

4TH REPORT ON PROJECT YOLANDA

For the Period from 1st May to 15th August 2014

The long-term rehabilitation work in the Yolanda-affected communities commenced just as the Episcopal CARE [E-CARE] Foundation launched its re-visioned program anchored on the asset-based development approach [ABCD] and the “Receivers-to-Givers” policy of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines. Under this re-visioned program, E-CARE no longer pursues a grants-giving program as all fund support given to any development project are now required, at some point, to be granted back and passed on by the receiving and implementing community partner either to itself for new initiatives or to other groups or communities for similar development ventures under the same scheme where the receivers are enabled to become, at some point, givers.

E-CARE was faced with a dilemma. With the massive destruction of communities in Central Philippines caused by the super-typhoon, it had seemed insensitive and inappropriate to talk about ABCD and the “receivers-to-givers” scheme with communities whose livelihoods have been almost completely wiped out. There was a strong inclination then towards exempting the disaster-affected communities from the new development approach. But E-CARE can no longer go back to that situation where grant-supported projects [without any obligation to pass-on] resulted in very limited impact and, worse, oftentimes had the opposite effect of actually deepening the helplessness and dependence of economically marginalized communities. So, following a serious thinking on the matter, a decision was made to pursue the rehabilitation and development work only under the new approach and to present this to the prospective partner communities

The acceptance of the re-visioned program was first put to a test in the proposed housing project in Ormoc City. For the partner communities of Sabang-Bao and Bayog in Ormoc City, most of the households participating in the project are tenants working on lands whose owners did not allow them to build more permanent and durable structures. With this project’s thrust towards building more resilient communities, it was not desirable to merely replace the erstwhile residential structures or pre-Yolanda houses that had no chance against stronger rains and winds. Hence, they needed to be relocated in premises outside of their landowners’ properties which means that a relocation site had to be acquired for the purpose.

A member of the Barangay Council of Sabang Bao graciously offered a portion of her family's farmland, consisting of one (1) hectare at a cost of P480,000. This can accommodate 70 to 80 households at eighty (80) square meters each [with the remaining areas reserved for roads and other community purposes] . The project shall purchase this parcel of land to be awarded to the participating households who shall then pay back its cost over time so that the payments can be used to purchase another lot for another set of households requiring similar relocation. Since this project did not bring in any income to the participating households, there was an expectation that the latter would express strong reservations to a "receivers-to-givers" scheme or to be obligated to grant back and pass-on any assistance they may receive. With the almost "left and right" offers of many relief agencies and organizations providing grants for housing or materials, it had seemed almost a "mortal sin" for E-CARE to go the other way. But, as aforementioned, this is the only way now for E-CARE. And to the pleasant surprise of the E-CARE Disaster Response Staff, the "receivers-to-givers" idea when presented was actually enthusiastically embraced by the participating households. Furthermore, to the almost complete shock of the staff, these households volunteered to do the pay back for the cost of the land, not within a period of three (3) to five (5) years as the project had earlier envisioned but in only six (6) months. What the staff have later come to realize was that, as stated above, many of the participating households are tenants who have never owned a piece of real property in all their lives and this project offered them what they considered to be a golden opportunity to own land for the first time. Hence, there was an excitement over such prospect and a willingness to take on extra jobs and efforts so they could raise the payment the earliest possible time. As of this reporting, these households, even without the first structure being constructed yet, have already made a pay back of P97,600 or 22% of total cost in less than three (3) months.

On this acquired lot in Sabang Bai, the project will construct incremental housing, i.e., flooring, posts and roofing, using the Interlocking Compressed Earth Blocks, with the participating households taking responsibility for the walling and interior works initially with bamboo materials but can also replace the same with ICEB in the future as they are able. For this structure, the households, aside from providing the labor inputs, will assume the costs of the roofing also to be amortized [granted back] over time.

The Receivers-to-Givers scheme was also discussed with the partner communities for application in livelihood rehabilitation and development projects. In a similar vein, the development approach was also welcomed and, as of this reporting, four (4) communities have already availed of Livelihood Support Funds that will be granted back over agreed periods of time, ranging from 6 months to 1 year. The amounts to be granted back will be passed on to the same community for new initiatives or to other groups or communities for similar development purposes.

