

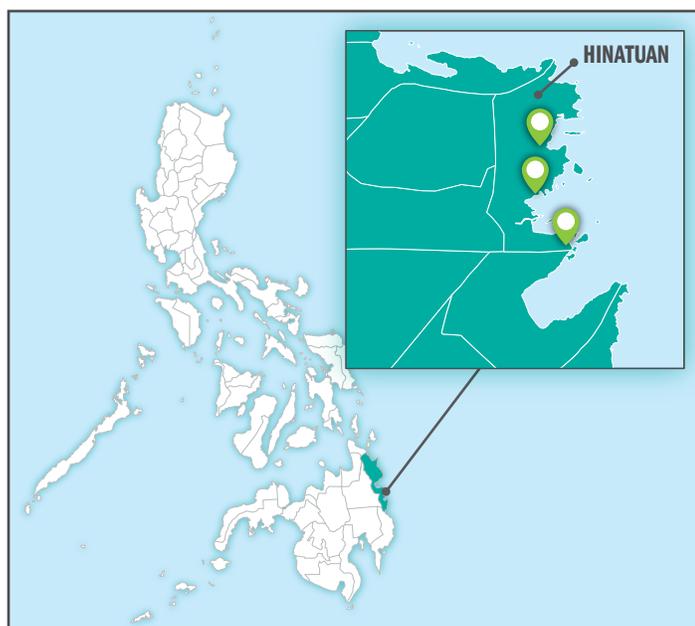


EVALUATION SUMMARY

COASTAL RESILIENCE PROJECTS IN HINATUAN, SURIGAO DEL SUR, PHILIPPINES

OVERVIEW

Lutheran World Relief commissioned an external evaluation of its coastal resilience projects implemented between 2001 and 2014 on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines. The evaluation, which was conducted from July 22 to August 29, 2014, assessed the projects' achievements and lessons learned in regards to Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and coastal resilience.



PROJECT SUMMARY

Since 2001, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) has partnered with the local NGO, Center for Empowerment and Resource Development (CERD), to strengthen the coastal resilience of fisherfolk communities in Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur in the Philippines.

Situated on the northeastern coast of the island of Mindanao, Hinatuan's residents chiefly rely on seaweed farming and fishing to earn a modest income. Hinatuan's coast, however, is susceptible to heavy flooding, siltation, and severe storms, all of which regularly jeopardize its communities' livelihoods. Through its programming, LWR worked with 3,612 coastal residents to increase their resiliency to natural disasters and climate change while improving the profitability of their livelihoods.

The evaluation assessed six projects- four multi-year development projects and two short-term emergency response projects- which LWR and CERD implemented in Hinatuan between 2001 and 2014. These projects, which included a gender focus, aimed to train participating communities on sustainable coastal resource management, coastal livelihood development, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.



METHODOLOGY

LWR hired an independent evaluator, Johan van Duijn, and his team to assess the relevance, connectedness, coverage, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of six of its coastal resilience projects. Additionally, the evaluation team was tasked with documenting the projects' key achievements, strengths, weaknesses and lessons learned as well as with recommending broader next steps and other technical and management approaches for scaling up LWR's current and future coastal resilience projects.

The evaluation team used the following qualitative and quantitative methods to collect data for their analysis: focus groups discussions (FGDs), key informant interviews (KIIs), site visits, a quantitative survey, and review of LWR's internal reporting documents. The evaluator held FGDs separately with six People's Organizations (POs)¹ across the five barangays² involved in the selected projects. In total, 74 women and 21 men participated in the FGDs, where they shared their opinions on the operations of their POs as well as their thoughts on the effectiveness, sustainability, and impact of the coastal resilience project in which they were involved. To gain different perspectives, as well as more details on these similar topics, the evaluator also interviewed the following key individuals involved in the projects: LWR and CERD program managers, The Hinatuan Federation of Fisherfolk Organizations (NAMAHHIN) manager, barangay officials, and municipal officials, including members of the Municipal Disaster Risk Management Council and Department of Agriculture.

The quantitative survey was conducted by eight enumerators, all of whom were residents of Hinatuan, in the eleven coastal barangays where LWR had been working since 2001. In total, 361 families were randomly selected and surveyed to determine, in part, if the projects' activities spread to people outside of the direct beneficiaries.

