

ADRA ASIA focus



*Build
Back Better*

VOL 2 | NO 4
SEP-NOV 2022

RISK OR
RESILIENCE
PAGE 3

RODEFEL'S
STORY: A
TYPHOON RAI
SURVIVOR
PAGE 4

BUILD BACK
BETTER
PAGE 8

CONTENTS



DIRECTOR FOCUS



STORY FOCUS



REGIONAL FOCUS



TECHNICAL FOCUS



STAFF FOCUS



NEWS FOCUS

Build Back Better

This quarter's theme focuses on how ADRA is implementing rehabilitation programs to support communities *Build Back Better* following disaster. The Build Back Better principle means just that - to build infrastructure, livelihoods and communities back better than they were before - so when the next disaster strikes, they are prepared and can stand strong.



ADRA

Editorial

EDITOR/DESIGNER
Emma McCrow

SUPERVISING EDITOR
Mark Webster

CONTRIBUTORS
Mark Webster
Katherine M. Vidal
Marly Bacaron
Tom Pignon
Aimee Tapeceria
Winly Joyce Molina
Dorkjhand Baast

GET CONNECTED



PUBLISHER
ADRA Asia Regional Office

ADRA ASIA
focus

VOLUME 2 | NUMBER 4
September - November 2022

ADRA Asia Focus, launched in 2021, is the official quarterly magazine of the ADRA Asia Regional Office serving the 17 ADRA country offices in Asia, so all may live as God intended.

RISK OR RESILIENCE

In 2022 the World Risk Index ranked the Philippines first out of 193 countries. That makes it officially the world's most disaster-prone nation. Comparatively, the other ASEAN countries had Indonesia at third, Myanmar at sixth, Vietnam at 12th, Thailand at 23rd, Malaysia at 35th, Cambodia at 65th, Lao at 124th, Brunei at 165th, and Singapore at 187th.

ADRA Philippines is well acquainted with the reality of what this means for their work and the communities that they serve. In 2021 their teams responded to ten disasters and in 2022 they have already responded to nine disasters even though the typhoon season is only just beginning as I write. Some of these disasters required multiple responses in different locations and ADRA Philippines has been active in raising funds locally to support this work as well as receiving international funds from ADRA and other donors.

When the disruption to people's lives and livelihoods from disasters is this frequent it quickly becomes clear that response to just immediate needs after a disaster is not enough. Over the past five years, in partnership with the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Adventist Community Services (ACS), ADRA Philippines has significantly increased their response capacity. Now they are focused on responding within the framework of 'Build Back Better' to prepare communities for disasters by increasing resilience. In this edition of ADRA Asia Focus, you'll learn more about their work and what that means.

The concept of building back better carries with it the idea of restoration which is central to ADRA's work and purpose - to serve humanity so that all may live as God intended. However, ADRA's work is not just about restoration back to a previous state. It also

includes development to a state that is stronger, more resilient, and better prepared for the future.

I am reminded of the biblical story of Nehemiah and the restoration of the city of Jerusalem. It would be natural to think of this as a record of a large construction project. However, I would argue that it demonstrates two other elements that are essential to ADRA's work as well - social restoration (just and fair relationships with others) and spiritual restoration (right relationships with God and self). Without these, the biblical narrative makes clear, the material restoration of the wall around Jerusalem would have been meaningless - or even a complete failure. Building back better requires a holistic approach and restoring relationships between people (social and spiritual) and with the environment (built and natural) is central to this.

This will be my last message for ADRA Asia Focus as I soon move back to Australia to take up another role with ADRA. A theme of my time with ADRA Asia has been the value of collective action. ADRA Philippines demonstrates this in their work - as do so many other ADRA offices across Asia. There is no place in Asia without risk, but humans are inherently resilient when working together. Our greatest impact and fulfillment of ADRA's purpose will always happen as we serve together with others to confront the world's challenges.

Mark Webster

Regional Director
ADRA Asia Regional Office





RODEFEL'S STORY: A TYPHOON RAI SURVIVOR

Roddefel Abanilla, a 49-year-old single mother of 4, had been living in a 3x2 meter make-shift house for the last 21 years. This make-shift house was a Sari Sari store (assorted goods store) by day and a bedroom for her and her children by night.