As explained to the partner communities, what E-CARE is applying in this Disaster Response Project are its learnings that it had gained from more than two decades of community development work. For most of this period, it was involved in a grant-funded partnership which was a one-time engagement and which was concluded when the project was completed and turned over to the community. Since the project usually involved a grant of substantial amount, the community simply can not continually avail of subsequent grants. Even in a best case scenario where the community has put in place systems and processes to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project, the over-all impact was often limited and did not make a significant dent on the community's over-all economic marginalization. Under the new approach, the partner community can continue to progressively avail of development support funds for as long as it grants back and passes on. The Santa Maria¹ experience where the community initially availed of P200,000 for the first farming cycle and paid back and then successively availed of P500,000, then P1.2 million, and finally P900,000 in less than two (2) years enabling some farmers not only to buy seeds and inputs for the farming cycle but also to acquire additional lands and equipment is a model often shared. The process of receiving and giving back is therefore a more healthy engagement because the various issues and challenges faced by a community can be continually or successively addressed and because of its inherent character of sharing blessings with others.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE PERIOD

A] PHYSICAL REBUILDING OF HOUSES AND COMMUNITIES AND DRR

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¹ Santa Maria, Licab, Nueva Ecija Project.

Objective 1: To engage with partner communities in the development and implementation of their respective rebuilding plans that integrate disaster-risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures in the rebuilding of houses, community facilities and eco-systems.

A.1] In Sabang Bao, a one hectare lot was acquired as relocation site and the selection of 70 households-beneficiaries of the housing project was made by the barangay. Each household is allocated an 80-square meter lot. The participating households have volunteered to grant back the cost of the land within a period of 6 months [from turn-over of the housing structure] but, as of this reporting date even without a single structure being put up, a total of P97,600 was already received. The housing project broke ground on 23 June 2014. While the building permits are being processed and subdivision surveys being conducted, the participating households who have organized themselves into the E-CARE Homeowners Association of Sabang Bao continue to fabricate Interlocking Compressed Earth Blocks [ICEB]. A schedule for each household to do ICEB fabrication was set and from the initial 40 ICEB blocks, they are now doing 160 ICEB blocks per day. A total of 1,500 ICEB blocks have already been fabricated to date.

Earlier or from June 6 to 16 and from July 2 to 12, on-site trainings on ICEB fabrication and installation was conducted by E-CARE engineering staff, with the following number of participants, representing the partner communities:

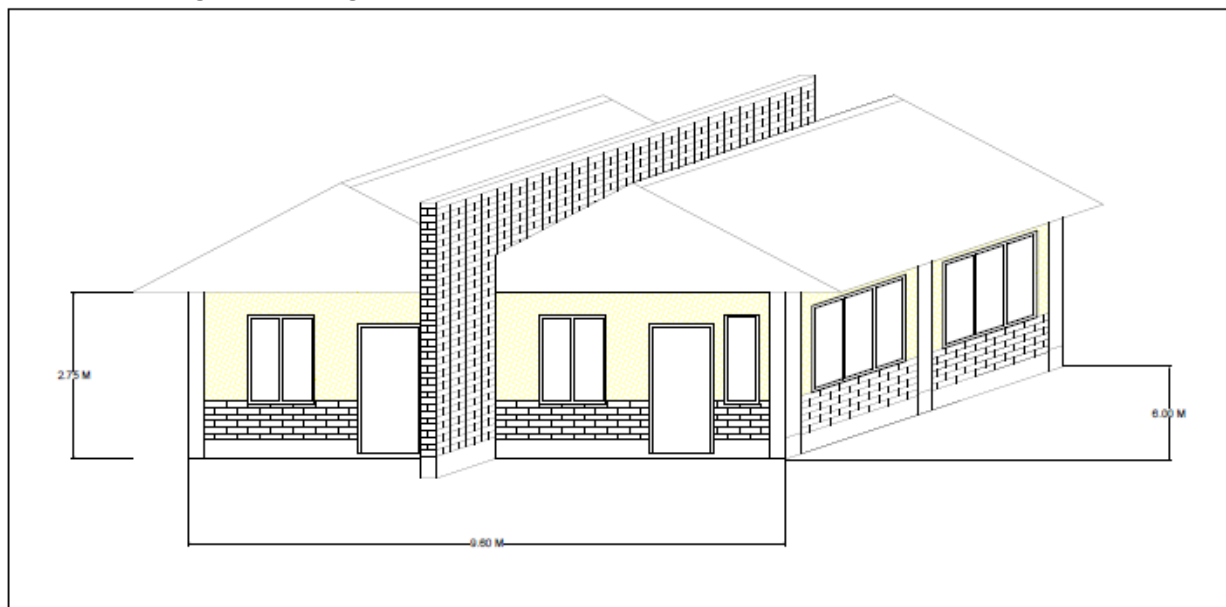
<i>Community</i>	<i>Participants</i>
Sabang Bao	3
Bayog	3
Cabuluran	3
Cabungaan	3
Palacio	3
Total	15

