

Typhoon Bopha (Pablo): Sustainable Livelihoods for Affected Communities

Australia's Support to Help the Philippines Build Back Better



International
Labour
Organization

The Challenge



On 4 December 2012, Davao Oriental experienced the wrath of Typhoon Bopha (locally known as Pablo) as it made landfall in the municipality of Baganga, Davao Oriental. The impact of Typhoon Bopha led to the devastation of properties and livelihoods and loss of lives of people.

In the province, Cateel and Boston were among the municipalities that were heavily affected. Houses were torn down, agricultural crops were flown and washed away, and lives of people were taken.

Given the impact of Typhoon Bopha, affected households need to rebuild what were lost, restore their incomes and livelihoods, rebuild shelter and communal infrastructure, and overcome the trauma of losing family members.

The Response

The Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) supported the livelihood recovery initiative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) which applies the Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) as a post-calamity intervention in the three municipalities of Davao Oriental. Under the EIIP, local organizations were contracted to implement their post-calamity subprojects and activities aimed to help individuals and households recover from the impact of Typhoon Bopha. The subprojects supported by the EIIP were those that utilized a labour intensive and local resource-based approach which aligned with reconstructive works, livelihood recovery initiatives and green works and green jobs.

Typhoon Bopha: Joint Response to Post-calamity, Local Resource-based Employment Generation and Livelihood Recovery Interventions

The Project was granted to the ILO in May 2013 and culminated on 30 September. It promoted climate change adaptation in line with the application of labour intensive and local resource-based approach to assist communities in building back better their communal infrastructures and generate livelihoods. The Project was implemented in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for rebuilding the agriculture sector alongside promoting gender sensitivity and awareness. The Project generated short-term employment for 1,844 people or 9,220 families. 30,086 work days were generated through labour intensive and local resource approach. Agricultural inputs were given to 1,760 agrarian reform beneficiaries, providing food and nutrition security to 8,800 families. The component with the UNFPA, which was implemented by Child Alert Mindanao, Inc. (CAM) covered 4,522 participants through 123 community sessions. 983 female beneficiaries (27 per cent) of the 3,622 beneficiaries were supported by the ILO and FAO. On the other hand, 2,795 females and girls attended the community education sessions of CAM, which explained concepts on gender-based violence, human trafficking, protection and reporting mechanisms and structures, and pertinent laws upholding the rights of women and children.

Bopha's Regional Impact

- 115,575 hectares of cropland were affected leading to a production loss of USD629 million in Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley
 - Banana industry (USD517 million)
 - Coconut industry (USD27 million)
 - Rice and corn (USD13.3 million)
 - Livestock and poultry (USD8 million).
- 75 per cent of public and private infrastructure either totally or partially damaged (NDRRMC, 2012).
- As per ILO estimates, 1 million workers were affected out of which 40 per cent are from Davao Oriental, Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte and Compostela Valley.

Objectives

Development objective: Facilitate the recovery of livelihoods of typhoon-affected communities.

Immediate objective: Increase access to income earning opportunities and improved livelihoods for disaster-affected households.

Achievements

- The Community Forestry Programme Taytayan Multipurpose Cooperative (CFP Taytayan MPC) was supported to restore its ecological park in Sitio Mantunao, Barangay Taytayan, Cateel. Under the rehabilitation subproject, fallen trees and other debris were cleared to restore the beauty of the two waterfalls in the community. Another component of the subproject rebuilt the cooperative's eco lodge damaged by Typhoon Bopha and improved the access roads leading to the ecological park.
- The Green Mindanao Association in collaboration with the Parent Teacher's Association rehabilitated a school canteen and kitchen in Barangay Abejod, Cateel, which was made available to pupils in time for the opening of classes in June 2014. The school provided the needed construction materials, namely lumber and wood, while the labour cost component and social protection coverage of workers were shouldered by the Project.
- The San Rafael United Women's Association (SARUWA), an organization composed of women residents rehabilitated the Day Care Center and Barangay Hall in Barangay San Rafael, Cateel. The barangay government provided materials for the rehabilitation of the facilities. The subproject also included the rehabilitation and expansion of the Food Terminal, which is now generating income for members of SARUWA.
- A total of 5.6 kilometers of irrigation canal were rehabilitated and desilted in Cateel. These are in Barangays San Antonio (1.6 kilometers) and Taytayan (4 kilometers). The Buguis Yahuno Irrigators Association and Taytayan Irrigators Association were contracted respectively for the rehabilitation and desiltation works.
- The Municipal Agriculture Nursery of Boston was rehabilitated by the Boston Coffee Growers Association (BOCGA). The construction materials were provided by the municipal government, while the ILO partnered with the local association to cover workers' minimum wage, and social protection coverage as they performed reconstructive works.
- Working with the Davao Oriental Electric Cooperative (DORECO), the Project supported the electrical debris clearing activities in 14 barangays of Cateel and four barangays of Boston. 144 workers were employed to cover the identified communities.
- The Baganga Electrician's Association (BEA) with technical assistance from the DORECO assisted barangays to be reconnected to electrical lines. Ten communities were reconnected through the support of the Project, which covered worker's wages, specialized hand tools and personal protective gears/equipment, and social protection.
- Three fisherfolk associations were supported to construct their lobster production in pen in Barangays Poblacion, Cabasagan and Sibajay, Boston. 81 fishermen benefitted from the subproject managed by the Cabasagan Fisherfolk Association. The materials were sourced out from the Integrated Coastal Resource Management Project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). Given the completion of the facilities, fisherfolk associations were expected to generate a net revenue of Php350,000 or USD7,954 after seven months.
- Fourteen sloping agricultural land technology (SALT) sites were developed in the Municipalities of Cateel and Boston covering 454 workers. The Para-Iso Association and Karancho-Cateel Nature Farming Advocates Association, Inc. in Cateel and Boston Women's Association (BWA) in Boston were the implementing partners of the ILO. The subprojects capacitated 10 farmer's organizations on SALT application through on-site skills building, and provided in-house training on natural and organic farming.
- The FAO distributed agricultural inputs and farming tools to 1,760 agrarian reform beneficiaries in Cateel and Boston, Davao Oriental from the middle of April until the first week of May 2014.
- One vermicast facility was rehabilitated in Barangay Taytayan, which was implemented by the Taytayan Irrigators Association. The previous six vermibed facility, which was flooded was reconstructed in a new land with a 10 vermibed design. The Association counter-parted the land for the facility.



Components

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