



Youth in Humanitarian Action

Young people have specific needs in crisis

Overview

One of the deadliest typhoons to ever hit the Philippines, Typhoon Haiyan, struck in November 2013. IPPF's Member Association in the Philippines, the Family Planning Organisation of the Philippines (FPOP), initiated an emergency response in the aftermath of the typhoon. Besides engaging medical staff in the response team, FPOP also engaged youth volunteers in the response. Louria, a youth representative of FPOP's National Youth Committee in Iloilo took part in the emergency response.



Training Youth for a Stronger Future

Louria has been engaged with FPOP for more than five years and has been trained on both the Minimum Initial Service Package of Sexual and Reproductive Health in Crisis (MISP) and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRHIE).

“ I had to travel far away from my home to take part in the emergency response. The response team went to an area that is hard to reach and located in the mountains. As a volunteer I had to do a lot of multi-tasking on a tight schedule.

Volunteering for FPOP has made me grow. I have gained knowledge, experience and friends. To include young people is important. We want to be involved. We want to help our communities.”

Youth as First Responders

During the response Louria interviewed young people about their SRH concerns and held awareness sessions about reproductive health with a particular focus on teenage pregnancy and HIV prevention. Louria also helped the medical staff to register attendance, handing out hygiene kits and caring for patients – especially pregnant women.

“ I wanted to volunteer and help the typhoon survivors of Haiyan because I know that young people have health needs in emergencies and need to access services.”