

SOCIAL IMPACT OF TS BOPHA IN DAVAO ORIENTAL AND COMPOSTELLA VALLEY

(Based upon the “Emergency Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods Assessment¹”)

February 2013

Super Typhoon Pablo on December 4th not only hammered and devastated over 300,000 hectares of land wiping out entire coconut plantations, and not only did it tear over 100 years of farming livelihood passed on through a series of generations, from father to son, and so on, but it also shattered pride and local culture of men and women. The challenge to regain and strengthen loss resilience is the overarching goal.

1. Background

Typhoon Bopha (locally known as Typhoon Pablo) had its landfall on the eastern coast of Mindanao, in the southern Philippines, on 4 December 2012. Bopha has been categorized as the most powerful typhoon affecting Philippines during the 2012, with an accumulated rainfall of 500mm in 24 hours and sustained winds of 175 km per hour. TS Bopha left behind 6.2 million affected people; over 900,000² displaced outside evacuation centers and close to 9,000³ people inside evacuation centers; 233,000 houses totally or partial damaged⁴, over 1,000 people dead and more that 800 missing persons; and extensive damage in 50 provinces, being the most affected the provinces of Davao Oriental, and Compostela Valley.

The President of the Philippines ordered the creation of a Task Force Pablo on January 8th 2013, lead by Cabinet Secretary Almendares to develop a Master Plan for the Early Recovery Strategic and Rehabilitation of Typhoon Pablo ravage areas, especially for the areas of the provinces of Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley.

In order to enhance the damage needs assessment, there is a need to incorporate a *social impact analysis* using the Human Recovery Needs Assessment (HRNA) approach to reflect qualitative data from impacted municipalities and communities. This additional component of the Strategic Plan will clearly show the social impacts of disasters among affected communities and their local governments.

A comprehensive multi-agency report (with the lead of WFP, and support form UNICEF,UNDP, FAO, ILO) entitled "Emergency Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods Assessment for Typhoon Bopha (Pablo)" is presently being finalized. The report's findings, which cover based on data collected during early January 2013, include the observation that over 800 households cite access to food, shelter and income as their most pressing concerns, and also their highest priorities for immediate support.

Many aspects of the household economy are examined in the report. The report emphasizes that diversification of income options, at least temporarily, will be important in restoring food and nutritional security, until traditional livelihoods are restored or alternative sustainable livelihood strategies is consolidated.

¹ This survey was conducted with financial support from UNICEF, UNDP, FAO, ILO and WFP. Survey design was led by WFP. Data collection field staff and supervision was supported by National Nutrition Council ACF, World Vision, and others. Data cleaning and preliminary analysis was provided by WFP. Feb 2013.

² DROMIC as of January 30th

³ Data from IOM displacement tracking matrix as of Feb 12th. 2013

⁴ DROMIC as of January 30th

2. Rationale

In order to ensure high quality data that will feed into the Master Plan for the Early Recovery Strategic and Rehabilitation effort, it is necessary to analyze and complement the PDNA by considering the social impact of Typhoon Bopha.

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) has taken the lead in conducting a Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) to present a more comprehensive Strategic Action Plan to the National Government -- the Philippine Post Disaster Assessment (PPDA) which has been done through secondary data recollection of damages and losses at the LGU (Local Government Units) levels under a centralized set up. By the preliminary analysis of the Emergency Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods Assessment, extrapolating the core data and filtering household's responses from the Provinces of Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental would bring into the scenario the perception of how communities value their humane needs and recovery.

3. Livelihood aspects prior to Typhoon Bopha/Pablo

Prior to the Typhoon Bopha/Pablo impact, Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental livelihood was determined by subsistence agriculture, small livestock and poultry raising, augmented with income from various labor opportunities, both skilled and unskilled. A majority of households were engaged in subsistence farming of basic agricultural commodities such as bananas, coconuts, durian, rice, cacao, coffee, palm oil and rubber. Much of this labor was associated with the agricultural value chain of Eastern Mindanao's commercial agricultural plantations, i.e. from land preparation through growing to processing, packing and transport of commercial agricultural products.

The majority of the households obtained through this income enough to satisfy and meet a portion of their food security needs, adding supplement through cash earnings from various labor activities. Basic food in the markets was sufficient with stabilize prices.

