

Local challenges, disasters and human security: Local communities, governments and human security during and after Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda)

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This paper assesses the challenges and roles played or (continue) being played by Philippine local governments in disaster risk reduction and management, particularly in the aftermath of super typhoon Haiyan (local name: Yolanda) in 2013. Using the lens of human security and resilience, the paper is based on data from literature review, key informant interviews, surveys, family interviews, and focus group discussions conducted from 2015 to 2016 in three areas in the province of Leyte: Palo, Tacloban City, and Tanauan. The paper begins by assessing the roles of local governments in disaster risk reduction and management following national and local legal frameworks as well as comparative cases based on related literature. It will then look at the challenges faced by local governments in the Philippines in the area of disasters and whether the mandated roles were performed by local governments in the case of Haiyan and its aftermath. How did local and national governments work with each other? What has been the relationship with donors and local stakeholders / local communities? What has been the impact of local government interventions on human security and resilience of communities affected, with focus on addressing vulnerability, poverty alleviation, and adaptation in the affected areas? There will also be an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the interventions and projects of local governments in the case of the Haiyan areas. Finally, it will look at lessons that can be learned from the cases to improve future interventions and actions to deal with disasters.

Keywords: local communities; DRRM; disasters; local governments; Haiyan; human security; resilience; Philippines