

Sustainable Shelter Assistance for Manicani Island

Post-disaster humanitarian shelter assistance | People's planning process | Planning and architectural design services

Location : Manicani Island, Guiuan,
Eastern Samar

Date : September 2014 – June
2015; extended to October
2015

Client : 40 household-beneficiaries

Project partners

- Save Manicani Movement (SaMaMo)

Funding support

- Terre des Hommes (TdH) Germany
- Christian Aid (CA)

Contract / agreement value

- TdH :EUR 180,715
- CA: GBP 53,068

Consulting partners

- Ridge to Reef Solutions, Inc. (geologists)
- Mendoza Engineering (structural engineer)
- Engr. Cesar Tadeo (electrical engineer)
- Alliance for Safe, Sustainable and Resilient Environments (ASSURE)



Soon after the turn-over ceremony, this house in Barangay San Jose, Manicani was surrounded by a vegetable garden

Project brief

After super typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) devastated Eastern Samar in November 2013, Terre des Hommes (TdH) Germany provided humanitarian assistance in Manicani Island where majority of the population lost their homes. TAO-Pilipinas implemented the shelter assistance project which aimed to provide forty (40) permanent houses that are sustainable and disaster-resilient to the most vulnerable households across four barangays in Manicani.

TAO selected household-beneficiaries with a validation committee (representing different sectoral groups in the barangay) and shortlisted families according to their shelter situation, source of income, level of vulnerability, and availability of a safe relocation site to build a permanent house. Safe and low to medium-risk zones were identified following geohazard mapping and assessment by geologists. A series of participatory workshops with the 40 beneficiaries were also conducted to present the results of hazard assessment, give inputs on sustainable design and disaster-resilient construction, and determine good local construction practices. In the house design workshop, participants themselves came up with design schemes for a permanent shelter unit. The final design developed was a 25 sqm house with disaster-resilient design features including a regularly-shaped, compact plan; hip roof at 30-degree pitch; trussed roof framing; narrow roof eaves; windows with shutters; adequate reinforcements and connections; and gutters for rainwater harvesting.

The beneficiaries also selected the local contractors to construct their houses. TAO learned from the many challenges it encountered in employing a participatory shelter construction process - from the logistical difficulties of bringing materials to a remote island location, delays due to inclement weather and the generally laid-back attitude of island residents, to some contractors abandoning their work to celebrate a barangay fiesta. Significant increases in material quantities and costs along with shipping charges also required the infusion of additional funds to complete the houses as designed. In 2015, Christian Aid committed to co-finance the project to its completion.

The houses built provided a strong sense of security and safety from hazards to most if not all of the beneficiaries. Many see it as a new beginning to start and rebuild their lives after Yolanda. The capability-building activities that were conducted also increased their awareness on the concept of sustainable shelter and on disaster-resilient construction methods.

Project outputs

- Workshop Module on Sustainable and Disaster-Resilient Settlements Planning and Design
- Module on Participatory House Design Workshop
- Module on House Extension, Maintenance and Repair
- Post-Yolanda Geohazard Assessment Report for Manicani Island
- Disaster-Resilient Shelter Design - Architectural and Engineering Plans
- 40 Permanent Shelter Units

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