4. Economic Impact of Typhoon Bopha/Pablo

The government of The Philippines preliminary estimations is that the economic impact of TS Bopha/Pablo will be over Php32 billion (USD780 million), around 0,3 percent of the nation's GDP⁵. This amount sums up production loss, damage to the infrastructure and harvest and non perceived income. It has been anticipated that the Philippines will have to invest close to Php10 billion pesos to reconstruct the affected areas⁶.

5. Social Impact of Typhoon Bopha/Pablo

Typhoon Bopha left behind the destruction of houses, social infrastructure devastating crop growing, agricultural and horticulture assets, seriously wiping out agricultural trade industry as well as the small scale plantations in the provinces, therefore drastically reducing populations income power. The Emergency Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods Assessment reflects a severe reduction on the livelihood of the population from the affected areas due in part to the drastic reduction on income and the interrupted access of the markets food chain supply.

The majority of the households show a marked increase on the dependency of subsistence practices considered before as minors or complimentary, thus confirming the level of devastation on traditional subsistence activities in the province as consequences of the Typhoon impact.

⁵ Declaration PhD, Arsenio Balisacan. Secretary. Philippine National Economic and Development Authority.

⁶ Declarations from Florencio "Butch" Barsana Abad. Secretary of the Philippine Department of Budget and Management.

People’s access to food has been compromised, though not perceived by the population to be at the level of risk for dying of hunger. However, measures must be put into place as to ensure food security for families. Households from the affected areas are applying adaptation mechanisms to meet the sudden loss from agricultural production, employment and lack of income. Much of these strategies are negative: (a) by reducing eating frequency; (b) reduction food portions; and, (c) substituting food.

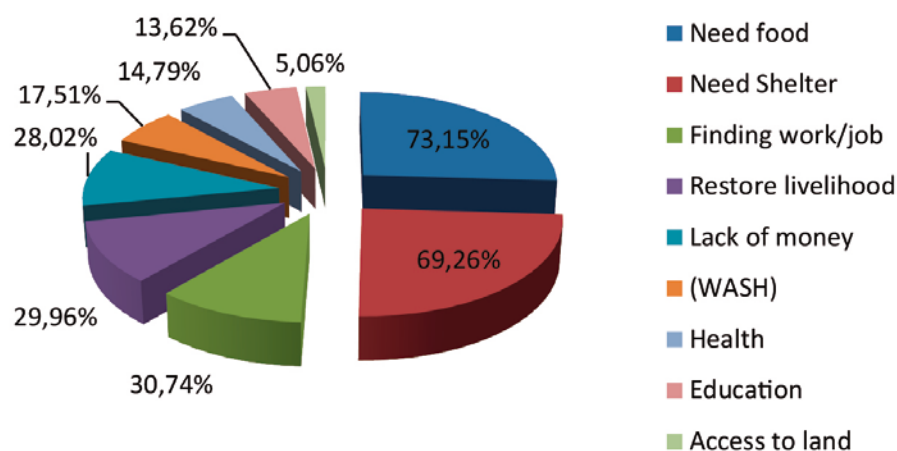
- Agriculture has reduced by 23 per cent, poultry raising and small livestock has been reduced in 18 per cent and fishing has been reduced in 26 per cent.
- 12 per cent of families totally loss their income.
- Most persons are engaged on Cash for Work scheme and only depend on it as means of subsistence.
- Over 60 per cent of the households mark access to sources of income as “bad” or very bad”, this translates into low local economic opportunities.

5.1 Priority Perceptions of Needs:

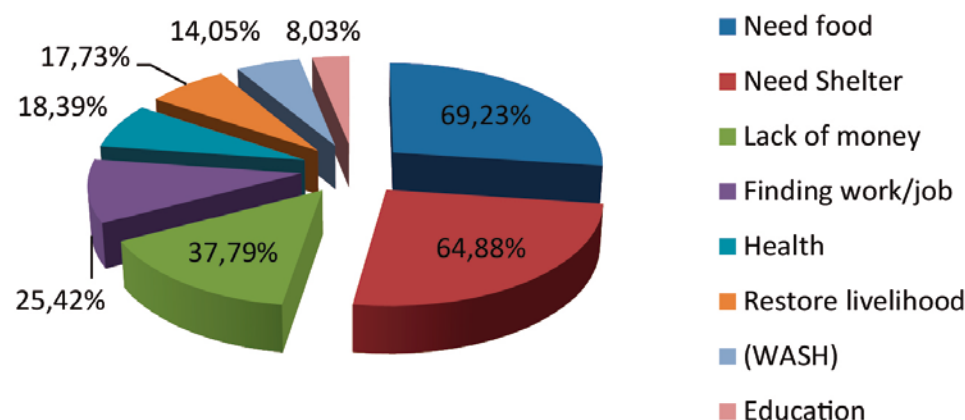
(Extrapolated⁷ from the “Emergency Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods Assessment”

