

References

- Luna, Mel (2010). *Kalamidad: Kalagayan, Konsepto at mga Proseso*. Powerpoint Presentation, DRRM Workshop 20-21 September 2010 organized by Homenet Southeast Asia and DRRM Cluster of the UP CSWCD
- Rivera, Blance (2006). *Typhoon batters Metro Manila, Bicol*. Available at <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/inquirerheadlines/nation/view20060929 - 23757/Typhoon-batters-Metro-Manila-Bicol>. Accessed on 19 October 2010
- Tanchuling, Ma. Linnea (2010). *Definition of Terms*. Powerpoint presentation, DRRM Workshop 20-21 September 2010 organized by Homenet Southeast Asia and DRRM Cluster of the UP CSWCD
- World Bank (n.d.) *Typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng: Post-Disaster Needs Assessment Executive Summary*, available at <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPHILIPPINES/Resources/PDNAExecutiveSummary.pdf>. Accessed on 19 October 2010
- _____. Safety During Typhoons, available at <http://www.healthpinoy.com/health/articles/disaster-preparedness-typhoon.html>. Accessed on 19 October 2010
- _____. Typhoon Fengshen, Available at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Typhoon_Fengshen_%282008%29. Accessed on 19 October 2010
- Photocredits: renziebaluyut.wordpress.com, kurtcendana.wordpress.com, typhoonondoy.org, littlehouseintuscany.com, thebeauty-junkee.blogspot.com, jupiterworld.wordpress.com
-
-

Interviewers

Leonida Antonio
Juliana Canta
Maria delos Santos
Maria Nebla

Translators

(from the original Filipino version)

Reggie Aquino
Phoebe Cabanilla
Mary Claire Demaisip
Primar Jardeleza
Amoreena Velasco

Editor/Booklet Design and Lay-out

Mylene D. Hega



LEARNING FROM THE PAST AND PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

*Women amidst typhoon
and flood disasters*



Capacities/Vulnerabilities Matrix

Types	Vulnerabilities		Capacities	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Physical				
Social				
Economic				

Source: ppt presentation of Dr. Mel Luna
DRRM Workshop 20-21 September 2010

**LEARNING FROM THE PAST
AND PREPARING
FOR THE FUTURE**

*Women amidst typhoon
and flood disasters*

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	<p>The conceptual framework of elements considered with the possibilities to minimize vulnerabilities and disaster risks throughout a society, to avoid <u>(prevention)</u> or to limit <u>(mitigation and preparedness)</u> the adverse impacts of hazards, within the broad context of sustainable development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk awareness and assessment including hazard analysis and vulnerability/capacity analysis; - Knowledge development including education, training, research and information; - Public commitment and institutional frameworks, including organizational, policy, legislation and community action; - Application of measures including environmental management, land-use and urban planning, protection of critical facilities, application of science and technology, partnership and networking, and financial instruments; - Early warning systems including forecasting, dissemination of warnings, preparedness measures and reaction capacities.
--------------------------------	--

*Source: ppt presentation of Prof. Maria Linnea Tanchuling
 DRRM Workshop 20-21 October 2010*

The Philippines is prone to almost all types of natural hazards because of its geographical location. Its long coastline makes it vulnerable to sea-level rise. An average of 22 tropical cyclones cross the country's area of responsibility every year which might results to damages due to high winds, storm surges and floods. It is also located in the Pacific Ring of Fire making it vulnerable to earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic hazards. It is host to 300 volcanoes, 22 of them are classified active; together with active faults and trenches that are potential sources of earthquakes. Floods are the most frequent natural disasters and affect more people and communities; typhoons and earthquakes cause the most fatalities.

The costs of disasters have been increasing. Between 1990 and 2006, it amounted to an average of P19.7 billion, or 0.5 percent of our annual national GDP. Typhoons “Ondoy” and “Pepeng” resulted an P206 billion in damages, or roughly 10 times the country's annual average. While it is true that disasters spare no one, there are socio-economic, political and processes that give rise to people's vulnerability. The poor and most vulnerable always bear the burden of the costs of disaster. The vulnerability and risks of workers in the informal economy are higher because most of them live in unsafe and flood-prone areas, they have fragile and unsustainable livelihoods and economic activities and they have fewer assets/resources to cope disaster. Moreover, disasters destroy the few remaining assets of the poor, damage food production, undermine the already weak national and local infrastructure and leave millions without access to basic urban and rural services.

This booklet is about women homebased workers—their conditions, multiple roles and coping mechanisms during disasters. In addition, the stories of women are also narrations of lessons learned from their experiences and of rebuilding lives.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

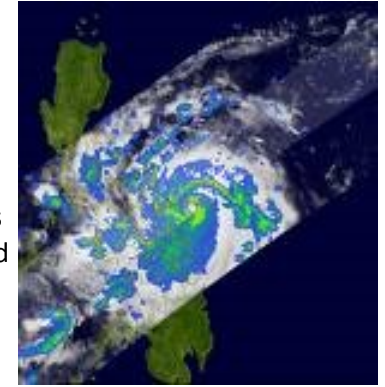
DISASTER	what occurs when the impact of a <u>hazard</u> on a section society (causing death, injury, loss of property or economic losses) overwhelms that society's ability to cope
RISK 	The likelihood of a specific hazard occurring and its probable consequences for people and property The anticipated losses (lives lost, numbers injured, property damage and disruption of economic activity) from the impact of a given hazard on a given element over a specific period of time <i>Beyond expressing a possibility of physical harm, it is crucial to recognize that risks are inherent or can be created or exist within social systems. It is important to consider the social contexts in which risks occur and that people therefore do not necessarily share the same perceptions of risk and their underlying causes.</i>
EXPOSURE	Elements affected by the hazard
VULNERABILITY	The extent to which a person, group or socio-economic structure is likely to be affected by a hazard (related to their capacity to anticipate it, cope with it, resist it and recover from its impact)
CAPACITY	Qualities which increase the ability of the individual or community to cope with or recover from a threatening event or process
DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT	The <u>systematic process of using administrative decisions, organization, operational skills and capacities to implement policies, strategies and coping capacities of the society and communities</u> to lessen the impacts of natural hazards and related environmental and technological disasters. This comprises all forms of activities, including structural and non-structural measures to avoid (prevention) or to limit (mitigation and preparedness) adverse effects of hazards.

Contact numbers in case of typhoon emergencies

- PAGASA 24 hour hotline: 433-ULAN (433-8526)
- National Risk Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), formerly NDCC: 734-2120; 911-5061; 912-5668
- Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA): 136 (hotline); 0920-947-2503 (towing concerns); 0920-947-1632 or 0917-561-8709 (duty officer)
- Philippine Coast Guard: 527-8481 local 6290 and 6292; 328-1098
- Philippine National Red Cross: 527-0000
- Bureau of Fire Protection (NCR): 729-5166; 410-6254; 413-8859; 407-1230;
- Manila Electric Co. (Meralco): 16210
- Philippine Airlines (PAL) hotline for flight schedule updates: 855-8888
- Cebu Pacific Air hotline: (02) 70-20-888 / (032) 230-88-88; website: www.cebupacificair.com

MILENYO (2006) (international name: Xangsane)

THE STRONGEST typhoon to hit Metro Manila directly in 11 years toppled trees and billboards, triggered flash floods and landslides, shuttered offices and the financial markets, and caused a Luzon-wide power outage on Thursday (September 28).



Typhoon “Milenyo” (international name: Xangsane) brought Metro Manila to a near-standstill with all flights and sea travel in and out of the region canceled. It also forced officials to suspend operations of two commuter train systems.

At least 18 persons were reported dead in the cities of Muntinlupa (2), Makati (1) and Legazpi (1), and the provinces of Albay (8), Quezon (3) and Antique (3) in the wake of the typhoon.

Eleven were confirmed dead in the five-province Calabarzon area south and east of Manila, including four children in Taytay town in Rizal province.

AT A GLANCE

- Classes in all levels still suspended in Metro Manila (September 29)
- All government offices still closed in Metro Manila (September 29)
- At least 18 persons dead
- Luzon-wide blackout
- Thousands of trees felled
- Billboards and lampposts torn down

- Trucks and cars overturned
- Flooding and landslides
- Thousands stranded
- Flights and sea [travel](#) cancelled
- Overhead trains systems LRT and MRT stopped
- Trading on stock and currency markets suspended

Worst hit provinces

Among the worst hit provinces was Albay in the Bicol region, disaster coordination officials said. It had no water supply, electricity and land-line communication link.

