worked hand in glove with the DoD 's U.S. Pacific Command to set up a strategic air bridge to move life-saving aid from Manila to Tacloban. USAID validated and prioritized the relief needs with host nation authorities and moved with speed to reach the hardest-hit areas with emergency relief supplies. This structured cooperation with DoD has been vital to our success in conducting aerial assessments and supporting the relief effort, including nine airlifts of USAID relief supplies to those in need.

We provided early support to the World Food Program (WFP), which in addition to its core role of providing life-saving food aid, serves as the lead UN agency for logistics and proved instrumental in establishing 'air, sea, and land bridges' for the delivery of relief supplies and sourcing the additional trucks, barges and ferries essential to moving aid to the many affected islands. With these immediate response measures in places, the capacity of both the Government of the Philippines and the international humanitarian capacity to reach communities in need have

increased dramatically over the last two weeks, allowing U.S. military efforts to scale back and prepare to wrap up.

U.S. humanitarian assistance for the affected communities of the Philippines has focused on three key priority areas: emergency shelter, water and sanitation, and food aid, along with support to logistics and distribution networks.

In the aftermath of any storm of this magnitude, shelter is an immediate priority. With approximately1.1 million homes damaged or destroyed by the storm, USAID airlifted enough heavy-duty plastic sheeting to the Philippines to help more than 20,000 families construct temporary shelters, and through our implementing partners, we are currently providing the technical assistance and essential materials to help nearly 150,000 people build temporary shelter solutions.

With water supplies ravaged in the storm's wake, we moved to focus on the provision of clean water and improved sanitation and hygiene to fend off disease. Within eight days of the storm's landfall, joint USAID-DoD-UNICEF efforts resulted in the Tacloban municipal water system functioning at better than pre-storm levels. That water system is now providing clean water for more than 200,000 people in one of the hardest-hit areas. With our non-governmental organization partners, we are getting chlorine tablets out to remote areas so families have clean water, and 124,700 families have now received water containers that allow for storing clean water for drinking and household use.

Sanitation remains a key concern with latrines unavailable in some areas and sanitation facilities overwhelmed in others. We are working to provide more temporary facilities and restore existing ones. Good hygiene is essential to prevent the spread of communicable disease, so we are providing hygiene education and supplies to 45,792 families.

The Government of the Philippines and the international community continue to robustly respond to health concerns. The Philippine government reports that 184 medical teams—including 90 Philippine Department of Health (DoH) teams, 27 teams from local Filipino health programs, and 67 foreign medical teams—are operating in the affected areas. As of November 27, the Government of the Philippines' immunization campaign had immunized more than 2,000 children against measles and polio in Eastern Samar and Leyte provinces. In addition, the DoH is organizing a fogging operation to control mosquito populations—particularly aimed at controlling mosquitoes that carry dengue and chikungunya— in typhoon-affected areas.

USAID's full spectrum of food assistance tools enabled us to help the 2.5 million people estimated to need food aid in the Philippines, demonstrating the critical importance of a flexible and multi-tiered approach. We immediately provided more than $7 million to WFP for the purchase of rice on the local market, which was placed into family food packs by Philippine volunteers and distributed by the Government of the Philippines to those in need. Later on the same day the distributions of the family packs began, our airlift of 55 metric tons of specialized food products from Miami arrived—these nutrition-dense food bars and a peanut-based paste that do not require cooking are sufficient to feed 15,000 adults and 20,000 children for five days. We immediately began loading an additional 1,020 metric tons of rice that was pre-positioned in

a USAID warehouse in Sri Lanka, and this rice is scheduled to arrive today. We continue to partner with WFP, in support of the Government of the Philippines, to ensure this vital assistance reaches those in need.

We also know that the most vulnerable—women, children, the elderly, and those with special needs—always fare worst during disasters. As part of State-USAID "Safe from the Start" initiative, we committed to ensure our relief activities emphasize the need for protection from the earliest days of a response. We are incorporating protection measures across immediate relief activities, and we are also supporting programs that help with the identification, tracing, and reunification of unaccompanied children, as well as community-level measures to prevent and combat child trafficking.

In addition, we are working to connect current relief activities with existing structures to help combat human trafficking and other risks. To protect the children of the central Philippines during this time of heightened vulnerability, the Government of the Philippines and the international community will need to make every effort will need to be made to ensure and strengthen local and national protective services.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the efforts of our Embassy in Manila and the broader role of the State Department. Ever since the Typhoon made landfall, it has served as a physical platform for all of the agencies involved in the relief effort, as well as a center for coordination and communication with other agencies, Philippine authorities, and private organizations and citizens.

The Power of Preparedness

USAID's longstanding partnership with the Government of the Philippines on disaster risk management has proven a decisive factor in this response. USAID has worked with the Philippines for the past two decades on increasing preparedness and response capabilities. Efforts like the U.S. Forest Service training for the Philippines government on using the Incident Command System (ICS) to integrate personnel, equipment, procedures, facilities, and communications during complex events have helped shore up local capacity for a more effective response. Extensive technical support and training helped prepare Philippines' authorities connect with Filipino and international first responders, ensure that essential resources are utilized effectively, and dispatch supplies to where they are needed most.

The magnitude of this typhoon was immense; however, the Government of the Philippines was able to evacuate nearly 800,000 people in advance of the storm, saving countless lives. And immediately afterward, the government quickly triaged and evacuated many injured survivors to receive medical care. The government response over the last month has scaled up—mobilizing airlifts of safe drinking water, relief supplies, and food commodities to Tacloban and other hard-hit areas.

Transitioning to Early Recovery

As the spotlight on the immediate crisis dims, the U.S. government will enhance our support for these vital preparedness, relief, and early recovery efforts. As we begin early recovery planning, we will focus within Leyte, Eastern Samar, and Samar provinces, in keeping with President Aquino's request that donor governments stay focused along geographically defined lines to facilitate coordination.

Transitional shelter, food security, water, sanitation, and hygiene, as well as protection of vulnerable populations, will remain priorities as we shift to focus on sustainable recovery. For example, as many roads have been cleared, debris remains piled high throughout affected areas; so we are exploring the best ways to support locally-driven debris management guidance to incorporate salvageable material into transitional shelter designs. We are also evaluating opportunities to kick-start livelihood recovery and longer-term development initiatives that will begin in the rehabilitation and reconstruction phases. And because the most significant risks for human trafficking related to disasters often arise several weeks or more after the catastrophe strikes as the coping capacities of individuals, households and communities wear thin, USAID will continue to prioritize gender and protection considerations, including human trafficking, as we move into early recovery.

As we continue to support the most vulnerable populations with general food rations, we are preparing to shift to more targeted food-assistance activities including food-for-work, cash-for-work, and/or supplementary feeding, which is the provision of extra food to children or families beyond the normal ration of their home diets. Importantly, we are focused on providing assistance in ways that support, not supplant, local market activity. Where applicable and appropriate, we will seek to incorporate relevant disaster risk reduction measures into our early recovery efforts.

Planning for the Long Term

Typhoon Haiyan is the 25th major storm to hit the Philippines this year alone. So as we continue to provide life-saving aid and to focus on early recovery efforts essential to laying the foundation for continued growth, USAID is also focused on building resilience to future shocks throughout the Philippines.

Each year as a result of natural disasters, the Philippines typically loses up to $5 billion—tantamount to 2 percent of its gross domestic product. These losses are a deep cut to fragile development gains in a country that still lags across a number of Millennium Development Goal benchmarks. In May, the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) announced that the Philippines Gross Domestic Product grew by 7.8 percent in the first quarter of 2013, faster than those for China, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam. But for such economic growth to continue and to benefit all, the development path forward must address the risks for natural disasters. In recognition of this, resilience was one of three key benchmarks for USAID's country development strategy prior to Typhoon Haiyan and will remain a key priority going forward.

The Philippine government recently released their recovery and rehabilitation plan, which has a preliminary budget of $2.6 billion, including $1.4 billion for resettlement and housing activities and $887 million for critical immediate actions. This plan will help guide future investments and approaches.

As we move from early recovery to medium- to long-term recovery, we are continuing current programs and exploring new efforts that stand the best chance of helping Filipino communities and the Filipino people get back on their feet. Through the Cities Development Initiative, a focus of the Partnership for Growth, recovery programs will work to bolster the environmental resilience of affected cities to mitigate the impact of future disasters countrywide. We are concurrently exploring additional activities across key sectors—water, health and education, infrastructure, microfinance, energy, and livelihood development—that will help the people of the Central Philippines bounce back, and help ensure that the Philippines stays on the path to continued growth, even after Haiyan.

As we move into this next stage, a USAID delegation will travel back to the central Philippines later this month to help shape a continued development response that maintains our investment in building resilience. Moreover, with the global spotlight still focused on the Philippines in the aftermath of this disaster, we are exploring new public-private partnerships that can help us bring these efforts to scale.

Conclusion

The outpouring of generosity we have seen in the wake of this crisis is humbling – both on the part of the American people and on the part of the vibrant Filipino-American community. I have had the pleasure of participating in several community events over the past few weeks and have witnessed firsthand the incredible energy and commitment that comes along with their historic generosity in providing support to friends and relatives in the Philippines through remittances and in the wake of natural disasters. It is important to note that the most efficient and effective way to help in the aftermath of a disaster is to make a monetary donation to a relief organization already working on the ground to provide aid. The U.S. government will continue to be in close contact with the Filipino-American community, as their continued efforts will be invaluable in the recovery and reconstruction still ahead.

The U.S. government looks forward to continuing our strong partnership with the Government and people of the Philippines—to continue helping them now in this time of need and toward a stronger future.

Thank you for your time today and for all of your support that makes this possible.

Mr. SMITH. Ms. Lindborg, thank you very much for your testimony. Without objection, your full testimony will be made a part of the record. And I have read it, and it answers some of the questions that I would have posed, so thank you for the thoroughness and for your extraordinary leadership. I am going to ask you just a few questions and then yield to my colleagues. And I will ask them all and if you could just then respond to them.

One of the biggest takeaways we had from our trip was debris. There was debris everywhere. It was a story to two stories high. It looked like there was a lack of capacity or capability to remove it. And I know that there are some cash for work programs that Catholic Relief Services and others are doing, and I am wondering if that might be one job that they might undertake. Because there are dogs and rodents which will proliferate diseases including leptospirosis which could easily erupt as a major health hazard.

When we got hit by Superstorm Sandy in New Jersey, and a lot of the shore towns were unbelievably negatively affected, we had debris everywhere, but thankfully we had functioning mayors and town councils, the ability of the sheriff who was the Office of Emergency Management leader in Monmouth and Ocean Counties, and they did wonderful jobs in coordinating the debris removal and environmentally safe depositing of that debris. Our takeaway, I think, collectively was what are they going to do with all this stuff? It is everywhere. And I am wondering if you might want to speak to that.

Secondly, on the issue of trafficking, as you know I am the prime sponsor of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and work on combating human trafficking every day. Something we are all concerned about now that the recovery efforts, now that the roads are all open, or most of them, is that the traffickers, may look to prey upon vulnerable people including the women and children who have made their way to Manila, who over a longer period of time may have lost some hope or may be very gullible for an offer to go to Saudi Arabia or to Korea or somewhere else in the Philippines for what looks like a real job, but turns out to be an engraved invitation to a hell on earth which would be a trafficking situation.