As a single parent, she raised her 4 children through the meager income from her small store. Her children helped her in whatever way they could so they could afford to go to school.

Her daughter Claire is currently a second-year BS Agricultural Business student at Central Philippine State University. She is determined to finish her studies to have a better future, but it has not been easy.

Claire grew up taking care of her siblings and managing their store because her mother was looking for other ways to earn more income. Being exposed to managing a store, she now has her own online shop to financially support her studies.

On the morning of December 17, 2021, their home was severely damaged when Typhoon Rai (local name Odette) struck their neighborhood. They were forced to evacuate their home.

Looking at the ruins the next morning, they were worried how to start again because they had not only lost their home, but also their source of income.

When Roddefel was chosen as one of the recipients of ADRA Philippines' Evergreen Zip project, her family began to have hope again.

Finally, their family would be able to live in a decent house they could call home, with

enough space for them to move about and strong enough to protect them from future disasters.

Roddefel and Claire are hopeful that all their prayers will be answered in God's time. Their experiences in life have made them resilient and now, they are prepared for better days ahead.

Background

In the ADRA Philippines' Japan Platform Shelter Assistance project, Claire was part of the Ground Support Group overseeing Logistics. The ADRA team never knew her families story until they visited the area looking for qualified beneficiaries for the Evergreen Zip project, funded by ADRA Korea. She was with ADRA helping others rebuild their homes, while her own family needed help too.

"When I heard I was chosen as a beneficiary of ADRA's house building project, I was very happy! They built a house for us. I thank God that ADRA helped us that much."



Katherine M. Vidal
ADRA Philippines



REGIONAL FOCUS

3,454
DISASTERS
STRUCK ASIA
OVER 49 YEARS

\$1.2
USD TRILLION
IN ECONOMIC
DAMAGES

48.3
MILLION
AFFECTED IN
2021 ALONE

The Asia-Pacific region is the world's most disaster-prone area. Asia alone accounts for 31% of all weather, climate and water-related disasters, 47% of related deaths and 31% of economic losses. In the last 49 years, 3,454 disasters have been recorded with an estimated US \$1.2 trillion in economic damages. In 2021 alone, at least 48.3 million people were affected.

ADRA is implementing various rehabilitation programs following disaster through **24** projects across **10** countries in Asia to reach more than **230,000** beneficiaries.

THAILAND



In Thailand, ADRA is supporting refugee families living in Bangkok with provisions of shelter and basic needs such as food and education scholarships. ADRA is also increasing resilience to disaster by recovering agricultural livelihoods for those affected by Tropical Storm Podul and Kaijiki Floods.

VIETNAM



In Vietnam, ADRA is increasing access to safe drinking water by constructing 1,000L water tanks and improving food security for vulnerable households affected by floods and typhoons in Vinh Long Province.

JAPAN



In Japan, ADRA is supporting house rehabilitation for vulnerable residents affected by heavy rains in Hitoyoshi City and Typhoon Faxai victims in Kyonan City. ADRA Japan is also financially supporting house reconstruction projects in the Philippines and latrine construction for refugees living in Kule Refugee camp in Ethiopia.

INDONESIA



In Indonesia, ADRA is implementing 6 projects to support victims of disaster through disaster management, constructing seismic friendly houses to withstand earthquakes, improving economic recovery through rehabilitation of farming land and plantations, repairing irrigation and drainage systems for affected farmers, and improving multi-sector disaster preparedness and rapid response capacity at the national and sub-national levels.

TIMOR-LESTE



In Timor-Leste, ADRA is supporting flood affected households by improving livelihood conditions through WASH, shelter and non-food items. ADRA Timor-Leste is also addressing food security impacts caused by flooding by repairing irrigation canals, and supporting additional agricultural production.

BUILD BACK BETTER

The goal of disaster recovery and rehabilitation is for survivors to regain stability in their lives, livelihoods, and housing. This is what the two Shelter Assistance Projects aimed to achieve in Negros Occidental, Philippines. These were implemented by ADRA Philippines and funded by the Japan Platform (JPF) and ADRA Japan from March to June, and ADRA Korea from August to September 2022.

