

Initiating Self-Help Retrofitting and Small Infrastructures Development with Technical Capability-Building towards the Development of a Community Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Plan

Post-disaster humanitarian shelter assistance | Capability building / training | Planning and architectural design services

- Location : Banaba, San Mateo; San Jose, Rodriguez; and Sitio Lumang Ilog, Taytay in Rizal Province
- Date : May 2011 September 2012; extended to September 2013
- Clients : Buklod Tao; Damayan Homeowners Association; Sabah Neighborhood Association; Suburban Phase 1B Homeowners Association

Project partners

- Center of Disaster Preparedness
- Community Organizers Multiversity
- Socio-Pastoral Institute



A structural engineer from AMH Philippines guides community builders during the house retrofitting demonstration

- Funding support
 - Christian Aid Typhoon Ketsana Rehabilitation Programme

Contract / agreement value

GBP 228,571

Consulting partners

AMH Philippines, Inc.

Project brief

Christian Aid supported several projects by its NGO partners for the rehabilitation of communities in the Greater Metro Manila area that were affected by severe flooding caused by Typhoon Ondoy (Ketsana) in 2009. One of the projects, implemented by TAO-Pilipinas, involved developing community facilities or small infrastructures aimed to help reduce the vulnerability of four communities in Rizal province. The partner communities included residents of Barangay Banaba in San Mateo; Sabah and Suburban Phase 1B in San Jose, Rodriguez; and Damayan community in Sitio Lumang Ilog, Taytay. The small infrastructures that were built included a livelihood-evacuation center in Banaba; a multi-purpose center, an improved covered court for use as temporary evacuation facility, and a concrete pedestrian bridge in Suburban; a drainage line and an improved covered court for use as temporary evacuation facility in Sabah; and a model disaster-resilient house in Damayan.

Infrastructure development strongly depended on the active engagement of the community partners. TAO employed self-help and community contracting for the construction activities. Building of the community infrastructures was also implemented as an integral part of technical capability-building processes intended to increase community knowledge on disaster risk reduction (DRR) especially in terms of site planning and development and house design and construction.

Representatives of community partners underwent training activities that provided them with basic technical knowledge on the planning and design of disaster-resilient structures as well as the laws and standards for housing developments. House retrofitting methods to strengthen their houses



against typhoons and earthquakes were also introduced in the trainings. The training methodology that TAO adopted was a combination of theoretical and practical application. Understanding of technical knowledge was deepened through hands-on demonstration such as in the actual retrofitting of three demonstration houses (in Suburban) under the guidance of structural engineers.

The Ketsana project provided its partner communities with safe structures for evacuation and temporary refuge during strong typhoons and other hazard events. With the integration of technical capability-building, the project also made possible the transfer of technical knowledge and skills to poor communities living in mostly self-built homes in vulnerable sites. Concerted efforts toward DRR by the beneficiary communities are needed to sustain the gains of the project.

Project outputs

- Training-Workshops on Community Planning and Development; House Retrofitting; and Formulation of Community Guidelines for Maintenance of Small Infrastructures
- Livelihood-Evacuation Center in Banaba, San Mateo
- Concrete pedestrian bridge in Suburban, Rizal
- Multi-Purpose Center in Suburban, Rodriguez
- Drainage line in Sabah, Rodriguez
- Model DRR structure (multi-purpose center) in Damayan, Taytay

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