

### Herminigilda's Red House



#### FOR AS LONG AS 73 YEAR OLD

**HERMINIGILDA** Laurente can remember, she has never had a house. In her last 15 years of settlement at Barangay Kiling, Herminigilda and her husband have stayed in makeshift shelters jumping from one place to another in the barangay.

When Typhoon Yolanda came, Herminigilda and her husband patiently waited in a nearby

school as the roars of the storm could be heard overhead. After the storm subsided, Herminigilda and her husband decided to stay in the school knowing that the storm spared nothing from their house. They remained in the school for many months but had to look for another place to stay when classes resumed. Having nowhere to go, they pieced together a temporary shelter at an aging outpost on the edge of the barangay, a small office formally occupied by the barangay's police force.

"We could not provide ourselves a better place to stay since we have no permanent access to finances. I do vegetable gardening and my husband can't do any laborious works anymore since he's already old. When Red Cross came we were not even at the verge of repairing our house that's why they saw our current dwelling situation and I think that gave us an edge to be part of their shelter assistance."

When the Philippine Red Cross reached their community, the organization began implementing its Typhoon Haiyan Recovery Operation supporting the needs of Barangay Kiling, Mac Arthur, Leyte through interventions on Shelter, Water and Sanitation, Health, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Livelihoods.

Herminigilda and her husband were identified as beneficiaries of the Shelter Retrofitting Assistance (SRA). They received 30,000php and 20 CGI sheets for the repair of their house. With the money and material, they decided to build a new house rather than repair the old one

because they felt that their previous shelter was not sturdy enough to repair. They used the CGIs that were issued to them and utilized the cash for the construction of their house.

"I am very proud of this house that we were able to build. I even painted it red as a tribute to Red Cross to show them how very grateful I am for it. I really love this current house that we have because before I didn't bother cleaning my house because no matter what I did it ended up dirty because there wasn't proper flooring, roofing or walling, those kinds of things. Now, after having my house repaired I became enthusiastic on making sure that every corner of it was clean and I am thankful to Red Cross for that", says Herminigilda.



Furthermore, Herminigilda also stated that she feels safer in her new house. She thinks that even the rain and wind could not penetrate inside and it could not move their house at all. On the next storm that will come, she said she doesn't feel the need to evacuate anymore because she is confident that her new house will be able to withstand it.

Herminigilda and her husband is just one of the 3,462 households who received support on the SRA program through the Philippine Red Cross Typhoon Haiyan Operation.

##

##