I understand there is one protection person on the response team. Is that enough? Has the TIP office been brought into this in a robust way to apply every best practice they know to mitigate human trafficking? Third, we learned, and this is a minimum estimate, I think, of 90,000 pregnant women. My understanding is that there are some estimates that put that even higher in the affected areas. I know that the availability of safe blood and a venue where a woman can give birth who may need a C-section is a very real, compelling need and most, as I said in my opening, of the health clinics have been destroyed or very seriously damaged. And I am wondering what the plans are to ensure that as these women, especially in the final 3 months of pregnancy, get close to birth of their children, will there be an effort to ensure that there is safe blood and a skilled birth attendant to save her life if she needs a C-section or some other help for mother and baby.

I would note parenthetically that my own daughter-in-law—my wife and I are grandparents of three grandchildren—just in July in a Princeton hospital had an emergency C-section, and lost over 2

liters of blood, and they had to send out for some of it, because they didn't have her blood type. They had some, but not enough. And in a ravaged area that we visited, and you visited as well, with no health clinics that are working, that could mean death to a woman whereas availability of safe blood could mean life. So if you could address that.

And finally, the issue of best practices learned from the earthquake in Haiti and the tsunami in the Indian Ocean. I actually was on the *USS Abraham Lincoln* briefly with a group of members. We went to Banda Aceh during the tsunami. And again, the deployment of the aircraft carrier was like a pivot, an anchor for relief efforts, particularly during the emergency phase. What other best practices have been learned and are being applied now as a result of the typhoon?

Ms. LINDBORG. You have raised a lot of the critical issues. So first on debris, it is amazing. I mean it reminds me of the snowbanks of my growing up in Minnesota where they tower over you. The Government of Philippines has a salvage-first policy, and so you may have seen as well people are already starting to pick through what is reusable versus what needs to be put into a landfill. We are taking this into account in designing our transitional shelter programs, and also incorporating what we call cash for work as a part of our programs working with our U.N. and our NGO partners who have a lot of skill and experience in doing programs that basically provide a day's wage in return for clearing debris away.

This will be a huge challenge, an important challenge. Unfortunately, or fortunately, the Philippines actually has a fair amount of experience in dealing with debris. It is a scale issue in this instance, and it will be an area of immediate focus as we look ahead. You have raised some of the other associated concerns about disease with the debris, and for that reason, the fogging is a very important approach because there is standing water. The other issue of course is that they are still pulling bodies out from underneath these mountains of debris, which will likely remain an ongoing effort as they work their way through the recovery.

On trafficking, this has been an area of concern in the Philippines for some time, and in fact, the United States has put about $11 million into counter-trafficking programming in the Philippines. And we work very closely with something called the Philippines Inter-Agency Council for counter-trafficking. There is a need to remain very vigilant about the possibility of increased trafficking. Whenever you have a major disaster like this and people are newly vulnerable, there is the potential for increased trafficking. So for that reason, we are watching this very closely, working with the local partners who we work with all the time, and looking to see where and if and how we need to increase the programming that we already have in the Philippines. And we are talking very closely working with our CTIP partners. So thank you for your support on that.

On the pregnant women, the whole issue of the cold chain is critical, not just for pregnant women but for the immunizations that have to go forward. So that is a priority between WHO, the Government of the Philippines, and UNICEF. We have provided sup-

port to get the cold chain back up and running so that you are able to bring forward critical medicines, including blood. There are right now 184 medical teams on the ground. There has been a fairly robust international response to try to fill the devastating gap that the storm created, and they are now operating in the affected areas, working to reestablish those critical facilities. Also important was the early evacuation. I mentioned I rode in on a C–130. Our U.S. military C–130s, as they carried supplies in, they carried people out, and about 12,000 people were evacuated. And the hope is that those who need that kind of specialized assistance, including some of the more complicated births, are able to get out.

Finally, in terms of best practices, I think there were a lot of important best practices that we took forward from past mega-disasters, and one really resulted in the close, very effective collaboration between USAID and DoD. And we were able to, because of the work that we had done together previously, very quickly stand up an effective air bridge that prioritized the most important lifesaving supplies to go forward. One of the things that happened in Haiti is there was a clogging of supplies that went through the system, and sometimes not the most important supplies went first. So the seamless collaboration that was a hallmark of this effort really grew out of the lessons from Haiti.

Mr. SMITH. Not to make light, but I did bring up fogging everywhere we went and pointed out that when I was seven, 8 years old, without any parental notification or consent, my friends and I used to follow the fogger in Iselin, New Jersey, on our bikes. So the ability to reduce the impact of dengue fever and some of the other, the mosquito-borne, vector-borne diseases that are looming, the attendant risks that fogging might bring, I think the risk versus the benefit of stopping several epidemics from bursting out is worth it and I am so happy to hear that. I have never seen, and I think my colleagues Mr. Green and Mr. Franks would agree with this, have never seen more standing water putrefying than we saw as a result of this typhoon which obviously is a breeding ground for vector-borne disease.

Ms. LINDBORG. Well, as someone who also followed the fogging trucks as I was growing up, but in fact there is a great concern about not just trying to address the standing water, but also to revitalize their surveillance system, the health surveillance system. Because one of the concerns is in the wake of the storm that we need to very quickly have the ability to identify where you have an outbreak so that you can do the fast treatment. So it is really those two actions, the surveillance system and the preventive fogging that are underway.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you so very much.

Mr. Green?

Mr. GREEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I again thank you for your leadership. It has been stellar. I would like to follow up on one thing that you mentioned, Ms. Lindborg, about the Filipino community in the diaspora. In Houston, Texas we have approximately 39,000 Filipinos, and I will tell you that the community has organized, and the community has raised what I think is a fairly handsome sum of money that has been sent to the Filipino commu-

nity, of course in the Philippines. Sent to the Philippines. So I am honored to tell you that my community is onboard with the effort.

I had the opportunity to go to Pakistan after the earthquake, and I saw the communities that were flattened, homes just leveled. I went to Sri Lanka after the tsunami and I saw a train, a rail car that had been lifted away from the tracks and was over some long distance away from where it should have been. Went to Haiti after the earthquake and saw the devastation that took place there, and quite frankly there is still great work to be done in Haiti. Went to Louisiana, I am from Louisiana, I was born there. So I went to New Orleans after Katrina, and I saw the devastation that took place.

And in my humble opinion, what I saw in the Philippines rivals all of these others. I think it is right there with some of the great disasters of my time. And my hope is that you will continue to do what you are doing. Dr. King reminds us that the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice; however, we have to note that it doesn't do it of its own volition. It does it because of people who will go into harm's way to try to help others in their times of need. So I thank you for what you are doing, and I trust that USAID will continue to be the great servant that it has been.

I want to talk about the business community for a moment. I had the preeminent privilege of meeting with some of the leading citizens who are the heads of major corporations, and we talked rather extensively about the largesse and lagniappe, their monies that they have that they can accord in a crisis, that they can share in a crisis. And I think that they have stepped up to the plate. They are making plans to do more. One of the things that we talked about was schools. As you know, the infrastructure in Tacloban has been destroyed and approximately 90 percent of the infrastructure for schools has been destroyed. And children are without what they would normally do in the course of a day and that is be in a classroom.

These business leaders indicated a willingness to be of assistance to help with schools, and so my hope is that there will be some coordinated effort between the business community and the NGOs, the government, all of the parties involved to help children. I am concerned about people in the dawn of life and in the twilight of life. Our children are a precious commodity, and my hope is that we will do some things to help them with their educations. The senior citizens, persons who are not able to take care of themselves to the extent that you and I can take care of ourselves, I would like it if you would to comment on efforts that are being made to help them, comment on the schools, the efforts to help reestablish schools as quickly as possible.

And finally, when we met with the mayor of Tacloban she indicated that the number one concern was shelter. The number one concern was shelter. This was the case of course in Louisiana after Katrina. Shelter was of great importance. It was the case in Haiti and in Pakistan, as well as in Sri Lanka. And I know that we have a lot of experience in dealing with shelter after these tragic events, but I also know that what you said is true about them being in harm's way to this very day because the typhoon season for them reaches its zenith, its apex, in the month of December, so there

may be something else looming on the horizon. Their number one need is shelter. So if you would, comment on the shelter issue.

And finally, one additional comment and compliment, if you will, with reference to the ability to move 800,000 people. That is remarkable. It is no small feat. And to do this with a limited amount of time speaks well of the coordinated effort that it took to get it done. I know you have mentioned it, and if you want to say just a bit more about how that was accomplished, I will be honored to hear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will await the lady's answers.

Ms. LINDBORG. With my apologies for coughing, sorry. That is an amazing set of places that you have visited, and you have seen in each instance the awesome power that these natural events have to disrupt and to destroy. So to address your issues, let me first of all just honor your community for their ability, their commitment to mobilize, and the fact that they focused also on raising cash. One of our major messages has been to the American people who want to provide assistance is to focus on cash as the fast and most effective means of helping the people of the Philippines. So thank you for that. Also, we do have a listserv that we will provide your offices that is kicking out regular updates that are of interest, specifically or especially to the diaspora. So we will be sure to get that to you.

On the private sector, this is an incredible and important part of the response, both the private business sector and the American public, and we see how those contributions are very important and, in fact, quite a large portion of the reconstruction effort both the immediate and the longer-term reconstruction. We have in USAID a special working group that we have set up specifically to look at how to bring forward those partnerships. And I know that a number of the NGOs are also quite experienced and committed to partnering with the private sector, so I think we will see a lot of those efforts going forward. Schools are essential. It is part of getting a sense of normalcy back into people's lives, and even temporary schools, so that you are able to help children focus on the future instead of just on their loss. Children are amazingly resilient, but it is important that they have the opportunity not to lose out on those critical schooling years. So that is a part of the infrastructure. That is one of the largest priorities.

You quite rightly raise shelter both as a priority and one of the areas that is always one of the most challenging after these storms. We have learned a lot, I think, in terms of the importance of providing transitional shelter that gets people very quickly into the kind of shelter that can withstand additional weather events, understanding that it may be awhile for the permanent shelter solutions to fully come onstream. We saw this even in Katrina, as you noted, after Katrina.

The other challenge is there is often a desire to look at policies that help citizens not rebuild in the areas that are at greatest risk, and these are the tough policy decisions that it often takes a while for a government to responsibly work through to a solution. So our strategy was to first of all provide just that urgent lifesaving shelter material that got people out of the elements. And we have our shelter expert on the ground now to work on transitional shelter programs, and particularly we will be very supportive of the issue

of ensuring that people's rights very much respected as we look forward to the longer-term shelter solutions that will take a while to come forward.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Green. Just let conclude before I go into our second panel. Greg Simpkins, my staff director, and I were recently in Nigeria. It was in September. We visited Jos and Abuja. It was mostly on trafficking, health, and an effort to get Boko Haram designated as a foreign terrorist organization. But while we were there we did visit with a number of NGOs, including a bishop in Jos, who had lost funding for AIDS orphans. And it raised a serious question that I have been asking for 30 years, more than 30 years, and that is about the robust inclusion of faith-based organizations. I believe whether we are combating things like HIV/AIDS through PEPFAR, the program there, or malaria, tuberculosis, or doing relief operations in a typhoon or other natural disasters, that the efficacy of the relief operation is enhanced when faith-based operations are robustly included.

They have networks. They have people on the ground. The multiplier effect is incalculable, and I have seen it over and over again. And what I found in Nigeria was that only 9 percent, 9 percent, in other words 91 percent not, and particularly when the health care grid is primarily faith-based, were getting monies, grants from the U.S. Government. And it was very disconcerting to me. I know that Catholic Relief Services is getting support, and we saw it when we went to the Transfiguration Church. Matter of fact, a week before that I understand that Cardinal McCarrick had celebrated mass there, and we received communion while we were there. It was a church without a roof, completely blown off and destroyed. And it had just been rehabbed and unfortunately will have to be so again.

