

Post-Typhoon Reming Assessment in Albay

Consultancy / Professional services

Location : Albay Province
Date : December 10-14, 2006
Client : Community Organizations of the Philippines Enterprise, Inc. (COPE)

Project partner
▪ COPE

Funding support
▪ COPE

Contract / agreement value
▪ PHP



The TAO-Pilipinas team walk through flooded communities after typhoon Reming hit Albay province (December 2006)

Project brief

A week after category 4 typhoon Reming (Durian) directly hit the Bicol region in November 2006, the Community Organizations of the Philippines Enterprise (COPE) Foundation tapped TAO-Pilipinas to conduct a technical assessment of the situation in affected COPE-assisted communities in Albay province. The strong typhoon brought devastation to the province, displacing thousands with lahar flow deposits from Mt. Mayon that buried entire villages. COPE Foundation is a Bicol-based NGO doing community organizing and advocacy work and has been a partner of TAO-Pilipinas on security of tenure and housing concerns.

A 6-woman team from TAO-Pilipinas was dispatched and went around the disaster affected areas in Legazpi City, Daraga and Guinobatan, interviewing residents, taking photos and video footages. Site visits were done in barangays Tagas, Binitayan, Kilicao, Matagbak, Padang, and Busay in Daraga; San Roque, Baybay, Pigkali, Sabang and Victory Village 27 and 28 in Legazpi; Maipon and Travesia in Guinobatan; and the relocation site in Anislag, Daraga. COPE also arranged a meeting of the team with the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) head.

Following their week-long fieldwork, TAO-Pilipinas team provided a rapid technical assessment report which outlined their findings, technical analysis and recommendations for each of the sites they visited. In summary, key points resulting from the assessment include documentation and availability of information; monitoring, disaster preparedness and risk management; and post-disaster rehabilitation that includes resettlement to safe zones, retrofitting of existing structures, and re-planning of original settlements.

The recommendations that the technical team came up with were primarily intended to guide COPE in their post-disaster interventions in the affected communities. The rapid assessment conducted in Albay was one of the initial engagements of TAO on post-disaster response. More requests for technical and humanitarian assistance by TAO-Pilipinas in other disaster-affected regions followed in the years ahead.

Project output

- Technical assessment report