

Participatory Rapid Assessment for PHILSSA

Consultancy / Professional services

Location : Greater Metro Manila; Laguna and Rizal Provinces
Date : November 2010 – January 2011
Client : Partnership for Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA)

Project partners

- PHILSSA

Funding support

- PHILSSA

Contract / agreement value

- PHP 64,800



Representatives of PHILSSA-member community-based organizations during the advocacy agenda setting workshop in Romblon

Project brief

After the catastrophic flooding in the Greater Metro Manila Area caused by Typhoon Ondoy (Ketsana) in September 2009, government called for the immediate clearing of all waterway easements to prevent more flooding casualties. When affected communities protested the clearing operations, an 8-month moratorium was declared. During this suspension, TAO-Pilipinas worked with the Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA) to gather data including current and proposed plans of local governments and communities, in order to establish the existing situation of communities along waterways as inputs to the formulation of PHILSSA's DRR advocacy agenda. From November 2010 to January 2011, together with PHILSSA local research teams, TAO conducted the participatory rapid assessment (PRA) of 16 cities and one municipality in Metro Manila, 15 towns in the province of Laguna, and 14 towns in Rizal province.

The PRA covered the general demographic and disaster preparedness situation in communities along the waterways. TAO prepared the data gathering tool and local research teams, composed of community representatives, were mobilized and oriented on the research methodology. Internet-based research was conducted along with actual visits to local government offices.

The PRA findings revealed the extent of scarcity of data on disaster preparedness and mitigation at the barangay and community levels. Baseline information on informal settlements in waterway easements was generally lacking and there was a dearth of information on disaster preparedness in cities and municipalities. Local development plans did not reflect or integrate the needs of the informal sector. A major recommendation from the PRA study was the initiation of a database on informal settlements in danger zones by the PHILSSA network.

Analysis of the research findings were presented during the PHILSSA DRR advocacy agenda setting workshop held in Romblon and attended by representatives from community-based networks in Metro Manila, Laguna and Rizal.

Project outputs

- Data gathering tool (template)
- Assessment report and presentation