But I just would encourage you to realize that every dollar spent there does get multiplied because of that unbelievable commitment that has nothing to do with money and has everything to do for service for service's sake, but also because of the multiplier effect of the volunteers that are then included in the operation. So if you could take that back or if you wanted to respond.

The second thing is that the recovery must be sustainable, and know that you have friends and advocates here. It is bipartisan. Mr. Green, Mr. Franks, I, the chairman Mr. Royce, all of us, I believe, if we know of a need as your folks on the ground say, "Hey, the cash for the work needs an additional push," or they need this or that, let us know and we will try. I can't guarantee results, but we can try to increase the capabilities that you will have on the ground to help the people who have been ravaged by this storm.

Yes, Ms. Lindborg?

Ms. LINDBORG. Well, to your first point, amen. We have a lot of really important, wonderful faith-based partners and I think we are seeing especially how important that is in the Philippines with the network of churches that they have. I was on a call with faith-based community members across the country just last week talking about the Philippines response and also hearing about all the efforts that are happening in this country to support both the relief and the recovery efforts. So I absolutely agree with you that that

is an important part of the landscape, and some of our most valued partners, including the two who are coming up next.

On the offer to help us keep sustained attention on this, I very much thank you for that, and I would welcome the opportunity to take you up on that offer. We see all too often that after the cameras go away, these kinds of responses fall off the page and people move onto other issues. We will be there with our teams, with our funding and programs and we welcome the partnership in helping to keep the spotlight on the sustained effort. And again I cannot thank enough Chairman Smith, Congressman Green, and the rest of your subcommittee for the continued focus and support for these kinds of critical efforts.

Mr. SMITH. I would just add that if that kind of sentiment could be shared with the Secretary of Health and others, I raised it with our meeting with him, and it was like it was a foreign idea to him. And I asked him to look into it and he said he would, because they don't include faith-based organizations in those things that they fund.

Mr. Green wanted to make a comment?

Mr. GREEN. Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And for fear that I will forget, I also want to thank Ranking Member Bass again for allowing me to be here. I want to add an amen, if I may, to what you said about the faith-based initiatives. They not only help after a disaster, but also before. I have seen evidence of it, because they know where the vulnerable are. They know where the help is needed. They are intimately familiar with the people in the neighborhood, and they can do an awful lot with the evacuation process.

And when people have to shelter in place, and that is usually what you finally hear and that is something that I dread hearing, but shelter in place, there is no more that we can do given that the hurricane in our case or the typhoon is so near now that we have to just stay where we are. Well, when that happens, it is usually these institutions, these faith-based institutions that are still there. We leave, but they ride these things out, and as soon as it is over, they know exactly where to go to render the most aid. So I would just like to give my compliment to you for bringing this up.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Green, and I would just add one other thing. The concern that we have about the bias against them is well founded. After Superstorm Sandy, I offered a bill on the floor of the House of Representatives that passed 352 to 74, totally bipartisan, and it would have provided FEMA funding for houses of worship, many of whom were the frontline defense in terms of humanitarian aid to people in New York and New Jersey ravaged by Superstorm Sandy. The bill passed. FEMA opposes it. The Senate opposes it and refuses to even bring it up for a vote.

I can't tell you how disappointed and egregiously wronged I think those who are first and foremost in the relief side are when they are being told they are not going to get FEMA relief. There is no separation of church and state issue because they can apply for an SBA loan. They can do all kinds of other things, but they can't get that critical FEMA support. So that kind of bias, which I know you don't share, needs to be guarded against because again that first line of defense is so important. And so Mr. Green and I would be

in absolute agreement; the more you can help out in that regard the better. Thank you.

I would like to now welcome our second panel beginning with Mr. Sean Callahan who is the chief operating officer for Catholic Relief Services. He has also served as executive vice president for overseas operations and regional director for South Asia at Catholic Relief Services, among other roles. He has led CRS's regional response to floods, droughts, earthquakes, cyclones, and man-made emergencies in South Asia. In his time working with Catholic Relief Services he has experienced a terrorist attack at a Sri Lankan airport, worked closely with Mother Teresa and the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, and worked on programming in Afghanistan during and after the Taliban.

And I would like to introduce Mr. Chris Palusky who is a humanitarian professional with more than 15 years of international relief, development, and fundraising experience. During that time he has served on a wide range of emergency responses assisting with both natural disasters and complex humanitarian emergencies. He has worked in hot spots and crises for a majority of his time as a humanitarian specialist including in Kosovo, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Sudan, Burma, Lebanon, and Mali. In addition to his experience with World Vision, Mr. Palusky has served in leadership positions with other leading humanitarian organizations including CARE, MAP International, Samaritan's Purse, and World Relief.

Mr. Callahan, the floor is yours.

STATEMENT OF MR. SEAN CALLAHAN, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Mr. CALLAHAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate the fact that you are holding this session along with Ranking Member Bass and the other subcommittee members, and certainly Representative Green. Before I go, and I am going to summarize my comments, I just ask that the written testimony be added in for the record.

First, I thank you very much for this opportunity to speak. I also want to just again thank both you and Mr. Franks as well for participating in the trip out, which CRS was able to participate in hosting you as well. These type of trips, I think, are not only important for the stewardship of the resources that the U.S. is committing and to generate energy, but it is also a type of trip that shows the compassion of the U.S. We found that when we were there, and we arrived a week after the disaster as you stated earlier, I arrived with Cardinal McCarrick, the outpouring from the Filipino people and the thanks to the United States was really overwhelming. Anyplace that we went, people came out of their way to thank the United States for that commitment and support that was provided at that time. And I think that type of recognition really shows something of the Filipino people, but I think also it is something that the United States should be very, very proud of.

I want to just reflect as well, because the comments here earlier about the type of response that occurred, and just to quickly summarize, I think that the United States, the U.N., and the local organizations including the Filipino Government really did an out-

standing job, has been articulated here before. From our point of view, it was a rapid response on the ground. We have a presence in the Philippines of over 100 staff working with local civil society, the church organizations. We had people in these sites a day after the disaster occurred and the response was immediate.

I would also just highlight from the previous presenter Nancy Lindborg that the USAID and particularly OFDA was very forthright and took advantage to communicate directly to faith-based organizations like Catholic Relief Services to let us know if we needed any assistance at all during this process to get in touch with them. The head of OFDA and his deputy actually made preemptive calls to us to say if things don't move fast, if you are having anything be blocked up that they would assist in moving that forward. They set up not only a DART team on the ground in the Philippines, but they also set up a special emergency coordination unit here in Washington. So I will say they were wonderful, including on the ground.

I know she traveled with you, but mission director Gloria Steele met with us as well during our visit there. And she was very supportive of the efforts that we had, knew of the funding that had been previously provided, and was looking forward to our assistance in the long term. So I will say that was very positive. I would say the U.N. as well used one of our shelter models as the cluster key model that we would use into the future, and so the U.N. as well at that time, particularly UNICEF and OCHA, were particularly strong out there right out of the gate. And so I would just reiterate that those type of activities.

I would also say as you spoke about it and as Representative Green mentioned, it sounds like we have been in the same areas in Pakistan, in tsunami, and in all of these different emergencies as they have gone forward that I think there has been a lot of learning that has gone on. Frankly, the tsunami was the first time that we really worked closely with the American military setting up temporary bridges to get to islands and locations that were completely transfigured as the geography had changed and then in Haiti as well. The U.S. military really came in the Philippines, and I know in Haiti the U.S. military tried to do it with a lighter footprint, with a lighter presence and they were going out providing assistance. In the Philippines, when they came in there was joy from most of the people that we talked to all around. It was just very, very impressive. Even in the media outlets, the fact that we had an aircraft carrier, as was mentioned earlier, and were seen as ferrying assistance back and forth, it was seen as assisting other countries and providing helicopters and lift capacity, was just very impressive at that time.

And so from on the ground, people frankly were questioning their own governments, but no one was questioning the U.S. resolve to provide assistance. So I will say that. And as comments have come about as well about the diaspora in the United States, we have had much outreaching from the diaspora providing assistance for this case. We have raised over $15 million in private contributions. The Catholic Church of the United States has initiated a national collection through which the resources will come in. So the solidarity of the American people has been utmost.

In addition to that, CRS is a member of an international Catholic organization called Caritas International. That group came together, and we met and had an international meeting out in the Philippines with our local church partners. And I would be remiss if I didn't talk a little bit about our local church partners. As we responded to this disaster, and Cardinal McCarrick and I as you mentioned were there a week after the disaster and he celebrated mass in the cathedral without a roof and in the rain at that time, it is not only the material assistance that we are seen in the United States as providing, but it is also the spiritual. It is that solidarity. And I think as Representative Green appropriately said, it is that kinship.

And after the mass, the people coming up to the cardinal who concelebrated frankly with two archbishops from the Philippines, who were so taken that an American cardinal would come, that the Archbishop of Cebu traveled with him to the location where he had been stationed before, Archbishop Palma of Cebu, and then the Archbishop of Palo was also present at that time, Archbishop John Du. We also met with the cardinal in Manila who was organizing a day of prayer for the people in the Philippines and raising assistance as well there.

When we talk about assistance, you will notice in the CRS report, we don't mention that CRS is focusing on food assistance. And the reason is because the local Catholic Church was focusing on food assistance. We were providing shelter, water sanitation, and hygiene, but the local church was twinning with local parishes that did not get devastated by the super cyclone, and they actually provided assistance to various dioceses. So NASSA, which is the Caritas of the Philippines, and individual dioceses in the Philippines were reaching out. So I think as Mr. Franks also mentioned, I think the solidarity of the resiliency, the strength of the Filipino people is admirable after being through such a disaster. And I will say after this mass with Cardinal McCarrick, we had journalists and others who were in tears after this as they were struggling to find family members, as we were going by as they were burying people at the side of the road. So it was a very emotional time, but the Church was there immediately.

When we arrived in Palo outside the cathedral that you mentioned, we were greeted by a young man who was in biking shorts and a t-shirt. Turns out he was the monsignor of the chapel. And the only way he could get around to register people to find out who was missing and to connect with different people was to ride on a bicycle. And they were going around the island trying to locate people by bicycle, register people, tell people that after mass CRS was going to be there and provide distributions and provide assistance and register people.

So right way they were setting up the M&E systems on the ground, locating the people, and identifying, as Mr. Green had mentioned earlier, the most vulnerable people in the community to make sure that they were assisted. He apologized to the cardinal in the way he was dressed, and the cardinal just went up to him and gave him a big hug. So it was really a very wonderful, wonderful moment as we saw that type of Church response and solidarity

that will continue. And the Holy Father has also spoken of that as well.

I will say that the immediate response as has been mentioned and as Representative Green mentioned, we have focused on the shelter and getting out, we have already assisted 16,000 families, so over 80,000 people. Because when we were out there, people were just in open air, and it was raining on them. Even our aid workers, one of them turned to the Archbishop of Du and said, "Archbishop, have you ever slept in your office?" And the archbishop kind of looked at him. He said, "Why do you ask?" And he says, "Because I am sleeping there now." So it was the type of thing where everybody was joining together, but even the church structures, people were around the outside of the walls because many of the roofs had been destroyed.

And so we are looking to a future. The Church has said that it wants to rebuild its institutions, but the people come first. So they are looking at how to help the people get their necessary shelter, but the Archbishop of Palo had mentioned that 72 out of his 74 churches have lost their roofs. They are still sheltering people in those facilities. His personal house that we went into looks like it was hit by a bomb. The floors are slanted now. Everything is completely ruined. But he wasn't there trying to recover his possessions, he was getting assistance and aid out there. So the Church has been very strong there.

