



Stories from the Ground

A COLLECTION OF INSPIRING STORIES OF RESILIENCE



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This document shares the stories from the ground featuring the good practices, challenges, and lessons learned of the Center for Disaster Preparedness' partners in realizing safe, resilient, and developed communities. Specifically, the 'voices' of stakeholders from the government, civil society, and community are highlighted in this publication as evident in the following projects:

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GNDR
Global Network of Civil Society
Organisations for Disaster Reduction



Promoting Sustainability of Child-Centered Community Based DRR

through Education, Managing Barangay Integrated Goals
and Strengthening of Children and Youth Organizations

The Activities

The Center for Disaster Preparedness in Partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) implemented a child-centered community-based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) project in Camarines Norte. The first phase covered four focus barangays in two municipalities while the project's second phase has two focus barangays namely Labnig and Dalnac. The intervention covered the period April 2014 – May 2016 (Phase 1) and October 2016–September 2018 (Phase 2).

The project focuses on the capacity- building of municipal planning officers, barangay officials, the children and youth in order to cultivate disaster-resilient villages. Included in the municipal level and barangay trainings are the Child-Centered Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (CBDRRM) and the multi-sectoral approach to DRR dealing with Child Protection, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Education, Health, and Nutrition. Both trainings take-off from children's current situation and their special needs and vulnerabilities during emergency. We also tackle their roles and capacities in the whole DRR process.

Dalnac, a low-lying flood prone village has a populace of 2,244, while Labnig, a community fronting the Pacific Ocean, has a population of 664. Due to the fact that these barangays are highly exposed and susceptible to both natural and human-induced hazards, it is imperative that a culture of safety and resilience, particularly for the children and youth, be inculcated to its residents.

For the children and youth, the project paved the way in strengthening youth organizations in Labnig and Dalnac. They actively participated in project's activities such as trainings on CC-CBDRRM, Basic First Aid, disaster drills, leadership and organizational management and parliamentary procedures.

During the Project's Phase 2, they stepped-up their commitment. Children and youth in Labnig and Dalnac formalized their organizations with the election of their officers, adoption of constitution and by-laws, formulation of programs and they subsequently applied for barangay accreditation. Labnig's youth organization is called We are Empowering the Voice of the Youth (WEVOY), while Dalnac's group is known as Tinig na Handang Umagapay na may Dedikasyon, Espiritwal at Responsableng Sandigan ng Kabataan (THUNDERS).

Following their mandates to empower children and youth in community affairs, specifically on DRR advocacies, the organizations lobbied for their representation to the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee (BDRRMC). The Barangay Councils of Labnig and Dalnac both passed the said resolution. To date, a representative from each organization sits as a regular member of the BDRRMC of the barangays.

Before the project ends, children and youth will lobby for a representative in the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC). The representative would come from an organization that has a clear child-centered DRR program.

Likewise, community officials and residents continue to capacitate themselves by attending project activities. The Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee (BDRRMC) of the barangays held consultations for the enhancement of their DRR plans and programs having in mind the child-centered and multisectoral approaches.

The systematization of child-centered CBDRRM extended beyond the focus barangays and covered the other 25 barangays of the municipality of Paracale. It has also reached other municipalities and the province of Camarines Norte as a whole, forging a vital partnership with the Provincial DRRM Office and motivating them to allocate its own resources in child-centered CBDRRM.

DRREAM BIG was not only a project on child-centered disaster risk reduction and management, it turned out to be a compelling strategy in CBDRRM—the school and the barangay sharing the same vision and responsibility in their community's resilience.

In the same vein, the project endeavored to involve not only the school districts within the covered barangays, but also the Department of Education and its Division Office within the province.

In the municipal level, officials led by the Municipal Mayor and Paracale Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer are active in involving local planning officers in the project activities as preparations to the enhancement of local plans like the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan.

Necessary equipment for monitoring and warning such as two-way radio, megaphones, and electric bells for schools were provided by the project. The communities were also able to acquire their first experience of simulation exercises and drills which proved to be worthwhile learning events for them as evidenced by their positive feedback during the assessments and commitment to institutionalized said drills even after the project.



• The Process •

Children and youth 'owned' the intervention by consistently holding meetings, inviting fellows to be a member, talking to fora and seminars, serving as trainers. Their behavior changed and they also became pro-active in planning their own activities like facilitating trainings on Basic First Aid and Life Support, Clean-up Drive, and Slogan Making.

Their motivation was strengthened and they are geared in sustaining the efforts even after the end of the project.

The project facilitated the child-centered DRRM planning and contingency planning of both barangays and the schools within the focus communities. The close collaboration of the barangay council and the school bestowed the people in the community a more streamlined evacuation center management, and, an early warning system and DRRM plan where the school and children's wellbeing are given priority. It also allowed the teachers in the schools to integrate with the community where they work for, they were tapped as CCDRRM trainers during purok/zone trainings.



Mainstreaming children's rights also takes the form of integrating the concerns of children and youth during emergency in the development of local plans like the MDRRM Plan (MDRRMP), Annual Investment Plan (AIP), Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) and the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP).

The preparations for the integration of the multisectoral approach to DRR is on-going through municipal and barangay level trainings wherein in every sector, the participants formulate an action plan that will be presented to the MDRRMC and local planning officers.

Coordination/ Legworking/ Communications are done by the Project Management Team. CDP and UNICEF have both strived to maintain a participatory, rights-based approach, acknowledging that the children and youth should always be at the forefront of a child-centered, disaster-resilient community. To ascertain that the children and youth are at the fore of all project engagements, multi-stakeholder consultations were held alongside an inclusive public awareness campaign that influenced and empowered the focus communities to take action for their own safety and welfare.

Children and youth as partners in DRRM took a leap not only as a vulnerable group but as a sector that can be of help. Disaster preparedness activities are being conducted with the youth organizations taking the lead. They help in the information and education campaign in order to mitigate the effects of disasters.

The project also recognizes the role of the women in the community. Women are the primary caregivers of children. They are also community service providers like health workers, nutritionists, day care and elementary teachers, VAWC officer and barangay police. Their knowledge and skills on DRR contribute to the process of empowerment both as women and service providers.

Community intervention through the DRREAMBIG project extends to concerns at hand like cases of child abuse, which is beyond the project coverage on child-centered CBDRRM. In the barangays, the project team in coordination with the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office, the Barangay Council and the Barangay Violence Against Women and Children Desk worked to resolve incidents of child abuse. The cases are dealt with extreme confidentiality and through the cooperation of the community.

One of the focus barangays is now working for the re-structuring and functionality of their Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC).



The Impact

The project gives premium to sustainability. In the structural level the efforts are being geared to the enhancement of local DRR plans. This leads to the institutionalization of the child-centered DRR. The MDRRMC and the BDRRMC are preparing in mainstreaming children's concerns in their plans and to other plans relating to the welfare of children.

In the project's Phase 1 modules for child-centered DRR both for adults and children were developed and shared to community members. For Phase 2, the modules for the multisectoral approach to DRR with focus on children are being finalized and will soon be distributed to the communities and local partners. Both these modules were developed through pre-testing, finalization and training of trainers.

Youth organizations are not limited and bounded by the project's time frame as they are accredited organizations, they can also help in other community concerns and access funds through the barangay and the municipality.

The DRR youth representative in the barangay will continue as he/she is mandated through a barangay resolution. This will be replicated in the municipal level in the coming months.

The focus communities and municipal-level partners have local counterparts for project activities like venue, equipment, transportation and free professional services for those serving as trainers/facilitators.





Reflections of children and youth highlighted the development of self-esteem, listening up to other people's concerns, working with other stakeholders, giving more time to fruitful community activities, being selfless and dedicated to a cause.

Parents became more supportive of the children and youth's involvement to the project and to the progress of their own organizations. Children and youth became potent partners in the community. Officials became more aware of their roles and responsibilities.

As a parent and a teacher said, "during disaster it is now easier". The children prepare their go bags, the parents bring food to share and cook in the evacuation center, people voluntarily go to the evacuation centers, barangay and school officials coordinate smoothly through two-way radios and cellular phones, barangay officials regularly report and send updates to the MDRRM office.

In general, the project provided ample spaces and avenues for the children and youth to be pioneers, leaders, and even champions of DRRM. It was instrumental in the attainment of a barangay integrated goal leading to the realization of a culture of resilience.

... other

Another effort to ensure the sustainability of the project is the training on project proposal making scheduled in 2018. Participants for this training will come from municipal offices, barangay council, barangay associations and the youth organizations.

Engaging Children and Youth in Urban Community-Based Disaster Risk Management:

Lessons from the cities of San Juan, Valenzuela and Quezon City, Philippines

The Activities

The CBDRM intervention took place due to the project implemented by Center for Disaster Preparedness in partnership with Plan International – Philippines through the technical support of Plan International Australia and funds provided by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Australian Government.



The aforesaid project entitled, “Strengthening Resilience to Disasters among targeted Vulnerable Communities in Manila, Philippines” was conducted in urban villages in three cities in Metro Manila due to the trend of rapid urbanization coupled with the burden of ever-increasing population in the area and incidence of hazards such as fire, earthquake, flooding and social incidences like crime. It started in October 2014 and ended last June 2017. On the basis of the baseline research completed during the first year of the project, in order to have an inclusive and resilient environment for children and youth, the valuable recommendations of the respondents for the cities and barangays included the following: strict monitoring and evaluation of existing policies (e.g. curfew, solid waste management, and anti-child abuse); further capacity building activities for adults and children to enhance their knowledge and skills in DRR; foster partnership with various stakeholders; values formation for adults and children; livelihood opportunities that are sustainable; and involvement of children and youth in planning and budgeting processes. These actions are regarded as fundamental in providing opportunities for the young generation to exercise leadership and become pioneers of change. These findings served as the basis of the activities conducted under the project with the enabling support of duty bearers.

ORGANIZATION:
Center for Disaster
Preparedness

LOCATIONS:
Quezon City: Barangays (Brgy.)/ villages of Brgy. Sta. Lucia, Brgy. Batasan Hills, Brgy. Bagong Silangan, and Brgy. Gulod
San Juan City: Brgy. West Crame, Brgy. Batis, Brgy. Corazon de Jesus, and Brgy. Salapan
Valenzuela City: Brgy. Gen. T. De Leon, Brgy. Ugong, Brgy. Punturin, and Brgy. Arkong Bato

TYPE OF COMMUNITY:
Urban

HAZARDS:
fire, earthquake,
flooding, and
social incidences

• The Process •

Throughout the 3-year project implementation, the project employed awareness-raising approaches and techniques such as children and youth camps, community contests (urban container gardening, poster making, etc.), concerts, exhibitions, development of an interactive Batang Handa, Batang Ligtas workbook, and other creative methods that helped the children and youth have a sense of ownership on the project.

A child-centered Community Risk Assessment module, which serves as a guide to a separate risk assessment workshop with children from those of adults was also developed to enable the children and youth better understand the context of risk in their respective communities.

Youth consultation were also completed that enabled the children and youth to demonstrate a higher level of awareness on preparedness and response, as manifested in their view towards evacuation centers, early warning systems and preventive evacuation in cases of fire and other hazards.

The project also renewed the youth's sense of responsibility and commitment to the community, which is a step forward from being hard-headed, causing them to be apprehended by authorities due to vagrancy. It also fostered their self-confidence and encouraged them to become more involved in the community.

The youth was also able to lead awareness raising and capacity building activities that enabled them to learn about important life skills such as leadership, organizing, admin and logistics work, among others. In the conduct of the small-scale projects, the youth from San Juan, Valenzuela and Quezon City were able develop project proposals, conduct activity and budget planning more systematically, and lessons learning. More importantly, through these opportunities under the project, they were able to reach out to and consult their peers in the community for them to be able to have a better understanding of their community, and to come up with meaningful activities that are relevant to their sector.

The Technical Working Group (TWG) had been an enabling mechanism for participatory governance where youth representatives are able to actively contribute in all phases of activity implementation—from conceptualization, planning, implementation and evaluation. Aside from their membership in the TWG, the project was designed to also enable the youth to lead awareness raising activities, seminars and small-scale projects, which also honed their confidence and leadership skills.

The youth's exposure to the participatory process within the TWG had influenced them to also apply this approach through youth dialogues and consultations that they facilitated in preparation for their small-scale project implementation. This, in turn, honed their public speaking skills as revealed by their presentation of proposed small-scale projects to their respective Barangay Council and TWG. With this, youth participation has been clearly demonstrated throughout the project implementation.

While the project did not focus on formally organizing the youth in each barangay or city, the gains in their collaboration and working together as a collective, certainly presents an opportunity for the strengthening of the sector through organizing. This will not only serve to make the sector cohesive, but will also provide for a much active constituency and enable a more supporting environment for youth representatives that are currently engaging in more formal structures such as the Barangay Development Council, through the (Task Force on Youth Development) TFYD. The extent of commitment, capacity, and potential demonstrated by the youth, particularly in engaging with the duty bearers, and other stakeholders such as the private sector, is enough impetus to sustain their involvement in resilience building. As demonstrated by their Yes SIR, Yes MAM! Campaign,

the children and youth are in the best position to assess their situation and speak for themselves and their sector.

The local governments, both at the city and village level, were highly engaged in the process for the project team ensured that courtesy calls are completed in each city and village and the city and village officials are always invited in the project activities. It is through their offices that the activities were coordinated by the project team. The local government also extended their assistance through the City and Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (C/BDRRMC) and the Village/Barangay Operations Center. Other than the local government, other government institutions also took part in leading issues for girl children and youth, alongside the issues of women such as the Violence Against Women Desks, Women and Child Protection Desk of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and concerns of persons with disabilities through the Persons with Disability Affairs Office. They worked hand in hand with TFYD, Committees on Women and Families and organizations of persons with disabilities.

Key activities were conducted successfully also through partnerships established with organizations such as Philippine Educational Theater and Association (PETA), Child Rights Coalition (CRC), Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation (HLAF), CFPREP, and a network of private organizations like Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF).

Apart from engaging both boy and girl children and youth, women and persons with disabilities were also engaged in the process.

Community level workshops and trainings have shown that women are able to attend project activities more regularly than the men. This is because the latter have to attend to their day-to-day job. This makes the participation and role of women as influencers within their families crucial, as they are the ones who give primary care to children in their families. To enable and encourage the participation of women in project activities, the project team takes into consideration the importance of the role that they play within the family. In doing so, the team accommodates women with children during activities, provide for children's corner where they can play, and also makes adjustment in the activity duration to allow women to attend to their homemaking tasks.

In Valenzuela City, the involvement of Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) in the Technical Working Group (TWG) led to the conduct of Training on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM), in partnership with the Disabled People's Organization (DPO) Federation in the city. Action points from the 2-day activity were geared towards the development of a school and city-wide disability-inclusive Early Warning System (EWS), capacity building on disability-inclusive transfer techniques for all city department staff, basic life support for DPOs and disability sensitive risk assessments.

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Quezon City government has also moved to take the advocacy at the level of city-wide plan by including the identification of indicators for inclusive and child-friendly DRRM-CCA as one of the priorities in their 2018 Comprehensive Development Plan.

In the conduct of barangay level workshops, the project has also encouraged the integration of disability sensitive EWS mechanisms such as the use of color-coded flags to indicate information on alert levels that can be accessed by hearing impaired members of the community, and audio signals from megaphones and public address system that may be accessed by those who are visually impaired. The prioritization of persons with disabilities during pre-emptive evacuation was also identified as among the concrete measures for an inclusive emergency plan.

Another concrete outcome of the engagement with PDAO in the project, through the TWG, is the realization of San Juan City PDAO of the need for age- disaggregated data in the conduct of their city-wide tagging of houses of persons with disabilities. Taking into consideration the age and disability in the tagging will help emergency responders to respond appropriately based on age, gender and the type of disability. After observing the Fire Drill conducted in Barangay West Crame, the PDAO also realized the need for capacity-building for members of the Barangay DRRM Councils in properly assisting persons with disabilities, specifically children with disabilities, during evacuation and/or rescue, and in ensuring the provision of their needs inside the evacuation centers.

Yes, in the beginning of the project three (3) city-level and five (5) community-based meetings with duty bearers were conducted from December 2014 up to January 2015. Project Inception Workshop was also implemented last September 2015. The workshop served as a venue for discussing the log frame, partnership agreement, budget and schedule of activities that will guide the project team in the implementation of the project's second phase.

Facilitation of youth consultation wherein the youth are able to actively contribute to the conceptualization of activities in ways that were appropriate and would appeal more to their age group, interests and preferences was also done in order to ensure that the activities are sensitive to the concerns and needs of the aforesaid section.

For the past three years of the project, CDP and Plan Philippines have exerted efforts to ensure the monitoring of the project. At the onset of year 1, the CDP project team has closely worked with Plan Philippines' Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) officer to track the progress of the activities. The said institutions also drafted an M&E plan based on the logical framework of the project. The teams have finalized the document and agreed on sets of outcome and output indicators that would guide the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project. Monitoring visits and observations have also been planned. Regular meetings of the project management committee (PMC) and the technical working group (TWG) have facilitated the updating of project progress, the sharing of challenges and good practices, and in tracking the outcomes of each component.



The Impact

Sustainability had been an important consideration for the project team since the beginning of the implementation in Phase 1. Amid the numerous activities conducted over the course of three years, the project was able to put in place structural mechanisms, through the Technical Working Group (TWG) in every city, that can sustain the value of the knowledge and capacities gained both by duty bearers and rights holders through the project. More importantly, member agencies in the TWG are envisioned to mainstream in their respective mandates, the principles and approaches of child-centered DRRM programming. Aside from setting up structural mechanisms, the project also conducted concrete activities towards project sustainability, primarily through the sustainability planning conducted towards the end of the project with duty bearers and the children and youth.

The sustainability planning workshops were conducted separately for each set of stakeholders and were undertaken in the context of lessons learning, i.e. identifying the gains, areas for improvement and opportunities in the course of project implementation.

CBDRM and the Practice of Sustainable and Resilient Agribusiness Development

in Mercedes, Camarines Norte

The Activities

The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the Asia-Pacific region, and because it is still a developing economy, each disaster slows down the Philippines' economic progress, leaving vulnerable households to suffer the most. The Sustainable and Resilient Agribusiness Development in Mercedes (SARAM) project aims to reduce the level of poverty in 18 rural barangays in Mercedes Municipality, Camarines Norte. This proposed activity will be implemented in Mercedes, which is one of the poorest municipalities of Camarines Norte Province, in Region V of the Philippines, where 73% of the households are living below the poverty threshold. This poverty is compounded due to insufficient rice supply in-country, inadequate access to protein, and limited intake of fruits and vegetable for many families.

ADRA Philippines managed this project, utilizing professional staff consisting of a project manager, a bookkeeper and five field officers, along with technical assistance from specialist partners. Major activities include training and implementation of Systems Rice Intensification (SRI) Rice growing, training and establishment of fish farms, preparation and planting of vegetable gardens and the mainstreaming of community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) into the above activities. ADRA Philippines worked in close partnership with ADRA New Zealand for support and expertise in DRR and livelihood development. Other key partners include: SRI Pilipinas and SPACFI Caritas in Daet, Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) of Mercedes, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), and Centre for Disaster Preparedness (CDP), which will synergize wide experience and expertise in the implementation of CBDRM. This project was implemented from January 1, 2013 until December 31, 2015.



ORGANIZATION:
Center for Disaster
Preparedness

LOCATION:
All communities in
Mercedes, Camarines Norte

TYPE OF COMMUNITY:
Rural

HAZARDS:
Typhoon, flood,
earthquakes



The project aims to decrease poverty, increase the wellness of malnourished children, and ensure that the agricultural livelihood is sustainable and resilient.

Activities implemented in partnership with CDP:

- A. Agri-business—capacity in Systems Rice Intensification (SRI) (planting of rice to make it resilient—planting of rice in more spaces to strengthen the roots from hazard and also includes organic vegetable (growing beans) planting.
- B. Growing of grouper (fish)- done in groups
- C. CDP trained the farmers, vegetable growers and fisher folks on DRR/ CCA Orientation
- D. CDP also promoted resilience through the development of contingency plans for each sector e.g. growing of vegetables in hanging tetra pots—integrated in the DRRM plans, evacuation of the fish from fish cages to lands—contingency plans for fisher folks
- E. CDP provided Training of Trainers (ToT) to the municipality of Mercedes
- F. Helped them mentor all the LGU trained to train in barangays
- G. Then the trainers trained the puroks (zones)
- H. Table-top exercise at the municipal level covering the 26 barangays together with CDP, ADRA and other organizations
- I. Drafting of ordinance DRR/CCA Code of the municipality
- J. Each barangay created a BDRRM Plan/Manual
- K. For the sustainability, the BDRRMC continued to have mentoring teams—divided into 4 clusters and they continued to do trainings in the barangay
- L. Conduct of drill (for the typhoon—barangay-based, earthquake—school-based)

The project also developed a mentoring team composed of different heads of departments.

• The Process •

The partner municipality have demonstrated strong ownership of the project through its local government unit (LGU) for it has provided support to cover all the 26 barangays; since, originally, only 18 barangays are covered for the project intervention. The LGU provided all the necessary support such as funding and other logistical needs to CDP and other communities.

The local government was truly capacitated and have adapted the project and they were able to fully help the people. The direct beneficiaries are 1,000 rice farmers (from 12 barangays), 150 fisherfolk (from 7 barangays), 420 households (from 14 barangays), and 145 members of 18 Barangay DRR and Management Committees in 18 rural Barangays of Mercedes. There is a total of 1,715 households that benefitted directly from this project while the indirect beneficiaries are 6,860 individual family members.

Additional 8 barangays were also covered by the project through the assistance of the LGU in order to cater to the rest of the barangays in the municipality of Mercedes.

The project team was able to organize rice farmers and labourers in groups, both men and women were trained and equipped with skills for farming and gardening, fisher folks were also involved (both men and women), and the has also reached out to children for the project helped them be linked with other project of CDP on child-centered DRRM entitled DRREAM BIG, beyond the project, supported network with the youth). Women and older persons were involved in all the activities.

The project was adjusted as necessary through the consultation meetings with the LGU and barangays (brgys) represented by the Brgy. Council and other sectors. The project also managed to link together groups that were not closely working together, one example was the situation of Brgy. Poblacion where some of its officials have a political conflict with the municipal LGU. The project also accommodated the different contexts of the barangays e.g. there were island barangays with different experiences compared with those that are land-based.

Through the mentoring team, series of validation activities were also conducted to know whether the activities are helpful to the people of the municipality.

After the project, CDP was also able to monitor and write a case study about the project and product a video production entitled, "Waves of Resilience." CDP also created a video that tackles the construction of "paruyog"/artificial reef led by the LGU—municipal and barangays.

The Impact

Until now, CDP is able to monitor the continuity of the project initiatives through the study visits conducted by the organization as part of current projects. This year, through the Consortium on Humanitarian Action and Protection (CHAP) project, CDP has observed that they are the ones teaching other municipalities like Labo and also the PDRMO.

It is also crucial that the LGU have given time and resources. This project helped the LGU become more engaged in the barangays and devolved resources.

When there's a typhoon, they are able to prepare themselves, not just their lives but their livelihood thus, they become more sustainable and resilient.



Saknungan - Ligtas Program.

Institutionalising Sustainable CBDRRM by Strengthening the Accredited Community Disaster Volunteers.

The Activities

The Municipality of Abra de Ilog is located in the northern tip of Occidental Mindoro. It consists of ten (10) Barangays with 31,306 population (PSA 2015) in which about 40% belongs to Iraya Mangyan Tribe (one of the Indigenous People of Mindoro). Four of ten Barangays are coastal mostly facing Verde Island Passage. These coastal Barangays has a total of population of 12,444 or 27% of the entire municipality.

An estimated of 8180 household or 26.5% of the residents live in areas prone to tsunami, storm surge and flooding. Mostly, their houses are made of light materials and shanties especially the Indigenous Peoples (IPs).

The geographical location and our demographic profile made us high risk and vulnerable to almost all hazards.

The Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) underwent CBDRRM trainers training from the Office of the Civil Defense - MIMAROPA in the early quarter of 2017.

The training reinforced the local DRRM office to intensify the CBDRRM implementation to all communities. The MDRRMO and PDRRMO of Occidental Mindoro jointly launch local trainings for BDRRMCs.

Along the way, local DRRM stakeholders saw the need and advantages of having strong community program with involvement of community volunteers. The idea gave birth to Saknungan - Ligtas Program. Saknungan is a local term meaning cooperation which is also famous as a communal farming way.