Pressing Problems

Davao Oriental



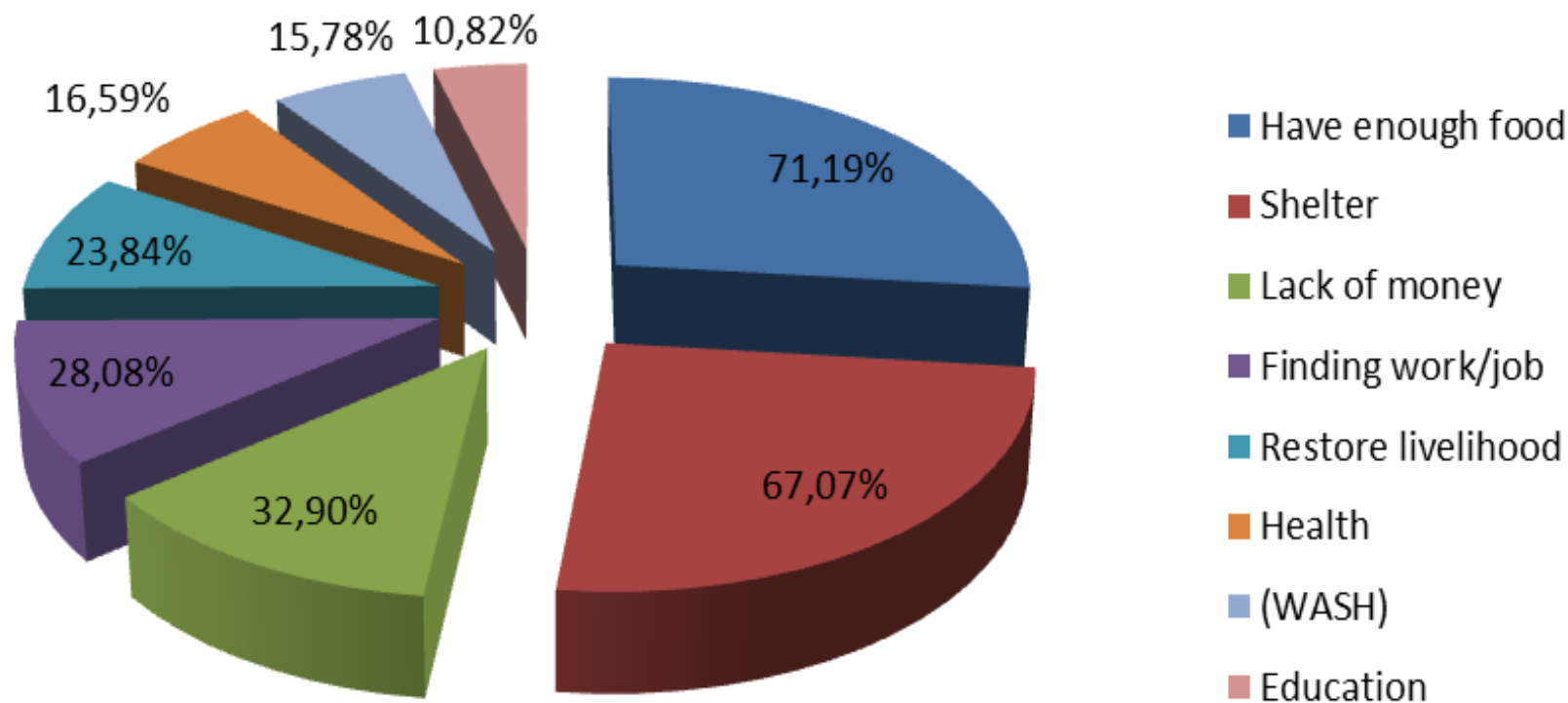
Compostela Valley



⁷ The data taken from the provinces of Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley were extracted from the core data matrix used for the “Emergency Food Security, Nutrition And Livelihoods Assessment”

