

LIVELIHOODS RAPID ASSESSMENT among Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Tomas Cabili, West Pantar and Ubaldo Laya temporary shelters

The objective of the livelihood rapid assessment is to present the current situation of the internally displaced persons (IDPs), the challenges and their major needs. It aims to present general recommendations on strategies to abet the sustainability plan of the initiatives undertaken in the DERF Project. The survey uses the asset-based sustainable livelihood framework, and looks into the capacities of IDPs in the areas of physical, social, personal, human, and financial assets.

The livelihood rapid assessment is based on the results of the survey conducted with 272 sample respondents, in the three barangays: Tomas Cabili, Ubaldo Laya and West Pantar. Female respondents composed almost half of the total who were surveyed, or 41%, while male respondents were more than half of the total at 59%.

The top three sources of income or livelihoods cited by respondents are: business, vending and driver for public utilities such as jeepney and tricycle. The types of business mostly engaged in were mostly on groceries, selling foods and restaurants. Other businesses were in construction, transportation rental, wood and lumber supply, steel fabrication, gold and antiques trading, textiles and pharmacy. The second most common sources of income were from professional work and fishing. Fishing is generally high in West Pantar and Tomas Cabili. Other sources of income commonly named were construction labor and overseas work. Women were mostly engaged in business (food/ restaurant/ eateries) or work as vendors

This situation drastically changed after the Marawi crisis, wherein 50% of all respondents said that currently, there is no more source of income or livelihoods. This situation is felt most especially in Ubaldo Laya, wherein 82% (36) of the 44 respondents said that there is no source of livelihoods currently. The opportunities lost were in business, fishing, vending, construction labor, professional work and driving in this order.

The crisis impacted severely on the livelihoods of respondents, wherein majority or 76% had lost their former occupation or jobs and businesses. Only 12% of the men retained their original occupations or businesses, while only 41% of the women retained their original occupation or businesses. Those who found alternative jobs were mostly in the skilled work, such as housekeeper, driver or construction worker. Only a handful retained their business after the conflict.

(Note: One fifth of all respondents (20%) originally did not have any occupation. This is broken down to 19% of the men respondents, and 21% of the women respondents.)

Out of the 124 respondents who originally engaged in business, only 16% were able to retain this after they were displaced. Some converted to do smaller scale activities by vending, especially in West Pantar, while others sought work as construction laborers. Drivers of jeepneys and tricycles and other vehicles, which was the third most common livelihood amongst the respondents, also mostly lost their work. About 65% of the 51 respondents did not work as drivers after the displacement. It is in West Pantar where mostly drivers retained their work. But where they drove jeepneys before, most of them now drive tricycles. Others who drove for living previously, sought work as construction laborers or vendors; while most did not have any source of income anymore.

Almost all respondents or 90% had equipment and tools related to their livelihoods and businesses before the crisis. Almost all women respondents owned equipment and tools for their trade. There is an almost opposite picture after the respondents were displaced, as only 7% had any equipment or tool for their current livelihoods.

Almost half or 41% of the respondents who don't have any livelihood currently are women. In Ubaldo Laya, all women respondents (18) do not have any livelihood currently. However, in West Pantar, most of the women respondents retained their livelihoods doing business, vending, and one doing gardening.

All respondents in Ubaldo Laya are dependent on relief goods currently. In Tomas Cabili, some respondents rely on relief goods, while others avail of loans or ask assistance from their relatives.

Almost all (92%) of the respondents are currently earning below the first income bracket¹ or don't have any income at all. They indicated that this is hardly sufficient to cover for all their basic needs like food, education, house payment or rental, and health or medical needs. Their current incomes also are not able to provide for financial capital or cover expenses related to work (like daily transportation to and meals at work), nor can it afford for their entertainment and relaxation.

With their sources of livelihood before the Marawi crisis, about a quarter or 34% of the respondents earned below PhP 7,417 or below the first income decile in the country. Also, about a quarter of the respondents or 33% earned incomes within the third decile (P11,083 and

¹ According to Income Deciles for the Philippines (FIES, 2015)

below). Of this, women make up about 27% of those earning within the third decile and below. Given this low income earned, majority of respondents indicated that this was sufficient to address their basic needs on food. However, on the average, about a quarter of respondents indicated that their income was not enough for their expenses related to housing payments or rentals, and for entertainment. On the average as well, less than a quarter said that their income earned then was not sufficient for education (16%) and for health/medical purposes (13%).

At this time while respondents are in temporary shelters and do not have new work or livelihood, predictably, there is high percentage that their basic needs are not sufficiently provided for, most especially for their housing payments or rentals (93%) and capital for business or work expense (91%). Less than a quarter of the respondents answered that their current income can sufficiently provide for education (13% only). As for food needs, almost half or 43% of respondents said that they are not sufficiently able to provide for their food.