Basically, it is the way of organizing accredited community disaster volunteers. As a program, volunteers can get involve accordingly to their level of training and interest. There are six (6) Ligtas Program categories which a volunteer may get involved. The six (6) Saknungan - Ligtas Programs are: Ligtas Buhay, Ligtas Bahay, Ligtas Bata, Ligtas Bukid, Ligtas Barangay and Ligtas Bayan. From the entry level of Ligtas Buhay which volunteers should have basic CBDRRM orientation and training on Basic Life Support they can level up to Ligtas Bayan when they choose to get involved in disaster resiliency activities that is municipal wide or if the activity was outside from his Barangay.

Saknungan - Ligtas Program is still in a pilot status, aimed to be strengthened and reviewed after a year and half.

ORGANIZATION:

Local Government Unit of
Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro
Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction
and Management Office

LOCATION:

Municipality of Abra de Ilog,
Occidental Mindoro

TYPE OF COMMUNITY:

Rural

HAZARDS:

tsunami, storm surge,
and flooding



• The Process •

Since the program was launched last July 31, 2017 as culmination activity of Disaster Resiliency Month, volunteers were given capability trainings, uniforms, kits and insurance. The volunteers get involved underwent different activities aimed to determine their risk exposures, their coping system and the need to have a resilient community. Workshop output includes community risk map and needs assessment list. Volunteer training needs analysis was also done, this tool become was utilized in the planning process of the local DRRM fund.

Aside from Basic Life Support (BLS), Water Search And Rescue (WASAR) was offered to interested and qualified volunteers. Adult volunteers participated to provincial summit while youth joined provincial youth summit both organized by the Provincial DRRM Office. Some volunteers were also able to attend training on Mountain Search and Rescue training in Oriental Mindoro.

During the recent effects of Habagat in the town, volunteers are utilized by BDRRMCs headed by Punong Barangays (PB). They get involved upon activation of MDRMMO and PB through short message service (SMS). Aside from regular weather advisories given as text messages, volunteers are also advice of volunteer opportunities near their location. It is now up to the availability and willingness of the volunteers if they will respond positively. Aside from women, youth, elderly and person with disabilities volunteers, a number of IP Iraya Mangyan also volunteered to become part of Saknungan-Ligtas Program.

IPs volunteers are the best source of information in marking high risk areas during hazard mapping. They also contributed indigenous practices in Early Warning System (EWS) and community pre-emptive evacuation practice.

In the past year, CBDRRM training was given by MDRRMO to key persons in the community. Participants mostly are Day Care Workers and public teachers. This year in cooperation and close coordination by PDRRMO of Occidental Mindoro. CBDRRM training was rolled out to Barangay Officials, Barangay Health Workers and local police. The coverage of become wider with more participants getting involved.

As program by the MDRRMO under the Saknungan - Ligtas Program for volunteers, some modules were shortened, BLS training is given separately.

A team from the PDRRMO went back to communities to evaluate and monitor the CBDRRM implementation

The Impact

Saknungan - Ligas Program as an accredited community disaster volunteer is still relatively new and an ongoing program of the MDRMO. The target program implementation is 17 months (August 2017 to December 2018). It is expected that the program as part of CBDRM activity should continue and encourage more members of the community to volunteer. BDRRMCs are encouraged to tap and utilize the volunteers in different programs.

Under Saknungan - Ligas Program, community get involved more involved in CBDRM. When emergency or disaster strike, they are expected to give critical support as first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims and organize spontaneously at a disaster site.

Prior to CBDRM implementation, warning system and other information are acquired only by the communities through national media by radio or television. They are highly dependent to MDRMO response capacity. Now, they received information from their Punong Barangays and neighbours who acquired information from the text blast of the MDRMO to volunteers. Some volunteers with access to social media also follow the social media page of Abra de Ilog Response Operations (AERO).



Solid Waste Management Towards Resilient Urban Communities

The Activities

Barangay Sta. Ana was among the 22 Barangays in Manila, Bulacan and Rizal covered by Project SUCCESS. This is specifically focused in Purok Lupang Arenda. It one of seven (7) Puroks of the Barangays located along C-6 Road. Lupang Arenda is an informal settlement inhabited by informal settlers and it is also a flood prone or vulnerable community to flooding. In the aftermath Typhoon Ondoy in 2012, the community was under water for almost 6 months that made worst the lives of the population vulnerable. Basic services were generally affected. Accordingly, one of the contributory factors of the community's flooding is the households' poor practice on solid waste management. To provide support to the claims of most households in Lupang Arenda on the poor waste practices, CRS employed the services of the SKAT Swiss Resource Center and Consultancies for Development to undertake the Solid Waste Management Value Chain Analysis (VCA) of the 22 barangays that includes Sta. Ana particularly in Lupang Arenda in 2016. The results revealed that the biggest waste generators are households that composed of most biodegradable followed by recyclable materials.

To minimize or mitigate the worsening flooding effects in Lupang Arenda, both CRS and Barangays developed and designed strategies on how to mitigate the worsening effects of flooding contributed and caused by improper waste garbage disposal and at the same time can create economic opportunities or livelihood options to interested community or beneficiaries. The Door to Door Waste Collection (D2D) was designed in the last quarter of 2016 then started to implement in 1st quarter of 2017 in Lupang Arenda. CRS lead and mobilized seven (7) Barangay Ambassadors (BA) to spearhead the household waste collection in collaboration with the BENRO and Committee on Environment and the whole Barangay Development Council (BDC). The BA were oriented on local ordinances and hygiene and sanitation and trained on waste RA 9003, waste segregation, partnership building, and especially on planning the mechanics and systems of the Door to Door Waste Collection (D2D).

The 7 BA were provided with seed capital to buy their own tri-bikes, personal protective equipment and gears (PPEs) to start their D2D Waste Collection Operations.

In Lupang Arenda, Zone 1 chosen was as their pilot area with a 150 household targets. Intensive conduct of information education for one (1) month on household waste segregation, time and schedule of waste collection, central collection point and local ordinances is being conducted by the BA using localized flyers, leaflets and posters to reinforce their IEC with the assistance of the Barangay Environment and Natural Resources Office (BENRO).

When the BA started their D2D waste collection, most households in Zone I gave their recyclables to the BA for free and it's up to the BA to sell it to the junkshops. The BA brought their collected waste to the Materials Recovery System (MRS) for a secondary sorting because there are still items that can be sold before it will have brought to the central collection point where the garbage truck will pick-up.

The Seven BA have their Purok assignments and maintain the schedule of time and day of waste collection. The process undertaken in Zone 1 was replicated in Zones 2-7 with of course minimal arrangements. They ensure that they monitor household wastes every by logging it and report to the BENRO who violates the local ordinance.

On the other hand, households were encouraged to have their backyard or clustered composting area if they have available lots for their own kitchen waste and they can feed it to their animals and if not, they put it in a container and gave it to the BA for the Kaning Baboy Program. The BA coordinate with Piggery Owners for the pick-up. One Piggery Owner in Lupang Arenda is the one picking-up the kaning baboy in coordination with the BA. The D2D waste collection is daily that starts at 6 in the morning until 9am. Hazardous materials are collected by the municipal garbage truck.

The BA Team and the BENRO conducts regular assessment and welcomed community feedbacks. According to the BA Team, most feedbacks received during puroks meetings stated that waters slowly draws down to the main drainage canal because it is not clog with solid wastes. Garbage Truck Crews also mentioned that volume of waste generated and collected everyday was reduced. They mentioned that in the previous months, they are having 2 trips hauling in Zones 1-7 alone, but in the 3rd quarter of 2017, they are routing in Zones 1-7 once every morning and sometime, the truck is not full.



● The Process ●

The “Solid Waste Management Towards Resilient Urban Communities” revolved around the empowerment and participation of the community members with a desire to lessen or mitigate the impacts flooding in Lupang Arenda through collaborative efforts.

1st, households in Zones 1-7 underwent series of information education on household waste segregation, hands-on demonstration through puroks and core group meetings. Community concerns on waste problems, experiences and best practices of households on waste segregation were gathered and discussed with them because they were the ones affected and they were the ones who could also provide recommendations and solution to their problems.

2nd, the BENRO is the Lead Person. He ensures that implementation plans and decisions are known to the Barangay officials,

3rd, Zones 1-7 have managed their own schedules for community affairs from participatory planning, decision-making, plan implementation, monitoring and evaluation; and

4th, BENRO provide guidance to the Barangay Ambassadors and assist them on their collaboration initiatives to create more options on economic opportunities through solid waste management-based options.

The “Solid Waste Management Towards Resilient Urban Communities” is inclusive to all household members, men and women, youth and children, vulnerable members of the households, barangay officials, private sectors and other stakeholders in the community. Waste Management is a concern of all households because all are waste generators. It is in this way that households can contribute and help achieve no serious flooding in the community through solid waste management by proper household waste segregation and disposal to the proper bins and not to the waterways, canals or esteros. It is the responsibility of the households to educate their family members the proper solid waste management and it is also the function of the government to collect hazardous materials from the community and bring it to the identified disposal area. Participation and cooperation of all households in the community will ensure that frequent flooding will be mitigated if not minimized since waterways will be maintained clean and cleared. At this point in time, the Barangay Ambassadors along with the Streets Sweepers of the Barangay detailed in Lupang Arenda are going in to the schools to collect school recyclable materials and assists SWM School Focal Person and Student Leaders in Sitio Tapayan Elementary School in waste segregation but maintaining Zones 1-7 in their daily waste collection schedules.

The conduct and facilitation of activity after review (AAR) is the best mechanic to improve strategies. The Team from the BENRO, Committee on Environment, representatives from each Puroks, Barangay Ambassadors convened twice a month for an assessment and feedbacking.

They assessed the process of targeting households, IEC materials and contents or messaging, capacity of persons involved in each activities, logistics, timing or scheduling, visibility and readability of IEC materials like flyers and posters and the simplicity of the message. All these was done to evaluate on what to improved and strengthen. Documenter during team meeting is assigned to maintain records and help track development of certain households’ compliance towards local ordinance and commitment in waste management. The review of IEC plans and implementation

strategies will be an avenue to a better performance of the team. Learning from each other will enhance the camaraderie of the team towards the realization of a good environment. The AAR or assessment is facilitated by the BENR Officer nor the Vice Chair of the Committee on Environment. School Representatives from civil societies like the HOA, Tricycle Drivers Association, churches, schools and establishments in Lupang Arenda usually attend to participate in the assessment and feedbacking to ensure that all stakeholders will have a voice in planning strategies to improve the solid waste management program in Lupang Arenda and can be replicated in other puroks of the Barangay.



The Impact


The intervention of the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Barangay Sta. Ana particularly in Lupang Arenda lasted for 18 months. It commenced on 2nd quarter of 2016 and ended in the 3rd quarter of 2017. The strong leadership and commitment of the Barangay to replicate the D2D Waste Collection System to other Puroks in the Barangays is a good sign of acceptance embracing the initiative. The noticeable impacts of the D2D in Lupang Arenda gave rise to heighten the interest of other Purok Chairmen to implement the D2D at the same time will provide livelihood opportunities to interested waste collectors. Other Purok Chairmen are personally abounding to Lupang Arenda for a learning visit of the D2D schemes and see themselves the impacts.

The D2D waste collection system is an avenue for the Committee on Environment to revisit and enhance their Barangay Solid Waste Management and Strategic Plan (BSWMSP) to ensure that D2D waste collection is a system in-placed and instrumental in maintaining the cleanliness of the community. It is the aimed of the Committee on Environment to pattern the D2D schemes and further study the possibility of replicating it to the other puroks since most Puroks Chairmen signified their interest to implement the D2D in the puroks. It was mentioned by the BENRO that most purok chairmen started coordinating the D2D waste collection system in their puroks, street sweepers and HOA officers to plan for the implementation and consider other resource such as logistics and manpower.

The Seven (7) Barangay Ambassadors were women and residents of Lupang Arenda with an average of 5 family members and no stable family income. When CRS offers the D2D initiative, more than fifteen (15) people attended the orientation. The series of trainings and actual waste segregation of the 15 participants is a way to gauge the interest and commitment on who is interested until it boiled down to seven people. They were the Livelihood Grantees or Beneficiaries.

The 7 BA availed the livelihood grants from the CRS amounting to Php20,000.00 per beneficiary after attending series of related trainings and learning exchange visits to successful D2D in other parts of Quezon City and Schools.





In 2012 during Typhoon Ondy, residents claimed that Lupang Arenda was almost 1.5 meters flood water for 3-6 months while there was no flooding in Sta. Ana Central. The recent typhoon Lannie in 2017 flooded Sta. Ana Central while Lupang Arenda wasn't flooded. Residents mentioned that because of the continuous clean-ups and proper solid waste management, waterways are not obstructed nor clogged.

At present, from the original pilot of 150 households in Zone 1, the Seven Barangay Ambassadors are maintaining 1,005 households in Zones 2-7 including establishments, 2 elementary schools and 3 Day Center.

All BAs were trained on simple financial bookkeeping and all of them do have record books. They recorded all their transaction from their waste collection to sales daily depending on their choice. The recent record provided to CRS by the BA in Lupang Arenda was, each was able accumulate a total of Php5,000-7,000.00 for the door to door collection and Php8,000-10,000.00 for the junkshops last June 2017. Their record books are a way to know how each BA can monitor their own income since, most BA's family are involved in the waste collection and junkshop activities.

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The Door to Door Waste Collection will surely be sustained since it was already institutionalized in Lupang Arenda. The D2D has an organized process and methods on how to implement it. Barangay Officials and Purok Chairmen themselves has the political will embracing it.

Availability of interested manpower to be trained as D2D Waste Collectors is a factor to achieve that once they started the work, they will continuously enjoy solid waste management activities and at the same time establishing and creating their own economic opportunities. In addition, the collaboration between D2D Waste Collectors and Junkshop nor Piggery Owners will be strengthened thru a binding partnership of agreement to support each other in terms of service. Some of the BAs have an existing binding partnership between Junkshop Owners in Lupang Arenda.

More so, the political will of the whole Barangay Development Council (BDC) in Sta. Ana, Taytay, Rizal is greatest achievement to sustain the D2D waste collection system. Without their support, this will not work. It is important that the two-traffic process involving the BDC and the BA in system is attainable and workable.

Savings for Internal Lending in Urban Communities During Emergencies

The Activities

East Bank Road, is one of the Puroks of Barangay San Andres, Cainta. Households living East Bank Road near the Pasig River are Informal Settlers. In 2012, in the aftermath of Typhoon Ondoy, East Bank Road under the jurisdiction of Barangay San Andres was under water for 2-3 months because of their exposure to flood and it is located near Pasig River. Residents claimed that 60% all residential houses near the Pasig River were flooded because waters cannot subside immediately 60% families were evacuated at the Anak Pawis Covered Court, school and nearby churches in East Bank Road. The Office of the Municipal Social Welfare conducted surveys to families evacuated at the different government and private entities in relation to their security that includes livelihood and savings. Besides, CRS also conducted random baseline survey and Profiling in the Barangay particularly in East Bank Road, Floodway and part of the questionnaire is, if the household have their savings for emergencies. Most respondents answered no savings, if ever they have, it has always been taken out due to basic needs of the family. It showed that only 1-2% of the 60% Evacuees have savings. The 58% resulted to borrowing money to Bombay with a 5/6 % interest. They borrowed money for food, medicine, education of their children and capital for an investment. Some said, they borrow money to their relatives with 5%-10% interest.

Given this disaster situation, CRS designed an affordable scheme of saving program called the Savings for Internal Lending Communities (SILC) for the poor and vulnerable households. It was programmed to run for 8-10 months; two months was designed for SILC group formation and training and rest months is designed for SILC group savings and share-out for the 1st cycle. Cycle is the number of months for savings agreed by the SILC Members. The SILC component was introduced to all the 22 barangays covered by the Project SUCCESS that includes Barangay San Andres. In Partnership with the Diocese of Antipolo, both coordinated and presented the SILC component to the Barangay Council. The Council welcomed the initiative because they too agreed that most women in East Bank Road, Floodway do not have savings, that during emergencies, households don't know where to run for assistance and it turned that the Barangay is obliged to provide their daily sustenance during their stay at the Evacuation Center or Covered Courts as temporary shelters.

CRS provided resources for the SILC component. Project SUCCESS Staff mobilized three (3) Field Agents (FA) from the East Bank Road. They were trained on community approaches, SILC principles, partnership building and how to run the SILC Program. Mentoring and shadowing nor coaching were also done by CRS to ensure that Field Agents able to capture and roll-out the SILC and importantly target women will able to internalize the concept. The FA able to roll-out the SILC Program to their target locations organizing 6 SILC groups with a 25 women as maximum number per SILC group per Field Agents in different locations in East Bank Road, Floodway using localized version of the SILC. This is to ensure that target women group will grasp and understand the concept.

The orientation of SILC group per FA is done according to the schedules set by the interested women to be formed as SILC group. After they were formed, they need to have a name of their SILC Group and choose among themselves who will compose the Management Committee of each SILC Group. A Chairperson, Treasurer who will be in-charge of the SILC Box, Money Counter and three Key Holders. CRS provided SILC Box to all organized SILC groups with paraphernalia like 3 ledger books, calculator and writing notes inside the SILC Box. It was worth noting that each SILC group formulated their own Constitution and By Laws (CBL) or policy as their document. SILC group Management Committee members undergone series of training on financial literacy, record keeping and facilitation skills. Monthly coaching and visitation to SILC Management Committee and FA were done by CRS to ensure that procedures and processes were installed and understood by the SILC Group members.

In fact, Aklan SILC Group in East Bank Road, Floodway was formed in the early mid of 3rd quarter of 2015 with 22 women members. Started their savings in the 4th quarter with approved minimum savings of Php50.00 per week per member and after two months, they can have their loans twice of their savings with an interest of 5% payable in two months. The system of borrowing loan is scheduled to all Aklan SILC members until all members availed loans, paid interest and able to return the loaned amount in due time. The Aklan SILC Group also initiated that each member will bring one item of any recyclable materials every SILC saving meeting and at the end of every month, they sell it to their D2D Waste Collectors in their area. The proceeds will be added to their savings funds and it will be divided among them along with fines and interest during their share- out. The Aklan SILC group had their share out after 8 months and it was noted that the maximum amount received by each SILC members as dividend of their savings is Php3,800. These are the penalties and proceeds from sales of recyclable materials they collected every SILC saving meetings. The share-out of the Aklan SILC group happened in May 2016 and it was a good plan because they have something to spend for the enrolment of their children in June of 2016. At present, the Aklan SILC group is now at their 3rd cycle and will be having their share-out this December 2017. Their 4th cycle will start on January 2018.

CRS conducts regular monitoring during their SILC savings meeting to ensure that inquiries or concerns on SILC related will be addressed. Committee Chair on Livelihoods and Training of the Barangay is also part of the monitoring of the other SILC Groups formed in San Andres, Cainta.



• The Process •

Good thing in SILC component is, this is being managed and decided by the members of the SILC Group. Planning, decision- making, policies formulation and other SILC Group activities were decided by the SILC group. Skills on decision-making, record keeping and networking are being practiced. They were also the ones coordinating with the Barangay other livelihood opportunities and trainings for their SILC groups. In fact, most SILC group members in San Andres were provided with trainings on food processing and market Strategies under the office of the Vice Mayor and Municipal Agricultural Office. This training was in coordinated by the Punong Barangay.


The SILC Program was designed for the informal settlers and poor families living in vulnerable locations affected by frequent flooding and other forms of disasters. It was designed for women members in the community because it's a norm and practice of Filipino families that women are the purse keepers. Women aging from 18 and above could become a SILC member with capacity to save depending on the amount agreed by all SILC members, willing to attend the savings meeting and abide the CBL formulate by the group members.

In addition, there were invitations to some Field Agents to organize the TODA in the area composed of men. The Vendors Association is also interested to be organized.

Plans and decisions were in the context and situation in the community at the first place. The practices and experiences shared by different walks of life in the community served as the bases in arriving plans and decisions in relation to savings programs. There were some existing savings and loan programs by some private individuals and institutions in the community and accordingly, some borrowers are hard-up in paying back the principal amount and the interest because of the high interest rate to the extent that borrowers are doing pawnshops some of their appliances to have money to pay the interest. There were also some borrowers that after borrowing, don't show up, run away and don't mind of paying back. All these issues were shared and discussed by the Aklan SILC group. It is a very learning to all them that they are careful in inviting members to join them and they ensured that they know each other in one street. They do their own background inquiry to one another.

In relation to this reality in the community, Aklan SILC Group Committee Management and members ensured that their members will not experience the same as other women experienced. They ensured that if one SILC member will do loan, it will be used to the purpose specified in her Letter of Intent to Loan.

The process approved by Aklan SILC group when one SILC member will apply for loan is that, during their SILC Saving meeting, they will inform the Committee Members that have will loan stating the amount and the purpose. The next SILC Saving meeting, then she can get her loan, sign the ledger book that she received her loan and to be paid on the stated period. Loan releases is scheduled according to priorities.



Project SUCCESS in San Andres has ended in the 3rd quarter of 2016. However, CRS still do coaching and monitoring Field Agents and SILC Groups to know and learn from their experiences, their learning and difficulties and how they can improve if they intend to organize and mobilize more SILC Groups in their community. CRS continue to coordinate with the Barangay, private sectors and other NGOs or religious sectors and explore opportunities for the SILC group members.

Apart from being member of the Aklan SILC Group, they are also part of D2D Waste Collection. They involved themselves in monthly IEC and monthly clean-ups in their streets organized by the Committee on Solid Waste Management and Committee on BDRRM. They were the ones leading the mobilization in coordination with their Purok Chairman and HOA Officers and Barangay. This is to ensure that their waterways are free of clogs that water can easily draws down to the Pasig river. This is also to prevent mosquitoes to live in stagnant in waters in the canals.

During the 2nd cycle share-out, most Aklan SILC group members revealed that they did not experienced joining saving group or any membership and haven't tried to speak during meetings and trainings. They haven't tried to speak in front of other people. According to them, they are wives, they are at their homes, cooking, cleaning, sending children to their schools as their daily routine. As they continually involved themselves in SILC Saving meetings, they were taught to speak in front of their co-members since the SILC meeting is not purely saving business but it is also an avenue for sharing family concerns and at the same, an avenue to all of them to establish camaraderie thru teambuilding.

It is worth noting that Aklan SILC Members established their own savings for emergency purposes. They learned and knew to identify and prioritize basic needs from food, education and other miscellaneous expenditures for the family. Some SILC member have established their budget priority list.

In one account, after their 2 cycles, one Aklan SILC member divulged that when they occupied the small house they are renting, there is no room. They only hanged curtain in a corner for their daughters. The earnings of her husband being a construction worker is limited for their food and rentals while she works as laundry helper to neighbors who needs her service. To earn, when she had her 1st loan, she used it as capital in selling street foods every afternoon. She said that selling street foods is a big help because her family helped her prepare and sell especially when no classes and if her husband do not have work. Her 2nd loan, she made sure that is enough to buy plywood so that her sons and daughter will have a separate and privacy room. They were also able to construct their own latrine unlike the past years that they shared latrine and bathroom with their good neighborhood.

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“Savings for Internal Lending in Urban Communities” has a linked to disaster risk reduction (DRR). Some natural and human-induced disasters may happen anytime when least expected. It is the best thing for a family or households to establish their saving schemes for any emergencies, that when it is needed, there something to bring out. The SILC Scheme hope to be helped to families living in areas with high exposures to vulnerability the education and essence of “savings”.

CRS considered the SILC component of the Project SUCCES as sustainable saving scheme in the sense that most SILC groups formed in 2015 had reached their 3rd cycle this December 2017. The sustainability of the SILC component was measured thru some indicators and parameters that;

1st, it is a sustaining saving scheme because all members realized the importance of savings for emergency purposes,

2nd, the SILC program is tailored-fit to the need of the community situation where activities, decision-making are planning participatory and empowering.

3rd, there is the involvement of the Barangay in the process and monitoring,

4th, SILC principles are based on norms, practices and experiences of SILC women group that served as learning process,

5th, is the practice of trust building to one another (no buildings blocks) that SILC members will all go forwards in the spirit of honesty, SILC principle and membership,

6th, CRS trained the Field Agents (FA) upgraded into a Private Service Providers (PSP) to ensure that SILC Groups formed will continue to function and caters to the needs of interested people who wanted to be organized group embracing the SILC principles. At present, the three Field Agents were now trained as PSPs and were recognized by the Barangay Development Council (BDC) of San Andres as a People's Organization. All PSP in Angono, Cainta and Taytay (ACT) were organized as PSP ACT Rizal to ensure that services will still be provided to the SILC groups formed in three municipalities and 7th, CRS completed the 1st phase in the community but it doesn't mean that the technical assistance of CRS is terminated. The partnership of CRS with the Diocese of Antipolo is a strength to multiply since the religious sector partnership is everywhere in the locality. Religious workers continue to assist in the monitoring of the SILC group alongside with the Committee on Livelihood and Training of the Barangay.