Albay and five other provinces in Bicol had been without electricity since Wednesday night as high winds toppled power lines.

“It’s like waking up from a nightmare,” Arnel Capili, Office of Civil Defense chief for the Bicol region, told a radio station. “The first thing is to clear the national highway leading to Manila.”

In Camarines Sur province, Gov. Luis Ray Villafuerte placed the initial damage to schools, roads, bridges and other infrastructure at P200 million. He said that 85 percent of the crops in the province were damaged.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was trapped by Milenyu at the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga province, north of Manila. She tried to return to Manila in the midst of the storm to preside over a meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, but was forced to turn back, government-run radio said.

Classes are still suspended in all levels in Metro Manila on Friday. Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said Thursday that classes remained suspended to give time for local governments to clear roads of debris.

SAFETY TIPS DURING TYPHOONS

- Stay indoors and keep calm.
- Monitor TV and radio reports.
- Secure your home.
- Trim trees near dwellings.
- Keep roads clear for emergency vehicles.
- If your house is in a flood-prone area, go to the nearest designated evacuation center.
- Have a flashlight and radio handy, with fresh batteries.
- Stock up on food, potable water, kerosene, batteries and first-aid supplies.
- In case of flooding, turn off the main sources of electricity, gas and water in your home.
- Stack furniture above the expected flood level. Keep appliances, valuables, chemicals, toxic substances and garbage beyond reach of floodwaters.
- Avoid low-lying areas, riverbanks, creeks and coastal areas, slopes, cliffs and foothills. Rains can trigger landslides, rockslides or mudslides.
- Avoid wading through flooded areas. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams.
- Do not operate any electrical equipment during a flood.
- Do not use gas or electrical appliances that have been flooded.

Source: Safe Ka Ba? from NDCC-OCD

daughter, who recently gave birth, go back home.

Our support groups such as OXFAM, PATAMABA and PKKK continuously supported us by still giving relief goods to us even after we had transferred back to our homes. Aside from the relief goods, OXFAM also gave us a seminar on disaster management and counseling especially to those who were traumatized by typhoon Ondoy.

Remembering my experience during the onslaught of the storm still bring tears to my eyes. I can vividly recall the hardships, suffering and anxieties that I had to endure while staying in the evacuation center. On a brighter note however, I am grateful that my family was spared from any harm while typhoon Ondoy and Pepeng were ravaging our community.

Lapus said classes might resume this Friday in the provinces of Rizal, Laguna, Batangas, Cavite and Bulacan.

Weakened

Milenyo on Thursday weakened into a storm with winds of 110 kilometers per hour but picked up speed by 17 to 19 kph when it smashed through Metro Manila capital at around 10 a.m. It was packing maximum winds of 130 kph and gusts of up to 160 kph when it made land-fall in Northern Samar province on Wednesday morning.

Forecasters said Milenyo would likely strengthen back to a typhoon when it hit the South China Sea. The storm is headed westward and is expected to reach Vietnam late on Sunday.

“The worst is over for Metro Manila,” weather bureau chief Nathaniel Cruz said. “You cannot expect a 180-degree turn immediately, of course. It will continue to rain for the next several days but we have improving weather,” he said.

Milenyo was headed for Bataan and Zambales as of 4 p.m. yesterday, its center spotted 100 km south of Metro Manila. It had slightly weakened.

Eye of storm

Calm settled in the southern part of Metro Manila just before noon Thursday when the typhoon’s eye passed over it, allowing residents to quickly repair loosened metal sheet roofing, cut down trees blocking roads, and talk with neighbors.

Less than an hour later, the fierce winds and driving rains were back.

Metro Manila’s streets were empty as most of its 12 million residents took shelter from flying debris.

“It sounded like a train passed on the roof,” said one occupant of a fourth-floor apartment. “Then the roof in one of our rooms was gone. I can now see the sky.”

Taxis were reluctant to take to the road. "It's too dangerous," said Armando Legaspi, a cab driver.

Between Alabang town and the Bicutan interchange on the South Luzon Expressway, some 25 billboards lay toppled. A giant billboard blocked the west side of the service road just before Bicutan.

Hundreds of motorists were stranded along the Old National Highway in Sta. Rosa, Calamba and Biñan in Laguna amid waist-deep floods.

Toll collection on the South Luzon Expressway, which was littered by fallen trees, was suspended for two days until this Friday.

Worst over

The hotline and Web server of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) bogged down Thursday because of the power outage.

The hotline 433-ULAN, which the public can access to check on the weather, could not be updated due to the power failure. Even the technical person in charge of the hotline system failed to make it to work because he was stranded in Pasig City.

Pagasa hoisted Signal No. 3 in Bataan province and the southern part of neighboring Zambales.

The signal in Metro Manila was lowered from Signal No. 3 at 11 a.m. to Signal No. 2 at 4 p.m.

Other areas placed under Signal No. 2 were the rest of Zambales, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan, Cavite and Lubao Island. Signal No. 1 was raised over Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, southern Aurora, northern Quezon, Rizal, Laguna, Batangas and Mindoro.

Electrocuted, crushed

In Antique province on Panay Island, in the central Philippines, three persons were killed, including a drunk man who fell into a river, a 9-

We were blessed because we, in the evacuation center were prioritized in the giving of assistance. Red Cross gave medicines and vitamins to children. Clothes and food were also given to us. If you could prove that your business was affected by the onslaught of Ondoy, Red Cross would give you P7,000 which you could use as capital to revive your business. On the other hand, OIM donated P7,000 worth of materials such as galvanized iron sheets and hollow blocks, which we could use to rebuild our homes.

For three (3) months we lived inside the church which served as our evacuation center. I needed to adjust and adapt to the attitudes of different persons whom we were living with in the center. My daughters Baby, Gigi and I were the first ones who went back to our home. There, we cleaned our house and got rid of the mud and dirty water that had



surged into our house during the typhoon. I cried when I saw what happened to our home. Inside our home, mud was still calf-deep and the stagnant water reeked of stench. One of the posts in our home collapsed and was destroyed. We started the cleaning up of our house. We got a pail and used it to scoop out the mud inside our home. Most of our clothes got wet and were ruined so we just threw them away. We endured the stench of the rotting garbage and dead animals left by typhoon Ondoy in our community. It took us around a week before we were able to finish with the cleaning and the putting in order of our home. Only then did we let my husband and my

the city was destroyed and taken away by the strong currents.

Since Laguna is one of the many low lying places in the Philippines, it was submerged in flood water for three (3) months. Inside the evacuation center some evacuees were already getting sick. Thankfully, the pastor in the church promptly assisted the evacuees.

I constantly prayed for the preservation of our home. It would be a big problem for us if our home would be damaged by the storm. It would entail a substantial amount of money to rebuild our house if it was destroyed. Other evacuees appeared contented with their lives in the center, but for me, life in the evacuation center was fraught with enduring hardship and suffering.

There were a lot of groups and organizations who helped us, particularly, OXFAM, OIM, DSWD and Red Cross. Normally, they gave us rice, canned goods, noodles, coffee, sugar and clothes. We needed to sign for the relief goods we received from the different organizations. At first, OXFAM gave P1,000 to all evacuees in the center. However, in their succeeding visits they already conducted interviews with the evacuees, and based on the interviews they chose seven (7) persons whom they gave financial help in the amount of P5,000.00. Since then representatives from OXFAM regularly visited and conducted interviews with the evacuees in the center. Later on the evacuees formed its group and I was designated as president and representative of the evacuees. Whenever OXFAM asked or called for a meeting, I was the one designated to attend the meetings. I was also the one who managed the distribution of the relief goods and all other donations given to us in the evacuation center. As representative of the evacuees, I also served as the spokesperson of the group.

year-old boy and an electrician, said acting governor Eduardo Fortaleza.

Lealyn Danez, 15, resident of Villa San Pablo Subdivision in Lucena City in Quezon province, southeast of Manila, died after she was hit by a falling tree.