A.2] In Bayog where similarly almost 80% are tenants, the purchase of a 4-hectare lot is now being processed. 2 hectares will be used for housing relocation while the other 2 for agricultural purposes, both of which will

also be granted to selected beneficiaries also under the “receivers-to-givers” scheme. The lot was surveyed and cleared by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

- A.3] In Dagami, the house rebuilding for damaged houses will be done on-site even if most of the participating households are also tenants. Questions of land tenure and permanent structures are being discussed and need to be resolved.
- A.4] In Cabuloran, 90 households have submitted applications for on-site housing. In addition, the community has requested for the construction of a health center the technical plans for which are now being drafted by the engineering staff.
- A.5] In Palacio, 98 households are interested in the on-site housing while in Cabunga-an, 49 households expressed interest.
- A.6] Meanwhile, tree planting as part of Disaster Risk Reduction [DRR] efforts has been adopted by the partner communities. In Naungan, the plan is to re-plant the mangrove area with 5,000 mangrove seedlings, 5,000 nipa seedlings and 5,000 malunggay trees. Sabang Bao has targeted the planting of 500 fruit trees such as Cacao, Rambutan, Lanzones, Jackfruit while in Bayog, coconut seedlings shall be planted to replace the destroyed trees. Sources for these seedlings are currently being explored. In Sabang Bao, the community offered to pay for the cost of the seedlings but have requested E-CARE to advance the payment.

Unit House Design for Sabang Bao



B] REHABILITATION OF FARMLANDS

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Objective 2: To engage with partner communities in the clearing and re-planting of existing farmlands, utilizing, introducing and/or enhancing natural farming methods and technologies.

Clearing and re-planting of existing farmlands were already done in the early part of the year. In fact, the first harvests from these farmlands were noted in the 3rd Report.

For this reporting period, the introduction and application of the System of Rice Intensification [SRI] was pursued and actual planting under this method was done in identified demonstration farms, as follows:

<i>Community</i>	<i>Date of Planting</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i># of demo farms</i>	<i>Land Area (sqm)</i>
	August 10	7	3	10	1	1,000
Cabuloran	August 14	4	2	6	1	700
Cabunga-an	August 14	5	2	7	1	1000
Sabang Bao	August 13,	2	2	4	1	100

	2014					
Bayog	August 7	5	3	8		1,000
Bayog (Orientation) Farmer's Organization	August 13, 2014	9	1	10	1	600

A training on Natural Farming Systems was likewise conducted:

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Group 1 Dagami Area				
Cabuloran	July 28	1	6	7
Palacio	July 28	3	2	5
Cabunga-an	July 28	3	6	9
Group 2 Ormoc Area				
Bayog	August 6	3	2	5
Sabang Bao	August 6		5	5
Naungan	August 6	4		4
Group 3 Barayong	Aug 9	10	14	24

To support the agricultural production, Agricultural Support Funds were provided to the following communities under the “receivers-to-givers” scheme:

	<i># of Participating Households</i>	<i>Date Released</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Cabuloran	24	July 18	P253,000.00
Palacio	40	August 13	P675,000.00
Cabunga-an	44	August 13	P273,000.00
TOTAL	108		P1,201,000.00

C] ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW OR ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS

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Objective 3: To engage with partner communities in evolving and implementing new or alternative livelihoods, using the ABCD approach.