You have also talked about the issue of protection. We have been focused on sheltering in place, and the reason why we are focusing on sheltering in place is: One, the design that we have is using these very solid tarps for protection, but also the recovery of debris so that they can use that in the rebuilding of their homes. The sheltering in place is another way that we find of providing protection for people, particularly women, children and the elderly, so that they aren't transited to a camp where they might be more vulnerable. So sheltering in the locations where they are part of the community, where the church can continue to keep in touch with them, where they come back and forth to the church, so we are seeing that as one way, particularly in Palo and Tacloban, as preventing some of the issues of trafficking and violence against children and women.

We are also working closely with the local government, the Department of Social Welfare, in those areas to make sure that those people stay safe. Our second focus area has been water and sanitation and so we have been looking at WASH. We have got bladders out in communities that don't have access. We have been accessing and trying to provide greater access to the water facility in Palo, which is chlorinated. Our water engineers even say it is probably over-chlorinated at this time. But like those cloud fogging trucks, it is probably better to have a little over-chlorination because people can't clean.

In the WASH area though, we are also focusing on protection there in that we are separating facilities for men and women. We found this in Haiti in the camps as well that we needed to make sure that there was a separation between shower facilities and bathroom facilities for men and women and children so that they were protected at that time, and that we have adequate lighting

which has been a problem in those areas. But we have been providing hygiene kits to people so that the women can have flashlights, and are organizing a buddy system so that individuals don't go alone and are in open air defecation, but are in areas that they can be somewhat protected.

We have done some cash for work and cleaning debris in various areas and then trying to reuse debris and also the coconut trees that have been knocked down. It is a key area that we are looking at for rebuilding and for preventing epidemics, as Nancy Lindborg mentioned earlier. In addition to that, we are looking for the longer term, and I will just follow-up quickly on that.

As we look at the longer term, we are really looking once again on shelter for the longer term. Building back better, as we learned in Haiti, and durable solutions. One of the key problems we think we are going to run into as this comes down is again land titles, whose property is it? Most of these people have lost everything, and so we are supposing that as we start in this rebuilding process there is going to be many people that will have no title to the land, that there will be no historical memory, and so that will be a key issue.

We are also looking at livelihoods. And many of the people there as you know were fishermen and fisherwomen, and they also harvested coconuts. Fifty percent of the coconut harvest now is completely lost. Those trees take 5 years to rebuild. So we are trying to generate, in this emergency phase opportunities for livelihoods with cash for work and other opportunities so that people can regenerate their livelihoods.

So I would just say as we look to the future, our recommendations would be really to commend yourselves and the other actors of the U.S. Government and the U.S. military for a tremendous first step in the response. It has been fantastic, and I appreciate the fact that you are looking not only at that emergency response but the future, that there continue to be the ongoing funding for the relief. We need to continue to focus on that as we move into the future, and I think showing our solidarity at this time where we are in the holiday season and being thankful for the things we have in this country as Thanksgiving, and come into Christmas which is a very big holiday in the Philippines. Many of these people will be without that.

As you rightly said, many people, and the children because there are no schools, have been sent to a very strong family structured network in other areas of the Philippines. There is concern that we have and others have that that is more of an opportunity for children and women to either be lost, be trafficked, or exploited. We are looking at ways that the Church shares information from one diocese to another of where people are coming and make sure that they are checking in. We do find that education is a key way of protecting children. If you can get children into school, it is a daily mechanism where teachers and outside people can check—are they withdrawing, are they being fed properly, do they need other things? So we find the greatest protection is to make sure the schooling is back and that we get these kids back in school. So whether that means they are moving to other family sites or

whether we get schools up in Palo and Tacloban would be key for the future.

Also, with the support for the recovery phase, shelter is going to be a key area. And then we were lucky that the Church actors had been trained in disaster risk reduction. They knew once it happened how to go out and register, how to do triage in certain areas. We need to continue those processes as the Philippines continues to be hit by bigger and bigger storms, and we need to focus on building resilience of those communities.

I would also propose that we strengthen the emergency response capacity of the local mission. I know Ms. Steele has been very strong on the development aspect and they have been very supportive of the Bohol reconstruction that have gone on there, but I don't think they have the team and the staff to respond to a 3- to 5-year effort that is going to be there. And I would say that we look at mechanisms to assist her and her staff in responding over the longer term and in assisting the Filipinos in developing.

I will say that as has been mentioned before, the Filipino community has been quick to respond. They have been very resilient, a very proud people, and a very caring people, and I think the government now after maybe a little bit of a slowish start is winding up and moving forward. So I think with some leadership from the U.S., which I think they would very much welcome, they would be positioned well for the future. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Callahan follows:]

Testimony by
Sean Callahan
Chief Operating Officer of Catholic Relief Services
before the
House Foreign Affairs Committee
Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations
December 3, 2013

On behalf of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), I would like to thank the Subcommittee for this opportunity to testify on the United States' Post-Typhoon Response in the Philippines.

Catholic Relief Services is the official humanitarian organization of the Catholic community in the United States. It operates in nearly 100 countries, without regard to race, creed, or nationality, to address food security, agriculture, HIV and AIDS treatment, health, education, civil society capacity building, emergency relief, and peace building. CRS has an active emergency response program, providing humanitarian relief after recent floods, earthquake, and typhoons. CRS also prepares communities to reduce to their risk to natural disasters.

Catholic Relief Services' program in the Philippines is our oldest continuously operating country program. Prompted by the mass destruction and loss of life in the Philippines during World War II, CRS first launched relief efforts in that country in 1945. Today, CRS focuses on agro-enterprise and peace building programs around the country, and had most recently responded to the earthquake in the Bohol province in October 2013. Due to our ongoing presence in the Philippines and our extensive partner network, we were able to prepare teams that were ready to respond to Haiyan and its aftermath.

As you know, super-typhoon Haiyan made its first landfall in eastern Samar Island in the early morning hours of November 8th with wind speeds of 195 mph, making it the strongest storm in history at the time of landfall. An estimated 13.2 million Filipinos have been affected by the catastrophic storm that claimed thousands of lives and leveled homes, towns and entire cities, and 3.4 million who lived directly in the typhoon's path are now internally displaced.

As we respond to immediate shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene needs, CRS has already reached more than 16,000 households. CRS appeals for continued support for early and long term recovery activities that will ensure households' ability to quickly recover, have a safe and durable home, access to basic services and re-establish livelihood opportunities. We will use the lessons learned from Haiti and previous disaster response efforts to ensure that local institutions and knowledge are drawn upon to help create sustainable solutions for recovery. Lastly, we will continue to help Filipinos and Philippine institutions build their resiliency so that communities, households, and individuals can be better prepared for events like Haiyan in the future.

Preparation: Before the storm hit, CRS prepared by allocating funding from our emergency reserves and pre-positioning stocks of supplies for shelter needs. We readied staff to

perform assessments, coordinating with our local partners, including Caritas Philippines, the Diocese of Borongon and Archdiocese of Palo. CRS staff arrived one day after the storm passed, and began assessing needs, despite travel being extremely slow due to roads clogged with debris.

Needs: Our assessment found that people's most urgent needs included shelter, water, hygiene and sanitation, and food. As we meet these needs, large amounts of debris still keep families from returning to their homes, and pose public health threats if not addressed soon.

Response: CRS continues to respond in partnership with the local Catholic Church to meet the needs of 500,000 people in the most devastated areas in and around Palo, Ormoc and Eastern Samar. We have committed over $23 million for this urgent response, with $15.5 million collected from private funding of foundations and private donors. We are coordinating our response with the UN clusters and US Government, and much of work is funded with the generous support of the US Government, especially the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

Currently, our programs focus on the immediate needs for shelter, water, and sanitation. We are working with limited access to the places in most need, but have chartered planes and are using waterways to get to the most vulnerable communities. Many were living exposed to the elements, facing rain for days after the typhoon. Therefore we provided emergency shelter kits including durable, long-lasting tarps which can withstand various weather conditions and nails to fasten to an A-frame, which can be made from salvaged materials or coconut lumber. This design was created with community input, and has been adopted by the entire UN shelter cluster responding to the emergency.

To meet immediate water needs, we are distributing water purification tablets as part of hygiene and sanitation kits, which is essential to protect against sickness and disease. CRS has also installed water bladders in affected communities with little or no water supply, where we prioritize proximity to vulnerable groups—including women, children, elderly, and persons with disabilities. Water for these tanks is trucked in and treated for purification as needed.

We are also helping supply people with their everyday needs, such as soap, blankets, and cooking supplies. While local markets are closed, these supplies are available from markets in cities untouched by the typhoon. CRS is evaluating providing cash to families so they can buy their own supplies, which can both revive local markets and provide essential items to those in need.

Lastly, we are working with communities to clear debris to prevent a further public health disaster, such as widespread diarrhea or water borne diseases such as leptospirosis. CRS is providing "Cash for Work" support to 15,000 people to clean their neighborhoods, reducing the risk of disease, while providing income to those who have lost their jobs due to the storm.

Focus on the most vulnerable, women and girls: The immediate time after a disaster often puts women and girls especially at risk of exploitation and sexual or gender based violence. We include elements of protection in all of our post-typhoon work. In Palo and Tanuan, we are reducing the need to create camps by helping families remove debris and construct or repair their

houses. This "sheltering on site" helps to keep families within their neighborhoods, rather than making women and girls more vulnerable in camp settings. We are also segregating latrines that we build to ensure that women and girls are not waiting until dark for open defecation, which can increase their risk of victimization. We included flashlights in the household kits we are distributing, and have located our water tanks in public areas to minimize risks to women and girls. We also continually consult women and girls to ensure provisions are adequately made for their privacy and needs, soliciting their feedback on the usefulness of all activities towards the realities they face.

The road forward: As we meet immediate needs, we are already preparing to move into the "recovery" phase, to help those affected families start to rebuild their lives. We are focusing on rebuilding homes, ensuring continued water and sanitation needs are met, and helping to rebuild livelihoods. All of these activities will be done with an eye on building resilience, so that households and communities are better prepared to face future crisis. CRS is also working directly with the local governments, including the Department of Social Welfare and Development to engage strategically on shelter reconstruction, and attend coordination meetings that are chaired by the provincial governments. CRS also continues to work with local partners such as the Church, to ensure that they can better respond in the future.

One of the lessons we learned from Haiti was that we needed to "build back better" to ensure that people do not remain vulnerable to similar future disasters. CRS is preparing to help restore permanent shelter to families, providing them with the resources and technical assistance necessary to build safe and durable houses, while using local knowledge of safe sites for building, and incorporating disaster risk reduction components to the program. We are also building semi-permanent latrines using cash and voucher mechanisms, which have proven to be more efficient, while also incorporating sanitation messages. These low cost interventions have shown high impact.

More than one-third of the Philippines' labor force depends on agriculture for their livelihoods, and coconut production was a major income source in Leyte and Samar, where over 50% of the crop was destroyed in the most affected areas. Coconuts require a minimum of five years to harvest, therefore farmers will need to diversify their livelihoods to meet their immediate needs. Over the longer-term, farmers will need assistance to restore their main coconut crop, which will require restoring assets such as seeds, fertilizer and tools, as well as technical support along the value chain and linkages to the private sector. In order to protect against future disasters, we will focus on disaster risk reduction activities to help build resilience against recurring weather events in the future, such as training communities to prepare for disasters and creating early warning systems for evacuation.

Recommendations: We commend the US Government for its good work in the Philippines, including the military's rapid assistance with logistics and OFDA's immediate commitment and willingness to support the response. As we move into the stages of recovery and rebuilding, we would encourage the US Government to lead the establishment of a donor forum to raise the necessary resources to help the Philippines rebuild, while promoting coordination between humanitarian and development funding streams. We would also continue

to encourage the US Government's ongoing robust response, which depends on critical funding for poverty focused international assistance.

