



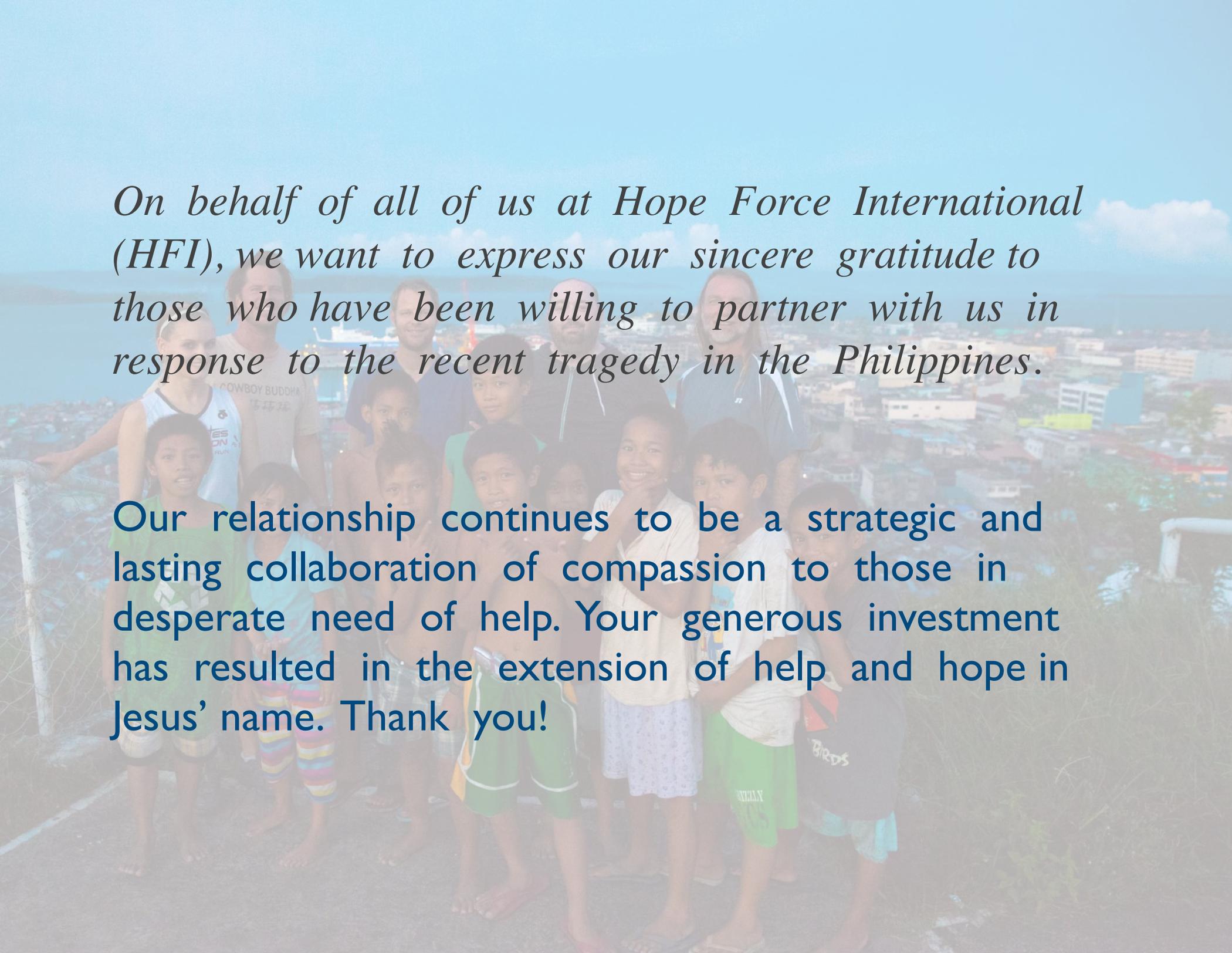
HOPEFORCE
INTERNATIONAL

There's **HOPE**
IN **CHRIST**

JESUS
LOVES YOU

**A COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE
TO CRISIS AND DISASTER**

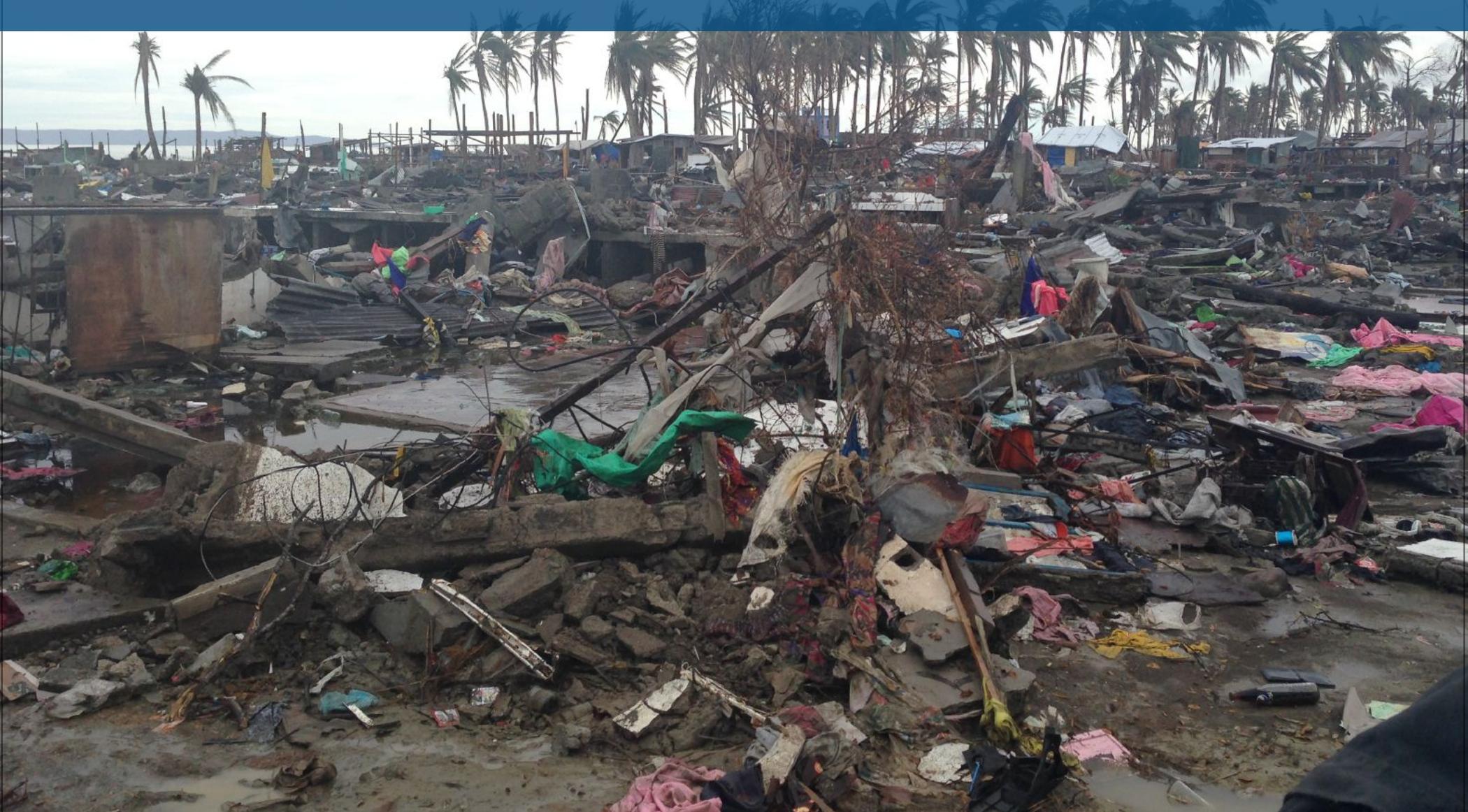
I ♥ TACLOBAN MAKADIYOS MAKAPAMILYA, MA

A group of approximately 15 children and 5 adults are posed for a photo on a hillside. The children, of various ages, are dressed in casual clothing like t-shirts and shorts. Some are smiling at the camera. The adults are standing behind them. In the background, a densely populated town with many buildings is visible, extending to the edge of a body of water under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

On behalf of all of us at Hope Force International (HFI), we want to express our sincere gratitude to those who have been willing to partner with us in response to the recent tragedy in the Philippines.

Our relationship continues to be a strategic and lasting collaboration of compassion to those in desperate need of help. Your generous investment has resulted in the extension of help and hope in Jesus' name. Thank you!

