



IOM International Organization for Migration

IOM *in Bicol*

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Migration and Development
- Facilitating Migration
- Regulating Migration
- Forced Migration
- Policy Activities

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Milestones in 2 the IOM-USAID Bicol Core Shelter Project

The 2 Communities

IOM Goes 3 The Extra Mile

A Team 3 Effort of All Stakeholders

Piecing A Life 4 Back Together

IOM-USAID Beneficiaries Lay Claim to New Homes

Gilbert Calimlim and Edmundo Bicaldo of Gorong-gorong, Nabua, Camarines Sur eagerly moved into their new typhoon and earthquake proof houses as soon as their second coats of paint dried. With their ecstatic families they hauled in their belongings. Edmundo put up curtains and Gilbert even started building a kitchen extension.

Gilbert and Edmundo are the first two beneficiaries of the IOM-USAID Bicol Core Permanent Shelter and Community Revitalization Assistance Project to move into their newly built homes. They are among the

hundreds of thousands who lost their houses when Typhoon Reming devastated the Philippines' Bicol Region in late 2006. IOM targets 826 of these survivors to benefit from the project.

This is not the first time the beneficiaries have demonstrated enthusiasm. The 758 qualified beneficiaries have been very participative in the project from the start. They come promptly for orienta-

tions, consultations, trainings and event preparations even on short notice. They are also dynamically involved in construction work, giving drinks and snacks to laborers and providing labor themselves.

In Camarines Sur, where the lots are often scattered throughout the barangay thus making the delivery of materials and equipment a logistics

undertaken by NHA is completed but even this early, they have formed homeowners' associations in the two sites. The elected leaders of these associations are now involved in recruiting more workers from among the other beneficiaries and residents and in securing the increasing building materials stocked on-site. These are critical responsibilities as IOM is set to start

around 200 more units taking advantage of the dry season to intensify construction work, making up for delays caused by heavy rains in November and February and possibly even surpassing current targets.

The beneficiaries' "journey home", as it were, has been long and grueling, but the end is now clearly in sight. This re-inked hope brings new energy. IOM hopes to synergize with that energy as it intensifies its community services and construction work so that when the destination is reached not only will there be new, well-built houses, there will also be the beneficiaries saying with IOM, "We built these houses!"



A completed house in Gorong-gorong

nightmare, the beneficiaries undertake the task of hauling construction needs on their own. A good number of them also provide their own building scaffolds while helping finish 97 houses.

In Albay, where IOM has completed 14 permanent shelters and is finishing 246 more, 336 beneficiaries have already been assigned lots. The beneficiaries assigned to these houses will move in once site development

Milestones in the IOM-USAID Bicol Core Shelter Project



USAID's Laura Coughlin and Albay Governor Joey Salceda at the Tagaytay Groundbreaking

September 2007

- Shelter design team comes up with an earthquake and typhoon proof building plan.
- IOM assesses all 5 sites in Albay and Camarines Sur.

October 2007

- Project officially starts as USAID grants funding for it.
- Deliveries to Albay project sites begin with supply to build first three model units.
- 12 Typhoon Reming survivors are hired to build the first three core shelter units on a cash for work basis.

November 2007

- Large scale community work begins for recruitment of 120 survivors and site residents to build the shelters. But nearly month-long rains delay construction starts.
- 4 Crisis Corp Volunteers arrive to assist in community and construction work.

December 2007

- IOM begins construction of 51 shelter units.
- IOM-trained Albay beneficiaries begin on-site concrete hollow block production.
- USAID Disaster Relief Officer Laura Coughlin and USAID Development Program Specialist Boyet Abanilla arrive for a monitoring visit.
- Beneficiary validation yields 758 qualified beneficiaries.

January 2008

- Work to establish land ownership of Camarines Sur beneficiaries begins.
- USAID's Laura Coughlin & Boyet Abanilla return for a groundbreaking ceremony in the Tagaytay site in Albay.
- Site Project Management Teams are formed in Camarines Sur to address labor and construction concerns.
- CHB production begins in Camarines Sur sites.

February 2008

- USAID Philippines Deputy Director, Elzaida Washington arrives for a monitoring visit.
- Beneficiaries for Mauraro site form Homeowners Association.
- Legal clinics to help Camarines Sur beneficiaries establish landownership begin.
- Rains delay building again.