Respondents put number one priority on food from their meager income, followed by education and health, followed by house payments/ rentals and financial capital. And last priority is given for expenses related to entertainment and leisure.

Respondents were asked what are the obstacles to earning a living at this time. Majority, or 91% identified the lack of financial capital as the main obstacles. A handful identified that they lack the qualifications or skills to be employed. This includes one respondent who is already a senior citizen, or aged 60 years old and above. One respondent identified the lack of equipment as a challenge.

In getting the respondents' perspectives on future livelihoods, we asked whether they wish to continue or change from their current livelihoods, and what would be the favorable conditions and support they need to recover and improve their livelihoods.

Slightly over the half or 57% wish to change their livelihoods. Of these, 89% or 138 individuals indicated that they prefer to enter into business. Other alternative livelihoods they identified are transportation operation (pamamasada), tailoring, and cooking/ eatery.

The remaining 42% of respondents said they wish to retain their current or previous livelihoods. Most indicated they prefer to continue with doing business or vending. Many of the women respondents wished to retain their business or vending; or change their livelihoods to undertake business.

Almost all respondents identified financial capital as the support they need to continue with their livelihoods. Only one respondent indicated materials (for production) as the support needed.

Accessible or short distance to the work place, salaries and benefits, working hours, and skills match were four factors which respondents scored as important in considering a good livelihood. About a third of women respondents (34% or 38 individuals) consider distance as the most important consideration in selecting a livelihood, next only to salaries and benefits. Men also gave the same importance for both distance of the working place from home, and the salaries and benefits.

Almost all respondents answered that they were given trainings or assistance related to livelihoods by NGOs and the Department of Social Welfare Development (DSWD). The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) was also identified by about a quarter of the respondents (28%), while religious or faith-based organizations providing training and assistance were also mentioned (22%). CSO's were also mentioned by less than 10% of respondents. Others mentioned were the Dept. of Health, DSWD, UNCHR, and UNICEF. Some of the NGOs mentioned are: Catholic Relief Service (CRS), IPDM, ICESDEV, MARADECA, LAMAS (?).

The most common form of assistance were relief goods and groceries, followed by cash grants. A number of respondents cited gardening training for livelihoods, while feeding program and educational assistance was also mentioned twice and once respectively. All organizations mentioned above provided relief goods and cash grants, while the educational assistance was provided by TESDA.

PART 2: Sustainable Livelihood Assessment

The second part of the assessment is to measure the capacities of IDPs to undertake livelihoods. Based on the sustainable livelihood framework, we look at the physical, social, personal, human and financial assets of the respondents, and their capabilities to access or secure these.

A. Physical assets

- i. Access to land – respondents were asked whether they owned land or whether they were renting or tilling land. Seventy-three percent (73%) of respondents answered that they owned land previously. Women were more than a third or 38% of those that owned land. On the other hand, only 29% answered that they were either renting land or tilling land previously. Of this number, women composed also a third of the group at 37%. (Note: there is no way to verify if the respondents who answered yes to owning land, also answered yes to renting/ tilling land. We also cannot determine the breakdown between renting land and tilling land.) Again, there is drastic change after the Marawi crisis, wherein the number of respondents who owned land dropped by more than 50%. Only 12 respondents, 6 for both male and female answered that they owned land after the Marawi crisis. This is a similar trend for respondents who were renting or tilling land, wherein there is sharp decrease from 78 persons down to only 15 or 6% of all respondents who answered they still rented or tilled land afterwards.
- ii. Access to information and telecommunications – the question aims to determine the access of respondents to updated and reliable information that enables them to access to opportunities and timely and informed decisions.

The most accessed media is the television, wherein 89% of the respondents said that they watch television. This is followed by the radio (63%), mobile phones (62%), and the newspaper (32%). Both women and men have equal access to television, while for access to radio and newspaper, there is only 10% difference where women have lesser access, or accessed these lesser than the men. For access to mobile phones, there is greater difference between women and men, where men had 31% more access to phones than women.

(Note: we did not ask whether they owned the means of telecommunications, but the assumption is that they do, when they indicate that they have access to these media.)

Access to media can also indicate capacity to purchase and own appliances, like radio and television or gadgets like mobile phones, capacity to set aside budget to purchase newspapers as well. Survey results indicate that respondents had fairly good access to media through radio, television and mobile phones, wherein more than 60% of respondents are able to access these. About a third had access or accessed information through newspaper. Family members and relatives were also included as sources of information and news, at 38% of

respondents indicating this. Other sources of information mentioned are neighbors, social media and traditional leaders.

