

Technical Assistance for the poor in Metro Manila, Luzon and Cagayan de Oro and institutional mechanisms for the sustainability of TAO (2013-2017)

Misereor Project No.410-901-1059 ZG

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

Location : Metro Manila; Angat, Bulacan; Rizal Province; and Cagayan de Oro City

Date : August 2013 to July 2016 and extended until July 2017

Funding support

- KZE Misereor Germany

Contract / agreement value

- EUR 251,000

Project partners

- Masagana of Angat Homeowners Association Inc.
- ACCA Navotas Network
- Samahang Maralita ng Sitio Pulo (SAMASAISIP)
- Damayan sa Floodway Homeowners Association Inc.
- Community Organizers Multiversity (COM)
- DILG Office of the Undersecretary for Urban Poor, Informal Settler Families and other Special Concerns
- Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC)
- John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues (JJCICSI)
- Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies Inc. (PHILSSA)
- Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc. (PMPI)

Project brief

A fourth cycle of the three-year project grant from Misereor was once again extended for TAO-Pilipinas to continue with technical assistance towards the improvement of the living and housing situation of the poor with emphasis on disaster resilience and environment protection. The institutional funding for TAO for the period 2013 to 2017 expanded the project's geographical coverage to include Greater Metro Manila and neighboring provinces in Luzon as well as in Cagayan de Oro City in Mindanao. The project supported participatory community planning and capability-building to negotiate and acquire security of tenure, community access to knowledge and information on settlements development, linkage with development actors in building sustainable communities, and capacity strengthening of TAO.

TAO-Pilipinas continued to support long-time community partner Masagana in Angat, Bulacan, as well as target groups in Navotas City and in Taytay, Rizal. The Human Settlement and Environment (HSE) program led technical assistance extended to communities. In Masagana, technical support in house construction was provided as families moved from the staging area and some have started to build permanent houses through a loan from ACCA. HSE also assisted in the community-led incremental site development including improvement of the site's right of way and building a small community-based resource center. HSE recurrently gave technical advice to partner communities in Navotas City and Taytay. Target beneficiaries of the PHP50B fund for housing informal settler families (ISF) in Metro Manila and neighboring areas were also given assistance mainly on the preparation of people's plans to access the ISF housing fund.

Outside of the identified target communities of the project and in the aftermath of super typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan), TAO engaged in post-disaster response in Eastern and Northern Samar, Leyte, Iloilo, Capiz, and Palawan. In partnership with humanitarian actors and various donor agencies, TAO

provided technical support in emergency response, shelter damage assessment, shelter planning, reconstruction efforts, and infrastructure projects monitoring. HSE directed the participatory planning, design and construction of permanent shelter units and evacuation centers in Salcedo and the islands of Manicani and Homonhon.

The Education and Training (ET) program focused on development of training modules and conduct of workshops in response to requests by NGO and PO network partners in Metro Manila and as part of post-Yolanda rehabilitation. Estate management trainings benefitted communities that availed of the government's high-density housing programs. Hazards/resources mapping and assessment workshops conducted by ET helped communities in Quezon City, Manila and Taytay to firm up their community disaster risk reduction and management plans. Settlements planning and house design workshops stressing disaster resilience benefitted beneficiary-families of Yolanda-related shelter projects in Eastern Visayas. ET also conducted a series of community action planning workshops with 17 barangays in Tacloban City and local shelter planning workshops with the municipality of Salcedo.

The Young Professionals (YP) sub-program, on the other hand, linked student-volunteer groups with target communities, integrated interns in the implementation of shelter projects, and continued publishing e-newsletters. YP widened its academe network with new project engagements and by holding university lectures. Two rounds of the orientation-course on social housing for young professionals were implemented, in Cagayan de Oro City on 2016 and in Quezon City on 2017.

The Research and Education (RP) program provided documentation support to major activities, developed project communication/visibility materials, and maintained TAO's website and social media accounts. Publication of TAO Shelter magazine was ceased and instead two books were released – Architects in the margins, which documents the organization's work with its community partners from 2001 to 2016, and Battling Waves, which details TAO's post-disaster interventions in small islands and remote areas. Under RP, the partnership with Lund University Housing Development and Management Department was sustained. Annual field studies in Manila were coordinated as part of an international course on urban shelter.

From August 2013 to July 2017, TAO-Pilipinas was able to render technical assistance in the context of long-term development-oriented engagements and post-disaster humanitarian response.

Project outputs

- Technical assistance to 55 people's organizations / community associations
- Training for 57 local young professionals / interns and 55 foreign students and volunteers
- Engagement with 14 NGO partners and 2 private groups and companies
- Engagement with 9 local universities, 4 student organizations, 1 professional organization and 2 international academic institutions
- Engagement with 6 government units or agencies
- Partnership with 8 donor organizations

{ End of Project 1308 Profile }