

Rapid Information, Communication and Accountability Assessment (RICAA)

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Date: October 20-23, 2015

Location: Nueva Ecija (Gabaldon, Gapan, Laur, Santa Rosa, Jaen, San Leonardo, Cabanatuan City) and Aurora (Dipaculao)

Participants: Selected members of the community (mixed – male, female, senior citizens and barangay officials)

Summary:

	<u>Nueva Ecija</u>	<u>Aurora</u>
<u>Early warning/ weather advisories</u>	<p>Barangay LGUs issued advisory on the weather conditions and possible flooding a day before the landfall. Most of the residents were already prepared for possible flooding by securing their household belongings and evacuated when they already experienced the rain and strong winds. But people didn't expect that flooding could be head-high.</p> <p>In Gabaldon, people were caught surprise by flash floods with thick mud, logs and rocks from the mountains.</p> <p>The people got more details and information on Typhoon Lando from TV news reports. Most of them also saw the TV announcement of PNOY on evacuation and preparedness.</p>	<p>Barangay LGUs disseminated early warnings before the landfall. They also announced evacuation since the typhoon would be hitting Aurora first. Majority of the people evacuated except those some who opted to look after their house and livelihood.</p> <p>The people got more details and information on Typhoon Lando from TV news reports. Most of them also saw the TV announcement of PNOY on evacuation and preparedness.</p>
<u>Main sources of information before typhoon</u>	Barangay officials; News from TV and radio; newspaper	Barangay officials; News from TV and radio; newspaper
<u>Main sources of information after the</u>	Barangay officials and friends and relatives from other places	Barangay officials and friends and relatives from other places

<u>typhoon</u>	Radio powered by battery	Power lines are down in Dipaculao. They couldn't recharge their cellphones
<u>Urgent needs</u>	<p>People need immediate food assistance, potable water (since water systems are affected), plastic sheets for emergency shelter, hygiene items and non-food items (blanket, flashlight for municipalities without electricity, mosquito nets etc.)</p> <p>Children also need medicines for cough, flu and colds. Barangay health centers provide medicines but they admit they might run out of stock in the coming days.</p>	<p>People need immediate food assistance, potable water, plastic sheets for emergency shelter, hygiene items and non-food items (blanket, flashlight for municipalities without electricity, mosquito nets etc.)</p> <p>Children also need medicines for cough, flu and colds. Barangay health centers provide medicines but they admit they might run out of stock in the coming days.</p>
<u>Medium to long-term needs</u>	<p>People say they need livelihoods supports especially almost all of their rice fields are heavily affected by floods. Rice farmers were supposed to harvest this October-November.</p> <p>Farmers say they need re-financing.</p>	<p>In Dipaculao, most of the people heavily rely on banana and coconut farming. Almost 100 percent of banana trees were destroyed while 75% of coconuts were affected. According to the people, it will take 2-3 years before the coconut trees become productive again.</p> <p>People say they might need support to diversify livelihood while waiting for the banana and coconut trees to become productive again.</p> <p>Fishermen were able to secure their boats but fishing materials were damaged and destroyed.</p>
<u>Relief assistance</u>	Not all affected households in a barangay were provided with food assistance from the government. More or less 20% of the barangay population received government support (food packs and CGI	People said that only less than 20% of their population in a particular barangay received relief support from the Government. For example in one brgy of 300

	<p>sheets and nails)</p> <p>People who didn't received Government support expressed their complaints to barangay officials. Barangay officials explained that DSWD will return to provide additional food packs.</p>	<p>households, only 20 plus food packs were only provided.</p> <p>In Barangay Dianed in Dipaculao, people said that only who went to the evacuation centers were provided immediate food packs.</p>
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