The evaluator noted that the timing of his team's fieldwork during the Hinatuan Fiesta as well as CERD staff turnover from 2001 limited the level of detail in the information his team collected.

¹ People's Organizations (POs) are defined in the 1987 Philippine Constitution as "bona fide associations of citizens with demonstrated capacity to promote the public interest and with identifiable leadership, membership, and structure."

² A barangay is the smallest division of the Philippine's local government structure. It is comparable to a village, district, or ward.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

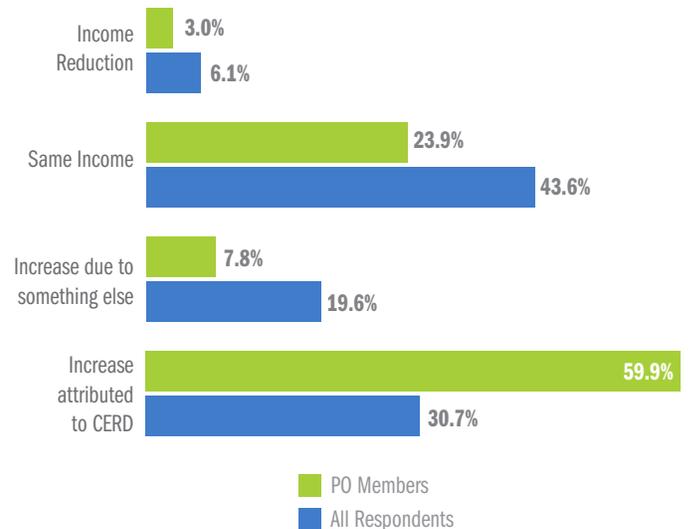
COASTAL LIVELIHOODS

- On average, nearly **84 percent** of survey respondents are continuing the livelihood activities introduced through the projects.
- **30.7 percent** of all survey respondents attribute the increase in their income to LWR/CERD's projects.
- **40.4 percent** of survey respondents are saving money with an average of Php 1,183 in savings

Overall, the evaluation team found that the projects' livelihood diversification interventions, particularly with seaweed production, increased the incomes of most survey respondents. The evaluator noted that since many families seemed to have adopted the projects' livelihood diversification models without attributing them to LWR or CERD, it is likely that, seeing the models' benefits, they copied the examples set by their neighbors, who were directly involved in the projects.

The evaluation team discovered a high rate of success for the projects' seaweed-related livelihood interventions. Eighty-eight of the 361 total families who responded to the evaluation team's survey reported receiving training in seaweed production, and 73 surveyed families reported receiving seaweed cultivation inputs. Of those, 91.8 percent of those 73 families also reported that they were still actively producing seaweed and have made money from it in the 12 months previous to the survey. On the other hand, the projects' promotion of backyard

CHANGE IN INCOME SINCE PROJECT IN BARANGAY



This graph differentiates between PO members, who were the direct beneficiaries of LWR's projects, and the other survey respondents, who did not participate in LWR's projects, in an effort to measure the projects' direct and indirect effects in the communities.

gardening seemed to only earn income for 30 percent of survey respondents, though 78.8 percent continued to do it to meet consumption needs.

The evaluator noted the need for further livelihood diversification options as well as greater PO and local government support for more substantial livelihood development.





PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS (POS)

- Among the 184 PO members who responded to the survey, nearly **60 percent** joined their PO between 2011 and 2013, after Typhoons Sendong, Bopha, and Haiyan hit.
- The POs with the closest links to their barangays' authorities appeared to be the strongest and most effective.
- The projects' capacity building of POs has led to government interest in contracting them to conduct mangrove reforestation.

The evaluation team documented a significant increase in PO participation and marine resource management activities, such as mangrove reforestation. They posited from their data that the expansion seen in PO membership from 2008 could be attributed to the POs' lure of calamity insurance as many joined after major typhoons rather than be attributed to an attraction to the POs' original mandate of marine conservation. Despite these intentions, the team verified that the POs, with which LWR worked, were key drivers of their communities' coastal development.

Through the FGDs, it became clear to the evaluation team that POs were able to make CCA and DRR plans but often had trouble sourcing the support to implement them. It also was clear that the POs did not see it as their mandate to help secure better prices for their members' products nor did they feel they had the necessary municipal support to enforce their primary mandate of coastal resource conservation.

