

# Faecal sludge management in Eastern Samar

## Brief introduction of the program :

The main objectives of this program will be to **improve community sanitation** by supporting sludge treatment in a participatory approach involving actively local authorities, communities and entrepreneurs.

This will contribute to **reducing the impact of uncontrolled desludging on the environment and on health** and to **promoting reusable wastes** such as fertilizer from sludge.

ACTED, with the technical expertise of the organization WASTE, specialized in faecal sludge treatment, proposes to **build local capacities** to meet the demand for an innovative, low-cost design of sludge treatment that can, in turn, be processed into fertilizer to be reused and sold to support agricultural livelihoods in Eastern Samar.



## About ACTED

Since 1993, as the second French NGO, ACTED has been committed to immediate humanitarian relief to support those in urgent need and protect people's dignity, while co-creating longer term opportunities for sustainable growth and fulfilling people's potential.

ACTED implements more than 450 projects a year reaching 8 million beneficiaries in 35 countries, with a budget of 160 million euros.

We have 400 international staff and 4300 national staff in our teams.

## ACTED in the Philippines

ACTED has been operational in the Philippines since 2012. Moving forward in 2016, through early recovery and into longer term rehabilitation, ACTED is focusing its programs on Water, Hygiene and Sanitation, Shelter, Food Security and Livelihood sectors.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) will continue to be mainstreamed across all our interventions. It includes all activities and measures which can be taken before, during and after a disaster - with the purpose to avoid it, reduce its impact or recover from its losses while Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD).

ACTED's efforts to build resilience in the Philippines aim at contributing to a sustainable reduction in vulnerability through increased capacity of local populations, governments and other actors; improved ability to identify, address and reduce risk, and improved social and economic conditions of vulnerable populations.

Since 2014, **ACTED supported a total of 1,043,951 people in Region VIII** in terms of emergency assistance, rehabilitation and development operations.

Past and current partners in the Philippines include:

- UN Agencies (UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, IOM)
- American Government (OFDA)
- French Gouvernement (ASEN, Centre de Crise and Agence Française de Développement)
- British Gouvernement (DFID)
- Private Donors (Shelter Box, SWS, Alstom Foundation)



## Eastern Samar, a province with major sanitation-related issues

- ✓ Population = 467,160 (last census in 2015)
- ✓ The Eastern Samar province (region VIII) is one of the poorest provinces with the poverty incidence rating at 63.7% while region VIII's average levels at 37.2% and the national average at 24.9%

### ACTED's involvement in WASH interventions in Eastern Samar

ACTED has a special expertise in the area of WASH in the Philippines, having implemented emergency WASH programs in Eastern Samar as part of the Haiyan emergency response. Since 2014 and until now, ACTED has been successfully working in its targeted geographical areas under Programme Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) with UNICEF to implement activities following the PhATS (Philippines Approach Total Sanitation) as part of recovery and rehabilitation programming post Haiyan.



One of the most powerful storms in recorded history, 'Super Typhoon' Haiyan cut through the Philippines with tsunami-like storm surge in November 2013. Eastern Samar was the first area of the Philippines to be hit by Haiyan, which first made landfall in the Guiuan municipality of Eastern Samar province. The South East coast of Eastern Samar Province was therefore severely affected by winds of more than 300 km/h, and, in addition, in parts, by storm surges of up to 5.2m. Both caused severe destructions.

Before Haiyan, the WASH situation in the region already showed a high rate of open defecation. Many households did not have access to a toilet facility pre-disaster and thus post-disaster, 73% of barangays were reporting open defecation. Of the population who had access to sanitation pre-Haiyan 6.2% reportedly lost this access in the disaster magnifying an already challenging situation.

### Sanitation status following REACH survey:

In December 2014, as UNICEF and partners conducted the PhATS-based sanitation programme, REACH, under ACTED contract conducted a baseline assessment, including analysis of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) in all the area impacted by Typhoon Haiyan. In February and March 2016, on completion of the PhATS programme, REACH conducted an end-line to measure change in sanitation in the area of the PhATS based sanitation programme.

