

## Rosario's Garden

### WHEN TYPHOON

**YOLANDA** made landfall, Rosario Catindoy was one of the hundreds of thousands of people who lost their homes. She evacuated from her house prior to the wake of the typhoon. When she returned her house, that once stood in the middle of the coconut field, had then lay damaged and disbanded under a pile of uprooted coconut trees.



In this pile of debris, Rosario thought back on the memories she had of her house, a place where she enjoyed gardening and where she grew vegetables as her main source of income. She had vegetable plantations and she took care of banana plants that grew in the area where her old house once stood.

"There was nothing when I went to check my house after the typhoon. I was fortunate enough that a friend of mine took me in her house during the typhoon because if she didn't I would have stayed in my house and I would not be here anymore." , says Rosario.

Following the storm, Rosario started anew building a makeshift shelter. After few months, the Philippine Red Cross began implementing its Typhoon Haiyan Recovery Operation supporting the needs of Barangay Aslum in the Municipality of Alang-Alang, Leyte through interventions on Shelter, Water and Sanitation, Health, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Livelihoods.

Rosario was selected as a core shelter beneficiary following a community assessment and was entitled to receive a half-concrete house as part of the shelter program of the organization. Rosario also received a cash grant from the organization towards the purchase of productive livelihood assets after she attended a swine training held by the Red Cross. With the money that she received, she was able to buy three pigs and had a pig pen built behind her newly constructed core shelter.



In June 2016, Rosario and her son transferred into their new home. Rosario can now be found sitting and reading magazines or knitting in a corner of her house. She has also started growing vegetables again and has planted flowers in front of her house.

"I'm happy because in my new house I can still plant vegetables outside and earn from it. At the back of my house, I have started

planting gabi (taro). I also now have a piggery behind my house that I did not have before", expressed Rosario.

Rosario Catindoy is one of the 1,475 households that has completed new core shelters to-date and one of the 295 who received cash grant assistance on livestock production through the Philippine Red Cross Typhoon Haiyan Operation.

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