In Quezon province, three persons died. Four were missing in San Francisco town and six fishing boats were missing in the town Perez area, Police Senior Supt. Victorio Caragan Jr. said.

In Albay, Cedric Daep, Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council chair, said at least eight persons were reported dead in four towns.

One of them was Ricky Chua, 35. "I tried to save him but there was nothing I could do," Levy Base, 34, said of his neighbor in the coastal area of Baybay in Legazpi City.

Base sustained wounds from trying to save Chua.

"We were trying to lift the concrete wall that fell on him but other materials, which I didn't see, kept on hitting my body," he said.

Romy Romero, council member of Baybay, said other villagers told him that Chua had evacuated to a safer place but went back to get some of his things.

Chua, whose body has yet to be found, was among at least 12 reported dead in southern Luzon due to Milenyo.

In Arteche town in Eastern Samar province, the authorities reported 44 houses destroyed and 56 damaged. There were no reports of casualties.

In Muntinlupa City in Metro Manila, a girl and an elderly man were crushed to death when the wall of an adjacent abandoned warehouse

collapsed on their houses, officials said.

In the Makati business district, the steel frame of a billboard fell on a bus, a van and a taxi, killing the van driver and injuring the driver of the taxi, police said.

In Calamba City, three factories (Samsung Electronics, Shinsei Electronics and PL Technologies) in Barangay Batino collapsed at around 11 a.m., injuring 50 employees.

Ship passengers stranded

The Office of Civil Defense reported that as of 8 a.m. Thursday there were 3,029 ship passengers stranded in the Bicol region.

Matnog town had 2,130 stranded passengers; Pilar, 376; Tabaco City, 358; Masbate, 61; Bulan, 48; Pioduran, 22; Pasacao, Camarines Sur, 21; Sabang, Camarines Sur, 10 and Virac, 3.

At the Batangas port south of Manila, stranded were at least 350 passengers bound for the provinces of Aklan, Iloilo, Mindoro and Romblon in the central Philippines.

The Camarines Norte national highway, roads in Camarines Sur and the road from Legazpi City to Sorsogon were passable as of 3 p.m. Thursday.

However, the road out of Bulan, Sorsogon, was not passable due to fallen trees, electric posts and scattered roofing materials.

In Albay, the Maharlika Highway in the second and third districts was passable to light vehicles only.

The road in Barangay Padang in Legazpi was not passable because it was blocked by boulders and old volcanic debris from Mayon volcano.

The circumferential road from Virac to Pandan in Catanduanes was hardly passable. It was under construction when damaged by the storm.

Rommel lives in Calamba while Raymund works in the city where he was stranded when Ondoy ravaged our community. Raymund wasn't able to go home because of the flood. It was a good thing that they had cellphones and that we were still able to communicate with them even if they were not with us during those times.

Since we were staying in a church, we had to fix and move our things every time the church service will be held. We had to fix our things and clean up the place early out of respect and gratitude to the pastor of the church who allowed us to stay there. While we were inside the church, we

could see a number of galvanized iron sheets being blown by the strong wind as well as other things like refrigerators, washing machines, cars, chairs, cabinets, among others, being swept away by the flood. We also saw trees and MERALCO posts being toppled



down by the storm. Witnessing how Ondoy wreaked havoc around us made me more fretful. Even though we had enough food to eat in the evacuation center, I couldn't help but think whether we would still have a home to go back to after seeing the destruction that the storm had brought in our community.

We were all the more burdened and bothered by the news that there was another storm coming in our country – Pepeng. Water from the sea progressively rose and currents from the mountains surrounding our area rapidly flowed. Even the bridge connecting our barangay to

While they couldn't decide whether to evacuate or not, flood water continuously rose and our community was almost deserted. Most of the residents in our area had already moved to higher places. Being the head of our family, I decided that we evacuate and transfer to a UCCP church in our community. My daughter, Joy, has a friend who works as a janitor in the church and he helped us take refuge there.

On our first day in the evacuation center, Gigi and I were the ones who practically shouldered our family's food expenses since my siblings were penniless. They live on a hand to mouth existence such that what they earn is barely enough to provide for their daily needs. Now that they couldn't work because of the storm, they did not have money to spend for their families. It was such a blessing that the person in charge of the church was kind-hearted. At the time when no relief goods have reached us yet, the UCCP church fed us and provided for our daily needs such as rice, coffee and sugar. We ate sardines everyday but we could not do anything about it since we couldn't go the market because of the flood.

While in the evacuation center, I needed to attend to my husband and my daughter who just gave birth. In addition to this, I needed to be on guard against unscrupulous evacuees who steal things. There were also those who took advantage of getting the ration of food and other relief goods. There were eighteen (18) families who lived in the church which served as evacuation center and since we were composed of different families we also had to get along and adapt with the different attitudes of the others whom we were living with.

I also worried about my other children who were far from us. My eldest child, Rommel, and my youngest child, Raymund were not with us in the evacuation center.

A minor rock slide blocked a section of the Panabananon road and a minor landslide hit a section in Barihay in Catanduanes.

Evacuation

A total of 833 people were evacuated to eight centers in Calabanga, Camarines Sur. Thirty-six families were evacuated in Pamplona, 50 in Gainza and five in Libmanan.

The Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council said 20 families from the coastal village of Sala in Balete, Batangas, were evacuated to Balete Church.

Initial reports from the Philippine National Red Cross said that 45 families were evacuated in Lipa City, 38 in Tanauan City and 11 in San Juan town.

Highway operator Star Tollway Corp. said billboards and fences had tilted toward the road in Santo Tomas.

Water overflowed on the Santiago Bridge and portions of Kilometer 64 to Kilometer 61 in Sambat, Tanauan, were flooded. But no vehicular accidents were reported, Star Tollway said.

Many houses were rendered roofless, electricity was cut off and floods threatened the towns of Siniloan, Mabitac, Famy, Sta. Maria and other parts of eastern Laguna.

Manila airport closed

Debris -- from pieces of galvanized iron sheets, tree branches, leaves and even migratory birds -- as well as poor visibility forced the five-hour closure of the two runways of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) at the height of Milenyo.

It was the first time in 15 years that the country's premier international airport was closed. In 1991, the Naia was closed for 10 days because of the ash fall brought about by the Mt. Pinatubo eruption.

On Thursday, the Manila International Airport Authority closed the runways to all aircraft at 10:15 a.m. and reopened them at 3 p.m.

The closure affected numerous arriving and departing flights, and stranded hundreds of passengers at the Naia 1, the Centennial Terminal and the Manila Domestic Airport.

Milenyo's strong winds destroyed portions of warehouses belonging to ground-handling companies and tore off galvanized roofing sheets of buildings as well as billboard tarpaulins surrounding the airport.

A canopy at one of the airport security checkpoints ended up as a pile of twisted metal. Several trees were uprooted, some of which fell on two vehicles parked at the Centennial Terminal.

The wind also broke a six-glass panel at Gate 17 at the pre-boarding area at Naia 1, knocked down a steel panel at Gate 10, and tore off portions of the gypsum board ceilings at the two gates that were right beside each other.

The Miaa medical office reported that six airline and airport employees sustained cuts and bruises after being hit by flying debris.

It was hot and dimly lit at Naia 1 as its power generators could not provide sufficient electricity to the entire airport facility.

Milenyo was the 13th typhoon to hit the Philippines this year, disaster officials said.

Reports from Joanna Los Baños, Ephraim Aguilar, Job Belen, Juan Escandor, Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Romulo O. Ponte, Marlon Luistro, and Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Alcuin Papa and Nikko Dizon in Manila; Reuters, Agence France-Presse, and INQ7.net

By Blanche Rivera, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau Inquirer. First Posted 01:35:00 09/29/2006

Filed Under: Disasters (general), Weather, Emergency Incidents, Emergency Planning/Published on Page A1 of the September 29, 2006 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer

our home had reached thigh-high. I got more afraid because the flood water inside our home was rapidly getting higher. All belongings that we could carry were hurriedly brought to higher ground. While the flood water was getting higher and deeper, my daughter Lenlen started having labor pains even as she was only eight (8) months pregnant! My brothers then fetched a midwife aboard a small boat and had to travel a long way before they were able to do so.