26,233 injured... 2.3 million families affected...
1.2 million individuals impacted... 1 million homes destroyed



Once the need for assistance was made clear, HFI sent an assessment team to the Philippines to work out logistics, such as a place to live and where specifically to work. Soon after, the HFI emergency medical intervention team arrived in the hardest hit city of Tacloban, where they were graciously received and provided with a perfect opportunity to serve.



The medical team was asked to join in the work at St. Paul's Hospital in the heart of the city. Additionally, we served in six surrounding villages -- most of which had received no assistance since the storm. In total 2,300 survivors received free medical care. The power of compassionate service and the ministry of presence inspired hope in the hearts and minds of many, as the team heard countless expressions of sincere gratitude from those they served..



A disaster the magnitude of Typhoon Haiyan is comprised of many deep and profound losses by countless individuals. The world speaks in terms of thousands of lives lost and billions of dollars in damage, **yet each loss is intimate, personal and painful.** Brothers, sisters, mothers, daughters, babies and the elderly have vanished, leaving a dark void. Compounding this tragic grief is the overwhelming magnitude of recovering from destroyed homes and for many, the loss of livelihood.



It will take time to determine the total scope of devastation. Hundreds of thousands will become a statistic while awaiting assistance from governments, NGOs and others. **However, for the fortunate few, help and hope has come suddenly and very unexpectedly.**



“Why us? Out of all the people that need so much help, why did you choose our family?”

As a fisherman, Romeo was by no means wealthy, but he could provide the basic necessities of life for his family: food, shelter, and security. There is also a certain dignity that accompanies a husband and father's ability to provide for his own family. All of that changed in an instant. Not only did the storm wash away his home, but his ability to earn a livelihood as well.

Possessing very limited English, Romeo asked his young daughter to assist with HFI's communication. On her own the daughter asked, **“Why us? Out of all the people that need so much help, why did you choose our family?”**

In HFI, we often focus on the “least of these” – those forgotten or neglected in the complexities of disaster. Often we are led to exactly the right person at the right time. We told her, “It could have been anyone else but it's not; it's you. We believe that God has directed our steps, one at a time, and has allowed our paths to connect. He did this for one purpose, to demonstrate his love for you.”



What does that love look like?

HFI responded to the 2004 Tsunami in the hard hit nation of Sri Lanka. All along the coast, devastated fishing communities were in desperate need of a hand-up to recover. One of the initiatives focused on economic recovery within these communities. **The project consisted of replacing boats, motors and nets, which in turn allowed the men to return to the sea to earn their livelihood.**