CBDM journey of Barangays San Ildefonso and Dilaguidi in Aurora

The Activities

Barangay San Ildefonso and Barangay Dilaguidi are communities facing the Pacific Ocean. Hazards affecting these communities are typhoons, storm surges, tsunamis and development aggression such as eco-tourism and mining in the mountainous areas.

There is low awareness on the possible impact on the communities of development projects such as eco- tourism and mining. Because of the lack of awareness and skills to prepare for impending hazards, the communities were given orientations and trainings. In Brgy. San Ildefonso, Alay Bayan-Luson, Inc. (ABI) conducted Barangay Community-Based Disaster Management (CBDM) Training, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Training, Forest Management, Sustainable Agriculture Training, and Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) Training. ABI also gave away Eco Bags containing flashlights, rain boots, life vests, transistor radios, survival ropes, umbrellas, and medical kits. The community also conducted Tree Planting.

Except for the Tree Planting, the same activities were also conducted in Brgy. Dilaguidi.

These activities were funded by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH), a humanitarian organization from Germany.

Other stakeholders of the project were women, indigenous peoples, fisherfolks, farmers and the elderly. They became members of the Disaster Preparedness Organizations (DPO) formed during the project.

The project started in 2008 and lasted for three years.

The Process

In San Ildefonso: When there were impending hazards, the DPO members gave out early warnings to the whole community and gathered data—determining the extent of the damage—after hazards struck. They were also active volunteers in the distribution of relief goods and other aid from NGOs, GOs, church people and other individuals.

The DPO members also spread what they learned from the trainings and their activities to other community members especially to those living in the remote parts of the barangay.

One of their good practices was putting up and managing a rice store (bigasang barangay) with the starting capital coming from goods from food for work they received. Benefits they gained through community efforts led them to take higher initiative in helping others in need, and also in engaging in activities beneficial to the whole community.

In times when ABI couldn't extend support, the DPOs reach out and coordinate with the LGUs for the assistance their communities needed.

Because of the positive impact of the project, the BLGU and LGU recognized the existence of the DPOs and became supportive of their activities. As their counterpart, they shouldered the training venues and accommodations of the trainers and project staff.

The BLGU at LGU also stood by the DPO and community in their fight against the project Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport (APECO) because they understood the negative impact it would have on the lives and livelihood of the locals.

All project activities were coordinated with the Provincial Government, the Municipal Government and Barangay Officials through courtesy calls made by ABI staff. In each of these visits, ABI explained the project's objectives and importance and the organization's program for the community people.

The primary beneficiaries of this project were the most vulnerable sectors. They were prioritized in trainings because they need capacity-building the most, especially in disaster preparedness. Leaders and members of DPOs came from these sectors. Participants of activities were mostly composed of women. With the men usually away for work to provide for their families, women took on the responsibilities for the project. Recognizing their capacities and contribution to the communities, the indigenous peoples also participated in the activities and became members of DPOs.

The only adjustments the project staff had to make during project implementation were the scheduling and rescheduling of activities whenever there were weather disturbances.

The Impact

Even long after the project folded up, the DPOs continue to conduct community meetings, give early warnings and gather data whenever there are calamities. The DPOs continue to coordinate with the BLGU and ABI.

Generation of resources was done based on the need of the organization (solicitation and contribution of members). Since 2011 when the project was finished up to the present, consultations are done continuously especially when they are confronted with issues concerning livelihood and safety.

The capacity of the people to lead, to coordinate with various agencies, to share their knowledge and skills specially their time and dedication to perform their tasks for the organization and the whole community greatly increased.

They became more firm/resolute and ready to face hazards especially issues that concern their security and livelihood.

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Organizing is still the best way to ensure that a project succeeds and continues. Treating community people as partners rather than as beneficiaries and involving them in all phases of the project implementation—from planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation—give them ownership of the project and the dedication to sustain all components even after the project has ended.



Child-Centered CBDRM

The Activities

CDRC, through partnership with UNICEF Philippines, is currently implementing the Phase 2 of the project: “Disaster Risk Reduction: A Child-Centered Approach” in two communities in Mapanas, Northern Samar.

The Phase 1 of the project, which started March 2014, and ended March 2016, provided key opportunities for children and youth’s meaningful participation in DRR. Community-based organizations were also mobilized, specifically Disaster Preparedness Teams/Committees who led DRR activities and complemented existing local government structures such as the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee. The local government units were also able to develop child-centered and risk informed DRRM and development plans and local policies.

The activities during Phase 1 included the following:

1. Child-Centered DRR trainings for the community, local government officials, teachers, children, and youth
2. Training of Trainers for Teachers
3. Community Risk Assessments
4. School Risk Assessments
5. Participatory 3D Mapping
6. Setting-up Early Warning Systems
7. Community Risk Reduction Activities such as Bamboo propagation and planting, and backyard gardening
8. Community Awareness Campaigns such as art workshops, and youth camp
9. Child-Centered DRRM Planning
10. Community and School Drills
11. Basic First Aid Training
12. Formation of Youth Groups and Disaster Preparedness Committees
13. Skills trainings for Youth Groups and Disaster Preparedness Committees
14. Lobbying for child friendly policies

The project is currently on its second phase, which started October 2016, and will run until October 2018.

Phase 2 aims to develop a holistic and multi-sector approach to disaster risk reduction that will involve the integration of health, nutrition, child protection and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in the development of community and municipal prevention, response and preparedness initiatives to prepare for and respond to disasters.

The following are the priority activities for Phase 2:

1. Continuing Training of Trainers for the teachers
2. Mobilization of children and youth in developing and implementing their own DRR/CCA plans
3. Integration of youth and children's action plans on DRR/CCA in their municipal or barangay's DRR/CCA plans
4. Formal inclusion and participation of children and youth in the barangay and municipal DRRM council or committees
5. Policy advocacy trainings for children and youth
6. Sectoral trainings for barangay and municipal leaders on:
 - a. Education in Emergencies
 - b. Health and Nutrition in Emergencies
 - c. WASH in Emergencies
 - d. Child Protection in Emergencies
7. Development and implementation of preparedness plans for each of the five sectors
8. Integration of sector response and preparedness plans in the barangay and municipal DRRM and development plans.
9. Identification and implementation of community-identified small-scale recovery and mitigation activities
10. Update of the P3D Maps
11. Assistance in the development of proposals for CCA projects

• The Process •

This project has proven that engaging community members, especially youth and children, is essential to the success of any CBDRM project.

They became community champions of DRR as a result of their engagement, and has been instrumental in pushing for child-friendly DRRM plans and policies at the barangay and municipal levels.

The children and youth have led the planning and implementation of in-school and community-based DRRM activities such as risk assessments, evacuation drills, and setting-up of early warning systems.

Their participation in formal DRRM mechanisms in schools and communities have also increased. Youth representatives have been invited to participate in the CLUP workshop that used to be exclusive to LGU officials. As a result, their opinions, ideas and concerns were heard and incorporated in the planning process.

At the start of the project, the CBDRM activities were largely initiated and coordinated by CDRC. But because of the trainings and capacity building activities implemented, the Disaster Preparedness Committees and the children and youth organizations that were organized have now .



The project was specifically designed to include the children and the youth in the entire CBDRM process. They were the primary focus of the whole project. From the trainings, planning and community actions, they were very much involved. Aside from the youth and children, the community people were also targeted, and not just the LGU officials.

Yes, adjustments were made based on the conditions and particularities of the area. For example, additional trainings were included as a result of community feedback and assessments. Skills that they deem necessary such as basic first aid, were added to complement the other CBDRM trainings.

The community people were also seeking for assistance to their livelihood after experiencing strong successive typhoons within the project timeframe. Support for community-identified small-scale recovery and mitigation activities were also added for Phase 2 even if this was not within the original project design.

The Impact

The project is still ongoing. But the sustainability mechanism has been set-up from the start: the community and youth/children organizations. The continuity of the project will be ensured through these organizations. They have been trained, and their capacities increased because of this project. They are now active in CBDRM activities, and are engaging with the LGUs.

In addition, to ensure that all these CBDRM efforts are sustained, CC-DRR is being integrated into Health, Nutrition, WASH, Child Protection services and Education sector work. Aside from the community-based organizations (Disaster Preparedness Teams/Committees) formed during Phase 1, other key community stakeholders such as Day Care Workers, barangay health workers, barangay nutrition scholars, barangay councils for the protection of children, WASH committee, etc. are being trained in CC-DRR. Phase 2 is aimed at building the capacity of these community stakeholders to develop into their own work integrated child-centered approach to DRR.

The most significant change observed was in the leadership of the children and youth in the community and school. They realized they are not just mere bystanders, on the contrary, they are part of their community's strengths and capacities. They are now conducting activities that addresses issues concerning them. Moreover, they now help their Brgy. Officials in activities especially those concerning their own sector. In schools, the organized children were the ones who help facilitate the simulation drill, giving orientation to their fellow students.

At the barangay level, the leaders could not see the significance of having a DRR plan/ contingency plan. Traditionally they just get a template from the municipality or DILG in order to access the budget. However, because of the series of orientations, consultation meetings, workshops and trainings, they realized the importance of having a hazard-specific plan that addresses their needs and states all the roles and responsibilities of BDRRMC and other community stakeholders. They also realized the importance of the participation of children, youth and community members. They now let the representatives of the youth organizations and DPCs to join the BDRMMC meeting.

At the municipal level, the LGU is now one of the staunch advocates of CBDRM and CC-DRR. They wanted to implement this project in the other barangays not covered by CDRC.

... other

A Disaster Preparedness Committee/Team (DPC/DPT) was set up in all of the pilot areas. In all of these DPCs/DPTs, most of the members are women and mothers. Women in the community help a lot when it comes to the CBDRM program. They joined almost all the activities and there were some which they themselves initiated. According to one of the training participants, "Before, we used to just stay at home taking care of our children, but now we are getting trained to make our community safe."

Ate Rosalie of Barangay Arellano, a day care worker and an active DPC member in the barangay, *"Even if CDRC leave us, what they taught and instilled in us will not be lost at all. There are reading materials that we can review if there is anything we forgot. Unlike other organizations, who only choose a few participants to attend, CDRC gives all Purok a chance to send representatives in trainings and activities."*



Improving Aid and Service Delivery in the Philippines Through Participatory DRR

The Activities

NASSA/Caritas Philippines is the humanitarian, development and advocacy arm of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. Likewise, it is a member of Caritas Internationalis, the worldwide confederation of Catholic charities based at the Vatican.

In 2013, the national Caritas implemented the biggest-funded, most comprehensive and far-reaching humanitarian response in the history of the Catholic Church. The total response amounted to over 1.8 billion pesos, benefiting more than 1.2 million Filipinos in 166 communities, 51 municipalities, 9 provinces, and 4 regions.

It is from this experience that we were able to build up the expertise on Community-Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR). From the very beginning of the response – assessment, program development, intervention design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and sustainability mechanism discussions – the communities have been present, engaged and were taking the lead in decision-making. It was during the Haiyan response that we were able to prove that comprehensive assessment is possible even at the height of a disaster.

But we do not want to settle with doing assessments and program development at the time when stress levels are high and the communities needed food and shelter, than enumerating their needs, vulnerabilities, risks, hazards and capacities.

Thus, after Typhoon Haima (Lawin) in 2016, with funding from UKAid through the CDAC (Communicating with Disaster Affected Communities) Network and World Vision, NASSA/Caritas Philippines implemented a eight-month project aimed at capitalizing on communities' preparedness to link improvement of humanitarian response to more sustainable development programs. The project: "Strengthening Community Engagement in Northern Luzon in the Philippines" was implemented in 10 Basic Ecclesial Communities (BECs) in 4 municipalities and 2 cities in the province of Isabela from January to August 2017. It was under the Disaster and Emergencies Preparedness Programme (DEPP).

In a province so used to receiving DRR management and preparedness awards, it was unfortunate to note that such do not really reflect on-ground situations as what happened in Haima.

As such, the project was designed to enhance community resilience by institutionalizing the following:

1. Creation and training of Community Disaster Task Groups (information and communication, early warning systems and protocols, emergency relief and rescue, and community volunteers)
2. Institutionalization of Community-managed Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (CMEAL) Teams
3. Conduct, validation, sharing and updating of Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment (PDRA) and pre-crisis mapping (aid preferences) results

As an over-arching framework, CMDRR was introduced to the communities through the community organizing approach and principles. And since NASSA/Caritas Philippines is a Catholic organization, values formation was utmost in the process. This strategy proved not only to ensure attendance and participation during community meetings and gatherings, but more importantly, concretized trust-building and community empowerment efforts.

Over-all, the project was able to:

1. 100% achieve the original targets of the project
2. Strengthen the organizational structure and capacities of the Diocesan Social Action Center (DSAC) of Ilagan
3. Opened better opportunities of collaboration, partnership and coordination between the communities, the government and the church, which is something new in the province
4. Regularize the presence of the church in the communities which improved relationship with other faith-based organizations
5. Allowed the communities to dialogue and enter into agreements with their local government leaders (barangays and municipalities/cities), to ultimately claim what is rightfully theirs – better, timely and quality delivery of aid and services.

• The Process •

From the very beginning, the communities were made to understand that the process will and shall always start from them – so it was important to note that all initiatives were to emanate from the right-holders – the communities themselves. During inceptions and orientations both at the diocesan and community levels, they were made to realize that the project will never succeed if they will not first act on their responsibility – to capacitate themselves to be able to claim what is rightfully theirs.

Thus, during organizing activities (values formation, *kumustahan*, bible sharing (Catholic and other sects), communities were able to highlight first their dreams and hope for the future. Meaning, they were involved in the project not because they were promised of better economic conditions. They involved in the project voluntarily recognizing that the project is like no other they have experienced.

Meaning, whatever changes the communities deem necessary to achieve their targets, they decide how to proceed better. This is the role of the CMEAL teams. Not only that they need to monitor the progress of the project, they also need to ensure that everything is in consideration of the general welfare of the communities. During one of the community drills, the leaders decided that it would be best, despite best effort to coordinate the activity with the barangay officials, to let the BLGU take the lead. Expectedly, the drill was a flop, which was made worse because of some misinterpretations that the event was only for Catholics. During evaluation, one of the women leaders, who call herself an uneducated housewife – stood in front of the barangay assembly and addressed the barangay officials saying “We elected you to represent our best interests. Because of your inaction, we failed in our first community emergency drill. Whoever said when typhoons come, it will only fall on Catholics? We all fell victim when Haima came. Do we want another blow before we do our job?”

During their group meeting, she was still shaking unable to believe what she just did. Needless to say, the second community drill was a huge success!

In the activities conducted in the barangays, the community leaders trained in the task groups became the mobilizers, the lead actors complementing the efforts of the barangays and the LGUs. They have become the public officials’ main confidante.

In the eight months that they have been in constant communication with the barangays and the LGUs, they were able to fully comply with the requirements of the project:

1. 10 PDRA maps and pre-crisis mapping results
2. 10 contingency plans now in the process of adoption by the barangays and the municipal/city LGUs
3. 211 trained task groups members
4. 55 CMEAL team members
5. 1,181 trained community members

As their roles in the barangays mature, so as their way of thinking. In one of the sessions with the DSAC, they started talking about sustainability.

The Impact

NASSA/Caritas Philippines, since Haiyan has been a staunch advocate of ensuring that short term humanitarian responses are linked and integrated in long-term development programs.

The DEPP project as mentioned earlier was only implemented for eight months focusing mainly on capacity building and institutional strengthening. How can this link happen?

One of the flagships of NASSA/Caritas Philippines is the self-help group (SHeG) approach to savings mobilization, and a strategy to community organizing. After the rigid trainings and sessions on emergency preparedness and response, and on disaster information collection and management, the communities decided that they now are ready for the next stage of community development.

In one of their sessions, they developed what they called the Community Sustainability Plan. Since August, as they start with weekly savings, they also have started sessions on SHeG where they discussed the following:

1. Savings policy
2. Possible livelihood activities
3. Financial literacy
4. Community building
5. Government recognition and accreditation

From having no savings at all in the past, and from having no stable source of income, the project was able to form at least 15 SHeGs, 4 already registered with the Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE), with more than 100,000 pesos savings on-hand.

As one of the community leaders have stated: “Previously, I only thought that when there is a typhoon, I must only stay at home making sure that my children are safe. During the trainings, we were taught that we can contribute to our barangay’s emergency preparedness. That it is both our responsibility and right to provide assistance. When we were doing the PDRA map, it was only then that I realized I was able to share so much in the process. I realized that I do not need to be a barangay official to help. Even a lowly citizen like me can serve!”

One of the parish priests likewise mentioned that “This is how we improve the dignity of the poor. We do not just give them fish. We teach them how to fish.” NASSA/Caritas Philippines’ recent public statement was urging the government to do away with dole-outs. Instead, all duty-bearers must strive to provide the communities with the opportunity to enhance their innate capacities, and to focus on providing long-term solutions to prevailing problems.

According to an LGU official in Isabela, “the project was able to mobilize the communities to do their own mapping, to develop their own contingency plans, to decide and plan for their future. The government, our government was not able, or will never be able to mobilize this in such a short period of time. Thus we are here to fully support the communities. We will replicate their project in all the barangays in our municipality.”

At present, at least 3 LGUs are now replicating the project, providing full operational and funding assistance, including further training and capacity building for the community leaders. The Community Disaster Task Groups were also adopted as part of the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (BDRRMC), while the trained leaders now constitute the LGU trainers on DRR. They now will also be permanent representatives of the local DRRMCs.

Infrastructure development is also happening in several barangays. Multi-purpose halls that will serve as evacuation centers, training areas and meeting venues are now being constructed, while memorandum of agreements are under way to formalize LGU-community partnerships.

Though the project was short-term, how the elements of humanitarian response and development programming were integrated was essential in providing workable opportunities to enable communities to sustain its capacities and resources, thru:

- a. Contextualized capacity building activities
- b. Over-arching CMDRR, community organizing and formation
- c. Provision of enabling environment for communities to network, link and work directly with other stakeholders especially the government

However, it is also imperative to ensure that partner implementers, especially in this case, the social action center, were provided with enough institutional capacity building, if not have undergone appropriate organizational assessment, before being asked to co-implement a project, to warrant more effective and efficient project implementation.

As per the project implementation itself, it is recommended that in the future, inception workshops to be conducted to present over-all project expectations, template, forms, timetables and accountabilities are presented, understood and appreciated by everyone involved in the implementation.

The success of DEPP in Isabela was in full because of the engagement, commitment and hard work of the community leaders and volunteers. As they have repeatedly asserted, they all have started with zero knowledge, understanding and appreciation of what it is to be disaster-ready, of the significance of working together for a shared purpose, of needing other people and groups to advance their skills, and of just having a sense of community where everyone is a vital contributor to its development and sustainability.

Most significantly, the project provided the communities a sense of empowerment, a reason to hope for a better future, and the motivation to claim what is rightfully theirs – basic social services, proper use of government funds, engagement and participation in government actions, especially during legislation and in government bodies, etc.

In a way, the project paved for a better order of things in the communities, opened more opportunities never before presented, and ensured a more collaborative working atmosphere between the communities, the government, other stakeholders, and the church, which has been a very enlightening and refreshing experience to everyone involved in the implementation.



The Experience of a Community Disaster Preparedness Organization

The Activities

CDRC implemented the project: “Enhancing Capacities in Disaster Risk Reduction Management for More Resilient Peoples and Communities in 11 Regions in the Philippines” from February 2016 to July 2017. Direct beneficiaries are 1,365 people, coming from 39 communities in 11 regions, and in partnership with 12 Regional Centers of the Citizens’ Disaster Response Center (CDRN). This was funded by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (Germany).

One of the project communities with a good practice within this project is Alibangsay in Bagulin, La Union. The project was implemented by CDRC in this barangay through Alay Bayan-Luson, Inc. (ABI), the Regional Center of CDRC/CDRN in this area. The community became a recipient of several Community-Based Disaster Management (CBDM) trainings and capacity building activities.

These activities resulted to the setting-up of the Alibangsay Disaster Preparedness Organization, “Am-In Tako Man Es-Esa”. In Kankanaey dialect, it means “All of Us United.”

Cooperation has now been established between the DPO and barangay officials on how to improve conditions in the community. This was achieved because the right persons are leading the DPO, who now feel more **confident to explain their goals to the authorities**.

“In the beginning I had difficulty talking to barangay officials and other organizations but now I can talk to them to ask for assistance. I have been able to apply the things we learned from our meetings to my role in leading the organization [DPO]. I am confident that we will share to others what we have achieved, and continue the unity created by this project, to bring us together with a common goal.” – Nestor Cabading, DPO Chairperson

The Process

DPO Alibangsay was formed by calling an assembly of the community to elect the members. The DPO has 64 members, 8 of which are men and 56 are women with ages from 17 to 64. The DPO have regular meetings every 3rd week of the month and is officially registered with the Barangay Local Government Unit (BLGU) and is formed of five committees. **Health** with 13 members involved in producing herbal medicines and health skills development, including monitoring peoples’ blood pressure. **Education** has 8 members conduct repeat training (‘reecho’) of the basic health skills to other community members. **Emergency Response & Rescue** has 9 members trained on first aid and response who are responsible for the community early warning system. **Advocacy & Networking** has 8 members and coordinate with officials about the DPO’s concerns. **Human Rights Committee** has 10 members and currently deal with conflict resolution within the community but it is planned for them to also receive training on their rights as farmers.

ORGANIZATION:
Citizens’ Disaster Response Center

LOCATION:
Brgy. Alibangsay,
Bagulin, La Union

TYPE OF COMMUNITY:
Rural

HAZARD:
Typhoon

The DPO spent 2 days developing a large **multi-layered resource, hazards, and evacuation routes map**, using transparent plastic sheets, which is kept at the barangay hall. The areas exposed to typhoons, landslides, and droughts were presented. Evacuation routes to their evacuation centers have been developed for each sitio, and for the worst-case larger scale scenario evacuation. Communities considered to be more vulnerable, due to their non-participation in evacuation drills, have also been highlighted on the map. The **DPO's Counter Disaster Plan & DRR Action Plans** is documented on sheets of manila paper and includes a set of objectives and actions for each of the DPO committees. The DPO has conducted community drills in several sitio within the barangay using their megaphone early warning system, in which those unable to walk needed to be supported to evacuate and households are required to bring with them the items they would need for their 'go bags'.

DPO Alibangsay health committee have developed an **action plan** to guide their activities which includes basic health skills training, production of herbal medicines, and the planting of trees (Liw, Alumi, and Santol) to improve the watershed area and protect water sources. The DPO organized the participants and ABI delivered the basic health skills training, which included details on the health situation in the Philippines regarding the lack of health facilities, services, Basic Health Workers and medicines. This **raised the awareness of the community** and encourage them to become involved in the production of herbal medicines. Training topics also included hygiene and waste disposal. The DPO was provided with a medical kit including basic first aid items and a blood pressure monitor. Members of the health committee were assigned the task of gather the herbs needed and training sessions were run on how to 'cook' the herbs. In the last session 40 bottles of medicine of herbal medicines were produced including 3 different types: Lagundi syrup (made from the leaves of a white flowering tree); Acapulco ointment for skin disease; and BLS rub liniment made from Bawang (Garlic), Luya (Ginger), and Sili (Chili), which is used for arthritis and other forms of joint pain.

The population in the project area are Kankanaey indigenous peoples mostly speaking only the Ilocano dialect. They were a large part of the project, although the staff faced challenges in communication.

Yes, the trainings were adjusted according to the needs of the community. For Alibangsay, health trainings were prominent because this was the identified need of the community.

• The Impact •

The main reasons for our success are from **conducting the risk assessment and our coordination with the LGU and NGOs** which helped in implementing our plans.

Unity can be achieved during the process of conducting the community drill. We need unity to be able to achieve the DPO's goals. We also need to have **more patience** in conducting our activities. We also need to remember to take care of our equipment.

We learnt that there are many herbal plants within the community, we just need to learn how to utilize them.

The Municipal LGU also noted ABI's Coordinator's **good practice of coordinating** both with the Mayor and making a follow up with the different responsible officers.

In the longer term the community are **expecting that their soft brooms (local product) will provide better and better income**. Water supply is also expected to be improved through the watershed tree planting activities.

The **Municipal LGU have recognized the value of the DPOs** and proposed that they register at their level to overcome gaps at the barangay officials' level. This way regular face to face meetings can be held with the DPOs to learn from their experiences and to arrange support with refresher training and further planning.