Flood water inside our home reached neck deep and all our things, even our bed floated around the house. In my daughter Gigi's house, flood water reached waist deep. Fortunately, they had a second floor where we all stayed. My daughter Lenlen gave birth in her sister's home where we all sought refuge. Even though Lenlen gave birth prematurely, we were all grateful that her baby was safely delivered and that both mother and child were far from harm's way.



My siblings and other relatives, who were also our neighbors, couldn't go to the evacuation center because they did not have enough money to tide them over these trying times. They were anxious that if they transferred to the evacuation center without financial resources they would be in a more pitiful condition than the other evacuees. They were concerned that while other evacuees would have enough food to sustain themselves, they would be left without anything to eat, and they would be placed in a shameful situation.

Rebirth of a Community
Juliana M Canta, 62 years old
Sto. Angel, Sta Cruz, Laguna

September 29, 2009: We learned that typhoon Ondoy will hit the Philippines and that our area in Laguna will be affected by the coming of the typhoon. I fixed our bed and put our home in order early that day. I went to the house of my daughter, Gigi, and checked on her if she was already preparing for the coming of typhoon. I saw her packing the clothes of her 2 children so I helped her prepare and pack their other belongings. I lost track of time while helping my daughter Gigi. When I was on my way home, the flood water was already deep. I got scared of the rapidly increasing flood water. I didn't know which or whom to attend to first – I have a child living in a far place. My other daughter on the other hand was pregnant, and because it was her first pregnancy, she was in a fragile condition. Since she couldn't move freely given her circumstance, I was the one attending to her needs especially that her husband was not with her and was working in a far off place. Another concern of mine was my husband who suffered from a stroke and whom I also had to attend to because he couldn't walk properly.

At around eleven o'clock in the morning, the flood water was getting higher and was already calf- high inside our home. I couldn't decide whether to transfer and evacuate to safer area. I kept on thinking about how we would move from our home to another place. I was also worried that my daughter Lenlen might prematurely give birth in this stressful situation. I was also having difficulty talking to my husband about evacuating since it was hard to convince him to do so once he had made up his mind against it. Finally, he agreed that we transfer to my daughter Gigi's house when the flood water inside

When Mother Earth Got Angry
Primar S. Jardeleza
Barangay San Benito, Dinalupihan, Bataan

It was around seven o'clock in the morning of September 26, 2006 when typhoon Milenyo (international code named Xangsane), hit the country. There was heavy rainfall for a few days that caused damage to dikes; water overflowed from the river basin which in turn resulted to flash flood since our barangay is surrounded by rivers and dams connecting Pampanga and Zambales provinces.



Flood water came in like a thief in the night-very fast and as deep as 14 feet. Pieces of big timbers cut into meters long from upland areas near our barangay tumbled down together with the flood waters. Almost all residents caught unprepared. Home appliances, furniture and bedroom sets, kitchen utensils, LPG tanks, and even grocery items from small sari-sari stores were carried away by the flood; even fruit trees were uprooted due to big currents of water. There were children and elderly who were drowned and unfortunately died.

I kept busy fixing some household stuff inside the house. I put them in an elevated area with the help of my father and my husband. I cooked rice and viands (sardines, noodles, and dried fish or *tuyo*) so that we would have something to eat while waiting for the flood to subside. I also prepared candles and kerosene gas just in case the water would continue to rise until night time so that we still would have light. I put clothes and other

important things inside the jute sacks and tied them with ropes.

The rain continued falling until it reached the floor of our house which was made of light materials (bamboo, sawali, and cogon) but was 10 feet above ground. When I saw the water rising, I urged my father to evacuate to my neighbor's house which was quite safe because it has a second floor and is made of concrete materials. But I was not able to convince my father, instead, he decided to stay inside the house because he said that when no one would be left inside, all our belongings would be carried away by the flood. He was also worried that unscrupulous persons would come and took advantage of the situation. There were reports that there people who robbed houses taking away with them important belongings. Failed to convince my father, my husband and I decided to leave the house and evacuated to a neighbor's house which was quite safe and located on a higher ground.

We were wet the whole day and felt cold. We did not have dry clothes to wear anymore. Heavy rains kept on falling. We left the house and passed through the narrow street. At that time, water was already above my shoulder. Only my head was seen on top of the strong current of water with big timbers and sacks of garbage floating along. My husband held me in one hand as we swam while passing a narrow street. All of a sudden I was hit by sacks of garbage and timbers and I lost hold of my husband's arms to the extent that I almost drowned. I do not know how to swim. Good enough that I was able to hold on to the branches of a mango tree along the street. I slowly climbed on top of the tree until I reached our neighbor's house. I stayed there for long hours waiting for the water to subside while my husband went on saving our

Ondoy experience brought significant changes in my life. My children learned an important lesson as well. They learned the importance of being a part of an organization. The knowledge that we have learned through the help of our organization cannot be taken away nor can it be bought – it is priceless!

ganization. Our organization PATAMABA Angono helped and took care of our families. Without our organization we would have nowhere to stay. The local government unit of our community distributed food, clothes, sleeping mats, blankets and canned goods. The same was done by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the PATAMABA National Office.

Through my experience, I learned how to be equipped in the face of a strong storm like Ondoy. I learned that we should be prepared for any kind and form of calamity. It is important to have courage, strength and presence of mind in the advent of these unexpected and life threatening catastrophes.

After the onslaught of Ondoy, our organization began discussing about climate change. I realized the importance of protecting our environment. Measures such as prohibiting the burning of garbage should be done. We also need to plant trees in order to prevent devastating floods drowning our communities. My Ondoy experience also made me realize the importance of saving up and staying healthy in order to face all challenges that come our way.



I am very grateful that I became a member of a women's organization. I am also thankful to our organization for the knowledge on the changing times and the changes in our environment, which I have acquired with their help. Although I know that there are still a lot of things I need to learn about our environment and how to save it, my

neighbors especially small children.

It was almost 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon when my neighbor told me that our house was hit by an uprooted mango tree. I immediately went back to our house accompanied by some of my neighbors. I saw our house in an upside down position and totally damaged. I felt numb and speechless. I saw my father shivering in cold. I was surprised he was still alive after what had happened. Everything had gone with the flood, nothing was saved. We lost our shelter. Even the palay planted in our small farm and were ready for harvest were also damaged.

During that time I did not know what to do. All I thought of was to start anew. We temporarily stayed at our neighbor's house while we were reconstructing our small house.

The organization was my first refuge, a shoulder I leaned on

PATAMABA has been my second family. Through our credit cooperative, I was able to borrow money that I used to buy construction materials to rebuild our house. Fellow members of PATAMABA brought some clothes, gas stove, sleeping mats, pillows, blanket, mosquito net, and other kitchen utensils.

Government Agencies where I sought assistance

I used to work as a volunteer Day Care Worker and a Community Organizer in our barangay under the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) before I joined PATAMABA. I did not hesitate to go to the office of DSWD in our municipality and asked for emergency help/assistance. My former boss immediately

gave me relief goods (rice, grocery items such as canned goods, etc.) and other household items (pail, laundry basin, plates, blankets, mats, pillows, mosquito net, etc.). But those were only for emergency or immediate needs.

Experiences on seeking help/assistance from the Local Government Unit

Aside from DSWD, the local officials in our municipality and barangay also distributed relief goods (*ration*) to those who were most affected by typhoon. However, before you were given relief goods, you need to get a priority *stub* or *ticket* (limited number) from the barangay officials (barangay captain, councilors, and security staff) who were in charge of the distribution of the said *tickets/stubs*. This system of distribution created a problem because the selection process was unfair and besides, everybody had to line up on a very long cue while waiting for the barangay team to come and distribute relief goods. At the barangay level, the distribution was managed by the barangay officials and they gave priority to their families, relatives, friends, and their avid "*supporters/voters*". This has always been the case --local politicians take advantage of giving out relief goods in exchange of people's votes during elections. Those who are most affected by disasters got less and are not prioritized.



Hooked Food ***Josie Lipio*** ***San Vicente, Angono, Rizal***

I have been witness to a lot of typhoons that had hit our country, but typhoon Ondoy was the most terrifying of them all. Not only did it bring strong and harsh winds but also deep and devastating flood waters. I could not explain how I felt at that time. I was afraid, worried and hungry all at the same time. I particularly feared for the lives of my children.