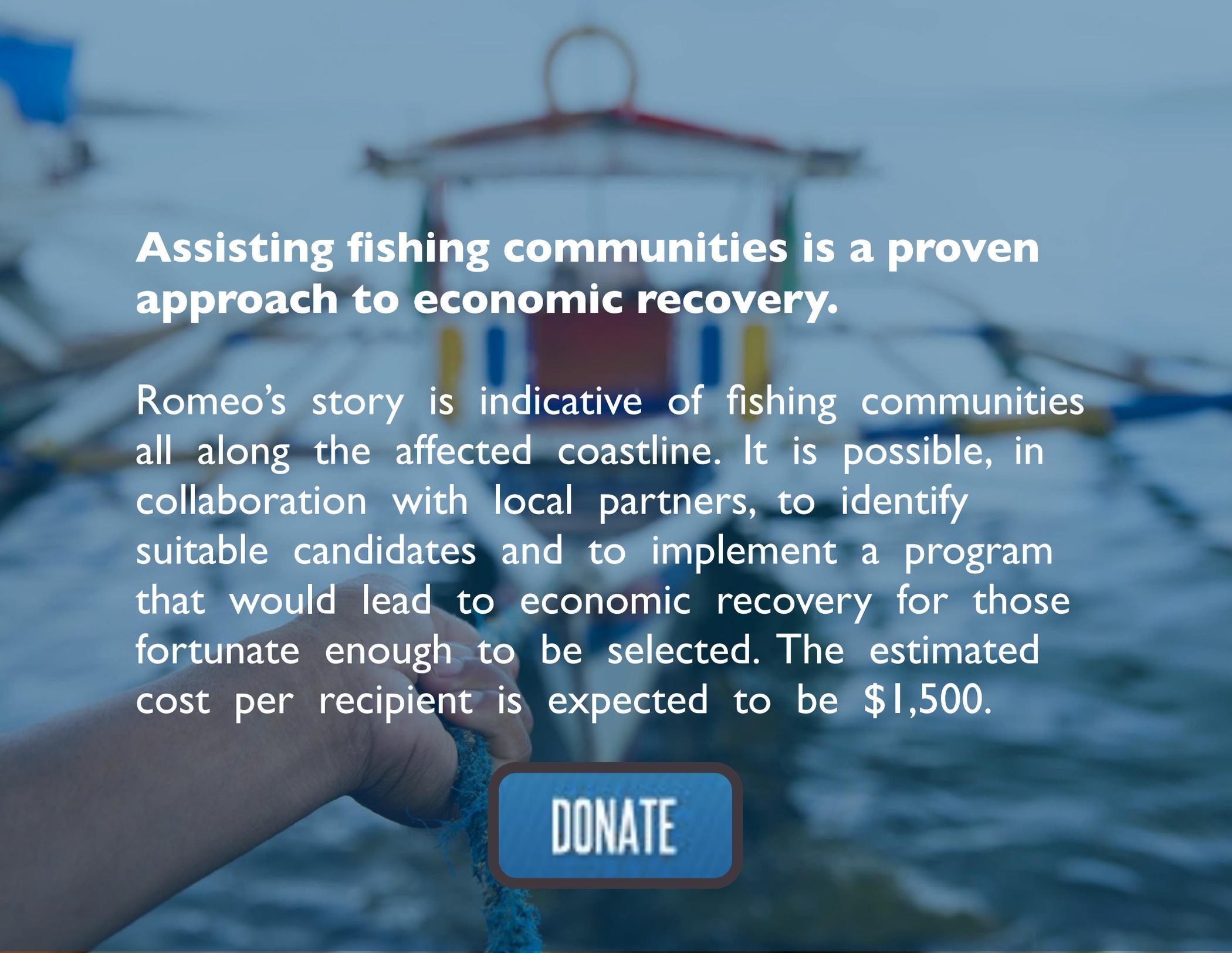


We quickly learned that the coastal areas of Tacloban and beyond had suffered a comparable fate. We wanted to explore ways in which a similar project could be also realized in the Philippines.

After a thorough investigation of the facts and receiving guidance from our local host, we felt compelled to help Romeo. While securing a trustworthy source for the boat and motor proved difficult, with our host's assistance, we finally found what we needed. The boat was sailed to Tacloban, and words cannot describe the excitement of Romeo and his family as the reality of their unexpected provision sunk in. They immediately went to work on making nets in preparation for returning to the sea. Now solidly on a road to recovery, Romeo's family had fresh hope and a deeper appreciation of God's great love for them.



God has granted Hope Force the incredible privilege of partnering with Him to not only convey how much He loves the world and the Filipino people, but also this one family. Our prayer is that this story of God's intimate intervention will be shared for generations to come both among their family and their community.

A hand is shown in the lower-left foreground, holding a thick blue rope. The background is a blurred view of a fishing boat with a red cabin and various colorful buoys (yellow, blue, green) hanging from its rigging. The scene is set on the water under a clear sky.

