

Technical Assistance for the poor in Metro Manila and Luzon and institutional mechanisms for the sustainability of TAO (2010- 2013)

Misereor Project No.410-901-1045 ZG

People's planning | Capability-building / training | Research and publications | Consultancy / professional services

Location : Metro Manila; Angat, Bulacan; Rizal Province; Calauag, Quezon; Ticao, Masbate

Date : June 2010 to May 2013

Funding support

- KZE Misereor Germany

Contract / agreement value

- EUR 157,000

Project partners

- Masagana of Angat Homeowners Association Inc.
- ACCA Navotas Network
- Samahang Maralita ng Sitio Pulo (SAMASAISIP)
- Damayan Floodway Homeowners Association Inc.
- Community Organizers Multiversity (COM)
- Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC)
- Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies Inc. (PHILSSA)
- Housing Development and Management (HDM) Lund University-Sweden
- International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR)
- University of the Philippines – Marine Environment Resources Foundation, Inc. (UP-MERF)

Project brief

Misereor extended institutional funding support to TAO-Pilipinas for another three-year period after two grant cycles (*see related Projects 0404 and 0709*). Improvement of the living and housing situation of the urban poor through technical assistance of TAO remained the project goal, with environment protection as a key consideration. The project grant for the period 2010 to 2013 called for strengthening the capacity of TAO-Pilipinas to deliver technical assistance; increasing community capability to negotiate and acquire security of tenure; setting-up community-based resource centers; and awareness-building, linkage and partnerships with other actors in settlements development.

In the wake of tropical storm Ondoy (Ketsana), disaster risk reduction was put into focus especially for vulnerable communities. This led government to allocate funds for the relocation of informal settler families (ISF) in danger areas particularly those along waterways. TAO's work on participatory planning became important since the formulation of people's plans was made an integral requirement to accessing the ISF housing fund. Technical assistance was extended to proposed on-site or in-city relocation of ISFs in danger areas in Navotas, Manila, Quezon City, Taytay, Caloocan and Pasay.

TAO's assistance to long-term community partner Masagana (formerly Sanagmana) also evolved with their option to resettle in Angat, Bulacan. TAO provided technical support for land reclassification, carried out community planning sessions and developed a subdivision plan, and aided Masagana's incremental development of the site through self-help means.

Post-Ondoy, which left parts of Rizal province under rehabilitation, also pushed TAO-Pilipinas to engage in design and construction of small community infrastructures for disaster risk reduction with funding support from Christian Aid. A pilot demonstration activity supported by ADB also built community infrastructures for vulnerability reduction in a flood-prone ISF community in Tanza, Navotas City. These community infrastructure projects in San Mateo, Rodriguez, and Taytay in Rizal

province and in Navotas City were all implemented with strong capability-building component and employed a participatory planning and construction process.

The Human Settlements and Environment (HSE) program led the implementation of activities with threefold objectives: secure tenure, safer settlements, and sustainable communities. Towards secure tenure, HSE conducted site inspections, facilitated people's planning and design workshops, formulated schematic plans, extended land research and survey assistance, and helped communities get water supply connections. Towards safer settlements, HSE conducted geohazards assessment and emergency planning, and with participation of direct beneficiaries, built community infrastructures including bridges, multipurpose centers, a livelihood center, and evacuation centers. Towards sustainable communities, HSE explored livelihood sources for community partners with saving program and operationalized community-based solid waste management.

Capability-building activities were directed by the Education and Training (ET) program and fell into three categories: training for partner POs and NGOs; training for young professionals; and staff development activities. ET developed training modules, tools and facilitation guides to enhance target group participation and generate better project outputs. Capability-building for target communities covered community-based solid waste management, community-based disaster risk reduction, participatory community planning, and livelihood development. ET also spearheaded a series of planning workshops with community associations affected by typhoon Sendong (Washi) in Cagayan de Oro City and accessing home financing through the Community Mortgage Program of Social Housing Finance Corporation. For young professionals, the Young Professionals (YP) sub-program conducted another round of the orientation-workshop course on social housing, organized university lectures, continued to supervise internships, mobilized student volunteer groups for community projects, and maintained its YP webpage and regular YP e-newsletter releases. ET also coordinated activities for staff training including sessions on heritage conservation and on project monitoring and evaluation.

The Research and Publications (RP) program undertook process documentation of the various community projects carried out by TAO and collaborated with other research institutions to complete studies on planning for upgrading informal settlements, participatory rapid assessment, heritage conservation, geographic information system and spatial data infrastructure, urban planning and housing for informal settlers, and climate change adaptation. RP also published periodic issues of TAO Shelter Magazine, maintained the TAO website and library, and hosted the annual field study courses on shelter design and development and urban shelter with international students from Lund University.

Project outputs

- Technical assistance to 21 people's organizations in Metro Manila and Luzon and 12 community associations in Cagayan de Oro
- Training for 16 local young professionals / interns and 56 foreign students and volunteers
- Engagement with 8 NGO partners
- Engagement with 11 local universities, 5 student organizations and 3 international academic institutions
- Engagement with 2 government units or agencies
- Partnership with 6 donor organizations

{ End of Project **1009** Profile }