The evaluation team also highlighted that the empowerment of women and their increased participation in POs was instrumental to the development of their communities. The focus on gender mainstreaming in LWR's projects made space for the participating communities to discuss violence against women as well as the traditional division of gender roles in the household. The projects' gender rights awareness trainings resulted in women groups establishing three Women Management Areas (WMAs), where they control when sea products, such as shellfish, are collected.

The focus on gender mainstreaming in LWR's projects made space for the participating communities to discuss violence against women as well as the traditional division of gender roles in the household.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION (CCA) & DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR)

- Approximately **20 percent** of survey respondents have adopted CCA practices, such as water storage for plants and Soil and Water Conservation (SWC).
- More than **90 percent** of survey respondents have adopted DRR practices, such as storing food and water for consumption.

The evaluation team found that CCA awareness and adaptation of practices remained low in the eleven barangays despite the projects' trainings. They contributed this partially to the lack of government support for CCA activities as well as to a lack of finances to purchase additional CCA inputs and technologies.

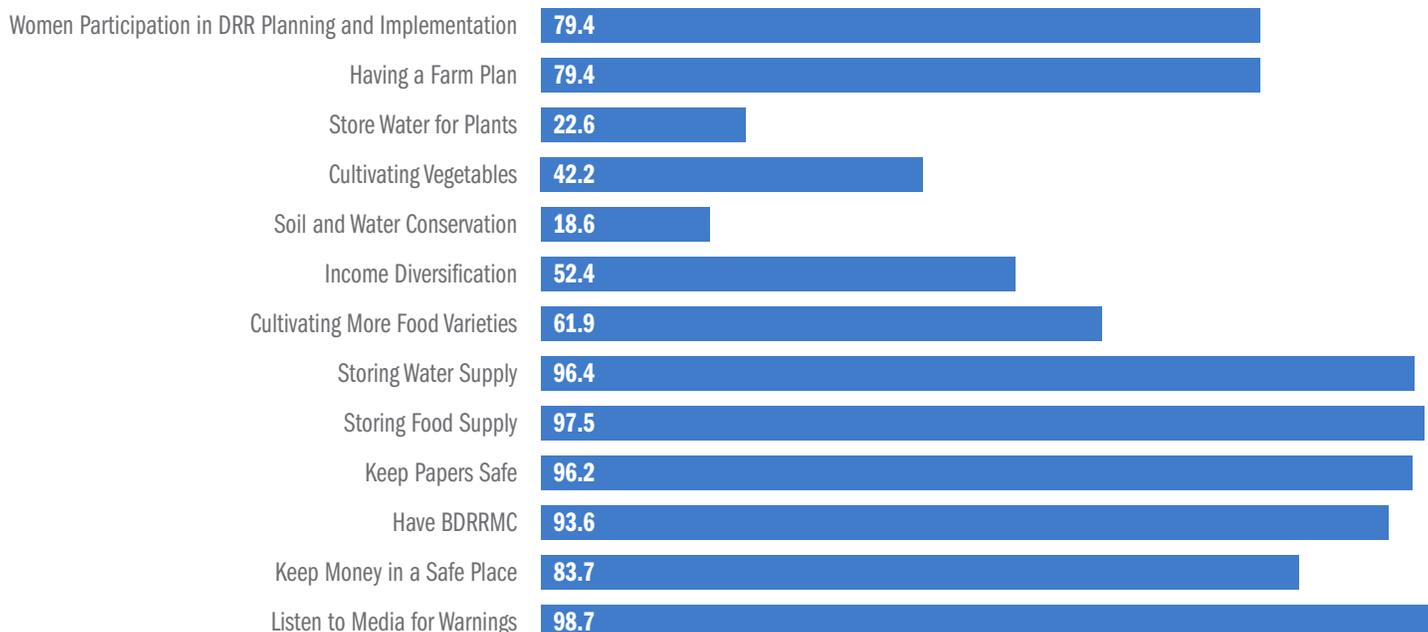
However, the evaluation team found that DRR awareness and adoption of practices was high in the project barangays. The level of disaster preparedness in these communities resulted in zero casualties during Typhoons Sendong and Bopha. The evaluator recognized LWR as well as the municipal government's work in regards to DRR as being responsible

for this outcome. The evaluator also recognized the fact that without LWR's coastal conservation interventions, most of the marine resources, like mangrove forests and coral reefs, would have been destroyed over the decade.

