PfR Philippines country factsheet

Country: Philippines
Project Area: National Capital Region (NCR): city of Malabon, city of Valenzuela
Organization(s): NLRC, PRC, CARE, ACCORD, CNDR, PSRI, IIRR

Key data about the project area (area of the beneficiaries):
Population: 11,855,975
Geography: 638.55 km2
Main livelihood sectors: construction, informal service sector
Beneficiaries #:
Beneficiary groups: informal squatters (urban poor) near rivers banks and flood ways. Women, elderly, people with disability and children are most at risk.

What types of hazards occur in project site?
floods, cyclones, fires, earthquake, El Niño, La Niña events. The urban poor who live in the NCR are susceptible to multiple hazards, including floods, cyclones, fires, earthquakes, El Niño, La Niña events. The Metro Manila Earthquake Impact Reduction Study revealed that if a 7.2 magnitude earthquake would hit the metropolis, 60,000 deaths are likely to occur plus an additional 30,000 due to secondary hazards, such as fire.
Examples: Tropical Storm Falcon, international name: Maeri (21 June), project areas flooded, rescue operations undertaken

How are these hazards exacerbated?
By human activity? (ecosystems degradation)
Rapid urbanisation has put people living below the poverty line both at great climatic and disaster risk, as the slums are particularly hazard prone.
Pollution from human excreta and domestic garbage creates health problems in these communities due to poor hygiene practices and overcrowding. These factors increase disaster risks and aggravate damage to the environment and ecosystems.
urbanisation, relocation, increased intensity and occurrence disasters (due to climate change and human-induced factors) Urbanisation in NCR continues at a rapid pace. Some 262,000 informal settlements are situated in what may be considered high risk or danger areas: riverbanks, railroad tracks, shorelines, dumpsites, low-lying areas susceptible to flooding, under bridges, relocation sites lacking amenities and tenurial security, and areas under threat of eviction.

Poor housing, lack of basic services, and enormous pressures on urban carrying capacities, particularly solid waste management, and air and water pollution all need urgent attention.
Livelihood opportunities for the urban poor are limited. Many of the urban poor earn a meagre living in the informal services sector. Underemployment and unemployment are high in these slum areas.

(?) Politics?
In addition, the absence of a DRR responsive urban development strategy to guide planners, policy makers and other stakeholders increases vulnerabilities.
LGUs planning on relocation for two of the project sites. Poor people in the Philippines have limited access to decision making processes, services and resources. Access to and control over land and water often remain bottlenecks that need to be resolved for poor people to improve their livelihoods and strengthen their resilience. The quality of social services such as health care is particularly poor in disadvantaged and isolated areas.

(?) Economics?
Economic growth the Philippines has remained moderate and its benefits have gone disproportionately to the richer strata of society, thus increasing income disparities. The increasing economic marginalisation of the poorest groups and minorities has weakened their leverage in society. The quality and distribution of economic and financial infrastructure lags far behind in disadvantaged areas, where it is precisely most needed.

Climate change?
Projected changes for Southeast Asia show that unusually warm days and nights are likely to increase while unusually cold days and nights are likely to decrease. Projections show a median annual average temperature increase of 2.5°C for the Southeast Asian region by 2080-2090 with a range of 1.5 to 3.7°C (A1B scenario).
It is also likely that there will be more frequent and intense heavy precipitation days over most regions of South East Asia and particularly non-continent parts. Models project a median increase in annual average rainfall of 7% with a range of -2% to +15% possible by 2080 to 2090 (A1B scenario). The intensity of tropical cyclones is also likely to increase.
Also, sea-level rise is expected to increase by 0.18 to 0.59m by 2100. However, several other models suggest global sea level could rise by as much as one meter.

How are people's livelihoods affected?
Human
poor hygiene practices
Pollution from human excreta and domestic garbage creates health problems in these communities due to poor hygiene practices and overcrowding, which facilitates the spread of communicable diseases.

Social
weak social cohesion, which hampers public action and increases their vulnerability.
The slums are inhabited by heterogeneous populations with weak social cohesion. This hampers public action and increases their vulnerability

Physical
lack entitlements to land.

Financial
little security of income, due to vulnerability of people's livelihoods for disasters.

Natural
overcrowding

What are the solutions offered by the alliance?
Preparedness
providing DRR toolkits

Early warning
Mitigation
climate trend risk mapping
information dissemination on DRR

development