March 2008

- Tagaytay beneficiaries form Homeowners Association.
- Albay core shelter lots assigned by raffle to a total of 336 beneficiaries.
- IOM Bicol finalizes and forwards to IOM Geneva the Memorandum of Satkeholders' Commitment and Housing Unit Award Contract.
- IOM completes total of 16 core shelters and nears completion of 343 more.

The Communities Count

The project will be a positive, unifying force in the communities.

IOM's community activities are geared towards making sure the project is of greatest benefit to the communities involved.

After Typhoon Reming, communities and the built-in support systems for their members were disrupted. These support systems would need to be re-established in such a way so that the families that

would benefit from the project, whether they are current residents of the community or they are to be relocated into it, and those that would not benefit would have equal access to these supports.

This is much more critical in the USAID Bicol Core Shelter and Community Revitalization Assistance pro-

ject because of the permanent nature of the homes being built. There is much prestige attached to these typhoon and earthquake proof houses. They would be prized possessions that would likely be the only material legacy the beneficiaries could hand down to their children. Thus they could easily become a divisive factor in their host communities. IOM's Community Service Working Groups (CSWGs) therefore strive to make them a uniting influence instead by employing participatory processes in all stages of their intervention.

From project orientations to coordination meetings to sourcing, delivery and warehousing of building supplies and to the actual construction of the houses, the CSWGs make sure to include non-beneficiaries as well as beneficiaries.

So far, they have achieved

significant success. In both Albay and Camarines Sur, beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries alike are trained and work side by side in both construction and in concrete hollow block production. This sends a clear message that the project brings to all members of the community livelihood opportunities that could continue after the project ends. In fact, commercial construction companies and hollow block factories are already being envisioned.

In Camarines Sur, where relocation was not necessary and the houses are being built in plain sight of other residents, non-beneficiaries even volunteered in hauling in materials and repairing warehouses.

These are very encouraging developments showing that the project will truly be a positive, unifying force in the communities.

Beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries work side by side in construction.



IOM Goes the Extra Mile

In keeping with its thrust to maximize the project's positive impact on the beneficiaries and their communities IOM delivers services beyond what the project envisions.

Some services are necessary to achieve project goals while staying faithful to that thrust. For example, IOM could have hired professionals to make up the majority of con-

struction workers. Instead IOM hired mostly beneficiaries and trained those who lacked skills. This improved their livelihood opportunities while ensuring the quality of the shelters to be built. The same idea is behind on-site hollow block production by the beneficiaries. Similarly, the legal clinics being conducted in the Camarines Sur sites

ensure the beneficiaries' rights to the houses they will receive and also increase their legal knowledge.

Other services are proactive value-added services such as medical missions and food security & livelihood enhancement exercises such as vegetable seed distribution and organic farming seminars.



A medical mission at one of the sites

A Team Effort of All Stakeholders



IOM in consultation with its partners

IOM works to ensure that all those who have an interest in the project can participate in all its aspects to bring about the best possible results. IOM puts particular emphasis on the role of the host communities but it also coordinates with other stakeholders in order to maximize resources and avoid duplication of efforts. These other stakeholders include the Philippine government both on the national and local levels, specific government agencies such as the Department of Social Welfare & Development and the National Housing Authority, other international groups and NGOs such as Save the Children Foundation.

Shelter Design

In designing the shelter, IOM formed a team composed of engineers from the Municipal governments of Daraga and Legazpi in consultation with the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers. IOM then contracted a licensed structural engineer, Francis Gacosta, to review and revise the building plans together with IOM Engineers. The result was an NHA-approved shelter designed for resistance to earthquakes up to 7 points on the Richter scale and for survivability in the event of future super typhoons.

Site Development

This is mainly the role of the National Housing Authority having

received funds from the national government to appropriate and develop land for the families displaced by Typhoon Reming. IOM coordinates with the NHA to ensure that the development of the Albay sites proceeds in accordance with the project timetable. NHA expects completion of site development in Tagaytay and Mauraro in April and August 2008, respectively.

Beneficiary Identification and Validation

The affected local government units had already developed a list of beneficiaries for relocation in accordance with Department of Social Welfare & Development standards after the disaster. IOM's coordination with the local governments consisted of requesting names of the same number of beneficiaries targeted by the project for each site. IOM then sent validation teams to verify if the short-listed beneficiaries do, in fact, qualify. A number of them did not and will be replaced by their local governments with other beneficiaries who will in turn undergo validation.