Pressing Problems		
Davao Oriental	Compostela Valley	Average perception in both Provinces
1. Do NOT have enough food (73,15%)	1. Do NOT have enough food (69,23%)	1. Do NOT have enough food (71,19%)
2. Shelter (69,26%)	2. Shelter (64,88%)	2. Shelter (67,07%)
3. Finding work/job (30,74%)	3. Lack of money (37,79%)	3. Lack of money (32,90%)
4. Restore livelihood (29,96%)	4. Finding work/job (25,42%)	4. Finding work/job (28,08%)
5. Lack of money (28,02%)	5. Health (18,39%)	5. Restore livelihood (23,84%)
6. WASH (17,51%)	6. Restore livelihood (17,73%)	6. Health (16,59%)
7. Health (14,79%)	7. WASH (14,05%)	7. WASH (15,78%)
8. Education (13,62%)	8. Education (8,03%)	8. Education (10,82%)

Average Perception in both Provinces

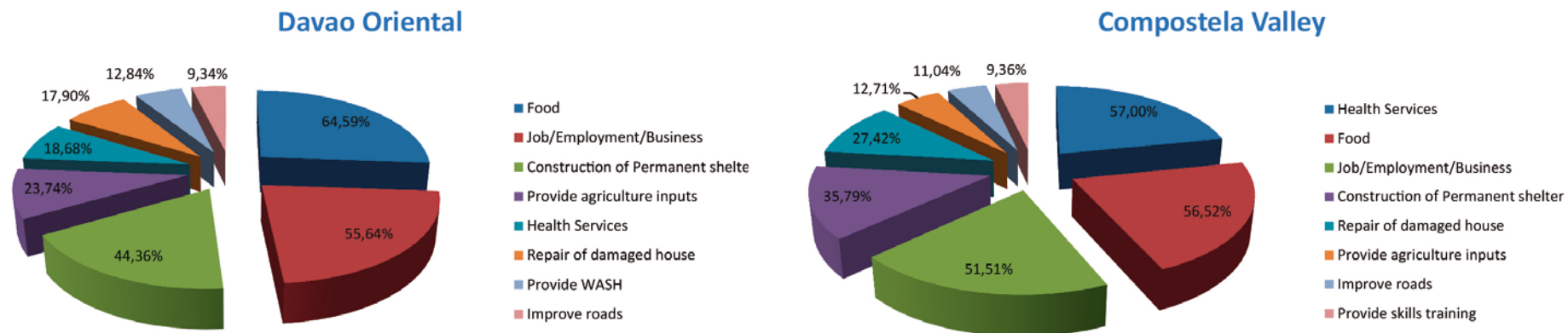


(*) Weighted Average.

5.2. Priority Perceptions of Intervention

(Extrapolated⁸ from the “Emergency Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods Assessment”)