In regards to resilience to shocks, 47 percent of survey respondents reported recovering quicker to shocks, mostly typhoons, since joining an LWR project. Of this 47 percent, 34.5 percent attributed this to diversified livelihoods, and another 31 percent attributed it to savings, both of which were main interventions in LWR's projects. However, 45 percent reported their recovery time taking longer, but this percentage included families who were experiencing shocks for the first time.

The evaluation team noticed that the participation in calamity insurance plans had expanded beyond just the members of the projects' POs. From the survey, 52.9 percent of respondents reported having calamity insurance, of which 90.1 percent was the Triple10 insurance plan promoted via the projects. 88 percent of the respondents with insurance said it was important for emergencies.

PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES IMPLEMENTING DRR & CCA ACTIVITIES





CONCLUSION

The evaluation team found most of the interventions to be extremely relevant to the context and needs of the communities that the projects served. The establishment and strengthening of POs and gender integration were considered the most successful interventions of the projects. Other strengths of the projects included raising awareness at the local government level about the importance of CCA and DRR.

In terms of the projects' weaknesses, the evaluation revealed that more needed to be done to promote PO and local government collaboration and resource mobilization, to increase the POs support for its members' coastal livelihoods, and to further diversify people's livelihoods beyond just seaweed and vegetable production.

As a whole, the evaluation showed that LWR's projects positively influenced the resiliency of Hinatuan's coastal communities. The evaluation found that diversifying productive activities allowed families to have increased income throughout the year, which helped them to recover faster from disasters, such as typhoons. The projects' investment in seaweed nurseries, particularly, had encouraging results, with farmers reporting that their crops were more resilient to disease.³ The projects' introduction of insurance and savings mechanisms also allowed households to bounce back quicker in the face of disasters. The promotion of DRR awareness also encouraged the municipal government to prioritize planning and funding for disaster risk management activities, the results of which were seen after Typhoons Sendong and Bopha. However, despite this positive feedback, the evaluation concluded what LWR was already aware of. More still needs to be done to strengthen resilience in Hinatuan.

The establishment and strengthening of POs and gender integration were considered the most successful interventions of the projects.

³ The project established seaweed nurseries to treat seaweed seedlings for ice-ice disease, in order to make seaweed more resilient to rising changes in water temperature.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND LEARNING

LWR Management Response:

Overall, LWR agreed with the evaluation team's findings and was pleased with the initial indications that many of the interventions from the LWR-CERD projects have expanded into non-project areas (i.e., insurance, livelihood diversification, DRR planning). One area for further exploration by the LWR country team focused on our ability to adjust development projects post-disaster, to better respond following a shock and help bridge the relief to recovery gap. This was more evident as a result of this meta-evaluation since it covered four development projects and two emergency response projects.

Evaluation Action Items:

The following recommendations from the evaluation will be considered and applied as appropriate to LWR's continuing and future coastal resilience projects:

- Building resilient communities is one of LWR's and its partners' top priorities. This evaluation contributed to the institutional learning around resilience, especially in coastal, disaster prone communities, and helped to inform LWR's newly articulated approach to resilience.
- Convene 'donor conferences' or other venues where different donors supporting local NGOs can discuss complementation – how to synchronize and complement resources to NGOs.

- Livelihoods interventions should consider the scale required for industry development. Industries need a certain scale to operate, and this should be a consideration in the geographical size of the project or program area, e.g. a number of municipalities.
- Move to a sectorial approach in geographic area selection for DRR-CCA interventions. Develop a program in line with LWR's Agriculture Objective Strategy, which brings together the development of local economies and building community resilience.
- Make long term plans (10-15 years) to implement integrated development to introduce a number of new concepts to communities like gender equality, new livelihoods and participation in governance, and mentor over a long period.
- LWR, as part of long-term programming, take a proactive role in advocacy and participate in relevant forums on DRR and CCA to share experience and mobilize resources for program areas.

Organizational Learning:

Building resilient communities is one of LWR's and its partners' top priorities. This evaluation contributed to the institutional learning around resilience, especially in coastal, disaster prone communities, and helped to inform LWR's newly articulated approach to resilience (programs.lwr.org/resilience).





Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

800.597.5972 | lwr.org