A decline in access to information and news after they were displaced were indicated by about a third of the respondents for radio (34%) and television (31%). More than half of the respondents said that they did not access newspapers anymore after the displacement. Mobile phones remained to be highly accessed by more than 50% of the respondents. After the displacement, 65% of the women accessed information through mobile phones, 19% more as compared to the previous period. There was also a slight increase in reliance on family and relatives to get information after the displacement.

In Ubaldo Laya, respondents indicated that 100% of them did not access any information through newspapers, and that less than 5% accessed any information through television and radio. This could indicate a slightly worse situation of the respondents in Ubaldo Laya in terms of loss of assets and access. It can also be recalled that Ubaldo Laya had the lowest rate of source of income/ livelihood after the displacement. It is also interesting to note that in West Pantar, less than 1% of respondents both women and men accessed or had access to mobile phones after the displacement.

In terms of practice in accessing news or information after the war, where trends indicate a decline, it can be attributed to loss of access or capacity to get information. On the other hand, it could also mean that respondents are not very open to hearing (negative) news, and thus this also limits their capability to be engaged in livelihoods and other social activities.

B. SOCIAL ASSETS

iii. Access to programs and projects

Almost 90% of respondents are aware of the 4Ps program of the government. This is not necessarily assumed to mean that all respondents who answered yes to knowing about this are also beneficiaries of the 4Ps program. However, knowledge about the second most common government program on the senior citizens is significantly lower by half at 49% only of respondents knowing about this. There were also only less than 20% of all respondents who are aware about government programs/ projects on health and livelihood. Solo Parent was also mentioned as another government service/ program. Almost half of the women are aware of these programs as well.

The response to the Marawi crisis introduced the respondents to the emergency and humanitarian services of the government, and other organizations/ entities. Cash grants and relief goods were mentioned as the most common humanitarian services of the government, followed by the program dubbed as “Marawi rehab”. A little over half (55%) of respondents mentioned psychosocial support as common service as well. Livelihood came in next with almost 50% of respondents answering they are aware of this program after the Marawi crisis. (Note: we did not ask the details what are the components of “Marawi rehab”. It was also not explicitly asked if they had benefitted from these programs and services because we only ask them if they know or are aware about this.)

It is to be noted that in the programs and services provided by government to the IDPs, less than half of the women were aware about these at 43% to 31% only who know about these. This situation may have been influenced by the more difficult situation of women inside temporary camps/ shelters, limiting their access to information and to programs. However, it is not surprising that the most common service which women were aware of was the provision of relief goods, perhaps because this is closely connected to the function and priority of the women to ensure provision of food to the family.

iv. Membership in organization and participation in public activities

Majority of the respondents or 71% do not belong to any civic or religious organization. While there are a number of organizations mentioned, however, only a very small portion, or less than 5% are members of the following: Women’s organizations, youth organizations, Senior citizen organization, fraternities, NGOs and cooperative. Respondents who are members of religious organizations are at 11% only for both males and females. More than three quarters or 76% of the women respondents are not members of any organizations. For the men, those who did not become members of any group is only at 67%.

There is a slight decrease of 4% of membership of respondents after the displacement. And in general there was also slight decrease for all the other memberships mentioned before the crisis. What is interesting to note is the 15% increase of membership to NGOs, which presumes that this membership

pertains to projects related to relief and rehabilitation being implemented by NGOs. (no further information on which NGO) Only one percent of all respondents indicated that they are members of cooperatives.

There is also slight decrease of respondents' participation in social activities after the displacement. However in West Pantar, respondents maintained 100% participation in community activities before and after the crisis. Activities that were mentioned wherein respondents participated in are the following: Peace forum, fiesta, barangay general assembly and political campaigns (range of 53% - 41%). Other activities wherein respondents indicated their participation are in barangay projects, public forum, and issue-based campaigns (range of 33% - 27%). However, the general trend of participation in public activities was on the decline, albeit, just a slight decrease. Other respondents identified participation in Islamic seminar.

For respondents who did not attend any social or public activities identified that old age, health conditions, other preoccupation with business and young children were main reasons. However, others did not attend as well because they were not invited or they were not connected to, or not a member in any of those organizations conducting the activity. There was less than one percent who mentioned livelihood seminars or skills trainings as activities that they were able to join.

(Note: What is the difference between public forum/ peace forum/ public orientation and/ public consultation?

Did not include "membership in LGU or government" answer)

Given the nature of activities that respondents attended in many seem to tend to be issue-based or political or religious in nature. Only the barangay projects have an implication of being related to livelihood. However, it should be noted that in the livelihood situation of respondents prior to Marawi crisis, most were engaged in business activities, running their own businesses or working as vendors.

v. Access to decision-makers

Respondents had a very high percentage of social support, wherein they are able to approach family or relatives and friends for assistance in times of emergency.

