

# Voices OF HOPE

## The Philippines

When Typhoon Lawin ripped through the Cordillera region of the Philippines in October 2016, it left a thick layer of silt, pebbles, stones and boulders in its wake. The rice paddies in the villages of Namitpit and Patungcaleo were destroyed. It was a case of déjà vu for the peasant farmers who just a year before had painstakingly cleared their fields of silt 73 centimetres courtesy of Typhoon Ineng. Newly-built gabion dikes, designed to prevent this from happening, could not withstand the forces of Lawin.

The deposits are actually the result of mine tailings from the Lepanto gold mine up the Abra river, which are moved by the severe storms. The damage to crops affects not only the farmers' food security, but their livelihoods.

Since the 1980s, PWRDF has partnered with Cordillera Peoples Alliance, a consortium of more than 250 community-based organizations of which Cordillera Disaster Response and Development Services (CorDis RDS) is a member. This partnership made it possible for PWRDF to provide \$11,000 for food relief to the more than 500 affected households. This distribution was carried out in December, when food supplies were down and the lack of farm income was severe.



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