Inside our home, the flood water was chest-deep. I transferred my two younger children to a safer place while my eldest daughter Janella, the one helping me save what was left of our possessions, was left at our home to look after our things. After I brought my younger children to safety, I went back to our home to continue saving and packing our clothes. At this point, the flood water outside our home was already deep and we were already trapped inside our house. We did not have food to eat or water to drink. We endured hunger and thirst the entire night. The next day, a kind hearted person gave us food placed in a basin and made to float in the flood water. We hooked the basin of food with a piece of wood and tried to catch it before it drifted away. Getting that basin of food was a matter of luck. Three days had passed before we were able to borrow a small boat in order to cross over the flood water and leave our home. Money then was of no use since one cannot buy anything since all stores were submerged in water.

We transferred to the Productivity Center of PATAMABA Angono which served as our second home. We stayed there for three months. It was during this period that I realized the importance of belonging to an or-

As nighttime approached, the rain and wind were calmer. Food came from a family whose house was not damaged entirely by Ondoy. It was fine with my husband and I if we were not able to eat as long as my children had food to eat. We were then surprised by a commotion inside the church as people struggled to get their space to sleep. We were left with no space except the table they used for the holy mass. My children and I slept there.

The weather was clear a day after. There were some who brought help from the barangay, mayor and DSWD. They brought assorted relief items like canned goods, soap, blankets and food. We went out of the church to look for our house. We saw nothing but flood. Our nipa house was nowhere in sight.

We stayed in the church for one week. One women's organization came to help but only to their members. This was when I realized the importance of having an organization. They can help in times of need, unlike me who only stays in the house and knows nothing about women's rights.

From my experience, I learned the need to be prepared anytime a calamity like this happens. There is a need to have a stock of canned food that's easy to open and to be able to identify a safe place for the family to relocate. Never lose hope and make an effort to save some money in case one gets sick.

I heard about climate change but I know nothing about it. I am just a housewife.

Experiences in seeking emergency assistance for PATAMABA members who were affected by typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng

Every time there are calamities or disasters due to the effect of climate change, damage to life and properties have not been avoided especially in “*disaster prone areas*” like Bataan. During typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng, majority of our members were immensely affected to the extent that most of them lost some of their properties and income or livelihood aside from contracting epidemic diseases (mostly young children were affected) after the typhoon. Also, most of them suffered hunger.

Members of PATAMABA National Executive Board together with local members took the initiative of soliciting for cash and goods to urgently respond to the emergency needs of our members seriously affected by calamities in Laguna, Rizal, Bataan, Bulacan, NCR, La Union, and Pangasinan. We solicited the help/assistance of U.P. CSWCD which gave the following: sacks of rice, plastic water containers/pails, variety of canned goods, boxes of noodles, used clothes (children and adult of all ages and sexes), blankets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, grocery items including ready to eat food, boxes of bottled mineral water, kitchen utensils and other things needed inside the house. Friends, networks, individuals and allied organizations also offered their utmost help.

One unforgettable experience was when we went to Robinson's Supermarket in Cainta, Rizal Branch and took with us grocery items which were submerged in flood for almost a week but still safe for human consumption. Through the help of friends of PATAMABA especially those from U.P. CSWCD, and Ms. Myrna Magbitang, who know somebody from the Supermarket, we went

there together with some members of the Balingasa Chapter. We waited for almost half day before we were permitted to dig up grocery items scattered at the basement of the building (near the grocery section). The smell was already very bad-- the foul smell irritated my nose and eyes but I went on collecting goods so that many would benefit from these salvaged items. We transported the goods to Balingasa using a small van that Ka Nida borrowed from a politician in Quezon City.

We were very hungry at that time--no food to eat and no water to drink. Also, we felt like scavengers of garbage. Yet, we endured them all because we wanted to help our members. I had bouts of self-pity. I told myself that it is very hard to live a life in intense poverty.

Lessons I learned from tragedies brought about by climate change

- One needs to be prepared physically, economically, and the psychosocially before calamities strike;
- Don't panic in times of calamities. Focus your attention to yourself and other people or important things that you can save like your family, your neighbors and your friends
- Prepare for your Social Security and Protection
- Politicians take advantage of disasters/calamities to exploit their power and use dirty tricks
- Most of all, don't abuse Mother Earth. We have the responsibility of saving Mother Earth.



with my other hand holding on to a basin where I placed my youngest son.

At seven in the evening, Johnrain was crying of hunger. I could not breastfed him then because we were soaked in water for so long. His crying was like a dagger piercing my heart because as a mother I felt so helpless and could not find a way to feed him. What was I to do? We were both soaked in flood. It took us two hours to cross toward the big house. People held on to the rope next to each other and passed the basin where I kept Johnrain. They also took turns of holding on to me. In thirty minutes the flood took our entire house.



It was already 10:00pm when I saw my two other children. We embraced inside the big house where the only sound you would hear was the crying of elders and children. It was as if we would not survive. Then the flood began to enter the big house. We were all wet as the flood reached the windows and decided to just climb up to the roof. We stayed there the whole night without food, wet and shaking with cold. We were all losing hope. As the morning came, the flood had lowered down and rescue came for us. We all went down from the roof and sought temporary shelter in the church. I was not used to living with many other people thus I found the experience so difficult. Even if we had money, there was nothing to buy as everything was soaked in flood. I did not know what to do to ease my children's hunger.

When Ondoy Left Its Mark *Vergara Family*

It was an experience that left a mark in the hearts of couple Evalour and Jowel. They even named their youngest son in memory of Ondoy – Johnrain. The couple lived in Tambubong, Santa Maria, Bulacan. They rented a house in the middle of a rice field. They have three children, Micaella, Michael and Johnrain. Johnrain was only eight months old when Ondoy struck them. This is their story as narrated by Evalour.

When it started to rain last September 25, 2009, I did not give much attention to it as it always rain in our area. In my mind I said that the weather's just like that—sometimes it rains, sometimes it doesn't. I know that there was a typhoon but I never expected it to be that strong. It was already noon time, the rain and the wind had not stopped yet. Everything happened really fast. Because the rain and wind had become stronger, my husband decided to transfer our two children to a bigger house along the road. I was left with my youngest child as water level continued to rise in our house. It took a while for my husband to return back to our house because of the rising flood water. I did not know what to do. We were both soaked in flood and I wrapped my child in plastic with only his face exposed to allow him to breathe. I cannot stop myself from crying, I felt like that was the end for me and my child.

When my husband arrived, the water was my chest deep already. I can read from my husband's face that he was losing hope on whether we would survive while other people were also busy trying to save us. People tied a rope on the roof of each house to hold and guide us to the bigger house. I was crying while I was crossing the flood

FRANK (2008) (international name: *Fengshen*)

Typhoon Fengshen

(International designation: **0806**, JTWC designation: **07W**, PAGASA name: **Frank**) was the sixth named storm and the fourth typhoon recognised by the Japan Meteorological Agency. The Joint Typhoon Warning Center recognised Fengshen as the seventh tropical depression, the sixth tropical storm, and fifth typhoon of the 2008 Pacific typhoon season.



Fengshen made a direct hit on the Philippines and China, leaving severe damage and resulted in at least 1354 deaths and leaving 41 people missing. 846 of the 922 people on board the *Princess of the Stars* were killed when the ship capsized. Still, the Philippines is the most heavily affected country in the wake of Fengshen.

At least 598 people have been killed by the typhoon as it dropped torrential rain that caused flooding and mudslides in the Philippines, which means that it could be one of the top ten deadliest tropical cyclones in the Philippines. In Iloilo province, 59 are reported killed and 40 missing. In Iloilo City, 30,000 people were forced onto rooftops when a nearby reservoir burst. In the Bicol Region, more than 200,000 people sought temporary shelter from the typhoon. Meanwhile, as the storm passed through Metro Manila and its nearby provinces, it caused widespread brownout which lasted for hours. Also, due to destruction, the PAGASA name Frank was retired. Typhoon Fengshen could be one of the deadliest typhoons to hit the Philippines, killing over 1,300 people here, mostly from the sinking of the *Princess Of The Stars* ferry during the storm (for more information on this, see the maritime tragedy article below.)