The intervention assisted affected communities impacted by Super Typhoon Rai (local name Odette) in December 2021. The Super Typhoon severely affected an estimated 9.9 million people across the six worst-hit regions, leaving 2.4 million people in need of assistance and displacing nearly 3.2 million. Western, Central and Eastern Visayas together with the Caraga and Mimaropa regions being heavily affected. The projects focused on Western Negros Province, given the severity of the needs, especially those living in damaged homes with little access to basic services.

A total of 200 damaged homes were initially targeted for repair or reconstruction, however both Shelter Assistance projects were able to rebuild a total of 230 homes in the municipality of Ilog and the city of Sipalay, Negros Occidental. 'Build Back Better' approaches were infused into the project design to minimize vulnerability and negative impact caused by future disasters. The projects highlighted good practices not just in Build Back Better approaches but also People-Centered Housing Recovery.

PURPOSE

Shelter practitioners need to be conscious of local values, such as participatory processes; reassess and infuse indigenous knowledge and

design into shelter reconstruction where relevant; allow communities, carpenters and masons the space to regain their agency and confidence post disaster; and cooperate with stakeholders and local faith agencies on the ground seeing them as humanitarian actors with a role to play in the transformative change of communities.

Concrete efforts that are easily replicated in terms of shelter programming to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) of the United Nations and the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and contextualizing the Executive Order No. 120 of the Government which created the Build Back Better (BBB) Task Force to ensure post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery efforts of typhoon-hit areas are needed. Local stakeholders on the ground should be encouraged to work together, raise awareness and partner with LGUs (Local Government Unit) and shelter NGOs (Non-government Organization) in preparing designs for safe, disaster-resilient houses, enhancing the capacities of carpenters and masons to build back better techniques and partner with government shelter agencies on resilient home retrofitting.

Build Back Better is an approach to post-disaster recovery that reduces vulnerability to future disasters and builds community resilience to address physical, social, environmental, and economic vulnerabilities and shocks. Home reconstruction offers the opportunity to rebuild stronger, safer and more disaster resilient infrastructure, systems and capacities. With funding from the Japan Platform and ADRA Korea, ADRA Philippines rebuilt homes in cooperation with local government and the Seventh-day Adventist

(SDA) Church; and by providing training to carpenters and masons of proven build back better approaches to home design. The People Centered Housing Recovery aspect focused on rebuilding social capital and ownership of the process through genuine participation of empowered communities in decision making and construction. ADRA contextualized this through the Filipino value of "bayanihan." The essence of which is one of communal unity, helping others without expectation of reward to achieve a mutual goal.

ACTIVITIES

The primary activities involved coordination with LGUs resulting in robust cooperation and engagement from the province, municipality and city, and barangay, with LGUs providing transportation of the housing materials. With a lean technical and admin team of six personnel, and two geographic areas with a total of 230 homes to rebuild in eight months' time, the project relied heavily on working together with Adventist Community Service (ACS) volunteers to identify homeowners, locations, support in the distribution of materials and delivery. This network of volunteers also provided photographic documentation in far-flung barangays together with follow-up visits as part of the projects monitoring and accountability.

The project invested in a one-month social preparation program that involved coordination, and orientations with carpenters, masons and the wider community. The initial stage of the reconstruction engaged both carpenters and masons with an emphasis on a training-coaching process to integrate BBB principles and refresh their knowledge on the relevance of indigenous design to create resilient structures. The reconstruction utilized

the "bayanihan" approach as houses were clustered into two-five houses depending on proximity. Beneficiaries and ADRA devised a social contract indicating that their selection and the grouping of their houses also meant a responsibility to and ownership of the project to assist not just the carpenters in the reconstruction of their own homes, but also that of their neighbors as well.

Placing people in the heart of reconstruction recognizes that disasters continue to increase in frequency and magnitude. The evident asymmetries of advancing technological capacities and narrowing choices of poor communities potentially contribute to hazard exposure while the climate is changing into calamitous outcomes. Thus, strengthening, and nurturing resilience among communities is important and reflective of ADRA's values.