CDRC and ABI's approach to achieve DPO sustainability and community resilience would be to continue mentoring and training and to provide advanced leadership, speaker, and training of trainers as the DPO continues to advance. A day care center is needed to enable mothers to conduct their livelihoods activities. Community's livelihood resilience needs to be strengthened with micro-financing and standby loan funds in remote areas to enable recovery of affected livelihoods. Training and inputs are needed to advance garden and farming irrigation systems. The soft brooms campaign needs to be expanded to make this a larger campaign to overcome the middle-man hold on prices.

The **Municipal LGU recommendations** include a request for feedback from ABI to identify what has been lacking and what support they can provide. The municipality have plans to invite the Red Cross to deliver training and if the DPO provide details of their members they can also be invited to participate. The municipality also want **local people to have the skills of the ABI trainers**, and to support **other communities to engage with CBDM and increase the number of DPOs**.

In terms of **stakeholder engagement** there have been times when there was a lack of unity among DPO members, it has been hard to invite new people to meetings and to convince people to become DPO members because this takes a lot of patience. There is still a challenge in inviting people to attend DPO activities which take place in the evening, because when meetings finished late it is difficult to get home as it can take up to 2 hours walking in the dark as there is no transport.

"Normally the Municipal LGU is training the Barangay Officials so that they re-echo this [training] to communities but there are few concrete outputs from implementing in this way. The DPC approach has a much bigger direct impact at community level." – Olivia Mae De Guzman, Department of Interior & Local Government

The **members allocated tasks** for the herbal medicines among themselves including who should bring the different equipment and materials needed. Ingredients including sugar and oil needed to be bought which they were able to do by contributing 10 pesos each, they also contributed 10 pesos each to buy snacks for the training. Some brought the



firewood, others brought the cooking pots and spoons. The health committee members have now learned how to make a syrup and ointment for minor ailments and are able to treat coughs, and fever, and muscular pains. They have not yet conducted another session of herbal medicine production but are planning to do this. They have also started to **promote good practices** on the use of these herbal medicines among their relatives and neighbors. One challenge faced by members of the health committee was that they needed to spend money for their own lunch during the training, which wasn't easy, but this did not matter because the training was so important for them because these activities are now making **people feel more secure**.

Knowledge has been developed on how to use the blood pressure monitor. There are lots of cases of hypertension, especially when people are working on hot conditions in the fields. Now when people have a problem the health committee members can monitor their blood pressure to decide if they need to be taken to hospital, which was difficult to decide before because it is so far and difficult to reach. The health committee say that they have a record book with blood pressure records of around 200 people. The main challenge faced with this activity is that they only have one medical kit. The kit has to be passed around the 10 sitios which also causes a problem for ABI in terms of difficulties in having the kit available for scheduling training as the communities are so dispersed and it can be logistical difficulties getting the kit back.

Our new knowledge helped in **improving our livelihoods** by protecting tiger grass for soft broom production. We now have new **knowledge on the importance of trees** in relation to our drought problems. There are however still difficulties in finding seedlings to plant and difficulties in monitoring the growth of trees.

For the DPO progress in **planning and preparedness** includes everyone in the DPO knowing what responsibilities each other have during an emergency. We have also **generated funds** that have been used to buy a blackboard and materials for making the community hazard map. The wider community now understand the meaning of the megaphone warning level signals, including the older women in the community who were scared by it in the beginning.

"This is an eye opener for us because we thought we could not gather together the people to organize a drill and other activities but now they see people's enthusiasm. I realized that these communities really will help each other and respond to emergencies." – Olivia Mae De Guzman, Department of Interior & Local Government.

During Typhoon Lawin in June 2017, the DPO Alibangsay **provided early warning** of Typhoon Lawin **to even the remote areas** of their community, mobilized for road clearing efforts. They conducted the **Damage Needs, & Capacities Assessment (DNCA)** for the first time. They were also able to screen **potential beneficiaries** to select those to receive food parcels and conducted **conflict resolution** for this process. DPO members submitted details on the affected households to ABI and the MDRRMC, and the DSWD.

"The community were well prepared and the relief was efficient." – Alibangsay Barangay Official

"We are just ordinary members of our community but because we have done these things, we feel proud of ourselves that we can serve despite being poor." – Nestor Cabading, Chairman, DPO Alibangsay

... other

Testimonies from the beneficiaries:

*Before when someone cut themselves we traditionally chewed guava leaves and put this onto small cuts, or for more serious injuries we cut our own shirt and wrap the wound. One woman in the community recently cut her fingers when harvesting tiger grass to make brooms. **Applying the knowledge and skills they had gained in basic health skills** training and the equipment from the provided medical kit, members were able to properly clean and bandaged her fingers. One woman who has a misalignment in her spine is now using a liniment they learnt to make at night time when it is cold, it takes about 3 hours to start working and relieves her pain.*

“Learning how to make herbal medicine was very helpful to treat flu. I used it when my son Dexter got sick. He kept being admitted to hospital because he had a chest and throat problem we thought was because he was chewing beetle nut. We needed to keep taking him to the hospital but didn't have the money for the treatment, so instead we gave him the Lagundi syrup herbal medicine we made.” – Rowena Cabading, Advocacy & Networking Committee member

“I had been sick for one year and my chest was always hurting. After taking the herbal medicine (Lagundi syrup) I coughed up sticky phlegm which was thick and yellow green and smelt bad. Immediately after I felt relieved and haven't had the problem again since then.” – Rowena's 15 year old son, Dexter

“Even though I'm not originally from here, I was able to meet the members of my husband's community. I learned what to do during disasters, how to make and sell brooms, and to make herbal medicine. It was difficult because we walk long distances without light, but even so I am happy because I now know what to do when my children get sick.” – Tricia Portes, HR Committee Head

Strengthening Inclusion in Community Based Disaster Risk Management

The Activities

The ICBDRRM program implemented by Malteser International and partners with funds from the German Foreign Office, has a regional focus on Northern Samar in Region 8 of the Philippine. The project has a duration of 25 months and started in October 2016. Samar is one of the poorest provinces of the Philippines with strong service delivery gaps and a population facing high exposure to the natural hazards coming from the Pacific Ocean, livelihood constraints and severe shortfalls in water, sanitation and hygiene.

After implementing a shelter project in response to the vast destruction of Typhoon Nona, Malteser International, the Diocese of Catarman and the Order of Malta Philippines identified further needs to strengthen community and household resilience through inclusive disaster risk reduction strategies.

Harmonization of information and skill sets was analysed crucial for the region. The national acknowledged 'Lahat Handa' manual was the appropriate tool which, after strong review and enhancement of WASH, was applied in a ToT approach. With support from CDP, the manual was trained and with the trainers a roll out into all 13 coastal Barangays was conducted. Inclusion was not only a subject within the ToT but one for which general orientation was needed. Barangays, although obliged, did not have disability and vulnerability disaggregated data which in turn had to be facilitated.

The inclusive VCA/CRA resulted in evacuation planning, hazard mapping and other tools which in turn allowed the Barangays to enter community DRR planning processes. As anticipated many of the existing WASH deficits were prioritized as measures to develop higher resilience at household and community level. The program will cater to implement the highest priority plans in shared responsibility of the community. For the future the Barangay will hopefully review the internal revenue allotment (IRA) and have improved their planning skills for stronger outside funding for community plans.

The integration of schools into the program as well as the churches and parishes allow to review the evacuation capacities of communities holistically. Again, WASH services provision at this institutional level were identified priorities which the program will address through intense intervention on evacuation centre management and hygiene promotion sessions attached to the global hand wash and – toilet day.

In partnership with the University of the Eastern Philippines, public awareness instruments shall be reviewed and enhanced. Schools, for example will be involved in public messaging, IEC materials will be professionally reviewed by university students studying communication and a best practice documentary will be prepared to facilitate the work of all involved partners.

The strong involvement of the Social Action Centre of the Diocese and the integration of volunteers into the program is an approach to foster replication of ICBDRRM approach. All tools and manuals developed will be handed over to the Diocese which, in the Philippines is a strong partner to Government and best connected through the Parishes. The strong involvement of the Social Action Centre of the Diocese and the integration of volunteers into the program is an approach to foster replication of ICBDRRM approach. All tools and manuals developed will be handed over to the Diocese which, in the Philippines is a strong partner to Government and best connected through the Parishes.

● The Process ●

Achieving higher levels of inclusion and meaningful participation was approached in the following manner:

I. Awareness Activities

During the fact-finding phase of the program, persons with disability groups were not organized and usually left behind also in receiving services of the government. This inequality is to a great part based on the limitation of knowledge about their rights and these being ignored. Usually they are not included in the making of the local development plan and budget because people think that they cannot contribute information and they are burdened in the community because of their disability.

The people with disability, elderly children and woman were actively supported through strengthening their capacity by implementing awareness activities about disability issues, rights, laws and inclusion understanding. The program includes them in different trainings and participatory consultations.

A multi-level approach is of need to foster understanding among persons working at government level as well as community members. Aside from the person with disability and other vulnerable groups, the program also conducts awareness raising to government level and the community level to ensure ground level support and promote equality, equity and inclusion.

Description of the Practice

In partnership with local actors and stakeholders, the program developed and designed awareness raising activities for disability inclusion integrated in Disaster Risks Reduction. During every awareness raising, the program ensures that person with disability and other vulnerable group members are included and able to transmit information and key messages. Information, communication and IEC materials are printed in large font size, visual graphics and in local language.

The Process

- Staff and volunteer of the program was trained first about disability inclusion for better understanding.
- Coordinating with the Barangay official about the schedule and delivering awareness event.
- Receiving feedback about the issues and concerns of the person with disability.
- IEC, communication, information materials are accessible for persons with different types of disability.



Recommendation

- Localize awareness activities
- Involve local partners and stakeholders
- Accessibility of the tools and materials to be used
- Identify disability rights campaigner

II. Stakeholders

One of the main difficulties hindering the involvement of people with disabilities are lack of services for support of livelihood, education, health and others. Usually, persons with disabilities have lack of knowledge on their existing services or the service provider does not know how to include or address their concerns. One of the difficulties in the government is the lack of data gathering and information on persons with disability and vulnerable groups.

The program observes that the stakeholders generally have not defined measures on disability issues and providing specific provision and support. The program assists the stakeholder by sharing updated data of the person with disability through e.g. house to house survey and dissemination of information about inclusive DRR and WASH.

Description of the Practice

Using the twin track approach, the program trained stakeholders an inclusive DRR and WASH and integrated the topic about basic concepts on disability, rights and inclusion. The program assists the stakeholders how to include disability inclusion into their DRR and WASH planning process.

As the program has no “specialist or consultant” for disability, the people with disability themselves are the ones who motivate others to participate and attend in planning dialogues capitalizing on their experiences and taking the opportunity to express their needs. The program provides materials such as handouts, flyers and manuals that includes information about laws and minimum requirements related to DRR and WASH

The Process

- Mapping and prioritizing stakeholders using GLZ tool
- Coordination meeting with the stakeholders

Recommendation

- Continuous collaboration with stakeholders and people with disability
- Increase awareness and training on inclusive disaster risk reduction and WASH
- Support stakeholder in institutionalizing the provision of accessible training such as training tools and methodology.

III. Supporting the Municipality and Barangay for Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction and WASH Practices

The intervention of the program aims to strengthen the capacity and support of the Province, Municipality and Barangay in inclusive disaster risk reduction and WASH. The program provides assistance to the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) and Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) by facilitating trainings, coaching and support after various trainings and awareness raising to capacitate the community and households to be better prepared for a disaster.



Description of the Practice

The project conducted a series of training of trainers to the selected BDRR committee, PDRRMO, MDRRMO and person with disability. In the training on inclusive disaster risk reduction there is an emphasis on the national and local situation of the DRR, the situation of the vulnerable groups particularly persons with disability, inclusive VCA/CRA and DRR planning. The project also ensures and encourages the involved person with disabilities to contribute information on the said CRA tools and in the planning.

After the ToT, the program cascades a roll out in the community level with validation of the said results. The community members will know the result of the VCA tools and DRR plan. They were also consulted by the team for additional information. To ensure the key information will be transmitted, the project will provide inclusive IEC materials and signage for all the DRR results.

The Process

- Training of Trainers for Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction and WASH on selected PDRRMO, MDRRMO, BDRRMC, Volunteers and person with disability.
- Workshop/ trainings for the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction Committee and other Barangay Leaders
- Awareness raising at community level
- A review of the existing contingency plan of the barangay and provide feedback on how to make it more inclusive.
- The inclusive DRR result was shared in municipal and barangay level.
- MDRRMO are supported in conducting assessment, trainings and dissemination of information.

Recommendation

- Participatory approach in making DRR plan
- Strengthen the capacity of vulnerable groups as members of the BDRRM committee
- Ensuring that vulnerable groups are being consulted and part of the decision making of the Barangay.

After initial activities to kick start the program it became apparent that the communities which had been identified did not have disability disaggregated data nor any data on vulnerable groups. This created difficulties for all consecutive planning processes and activities. To retrieve the data, Malteser International opted to perform a household assessment to identify the households with persons with disability but also children and elderly citizens. This assessment is strenuous and time consuming and there was a sincere threat to time delays. Barangay Health Workers were identified and with the help of enumerators from the campus of the University of the Philippines the data was gradually collected. At first being seen very cumbersome, the assessment turned into a crucial, though unplanned exercise, assisting the Barangays (communities) to obtain this data. In fact, it was requested by Municipal and Provincial Government to have this data. The benefits of having this data were quickly observed as communities were now empowered to better plan community risk assessments, evacuation planning and engage in community planning activities.

After Malteser International developed locally adapted tools for mobilization and awareness raising in the communities, a roll out was performed to all communities. The attendance was high and in very short time the mobilization triggered enormous activity and engagement. It became apparent that attitudinal and institutional barriers were



experienced by the vulnerable group particularly persons with disability. They have been neglected, stereotyped and discriminated not only in services of the government but also within the community. Usually they are the ones who receive least information and accessibility. Especially the referencing of national provisions and laws on inclusion triggered requests and demands of the concerned individuals towards their community leaders. This in turn requested Malteser International to quickly become supportive to the community leaders to manage the expectations. Mobilization leads to activation of the concerned populations groups and it must be anticipated that this commitment requests further responses. It was very quickly felt that Malteser International had a responsibility to manage the created demands as far as possible.

The systemic deficits become obvious when a larger group of persons suddenly knows of their rights and states demands which the Municipal Government has difficulties to meet. Luckily Malteser International has unconditional funds which will be invested but this best practice document shall alert of this possible consequential responsibility arising after mobilization for inclusion.

Following adjustments were made to align project deliverables to the community needs and priorities:

1. Coordinate with the Local Government Unit, Department of Social Welfare Office, partners and other stakeholder.

Inclusion is on the agenda of many, but stakeholders do not really know what to do and how to approach inclusion. In our case the stakeholders were very interested in the program approach and wished to understand how this could benefit them. In the single activity designs, the program then considered how best the stakeholders could draw benefits from the activities. Shared benefits were for example the disaggregated data on vulnerable groups and persons with disability, training materials developed for mobilization, elaborations on the Governments legal and legislative provisions, inclusive planning approaches.

2. Collection of secondary data like the DRR plan of the Municipality and Barangay, persons with disability list.

Assess carefully what has been done and what has been achieved and define further activities in accordance. This also guarantees that you only do and support what the stakeholders wish and can make use of.

3. Conduct coordination meeting with the barangay officials and barangay leaders like a senior citizen and a person with disability group.

Working with and through the established leadership structures and local initiatives is important for the buy in and leadership of the community.

4. Conduct Key Informant Interviews (KII) and KAP survey within the community

Never forget your baseline and if done with the necessary sensitivity, it is already your first awareness raising measure and mobilization. Manage the expectations and clearly define the deliverables through the organization. It is also recommended to have a good evaluation of the data and to routinely use it to track program progress and to align to the relevance assessed.



5. Conduct awareness raising for disability in inclusion not only with person with disability but also the community.

This was a centre piece of learning! Do not assume that people know what disability is and what vulnerability means. Physical disability is most likely to appear in data and people will refer to these persons most commonly but the mental and intellectual impaired are totally forgotten as well as children. In the context of the Philippines, the orientation sessions were extremely rewarding and lead to great mobilization among persons with disability but also among persons without disability. Once persons are aware of their rights and the legislative provisions they will start demanding them. For example, in the Philippines you are issued a person with disability ID which gives you benefits such as discounts and service priorities.

6. Conduct Training of Trainings for the Barangay leaders and selected vulnerable groups

The program used a Training of Trainers (ToT) approach which was very successful. What may be an obstacle is the absence of such a manual. In the case of the Philippines there is a national tool available which the program adapted to local context and into which an expert group integrated WASH. Also, manuals should be translated into local language by linguists. All these activities are expensive and time consuming but will be rewarded. The program trained in two steps with a roll out between both trainings. ToTs are challenging because aside learning the subject matter you are being transformed to a trainer. Don't forget methodological and adult pedagogics in the training. Inclusive facilitation skills must be applied!

7. Conduct workshop and training in Barangay leaders and the community

Trainings are only as good if there is supporting to put the learned into practice. The program labelled this 'roll out' which gives sufficient space for the engaged persons to become active.

8. Coaching and mentoring to volunteers and partners

Learning is not a once of action and should have built in feedback loops and follow ups. This is time consuming and only partly possible through a group approach but also individual approaches.

9. Install feedback mechanisms for all involved stakeholders and determine a way to evaluate them.

The Impact

The project is still ongoing but there are indications that the Barangays and communities will maintain and further develop their disaster risk reduction efforts. With the finalization of the CRA tools in all Barangays, all Barangays have engaged in inclusive planning processes already generating prioritized plans which have been submitted for funding support.

The integration of inclusive WASH measures in CBDRRM has also created momentum and activated communities. There are indications of Barangays who have started to improve the functionality of the Material Recovery Facility to act against the solid waste contamination.

Schools have also demonstrated initiatives to improve the WASH and DRR knowledge among students and to improve the infrastructure for e.g. hand wash facilities.

As the project is still ongoing, the activity of developing most significant change stories has not yet started. There is plenty of anecdotal information on individuals especially among the persons with disability for whom things have changed significantly. The changes are largely attributed to better understanding of the context and the activities which have achieved to mobilize them and to make them understand that they have a say and potential to influence things. The confidence many participants present is largely due to the honest involvement which has lead to meaningful participation presented through e.g. the facilitation of roll out and dissemination sessions.

... other

The ICBDRRM project has an embedded project through which 8 volunteers of the Diocese Social Action Centre (DSAC) are integrated into all activities. The volunteers perform all duties necessary in the project and attend all trainings. During weekly sessions the DSAC facilitates that the knowledge obtained is carried into the DSAC to strengthen their own institution and internal departments carrying out small scale social programs also including DRR. The Diocese structures across the Philippines gives them a unique advantage to respond to disasters and the project wishes to strengthen this capacity and is prepared to support further projects with similar focus but at smaller scale using the capacity developed. If evaluated positive, the approach can be easily replicated through the NASSA and can lead to a higher momentum in building capacity in ICBDRRM.

Enhancing Collective Actions for Young People in Guinayangan

towards Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (ECO – DRRM)

The Activities

The municipality of Guinayangan is a typhoon and storm surge prone area. It was mentioned that the different event of disaster like 2006 typhoon Milenyo and 2012 January storms flood in the area were caused tremendous effect both socio-economic, and psychosocial in the community. Since the municipality is prone to natural disaster and the passage of DRRM republic Act 2010, the community risk, community planning and the role of different sectors and local government units in dealing with risk reduction have been recognized as key factors to build resilient communities. In July 2012 to June, 2014, YKBI implemented the Eco-DRRM project with the support/partnership and fun of ChildFund Philippines, ChildFund Australia and AusAid. This project aims to increase the capacities of the community stakeholders and communities against disaster hazards.

Activities based on the original proposal are:

1. Organizing and Training Workshop
 - Organizing of Children and Youth
 - DRRM training of Children, Youth, LGU partners and DepEd officials
 - Participatory planning of Children and Youth, LGU partners together with DepEd officials
2. Workshop on the development of information, education and communication (IEC) materials.
3. Consultation-meeting of Children and Youth in the community together with LGU partners and DepEd officials for the implementation of DRRM.
4. Provide support to the protection and conservation of presidential proclamation 295 or the Maulawin Spring Protected Landscape
5. The project will coordinate with to schools to ensure that some DRRM activities are done through school-based settings and part of the Child Friendly schools principles

• The Process •

Collective engagement and partnerships with authorities (local officials and municipal department heads), youth, parent association in Eco-DRRM project implementation.

The Eco-DRRM project actively engaged local stakeholders including decision makers, policy makers, and various actors.

Organized DRRM technical working group, composed of MLGU Unit Heads and key officials of the municipality, served as the MDRRM council, has contributed a lot in DRRM initiatives.

DRRM through the TWG resulted to:

- Utilization of LDRRM funds to support the DRR activities in barangay level
- The MLGU of Guinayangan replicated the DRRM project to the 11 barangays not covered by the YKBI programming.
- Youth representation in the MDRRMC and BDRRMCs
- Local Chief Executive (LCE) increased appreciation and understanding on DRRM.

The MDRRMO Officer, Budget Officer, MPDO Officer, who were participants of the YDRRM capacity building, served as trainers in facilitating the DRRM software in the communities, orientation and consultation with LGU/Barangay Council/Committees, School Principals and Government Agencies including DA, DAR, CENRO, PENRO, DepEd District Supervisors, Division Superintendent on DRRM.

Provincial and Regional DRR CCA actors were tapped to provide technical support such as for emergency response training, early warning system, among others.

The YKBI also secured seedlings by linking with the Department of Natural Environment and Resources (DENR); cash-for-work in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

As a result, community members felt that LGU provide them a better public service particularly in minimizing the hazards and risks in the area. Local officials have become more active in information dissemination during disaster preparedness and response.

The MLGU, led by Mayor Cesar Jay Isaac III, committed to prioritize DRRM. In his leadership, the YKBI's DRRM project was replicated to the rest of the 54 barangays, and allocated LDRRM funds for construction of a safe evacuation center, improving their local database system e.g. CBMS.

The sense of ownership in the implementation of DRR in different barangays is high among the local government unit as inspired by the Eco-DRRM project model.



Inclusion and Recognition of People with Special Needs in the ECO-DRRM project model. The group of People with Special Needs is recognized as one of the important stakeholders of ECO-DRRM project model. Such good practices ensured that the ECO-DRRM processes and the implementation of the DRR framework are inclusive of persons with special needs, their experiences and perspective at all levels and in each different sector.

There are some activities that were implemented that are not included in the original plan but still supports in the attainment on the objectives of the project.

- Formation of Municipal ECO-DRRM Technical Working Group (ECO-DRRM TWG).
- Organization of the Theatre Advocacy Group.

The Impact

The ECO-DRRM project is a platform for advocacy. With its more than P8 Million funding, it was implemented for 3 years timely.

The workshops and trainings enable the stakeholders to develop and enhance knowledge, skills and attitude on DRRM; became aware on what to do before, during and after disasters; gained self-confidence and developed the love for the environment; and this involved multi sectoral in the locality.

The TWG has been a platform for advocacy. Advocacy translated into the following: Utilization of LDRRM funds to support the DRR activities in barangay level.

The MLGU of Guinayangan have replicated the DRRM project to the rest of remaining 36 barangays not covered by the YKBI programming.

- Theatre advocacy group. This contributed to increasing knowledge and awareness of the communities on disaster preparedness, environmental care, and protection.
- Representation in the LGU council. Youth leaders represented their sector in the council in both BLGU and MLGU. This is an opportunity for the local council to understand the role of the youth in the development process of society.
- Youth were trained on DRR, PCRVA, emergency response, and advocacy. Some of the youth leaders were able to join the exchange-learning visit of other Asian countries.
- The youth were involved in rolling out their learning in the community; mobilized themselves as facilitators in risk analysis and assessment workshops; and peer mentoring on disaster preparedness.
- Youth were capacitated to have skills on sign language. A milestone for the community to become more PWD inclusive.

- Youth also developed the IEC materials for the community.
- MLGU Unit Heads and staff had participated in the capacity building.
- Organization of Eco-DRRM TWG. This paves way to accommodate youth representative to the council as part of the decision-making body. This also conform the youth representation in the BLGU level. The TWG is still performing beyond the completion of the project.
- Key elected officials are considered one of the DRR champions in the locality.
- DRR plans, contingency plans, workshops, and equipping have been in place.
- The ECO-DRRM implementation process involved community participation as mentioned. The situational analysis, decisions, planning, and operationalization has gone through consultation, and hence, the ECO-DRRM has been recognized and received high acceptability by the community. The sense of being involved and ownership was high. 54 barangays had PCRVA; one (1) theatre group was organized and active to disseminate information; 54 DRR and contingency plans were developed at the barangay level, while 1 DRR preparedness and 1 contingency plans were also developed through Eco DRRM project.