Second we urge the US Government to work with local and international civil society, and local and national government, to take the long view, providing the necessary support and funding to help those in the Philippines truly rebuild. CRS itself has committed $40 million to support rebuilding Philippines over the next three to five years, working alongside the affected populations which have shown an impressive energy for self-recovery and rebuilding. We would encourage the USG to develop and fund a long-term recovery program. This would include dedicated funds for *disaster risk reduction* since the Philippines continually ranks as one of the most disaster prone countries in the world. Without proper protection, development gains will be lost by disasters, ultimately leaving the country poorer. Funding for disaster risk reduction should be focused and dedicated, rather than drawing from funds for other aspects of the recovery.

Lastly, the long term strategy must not only rebuild houses and livelihoods, but also build resilience in individuals, households and communities in an integral way so that their vulnerability to these extreme weather situations will be reduced and their ability to bounce back, improved. The USAID mission should provide leadership in the strategic objective to build resilience, reducing the need and cost of humanitarian assistance in the future. This requires broadening our scope to strengthen systems and structures, which takes time, money and most importantly, political will.

While the devastation of Haiyan has been compared to the earthquake in Haiti, we have much to build on in terms of strong Filipino government structures, a functioning and vibrant civil society, the connections of its diaspora, and the support of the American and International community. We encourage the US Government to plan for long-term investments for a full recovery, and the appropriate resources dedicated to this effort. We encourage the continued support and leadership of the US government, and look forward to continued partnership in helping the Philippines rebuild together.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. Callahan, thank you so very much, and thank you for the tremendous job Catholic Relief Services is doing. We were fully briefed by Joe Curry while we there, and Donal Reilly took us, literally, around Tacloban. So we got to see the operation up front and close, and we were extremely impressed.

Mr. Palusky, thank you for your leadership and for briefing us before we left. I have been a great fan of World Vision my entire life.

STATEMENT OF MR. CHRIS PALUSKY, SENIOR DIRECTOR, HUMANITARIAN AND EMERGENCY AFFAIRS, WORLD VISION

Mr. PALUSKY. Thank you. I have a written statement, but before this I just wanted to say thank you. It has been great to see, I mean be part of this. I have never been part of one of these events before, and I am just amazed to see everybody come together and the, well, the cross panel or how ever you describe it, just the support across the entire Congress. It is great to see people coming together and saying this is something we need to focus on not just for the short term but for the long term. It is something that I feel very honored to be here today to discuss. So thank you.

And Mr. Chairman, this hearing is another example of your longtime commitment to vulnerable people here and abroad, especially children. Thank you for inviting World Vision to testify. My name is Chris Palusky. I am the senior director of the Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs Unit for World Vision. World Vision is a child-focused, Christian humanitarian organization serving millions of families and communities in almost 100 countries. We have 45,000 staff, and we feel like we are kind of everywhere.

Our supporters are in every congressional district and include more than 1 million donors—16,000 churches, corporations, foundations, and we partner with the U.S. Government. You have my written testimony for the record.

World Vision is a child-focused organization, so my oral remarks and recommendations for the U.S. Government and congressional engagement will also focus on the needs and risks of children. I will draw from World Vision's 63 years of experience responding to disasters, decades in the Philippines, and my own 16 years of working in international humanitarian emergencies. World Vision has implemented relief, development, and advocacy programs in the Philippines for 55 years. As of this morning, we have reached over 70,000 people impacted by the typhoon with essential goods and services. We plan to reach a total of 400,000 people and are committed to the long-term recovery.

We have been there for the long term. We have been there for the long term before this, and we continue to be there for the long term after this. Based on this experience and our learnings throughout the years from other major disasters such as Haiti, World Vision recommends that the U.S. Government: Integrates protection into its U.S. Government-funded disaster assistance throughout the response; ensures that the Government of the Philippines, NGO partners, the United Nations, and other key entities engage and collaborate with people impacted by the disaster from the start to finish of the response; prioritize the needs, including protection needs, of women and girls; monitors and pushes for a

needs-based access to aid, services, and economic opportunities; is vigilant on accountability around aid to counter the corruption and cronyism that is often a risk whenever and wherever disasters occur.

I will now say a few more words about our recommendations. Protection means focusing on safety, dignity, and rights of people impacted by a disaster. The October 2012 Guidelines for Proposals of the USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, OFDA, requires that proposals must demonstrate protection mainstreaming in all sectors of the programs. Put another way, all potential OFDA partners must integrate protection throughout their OFDA-funded programs regardless of sector. It is important for USAID to ensure that these guidelines are being followed from the start of the program to the end. Maximizing integration will maximize protection for especially vulnerable people. It will also minimize the difficulties and the costliness of integration protection retroactively.

The priority when engaging and collaborating with people impacted by the disaster should be identifying their assistance and protection needs and ensuring that they are met. Their meaningful participation at all stages of the response, including assessments, design, implementation, and monitoring, is essential to the success of the program and can prevent harm. We want to make sure that we are not doing programs to people, but we really want to make sure that we are doing programs with people. And we want to urge the U.S. Government to ensure that is happening across the board.

In disasters, children are often most at risk because of abuse, exploitation, neglect, separation from their families, disease, and other threats. There are numerous ways, however, to reduce this risk, including prioritizing opportunities for adults to earn a living; supporting comprehensive registration of children that is coupled with family tracing and reunification efforts; ensuring children have safe places to play, learn, and recover; mdonitor an increase in explicit images of Filipino children online and on Skype; restoring schools; increasing training for national police and other security personnel in minimum standards of child protection; strengthening existing formal and informal child protection mechanisms at the community and local government levels; and finally, prioritizing clean water, proper sanitation, hygiene education, and preventing and responding to disease outbreaks.

Basically what we are doing together right now, it is kind of the frontline response. We want to make sure that people are going to be safe, people have access to basic services, and we want to make sure that this kind of continues on through an evolution. Women and girls would potentially be at less risk, especially in evacuation centers, if a comprehensive plan to improve security for women and girls is developed and implemented with cooperation of national police and other security services. Opportunities for women to earn a living especially those who are heads of households are essential for protection from abuse and exploitation.

The context for these recommendations includes the typhoon destroying or disrupting the sources of income for over 5.6 million men and women. I read that this morning, and I didn't realize how many people actually had lost their sources of income. I thought, you are looking at 1 million, you are looking at maybe 2 million

people. But seeing this morning it was 5.6 million women and men, it was astounding.

Officials from the Filipino Department of Health are already warning that several diseases are becoming huge public health threats as a result of the typhoon. In addition to the emerging health risks prior to the typhoon, NGOs including World Vision, multilateral institutions like the United Nations, and the ILO have already identified the affected provinces in the Philippines as having 3 million children engaged in child labor. When economic opportunities for adults decrease and health challenges arise, the risk of children being abused and exploited often increases.

I have confined most of my time to sharing our recommendations and the context for them. Congressional oversight—and this is actually really important for you guys—and engagement is an important part of strengthening the American response to disasters, and all of us should be prioritizing action. During the question and answer period, I would be glad to unpack the recommendations and give any examples. These details are also written in my written testimony. Mr. Chairman, thank you again for your leadership and for this opportunity. I welcome your questions and those of the other members of the subcommittee.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Palusky follows:]

Testimony by
Chris Palusky
Senior Director of Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs
World Vision U.S.
December 3, 2013

Before the
Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations
House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Regarding the United States' Post-Typhoon Response in the Philippines

INTRODUCTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this hearing and for inviting World Vision to testify. For years you have worked tirelessly on behalf of vulnerable people around the world, especially children. You have led important legislation aimed at protecting children in the United States and around the world, prioritizing initiatives designed to strengthen child protection systems. An essential element has been recognizing that children caught up in emergencies are significantly less vulnerable when responses strive to rebuild the informal and formal systems meant to protect children and their families. Congressional oversight can help strengthen the efforts of the U.S. Government and humanitarian community and Congressional engagement. This hearing offers a timely opportunity to examine how efforts to date address the needs and aspirations of the disaster-affected families in the post-typhoon context.

My name is Chris Palusky. I am the Senior Director of Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs for World Vision U.S. and I have been responding to humanitarian emergencies in Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and Europe for more than 15 years. World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization serving millions of children and families in nearly 100 countries. Our 45,000 employees are dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities to tackle the root causes of poverty and injustice. This work includes emergency relief and preparedness for people impacted by natural disasters and armed conflict; long-term economic development; prevention and response to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children; mobilizing children, youth, and local communities to hold their governments accountable; and advocating for effective systems and laws that can provide a safety net and protection for vulnerable populations.

World Vision has more than one million private donors, in every state and Congressional district. We partner with over 16,000 churches in the United States, as well as corporations and foundations. This disaster has highlighted the vital role of private resources in disaster response. The American public has generously funded almost all of the World Vision U.S. response to Typhoon Haiyan, including $6.3 million from individuals and $1.6 million from companies like Eli Lilly, JP Morgan Chase, the NBA, Pfizer, Proctor & Gamble, Royal Caribbean, and TripAdvisor. Cargo space donated by Boeing and Philippine Airlines enabled us to send 40,000 pounds of relief supplies. We are part of the federation of World Vision International, which last year implemented more than $2 billion in programming aimed at helping children and communities. This included responding to 87 major disasters and humanitarian emergencies worldwide, reaching 10.3 million people impacted by these crises. The $8.3 million World Vision U.S. has raised is part of the $23 million the World Vision partnership has so far raised globally for this disaster.

World Vision has been working in the Philippines for more than 55 years. Of our 593 local staff, 138 of them are solely responding to the typhoon. Additionally, 40 members of the World Vision global partnership have been deployed to assist with response efforts, including staff from World Vision U.S. Prior to the typhoon, World Vision had programs in eight of the affected provinces. We are now undertaking emergency response activities in Aklan, Antique, Iloilo, Capiz, Cebu, Bohol, Leyte, and Western Samar provinces. We have also established a medium-term operational hub in Cebu.

In this emergency, we have prioritized providing shelter, food, clean water, non-food items (such as cooking sets, mosquito nets, blankets, plastic mats, can openers), opportunities to earn income, health services and goods like medicines, and child protection. We have so far reached 62,900 people impacted by the typhoon. We plan to reach 400,000 people, the equivalent of 80,000 families, our largest emergency response ever in the Philippines.

