

**1st International Conference of Landcare Studies
5-8 November, Nagoya, Japan**

**Session 4: Landcare as a transformative agent in crises
(including natural disasters and emergencies)**

**Lessons from the field:
mitigation and vulnerable communities**

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Covering

- Background
 - Philippines
 - Autonomous Region Muslim Mindanao
 - ACIAR Mindanao Agricultural Extension Project (AMAEP)
 - Social Capital
- What is disaster?
- Conflict impact
- Case Study
- Community capacity for mitigation (pre and post disaster)

PHILIPPINES





ACIAR MINDANAO AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION PROJECT



AMAEP

- a set of extension principles likely to be successful in conflict-vulnerable areas
- derived from the team's collective experience in previous projects
- incorporated Landcare principles into its own
- delivered by an experienced NGO (LFPI) who understands the principles of Landcare
- has a livelihood enhancement focus
- uses a modified Asset-Based Community Development approach
- builds on pre-existing social capital (networks, trust and reciprocity)



Social Capital

‘the social **networks** and the norms of **trustworthiness** and **reciprocity** that arise from them’

Robert Putnam

‘can be embodied in the smallest social group, the family, as well as the largest of all groups, the nation, and in all the other groups in between’

Francis Fukuyama



Defining disaster

“a situation or event that overwhelms local capacity, necessitating a request at the national or international level for external assistance; an unforeseen and often sudden event that causes great damage, destruction and human suffering”

**Centre for Research on Epidemiology of Disasters
(Guha-Sapir D, Hoyois Ph., Below. R 2016, p7).**

Conflict in Mindanao





Impact of conflict in the Philippines

- **income deprivation**
- **social dislocation**
- **isolation from services**

(Schiavo-Campo & Judd 2005; Vellema & Lara 2011)



Impact of conflict at AMAEP sites:

- **Restricts mobility (farms, markets)**
- **Impacts personal interactions, networking and social cohesion**
- **Reduces support from extension services and local government**
- **Results in low levels of trust**

Johnson, Fuente & Carusos 2014

Case Study

- Municipality of Koronadal City, Barangay of Assumption, Sitio of Olo-clofe
- Key issues:
 - ❖ Widespread poverty
 - ❖ Use of unsustainable practices such as charcoal production
 - ❖ Lack of basic technologies
 - ❖ No organised farmer groups
 - ❖ Local Gov't Unit program sourcing trees from outside municipality





Significant achievements – Ole-clofe

- Formation of Ole-clofe B'laan Landcare Association (OBLA) – organisational strengthening and registration
- Re-tooling of Local Government Unit (LGU) program to source fruit and timber trees from local farmers instead of externally
- Technical training and capacity building of farmers to meet the LGU program needs – P127,000 earned by farmers as a result
- Diversification of farmers into vegetable production from FFS training

Emerging impacts

Local government initiated program to replicate LIFE experience to the whole village



OBLA diversified their sources of income by establishing a small store - October 04,2016 already outside of project facilitation



OBLA received collapsible drier from DA region 12 through the help of City Agriculture - October 04,2016.



Community capacity for mitigation

Pre disaster:

- utilise knowledge, skills and networks for local (risk management) planning
- input into regional (and higher) plans

Post disaster:

- utilise knowledge, skills and networks for recovery
- a trusted point of contact for recovery responses and services
- can hold post disaster programs accountable



Thank you

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