The constituents feel that the LGU provides them a better public service particularly in minimizing the hazards and risks in the area. Local officials have become more active in information dissemination during disaster preparedness and response. The community have become a partner of the MLGU, hence the quick and prompt response relative to DRR.

The MLGU can confidently emphasize on the readiness of community people in times of disaster resulted to zero casualty. After Typhoon Glenda, Guinayangan had reported zero-casualty.

... other

DRR Capacity should be strengthened at community level. The strengthening of community resilience is a major outcome of the project. Since communities are major beneficiaries, it is recommended that a follow up capacity building activities be strengthened at this level. It has been demonstrated by YKBI through pilot community involvement (eco-scout) that collaboration can enhance community participation. It has been recommended that DRR be extended to more communities; hence the Youth-led model can be adopted for all new projects.

GNDR Case Study:

In Preparation for the Filing of the Petition for Declaration of Presumptive Death for the Missing Yolanda Victims

The Activities

The Philippines is considered as one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. Its location makes it vulnerable to a variety of natural disasters. Lying on the western rim of the Pacific and along the circum-Pacific seismic belt, it is subject to storms, typhoons, earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, droughts and faces other natural hazards. Disasters are a serious threat to people and economic assets, particularly in densely populated areas. At least 60 percent of the total land area of the country is exposed to multiple hazards, and as a result 74 percent of its population is vulnerable.

Typhoon Yolanda, one of the most powerful typhoons ever to make landfall in recorded history, resulted in a total number of 6,300 dead, 28,688 injured and 1,062 missing persons - a harrowing figure that reflects unwell on the preparation of the concerned duty bearers in the disaster risk reduction and management sector. To this day, or almost after four years, the numbers, especially for the remaining missing persons, remain at a 1005 high. Not only do these numbers indicate lack of resiliency, the same also reveals the lack of proper response especially in the management of the dead and missing.

The Management of the Dead and Missing (MDM) is one of the most important yet often overlooked aspects of the recovery phase in a post-disaster scenario. Unfortunately for many communities in the Philippines, many of the key stakeholders mandated under the MC No. 19 Series of 2016 are even unaware of the concept of Management of the Dead, Missing and Injured (MDMI). The lack of information and proper training leads to the inappropriate way of handling the dead, missing and injured which only serves to deepen the emotional wounds of the families. With the Philippines as a high-risk disaster area, proper awareness and coordinated implementation on MDMI is an imperative especially among local governments and key stakeholders in the community.

While relief efforts are understandably focused on the living, the psychological and emotional trauma caused to the families by the sudden death or loss of a loved one oftentimes overshadow the suffering caused by the damage to homes and livelihood. With almost four years after Yolanda and while rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts such as those for shelter and livelihood have been installed, not all families have been able to fully recover. Families of the missing persons are unable to grieve and find closure with their loved ones whose whereabouts remains unknown up to date and whose body has not been found.

Apart from the psychosocial alleviation to the family members, proper management of the dead, missing and injured is essential to the data organization of the local and national governance. Not only does accurate information afford responsive measures from the

ORGANIZATION:

Initiative for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS), Inc.

LOCATION:


Eastern Visayas Region, particularly in Tacloban City and Tanauan in Leyte and Basey Samar

TYPE OF COMMUNITY:

Rural and urban

HAZARDS:

Storms, typhoons, earthquakes, floods, etc.



government, but it is also the basis for the benefits available to the victims such as the provision of financial assistance as laid down in National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) Memorandum Order No. 13, series of 1998 (MO No. 13) or the Amended Policies Procedures on the Provision of Financial Assistance to Victims of Disasters and any award of a death compensation benefits in which the bereaved families are entitled to receive. The rights of those who perished and went missing during the onslaught of a catastrophe must be protected, upheld and preserved.

Though some of organizations have conducted psychological debriefing, it is not still sufficient to ensure that the psychological well-being of the bereaved families will be addressed properly. In addition, a mechanism must be created to ensure that the rights of the missing calamity victims, the bereaved families and the public must be preserved and protected. Lastly, there must be a proper documentation on the number and names of the dead and missing in order to alleviate psychological burden to their respective families and avoid wrongful declaration of death, especially whenever there is a mass casualty incidence.

As one of the remaining organizations in the Yolanda affected areas, IDEALS Inc. has observed that various state and non-state actors have conducted their interventions in many of the affected communities in terms of structural resiliency, water, sanitation and hygiene, livelihood security and financial security, which all tend to life-sustaining needs. However, there is very little intervention towards management of the dead and missing. The legal missions that IDEALS conducts during disaster response would almost always have questions on the legal aspects of moving forward with the affairs/properties of those who have died or those who remain missing after the super typhoon.

IDEALS, for its humanitarian response for Haiyan-affected areas, partnered with multilateral agencies such as Oxfam, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), various government agencies such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and 32 Local Government Units in Leyte, Samar and Eastern Samar to implement the Access to Benefits and Claims after Disaster (ABCD) and the Access to Benefits and Claims after Disaster – Expansion (ABCDE) Projects; Since December 2013, 180,000 Filipinos from Eastern Visayas (Region 8) have availed of free registration services and obtained copies of civil documents. 58% of the clients served were children. IDEALS have facilitated the reconstruction of 45,350 civil records damaged, lost or washed out during the storm with the support of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and the Local Civil Registrars. Through legal missions and mobile civil registrations Php 166.24 million worth of benefits and claims mainly on Shelter Assistance, Education requirements and Social Welfare

Assistance were availed by Haiyan survivors.

In June 2016, IDEALS in partnership with Christian Aid, implement Project CLAIMED, a study conducted in 8 municipalities and 2 cities that were some of the hard-hit areas of Typhoon Yolanda. The study intended to validate the final list of the Dead, Missing and Injured as listed by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) by cross-checking with the list provided by the affected Local Government Units (LGUs). This is to ensure the veracity of the claims for assistance, to gather complete information from the local stakeholders involved and to put a name to the unidentified injured, missing and dead persons affected by the typhoon. The study revealed that there was a discrepancy in the figures provided by the NDRRMC and the LGUs mainly due to the poor documentation, record keeping and reporting practices of the LGUs and the lack of



capacity in managing the dead, missing and injured specially during the occurrence of a Mass Casualty Incidence (MCI).

During the implementation of CLAIMED 1, NDRRMC timely released MC No. 19, providing the Rules and Regulations Governing the Implementation of the Management of the Dead and Missing Persons, with particular application during MCIs. Seeing its significance to the current project, IDEALS included a survey on the awareness of LGU and agency officials (DSWD, DOH) on MC No. 19, or the concept of MDM. Out of eleven respondents, only two were aware of the MC's existence, but not sufficient as to have a working knowledge. The rest of the respondents did not even know of the concept of MDM until the Yolanda post-disaster operations. Due to the overwhelming knowledge gap on MDM among the respondents, IDEALS had to individually appraise them of the pertinent provisions of the MC affecting their work scope. One of the main concerns among the respondents is the assignment of the DILG and the LGUs in taking the lead posts as they are not adequately equipped and trained in the subject matter. Another issue was the lack of coordinated training among the concerned agencies, which raised concerns on how they would be managing the dead, missing and injured in the event of another disaster. When asked for their recommendations, a unanimous response was to conduct an interagency training to calibrate everyone on their designations as to properly equip with them with the appropriate skills and intervention and avoid incidence of overlapping of tasks.

Finding the need for further discussions on the lesser known component of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), IDEALS, in partnership with OXFAM, conducted a High Level Round Table Discussion on 28 October 2016 to gather the expert opinions of agencies frequently involved in MDM like the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), National Bureau of Investigation, Disaster Victim Identification Unit (NBI-DVI), Local Health Office of Zamboanga and Marikina City, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and Pilipinas 911. Despite the expertise of the participants, only Dr. Tierra of NBI-DVI was aware of MC No. 19, mainly because of his involvement in the drafting of the Circular. The objective of the RTD was to gather the experience and best practices of the participants with their involvement in the MDMI as well as a Policy Dialogue on the MC. The main recommendations during the policy dialogue include: Coordination with NDRRMC, INGOs, NGAs & LGUs on legal documentation; Verify process of legitimacy of claims for assistance to the Dead, Missing & Injured; Ensure pre-disaster data of residents at all levels, including transients; Strengthen data recording & reporting mechanisms to address issues on documentation and data uniformity; issuance of a directive to all responding organizations during disasters (government & NGOs) for proper turn-over & back-u of pertinent files & records; and most importantly, the conduct of capacity building beginning at the local level.

Due to lack of material time and the richness of the discussion, IDEALS partnered with the Humanitarian Leadership Academy (HLA) to bring the discussions to a bigger level and involve the local government units of Manila, in particular the cities estimated to be severely affected by the Big One. The 2-day Experts Forum on the Management of the Dead, Missing and Injured, conducted on January 4 and 5, 2017 was well-represented by the various sectors involved the Management of the Dead, Missing and Injured. From the 60 participants from the National Government (DOH, NBI, PCG, MMDA, PHILVOLCS, PAG-ASA, OCD 8), Local Government Units (Quezon City, Marikina, Antipolo, Bohol, Malabon, Makati) and Civil Society Organizations (CDP, PDRRM, PHILSSA, HLA, SAIDI, World Vision, MPWDF, Christian Aid), an underwhelming number of only four (4) people were aware of MC No. 19. Majority were even not aware of the concept of MDM.

The Forum involved three major aspects, an open dialogue between the speakers, who shared their actual experiences, and the reactors from both the different entities of government and the participants during open forum; the two-day Policy Workshop with the goal of writing a policy recommendation on MDMI; and the steps forward, including the discussion on the Big One Scenario.

The results of the discussions were then conveyed to Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)-Central Office Disaster Information Coordinating Center (CODIX) Dir. Edgar Allan Tabell through a Post-Event Dialogue on 09 February 2017. Also in attendance during the dialogue were Dr. Tierra of NBI-DVI, Dr. Fernando of Marikina CDRMO and Mr. Molos of Philippine Red Cross. Dir. Tabell was pleased that a legal perspective was being taken on the MDM aspect, as this was seen as the missing link in accomplishing the Field Manual and the complete implementation in the local scene. From the presentation of the discussion results, Dir. Tabell recommended among others, a study into the Legal bases for providing benefits package during deployment of MDM volunteers; Policy paper on educating affected LGUs, national and local agencies, regarding the essentials of the Petition for Declaration of Presumptive Death for the missing victims of Typhoon Yolanda and the conduct of a regular monthly meeting (including IDEALS) to update the members of any development for each agency.

Another recommendation for IDEALS came from Dr. Tierra of the NBI-DVI who recommended IDEALS to look into the legal remedy of including violation of PD 1575 as a disallowance for the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) in renewing the professional license of non-compliant dentists. Dr. Tierra also reiterated the need for force multipliers in their division considering their limited resources and welcomed partnerships with first-line responders such as the Search, Rescue and Retrieval (SRR) groups and local officials. Lastly, Dr. Tierra also raised that while the ideal is for the data of the Yolanda casualties with the NBI-DVI to be uploaded into a database, the same has not yet been encoded, for the same reason that the division lacks resources.

The series of discussions on the Management of the Dead and Missing, which have been propelled mainly by the results of CLAIMED 1, have highlighted several important issues that CLAIMED 2 and 2.1 seeks to address:

- I. **Management of the Dead thru Disaster Victim Identification;**
- II. **Management of the Missing thru the facilitation of the Declaration of Presumptive Death for the missing victims of Typhoon Yolanda; and**
- III. **Management of the Dead and the Missing thru the creation of a mechanism to address the psychological needs of the bereaved families.**

With support of various partners, IDEALS was able to carry out series of dialogues converging the sectors that play different roles in the management of the dead, missing and injured, including the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Office of the Civil Defense (OCD), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Department of Health (DOH), Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), Philippine Red Cross (PRC), various local government units, and members of the academe. IDEALS has also been recognized by the DILG – the lead cluster of the MDM as the sole organization that actively leads MDM undertakings including a policy agenda on refining MC No. 19 and the Field Manual based on the activities that it has initiated.

IDEALS has also developed a strong partnership with the Humanitarian Leadership Academy that believes in the significance of the management of the dead and missing as an essential inclusion in disaster planning and management. As primarily a learning organization, HLA has committed in supporting IDEALS in its endeavours in bringing the learnings on MDM to the community and to the duty bearers to sustain the capacity that they may derive from this proposed project.

The conduct of the case study was supported by Christian Aid and the Humanitarian Leadership Academy (HLA) under the project “Cooperation to ensure Legal documentation and Access to claims for the Injured, the Missing and the Dead (CLAIMED I and II) during Supertyphoon Haiyan”. The case study was ran from May 2017 to August 2017.

• The Process •

This study seeks to document the cases of the missing victims of Typhoon Yolanda and to provide assistance to the willing families for the filing of a Petition for Declaration of Presumptive Death.

IDEALS Inc. went to at least six municipalities and city in Leyte and Samar to verify the number of reported missing Yolanda victims. These municipalities are considered as the most hard-hit areas and recorded the highest number of reported missing persons based on the report issued by the NDRRMC.

Fifty (50) individuals were interviewed for this study, however, only twenty (20) (those whose family members have not been issued a Death Certificate) have been qualified for their individual filing of Petition for 24 missing persons.

The twenty (20) individuals have been assisted in procuring their supporting documents such as Certification of Police Blotter, Certificate of Indigency, Baptismal Certificate, Residency Certificate, Barangay Certification of Missing Person.

The respondents were taken from areas with the highest reported numbers of missing including Tacloban City, Palo, Tanauan, Sta. Fe and Dulag in Leyte and Basey in Samar.

IDEALS Inc., through its legal officers and paralegals, had explained to the various local government units (LGUs) the importance of the guidelines on MDM. The LGUs must include in their disaster response plan the management of the dead and the missing. The approach on the management of the dead and the missing must also adopt the cultural norms and practices that were being observed in the affected calamity area/s and that of the calamity victims. The first-line responders must extend also their service to the bereaved families of the dead and missing calamity victims to undergo the proper grieving process for the sudden loss of their loved ones whose whereabouts might not be known and body was not found. Lastly, a mechanism must be establish to protect the rights of the dead and missing calamity victims.

IDEALS coordinated with the respective offices of the LGUs such as the City/Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office, City/Municipal Social Development Office, Local Civil Registrars, Councilors and other stakeholders for the appropriate remedy that can be formulated to aid the bereaved families.

The case study aims to determine the possible support that the respective LGUs of the bereaved families and other concerned organizations can extend to them to sustain the proceedings of the Petition for Declaration of Presumptive Death for the Missing Yolanda victims. In addition, it also aims to create a mechanism that can provide any assistance to the dead, missing calamity victims and their bereaved families, either financially or through a psychosocial service.

Tacloban City, Leyte was the most hard-hit areas of Supertyphoon Yolanda. It has the highest number of deaths and persons who went missing during the onslaught of the Supertyphoon recorded in history. But for purposes of this case study, Tacloban City, Leyte became one of the pilot area where a mechanism was established to aid the bereaved families of the missing Yolanda victims to undergo the proper grieving process, find the closure that they need, and to start anew. On the fourth year anniversary of Super Typhoon Haiyan, IDEALS Inc. in partnership with the City Government of Tacloban, were able to organized a commemorative rites for the missing Yolanda victims alone.

As part of its information campaign on the Management of the Missing, IDEALS was able to produce a memorial video entitled “MISSing Yolanda Victims or Kamingaw ha Mga Nawawara na Biktima han Yolanda.” The video was produce for the benefit of the missing Yolanda victims and the highlights the stories of the bereaved families. The memorial video was shown during the memorial rites conducted at Tacloban City, Leyte last 07 November 2017. The aforementioned video was made available online. A series of dialogues were made to some establishments in Leyte for the screening of the memorial video in public places.

Hon. Jerry Uy, Hon. Raissa Villasin, and Hon. Jom Bagulaya, the City Councilors of Tacloban had expressed their intent to sponsor a resolution that aims to create and construct a commemorative mark in memory of the missing Yolanda victims. In addition, they will also include a commemorative rite for the missing Yolanda victims in its activities every November.

Lastly, some national and local media outlets have already featured the initiatives undertaken by IDEALS Inc. and its partner organizations to aid the bereaved families of the missing Yolanda victims particularly the impending filing of the Petition for Declaration of Presumptive Death for the Missing Yolanda victims. The aforementioned articles had highlighted the importance of the Petition for the protection of the missing calamity victims and the need to address the psychological needs of the bereaved families.

For the days and weeks that followed, some bereaved families of the missing Yolanda victims tirelessly searched for their family, with the help of some of their relatives. They walked around Tacloban City, Leyte and its nearby municipalities, asking people they met if they have seen the missing member of their family. They did not have a picture with them as all of their documents were washed away by the surge. Instead, they laboriously described their physical characteristics to the people they met. They searched from early morning, until late evenings; thru the bearing heat of the afternoon sun and even during downpours. Feeling hopeless and difficulty they had encountered after the onslaught of Typhoon Yolanda, they decided to temporarily stop their search and tried to live their life. As a result, these bereaved families haven't undergone the proper grieving process for the sudden loss of their loved ones whose whereabouts remain unknown up to date.

There were two kinds of beneficiaries in this particular case study whose needs must be address.

First, IDEALS Inc. considers the bereaved families of the missing Yolanda victims as one of its beneficiaries who need not only the free legal services of IDEALS but to also undergo the proper grieving process, to finally find the closure they need and to start





Second, IDEALS considers the missing Yolanda victims as one of its beneficiaries. We believe that the missing calamity victims must be recognized as a separate and distinct group of casualty whose rights must be protected, upheld and preserved. In this case study, IDEALS would to highlight that the missing calamity victims also belongs to the marginalized sector of our society. The missing calamity victims must not be confused with those who have perished whether their bodies were recovered, whether properly identified or not.

Most of the missing Yolanda victims who will be declared as presumably dead, subject to some documentary and procedural requirements, were children, indigent, women, elderly, and some had suffered to some ailments. Most of them were residing along the danger areas of the hard-hit areas of Super Typhoon Yolanda.

Under the Concept Proposal CLAIMED-MDM Phase 2: Cooperation to ensure Legal documentation and Access to claims for The Injured, the Missing and the Dead during Typhoon Haiyan (CLAIMED-MDM Phase 2) Project, IDEALS Inc. would provide a free legal assistance to the bereaved families of the missing Yolanda victims and will facilitate the filing of the Petition for the Declaration of Death of a Missing Yolanda victims to the appropriate court. IDEALS Inc. will provide legal assistance to the bereaved families if they possess the following qualifications:

- Capacity to file the case – nearest of kin and with legal personality
The beneficiaries and qualified petitioners must be the nearest relative of the missing Yolanda victims and a real-party-in interest. The nearest relative of the missing Yolanda victim is a real-party in interest is the one who stands to be benefited or injured by the judgment in the suit or the party entitled to the avails of the suit.
- Personal knowledge of the circumstances of the missing person and the facts of the disappearance.
The qualified petitioner must alleged information as to the personal circumstances of the missing person, proof that he exists for sometimes, the facts of disappearance, the method adopted and the places he visited to search the missing person and other information deem necessary.
- Residence of the missing persons and the Petitioner which must be within the jurisdiction of the proper court.
The Petition shall be filed and tried where the missing person and the plaintiff resides.
- No death certificate has been issued and registered under the name of the missing person.
The court shall conduct a fact finding to determine if there is a great probability that the missing person is still alive or dead already based on the efforts exerted by the petitioners to search the former.
- Preference for indigent Petitioners.
- Willingness and readiness to file the Petition

The following were the process undertaken for the conduct of the case study:

1. Coordination with the national and local government officials and offices to secure the list of the reported missing persons during Super Typhoon Yolanda.
2. Identification of beneficiaries and witnesses and verification from local and barangay officials.
3. Conduct of interviews with possible beneficiaries and their identified witnesses.
4. Verification from the PSA and concerned LCR if the absentee has been issued a Death Certificate.
5. Facilitate request and issuance of supporting documents for the Petitioners.
6. Coordination with other organizations for possible support for further assistance to the Petitioners.
7. Preparation of the Petition.

Sample Cases

1 For Purposes of Remarriage

A man from Tacloban lost his wife and three children during the storm surge. Despite relentlessly seeking for months, he is unable to find any leads on their whereabouts. He now seeks to regain normalcy with his new partner and child thru a legitimate marriage.

D.2 For Purposes of Succession

Five siblings whose mother went missing during the storm, seeks to acquire the only parcel of land left by their mother, to supplement their income as farmers and fisherfolks whose houses and livelihood were devastated by the storm. The siblings continue to conduct a yearly memorial for their mother during the 8th of November.

On the fourth year commemoration rites of some affected communities of Super Typhoon Yolanda, some LGUs have recognized that the missing calamity victims and the bereaved families were also victims of the catastrophe. That on disaster response, there were two aspects of saving lives. First, the need to save the calamity victims who sustain an injury and/or suffered a psychological disorder due to the traumatic experienced they had undergone during the onslaught of the calamity.

Second, through the case study, some LGUs and other sectors of the communities had already recognized that the missing calamity victims and the bereaved families must be considered as a separate group of the disaster victims. The rights of the missing calamity victims, their surviving families and that of the public must be protected, upheld and preserved. Some organizations have expressed their intent to provide assistance to the bereaved families in order to successfully declare the missing person as presumably dead. There were LGUs who organized a commemorative rites during the fourth anniversary of Yolanda to help them undergo the proper grieving process. Some might institute a program that aims to help the bereaved families of the missing calamity victims to undergone the proper grieving process, find the closure they need for the sudden loss of their loved ones whose whereabouts remains unknown up to date and body was not found.

During the data gathering, the following were the challenges and gaps encountered by IDEALS:

1. Difficulty in obtaining updated information and documentation. Due to passage of time, some of the important documents were not already available. However, the possibility of reconstitution of necessary documents was undertaken. In addition, IDEALS had verified to some offices the information it have gathered in order to determine its veracity.

2. Conflict between existing laws and guidelines. (E.g. New Civil Code, A.O No. 1 series of 1993)

Under the New Civil Code, a general law, the bereaved families of the missing calamity victims must institute a summary proceeding for the declaration of death of the missing calamity victims. The death of a person must be proven in order to be considered as a fact.

However, A.O No.1 series of 1993, an administrative law, allows the registration of Certificate of Death of the calamity victims whenever there is a mass casualty incidence, subject to some procedural requirements such as the making of proper annotation on the aforementioned Certificate. But, this rule might be a source of a false declaration of one's death and/or wrongful issuance of death certificate.

Based on existing rules, whenever there is a conflict between a general law and administrative law, the former must prevail.

3. Availability of the nearest relative of the missing Yolanda victims. Some of the nearest relatives of the missing Yolanda victims were forced to fled in Samar or Leyte after the onslaught of Typhoon Yolanda because of the difficulty they have encountered, either financially or the need to forget the painful ordeal they have undergone and the need to forget their traumatic experience.

Due to some legal implications, IDEALS was constrained to help the nearest relative of the missing Yolanda victims who are authorize by law to institute a suit.

4. Absence or lack of availability of some supporting documents. Due to passage of time, some of the important documents were either unavailable or destroyed. IDEALS and its beneficiaries resorted to reconstitution of some essential documents.
5. Veracity and accuracy of data due to the passage of time and recall process of the Petitioners and Witnesses.
Due to passage of time, some of the bereaved families had already forgot some information that must be alleged in the legal documents that must be submitted in the appropriate court. A sufficient time and appropriate questions were raised in order to obtain these informations. In addition, the information provided by the bereaved families and their witnesses were further verified in the community.
6. Lack of legal personality to sue of the nearest relative. This is either because the nearest relative had fled after the typhoon or some issues have arose which disqualify him to institute a proceeding on behalf of the missing Yolanda victims.
7. Availability of witnesses
8. Issuance of certificate of death of the alleged missing persons. The petition for the declaration of death is instituted by the surviving families or other interested third person in order to determine the status of the alleged missing person as dead or not. The issuance of death certificate for the missing person had already settled his or her status.
9. Discrepancy in the name of the missing persons as known in the community and as listed in the reports.
10. Uncertainty of the respondents on whether their relatives are really missing or dead.

11. Some claim to have recognized their family members as included in mass graves or seen by neighbors.
12. Re-trauma to the respondents brought about by the interview.

The Impact

The following are the measures undertaken by IDEALS in order to ensure that the initiatives undertaken will continue despite the end of the programme:

- Continuous dialogue with MDM stakeholders to improve existing guidelines on MDM.
- Involvement in MDM talks in Iligan City for the missing victims of the Marawi siege.
- Policy track on the guidelines of the Petition for Declaration of Presumptive Death, Civil Registration Law and Senate Bill No. 2703
- Capacity Building of the First-Line Responders to include in their disaster plan the response appropriate for the Management of the Dead and the Missing
- Assisted some government officials to draft a resolution for the creation and construction of commemorative mark for the Missing Yolanda Victims and Annual Conduct of Commemorative Mark for the Missing Yolanda Victims

Up to date, some LGUs have expressed their intent to allot a minimal amount of public funds to support the initiatives of IDEALS and to create appropriate programs that will aid the bereaved families of the missing Yolanda victims.

