## Typhoon-stricken Philippines town starts rebuilding work

From "TYPHOON," Page 3

At 6 a.m., Dionesio de la Cruz was hammering together a bed, using scavenged rusty nails. He has already built a temporary shelter out of the remains of his house in Guiuan, about 155 kilometers (100 miles) from Leyte's devastated capital of Tacloban.

The side of the new house is open. A statue of Jesus stands on a table. On the ground is a broken mirror.

"Temporary," he shrugs, referring to the house and their status. "We're on our own, so we have to do this on our own," the 40-year-old said as his wife and moth-

pecting anybody to come and help us."

Elsewhere in town, one man was selling skewers of meat, and a couple of kiosks were selling soda and soap. Everywhere, freshly washed clothes lay drying Guiuan was one of the first towns hit

by the typhoon. It suffered massive dam- mall while this place is in ruins," she age, but casualty figures were lower than said. "Although I've been looted and in Tacloban and elsewhere because it was largely spared from storm surges.

some chose to stay and help.

Guiuan, was all set to fly elsewhere in the local cellphone provider. Hundreds lined the aid effort.

er slept on a nearby table. "We're not ex- country after hungry townsfolk swarmed up in the sun to use it to call relatives and her business after the storm, stripping the shelves of everything of value.

But a friend persuaded her to stay, and she is now running a relief center from her shop, which has been in the family since the 1940s.

"I can't just go to Cebu and sit in the made bankrupt by this, I cannot refuse my friends and my town. We need to help While many have left the disaster zone, each other."

Tan managed to get her hands on a sat-Susan Tan, a grocery store owner in ellite phone from a friend who works for a

let them know they are safe. One minute per caller is the rule.

On Thursday, she welcomed her first aid shipment. It's a fraction of what is needed, but it's a start: 20 boxes containing dried noodles, canned goods, sardines, medicine and bottled water.

In signs that relief efforts were picking up, U.S. Navy helicopters flew sorties from the USS George Washington off the coast, dropping water and food to isolated communities. The U.S. military said it will send about 1.000 more troops and additional ships and aircraft to join

So far, the U.S. military has moved 174,000 kilograms (190 tons) of supplies and flown nearly 200 sorties.

"Having the U.S. military here is a game-changer," said Col. Miguel Okol, a spokesman for the Philippine air force. "For countries that we don't have these kinds of relationships with, it can take a while to get help. But with the U.S., it's immediate."

In one neighborhood of Tacloban, dozens of people crowded around a mobile generator, where countless cords snaked across the dirt and into power strips. Residents plugged in mobile phones, tablets and flashlights for electricity.

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