Other witnesses have described the current, overall humanitarian situation. Because World Vision is a child-focused organization, today I will focus on the particular needs and vulnerabilities of children. I will also provide context for World Vision's recommendations on how the U.S. Government can ensure lessons learned from recent, comparable disasters like Haiti are operationalized in the context of this disaster. These recommendations can also help frame ongoing Congressional oversight and engagement. We recommend that the U.S. Government:

- **Implements throughout the response its requirements that protection needs and concerns, focusing on the "safety, dignity, and rights" of people impacted by a disaster, must be fully integrated into U.S. Government-funded disaster assistance.** Integrating will ensure the most vulnerable people – like children, women and girls, the elderly, and people with disabilities – are protected, their needs are met, and they have access to appropriate services and essential information. Integrating protection at all phases, rather than retroactively, will be more effective and less difficult and costly. The protection requirements were developed collaboratively with NGOs following the Haiti earthquake, an excellent example of U.S. Government-NGO partnership.
- **Ensures the Government of the Philippines, NGO partners, the United Nations, and other key entities, engage and collaborate with people impacted by the disaster from the start to the finish of the response, especially to identify their assistance and protection needs and ensure they are met.** Meaningful participation of affected people is essential to the success of programs and can help prevent unanticipated harm. For participation to be meaningful, all groups, including the most vulnerable, are consulted and engaged, as appropriate. All groups also must be engaged at all stages of the response, including assessments, design, and implementation and monitoring.
- **Puts children, and their best interests, at the center of the U.S. response, including by supporting initiatives to:**
    - Urgently scale up and implement a comprehensive registration program of children, coupled with family tracing and reunification efforts when children are separated and/or unaccompanied children are found.
    - Monitor alternative care arrangements for separated and/or unaccompanied children to ensure they are in safe and emotionally nourishing environments. Children should only be placed in homes that have been properly screened and meet international child protection standards associated with alternative care arrangements.
    - Restore schools, because schooling is critical for enable children to return to a life of relative normality. The U.S. Government can help the Philippine government, and other donors, prioritize the clearing of rubble from collapsed schools. We call for the humane relocation of people currently living in school buildings and yards, according to international standards on relocation of disaster-affected people, especially regarding informed consent. Caution may be needed when planning to establish temporary schools near spontaneous or informal settlements, as these arrangements could inadvertently entrench communities in areas unsuitable for long-term habitation.
    - Increase training in minimum standards of child protection for national police and other security personnel. There may also be a need to increase the number of dedicated child protection officers present in Tacloban and other key areas of the response.
- **Prioritizes the needs, including protection needs, of women and girls, by supporting initiatives to:**
    - Develop a comprehensive plan to improve security for women and girls, with the cooperation of national police and other security structures, especially in evacuation centers where poor lighting and crowding may increase incidents of sexual and other forms of violence where women and girls are especially at-risk.

  - Create opportunities for women, especially women-headed households, to earn a living. This will require addressing childcare needs so that women can more fully participate. Engaging child protection initiatives will be critical, so that older children, especially girls, are not inadvertently removed from schooling and other initiatives.
- **Commits to immediate and short-term relief that lasts as long as is necessary, happens concurrently with recovery activities, and is fully funded.**
- **Monitors and pushes for needs-based access to aid, services, and economic opportunities, and against the corruption and cronyism that is often a risk, regardless of where in the world a disaster occurs.**

World Vision looks at this massive disaster through the lens of lessons learned from the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and 2010 earthquake in Haiti. We and others in the humanitarian community pledged to apply these lessons when we next responded to a major disaster, like Typhoon Haiyan. The principal finding flagged in the post-disaster reports was that meaningfully engaging and collaborating with disaster-affected people, from the very beginning of the response, is vital to ensure their protection and assistance needs are adequately addressed. An equally important conclusion was the imperative to provide timely information to impacted people about services. In the Philippines, World Vision has implemented these findings by ensuring that a community accountability manager works closely with a protection specialist. We also review information, complaints, and feedback mechanisms, to ensure they are functioning and to identify where these systems may need strengthening.

HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION

As emergency food, water, and medical supplies continue to make their way to the survivors of Typhoon Haiyan, we are concerned that these communities may now face the threat of an outbreak of deadly infectious diseases.

Infectious diseases often create a second wave of disaster after a natural disaster – something we saw in the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake response. Lack of shelter and continued bad weather can lead to widespread acute respiratory infections, which the Philippine's Department of Health officials say are becoming the biggest public health threat since the typhoon. Medical authorities also worry about leptospirosis, a water-borne parasitic disease endemic in the Philippines, and diseases that thrive in tropical, unsanitary environments like cholera, typhoid fever, dengue fever, dysentery and other infections that spread easily through crowded evacuation centers and shelters. Diarrhea outbreaks are a concern as well because of the typhoon's impact on access to clean water and proper sanitation and hygiene. Many of these diseases disproportionately impact, and can even be deadly for, children under five who are often more vulnerable due to malnutrition, stage of development, and other factors.

The collapse in sanitation, shortages of fresh water, and inability of emergency health teams to respond quickly because of typhoon damage and other extraordinary challenges, exacerbate any disease outbreak when it occurs. While the response to Typhoon Haiyan is appropriately focused on meeting the basic needs of survivors, transitioning to a properly phased and effective recovery stage will be important. Elements of this include: rebuilding the health infrastructure of community and provincial providers; ensuring equitable access to a safe water supply and sanitation; and reducing crowding in evacuation centers and shelters through alternative and more durable 'shelter in place' solutions. Collectively, these measures are critical to protecting against and responding to potential outbreaks of deadly diseases. In an effort to integrate child protection assistance across sectors such as health, water, and sanitation, we teach children in the Child Friendly Spaces basic hygiene and nutrition.

CHILD PROTECTION

We have learned through our many decades of involvement with relief efforts like this that one of our first priorities must be providing a safe place for children. So World Vision has set up Child Friendly Spaces in two of the most heavily damaged areas, Cebu and Estencia. A Child Friendly Space is a structured, safe place where communities create nurturing environments in which children – particularly separated or unaccompanied children – can access psychosocial support, structured and unstructured play and leisure, learning, educational activities, key health and hygiene messages, and skills to address their distress and risk. In the Philippines, this includes education to prevent any form of abuse or exploitation, including human trafficking, that children could face in the aftermath of the storm. Child Friendly Spaces are developed to strengthen the resilience and coping mechanisms of children and to contribute to a restored sense of normality, continuity, and inclusion. They simultaneously mobilize community resources and support around child wellbeing and empower parents and primary caregivers to provide for their children. This reduces risks of secondary separation, child trafficking, child labor, sexual exploitation, and other child protection concerns. Where we have Spaces, we plan to do rapid tracing of and follow-up with unaccompanied and separated children software UNICEF has developed.

We currently have seven Child Friendly Spaces in typhoon-hit areas serving 1,800 vulnerable children and we are working hard to scale up to 40 of these Spaces and reach 18,400 at-risk children with them.

Child Friendly Spaces complement school activities where formal schools exist and can be the basis to start formal schools where formal schools are absent. For example, tents for the Spaces are being used as classrooms in locations where classroom blocks are completely destroyed. Notably, the majority of schools have at least lost their roofs and the materials inside them have been damaged beyond repair. As part of the education-focused element of our response, we will provide direct support to schools, like school kits and learning materials. We are combining Child Friendly Spaces with our catch-up program, which is a tutorial program to help struggling learners, so that we can reach as many children as we can in areas where schools are close. Getting children back to school as soon as possible is one of the most important means to protect children from abuse, exploitation, and neglect, and minimize the disruption to their education.

There is a strong relationship between the exploitation of children and lack of opportunities for adults to earn sufficient income. Prior to the typhoon, NGOs including World Vision, and multi-lateral institutions like the UN and International Labor Organization had already identified the affected provinces in the Philippines as having over three million children engaged in child labor (including farm work, fishing, scavenging, and even sexual exploitation). Because of the typhoon, sources of income for over 5.6 million men and women in nine regions have been destroyed, lost, or disrupted. Moreover, most schools are destroyed and/or closed and the need for basic services is at a critical point. **It is urgent to engage and work with vulnerable children and families now to ensure that their desperation does not lead to the exploitation of children in exchange for money, food, or medicine.** One indicator that World Vision will monitor is the proliferation of online, explicit images of children from the Philippines. Prior to the typhoon, INTERPOL, the Department of Homeland Security's child exploitation unit, and the Virtual Global Taskforce (a coalition of law enforcement agencies from around the world), identified the Philippines as a hub for explicit images and videos (mostly in the form of Skype chats) of children. As communities return online, we have asked law enforcement bodies that track these images to see if

there are a number of new images of concern from the Philippines. If we see such an increase, it will show we are not reaching the most vulnerable and that children are at risk of exploitation.
Already there are troubling signs showing the dangers of moving too quickly from an emergency phase to a recovery phase. Just last week, Filipino authorities arrested two men in Tacloban for human trafficking as the men tried to take a 16 year old girl onto a flight to Manila. The incident reminds us all that it is imperative to meet basic needs, and commit to protecting children, particularly during this critical period. Since it will take time to rebuild livelihood, it is imperative that every vulnerable person, especially children, have a safe place to go in the meantime where their needs can be met.

As the recovery continues, the international community must prioritize strengthening existing formal and informal child protection mechanisms at the community and local government levels. This includes reactivating and supporting local child protection councils, especially to address the needs of children separated from parents. It is encouraging that the Filipino government is taking the risk to children seriously. After years of U.S.-led pressure and assistance to take on the issue of child sex and labor trafficking, we are seeing the Filipino national police and Department of Social Welfare and Development focusing so much more on preventing child exploitation. Department of Social Welfare and Development staff who were monitoring buses, planes, and all other forms of transportation leaving the city of Tacloban, identified the two men arrested last week for child trafficking. These kinds of systems are crucial in this current phase and should be developed in tandem with other vital services. Referrals systems are being established and World Vision will be part of an inter-agency system so that we are best able to refer children and other vulnerable people to specialized agencies as-needed.

Addressing primary health care and restoring child protection systems should not be seen as mutually exclusive, either-or choices when funding decisions are made. The wellbeing of children cannot be ensured if sanitation is poor, clean water supplies are inadequate, and diseases threaten the lives of children. Families faced with such dire circumstances are pushed to move from crowded shelters and thus risk homelessness or breaking up the family unit, with older children sent off to other parts of the country to work. This is one of many reasons World Vision has been distributing shelter kits (including tents, tarps, rope) to meet immediate need and plans to do permanent shelter reconstruction and rehabilitation at the recovery stage. Where families remain in damaged houses, material support like toolkits and repair materials, local procurement and salvaged materials will be prioritized to maximize local economic benefit. If and when families are relocated from evacuation centers and other temporary shelters, it is essential that relocation be voluntary and consistent with Filipino law and international laws and standards.

Examples from our response of accountability, consultation, and integration of protection, include:

- Ensuring all our distributions are in safe locations and during the safest time of the day for travel. We also monitor our distribution sites and access routes for safety and do post-distribution assessments to identify and address any protection concerns. All of our distribution staff have been trained on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and signed the related child protection policy, to ensure we maximize protection.
- Identifying and prioritizing groups that are most vulnerable to the effects of disasters.
- Consulting with children, community leaders, and women on safety issues and the selection of volunteers.
- Using existing community watch groups we helped set up in areas we were working pre-disaster to update us on the people and schools we had been serving and help with distributions.

- Conducting rapid needs assessments within three days after the disaster and including questions about whether people had received sufficient information about aid initiatives and available services. We also asked about how they preferred to receive information, to ensure we communicate with communities based on their preferred and trusted sources (our initial assessment suggest that communities prefer to receive information via community and local government leaders, and so we have prioritized working closely with these leaders). From our first distributions, we established mechanisms to provide information. These included banners in local language with pictures and using megaphones to ensure people had the information they needed. Complaint and feedback mechanisms have been in place at each distribution sites. These include help desks, a focal point, and phone numbers to text/call.
- Ensuring our Humanitarian Accountability Team is working with sector, operational, and zonal staff to ensure that all our programming includes providing information and having complaint mechanisms. Assessment data from our operational area reflect that. So, we will certainly be working closely with these groups to communicate with our beneficiaries.
- Adjusting our information sharing and feedback mechanisms as the response goes on to ensure that especially vulnerable groups, like people with disabilities, have access to information, and that there is strong accountability, engagement, collaboration, and communication, with affected people.