Land Rights Documentation

In Camarines Sur where the shelters are being built on land already occupied by the beneficiaries, the beneficiaries need to produce proofs of ownership of the land. IOM works closely with the municipal mayors, municipal assessors, the provincial social welfare & develop-

ment office and the provincial legal department to address this need.

Livelihood

Livelihood is one of the factors that can ensure that relocation and recovery from the disaster would be sustainable. Among other organizations assisting Bicol after Typhoon Reming is Save the Children Foundation which USAID also granted funds to for the provision of livelihood assistance, as well as, the distribution of non-food items and the conduct of disaster preparedness trainings. IOM continues to coordinate with SCF on behalf of its beneficiaries.

The local governments also play a major role in assuring livelihood for the beneficiaries. Mayor Carlos Irwin Baldo of Camalig, Albay where Tagaytay is located seeks to make available not just small business opportunities but also employment with big businesses that he hopes to attract into the area. He also considers providing training for automotive-welding, cosmetology and handicraft. Mayor Baldo plans to set up a one-stop-shop at the municipal center to showcase locally crafted products.

Mauraro, Guinobatan, Albay Brgy. Captain Bing Patriarca envisions that beneficiaries can find livelihood by becoming members of the many abaca-craft cooperatives in Mauraro. They will be most welcome in the cooperative headed by his wife who supplies to an exporter in Manila whose clients are mostly in Europe.

IOM's participatory processes involving all possible stakeholders are meant to ensure a wider commitment and ownership of the project, its activities, objectives and results.

IOM works to ensure that all those who have an interest in the project can participate in all its aspects to bring about the best possible results.



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Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the principal intergovernmental organization in the field of migration. Our Headquarters are in Geneva and our Administrative Center is in Manila. We also have field offices worldwide.

We are growing rapidly and currently count 122 member states. A further 18 states hold observer status, as do numerous international and non-governmental organizations. IOM's programme budget for 2006 exceeds US\$ 733 million, funding over 1,600 active programmes and more than 5,500 staff members serving in over 340 field offices in more than a hundred countries.

IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.

IOM works to ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, be they refugees, displaced persons or other uprooted people. The IOM constitution gives explicit recognition to the link between migration and economic, social and cultural development, as well as to the right of freedom of movement of persons.

Benita Tucay: Piecing A Life Back Together

Benita Tucay has lived in Barangay Lourdes, Buhi Camarines Sur all her life. With a wooden loom she had saved for, she weaves blankets and face towels for a living while her husband, like most residents in their barangay, makes a living as a tenant farmer in one of the rice fields there. Together, they managed to build a house and raise children, some of whom now have families of their own and subsist by similar means.

When Typhoon Reming struck the Bicol Region on November 30, 2006, it brought unprecedented heavy rains and 195 kilometer per hour winds to Camarines Sur. Benita, her husband and their youngest children still living with them managed to find shelter at a neighbor's concrete house before the storm destroyed their wooden house.

The following morning, not wanting to overstay their welcome at their neighbor's house, they moved back out and started to pitch a tent beside the remains of their house even as the rains continued. That's when they

saw the extent of the damage: The roof and walls had collapsed and crushed the humble belongings they had left behind — including the wooden loom on which her livelihood depends.

The rice fields were also flooded. There was no hope of harvesting the rice her husband and the other farmers had toiled for.

they were able to build a shanty that would give them slightly better protection from the elements than the tent they had pitched.

After a couple of weeks, relief operations for their barangay stopped so they had to get food on loan which they continue to do to this day as they have not yet fully restored their livelihood.



Benita and her loom

Dazed and broken-hearted, they had no choice but to muster strength and try to rebuild as much as they could. After scavenging from the wreckage,

With a deep long sigh and watery eyes, she recounts the time when she was listed by the DSWD as one of the beneficiaries of the IOM-USAID Bicol Core Shelter Assistance project. It was a blessing that she feels immeasurable gratitude for. She cherishes it by doing all that she can to help in the completion of their new house. In fact, She plans to paint it herself and underwent training for it.

"It's like my loom", she says, "When it was broken, I pieced it back together myself. My family and I will do the same with our house and our lives."