

Research: witness statements

It was my birthday, 8th November, but there was not much to celebrate as everything has been destroyed. Our livelihoods were from the coconut palms, but three massive waves destroyed the coastal communities and 95% of the trees in our region of Eastern Samar.

It was so windy! It's was more than 160 km/h on average. Dad said the gusts were the highest he had ever known ... about 280 km/h!

We are still in shock. The storm surge was over a metre high! It was like our island of Mangalabang was drowning. There was broken coral from the reefs everywhere. The coral reefs must have been destroyed. With no coral reefs, there are no fish, and with no fish, there is no livelihood for us here.

My home, in Barangy Punta, was destroyed. Most buildings were raised to the ground with just the floor remaining. It was difficult to avoid the flying debris as we tried to find shelter. Many people must have died from the flying debris. The corrugated iron roof of our home was blown off so easily.

I just can't find out whether my friends and family are safe. There's no electricity and no phone lines. I want to go to the next village, but the roads are blocked as well.

We will go to Roxas in the morning. It's larger there so there should be more food and help. I've heard they are struggling to cope because of everyone going there and they have no water because of the broken pipes.

It's horrendous. There's debris everywhere and dead bodies are being washed up on the shore. We've got to identify them and bury them, but we don't know who to contact, and we are scared that if we leave them where they are, they will spread disease.

The death toll is 3,000 at the moment, but that's too low. They haven't counted the areas they can't get to easily, like the smaller islands. It must be double that; over 6,000 must have died at least.

I want to see my family. They are on one of the thousand small islands here. I cannot reach them as all the boats have been destroyed. They couldn't get here, to the evacuation shelters on Cebu. It was just too dangerous and they were no mountains or storm shelters to hide in – nothing to protect them from the wind, water and flying debris.

Research: photographs

1. A few palm trees remain standing amid the destruction caused by Typhoon Storm Haiyan in the city of Tacloban, Philippines



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2. The remains of a home destroyed by the storm in Tacloban City



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Student task

Imagine that you are a reporter; one of the first on the scene after a category 5 tropical storm hit the Philippines. You need to put a news report together from all the witness statements and photographs you took.

To help plan the report, use the table below:

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| Key facts about the storm and the Philippines |
| Primary effects (the immediate effect of the tropical storm) |
| Secondary effects (the indirect effects of the tropical storm) |