NEED PHASED AND CALIBRATED TRANSITION FROM EMERGENCY TO RECOVERY

World Vision supports efforts to bring typhoon-affected families in the Philippines back to self-sufficiency, with a phased and carefully calibrated restoration of livelihoods. We also call for critical primary health care systems to be rebuilt and schooling to resume: both contribute to the well-being and protection of children. However, pivoting too soon from the emergency phase to early recovery could adversely impact the most vulnerable people, including separated and/or unaccompanied children, children under the age of five, women who are either pregnant or lactating, the elderly, and people with disabilities. The Haiti earthquake response reminded us that ongoing, targeted emergency assistance is critical for the immediate to short-term and should continue until markets are restored and families have widespread, consistent access to cash (when there are cash-for-work initiatives and too few people have access to them, there can be inflation and cost increases). Haiti also showed relief should happen concurrently with recovery efforts aimed at returning people to fullness of life. For recovery to be successful and sustainable, disaster-affected communities must actively participate in identifying and determining the priorities, scope, and scale of it.

CONCLUSION

When we learn from experiences like previous disasters, we can leave the lessons in reports or make them real. We know what works: implementing protection throughout the duration and aspects of a response rather than retroactively, authentically engaging and involving communities, prioritizing children, women, and girls, getting the relationship between relief and recovery right, establishing excellent systems of information-sharing and feedback, ensuring a needs-based approach, and being vigilant against corruption. With knowing comes the responsibility of doing.

Mr. Chairman, as you saw, the Filipino people are remarkably resilient. They are prepared to shoulder whatever is needed to rebuild their communities and their lives. The need is tremendous but we can give hope to the 13.2 million people who were impacted by Typhoon Haiyan, more than five million of whom are children. America and the Philippines are rightfully proud of the longtime friendship between our countries. May our response be worthy of this friendship.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. Palusky, thank you very much for your testimony and for all the fine work and recommendations you have made here today, and without objection, your full statement will be made a part of the record.

Just a few opening questions. Mr. Callahan, and both of you really, one of the things that we noticed and from questions we raised there were that schools may not open for months. This may be the end of the school year. And I think as you pointed out, schooling not only provides educational challenges to the child, but it also serves as a place for protection. It also can be, I think, a way of observing whether or not some PTSD and other problems might be manifesting, which could very well be.

We met with a man named Papoose who, he is the same man who carried that 3-year-old dead girl, a little girl, who then just broke down. He said that at night if you really listen you can hear the tears of young children who get scared very easily that if there is a thunderstorm or some other thing that it is another typhoon. Very, very much on the edge, and schooling would certainly help with that. I think your point to Gloria Steele about a 3- to 5-year recovery, we need to be looking at that, working with them of course to make sure that there is a broader horizon as to how long, how sustainable these recovery efforts will be. But if you could elaborate perhaps on the PTSD issue.

Secondly, the risk to relief workers and health teams. One of the USAID leaders that we met with, Al Dwyer, and I mentioned him earlier, told me when we were talking about dengue fever that he has had it. And he said, "I have had malaria six times." And from our work, my work, the work of our committee in Africa and elsewhere, so often the case of the health workers and the relief teams are that they have experienced many of these diseases. I mean, and with a possibility of an epidemic of dengue and others manifesting very shortly, maybe fogging will work, but it does raise questions to their health concerns as well. Not only do they do so much to help others, but then they themselves become sick.

I will never forget on a visit to Kalma Camp in Darfur, Mr. Simpkins and I met with the camp director who was shaking and had malaria. And we said, "Go lie down, we can talk to somebody else." He said, "No, it is my job. I have to do it." I mean, just extraordinary courage on behalf of others. And so, I am worried about the health workers, if you could speak to that.

The cash for work program, how long, Mr. Callahan, and you both might want to answer this, do you envision that occurring? I think your point was well taken about the coconut trees. We saw them bent over, broken, everywhere we went. They do take 5 to 7 years to revitalize that industry. What will the people do? Are there some other viable livelihoods for those 5.6 million people who have lost their livelihoods as Mr. Palusky just said? And on the trafficking side, do you think we are doing enough? Because I think now is when the greatest risk arises.

The parish-to-parish idea, I think, is a good one. I had not heard that of sharing lists. And then finally, on the issue of all of the pregnant women who will need a safe venue to deliver their children, is it time for a blood drive, perhaps by the diocese around the area? Of course it requires a cold chain, but if the blood is not

available, women will die, and it is all unnecessary. It seems to me we need to prioritize that as well. Mr. Callahan?

Mr. CALLAHAN. Maybe to jump in first on, and appreciate your comment about the risk to the relief workers. One of the things that we are trying to do right away is make sure that they have an adequate place to stay. So there is a look at trying to get some containers and some spaces for some of the relief workers to stay. We have been very fortunate that people volunteered to be there during the Thanksgiving holiday season, and we have got the next troupe going in to celebrate Christmas in the Philippines. So some people who have been risking themselves are also very generous with their time in showing solidarity with the people there. We do try to rotate staff in and out and take good care, but unfortunately, many of us know of staff members who, similar to the situation in Darfur, have died of cerebral malaria and other things. And so it is a continual issue that we continue to monitor, but appreciate your concern there.

You also mentioned on the issue of trafficking, are we doing enough? I would say my answer always to that is no. I don't think you can do enough in the trafficking field, one woman, one child that is missing. And we saw this in Haiti. I saw it myself in India when I went to one of the relief sites after earthquakes and super cyclones there, where people came up to me and said, "Do you want a child?" And so we need to continually do more. I think the fact that this committee has raised this issue that you have highlighted, you have put a spotlight on it, I think is an opportunity for us to raise the issue. I know Ms. Steele is very interested in this area, and I think that is something that we can highlight once again with her and raise it with the Filipino Government.

I would also say on the issue of the children, two things that we found have been very helpful in both Haiti and in Syria. One is child-friendly spaces that you can go and have children that are in areas where they can have safety, where they can play games and all, and where they can do things that they feel like children again and feel protected. So that is one area where I think that can help. There is recognition among the church actors that we have talked to already and people in the communities that trauma is a big issue not only for the children but for the caregivers, for the clergy that are there. Everyone was sitting in this super cyclone, and we talked to people who were sitting with poles holding up the walls as the roof was torn away, and someone came to assist them and was whipped by the wind and thrown against walls.

And so I think the post-traumatic stress, we have brought people into different countries, and Syria was the latest, where we had interactions and had counseling for them; similarly too in Haiti. And we are trying something out in Syria right now with puppet shows for children so that they can express. Usually there are drawing and puppet shows, so they can express what they have gone through. And children are also very resilient, so if we do it at an early time I think hopefully that can be of assistance.

I would say lastly, with the pregnant women, I think it is a key issue. We saw women there and saw some of the newborn babies that were there. Big concern. We did the 2½-hour drive to Ormoc which had some generated electricity and all. I think it is a key

issue. As I said, the Church is looking at the rebuilding of its institutions, health clinics, schools, and churches, and I think that it is a priority, how we protect these women. It hasn't been solved as of yet, but we will continue to raise it.

Mr. PALUSKY. I kind of have to mirror what you said but on a different front. World Vision has seen that it is important to have a frontline response with the lifesaving interventions such as food, water, and shelter, and we have done that. At the same time we have started child-friendly spaces. So we have, I believe it is 18,000 children in child-friendly spaces right now, at least that is our target. We are planning to scale that up, I want to say to 40,000 children. We see that the care through child-friendly spaces helps deal with the trauma, the PTSD. It also helps to keep children safe. But it also helps to convey important messages such as health messaging, water and sanitation messaging, and we have seen this as one of the key mechanisms for the frontline of a response. So for that reason, we have prioritized it in that lifesaving intervention group.

Secondly, the risk for the health team. As a survivor of dengue, I actually experienced dengue in Sri Lanka, so we understand that it is a horrible thing. I just remember shaking, and it is bonebreak fever. It hurts. We have prioritized, as an organization, staff care. So we have done everything from finding appropriate places to live, of course ensuring that at nighttime people have mosquito nets and proper healthcare. In addition to that, we have a group that we meet with for psychosocial care within our organization just to make sure that our staff is mentally okay. For our frontline responders, we are partnering with Headington Institute and they give us, we meet with, I call it meeting with the shrink, once every week. And it was great just to debrief and make sure that everybody was doing okay.

As far as cash for work goes, we see it as one of the key frontline responses but also helping people to get back on their feet. So that yes, it will help clean off the streets, yes, it will help clean up the buildings, but we want to make sure that it gets cash in people's pockets so that they are able to take ownership of their lives again. And we would see this happening for, let us say, the short- to medium-term response. We want people to have that availability of cash to start their lives again.

And as far as trafficking, I would second my colleague Mr. Callahan from CRS by saying no, we are never doing enough on trafficking. For that reason, at World Vision, we came up with some recommendations, and we would like for, well, this group here to help urge USAID to help urge the Filipino Government and also different constituencies in the U.S. Government to push for more child protection programming because we do see trafficking as a problem now, and it was a problem before. We have actually been working in the Philippines for a long time on child trafficking, child labor. In fact, I just found out before this meeting that we have helped, through community groups, which we are actually responding through at this point in time, to get over 30,000 children out of underage work. Children who were working in factories, sweat shops, and in places they shouldn't be working; they are children.

We set up committees, community based organizations, community committees for helping children to get out of that but at the same to identify when children are at risk. We are pushing hard for those committees to be alert and to be able to respond. So that is all I have to say.

Mr. SMITH. You in your testimony, Mr. Palusky, mentioned——

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I want to offer just a word and then I am——

Mr. SMITH. Okay. Ms. Jackson Lee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Just a courtesy. Because I just want to thank you for holding this hearing. I won't stay here. I have been in another hearing and I just stepped out to thank my colleague for his leadership, and the ranking member. I just want to be able to work with the committee and collaborate with some of the committees that I serve on. And I will just leave these points on the record. And that is the response of the United States, there was an international response. And I know part of it was USAID. The identification of the deceased, the reunification of families in which I know that may have been raised, and I know the issue of disease has been raised. But specifically raising those questions, since the pain of those individuals was clear. And then the continuing support that the United States' private sector can give to the Philippines.

I thank you for allowing me to place that on the record, and with that Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with this committee and offer my deepest sympathy to the people of the Philippines and yield back. Thank you for your courtesy.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you very much, Ms. Jackson Lee.

If I could, Mr. Palusky, you mentioned in your written testimony, just last week Filipino authorities arrested two men in Tacloban for human trafficking as the men tried to take a 16-year-old girl onto a flight to Manila. As we meet here today, and it is an issue that I have been pushing within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the OCSE, we now have an action plan which I think will be adopted promoting the idea of training flight attendants, bus people, and people on trains to spot a trafficker and notify the appropriate individuals.

I mentioned it, we mentioned it several times during our trip, to officials. I am not sure Philippine Airlines has any intention on doing it, or ANA, which flies frequently on and out of Manila, as does United. Nancy Rivard has done yeoman's work as a flight attendant, and she makes the point that trafficked persons need to be moved somehow, and very often internationally, obviously it is by the airlines. And very often if you have a trained flight attendant or flight attendants who can spot a trafficker and trafficked people, the telltale signs, inform the pilot, and then when that plane lands arrest or at least separate and find out whether or not there is a trafficking in progress.

She told me that there was a pedophile ring coming out of Haiti, and they noticed there was something wrong. They finally investigated it, and ICE and law enforcement stepped in and broke up a huge pedophile ring operating under the cover of a terrible, natural disaster. Where it has been done, it is cost-free. It is a matter of training, situational awareness. And it seems to me, we need to

say with one collective voice, train flight attendants. Train all people. You mentioned earlier in your testimonies about how important it is that the police and others be well aware. But they have got to move these individuals sometime, somewhere, and they usually use some kind of public transportation. So, if you might want to speak to that.

And also, because again, I think now is the critical phase when in a sense Tacloban was hermetically sealed by the typhoon with only the military coming in with C–130s and the like, it was very hard for traffickers to move anyone. Now the roads, the bridges, the water routes, and the air routes are wide open. Now is the time to move in absolute earnestness to mitigate the possibility of young children and women being trafficked, if you might want to respond.