Women and men scored at 93 and 94% respectively. However, there was a significant decrease by 40% after respondents were displaced. This could be due to the fact that their social support network were also affected by the crisis.

In terms of legal identity, 96% of women and 91% of the men are legally registered voters.

Access to decision-makers, in particular those that were cited in the survey were Barangay Chairpersons, Kagawad/ Councilor or even to the Mayor, significantly decreased after the displacement. Men had a slightly higher score in terms of accessing persons in authority and having means to bring their concerns to the proper authorities. This could be reflective of the culture of the Moro wherein they are still predominantly patriarchal.

C. HUMAN ASSETS

vi. Knowledge and skills

Male respondents indicated a range of skills and knowledge that can be useful to seek employment or establish livelihoods. The highest are the following: driving, cooking, vending, carpentry, and fishing and farming. These answers are consistent with the previous occupations of the respondents before they were displaced. For women, the top skills they have are cooking, vending, tailoring, and fishing and farming according to order.

Respondents also scored themselves high on knowledge and skills related to management, leadership and technical matters. However, we did not specify about financial management, which will be an important specific set of skills that IDPs may need to sustain any livelihood initiative. Financial management skills will help them keep track of their expenses and income, especially for those who plan to undertake small business.

Majority of respondents indicated that their readiness to enter into employment, both women and men scored at 86%. Others who did not prefer employment would have chosen to start their own business. Most respondents, also signified readiness to enter into business. However, they cite that lack of financial capital as one of the difficulties to pursue their own business.

Lack of access to financial capital is prevalent, with almost 90% having no access to formal bank loans, micro-financing and cooperatives. We were not able to

inquire whether respondents had assets that could be used as collateral for loans. While respondents said they owned land previously, but there was a sharp decline in land ownership after the displacement. The consideration is how to enable IDPs to access loans when they do not have assets for collateral. Farming and fishing were also not on the priority skills which respondents identified, since it is quite difficult for them to embark on farming without access to land as well.

Majority of respondents, at the end of the interview, reiterated the urgency to provide livelihoods and other sources of income. They also cited their needs while in the transitory shelters, especially for electricity and running water.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are significant changes in the situation of the respondents as a result of their displacement. First is really the loss of livelihoods and business opportunities, and the decreased capacity to provide for their basic needs. Access to a number of items, like information, opportunities for attending social or community activities, land (whether ownership or lease), and to persons in authority all decreased as a result of their being displaced from their residences or places of origin.

While there are a number of relief programs serving the IDPs, this will not continue, and the need for more reliable sources of livelihood and income is needed. Almost half of the respondents wish to retain their current or previous livelihoods. Thus it is worth looking at, if it is possible and sustainable to bring back their previous occupations and livelihoods, especially if they are far from market centers, or they need financial capital to start up their businesses.

Accessible or short distance to the work place, salaries and benefits, working hours, and skills match were four factors which respondents scored as important in considering a good livelihood. Again, their current status as IDPs in temporary or transitory shelters pose the greatest challenge. In terms of strategy, it might be more effective to settle the IDPs in relocation sites that will provide a sense of permanency and stability, for them to be able to make better choices, as to what kinds of livelihoods and where to establish.

Livelihoods should address basic food security, rather than put more focus on earning cash to purchase food items. This will be a challenge since farming and fishing opportunities are limited. Types of livelihoods can also consider provision of basic services, like driving, construction work (which will likely increase during the period of Marawi rehabilitation and

rebuild programs), selling food, tailoring, and other services that would be needed more often by most consumers or the general public. There was no mention of processing foods, like local spices or delicacies, but this might be worth to explore, especially as a number of respondents indicated skills in cooking and ran businesses such as eateries and groceries. There is no inquiry as to whether local government units or agencies are in need of employment, but this might also be considered, especially in the schemes of cash for work. Engaging residents in rebuild activities will provide for income, and will also foster participation of the people in the initiatives to restore and rebuild Marawi.

There is also the big consideration on cultural sensitivity as to the manner of implementing a sustainable livelihoods program. Planning and developing such a program would have to consider phasing levels and expectations as well. What is needed at the immediate is to secure the day to day needs of IDPs. After a short term of one to two years, it might be worth to consider revisiting the rapid livelihoods assessment and conducting a participatory planning process and consultation for IDPs themselves to identify their range of options where it comes to establishing livelihoods for sustainability. Another study could be done to check on what are the success stories on sustainable livelihoods, and studying in more depth what are the crucial factors to ensure feasibility and success of a sustainable livelihoods. Learning from the rehabilitation programs from recent disasters (Haiyan, Sendong) could be an important source of learning as to what programs were successful and what strategies are effective. ###