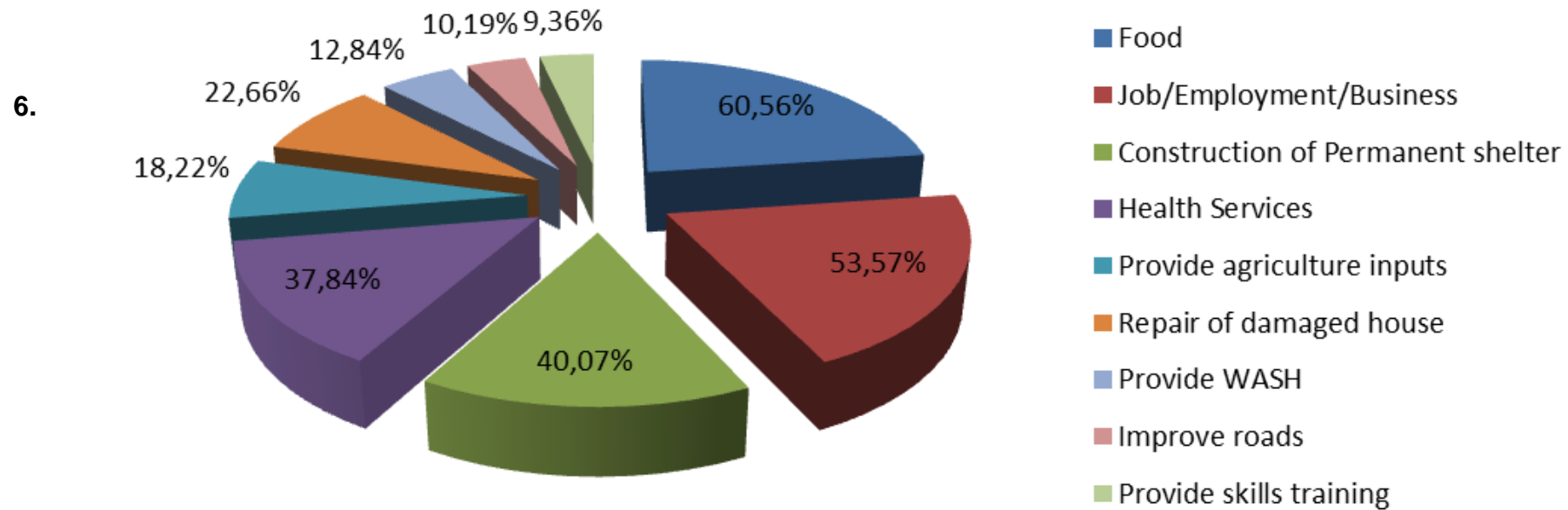
Priority Perceptions of Intervention



Priority Perceptions of Intervention		
Davao Oriental	Compostela Valley	Average perception in both Provinces
1. Food (64,59%)	1. Health Services (57,00%)	1. Food (60,56%)
2. Job/Employment/Business (55,64%)	2. Food (56,52%)	2. Job/Employment/Business (53,57%)
3. Construction of Permanent shelter (44,36%)	3. Job/Employment/Business (51,51%)	3. Construction of Permanent shelter (40,07%)
4. Provide agriculture inputs (23,74%)	4. Construction of Permanent shelter (35,79%)	4. Health Services (37,84%)
5. Health Services (18,68%)	5. Repair of damaged house (27,42%)	5. Provide agriculture inputs (18,22%)
6. Repair of damaged house (17,90%)	6. Provide agriculture inputs (12,71%)	6. Repair of damaged house (22,66%)
7. Provide WASH (12,84%)	7. Improve roads (11,04%)	7. Provide WASH (12,84%)
8. Improve roads (9,34%)	8. Provide skills training (9,36%)	8. Improve roads (10,19%)
		9. Provide skills training (9,36%)

(*) Weighted Average

Average Perception in both Provinces



Livelihood Recovery Needs

Humane recovery and livelihood restoration in the long run will greatly depend on the household capacity to find alternatives to generate income, at least for the mean time, while traditional cultivation like bananas and coconut are restored.

Base on the preliminary needs discussion and interventions held during the Mindanao Development Forum⁹, the needs for economic and human recovery of affected communities could be summarized as:

1. Medium term sustained initiatives that generate emergency employment opportunities as Cash for Work and or cash transfer programing; targeting the most needed during the upcoming months in order to ensure basic survival income and reestablishing livelihood.
2. Support for housing reconstruction putting in place improved roofing practices and households level sanitation facilities, as to build back better.

⁹ The Mindanao Development Forum took place February 1st. 2013 as a high level multilateral meeting designed to provide the platform for dialogue and public discourse on Mindanao's development agenda. The event tackled concerns that are seen to influence Mindanao's peace and development efforts including governance, ecosystems-based economy; justice peace and security. Over 300 key stakeholders and citizens from NGO's, journalist, buisnessmen, small famers associations,scientist, INGO's, Donars and UN representatives together Governments Ofiicails assisted.

3. Technical assistance for the accelerated construction and rehabilitation of basic social infrastructure targeted to improve market roads connection and production centers as to recover food accessibility.
4. Immediate support to reestablish agricultural activities as well as the provision of technical assistance address to improve farming technologies in order to increase quality of production.
5. Access to small community loans in order to rehabilitate small business, with financial technical support in order to improve small farmer's financial capacity.
6. Massive training program on farm vegetative debris management and composting practices, in order to halt infestation proliferation, pests and plagues that would increase sickness risk to new and unharmed plantations.