Mr. PALUSKY. First of all, I think it is great to see the initiative taken and just the pushing to help stop trafficking. As far as different initiatives, this sounds like one of a great many possibilities. So we want to concentrate at a high level with governments, we want to concentrate at a different level of course with corporations with whomever's working. So people who are working, airline organizations, but also for us it is almost more important at the community level. So we want people, your local policemen, your local, I don't know, mom-and-pop owner, your just basic community members to come together and be able to identify when there is the potential of trafficking and to reduce those risks.

So we encourage it. We are very happy to see at the high level and even the medium level and then of course at the lower level where we have been working for a long time that we just want to keep on reinforcing and working in this area, as we do see it as an area of high risk, especially now.

Mr. CALLAHAN. I might just add that I think, as you have earlier presented legislation that would have a fund to address this as which I think would be a great opportunity. In the case of Leyte, I would think the most vulnerable area would be, as you suggested, the water routes. We came through Ormoc. There were crowds and crowds of people. It would be easy to move people in. They were overloading the ferries at the time. People are sitting on the stairs and you hear of all these disasters and wondering if you are going to be part of one as you are transferring over. So I do think in these transit points, highlighting some individuals that could pick them out, I would think in some of these cases, particularly post-emergency, it would be a very challenging, but people that can go and fit in.

We actually found that in Haiti on the border with the Dominican Republic, we had a group of sisters that would be there, and actually, they were chasing people across that bridge and stopped people. They had a relationship with the border guards, and if they came and identified something the border guard would not let them pass. And we did not have one case where they approached someone that actually wasn't trying to transport someone. They then took the child to a safe house that the sisters were running and protected them there. But there are these mafia rings, type of mafia rings that go through there, and I think there is a need to have some civil society along with the officials, border guards,

transport officials, and others, so that there can be a combination type of effort.

Mr. SMITH. Our hope is, and we did raise this again with the two Cabinet members that we met with, that the Philippines would use this as a model themselves, to use every best practice imaginable, including the training of airline flight attendants to stop traffickers. Because we know they are perched and ready to exploit. So thank you.

Yes, Chris?

Mr. PALUSKY. If I could make one final follow-up on that too. We see it as important in the private sector, the local level, but of course also with the police departments and with municipal authorities. The training of those different units, different areas we have seen, has a huge impact on, let us say, stagnating, limiting, or mitigating a large effects of trafficking. So, we would like to encourage that even more, and especially throughout this response. So it is at all levels.

Mr. SMITH. I would just point out parenthetically, and I think it is important to underscore this, the Philippines needs to know we are all in this together on combating trafficking. With the Super Bowl coming to New Jersey in 2014, Governor Christie, the Attorney General, law enforcement, state police, and Homeland Security at the state level are all working overtime, knowing that that venue becomes a magnet for these exploiters of women and children. So why should we think, if it happens in the glare of the Super Bowl, a typhoon-afflicted area certainly has to be an even greater danger area. So we need to work even more with the Philippine leadership so that they will do more to mitigate trafficking.

Mr. Green?

Mr. GREEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You mentioned earlier, I believe it was Mr. Callahan, that we have 3 million children who are in child labor. Sometimes that is a very polite way of saying something akin to involuntary servitude. I would like for you to elaborate, if you would, on the conditions that these children are having to work in, and say a little bit more about it so that I can get some sense of what we are talking about.

Also, you mentioned the gratefulness of the Filipino people. One of the things that I hear as I move about, with reference to our foreign aid, is that people are not always thankful. And there seems to be this notion that because they are not thankful enough, perhaps we should do less. And of course you and I know that we do it because Dr. King was right. Life is an inescapable network of mutuality tied to a single garment of destiny. What impacts one directly impacts all indirectly, and what is happening to people in harm's way today can impact us tomorrow. We are all blessed, and but for the grace of God this could easily have been us, especially those of us who live along the gulf coast. So if you would, talk about the children.

And finally, if I may, Mr. Chairman, I would just like to mention Mr. Simpkins and Mr. Tozzi. I just want to mention that they were very helpful and very knowledgeable about these issues that we had to deal with, and spoke up and made some great points about a number of things that are important to the people not only of the Philippines but also to us in terms of our ability to message these

things that we saw. So I just want to give my expression of appreciation to both of them. And I will yield back.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you very much, Mr. Green.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Maybe just to touch base once on the appreciation that the Filipinos, because I know sometimes people feel that we are not branded enough, and people don't see it enough. We, on every transport facility that we were on people came up to us specifically to thank us for being there for the assistance. Not just when we were in the churches but even in an airport the people would come up.

We even had the opportunity, in Cebu they had a basketball game with their two professional teams to try to raise money for this effort. The two teams happened to be on the next morning, on the same flight we were flying to Manila and each one, as they came by, shook our hands and thanked us for being there and being there to assist them. So the recognition was there. Everyone we talked to did recognize the work of the United States.

I will mention a comment about the children and then pass it to Chris because he was mentioning some of that earlier. But I think your comment about child labor and servitude, it really for me is a matter of semantics. Many cases, these children, there are certain industries for child labor that are "legal" for children and others that are "illegal." Many of us feel that all industries should be illegal for children. It is one thing if it is a family type of activity, but in many cases, it does come more to servitude when a family takes a loan, their child is going to help work to pay off the loan and that continues on. And we see that in the Philippines. We see that in Brazil. We see that in African countries. And so the issue of servitude continues to be a big one for us as well. Chris?

Mr. PALUSKY. Thank you. Within the Philippines we have seen that there are certain industries in which children are involved in child labor. You think of the sweatshops. You think of the garment industry. We have seen in a lot of corporations and a lot of, well, let us say, I don't want to say corporations, I will say companies throughout the country that there is child labor. World Vision has a policy where we have been working throughout the country to help eliminate that, and again, it goes down to the local level. So we have been trying to focus on identifying what these industries are and actually even stopping people from coming in and exploiting people, and not even on the child labor level, but also on the trafficking level.

We have seen people come in to the Philippines from the Middle East and other areas around the world to get domestic servants. So they use this as an opportunity, and especially around, I will say, times of disaster or when people are desperate for work to come in and say, "Hey, we have an opportunity for you to work in Dubai, for you to work in Lebanon." And people are desperate, and they are thinking this is a great opportunity. World Vision is working with these local community members and also with the local municipalities, the police departments, to make them aware that maybe these people are legitimate, but please make sure that they are legitimate organizations, and you are not just allowing a person to be a trafficking victim. So we will continue to work in this area, and we will continue to hopefully highlight some of these chal-

lenges especially around domestic servitude that we have seen especially with Filipinos.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Just to add one point to that. I was recently on a visit to the Balkans and Cyprus and all, and we have found that, in the Middle East, we have centers now that some of our local partners have in Lebanon where they have Somalis, they have Sudanese, they have Sri Lankans. They have all these people that have been trafficked from other areas, including Filipinos. And they are in these centers, and there is the attempt to try to reunify them and bring them back home—an Ethiopian woman that was in Lebanon that we finally got back to Ethiopia and all.

So these continue to be areas where obviously when they are trafficked or when they are put into this child labor, at times, it then becomes into more of a servitude. If they are transported across international lines, once you take their passport they are afraid they might be arrested then, how did they come here legally, and they are very vulnerable. And you need some type of opportunity, people that they can trust. Typically in our situation, they have gone to local safe houses. They have been rehabilitated there, and then we try to work with the local Embassies. But there are these rings that continue to be out there.

Mr. PALUSKY. If I could just follow-up on that and piggyback. It actually is interesting. I worked in Lebanon for 2 years before coming to the States, and I was actually seeing some of these programs that World Vision and CRS, Caritas are working on together. And you do see people from the Philippines, Ethiopia primarily, and different places throughout the world, and people get trapped into this. So not only are they trafficked into the country, but their passports are taken. If they don't pay back their travel loan, they are not given permission to stay in the country. But, they are not given back their passport, so they are arrested. So people sit in jail until they are able to pay back their travel loan or whatever fees that their employer feels that they are owed, and it is a vicious cycle. So we were working with people in the prisons who had been stuck there because they were victims of trafficking, and they weren't able to pay in order to get back home. So we are hoping that, again, we can mitigate some of these things from happening through this disaster for places like Lebanon, Dubai, throughout the Middle East, and actually globally.

Mr. GREEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you. Is there anything else either of you would like to add before we conclude?

Mr. CALLAHAN. I would just say that I think we are off to a good start here, and I appreciate the attention you, Mr. Chairman and Representative Green, have brought to this case by going out to the areas. I think as we mentioned before, I would just put that one last emphasis that it is not over. The disaster hasn't disappeared. Syria is getting worse and worse. We heard today 12 sisters were just kidnapped in a particular area. We have Central African Republic. It is important that we don't forget the Philippines and let that country go down. Thirteen million people were affected. This is going to affect the whole country over the long term. It really needs a significant 3- to 5-year response. And I think the Filipino people, I know the Filipino church, and the Government are ready

to put their shoulders to the grindstone. I think if we do it in solidarity with them they can achieve that goal. If we let it go, frankly, shame on us.

Mr. PALUSKY. And as we heard in the testimony before ours, I would like to say amen. Definitely, it is going to be a marathon. We always hear you have got to sprint out there, you have got to respond immediately. Yes. With this many people affected, the scale of the disaster, it is going to be a marathon. So I just would encourage, well, the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Government, and anyone you can talk to, to keep the eye on the long run. Thank you.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you very much. And on that note I thank you, gentlemen, and your organizations for the extraordinarily important work that you do. Thank you. The hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 5:18 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

APPENDIX

Material Submitted for the Record

SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING NOTICE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6128

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations
Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ), Chairman

December 2, 2013

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

You are respectfully requested to attend an OPEN hearing of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, to be held by the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations in Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building (and available live on the Committee website at www.foreignaffairs.house.gov):

DATE: Tuesday, December 3, 2013

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: The U.S. Post-Typhoon Response in the Philippines: Health and Human Rights Issues

WITNESSES:

Panel I
The Honorable Nancy Lindborg
Assistant Administrator
Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
U.S. Agency for International Development

Panel II
Mr. Sean Callahan
Chief Operating Officer
Catholic Relief Services

Mr. Chris Palusky
Senior Director
Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs
World Vision

By Direction of the Chairman

The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-5021 at least four business days in advance of the event, whenever practicable. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices) may be directed to the Committee.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON *Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations* HEARING

Day *Tuesday* Date *December 3, 2013* Room *2172 Rayburn HOB*

Starting Time *3:07 p.m.* Ending Time *5:19 p.m.*

Recesses [*0*] (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____)

Presiding Member(s)

Rep. Chris Smith

Check all of the following that apply:

Open Session [✓]
Executive (closed) Session [ ]
Televised [✓]

Electronically Recorded (taped) [✓]
Stenographic Record [✓]

TITLE OF HEARING:

The U.S. Post-Typhoon Response in the Philippines: Health and Human Rights Issues

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Karen Bass, Rep. Randy Weber, Rep. Mark Meadows, Rep. Ami Bera, Rep. Steve Stockman

NON-SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: *(Mark with an * if they are not members of full committee.)*

Rep. Al Green*, Rep. Ed Royce, Rep. Trent Franks*, Rep. Shelia Jackson Lee*

HEARING WITNESSES: Same as meeting notice attached? Yes [✓] **No** [ ]
(If "no", please list below and include title, agency, department, or organization.)

STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD: *(List any statements submitted for the record.)*

TIME SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE _____
or
TIME ADJOURNED *5:19 p.m.*

Gregory B. Simpkins
Subcommittee Staff Director