The Good practices of the project were identified by ADRA as the following:

a) ADRA, as the humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist church, has cooperation arrangements in place with local church partners as first line responders. This forms



part of ADRA's humanitarian infrastructure. This "grassroots footprint" or "boots-on-the-ground" approach significantly assisted ADRA with needs assessments, monitoring, beneficiary feedback, and interim warehousing needs. It enabled ADRA to reach efficiently and effectively geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas where other NGOs would be challenged. ADRA mobilized the volunteerism capacity of the "Tukod Balay Group"- local church members who were skilled carpenters that offer their services during humanitarian emergencies. This volunteer mobilization and grassroots knowledge supported a lean project management structure to meet its goals.

b) The investment of social preparation activities embedded in the project through orientations, consultations, coaching and mentoring of communities, and engagement of local carpenters and masons, rebuilt community solidarity and self-confidence. The systematic clustering of the three-five small group of houses for mutual cooperation demonstrated the application of the bayanihan approach – it was easier to work together for mutual gain when people knew and trusted one another.

c) The design of the home structures prioritized sustainability at the start with hazards, vulnerabilities and risk factors assessed prior to construction. Resilient features incorporated indigenous knowledge and practice that allowed for artistic infusion of the carpenter or mason's aesthetic design. Needs of the communities were assessed at the start to identify potential government agencies that can also support

ADRA Philippines anticipates that the contextualized BBB principles and people centered housing recovery approach imbibed by the communities, will help strengthen other areas of their lives as they work to rebuild not just their homes, but their lives as well.



Tom Pignon & Marly Bacaron
ADRA Philippines

STAFF FOCUS

WHEN DID YOU FIRST JOIN ADRA AND WHY?

I joined ADRA in December 2001. It was a great blessing to be part of this wonderful family. It was also my dream to work in an international organization.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT ONE OF YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES WORKING IN ADRA?

In the past 21 years, I have been working with many different people who are from different countries, cultures and different backgrounds. I have learned a lot from each of the different individuals just like they are my teachers. I am still learning from a young generation and respecting new employees as like my new life teachers.

I have also observed that employees who worked in ADRA have changed their attitudes to life positively and have filled their hearts with spiritual love.

WHAT DOES THE WORK OF ADRA MEAN TO YOU?

ADRA helped me to serve others voluntarily, to share God's love happily, to give to others generously, and to love others unconditionally.



WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR POSITION?

In my position I had to show justice, being compassionate, and consistent in my workplace. So to show this to my colleagues it requires me to keep God's commandments and have God's love in me to have a good relationship with my workmates.



Dorkjihand Baast

Finance Officer
ADRA Mongolia

NEWS FOCUS

BANGLADESH

On October 24, Cyclone Sitrang made landfall along 6 coastal districts causing extensive damage affecting 1.5 million people, 94,000 of which are displaced. ADRA's emergency response team was quickly dispatched to the heavily affected Bhola District and provided cash support to the most vulnerable households.



CAMBODIA

Yam Sophat is just one of several individuals participating in ADRA's BEST Choices project funded by the Australian Government and ADRA Australia. Yam completed training regarding vocational livelihood business in mushroom cultivation in Pursat Province. She successfully cultivated 169 packages selling at 5,000 riels per kg to earn a stable income.



JAPAN

From 23-24 September, Typhoon Talas caused widespread flooding damaging 6,654 homes. ADRA Japan provided relief to residents of Fukuroi city by distributing 640 cleaning cloths, manpower to clean up the more than 300 affected homes through local partnerships, and providing foot-bathing activities to care for and listen to the local residents' struggles.



LAOS

ADRA Laos' SARLI project engaged the Lao Microfinance Association to conduct training for 53 project farmer groups to develop effective business plans increasing financial income and economic stability in Xiengkhouang and Vientiane Provinces. The farmer groups were also given the opportunity to compete for funding under a small Grants mechanism for their approved plans.