The Philippine National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) on June 23, 2008, reported that: 98 people died, 115 were missing, 66 were hurt, 99,687 families were affected, 155,564 houses were damaged, 53,706 were totally wrecked, and 109,837 were partially destroyed, in 10 regions, due to typhoon "Frank" as of Monday noon (excluding the MV Princess of the Stars incident). The Philippine National Red Cross placed the death toll at 229. Frank destroyed P 500 million crops amid its P 1.7 billion damage to property in Iloilo. The US responded by donating P 4 million and sent USNS Stockham and US Navy P-3 maritime surveillance aircraftship, for rescue. AFP reported 224 dead and 374 missing (598) as of Monday.^[20]

The Philippines National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) reported that "Frank" damaged a total of P 3.2 billion worth of agricultural and fish products and more than 300 schools nationwide (P 212 million). Additional damages to infrastructure were pegged at P 750 million, and fishing boats at P110 million, or a total of P 4.27 billion pesos.

According to the latest NDCC Situation Report on Typhoon Frank (Fengshen), 557 were dead (excluding the deaths in the MV Princess of the Stars), 87 were missing and 826 wounded. Frank affected 4,784,634 persons in 6,377 barangays in 419 municipalities in 58 provinces all over the Philippines. Damages in agriculture amounted to almost PHP 7.542 billion while infrastructural losses made it to around PHP 5.983 billion, which, all in all, totaled to slightly more than PHP 13.525 billion. The most affected areas were Iloilo, Capiz, Aklan and Antique in Panay Island as well as Leyte and Eastern Samar in Region VIII.

MV Princess of the Stars

A ferry, the *Princess of the Stars*, were capsized near Sibuyan Island in San Fernando, Romblon, and the Philippine Coast Guard was unable to make a rescue attempt because of high waves. A rescue ship reached the MV *Princess of the Stars*, more than 24 hours after it lost radio contact at 12:30 p.m. EDT (04:30 GMT) on Saturday. About 700 people were on this ship at the time; it is unlikely there are any survivors, and, as of now, only a few have drifted ashore.

bones – no more roofs and walls, the only thing left were the pillars. I could not help but cry because we already lost our home and everything we owned, including our clothes. Good thing though, I was able to bring some beddings and my children's clothes when we evacuated to the church. As my husband and I walked back to the church, I felt like I was walking into oblivion as the thought that we don't have a home to go back to after the typhoon hit me.

The church was our home for more than three months. We are grateful that they took us in and gave us free food and clothes. There is service in the church every Sunday, so on Saturday mornings, we fixed our things and placed them in a room in the school for a while. We wake up early on Sundays to give way to church service, after this, we return our stuff to the church. Then we will go back to our normal daily routines. When school started again, we were not supposed to make noise, but it could not be helped because of the children.

Since the flood steadily subsided, one by one, the evacuees cleaned up and went home. Luckily, the church helped us fix our house somehow. I am immensely thankful to the people who extended help. Even after leaving the church, we continued to receive help from them and the local government as well.

OXFAM also provided a big help in terms of financial support to start up a small business, in addition to the training on preventing the devastating effects of such a disaster, which they gave us. Although we learned a lot from it, we still could not help but get scared whenever we hear about a typhoon coming. I feel that our traumatic experience with the past typhoons would repeat itself.

We cooked, ate and slept at the church. We stayed there with other relatives for a few weeks. Sometimes, I visited our house and little by little I tidied up our things, which got submerged on the flood.

After a few more days, we heard news of another typhoon, one called Santi, would hit us anew. The sun was up that day so we did not take the news seriously but that afternoon the sky grew dark and it rained unceasingly until nightfall, it was even accompanied by strong



winds. We cooked and ate early because of the downpour. I made sure that the children went to bed early. Sometime during the night, the rain and wind became really strong. We looked outside and saw the trees smashing against

each other due to the turbulent wind. It was already dawn when we heard one of our fellow evacuees shouting that there was already water outside. And although the current was strong and the flood was rising fast, there were still people fishing near the shore. When the water subsided, my husband and I went to see our house. On our way there, we walked on mud and rocks and I had to remove my slippers as it got stuck anyway. My feet hurt from walking barefoot. As we got nearer our house, the flood got higher too, worsened still by mud and scattered rocks. Our house is far from the road so I did not go there. I only got as far as my aunt's house because of the high water. I climbed on the roof and from there I vividly saw my house, what was left of it looked like fish

Philippine Coast Guard spokesman Lt. Senior Grade Arman Balilo, however, lamented: "They haven't seen anyone. They're scouring the area. They're studying the direction of the waves to determine where survivors may have drifted."

Xinhua reported that the four survivors witnessed "that the captain of the ship ordered the abandoning of the ship at noon Saturday, but many passengers did not even wear life vests when the ship capsized." Four survivors, Jesus Gica, Oliver Amarin, Jessie Buot, and Renato Lanorio, told GMA news that "the ship did not malfunction, but only slowed down its speed as it encountered big waves off the coast of Romblon." Gica saw many people jump, but "the waves were so big and the rains so strong that few of them could have possibly survived; the crew were so busy saving themselves that they did not care to help the passengers to wear safety vests, and that some of the passengers passed out while children and the elderly failed to wear life vests because they could no longer move when the ship was turning upside down."

San Fernando Mayor Nanette Tansingco confirmed that four others aboard died and hundreds of passengers were still missing. Dozens of people trooped to the offices of owner Sulpicio Lines, in Cebu and Manila North Harbor in Manila.

The victims' families accused Sulpicio and the Philippine Coast Guard of allowing the ship to set sail despite the bad weather. They further blamed Sulpicio for not personally informing them about the tragedy, the details of the accident, and the condition of the ship plus its passengers. Sulpicio's counsel Manuel Espitan, however stated that "the ship never received advice from Coast Guard, while Metro Manila was still under public storm signal No. 1 when the ship left the port." Despite all these, there are even reports stating that the ferry actually passed the eye of the typhoon directly.

Source: Wikipedia

Run, Keep Running!
Mercedes S. Espino
Barangay Tungay, Sta. Barbara, Iloilo

It was 9 in the morning of June 21, 2008 when typhoon Frank hit our barangay. Although we lived close to the irrigation, I never thought the flood would reach our house because that had not happened before even during strong typhoons.

My husband was busy preparing merienda items in our sala and I was cooking breakfast when I was surprised to hear the rumbling sound of water. I went outside to check. To my disbelief, the flood was already high. I immediately yelled to my husband that the flood had already

our
In a flash,
ter from
gation over-
and in our
state we
both at a
what to do.
got out of
house, we



reached
kitchen.
the wa-
the irri-
flowed
confused
were
lost on
When we
the
were met

by the onslaught of the already waist high flood. Afraid I might be swept away by the strong current, I ran through the flood holding on to my husband's hand while I still held in my other hand, the pot of newly cooked rice. After some time, we reached the irrigation but it was already hugely swollen and impossible to cross. The barangay officials tied a rope to a tree and we held on to it to reach safety.

Once we've reached the other side of the irrigation, we kept running to the barangay hall. It was only then that

Just Like Fish Bones
Evangeline M. Celmar
32 years old, with 8 children
Sitio 5 Brgy. Sto. Angel Central, Sta. Cruz, Laguna

When typhoon Ondoy ravaged the country, my children and I evacuated to my cousin's place once the flood began to rise. While we were there, we constantly monitored the weather condition and the level of water because the flood rose and fell. Five families were crammed in my cousin's place. Evacuating to another person's house was quite difficult especially since I have small children given to crying and fighting bouts. This fact caused some awkwardness on my part, however, we had no choice and stayed on just to have a roof over our heads that night. We slept on benches placed next to each other and wooden beds while we waited for the typhoon to pass.

Although the Mayor and other town officials gave us ample warning about the flood and told us to move to higher ground, we still stayed on. I knew that we would be brought to evacuation centers where the situation would be difficult for my little children. But due to the constant rising of the flood, further aggravated by the release of water from the dam, we were forced to evacuate after all. Fortunately, someone from United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) offered us to stay at their church. We were six families who headed to UCCP Sta. Cruz. There, we were warmly welcomed by some church-people.