Despite this challenge, IDEALS continued to conduct a series of dialogues among the stakeholders to provide a continuous support of the project and sustainability of the Petition.

Lastly, after the result of the case study have been presented to the stakeholders in Eastern Visayas, the awareness on the importance of the Petition, Management of the Missing and the call to aid the bereaved families of the missing calamity victims became more evident. Some organizations have expressed their interest to help sustain the proceeding and establish the appropriate program to address the psychological needs of the bereaved families.

The discussion of the Petition for Declaration of Presumptive Death of a Missing Person and the Management of the Dead and Missing became more evident.

Some programs to be implemented under the Management of the Dead and Missing must also consider the cultural norms and practices of the affected communities.

The right of the dead to be respected, buried individually and treated with dignity have been recognized.

The protection of the rights of the missing calamity victims, their bereaved families and the public will be established.

... other

Discussion of Existing Guidelines and Provisions on Petition for Declaration of Presumptive Death

A. Laws and Jurisprudence

1. Article 390 of the Civil Code

After an absence of seven years, it being unknown whether or not the absentee still lives, he shall be presumed dead for all purposes, except for those of succession. The absentee shall not be presumed dead for the purpose of opening his succession till after an absence of ten years. If he disappeared after the age of seventy-five years, an absence of five years shall be sufficient in order that his succession may be opened.

2. Article 391 of the Civil Code

The following shall be presumed dead for all purposes, including the division of the estate among the heirs:

- (1) A person on board a vessel lost during a sea voyage, or an aeroplane which is missing, who has not been heard of for four years since the loss of the vessel or aeroplane;
- (2) A person in the armed forces who has taken part in war, and has been missing for four years;
- (3) A person who has been in danger of death under other circumstances and his existence has not been known for four years.

The presumption of death of the spouse who had been absent for seven years, it being unknown whether or not the absentee still lives, is created by law and arises without any necessity of judicial declaration.

3. Article 41 of the Family Code

A marriage contracted by any person during the subsistence of a previous marriage shall be null and void, unless before the celebration of the subsequent marriage, the prior spouse had been absent for four consecutive years and the spouse present had a well-founded belief that the absent spouse was already dead. In case of disappearance where there is danger of death under the circumstances set forth in the provisions of Article 391 of the Civil Code, an absence of only two years shall be sufficient.

For the purpose of contracting the subsequent marriage under the preceding paragraph, the spouse present must institute a summary proceeding as provided in this Court for the declaration of presumptive death of the absentee, without prejudice to the effect of reappearance of the absent spouse.

4. Art. 238- 248 of the Family Code

Summary Judicial Proceedings in the Family Law

5. Section 5 (x) (3), Rule 131 of the Rules of Court

The following shall be presumed dead for all purposes, including the division of the estate among the heirs:

xxx xxx xxx

(3) A person who has been in danger of death under other circumstances and his existence has not been known for four (4) years.

6. Rule 60, Administrative Order No. 2 Series of 1993

Presumptive death as defined by law is not registrable. However, a judicial order or decree declaring a person presumptively dead shall be registered. For the purpose of contracting a subsequent marriage, annotation shall be recorded in the marriage register as well as in the marriage certificate with the remarks as follows:

"Spouse declared presumptively dead as per court decree issued by Regional Trial Court of _____ Branch _____ on _____ under Case No. _____."

B. Notes

What is a Petition for the Declaration of Presumptive Death?

- It is a judicial procedure instituted for purposes of declaring an absentee/absent person/missing person PRESUMABLY dead after a certain period of time.

What are the two kinds of Presumptive Death?

- The two kinds of presumptive death are the ordinary presumption of death and the extraordinary presumption of death.
- An ordinary presumption of death is when a missing person disappears under normal conditions, there being no indication that his life is in peril. The death is presumed to have occurred at the end of the prescribed period set by the law.
- There is an extraordinary presumption of death when a missing person disappears under the circumstances that connote great probability of death. The person is presumed to have died at the time of the disappearance that is at the time the calamity took place, and not at the end of the period prescribed by the law.

Who is an absentee?

- A person who disappears from his domicile, his whereabouts being unknown.

Who is an absent person and the classifications of an absent person?

- A person who is not in his/her domicile or place where he/she is supposed to be present in less than 24 hours, whose families and relatives have no clue as to his/her actual whereabouts but there is no apparent risk and does not require police investigation.
- An absent person may be:
 1. A person who ran away from home;
 2. Any person, except children, who are not present in a place they were supposed to be, like, but not limited to:
 - a. Elderly; and
 - b. Person with mental/physical disabilities.
 3. Any other person except children, who failed to return to his/her domicile or at a reported place in less than 24 hours.

Who is a missing person?

- A missing person refers to an absent person whose whereabouts, safety and well-being cannot be established after 24 hours from his/her perceived disappearance.
- A missing person may be:
 1. Any absent person who was not located after 24 hours from his/her perceived disappearance;
 2. Missing children; and
 3. Missing victims of natural calamities and human-induced disasters or accidents.

What do the courts recognise for purposes of filing a Petition for Declaration of Presumptive Death?

- The courts frequently use the term 'absentee' as a general term, and make no specific distinction as illustrated above. Therefore, for purposes of the Petition and this briefer, all terms may be used interchangeably.

How does this Petition apply to the Typhoon Yolanda victims?

- The Petition for Declaration of Presumptive Death shall apply to the missing victims caused by Typhoon Yolanda, which made landfall in the Eastern Visayas region on 08 November 2013. The latest count of missing persons caused by Typhoon Yolanda is 1005.
- Under the New Civil Code, persons missing under circumstances where there is danger of death can be declared Presumptively Dead, subject to further conditions required by law.
- Taking into account the devastating effects of typhoon Yolanda and the high casualty rate, it can be said that the missing persons disappeared under danger of death.

Is there a specific provision of law that governs this Petition relating to missing persons under danger of death?

- There is no specific provision in law pertaining to the Petition for Declaration of Presumptive Death for those missing under Art. 391.
However, by inclusion of its title in the coverage of the Rules on Special Proceedings [Sec. 1(m), Rule 72, Rules of Court], it is prudent to apply the provisions of the Rule on Absentees.

What are some of the conditions imposed by law in order that the Petition will succeed?

- The required period is satisfied (two year for purposes of remarriage or four years for purposes of succession and/or any other purpose from the date of disappearance);
- There is established a well-founded belief by the Petitioner that the absentee is already dead prior to the filing of the Petition.

What is a well-founded belief?

- The law does not provide a definition for a well-founded belief as it depends upon the circumstances of a particular case. It must be shown that the belief of the Petitioner as to the death of the missing person was the result of diligent and reasonable efforts and inquiries to locate the latter and that based on these efforts and inquiries, he/she believes that under the circumstances, the absentee is already dead. It requires exertion of active effort (not a mere passive one).

What documents can support the Petitioner's well-founded belief?

- Police blotter containing the report on the missing person;
- Certification issued by the OCD indicating that the missing person is included in the NDRRMC Masterlist of Dead, Missing and Injured victims of Typhoon Yolanda;
- Certificate of Residency;
- Certificate of Missing Person Presumed to be Dead issued by the DSWD;

- Affidavits of Petitioner and other witnesses to prove that Petitioner exerted diligent and reasonable efforts to locate the missing person;
- Other documents that may be relevant in establishing the circumstances of the missing person.

Who may be a Petitioner?

- The spouse present;
- The heirs instituted in a will, who may present an authentic copy of the same;
- The relatives who would succeed by the law of intestacy; and
- Those who have over the property of the absentee some right subordinated to the condition of his death.

When Can We File the Petition for Declaration of Presumptive Death of a Missing Person?

- The period as to when the Petitioner can file the Petition for Declaration of Presumptive Death of a Missing Person may vary depending on the surrounding circumstances as to how the alleged missing person disappeared and the purpose as to why the Petition is instituted.
- The following are the prescribed period as to when the Petitioner can file the Petition:

Purpose	Period When the Petition Shall Be Instituted (For Ordinary Presumption of Death)	Period When the Petition Shall Be Instituted (For Extraordinary Presumption of Death)
Remarriage	4 Years after the missing person went missing. ¹	2 Years after the missing person went missing. ²
For all purposes	7 Years after the missing person went missing. ³	4 Years after the missing person went missing. ⁴
For Succession	10 Years after the missing person went missing. HOWEVER, if the missing person disappeared after the age of seventy-five years, an absence of five years shall be sufficient in order that his succession may be opened. ⁵	4 Years after the missing person went missing. ⁶

- For the bereaved families of the missing Yolanda victims, they can institute the Petition either two years after for purposes of remarriage or four years after for all other purposes like the filing of death compensation benefits, succession, closure and for any other purpose.

How is a Petition for Declaration of Presumptive Death initiated?

- A Petition is drafted containing facts as to name, age, residence and circumstances of the absentee's disappearance. Supporting documents, like those mentioned above, shall be attached to the Petition, which shall then be signed by the Petitioner. Upon completion, the Petition shall be filed with the Regional Trial Court

Where shall the Petition be filed?

- The Regional Trial Court which has jurisdiction over the absentee's place of residence before he/she disappeared.

Is there a need to notify the public that a person seeks for the declaration of the missing person or absentee as Presumably Dead?

- Yes, upon filing of the Petition and after promulgation of judgment, the court will issued an order of publication of the Petition itself and the judgment rendered by the court in the newspaper of general circulation for at three consecutive weeks to inform the public or any person that a missing person was being declared as presumably dead, to notify the court for any facts controverting the Petition or claim his interest, if any.

Why is there a need to determine the date of death, whether actual or presumptive, of a person?

- The date of death, whether actual or presumptive, is necessary in order to determine the following:
 1. The transmittal of rights and obligations to the intestate and testate heirs;
 2. The extinguishment of certain rights and obligations of the decedent;
 3. Opening of succession;
 4. Capacity of the spouse present to contract a second valid marriage;
 5. Entitlement to death compensation benefits; and
 6. For closure.

What are the effects of a Declaration of Presumptive Death under Art. 391?

1. The missing person shall be declared PRESUMED dead and this fact shall be registered with the Local Civil Registrar
2. The spouse left may remarry
3. Appointment of an administrator to administer the property of the missing
4. Succession
5. Claims for death compensation benefits
6. Closure

What happens if the missing person reappears?

- The subsequent marriage contract shall be automatically terminated by virtue of an Affidavit of Reappearance of the absent spouse, unless there is a judgment annulling the previous marriage or declaring it void.
- The trusteeship or administration of the property of the absentee shall cease upon order of the court and the property shall be placed at the disposal of those who may have a right thereto.

What if the missing person is subsequently discovered to be dead?

- His Death Certificate shall be presented to the Local Civil Registrar for registration.
- The trusteeship or administration of the property of the absentee shall cease upon order of the court and the property shall be placed at the disposal of those who may have a right thereto.

Is there a need to file a Petition for the Declaration of Death of the Missing Yolanda Victims?

- Yes, the family of the missing calamity victim/s must institute a summary proceeding for the declaration of presumption of death of the latter. The following are the reasons why there must be a judicial declaration of presumptive death:
 1. Presumptive death by law is not registrable. However, a judicial order or decree declaring a person presumptively dead shall be registered.
 2. Legal implications — such as right to compensation, succession, the legal status of the wife — are so important that courts should not so easily be carried to the conclusion that the man is dead. The result is that death cannot be taken as a fact.
 3. Even if there is well-founded belief that the missing person was already dead, a summary proceeding for the declaration of presumptive death is necessary.
 4. The public must be notified that the Petitioner seeks for the declaration of presumptive death of a missing person.

II. Please see the following links:

- a. FB Page of IDEALS Inc. is IDEALS, Inc.
- b. <https://www.facebook.com/idealsorgph/videos/vb.301087096370/10154718612351371/?type=2&theater>
- c. <https://www.facebook.com/idealsorgph/videos/vb.301087096370/10154712131806371/?type=2&theater>
- d. <https://www.facebook.com/idealsorgph/videos/vb.301087096370/10154703933881371/?type=2&theater>
- e. <https://www.facebook.com/notes/christian-aid-philippines/the-long-wait-ahead-families-still-yearn-for-closure-four-years-after-yolanda/1755072124800762/>
- f. <https://businessmirror.com.ph/ngo-assists-yolanda-survivors-file-death-declaration-for-missing-relatives/>
- g. <http://www.philstar.com:8080/region/2017/11/09/1757098/kin-who-remain-missing-day-yolanda-survivors-ask-court-presumptive-death>
- h. <https://www.facebook.com/CNNPhilippines/videos/2065316793708209/>
- i. <https://news.mb.com.ph/2017/11/12/relatives-of-yolanda-missing-seek-closure/>
- j. <https://www.facebook.com/idealsorgph/photos/a.10152331172816371.1073741827.301087096370/10154703748616371/?type=3&theater>
- k. <https://www.facebook.com/ChristianAidPhilippines/photos/pcb.1748779765429998/1748779718763336/?type=3&theater>
- l. <http://ideals.org.ph/ngo-assists-in-filing-death-declaration-for-missing-yolanda-victims/>

The Gabaldon Disaster Management Organization

The Activities

Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija – hazards here are typhoon, flood, flash flood, landslides and logging.

People are unaware of the possible impact in the community if logging is continued.

They also lack knowledge and capacity in preparing for the onslaught of hazards and how to manage the organization in 11 barangays.

This is the reason why education work was conducted for them like seminars and forum. Activities conducted for the Gabaldon Disaster Management Organization (Municipal Chapter) are Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM) Training, Basic Leadership Training, Disaster Information System and Advocacy Training, Basic Health Skills Training, Early Warning System and Counter Disaster Planning. Forum on Sustainable Agriculture, Sloping Agricultural Land Technology and Climate Change Adaptation. Tree planting activities were also launched together with sharing of experiences and learnings with other DPOs.

The GDMO was organized with the help of different DPOs in the barangays of Gabaldon. Activities in the GDMO with the assistance of BLGU, LGU and ABI but there are DPOs in 3 barangays where the fund was provided by DKH.

Those who participated in the project are women, indigenous people, farmers, youth and the elderly.

The project started in 2011 and continues up to the present. The DKH project lasted for 18 months (February 2014 – August 2015).

The Process

Gabaldon Disaster Management Organization: When there is an impending weather disturbance, the newly organized Disaster Preparedness Organization (DPO) -Municipal Chapter warns/notifies the whole community (11 out of 16 barangay has DPOs), they gather data after a disaster, They determine the extent of damage, they help in delivering relief goods and in providing others kinds of assistance from NGOs, GO, religious groups and other individuals.

The GDMO was able to monitor the activities of 11 DPOs for the implementation of their plans towards sustainability.

The GDMO managed the relief delivery operation in 2 barangays of Gabaldon (Bagting and Calabasa) which were severely affected by Typhoon Lando.

The GDMO took the lead in helping their barriomates, likewise in doing their tasks inside the community and resolving problems encountered by the organization.

In times when ABI is unable to provide assistance, the DPOs which were organized linked up with BLGU, LGU, religious people for the assistance needed by the community.

The LGU and religious community supported the activities conducted by the organizations that were set up. The GDMO was given a room in the Municipal Hall and this will serve as the organization's office. ABI, BLGU, LGU, the religious community and the DPOs collaborated with each other (in improving production of crops – rice, vegetables in the barrios) so that they can conduct other activities not covered by the project of DKH.

There were instances when the LGU counterpart in the activity was the venue was the accommodation of the staff, trainer and other guests.

The GDMO took a stand on the issue of logging that confronts the people in Barangay Bagting ang Barangay Bugnan. They saw that the effect on the security and livelihood (landslide and flood) of the people is not good.

The activities conducted were coordinated with the Municipal Government and Barangay Officials and a courtesy call to them was paid by the ABI Staff and officers of GDMO.

The primary beneficiaries of the project are the most vulnerable sectors in the 11 barangays their attendance in the activities is prioritize, This is because their capacity to face and withstand hazards should be increased. The leadership of the organization that was set-up (Municipal Chapter) came from their ranks so with majority of the members. The women in the community comprise the bulk of participants in the activities because most of them stay home, The males are primarily expected to earn a living for the family. The indigenous people in the community are part of those mobilized to join activities and they became members of the organization. The IPs are not discriminated upon in the community because their capacities are well recognized especially members of the organization.

There were no adjustments made except in the schedule of activities, for example when there is a disaster.

The Impact

Activities conducted by the GCMO were meetings, giving out early warning, data gathering after a disaster, continuous coordination with the BLGU, LGU and ABI and monitoring of activities of the 11 DPOs. Coordination with and assistance from LGU was quick which was what the organization needed.

Generation of resources was done based on the need of the organization (solicitation and contribution of members). Since 2011 when the project was finished up to the present, consultations are done s continuously when they are confronted with issues concerning livelihood and safety.

The capacity of the people to lead, to coordinate with various agencies, to share their knowledge and skills specially their time and dedication to perform their tasks for the organization and the whole community greatly increased.

They became more firm/resolute and ready to face hazards especially issues that concern their security and livelihood.

The town of Gabaldon had no casualties when Typhoon Lando hit them (2015) because the people have adequately prepared.

... other

Organizing is still the way to ensure that a project succeeds and continues.



MDRRMC Hinatuan Search for Most Disaster Resilient Compliant Barangay

The Activities

It was in December 16, 2011 when Tropical Storm “Sendong” internationally named “Washi” that made its first landfall in Hinatuan. Since the establishment of the Municipal DRRM Office was just less than a year yet, disaster preparedness was not yet in-placed. Realizations were: a) pre-emptive evacuation was not properly executed; b) Barangay DRRMCs were not so functional and don’t know what to do on the slaught of disaster; c) Residents also didn’t know how to react the emergency; d) chaotic relief distribution was experienced; and e) damage assessment has no system. Hence, we considered “Sendong” as our teacher.

This search for Most Disaster Resilient Barangay was launched which aims to 24 Barangay DRRM Committees (BDRRMCs) and all stakeholders equipped with knowledge and skills in handling the event of emergency and to intensify the awareness and capacitate the community through actual execution. This is a local initiative to simultaneously equip and capacitate the 24 barangays in the four thematic areas of disaster management such disaster prevention and mitigation, disaster preparedness, disaster response and disaster rehabilitation and recovery.

This is a competition per barangay with community and school involvements. Criteria were based on the gaps experienced during TS Sendong. The activity was implemented in two categories at 50% each. First category to cover documents availability such as spot maps, hazard maps, DRR-CCA policies and legislations, household data banking, DRR-CCA programs and activities and partnership mechanism. For second category focused on Drills and Simulations. Three drills were executed by the barangay such as Earthquake, fire and the third drill will be based on the hazard exposure of the barangay.

For the partnership mechanism, resources were pulled-out from partners stakeholders. Memorandum of Agreements were forged between the barangay government with the following partners: transport group, business sectors, chainsaw owners and operators, private residential owners accredited as evacuation centers, etc.

Other actors involved in this activities were the barangay officials and volunteers, peoples’ organization, schools and community.

The activity was for the period of six months including social preparation up to the culmination program for the awarding of winners. Awards were in the form of rescue tools and equipment. The total amount for this activity is Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,00.00) coming the local DRRM Fund.

It was launched in May 3, 2012 and completed in November 29, 2012.

• The Process •

The active participation of the community in the contest as they owned the activity was very evident through the execution of the drills and their desire to help in the development of the documents. Social preparation in the community has played important part for the community and local leaders to co-own the activity.

Local skills and knowledge were used especially in their early warning system the so-called traditional EWS during the drills. Initiatives also were observed.

The role of the local governments:

- >The municipal government through the Municipal DRRM Office lead the activities and handled the criteria and mechanics settings, social preparation through intensive education to the barangay and extended technical assistance;

- >The barangay level was to join the contest, move the community through participation, comply the requirements and compete not just for the awards and trophies but primarily to prepare their barangay and the community.

This CBDRRM activities were coordinated by the implementing office as contest administrator to the barangay through series of seminars, forums, barangay visits and conduct of assemblies. The barangay were the ones to coordinate and communicate to the community.

Marginalized and at-risk groups were included in this activities such as in one criteria wherein every barangay has to produce household data banking to include data on persons with disabilities, women, children and senior citizens or elderly. Indigenous people were also represented in the decision making as they were part of the legislative body both barangay and municipal level.

As this is a contest, criteria and mechanics are fixed and firm to avoid conflict. However, part of the criteria was the presence of best practices as extra miles of the barangay. In here, priorities of the barangays based on their local initiatives were account. Best practices refer to any innovations or initiatives for DRRM-CCA advancement made by barangay other than those introduced by MDRRMC. These are local initiatives unique and customized to fit in their barangay in line with the four DRRM thematic areas such as disaster prevention & mitigation, disaster preparedness, disaster response and disaster rehabilitation & recovery or any climate adaptive initiatives.

The Impact

Sustainability of the knowledge gained in the contest was evident as the municipality joined in the national search on Gawad KALASAG (Kalamidad at Sakuna Sariling Galing ang Kaligtasan), a competition by the national government for excellence local disaster risk reduction and management council and humanitarian assistance. The municipality joined the national search since 2013 and successfully won as first place national winner. We maintained the prestige up to 2017 where recently we were declared as Hall of Famer. This signified that all our undertakings in DRRM were sustained and even enhanced.

Five days after the culmination program, Typhoon “Pablo” (Bopha) hit the municipality. Unlike in Tropical Storm “Sendong” we now learned many lessons. The acquired knowledge in the Search for Most Compliant Disaster Resilient Barangay has bear fruits thru actual applications such as: 1) BDRRMCs were all functional and even the first had to serve food items to the IDPs; 2) adapt the pre-emptive evacuations; 3) the community were already capacitated on what to do before, during and after the disaster; 4) all our under MOA (Memorandum Agreement) groups, individuals and stakeholders in our partnership mechanism had do their share in responding to the call of emergencies. Aboveall, our common goal to reduce risk and avoid casualty were attained. While thousands of lives were lost in the neighboring Davao provinces, Hinatuan claimed ZERO DEATH CASUALTY.

... other

This local search was just our tool to have a good foundation with a right start on DRRM-CCA in our municipality. This is in a form of competition but we always bear in mind that prizes, awards and plaques are just secondary what matters most is the preparedness and resiliency of the community in times of emergencies and disasters.

Other best practices of the municipality of Hinatuan through the Municipal DRRM Office are:

- 1) Household tagging of persons with disabilities and elderlies. Those marked houses should be given priority actions in times of responses. Hence markings should be displayed visibly and are geo-tagged on maps for easy references;
- 2) FAMILY DISASTER PLAN. This is a family-approach of preparing the community in times of emergency especially if massive destruction will happen. Around 10,000 families have accomplished their respective family disaster plan all over 24 barangays. A customized form in a long size bond paper back-to-back and is in local vernacular “bisaya” for easy understanding on the part of the community. This is now converted into an electronic copy through a software application;
- 3) Purok level organization through CBDRRM. Purok system management is now rolled-out where part of the CBDRRM activity is the organization of Purok DRRM Task Units to handle the different duties and responsibilities before during and after the disaster. Purok which is the lowest component of the barangays are now conducted with CBDRRM letting them understand the value of disaster preparedness, reviewing them on the importance of Family Disaster Plan, emphasizing the importance of emergency kit, the government’s order on pre-emptive evacuation and above all identifying their own hazards through workshops.

The PeacePond Mangroves

as Flood Protection and Aquasilviculture Livelihood Project

The Activities



Please describe the CBDRM intervention, making sure you cover the following questions: Why did the CBDRM intervention take place? What were the activities? Who funded it? What other actors were involved? How long was the project for? When did it end? During the 1970s-1990s, informal settlers in the area where PeacePond is now located rampantly cut mangroves for firewood. As a result, seawater constantly inundated the property and nearby residential areas. An average of 20 typhoons hit the Philippines every year and a majority of them pass by the Visayas area, where PeacePond is located.

In 2003, PeacePond was established as a milkfish and coconut farm. For a few years, no major disasters affected the property. But in 2006 and 2008, two strong typhoons washed out all vegetation in the property and floodwaters reached the main road. Milkfish stocks overflowed into the small river. By 2010, the topography of the shoreline changed and the small river vanished and merged into a long sandbar.

In 2014, the founders of PeacePond decided to protect the farm from future flooding. They converted a 1-hectare fishpond into a mangrove area. Farmer volunteers of the PeacePond Farmers Association planted the mangroves.