Alternative livelihoods as a result of the ABCD processes are now being explored with the partner communities:

- C.1] Sabang Bao- the upscaling of tablea production. Prior to the super-storm, cacao trees were growing in the community and at least 15 individuals were producing tablea but on order basis from their acquaintances. Most of these trees were wiped out and the owners have commenced rejuvenation. The skills of the women involved in the tablea production were identified during the ABCD processes and so an initial order worth P5,000 was placed in order to jumpstart the livelihood. The difficulty now is they have to buy the raw materials in Ormoc City Proper (imported from Davao), roast the seeds in their homes and then bring it back to the city for grinding and then finally bring it home for the molding and packaging.

Last July, meetings were conducted with these women who agreed to upscale their tablea production by purchasing the necessary equipments so that they can do all the production within their community. Research on other value added products from cacao is also being done. While their cacao trees are still being rejuvenated, the community will be planting cacao seedlings (together with other fruit trees). Meanwhile, they have no choice but to buy the raw materials until they have their own.

Last July 30, a value chain and feasibility study workshop was conducted with members of the E-CARE Homeowners Association of Sabang Bao. At this workshop, other possible livelihoods were identified and these are now being studied further and finalized for implementation.

- C.2] Naungan – The 28 members of the Naungan Fish Cage and FishPen Operator’s Association have availed of Livelihood Fund Support for their alternative livelihoods. As the organization’s name implies, the members are fish cage/pens owners but they realized the high cost of rebuilding these cages/pens again so many of them opted to do alternative livelihoods such as open sea fishing, fish vending, computer repair, stores, hog raising, and tricycle operation. This is the first community that has availed of a Livelihood Support Fund of P480,000, which amount has brought some level of stability in the livelihoods of people. The 28 members have

collectively expressed their dis-belief in this Disaster Project's confidence in them to get back on their knees.

- C.3] Bayog - A women's organization was organized, with a total of 130 members. ABCD orientation was conducted on August 7 and trainings on leadership and DRR followed on August 14, with 99 members in attendance. The Value Chain and Feasibility Study for identified possible livelihoods will be done on August 20.
- C.4] Cabuloran – As part of the ABCD process, an asset was identified in the form of lemon grass widely growing in the community. A research and feasibility study on the uses of lemon grass is now being undertaken and a training on lemon grass processing is scheduled in September.
- C.5] Palacio – Research and feasibility studies are likewise being undertaken on various identified resources, such as turmeric (yellow ginger), ampalay and malunggay which are in relative abundance in the community.
- C.6] Cabunga-an – Processing of turmeric and cassava flour were identified as possible livelihoods.
- C.7] Barayong, Palo – Explorations are being done on various possibilities. The initial proposal for hog-raising was found to be non-feasible.

D] FOOD RELIEF PROVISION

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Objective 4: To provide selected food relief to the partner communities during the periods of physical reconstruction and rehabilitation and development of livelihoods.

In Sabang Bao where ICEB fabrication is being done almost everyday, the workers committed to bring their own lunches but have requested for snacks which are now being served in the form of energy mix, camote cookies and vegetable noodles from other E-CARE partner communities.

A food-for-work scheme was adopted whereby a worker gets a bag containing 3 packs of cookies, 3 packs of camote flakes, 1 kilo of energy mix and 3 packs

vegetable noodles for every day of contributed labor. The participating households do a “pintakasi” [collective labor mobilization involving the entire community] once a week.

Snacks are also provided to day care centers and elementary schools for children.

Realizing that the affected communities need every single day to earn not only for food but for other immediate needs, the Project understands the sacrifices that they have to make in order to attend a training for this Project. Hence, participants to the various trainings are also given food relief, as follows:

<i>Date of Release</i>	<i>No. of Pieces/ Packs</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Name of Community</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
May 19 – June 7	280 56 84 50	Cookies and Chips Energy Mix Bar Soap Noodles	Palacio	CRV Trainings
May 19 – June 7	280 56 84 30	Cookies and Chips Energy Mix Bar Soap Noodles	Cabunga-an	CRV Trainings
May 19 – June 7	210 42 63 25	Cookies and Chips Energy Mix Bar Soap Noodles	Barayong	CRV Trainings
May 19 – June 7	310 62 93 50	Cookies and Chips Energy Mix Bar Soap Noodles	Bayog	CRV Trainings
May 19 – June 7	240 48 72 50	Cookies and Chips Energy Mix Bar Soap Noodles	Sabang-Bao	CRV Trainings
May 19 – June 7	60 12 18	Cookies and Chips Energy Mix Bar Soap	Cabuloran	CRV Trainings

	15	Noodles		
May 24	112	Cookies	Sabang-Bao	Snacks
May 28	110	Cookies	Barayong	Snacks
May 28	96	Cookies	Palacio	Snacks
June 7	195 200	Cookies Chips	Sabang Bao	ICEB Training
June 7	100 30 20	Cookies and Chips Soap E-mix	Sabang Bao	CRV Training
June 17	90 296 125 50	Cookies Chip E-mix Noodles	Sabang Bao	Snacks for ICEB Production
June 21	300	Cookies and Chips	Cabunga-an	Day Care
June 21	300	Cookies and Chips	Palacio	Day Care
June 21	450	Cookies and Chips	Cabuloran	Day Care
June 25	50 100	E-mix Cookies	Barayong	Day Care
June 25	30 6 9 6	Cookies/Chips E-mix Soap Dishwashing	Cabunga-an	ICEB Training
June 25	40 8 12 4	Cookies/Chips E-mix Soap Dishwashing	Palacio	ICEB Training
June 30	90 90	Cookies/Chips Chips	Bayog	Day Care
July 1	150 30 45 75 15	Cookies/Chips E-mix Soap Noodles Dishwashing	Sabang Bao and Bayog	ICEB Training
July 11	400	Cookies/Flakes	Cabuloran	Day Care
July 11	320	Cookies/Chips	Palacio	Day Care
July 11	320	Cookies/Chips	Cabunga-an	Day Care
July 11	1540	Cookies/Chips	Barayong	Day Care and

	80	Cookies/Flakes		Elementary School
July 19	300 240	E-mix Cookies/Chips	Naungan	ABCD Orientation and Day Care
July 21	560 50	Cookies/Chips E-mix	Barayong	Day Care and Elementary School
July 27	240 20	Cookies/Chips E-mix	Ormoc Area	
Aug 1	100 100 80	Flakes Chips Cookies	Cabuloran and Barayong	Snacks during meeting
Aug 2	100 150	Cookies/Flakes E-mix	Palacio	Snacks during meeting
Aug 11	100	Cookies/Chips	Cabunga-an	Snacks during meeting
Aug 13	270 80	Chips Cookies/Flakes	Sabang Bao	Snacks on site

E] SOLAR LIGHTING SYSTEMS

Objective 5: To provide solar lighting systems in strategic centers of the partner communities.

At the initial relief phase, a total of 12 solar lighting systems have been installed in partner communities. Two of these systems have been pulled out from Hernani, Samar and Diit, Tacloban City and one was transferred to the community center in Palacio, Dagami which does not have electricity while the other was installed in the relocation site in Sabang Bao, Ormoc City.

F] PARTNERSHIP WITH SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

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Objective 6: To partner with affected social enterprises in the rehabilitation of infrastructure or equipments and re-capitalization of business operations.

Explorations for partnership are being made with a farmer's group in Bayog and a women's group in Basey, Samar. No concrete agreements have yet been arrived at.

Final Note:

The two (2) top officers, the president and vice-president, of the E-CARE Homeowners Association of Sabang Bao are the most active participants in the housing project and other activities in the community. By their own admission, their new roles have given them new directions and visions in life as they used to spend all their time in the "tong-itan" [gambling dens] prior to Yolanda. Now, they have shun away from these vices and devoted most of their time to the projects. Their families keep on thanking E-CARE and all its partners for this change which they consider to be a "miracle".

CS GIDEON BUSTAMANTE
E-CARE Disaster Response Staff
Palo, Leyte



Figure 1 Preparing earth for the Interlocking Compressed Earth Block [ICEB]



Women are active participants in the housing project.





Interlocking Compressed Earth Block [ICEB]





Laying the foundations