As the days passed by, the weather continued to improve. However, we heard about another upcoming typhoon called Pepeng. That day Pepeng was supposed to hit, we did not feel its impact as the weather was fine.

ment and some politicians likewise came, in the form of mats, rice, canned goods, cooked meals and more clothes.

Piece by piece, little by little we carried on to rebuild our lives. Although it is difficult, I know we will survive this for as long as we are together. I may not be able to completely fathom why such a calamity had to happen but I know people are also partly to blame for the severity of the weather conditions.

Although I wanted to move to a safer place to live, we simply don't have the money for it. If this will happen again, I would just evacuate my children to higher ground.

I realized I lost the pot of rice along the way. Many of our neighbors were already there. Children were crying because they were wet and cold.

Twenty minutes later, we noticed that the water was still fast rising and we feared it might reach the barangay hall. Clutching the kids in our arms, we left the barangay and ran for higher ground. From there, I stared at our house being swallowed up by the rampaging water, together with our carabao, goat, dog and chickens. I could not stop crying while watching this. I was also pondering on the fact that it was only some moments earlier when my husband wanted to go back to our house to get the P 10,000 check we were supposed to use for a business. I was afraid the torrential waters might sweep him and told him we would earn the money if we were alive. Good thing he listened to my reason.

Around mid noon, the rain poured even more heavily. The flood arrived at the Plant and the bridge collapsed. Once again, we ran for our lives. It took us four hours to dash for the hall of the neighboring Barangay Monhayang. Barangay Captain Cesar Ian Solivio and other officials gave us dry clothes and something to eat.

The next day, the typhoon immensely weakened. With it came my anxiety and confusion about not knowing what to do. We lost our house and everything we owned. We heard that our daughter's family suffered the same fate. Fortunately, the Barangay Captain has a kind heart. He offered us the barangay hall for temporary shelter. My husband and I stayed there for a month. And although we were grateful to at least have a roof over our head, it was not exactly the most comfortable of places especially under the circumstances. We had to make do with having only one stove for all of us, we slept side by side next to strangers, the toilet was some

distance from the hall and children were getting sick with high fever.

Once our hall in Barangay Tungay got fixed we moved there for shelter. For three months, that barangay hall was home to six families sharing what available space the barangay could allow us. While we were there, we received some help from the national government, Senator Manny Villar, the local government, church groups, NGOs and the barangay officials.

At the moment, we are gradually taking steps toward recovery and we thank God for keeping our family safe. I am also grateful to those who lent their hands. Indeed, typhoon Frank left an indelible mark, as this was the only typhoon, which connected the irrigation to the river.

I believe this happened because of the changing climate. Illegal logging and destruction of the environment brought about the flash floods while the El Nino phenomenon makes people and animal sick.

important was that we were alive and safe. We felt so helpless, unable to do anything else but wait for the rain to stop and the water to subside. The house was crammed with other neighbors who suffered the same fate. There was no food. My child found comfort in sleep, in my warm embrace.

Midnight came and I was still waiting for my husband to arrive. I was already getting anxious because the water was still high. Morning came and the rain ceased. The flood gradually dissipated until it was totally gone. The typhoon left in its wake a filthy, mud-covered house. My husband finally came. He was stranded in Quezon City because the flood made the roads to San Mateo impassable. Wrapping him in a tight hug, I recounted what had transpired during the deluge.

We started cleaning up the house just like everyone else in the neighborhood. But it was a gargantuan task. Our street was engulfed in thick layers, upon layers of stubborn mud and clogged the drainage.



born mud and clogged the drainage. We sought help from town officials in declogging the sewage and cleaning the streets. Took them three days to address this. Once the roads were passable again, my siblings and

other relatives visited and brought us clothes, blankets, food, medicines and other needs. They also helped us clean up and wash our clothes. School was out for a few days so even the children were able to assist in setting things in order again. Support from the local govern-

We Would Gain Back What We Lost
Josephine Casamina of San Mateo, Rizal

I was stacking goods in my little sari-sari store that morning. Outside, it was raining hard but I was oblivious to it since to me it seemed normal on a stormy day. My youngest child was home with me while my eldest had already gone to school. My husband, a construction worker had likewise gone to work.

After a while, I heard my neighbor screaming that the creek had already overflowed. My first reaction was to try to save my child's computer as it was expensive and important for school. I placed it inside the cabinet, the safest place I could think of in a bungalow type house like ours.

Just minutes after, to my surprise, the flood had already reached my house and was already waist high. I called to my child who was still asleep at that time. The water was rising fast. Fortunately, the house across ours has a second floor and my neighbor yelled to me to come over. At this point, the water was already neck deep and we could not do anything to leave our house. The neighbors threw us a rope, which we tied to our bodies but the powerful flood untied it and swept my child away. I hate to think of what could have happened had not another neighbor grabbed my kid from the flood. I gave him a tight hug knowing it could have been the last.

From our neighbor's, we watched the water rise and inundate our house. I could not take my eyes off as the flood took in its flow pieces of my life: the goods from my small store, our clothes and our other stuff, all the while thinking that we would gain back what we lost. What's

LONG JOURNEY TO HOME

Maria "Mayeng" Nebla
Barangay Barasan, Oeste, Sta. Barbara, Iloilo
Regional President of PATAMABA in Region VI

June 20, 2008: I was on my way to Carles, the last town of Iloilo, where a meeting with PATAMABA members was scheduled that afternoon. I left Sta Barbara at around 9:00 am, took a bus at the Jaro terminal, and arrived in Carles at 2:00 in the afternoon. After a brief rest, I proceeded to preside over a meeting whose main agenda was releasing livelihood loan to PATAMABA members amounting to Php 70,000. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 in the evening. The PATAMABA officers and members were elated because production equipments of the PATAMABA Center would be completed at last. The women said that they would prepare batchoy (a noodle dish specialty of Iloilo), rice cake and processed fish. Each member received a loan ranging from Php 5,000 to Php10,000.

It was customary for me to spend the night at Manang Vina Medina's house whenever I visit Carles. After the meeting, I went home to 'Nang Vina's house accompanied by her daughter and two grandchildren, aged 3 and 1. 'Nang Vina is the Municipal President of PATAMABA in Carles, Iloilo.

We ate dinner at 7:00 in the evening. I was reminded not to eat a full meal because Nang Vina would be giving me a shiatsu massage later. I reserved for a trip back to Carles at 4:00 am the next day. That night was noticeably windy and I asked if there was a storm signal in the area. 'Nang Vina said that there was no announcement of a weather disturbance on television, and storm signal

number 1 was hoisted in Cebu. Her husband, Manong Dante was playing with the two grandchildren. By 11:00 pm, I said that I needed to retire because I had to wake up early for my trip. I shared the room with Agustina, 'Nang Vina's daughter and the two grandchildren. The wind was terribly getting stronger, but 'Nang Vina dismissed this as the sound of the sea during high tide. Afterwards, 'Nong Dante, who went out to check, rushed back to the house, quite frantic of the possibility that there might be a storm. Very quickly, we carried all important furnishings and equipment inside the room. Strong winds and heavy downpour simultaneously pounded on the house, and in no time, the kitchen roof



collapsed, and the walls was being ripped apart. We were told that the place was now under public storm signal number 3. We wrapped the children in blankets and decided to transfer to 'Nang Vina's sister's house across the street for shelter. We groped in the dark because there was

total darkness. Practically, we crawled our way to Anet's house. This was around 2:00 dawn – 'Nang Vina's house was a total wreck, and the PATAMABA Center was not spared either- the refrigerator, freezer, rice grinder were all buried under the roof that collapsed. The house of another PATAMABA officer, 'Nang Remia, was also destroyed. She too sought refuge in Anet's house. Six families evacuated there.

June 21: Gusty winds, and heavy rains still persisted. Water has risen, the whole place felt like a sea. Houses especially those that were made of bamboo, were shat-

I was not a member of any women's group. I did not have the time as I was too preoccupied selling vegetables to support my family. I am in the public market everyday so I do not have any means to know about the issue of climate change. I heard about it but was not interested in understanding it better because I believe that people who were not able to finish their education will not have a good life, similar with my children, who were only able to reach elementary education. We cannot afford their education; my husband buys used bottles and this is barely enough to feed our family. Climate change is very far from our basic concerns.

hunger or pain, I cried the whole night and prayed that my children survive the floods. There was an hourly update on the number of casualties. Every time the rescuers would bring a body of a dead person, I was there to see if they were members of my family. There were a total of about two hundred persons who died and many others still trapped under the mud.