In 2017, the Local Government Unit and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) took notice of the farmers' efforts in rehabilitating the mangrove area and awarded them with the Aquasilvi Program or Mud Crab Fattening Project in Mangrove Areas. An open space within the mangrove area was fenced with bamboo slats. Mud crabs were released for fattening in the 200- square meter MUD CRAB PEN. A small cottage for the watcher was also constructed. Project funding came from the government agency, BFAR. As of November 2017, the project is still ongoing.

ORGANIZATION:
PeacePond Farmers
Association (PFA)

LOCATION:
PeacePond Farm, Sitio Alo, Barangay
Enclaro, Binalbagan 6107, Negros
Occidental, Philippines

TYPE OF COMMUNITY:
Rural

HAZARD:
Typhoon



• The Process •

The farmer members of the PeacePond Farmers Association were involved from the construction phase of the project till it ends. Management and operations shall be handled by two Project Heads. Local skills were tapped in the construction of the mud crab pen. Farmer members are also in charge of choosing the mud crabs and planting more mangroves in the area.

The local government of Binalbagan monitors the project and duly reports to the Regional BFAR office. All activities are coordinated with the agencies by PFA's Executive Director and Vice President via phone, email or social media messenger app.

Some PFA members are also parents of PeacePond scholars. These scholars, like their parents, are also involved in the Bayanihan program every weekend/ During the bayanihan, farmers and volunteers gather one day every week to work on the Organic Demo Farm, the milkfish ponds and now, the Aquasilvi Project.

It is worth mentioning that a majority of PFA members are women.



The Impact

The PFA mangrove area delivers a substantial impact in the education and information campaign on guests of PeacePond and the PeacePond Eco Tour. Guests are introduced to the importance of mangrove rehabilitation.

Since the project is in its initial stage, it is difficult to quantify impact in the lives of beneficiaries and other community members.

... other

It is imperative that the project be sustained for these two end results:

1. the protection of PeacePond and nearby communities from wave action, soil erosion and the ravages of flooding from the sea and
2. the proliferation of healthy marine life in the area so the Aquasilviculture project will be economically-sustainable for the farmer members of PFA

As for future plans for the Aquasilviculture Project, PFA plans to expand the existing mudcrab pen to adjacent spaces in the mangrove area. Product expansion (e.g. soft-shelled crabs) is also a possible venture because of its high demand in the foreign market.

Improving Health Care and Disaster Response in Community Level

The Activities

The situation of the poor people especially the farmers in Negros is very difficult. In all their important and basic needs, priority is given to answer their daily food need but still enough food for the table to eat three times a day is always a problem due to a very low income.

Other important needs in the family like education, shelter, clothes and medicines are neglected. Poor farmers and farmworkers could not afford the high cost of medicines and much more the cost of hospitalization and services of private medical doctors which many illnesses among poor families remain untreated for a long period of time. Thus the health needs of the families are sacrificed due to their lack of capacity to meet such necessities, making their lives miserable.

The situation becomes worst when disaster hit the community. This is the reason why we organize the Community Health Workers to give importance to the significance of proper health care in the community. That during disaster they are not affected too much and respond actively having good health. Poor health condition is not a hinder if the community is already educated on how to give importance to health before the disaster to minimize their vulnerability and increase their capacity.

Action Medeor, a Medical Aid Organization in Germany funded this project for 11 months starting February 2016 and ended in December 2016.

Other actors were the Local Government Unit of Barangay Sta. Rosa, Murcia; The People's Organization (PO) which is the Barangay Sta. Rosa Farmers and Farmworkers Association (BSRFFWA); and the partner NGO the Negros Integrated Health Program for Community Development (NIHPCD).

For the capacity building of the Community Health Workers various education and trainings were provided by Negros Integrated Health Program for Community Development (NIHPCD).

- Basic Health Orientation
- Nutrition and Proper Hygiene
- Maternal and Child Care
- Herbal Making
- First Aid

People's participation were encouraged in making herbal gardens for widespread planting and growing of various medicinal plants with the help of the Barangay Sta. Rosa Farmers and Farmworkers Association (BSRFFWA).

Community Health Workers were also provided with Medical Instruments and Supplies; and Herbal Making Utensils.

Education and trainings were not only limited to health and Community Health Workers. Trainings related to disaster risk reduction were also provided and open to all community member, such as: Disaster Management Orientation (DMO), Formation of Disaster Preparedness Committee (DPC), Disaster Preparedness Training (DPT) that includes Hazard Mapping, Community Disaster Action Plan, Early Warning System, Evacuation Management and Community Evacuation Drill.

• The Process •

Disaster Risk Reduction is essentially a people undertaking. It is only through their united action and initiatives can the loss of lives and properties be minimized if not avoided during disaster.

Because of the education and trainings on disaster risk reduction the people were aware of the hazard and vulnerabilities of the community. They started to realize that forming a Disaster Preparedness Committee (DPC) was very significant. DPCs were composed of the Over-all Chairman and different committees such as health, search and rescue, education, finance and networking and linking. DPCs were the ones also who were involve in creating their Community Disaster Action Plan (CDAP).

After making the CDAP, DPCs coordinates the plan with the people in the community for the people to be aware and could participate in whatever related activity.

The Chairmen of the People's Organization and the Disaster Preparedness Committee coordinates the plan with the Local Government Unit, the Barangay through the Barangay Captain.

The LGU supports the activity by providing the venue for the assembly and vehicle for the transportation.

A large number of women especially the mothers join the CBDRM activities. Since the site was a farming community, and mostly the men or the husbands were farmers or farmworkers, the men worked in the farm and the women were left in the house to do the household chores and taking care of the children. Thats the reason why majority were women who participates in the activity.

In Negros, there are many farmers and farmworkers with land conflict. And mostly were Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) beneficiaries.

CBDRM activities sometimes were not push through due to their priorities on their land struggle. They have their own activity like dialogue with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and processing of documents.

In case like that, we sit down with the officers of the People's Organization (PO) and present the schedule of activities beforehand so that it may not be in conflict with their own action. If there's an activity instantly came in which is in conflict with CBDRM activity, we reschedule the activity wherein they are available.

The changes was usually coordinated by the chairman of the People's Organization, since he/she is the one in charge of the monitoring of the situation on land dispute.



The Impact

It is almost a year, after the end of the program in December 2016, Community Health Workers still continue for their herbal gardening and herbal making up to the present. Community members are now their consumers of their products but not for sale just a donation. Herbal garden still exist with the collective effort of the community.

Community Health Workers continue to take vital signs, initiate first aid, train other community of herbal making and encourage them to have a herbal garden since many of them believed the effectivity of herbal plants and could be use during emergency and home remedy.

These skills and efforts are now considered their enhanced capacity to respond positively during emergency situation and develop their capability to face the challenge of calamities

Considering that mostly the people in the community reached only the primary level of academic education especially the older ones and their priorities were for the economic of the family, other important things were not given attention. Until the project was introduced and implemented with their consent to pursue. Education and trainings helped them a lot for their time were engaged fully for their livelihood on how to have food on the table to eat daily.

Particularly for Community Health Workers (CHW) and Disaster Preparedness Committee (DPC) the significant for these groups to have an awareness of the disaster situation and preparedness, developed their confidence and believed in unified action.



As indigenous communities endowed with rich cultural beliefs, knowledge and practices, local skills and knowledge are adopted in CBDRM. Their vulnerabilities to disaster risks have been significantly reduced. They have traditional ways of reading signs before “POWEK”/ disaster comes. Example is chicken unusually group themselves, birds called “hayek” produce sounds in a cliff, discoloration of sky which turns to red-orange. Animals like dogs, cats, horses who demonstrate have unusual behaviour mean that a disaster is about to happen. Or an “alakap”, a kind of lizard that comes out is a sign of an upcoming disaster. These signs mobilize the villagers to adopt “sa-udong” to secure their houses, clear the canals and waterways to prevent flooding, prepare “pangke”, a stove that is used to ignite fire and stock “saleng” or firewood. In Ifugao province, the villagers perform a ritual called “Bayuhibih”, an offering of chicken to appease “Inhabyan” whom they consider the queen of the typhoon.

During typhoon, the villagers avoid noise so as not to trigger storm to worsen. They also build fire using bones and feathers of chicken in their dirty kitchen to create continuous smoke as protection against storm and lightning.

After the typhoon, the villagers practice “og-ogbo” or “alluyon” means helping each other especially the victims/ survivors. During the repair of typhoon damages, each family contribute 1-2 cups of rice to feed the carpenters. After the restoration of damaged structures, they have “paypay” by which villagers are gathered and the Elders officiate a ceremony with a hen used as offering/ sacrifice. It is their belief that such offering will restore balance and harmony within traumatized villagers.

The vulnerable groups composed of women, youth and children including the elderly senior citizens and even persons with disabilities are involved and participate specifically in preparing their respective villagers prior to the occurrence of disaster.

With the introduction of a project on DRRM and Climate Change by Shontoug Foundation’s to the community project partners, major changes were observed. Prior to project implementation, the local government were the major planners and actors during and after disaster. Disaster-preparedness was not practiced. Now, there is an observed shift of power relationship from elected local officials to the villagers. Plans are crafted jointly by local officials and villagers like Village-based Disaster Preparedness Plans, Communication Plans and Information System, Crisis Management Plan with vertical and lateral Communication Plan. Another change in the community landscape is the introduction of Multistakeholder Disaster Preparedness Partnership by which each mandated government line agency commits to contribute financially or technically as needed. Thus, a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approaches have been adopted successfully.

All the aforementioned activities are coordinated by a village-based and managed DRRM Hub which has been installed and operational with adequate social preparation, series of confidence and capability-building activities and partnership with other stakeholders. The Village DRRM Hub Team with the support of local DRRM Officer, elected local officials, community-based organization and project partner CSOs have set their goals and objectives in managing the Hub. Their respective roles and functions, responsibilities and accountabilities have been set. Effective and efficient communication system and coordination of stakeholders is facilitated with the availability of communication equipment and updated data base. These are changes in the local context by which CBDRM intervention is adopted.

The Impact

Community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) initiatives will continue beyond the end of the programme through an ordinance passed by the local government project partner to integrate CBDRM in their Annual Investment Plan that resulted to the institutionalization of the operations and management of the village-based DRRM Hub. The Barangay/ Community DRRM Officer has been tasked also by the Barangay Council to be a member of the VDRRM Hub Team.

The community members who reside in far-flung, mountainous parts of the community/ village have been less resilient and more vulnerable to disasters while those who reside in the center and are more accessible for trainings, community meetings and updates are more resilient and less vulnerable to disasters.

... other

Sustainability of Shontoug Foundation's CBDRM Project has been assured organizationally, technically and local resource availability.

Organizational sustainability is ensured by the social and technical preparation of the village-based and managed DRRM Hub. The organized and trained DRRM Hub Team have expressed their willingness and readiness to cooperate and work together on CBDRM being backed up by community-crafted communication and information plans with the full support and commitment of other stakeholders through an institutionalized strategic partnership.

Develop confidence, enhanced capacities, pooled resources of stakeholders and coping strategies have enabled the DRRM Hub Team and community members to craft contingency/ anticipatory adaptation measures to disasters. These interventions are sustained with the support of local government officials and mandated government line agencies. Technically, the project is sustained by trained members of the community who have been equipped with appropriate skills to commit in the operations and management and operations of the Village DRRM Hub. Partnering with village-based Peoples' Organization (PO) ensures organizational sustainability. The VDRRM Hub team members who are members of said POs were clarified of their roles, functions and responsibilities in the management of the Hub under the close supervision of the Board of Directors and Officers of the PO. Regular community meetings are held for updates about the operations/ management of the Hub. It is the financial sustainability to continue the operations of the Hub that is currently being worked out by the community members/ villagers. The villagers have started to advocate also to their local officials the inclusion of CBDRM a budget allocation for the Hub's operations in their Annual Investment Plan. Funding support from the local government, if ever it is granted, will be supplemented by the earnings that could be generated by a Social Enterprise to be implemented and managed the villagers.



Demonstrating Community Resilience

to Vulnerable Communities of Rosario, Cavite

The Activities

The Municipality of Rosario in Cavite is a first-class urban municipality located along Manila Bay. It is the most densely populated municipality in the province with 92,253 people (2010 Census) and land area of only 5.6 square kilometres. Fishing is a major economic activity with nine coastal barangays (out of 20 barangays). Due to its elevation, Rosario is said to be the 'catch basin' and 'discharge point' of several watersheds located in Tagaytay and upland municipalities.

Community-managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) is a strategy for effective reduction of disaster risks and adaptation. It is best achieved by supporting implementation of community-led disaster and climate risks interventions and building the capacities of both vulnerable members of community and the local government structures. Through series of participatory interventions, the community themselves learn to identify, manage and respond to their own risks.

IIRR, in partnership with the municipality of Rosario and funding support from United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) started the project in August 2011 to July 2013 titled 'Modelling climate smart and resilient communities.'

The project, which covered nine (9) coastal barangays, developed and built BLGUs capacities on DRR-CCA & CMDRR concepts and principles, conducting participatory risk assessments and analysis, enhancing their skills in creating and digitizing community maps, DRR-CCA program planning and implementation, formulation of barangay disaster risk reduction management plans and integration of BDRRM plans into the municipal DRRM plans.

The project also facilitated the community to identify DRR models on natural resource management, livelihoods and health such as establishment of coastal vegetation as mitigation measure; assessment and risk-proofing of livelihoods, establishment of community garden for livelihood and health resilience.

The project also provided community seed fund to implement various DRR measures such as establishment of early warning system, canal clean up and dredging, conduct of IEC. A livelihood assistance package (capacity building, inputs and capital) for rug making for MOMSLI was also provided.

Then in September 2012 to August 2013, in partnership with Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program (PACAP), community preparedness was instituted in three (3) coastal barangays which included support for contingency planning, community drills, early warning systems and formation of community emergency response teams (CERT).

The project also conducted participatory action research on coastal resource management that identified appropriate species of trees and plants to be used in the natural mitigation measures against flooding and storm surges. A community nursery to propagate these identified species was also established.

From May 2014 to January 2016, UMCOR supported the scaling out to 20 barangays titled “Demonstrating Community Resilience to Climate Change and Disasters in Vulnerable Communities in Cavite Philippines”.

Apart from the local government units (LGUs) of Rosario, IIRR also worked with Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office - Cavite Office of Public Safety, Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Philippine National Police, and Philippine National Red Cross.

• The Process •

IIRR encourages capacity building activities through participatory processes of risk assessments, trainings, to institutionalize disaster preparedness interventions. Participatory consultations, meetings, and workshops were facilitated to each barangay to develop or further enhance Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (BDRRM) plans. Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) were organized that builds a system of coordination with every designated officer assigned. Series of Training of Trainers (ToT) were conducted to form core group members and echo to other barangay representatives to build a pool of CERT members. Local Flood Early Warning System (LFEWS) was developed, planned, and tested with the barangay to establish a standard procedure and protocols using Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to increase awareness of community to flood warning signs.

Use of localized devices (such as batingting, megaphone, river level monitor, etc.) serves as tools to be prepared for impending hazards such as flood and typhoons.

IIRR coordinated activities with the MDRRM Office. During the project implementation, a project management team (PMT) composed of IIRR and Rosario MDRMO was formed to monitor the project implementation.

Women, children and youth, and the elderly were included in the various participatory assessments, workshops and capacity building activities such as conduct of community drills, first aid training, disaster preparedness trainings.

Apart from project management team, project implementation team (PIT) composed of IIRR field staff, barangay officials, and representative from MDRMO was organized to monitor the progress of the project implementation. PIT met quarterly to monitor the plans and targets, review and assess the activities conducted, and adjust or change priorities and strategies as need arises.



The Impact

The community in general, including children and youth has increased awareness and knowledge on disaster preparedness, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation. Barangays continue to conduct skills enhancement on disaster preparedness and first aid training. Barangays have also utilized their local DRR fund in procuring life-saving equipment and early warning devices. Schools have also conducted disaster preparedness awareness seminars and training tapping Barangay CERT.

Barangay officials and volunteers and community members especially those living near the coastline are now aware and knowledgeable on how to prepare and save themselves from typhoons and floods. The community flood early warning system i.e. megaphone, bells, sirens and appropriate actions and conduct of community drills helped and guided them on what to do and where to go in time of emergencies. These have saved their lives and reduced casualties and damages. Likewise, coordination among the barangays and the Municipal DRRMO had been established resulting to faster response and coordinated actions.

"In times of Affliction, God and Preparedness are our Protection."

The Activities

Sition South Libis and Sition North Libis are two peripheral, riverine, peri-urban communities in the village of Banaba, San Mateo, Rizal. These two communities experience yearly flood due to the overflow of two adjoining rivers (Marikina and Nangka Rivers) that are part of the topography of the area. This writer recorded a ten-year cycle of big flood in the area – 1978, 1988, 1999, 2009.

The prospect of more and worsening floods was aggravated by an environmentally critical project of one construction company to establish a cement batching plant right at the middle of the two sitios and very proximate to the embankments of Marikina River. The vulnerable families analysed the project and its impacts to them during the weekly Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC) Buklod (numbering seven cells) meeting. The vulnerable people arrived at the consensus: the project of the construction company should be halted for disaster risk aggravation that would ensue that, would be inimical to children, older persons, women, person with disabilities living the South and North Libis.

A non-structural kind of disaster risk mitigation was mapped up by the community of Buklod or Basic Ecclesial communities, such as : signature campaign of community folks addressed to the Mayor; request for a public hearing with the committee on Environment and Natural Resources of the San Mateo Municipal Council; attend technical conferences about our complaint against the project with : the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), the Regional Office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) , the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), and finally, lobbying to the Provincial Board Members of Rizal Provincial Council.

The non-structural disaster risk mitigation efforts of the community paid off. The construction company packed up and abandoned its cement batching plant project in the area of vulnerable people in sitio South Libis and North Libis. But damage has been done by the construction company's initial earthmoving activities and dumping of filling materials. Victory was not enough, we have to think of ways to be less vulnerable in more concrete initiatives and sufficient funding (because our non-structural disaster risk mitigation was undertaken with "pass the hat" funds; while we (the vulnerable sector of sitios South Libis and North Libis – Basic Ecclesial communities), also forged partnerships for this non-structural disaster risk mitigation pursuits with : the lawyers of Tanggol Kalikasan, and at the early stage, the staff of the Ministry of Social and Human Development – Social Action Center, Diocese of Antipolo. The partnership started in September 1995 up to May 1996, when the construction company folded up.

The members of Buklod Tao, Inc. tasked Ka Noli A. Abinales, concurrent President of the organization at that time, to write letters to sympathetic institutions that would help a fledgling organization. A simple project proposal was drafted and was submitted to the Small Embassy Project window of the Royal Netherland Embassy in Manila. The project delineated, for its first component, - the establishment of community-based disaster management structure of Buklod Tao, Inc, and to be implemented in sitios South Libis and North Libis.

The project proposal submitted to the embassy was approved in May 1997. First tranche amounting to P25,000.00 was released by the embassy upon signing of a MOA in mid-June 1997. With this first tranche, Buklod Tao was able to undertake the first component of Buklod Tao, Inc. project, that is, the establishment of a community -based disaster management (that was how it was called then, circa 1997).

• The Process •

Buklod Tao PABATID (system of communication within the organization) was circulated to some 30 to 32 men and women-members of Buklod Tao, Inc. It was an invite to them to attend a one-day forum and workshop to be held at the community chapel about community preparedness as the community's counter against flooding. It was held on 20 June 1997, Sunday, facilitated by Buklod Tao President, Ka Noli.

The first objective was: community awareness raising about disasters, hazards, our vulnerabilities and local capacities. This was aptly met with the output of hazard map drawn by three sub-groups of the participants. Each grouping was tactical because representations are: those that reside at sitio South Libis belong to one group; those that reside at sitio North Libis belong to the second group; and those that reside at the middle part, between the two sitios should belong to the third group. The second objective was to organize the participants who have undergone awareness raising. Although we all belong to one umbrella group, Buklod Tao, Inc., the community awareness that was undertaken necessitated the formation of dedicated groups within the organization that is focused on preparedness, safety and reduction of risks.

The tactical sub-groups during the hazard mapping workshop led the way towards the organizing of Disaster Preparedness Teams of Buklod Tao, Inc.: one in sitio South Libis; second in sitio North Libis, and the third group is based in the middle portion between South Libis and North Libis. Community awareness and community organizing having been realized that same day (20 June 1997), one more element has to be pursued still. Can we already go back home and be content with the day's accomplishments? This writer asked the participants inside the community chapel this question: "We have attained community risk awareness, we have formed three volunteer groups for preparedness, safety risk reduction, have we missed something?" Within seconds, the leader of our newly formed groups replied: "For our respective teams, we need provision of rescue boat, rescue ropes, flashlights, life vests, and megaphones for early warning". This response was the embodiment of our third objective: Capacity building.



Our organization must enable our teams to pursue their role during disasters for the welfare of our community members. With the first tranche from the Royal Netherland Embassy, we were able to capacitate ourselves:

1. We fabricated our own three fibre glass rescue boats;
2. We purchased three sets of rescue ropes, flashlights and even megaphones for our early warning system.

It would be recalled that it was in the 1990s when the backdrop in the government relevant to disaster mechanisms was Presidential Decree 1566 where proactive stance to disaster and disaster risk was still wanting. Hence this writer could not cite any local government role in the above described community initiated pursuits. Coordination of the above pursuit on CBDRM was vested on the Buklod Tao officers since, central to the pursuit was Ka Noli A. Abinales, concurrent President of Buklod Tao, Inc. during the implementation of Small Embassy Project funded by the Royal Netherlands Embassy.

The women in our community served as cooks of our community kitchen during disaster events. Still, other women served as in-charge of our designated evacuation center which was the community chapel; the youth helped in the repacking and distribution of relief items.

The Post Ketchana Rehabilitation Programs prompted Buklod Tao CBDRM activities to undertake: 1. Rapid Damage Needs Capacities Assessment in our flood -affected communities; 2. Rapid Livelihood Assessment; 3. Food and non-food relief delivery operations; 4. Housing materials distribution; 5. Social enterprise capital augmentation program; 6. Banaba Disaster Risk Reduction Program which constitutes the following components: training, organizing, livelihood, advocacy, capacity building, and construction plus stewardship with prospects of ownership of Banaba Livelihood and Evacuation Center. 7. Paralegal (SALIGAN), Psycho-social (Ateneo Psychology Dept), Rapid Response training (Christian Aid) CBDRRM training, organizing and advocacy (CDP). 8. Development of Banaba Participatory 3 - Dimensional Map (University of Auckland, New Zealand, University of the Philippines Dept of Geography, CDP). Monitoring mechanisms were : livelihood committee meetings headed by Christian Aid and skills training facilitated by Unlad Kabayan; evaluation meetings with : Christian Aid, Unlad Kabayan, and the Center for Disaster Preparedness Foundation.

The Impact

Since the CDRM projects in 1997 and 2010 no casualties during flood events in our communities. Families are now aware of the meaning and significance of our early warning systems; eight peripheral communities in Banaba appreciate the existence of DRR Teams of Buklod Tao equipped with rescue boats, flashlights, ropes, life vests, megaphones (that need replacements). Sensitized communities emerged in regard to preparedness and safety, evacuation during times of emergencies are already a mind set for all, to reduce vulnerabilities of homes, families retrofit their houses against floods and earthquakes. Notable was the level of participation of people during training events, flood simulation events, and meetings.

... other

Please visit Buklod Tao, Inc. webpage : www.buklodtaoinc.org

Click entries about Buklod Tao at Google search, Yahoo search.

Relevant pictures are available at our website.

Please refer to this writer's contribution to the Philippine Sociological Review, University of the Philippines – Diliman. December 2003 edition.

Please refer to Post Ketchana Christian Aid Philippines |Publication.

Thank you. Salamat po.

Evidence-based Planning for Resilient Local Health Systems (rEBaP)

The Activities

The REBAP CBDRM intervention was borne out of a stocktaking of 35 Local Government Units (LGUs) by UNICEF after Super Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013. The stocktaking concluded that (1) most LGUs did not have designated health emergency coordinators, (2) local response was feeble, uncoordinated, and inefficient, (3) there was insufficient capacity of LGU human resources to prepare and respond to disasters, and (4) majority of LGUs did not have an existing Health Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Plan (HEPRRP), while others had existing plans that were not useful because they were not approved, budgeted, and/or disseminated.

Given this context, the REBAP sought to address the gap in local government planning by assisting LGUs in coming up with their own HEPRRP. UNICEF and other partners jointly implemented the REBAP Project as part of the recovery efforts after Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda). Project implementation took over a year (January 2015 until December 2016), although preparations for it began long beforehand, and efforts continued after project concluded. Target beneficiaries of REBAP were LGUs across six provinces (Samar, Eastern Samar, Leyte, Cebu, Capiz, and Iloilo) in Regions 6, 7 and 8. From the original 41 LGUs, international NGO Medicos del Mundo advocated for the inclusion of nine additional municipalities, for a total of 50 LGUs.

