



Limestone, which is abundant in the area, serves as the main raw material in making ICEB.



ICEB are more durable than traditional concrete blocks.

Interlocking Compressed Earth Blocks (ICEB) Production in Northern Cebu

Emergency Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods after Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda)



Turning a crisis into an opportunity: Alternative livelihood is a safety net to build resilience towards a future calamity.

In the northern part of Cebu province, about 95 per cent of public and private structures and houses were damaged. This has resulted to an increased demand for building materials, especially concrete blocks. A provincial ordinance in Cebu, however, has banned quarrying of sand to protect fish ecosystems. Hence, the search for alternative building materials seemed a unique opportunity to start a community-based enterprise that would produce alternative blocks.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) worked with Damgo sa Kaumagon, Inc., a federation of People's Organizations/associations, based in Northern Cebu, in producing ICEBs, which are being promoted as an alternative to hollow blocks. These blocks are cheaper and easier to install. The blocks are made of limestone, which is abundant in the area. The University of San Carlos in Cebu has proven the cost-effectiveness and resilience of this material in construction. The durability of structure to be built out of these blocks also represents efforts at making communities typhoon-resilient, along the lines of the "build back better" approach.

The project involved 116 (70 men and 46 women) workers from barangay Sulangan in Bantayan Island, Northern Cebu, which is a pre-dominantly fishing community. These workers will soon be relocated due to the implementation of no-build zones. Setting up ICEB production plants will provide alternative livelihoods for these groups.

Damgo sa Kaumagon Inc. also conducted the Community-Based Enterprise Development (CBED) workshop to its member PO's. CBED is one of the ILO tools to introduce basic business management and financial literacy and to develop a business plan with profit and loss calculation. With local materials for production with available market demands, Sustainability is inherent in the design of the project. Two associations will be registered with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) at the end of the project so that they will run the operations of the enterprise.

The ILO is grateful for the support it has received from the governments of Japan, Norway and the United Kingdom for its Haiyan Response and its vision to truly Build Back Better.



Most of the workers are fisherfolks whose livelihoods were disrupted by Super Typhoon Haiyan.

Partnerships

- **Implementing partner:**
Damgo sa Kaumagon, Inc.
- **Main funding partner:**
Government of Norway

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