7. Recommendations to Address Early Recovery Key Issues

The consequential analysis extrapolated from the core data of the "Emergency Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods Assessment" allows the consideration to address the following key issues for Early Recovery at this time, such as:

- CFW and FFW programs targeting the most vulnerable segment of the impacted population with equitable gender oriented base (non skilled labor; women head of households/families, small farmers) accompanied with food and supplemental nutrition support for children, women under malnutrition status, senior and people with special needs.
- Use of ongoing nutrition surveys and assessments as a baseline to establish a monitoring system to keep close watch of the nutritional status of children and women, as to guarantee complimentary nutritional support to malnourish mothers and children.
- Undertake additional assessments in order to establish evidence based understanding of emerging risk factors that would trigger vulnerability increase, such as human trafficking, migration, illegal mining, and family violence among others. Additional assessments should as well also serve to fine tune persistent infrastructural, livelihood and social service's needs.
- Launch seed banks and small livestock and poultry raising programs that would supply garden vegetable growing and proteins, with equitable emphasis on households lead by women.
- Training programs addressed to reactivate agricultural practices with the tools and kits that would allow technological transfer and put into place small scale feasible mitigation in order to increase resilience by adaptation measures.
- Communities Risk Reduction and climate change adaptation training programs.
- Mindanao has been known as a Typhoon Free Island in the agricultural business community. Based on last three years events, this is now an understatement. Communities need to be plugged into a sound Early Warning system that would be able to timely reach out to all communities in the provinces of Mindanao, especially those of Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental.

- Micro-credit programs that target non agricultural activities in order to ensure adequate income generation and employment to the affected communities. Handicraft projects and use of coconut lumber poses a time-sensitive opportunity to generate income for those affected, and can be done under a gender equity approach.
- The micro credit programs must include technical assistance to understand value chains, identification of livelihood opportunities, restoring small and micro enterprise, increase skills, provision of tools y social protection measures, especially for the most vulnerable.
 - i. **Davao Oriental:** Over 23% of households surveyed consider access to credit as “bad” or “very Bad””;
 - ii. **Compostela Valley:** Over 18% of households surveyed consider access to credit as “bad” or “very Bad”;
 - iii. **Sources of Credit:** almost all the households surveyed (99%) pointed out as the principal source of credit are family members and friends, followed by local pawn shops (sari sari stores, local businessmen and landlord). Around 97% of the surveyed population pointed out that they have no access what so ever to institution or agency to loan money.
 - iv. 45 % of the surveyed individuals have requested loans in order to buy food.
- Development programs targeted at small and micro businesses harmonized with livelihood and subsistence means linked to the development of local resources (for example feeding, craftsmanship) combined with loans and saving stimulus.
- Core Shelter construction programs is a very important intervention for human recovery that generates livelihood to unemployed people in the affected areas.
- Community Cyclone proof shelters construction programs. These shelters could also serve as communal cultural centers, women training programs, local government meeting halls for the communities in normal conditions.
- Support and technical assistance to evaluate and solve complex problems associated with land tenure, surviving families and resettlements from no built zones, and or areas highly prone to landslides and flooding.
- The significance of banana and coconut production to the food security and livelihoods of the people in the affected areas cannot be understated. While cereal crops (rice, maize) can be replanted almost immediately, and will begin to restore normality to at least one part of the household livelihood picture within as little as 3-4 months, restoring the critical contribution of bananas and coconuts, including the extensive wage labour opportunities associated with their commercial production and processing, will require significant time, effort and investment. The rehabilitation of Eastern Mindanao’s banana and coconut production will be measured in years, not months.
- In the immediate term, the food and nutrition security and livelihood strategy must focus on ensuring adequate food consumption and income support to allow people to get on with the most pressing needs of recovery. Providing agricultural inputs and technical support for the next rice and maize crop are also key objectives, followed by assistance with the restoration of assets associated with household banana and coconut production, fishing and other traditional (or substitute) livelihoods. At every step, a complementary health and nutrition strategy is required.

8. Coordination for Early Recovery

Governmental structures must lead the coordination for the early recovery, investing efforts in order to achieve a national commitment for the recuperation through the development of capacities in all phases of planning, implementation and monitoring. This will be key to maintain a link between recovery and construction and of longer term development as to avoid duplication and gaps.

Early Recovery offers the unique opportunity so that humanitarian actors and development stakeholders come together and work closely as soon as possible in order to support recovery efforts lead by the authorities. Early Recovery must be understood as a bridge between two communities that shorten the distance between the humanitarian intervention and long term recovery.