The REBAP project was implemented by ten partners from the government, academe, and civil society, each contributing their expertise in different areas, such as health emergency management, local health systems, mental health and psychosocial support, and evidence-based planning. Academic institutions, NGOs, and the health sector collaborated with the community in REBAP.

The technical partners were: Citizens' Network for Psychosocial Response (CNET-PSR), UP Manila College of Public Health (UPM CPH), Bicol University, University of Queensland, and the Department of Health. Together, these partners provided technical inputs and served as advisors in the design and conduct of the initiative. Implementing partners—UP Visayas, UP School of Health Sciences Palo, Zuellig Family Foundation (with Manila Observatory as its technical partner), and Medicos del Mundo—were responsible for the conduct of the package of interventions. Fifty LGUs were partners in this REBAP Project.



ORGANIZATION:
University of the
Philippines Manila -
College of Public Health

LOCATION:
50 municipalities and cities in six provinces
(Leyte, Eastern Samar, Samar, Iloilo, Capiz,
and Cebu)

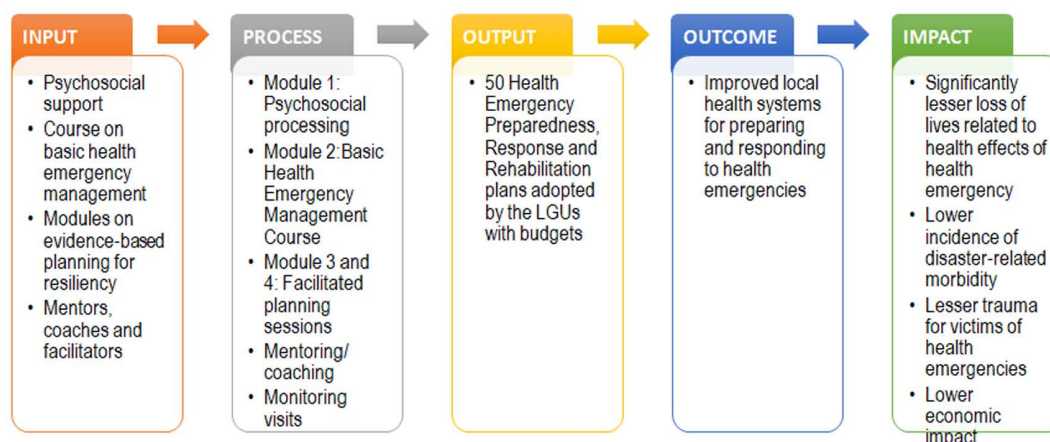
TYPE OF COMMUNITY:
Urban

HAZARD:
Typhoon

UNICEF provided significant financial support for the REBAP, covering personnel, operations, logistics, and training costs. The regional health offices of DOH and some municipalities also contributed financially, especially in the post-intervention activities.

The following diagram illustrates the intervention framework of the REBAP:

Figure 1. REBAP Framework.



The REBAP began with two preparatory inputs, the psychosocial processing (PSP) and basic course on health emergency and disaster management. Module 1 covered the PSP to prepare participants emotionally and psychologically for disaster planning, which was founded on recollecting their Haiyan experiences. Module 2, the basic course, was more technical and provided a strong foundation for health emergency preparedness and response. The course was modified from the existing Public Health Emergency Management in Asia and the Pacific (PHEMAP) course administered by UPM CPH for health workers. Overall, Module 2 provided both health and non-health stakeholders the basic knowledge in health emergency and disaster management.

Modules 3 and 4, the core of the planning process, was where the evidence-based, experience-based planning process came into play. This was accomplished through facilitated planning sessions; the main output was a draft HEPRR Plan. This draft was further refined in succeeding, highly individualized coaching and mentoring sessions with implementing partners, which were held at the LGU level. This was closely coordinated with regional DOH Health Emergency Management Bureau (HEMB) Coordinators and Development Management Officers (DMOs), who faithfully served as coaches for the planning process.

Overall, the multisectoral approach of REBAP is reflected not only among project partners, but also within the members of the planning teams of different LGUs. A total of 346 planners underwent the process, including Mayors, Municipal Health Officers, Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Officers (MDRRMO), Municipal Local Governance Operations Officers (MLGOO), Municipal Planning and Development Officers (MPDO), Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officers (MSWDO), Health Emergency Management Service coordinators (HEMS), and other health workers, including Sanitary Inspectors and Public Health Nurses (PHN).

As the REBAP Project progressed, UNICEF and the partners were able to deliver technical assistance and aid in the completion of 50 HEPRRPs. All plans were approved by the Local Chief Executives, and adopted and budgeted accordingly by the LGUs. UNICEF and the partners envision that this will result in improved health outcomes, specifically in emergency response, significantly reduce disaster related mortality and morbidity, limit the economic impacts of disasters, and increase community resiliency.

At present, the HEPRRP has been renamed as the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Health (DRRM-H) Plan to reflect the four phases of emergencies—prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The process of crafting the DRRM-H plan has likewise been modified as well, to further emphasize community resiliency and prevention and mitigation efforts.

• The Process •

The REBAP planning process was fully owned by the local government and community because of significant social preparation and existing trust among LGUs and local implementing partners. Social preparation featured a team of facilitators from each implementing partner and the consultant from UNICEF. Together, they visited each of the LGUs to give a courtesy call to the Mayor, present the project objectives, goals, and package of interventions, introduce the team, and secure commitment from the Local Chief Executive (LCE), usually the Mayor. “Buy-in” of the LCE and planners from the LGUs was a non-negotiable prior to initiation of Module 1.

From the beginning, it was emphasized to LGU planners that the HEPRRP they would be crafting would belong to them, and be implemented by them. They understood that the REBAP team could only provide guidance and mentoring, especially since the specific inputs could only originate from the LGUs. The planners were empowered to think out of the box, not only in designing strategies, but also in ensuring that the plan is approved, budgeted, disseminated, implemented, tested, and sustained.

In addition, many LGUs had previous involvement with the academic and non-government institutions which would be serving as implementing partners. The fact that these institutions were local increased the efficacy of monitoring and enabled the REBAP team to rapidly address concerns during implementation of the project.

Significant ownership was seen in the involvement of DOH and its regional offices in Regions 6, 7 and 8. From the development of the initial idea to its final realization, DOH contributed tremendously in ensuring that the deliverables would be accomplished. The sustainability was made possible by the regional health offices providing both technical and financial support for HEPRRP-related endeavors and monitoring of these through the LGU Scorecard. Counterparts from the Provincial Health Offices of the six provinces were also key in maintaining close coordination with LGU planners.

It is noteworthy that initially, there was huge variation in ownership, including skepticism on the part of some LGU officials or executives. However, as the project concluded, it was apparent that the LGUs valued and embraced the process, going as far as to support individual workshops, writeshops, and coaching and mentoring sessions through investing time and finances.

Local skills and knowledge were maximized at all points in the REBAP project, especially in Modules 3 and 4. During these planning sessions, LGU officials incorporated local knowledge (concerning local hazards and vulnerable areas) and indigenous practices (utilizing local materials and traditions for early warning systems, among others).

Overall, the role of the LGUs was to draft the HEPRR plan, further refine it through the coaching and mentoring sessions, and ensure that it was compliant with the requirements laid out in the LGU Scorecard: that it would be approved, budgeted, disseminated, implemented, integrated (into other LGU plans), and tested.

Follow up planning activities, such as mentoring and coaching visits, were coordinated by the implementing partners. UPM-CPH, the monitoring partner, also visited the different LGUs in coordination with the implementing partners.

Locally, DRRM-H activities were coordinated by the DRRMO and the MHO (CHO in some cases). A designate was usually assigned to take charge of DRRM-H at the Rural Health Unit level. This designate would take charge of DRRM-H initiatives not only for the health center, but for the entire LGU.

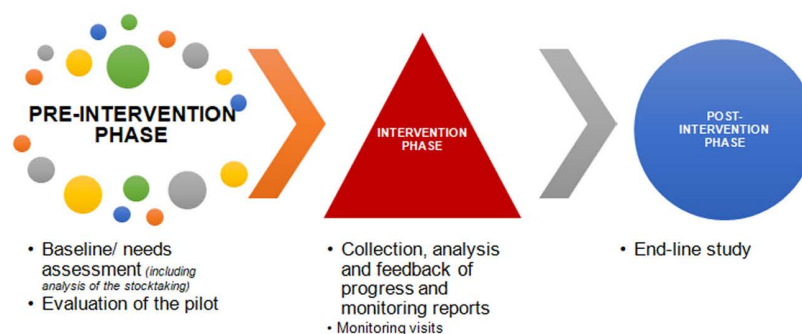
During Modules 3 and 4, great emphasis was put on planning for specific populations that would be at-risk during emergencies and disasters, and acting on this to reduce their pre-existing vulnerability. Some LGUs were able to maximize the participatory planning process, and involve women's groups, youth, and elderly in the consultation process.

The development of the REBAP process hinged on the post-Haiyan environment. This included the fact that the typhoon was a highly traumatic experience for all, including planners. As participants indicated, "everyone lost someone or something." This led to modification of the package of interventions to include psychosocial response at a deeply personal level. The module had numerous positive benefits to planners, acting as a relaxing and holistic stress debriefing in preparation for planning, and standing-in as a team building to improve organizational relations. More importantly, participants were able to share their experiences, and in a way, leave these behind prior to planning.

There were also numerous competing priorities at the local level, including the desire of some Mayors to focus on infrastructure development rather than health service delivery and health systems strengthening. As a result, the modules took on a slightly different route for some, choosing to emphasize the role of health systems in good health outcomes. Another point was how infrastructure could be disaster-proofed by factoring in emergencies and disasters during the different stages, resulting in adoption of DRRM principles and resilient infrastructure.

At the REBAP Project level, monitoring and learning was coordinated by UPM-CPH. Implementing partners were also key in this, as they encouraged sharing of best practices and challenges among their cohort of LGUs.

Figure 2. Monitoring and evaluation framework.




The UPM-CPH team was also able to conduct an end-line project assessment. This was accomplished during a Project Implementation Review in some areas and through Key Informant Interviews in other LGUs. The project was evaluated in terms of the following areas: (1) Engagement, (2) Logistics, (3) Training Content, (4) Training Process, and (5) Post-Training Support.

At the LGU level, monitoring and evaluation for HEPRRP was also institutionalized. LGUs are encouraged to test the plan through emergency drills and simulations, after which the response team, led by the DRRMO and MHO, would go through a debriefing to discuss what could be improved further, and add on or modify the HEPRRP as necessary. Emphasis was given on the iterative, ever-continuous process of planning for emergencies, and that the plan should be tested and updated annually if possible, or at regular two to three-year intervals.

The Impact

After the project was concluded, numerous follow up initiatives by UNICEF, in collaboration with some partners, materialized. These included the development of an Omnibus Policy on emergency and disaster management (DOH-HEMB and UPM-CPH), drafting of the National DRRM-H Planning Guidelines (DOH-HEMB, representatives from different levels of the health system, and UPM-CPH) and pilot testing of the guidelines (UPV). In addition, there was the conduct of a National Leadership and Management Formation Program (DOH-HEMB), organization of the 5K* Kadre for Eastern Visayas (DOH Region 8 and SHS Palo), and replication of REBAP in ARMM (Regional DOH Office in ARMM). (5K stands for Kaligtasan pangKalusugan sa Kalamidad sa Kamay ng Komunidad.)



Prior to the conclusion of the REBAP Project, the DOH Regional Office of Region 6 and the Provincial Health Offices of Iloilo and Capiz committed to the rollout of the process among the remaining municipalities without a HEPRRP. The UPV REBAP team provided technical assistance for this as well. This resulted in the development and conduct of a revised version of the REBAP for LGU planners. The process was a three-day workshop covering psychosocial processing through team building and leadership exercises, discussion on health emergency management, and the development of the HEPRRP. Target participants were the MHO, MPDO and MDRRMO of different LGUs in Iloilo, Antique, and Aklan.

Continuation of REBAP efforts were also seen in a scale up by the DOH Leyte Provincial Health Team, which covered 21 other LGUs in Leyte Province. Since then, all 21 non-REBAP LGUs were also able to develop individual HEPRR plans, all of which were subsequently approved and funded. Last January 2016, all non-project LGUs in Leyte Province presented their HEPRR plans in a Colloquium spearheaded by the DOH.

Finally, the Zuellig Family Foundation brought the REBAP even closer to the community by conducting Barangay-based DRRM planning for health and other sectors. This initiative was accomplished in 12 LGUs in Samar and Eastern Samar.

Overall, the REBAP planning intervention can be replicated in other sectors and LGUs across the Philippines, as it placed increasing emphasis on the health systems approach and multi-sectoral planning for resilience.

In the years after the REBAP experience, it was apparent that LGUs in the Haiyan corridor were better prepared for emergencies and disasters. Even in unprecedented situations like the flooding wrought by Typhoon Urduja in Tacloban City, LGUs experienced significantly fewer mortalities, and were overall, more prepared in activating and mobilizing entire systems, up to the individual level, in responding to these emergencies.

The REBAP Project provided an opportunity for the health sector to voice out sectoral concerns to their LGU partners, particularly the MPDC and the MDRRMO, who then understood and appreciated the need for policies and appropriate funding for successful implementation of their HEPRRP. Corollary to this, there was closer coordination and collaboration between health and non-health sector stakeholders at the LGU level after REBAP.

Overall, the REBAP Project significantly strengthened local resilience and reduced vulnerability across the board. Through good, strong leadership provided by Mayors who are aware of DRRM issues, municipalities are better able to prepare for and overcome future emergencies and disasters.

The REBAP Project possessed an innovative project design:

Training package content

The contents featured psychosocial processing and mental health, concerns which are often neglected in DRRM planning, a more hands-on instead of technical basic course for health emergencies, evidence-based and experience-based planning, and coaching and mentoring.

It was evident that effective coaching and other post-module activities provided guidance and direction, boosted the morale of the planners, issued gentle reminders, and contributed missing technical and management know-how. Coaching sessions also brought the planning team together for a greater level of cooperation. This final stage was characterized by hands-on (“tutok”) supervision, regular monitoring, a high level of commitment, and skillful facilitation

Coaching was conducted after Planning Workshop 1 and 2, and was effective in bringing the project to a successful conclusion. The “pangungulit” or persistent reminders of the coaches hastened completion of the different LGU HEPRRPs. Monitoring calls cued planners to bring the REBAP to the fore before the coaches visited for hands-on sessions.

Without this sense of urgency, LGUs may have prioritized the REBAP less.

Delivery of interventions

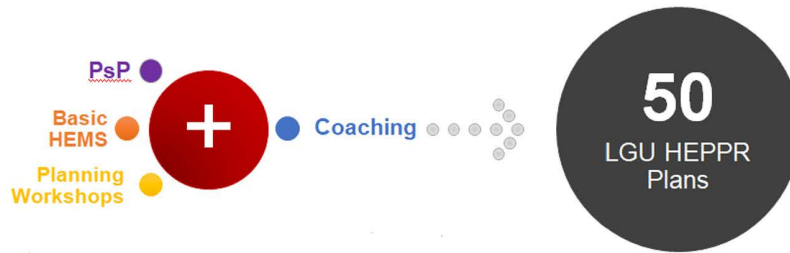
Generally, participants were very appreciative of the program design, which struck the ideal balance between technical assistance and independent planning. Participants were neither spoon-fed strategies nor left to fend for their own. Though complicated, the systematic and organized process made learning easier and planning less burdensome. The use of the different regional languages in planning also contributed greatly to the high stakeholder participation.

When asked about the process, the words most often mentioned by planners are “step-by-step.” For planners more used to a tabular, fill-in-the-blanks style of planning, the stepwise planning approach was a huge paradigm shift. As a result, some considered it confusing and tedious. Nevertheless, most ended up describing the unique process as “the best” or even “better than other workshops.” The process had gotten planners fired up and motivated, creating the plan not just for the sake of compliance, but for actual implementation. The spread of different technical inputs across a four month period also improved time to absorb and practice lessons learned during the REBAP, and integrate these into the planning.





Figure 3. Inputs and output of the REBAP Project.



For many LGUs, the REBAP was a deeply awaited project – a lot of LGUs had either tried to complete their HEPPRRP in the past and left it unfinished, or lacked the time to complete the planning. The REBAP was an incredible opportunity to leave other distractions at the LGU level and focus exclusively on planning for emergencies. As such, the project was cited as a great help to completing the HEPPRRP. Comments from LGU planners were very positive overall, ranging from “perfect” to “well planned” and “excellent implementation.”

Institutionalisation of CBDRM in the country

A. Policy environment

To a certain extent, CBDRM is addressed in Philippine DRM and development-related laws, policies, and plans. However, in terms of community based DRRM with a health specific aspect, there is still much to be done in terms of legislation, policy, and planning.

Currently, efforts are being made at the Department of Health (national level) to enact policy in DRRM-H, although as mentioned earlier, an omnibus policy is in the revision stage (the REBAP experience directly influenced the development of this policy). National plans are also incomplete at the moment, and be prioritized better.

DRRM-H approaches are still undergoing standardization at the moment (DOH is in the process of revising the DRRM-H planning guidelines developed after the REBAP). Finally, the UNICEF consultant has an existing working relationship with DOH-HEMB, among other national stakeholders.

B. Structures and mechanisms

Coordination of local CBDRM actions is the responsibility of the DRRMO, although he is usually assisted by a designate HEMS coordinator from the health sector. “Designate” indicates that HEMS is not the primary role of the coordinator, who is already taking on the role of doctor, nurse, or another full-time position in the health sector.

Technical inputs for capacity building are hugely dependent on the DOH Regional Offices, which possess the financial resources to conduct trainings and other initiatives. LGUs generally budget for capacity building activities, although this is often quite general in nature and limited to disaster response, rather than improving capacity in prevention and mitigation and preparedness.



C. Funding and incentives

National legislation requires LGUs to earmark 5 percent of their Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) to funding DRRM initiatives, although it must be emphasized that many of these emanate from the LGU level, rather than going through a bottom-up process.

D. Culture and Practices

The REBAP Project resulted in a sea change in local DRRM-H attitudes and practices. Previously, many key actors in Region 8 indicated a lack of interest in preparing for emergencies and disasters (people were already used to mild to strong typhoons, and assumed prior to Yolanda that preparedness efforts were sufficient). LGU officials were truly motivated to accomplish their HEPRRPs, and indicated that these efforts would not be in vain, that the planning was “unlike any other” and was not planning for the sake of compliance to national policy, but to truly improve their LGUs and communities.

At the moment, it is mostly NGOs in the DRRM field that are able to visualize the value of DRRM planning and implementation; attitudes among community members and government vary. Officials would usually indicate interest in accomplishing such work, but actual follow-through is highly dependent on external factors, such as the arrival of a huge emergency like Haiyan.

REBAP resulted in a lot of DRRM-H institutionalization at the university level, covering the campuses of UP Manila, UP Visayas, and SHS Palo. Different classes were developed from the REBAP experience, and a curriculum for a masteral course is currently being refined.

Building Capacity to Improve Resilience to Weather and Climate Extremes in the Philippines

The Activities

Following the impacts of Typhoon Haiyan, the UK Government (DFID) provided support for a partnership project (Jan 15 to Oct 16) between UK Met Office and PAGASA, the Philippines weather service, to build capacity to improve resilience to weather and climate extremes in the Philippines.

The project focused on i.) Building capacity to utilise climate information through working with Local Government Units (LGUs) to develop processes to inform local planning; ii.) Developing regional climate simulations to assess impacts on future Tropical Cyclone activity.

Following recommendations of a national stakeholder review involving over 300 participants (2015), two LGU “pilots” or case studies (Three Cities within Metropolitan Manila Area and Salcedo, Eastern Samar) aiming to improve the current situation were taken forward. Pilots focused on selected climate sensitive sectors (e.g. agriculture, health, livelihoods) across the “supply chain” of climate information covering: Information production, translation into risks and impacts and communicating risk information to “end-users”.

Pilots (Jan–Oct 2016) were designed to be interactive and developed a novel “user-needs-based-approach” involving multiple workshops over the period to ensure the process was a collaborative effort between both the producers and users of climate (inc. local planners, disaster risk reduction, health, housing officers and community level “Barangay” officers. Outputs included provision of training to over 100 local community members on how to use climate information and development of a clear process to integrate climate information into local and sectoral planning and decision making.

Production of a “climate orientation” training pack and guidelines on integrating climate information into local planning for have been made available for wider rollout, supported by the Department of Local and Interior Government (DILG).

• The Process •

Pilots (Jan–Oct 2016) were designed to be interactive and developed a novel “user-needs-based-approach” involving multiple workshops over the period to ensure the process was a collaborative effort between both the producers and users of climate (inc. local planners, disaster risk reduction, health, housing officers and community level “Barangay” officers). Outputs included provision of training to over 100 local community members on how to use climate information and development of a clear process to integrate climate information into local and sectoral planning and decision making.

A key part of this process was to ensure that the climate risk information produced by PAGASA was informed by local knowledge of risks and issues and regarding nature and feasibility of mitigation and adaptation measures.

Production of a “climate orientation” training pack and guidelines on integrating climate information into local planning for have been made available for wider rollout, supported by the Department of Local and Interior Government (DILG).

The “user-needs-based-approach” developed active roles “focal leads” and co-worked with these to develop local skills and capacity and to ensure outputs were integrated seamlessly beyond the project. The leads worked as part of the project team have now committed to continuing these roles going forward.

The project improved capacity of over 100 community representatives involved in planning to effectively utilise climate information in their “day” roles.

The project has involved and will benefit will impact a range of at risk groups including local farmers, fisherman and local businesses (in Salcedo) and local communities (addressing flood, health and local livelihoods) and businesses (inc. leather and shoe industry, small scale household businesses in the three cities in Metropolitan Manila.

Participants recognise the benefits of adopting the process and have committed to continuation beyond the project, the support training pack and guidance provides a tested mechanism to apply in similar areas.

The process has provided a common understanding, on the opportunities and barriers to maximise the benefits of utilising climate information more effectively and has strengthened positioning of PAGASA with end-users (national-local scales).

The development of the “ user-needs-based-approach” was an iterative process whereby the training pack was updated to reflect learning across the following stages:

- Climate training pack was developed through direct training to pilot focal leads (LGU planners)
- Mentoring LGU planners to provide the training directly to local community groups e.g. neighbourhood captains, local businesses, farmers and fisher folk
- Feedback form the local community representatives on ease of use and on mechanisms to incorporate national information with local risk information

Initially participants explained that they had limited time and capacity to integrate climate risk information in their day-to-day planning roles, they now report that the process and skills developed means this can easily be achieved.

This process will provide valuable learning to other municipalities of which there are 1,489 encompassing the Philippines.

The Impact

The project has provided a number of benefits which have continued beyond the end of the programme including:

1. Directly Increasing local capacity and understanding to understand and use climate information and provided mechanism to support other LGUs doing the same
2. Improved production and delivery of PAGASA's information based on end-user needs – learning from the pilots has now influenced the way they produce and communicate climate projections and climate risk information
3. Delivery of cutting edge science and new knowledge on climate change and tropical cyclone activity in the Philippines region.

The success of the pilots has now led to PAGASA and the Department of Interior and Local Government supporting further rollout of the climate orientation training and process to integrate climate risk information into local planning and decision making in other Local Government municipalities in the Philippines.

Local government planners and communities in the two pilot areas continue to utilise the learning during the pilot phases in their day to day “business as usual” activities given the new skills developed and processes adopted.

The project improved capacity of over 100 community representatives involved in planning to effectively utilise climate information in their “day” roles.

Participants recognise the benefits of adopting the process and have committed to continuation beyond the project, the support training pack and guidance provides a tested mechanism to apply in similar areas.

The process has provided a common understanding, on the opportunities and barriers to maximise the benefits of utilising climate information more effectively and has strengthened positioning of PAGASA with end-users (national-local)

The process is now being rolled out to other local government municipalities in the Philippines.

... other

Finally to ensure long term sustainability, the project organised a series of workshops with key Government Departments (August 2016) to assess information distribution and effectiveness across different sectors. This informed an “enabling roadmap” which has provided understanding across Government of future actions to required “mainstream” use of climate information and has paved the way for strengthening collaborations between PAGASA and different Government Departments.

A number of workshops took place with Government bodies (covering all sectors) in the Philippines to inform roadmap development including Departments for: Interior and Local Government, Environment, Transport, Agriculture, Health, Energy, Economic Development, Housing, Public Works and Highways and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council and Climate Change Commission.

Further information including project outputs can be found at: <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/applied/applied-climate/philippines>

