In December 2012, the Typhoon Bopha devastated the municipalities of Baganga, Cateel, and Boston in Davao Oriental, in the South-eastern region of the Philippines. International humanitarian assistance was immediately mobilized to bring assistance to the affected areas, as part of the emergency response phase. The International Labour Organization was granted US$597,060 from the Central Emergency Response Fund through the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The ILO’s first efforts were to implement employment-intensive rebuilding activities in the municipality of Baganga.

Following this, the ILO further sought and was granted AUD 1,200,000 or US$1,179,122 funding assistance from Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to implement two projects and contribute to livelihoods recovery in the fragile municipalities of Baganga, Cateel, and Boston.

**Background**

The Department of Agriculture reported that 115,575 ha of cropland were degraded by the Typhoon and estimated at US$30.27 Million the losses in the agriculture sector in the three towns. Furthermore, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council estimated that as much as 75% of infrastructure were affected in the province with damages to infrastructure amounting to an estimated US$39.82 Million. The typhoon also brought massive amounts of debris into coastal areas/villages.

ILO estimated that one million workers were impacted of which 35% were women and 37% of them were in vulnerable employment, being self-employed or unpaid family workers.

**The Project**

The two projects engaged with local partners to rebuild destroyed agriculture, irrigation and transport infrastructure, local government facilities as well as community and environmental assets. The ILO also promoted and applied the use of local resource-based methods as well as followed the core concepts of the rights-based approach to ensure equality, non-discrimination, inclusiveness and participation, accountability, and rule of law.

**Summary of the projects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Climate Change Impact Mitigation and Post Calamity Interventions: Application of Local Resource-based Employment Generation Approach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immediate objectives</td>
<td>Regenerate incomes through medium-term employment intensive reconstruction works that will lead to longer term livelihoods restoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>March 27, 2013 to September 30, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount granted</td>
<td>AUD300,000 (US$299,352)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage</td>
<td>Baganga, Cateel, and Boston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN partners</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target beneficiaries</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target work days</td>
<td>18750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Achievements**

The projects contributed to developing an enabling environment for rehabilitating local livelihoods, reconstructing agricultural infrastructure and developing local technical capacities. Both projects addressed the immediate, high priority needs to be articulated under the Livelihood Section in the Post Disaster
Needs Assessment, such as debris clearance and management, provision and distribution of seeds and planting materials, and capability building of farmers on upland technology.

The two projects generated a total of 51,087 workdays and employed 2,956 workers, 31% of them women. This income helped improve household's livelihoods and allow them to purchase food supplies, provide school enrolment and school supplies and overall stimulate the local economy. On-the-job skills training programs were also deployed for workers engaged in recovery and construction work, ensuring that women, youth and diverse ethnic groups were also able to participate.

The project provided livelihood support services, such as small hand tools and equipment, green agricultural inputs, entrepreneurship and skills training, and a start-up fund for micro-enterprises; and mobilize, organize and develop small community contractors from among the participants.

Farmers of 14 villages trained in Sloping Agriculture Land Technology (SALT) were able to engage in low-cost methods of upland farming. Legumes and trees were planted to form hedgerows. Alleys between contoured soils were alternately planted with corn, peanut, chili, and root crops. Construction of lobster production facilities created an alternative source of livelihood among fisher folks. About 1,760 farmers were provided with agricultural packages consisting of rice, corn, vegetable and fruit trees seeds, organic fertilizers and hand tools.

The project in Baganga helped restore about 17 km of irrigation canals and planted 15,000 mangrove propagule in 50 ha as well as 83 hectares of root crops (Peanut/Cassava/Potato), established vermicompost facilities for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries and reconstructed 60-meter long Mikit's hanging bridge. In Cateel and Boston the project supported the electrification of devastated barangays, trained farmers on SALT in 3 barangays, planted 12 hectares of chili, restored the school canteen and kitchen in barangay Abejod, improved the access road to Mantuano Eco-Park and, rehabilitated the Municipal Nursery Carmen-Boston, as well as the Central Nursery in Purok Tagadao Cateel.

Furthermore, the local capacity at barangay and municipal level to adapt to the impacts of climate change and reduce future impacts on livelihoods and living conditions were increased.

The Employment-Intensive Investment Program

EIIP supports ILO member States in the design, formulation, implementation, and evaluation of policies and programmes aiming to address unemployment and underemployment through public investment, typically in infrastructure development.

EIIP is part of the ILO’s Employment Policy Department and has evolved over the past 40 years from a series of labour-intensive infrastructure programmes to a comprehensive and integrated package of interventions which contributes to both the provision of improved and climate resilient infrastructure, and the creation of decent jobs. EIIP influences public investments to become more employment-oriented through knowledge development, capacity building, and technical advisory services at policy, institutional and operational levels.

Key ILO resources

- Promoting decent work for indigenous and tribal people through employment and investment programs, Employment Policy Briefs 2018

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CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland

For more information on Local resource-based approaches and community infrastructure, visit our web site of the Employment Intensive Investment Programme


www.ilo.org