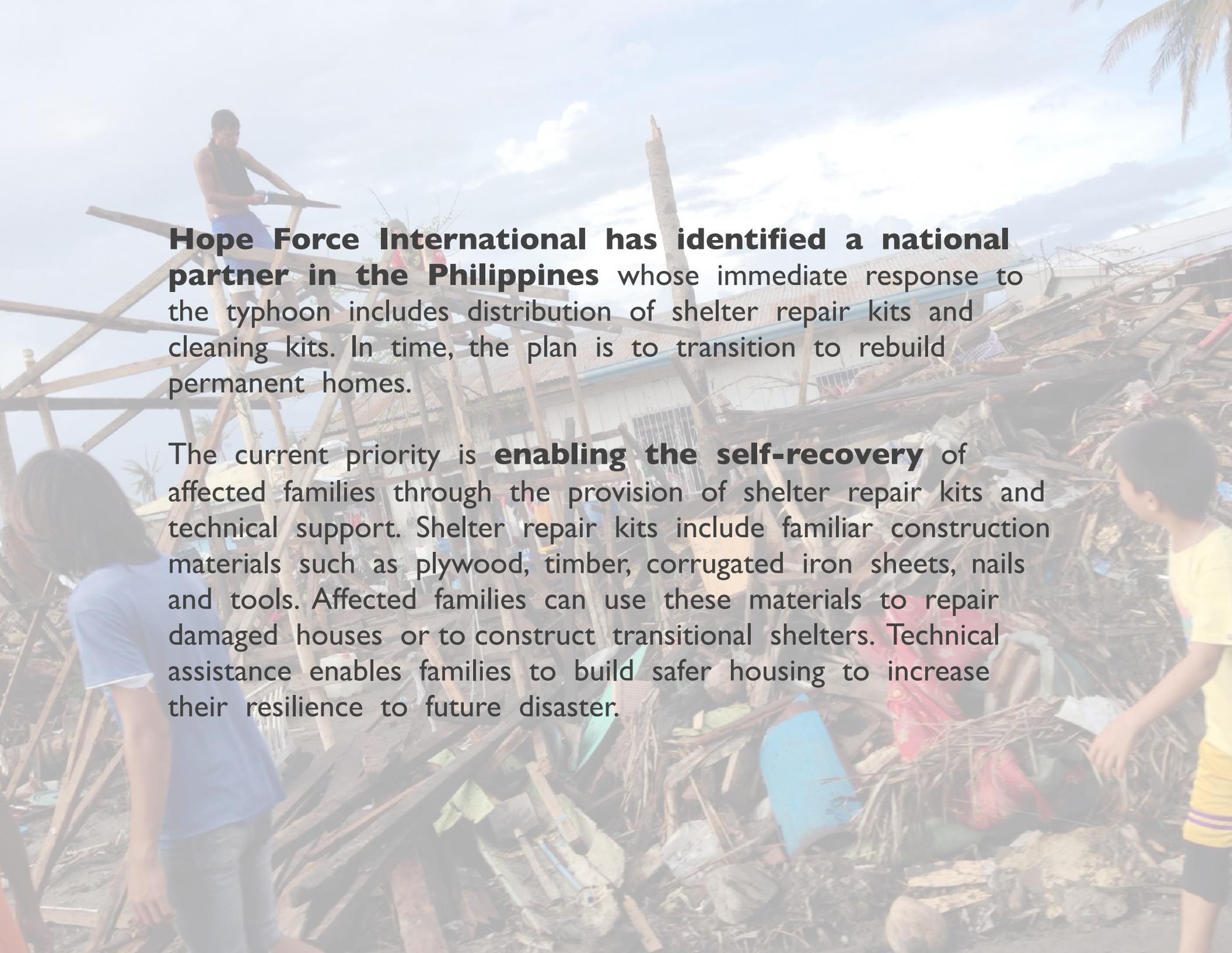
Assisting fishing communities is a proven approach to economic recovery.

Romeo's story is indicative of fishing communities all along the affected coastline. It is possible, in collaboration with local partners, to identify suitable candidates and to implement a program that would lead to economic recovery for those fortunate enough to be selected. The estimated cost per recipient is expected to be \$1,500.

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Greatest immediate need confronting survivors: **shelter**





Hope Force International has identified a national partner in the Philippines whose immediate response to the typhoon includes distribution of shelter repair kits and cleaning kits. In time, the plan is to transition to rebuild permanent homes.

The current priority is **enabling the self-recovery** of affected families through the provision of shelter repair kits and technical support. Shelter repair kits include familiar construction materials such as plywood, timber, corrugated iron sheets, nails and tools. Affected families can use these materials to repair damaged houses or to construct transitional shelters. Technical assistance enables families to build safer housing to increase their resilience to future disaster.



This approach is part of the Emergency Shelter Cluster's strategy; it builds on the significant experience in providing shelter repair kits in the Philippines, and is a core component of humanitarian shelter interventions. This approach sources materials locally to support economic recovery of the affected region. Our network of local partners enables us to implement projects rapidly on the ground.



We are committed to assisting the most vulnerable families to begin recovery of their lives and livelihoods. Beneficiary households are identified in partnership with local government officials, and then verified by community leaders and local partners on the ground. **The estimated cost per shelter is \$500.**



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