INDIA

ADRA India has undertaken the repair and restoration of 13 hand pumps destroyed due to floods that have affected Assam State since June 2022. The hand pumps have been reconstructed according to resilient infrastructure standards. These hand pumps will provide safe drinking water to communities in critical times of need, such as flooding.



INDONESIA

On 21 November, a 5.6 magnitude earthquake struck Cianjur Regency triggering landslides that buried entire villages with more than 140 aftershocks. More than 60,000 people were displaced as homes were reduced to rubble. ADRA Indonesia has been distributing emergency shelter kits to vulnerable communities.



MONGOLIA

In November, ADRA Mongolia signed an MoU regarding their 'Fine Wool Sheep Breeding' project. Training on laparoscopic artificial insemination (AI) of deep-frozen semen was also conducted resulting in 300 ewes being successfully inseminated in order to assist in the revival of fine wool flocks in Mongolia. The pilot project is funded by HELP International and the ADRA Asia Regional Office.



MYANMAR

ADRA Myanmar's SHAPE project, funded by MFAT and ADRA New Zealand, conducted farmer field school training in 3 project villages in Chin State. 33 farmers learned how to successfully grow avocado, lime and coffee through measuring plant growth, such as plant height and leaf diameter.



NEWS FOCUS

NEPAL

In October, ADRA Nepal welcomed a new Country Director, Tom Pignon, following his 7-year service in ADRA Philippines. Tom is joined by his wife Kaylene and their three sons Kyron, Lucas and Asher. Tom has already taken opportunities to meet ADRA's local implementing partners and see ADRA's work in the community.



PAKISTAN

Unprecedented monsoonal rains caused widespread flooding affecting 33 million people, 15% of Pakistan's overall population. 1.5 million homes were damaged leaving residents without shelter, power or gas. ADRA Pakistan mobilized an emergency response team to heavily hit Larkana, Sindh Region to provide food packages to 460 vulnerable families.



KOREA (SOUTH)

In October, staff from ADRA Korea, including Secretary General, Kim Ik-hyeon, visited their joint project with ADRA Philippines, the Evergreen Zip project, to attend a ceremonial handover of the 21 constructed eco-homes to selected families designed to withstand future disasters. The ceremony was held at Sipalay City Hall in Negros Occidental.



SRI LANKA

ADRA Sri Lanka's BRAVE project conducted a training on pandemic resilience for more than 25 faith leaders in the Gampaha District. The training was facilitated by Dr. Novil Wijesekara from the Disaster Preparedness and Response Division of the Ministry of Health.



THAILAND

In Eastern Thailand, Ubon Ratchathani city experienced its' worst floods with waters taking more than one month to recede. ADRA Thailand conducted an emergency response with the support of 50 volunteers from Ubon SDA Church, Wichitra Pittaya Highschool and local Pathfinders, to distribute basic food items to over 450 affected families.



TIMOR-LESTE

In October, the SHAPE project's cooperatives in Viqueque were proud to take part in the NZ Festa 2022 hosted by the New Zealand Embassy. 4 products produced by the farmers including ginger candy, cooking oil, coconut chips and ginger drink, were showcased in an ADRA stand. The event was specially attended by the President of Timor-Leste, His Excellency Jose Ramos Horta.



VIETNAM

ADRA launched an information booklet on 9th October for Vietnamese migrants working abroad in Japan and South Korea, to better understand local culture and laws. ADRA Vietnam developed the booklet with support from the Toyota Foundation, ADRA Japan and ADRA Korea, working with employment agencies to distribute the booklets and provide training.



ADRA ASIA

The ADRA Asia Regional Office will have a new Regional Director in 2023. After 5 years of leadership, Mark Webster will be returning to Australia working in a new role for the ADRA Network. Incoming Regional Director, Frank Reimann is no stranger to ADRA, currently serving as Executive Director to ADRA Hong Kong. Learn more about Frank next quarter.





ADRA



HopeChannel

BRAVE ROUND-UP

A joint initiative by ADRA and Hope Channel to raise awareness about COVID-19 and its vaccine.



WATCH NOW

on



YouTube

facebook