Two days had passed, I was losing hope of seeing my family whole again. On the afternoon of Sept 29, people from San Mateo came as they ushered in my pregnant daughter. They saved her. She was swept by the flood and was rescued in the next barangay. We embraced very tightly and cried like there was no tomorrow. I was relieved at least seeing my daughter. Hours passed, my family was complete before daybreak. I thanked the Lord that we all survived. We stayed in an evacuation center for three months. We didn't have problem with food and supplies as donations pour in everyday. Various government agencies like DSWD, Red Cross and Mayor Sonny Belmonte donated goodies to us. Former President Estrada donated P12,000 to those who lost their loved ones. However I think this resulted negatively.



While we were still in the evacuation center, my husband bought used bottles for my family's start up livelihood. It was hard living there as we were living with many other evacuees. Envy was inevitable especially during distribution of donations. But I endured all these, our situation was better than having not survived at all.

tered. Felled trees were all over the place. Roads were no longer visible. There was wide scale brownout. It seems like nothing was spared— electricity, transmitters, telecommunication lines were all down.

June 22 : The winds and rainfall subsided. I was anxious to go home to Sta Barbara but the roads, all mud-died, were impassable by land. Trees, electric posts and other obstructions lay in the middle of the road. I was really determined to be home so I walked till I reached Barangay Guinticgan where I rented a single motor vehicle in order to reach the town of Estancia. I was so glad and relieved when I reached Barotac Nievo. It was almost 3:00 in the afternoon. Unfortunately, the town of Barotac Nievo was also under water. Many of us who were stranded just seated on the steps of the municipal hall and waited for the waters to recede. Needless to mention that I've been wearing the same clothing for three days already. By 5:00 in the morning, a barangay Tanod announced that the road going to Pototan was already passable.

Riding a jeepney en route to Jaro was like witnessing the 'great deluge' right before my eyes – houses reduced to rubble, vehicles piled on top of each other, bridges collapsed, ricefields planted to rice and sugarcane damaged. Upon reaching Ungka, where I would ride a jeep that would take me to Sta Barbara, I could no longer hold my tears. Panay weathered storms and typhoons in the past, but this was the first time that such devastation happened. Many towns in Iloilo experienced flash floods. In the town of Pavia, 16 barangays went under water. People and animals perished, the market was buried in mud. In Sta. Barbara, the current was so strong that .

ricefields and homes made of light materials like sawali and nipa were swept away by the flood waters

June 24: I was home at last. After taking a bath, I rushed to the municipal hall to help in packing groceries and rice that will be distributed to the victims housed in different evacuation centers such as covered courts, churches, schools and barangay halls. The national government, senators, congressmen, LGUs, NGOs and religious sectors extended their assistance.

We learned that the flash floods was brought about by the heavy rains in one day but equivalent to a month-long of rainfall.



What is now known as the climate change phenomenon has greatly affected agricultural production in Panay. The El Nino phenomenon for example caused water shortage and in rice production irrigation is very critical. So low water levels meant low production yield. When the dry season sets in, which is usually associated with drought, the children become very sickly, while the elderly suffer heat stroke; and the farm animals are also affected and eventually die.

My Life's Worth
Aling Teresita Osera
Bagong Silangan, Quezon City

We went to bed early that night. As I closed the door and the windows, I looked out and saw that there was water in the canal but we're used to such situation thus did not mind the wind and rains outside. At around 10:00 in the evening I heard someone calling me. I didn't move at first, on the third time he called, I opened the window. "Ate Sita, the water is rising". I was then surprised at how high the water level had risen and that the rains had become harder. All of a sudden, a huge wave of water gushed in and the wind got harder so we immediately moved our things to our second floor. Our house was deep in floor waters in an instant, from ground floor to the roof. I didn't expect that we will survive. It was a good thing that people living in higher areas helped us by cutting banana trees and made use of the trunk as flotation device. They shoved three banana trunks toward our direction in which my husband immediately grabbed. He tied my pregnant daughter's blanket to the banana trunks. We could not be saved all at the same time; my children then decided for me and my daughter to go first. We were aboard the "banana boat" and were already far from my family when heavy rains poured once again. Rapid flood waters broke our boat in half and that separated me from my daughter. I could clearly see the rush of water and how swiftly it swept my pregnant daughter. I felt so helpless as I cried at what I saw. I saw my husband hanging tight on a water container he used as a floater while I saw my two sons struggling to cross the waters for their safety. At this point I told myself, "This must be catastrophe". I reached a safe ground where my rescuers left me to wait for my other family members had they survived. I was never bothered by

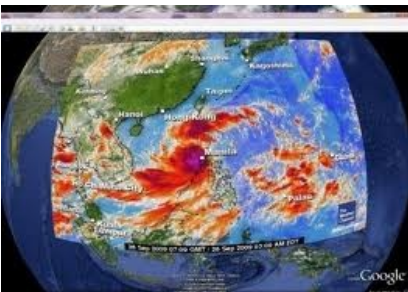
staged a commendable relief effort, supported by development partners.

On a national scale, Typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng caused considerable damage and losses, estimated to amount to some \$4.4 billion US\$, or 2.7 percent of GDP. This is comparable in size with similar flooding and typhoon damages in other countries, and sufficiently large to have an impact on overall growth, poverty, and the fiscal position of the country, and affected regions.

2. Nearly 95 percent of the damage and losses was sustained by the country's productive and social sectors. This contrasts with other disasters in the Philippines and abroad in which destruction of infrastructure is predominant. The enterprise sector (industry, commerce, and tourism) was particularly hit, with US\$2.34 billion in damage and losses. The impact was felt mostly by micro- to medium-sized enterprises, which normally have limited or no access to credit.

3. Next are the agriculture sector with US\$ 849.3 million in damage and losses, and the housing sector which sustained an unprecedented degree of damage and losses amounting to US\$730.4 million. The storms came just before harvest-time and destroyed important irrigation systems. The floods affected many informal housing units erected in flood-prone areas.

4. A large share of the damage and loss—more than 90 percent—fell on the private sector. Public assets were less affected, but indirect losses, notably revenue losses, remain considerable. Private sector losses were particularly large in housing, agriculture and commerce.



Source: Typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng Post Disaster Needs Assessment /World Bank

ONDOY [KETSANA] (2009)

Tropical storm Ondoy (international name Ketsana) hit the Philippines on September 26, 2009, causing widespread flooding

Ondoy, the equivalent of a Category I storm, brought an unusually high volume of rain which inundated the central part of Luzon. During the 12-hour period starting at 8:00 am on September 26, the rainfall was recorded as approximately 450 mm at the Manila Observatory, an extremely rare occurrence. In turn, these intense rains generated high flooding in the Marikina River that exceeded the river's carrying capacity. Ondoy caused extensive flooding in the Metro Manila area and the neighboring Rizal province, including the cities of Antipolo, Makati, Malabon, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Pasig, Quezon, San Juan, Taguig, and Valenzuela.

Tropical storm Ondoy was quickly followed by typhoon Pepeng (international name Parma)

Typhoon Pepeng, a category III storm, affected the Philippines during October 3-9, 2009, following an irregular path which crossed over Central and Northern Luzon three times. It initially brought powerful winds with gusts of up to 230 km/hr then an extended period of heavy rains, with cumulative rainfall amounts exceeding 1,000 mm in some areas. The resulting river floods have been estimated to have a return period of around 50 years, meaning that statistically speaking, such a rainfall event occurs on average once in every 50 years.

Ondoy and Pepeng resulted in large numbers of affected persons and Casualties

As of November 23, 2009, the official death toll from the two natural disasters combined was 956 persons, with 84 persons still missing and 736 injured. While the majority of deaths caused by tropical storm Ondoy were due to drowning, reported deaths during typhoon Pepeng were also due to landslides. Assessment data show that over 9.3 million people were affected severely, out of an estimated population of 43.2 million living in the affected regions.

Sate of Calamity on October 2nd.

In the aftermath of the disaster, the Government and private sector