



PHILIPPINES

INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT IN CORON

CARE. ACT. SHARE. LIKE CORDAID.

Credit: Boyet Torres, Cordaid

Coastal and island communities in the Philippines have very high exposure to climate and disaster risks. Isolation, limited communication systems, and income dependence on natural resources compound the situation. In November 2013 the Coron municipality in the Philippines was devastated by Typhoon Haiyan. Since then Cordaid has accompanied communities within Coron through post-typhoon recovery and rehabilitation, by strengthening their resilience.

Cordaid, working in collaboration with the Partners for Resilience, promotes Integrated Risk Management (IRM) as a key approach to resilience building. IRM is a combination of Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation, and Environmental Management and Restoration. Cordaid is currently working with three local Coron communities, Tara, Malawig, and Buenavista, to tackle their risks with IRM approaches.

HAZARD MAPPING

Cordaid, together with Coron community members, Coron Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, and the Barangay Council of Buenavista, identified risks being faced by the communities. As a result of this community leaders implemented disaster preparedness measures such as, installing early warning and hazard warning signs, creating evacuation routes, and leading an information and education campaign on the impact of hazards faced.

BASIC NEEDS

Food

Women have been trained in farming vegetables in difficult climate conditions; they have information on the incoming weather for the next three months from the metrological agency, they explore how to select the different types of

vegetables that are best to plant when there is different amounts of rain, and they have learnt about watering and planting regimes for the different vegetables. Vegetable harvests provide extra food and are sold to others in the village

Water

Cordaid provided training on low-cost water protection and conservation techniques to improve access to clean and safe drinking water in these communities. Two Cordaid-trained community leaders provided training to other villages on the 3R approach to Recharge, Retention, and Re-use of water. As the long dry season gets worse each year in Coron, less water is available in wells and springs. The 3R approach allows communities to better manage access to water even during the long dry season whilst maximizing available water for vegetable production.



Credit: Boyet Torres, Cordaid

Residents of Tara village install low cost drip irrigation for their newly planted mango tree seedlings.

Communication

Cordaid assisted communities in Coron by providing base and handheld radios in order to improve communication for disaster risk management and environmental management within their ancestral waters, forests, and watershed areas. With this, communities are better able to effectively manage their resources and build a disaster preparedness system to strengthen resilience efforts being implemented.



Forest wardens in Malawig village use the two-way radios to report and apprehend illegal activities, such as cutting of trees within their watershed areas, to avoid further deforestation which threatens water and food security of their communities.

LIVELIHOODS

Weaving

Cordaid, in partnership with Department of Trade and Industry, supported Tagbanua women weavers from Tara and Malawig villages to develop handicrafts from the pandan leaves which are widely available in their community. From traditional mat weaving, the women are now able to make many more products to be sold in the near-by town. This provides them with additional income to support their families when it is difficult for their husbands to go fishing

"We are thankful for the support Cordaid has given us weavers. We were able to go to trainings to improve our products with new colors and dyes. It is not only us women who benefit from this but also men. When they cannot go to the sea to fish because of bad weather, they can also weave and make 150 pesos per bag."

Antonia Carpiano, Malawig Weavers Group President

Supporting women through strengthening traditional weaving does not only empower women to work together for economic alternatives to fishing, it also provides opportunities for protecting the environment they depend on. Weavers protect and replant the pandan plants they use as the raw materials for weaving. Reforestation and making sure pandan plants are

prospering protects the beach from erosion and limits waves from travelling up to the areas in which people live.

Rice

Storms, rain, and landslides block roads whilst high waves and wind make it difficult to cross the sea. This means it is difficult to travel to Coron town to buy food such as rice. Malawig Rice retailing group, a small enterprise group set up with the support of Cordaid helps to address this challenge. They are responsible to ensure sufficient rice stock is available in the village for up to three weeks. Every hamlet is connected to the rice-retailing group to ensure that food is available at most local levels even if the weather is bad.



Annabel Alberto, Malawig Rice retail group member

ABOUT CORDAID

Cordaid strives to end poverty and exclusion. We do this in the world's most fragile and conflict-affected areas as well as in the Netherlands. We engage local communities to rebuild trust and resilience and increase people's self reliance. Our professionals provide humanitarian assistance and create opportunities to improve security, healthcare and education and stimulate inclusive economic growth. We are supported by 288.000 private donors in the Netherlands and by a worldwide partner network. This gives us the leverage and implementing power to solve problems and create structural change in the most challenging settings.

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