The main result in term of sanitation are the following:

- 15.4% of households are still practicing open-defecation.
- The proportion of households using an improved non-shared sanitation facility increased from 63.7% during the baseline to 76.3% during the end-line.
- The main reason for open defecation reported by 96.2% of the respondents was the lack of toilet availability.
- The main barrier for 81.6% of the households that do not have their own toilets is the high cost of toilet construction while 47.2% of households reported that the access to materials was one of the main barriers.
- No significant change could be detected for practices relating to disposal of child stools. 38.2% were throwing stools into the garbage, the most commonly stated mode of disposal, followed by 20.2% where children were reported to be using the toilet and 16.8% that reported burying the stools.

## Rationale

### *Lack of local capacity*

In the Eastern Visayas, municipalities only recently started to create a Municipal WASH “Water Sanitation & Hygiene” Sectorial plan (2015). However, the Waste management component was rarely integrated, since only a few municipalities integrated it without any allocated budget.

Nowadays, municipalities lack both funds and capacities to implement this component in spite of a real necessity for waste collection and their request for assistance to develop this aspect of their municipal plan.

Moreover, there is no real private service, especially for sludge collection. As of mid-2016, only one company is able to collect sludges, but not **at a very limited** scale level.



### *Current practices*

The small number of households that do remove sludge in Eastern Samar do so by calling on the services of a private company, which charges a minimum fee of 5,000 PHP/115 USD. This is not feasible for the majority of Eastern Samar households, a province where 59.4% of the population live below the national poverty threshold. No sludge treatment plant exists in the province and sludge is not responsibly or safely disposed of, causing immediate as well as long-term environmental and health concerns. Households which cannot afford to dispose of sludge, resort to open defecation once their sanitation facility is full.

Moreover, the cost of latrines construction is currently around 6,000 PHP. Thus, households prefer to go back to defecate in the bush and request INGO to build new latrines. This currently remains as the main concern to ensure a sustainability of the Sanitation approach that all INGOs implementing WASH program in Eastern Samar need to face, in order to durably reduce open defecation.



### *Lack of collection and treatment system*

Systems of sludge collection are very limited and too costly for the population. Moreover, there are no place to store and treat the sludge. Currently, the only private company operating just dumps it in the sea, especially in the mangrove which impacts the local biodiversity and is likely to spreading diseases.

This integrated approach will simultaneously provide improved sanitation and the possibility of producing fertilizer which is critical for improved agricultural productivity. As ACTED is already implementing an agricultural livelihood project in consortium with the NGO People In Need (PIN) in 12 municipalities across Eastern Samar, fertilizers have the potential to directly support poor farmers where ACTED/PIN are operational to increase agricultural productivity and income generating opportunities, thus ensuring a real sustainability and profitability of the project.



## Our approach ?

Co-constructing effective governance is one of ACTED's three strategic priorities and effective and responsive public institutions is a core area of focus. ACTED's experience and expertise in the provision of training and technical assistance; in the facilitation of inclusive and participatory local development planning through a bottom-up process; and in the empowerment of citizens to ensure that services are delivered in a transparent and accountable manner is global.

### Provide cross-cutting capacity building to local authorities

A sanitation marketing approach will be adopted. This will facilitate the involvement of local government units and entrepreneurs to invest in sanitation facilities. Local entrepreneurs will also be trained in fecal sludge collection and treatment at municipal level, to sustainably, effectively and safely serve community and emergency camp sanitation needs. All activities will be designed and carried out with due regard to gender, children, the vulnerable, cultural sensitivities and practices and environmental considerations.

### 3 steps to support sustainable sludge management capacities:

1. Provide an affordable solution regarding septic tank emptying

2. Provide an environmentally responsible way to deal with sludge

3. Provide farmers with eco-friendly fertilizers from treated faecal sludge



**Duration:**  
2 years

**Amount needed:**  
1 million euros

**Expected Impact:**  
428,877  
potentials beneficiaries

ACTED promotes an integrated approach to the problems of poverty, poor WASH practices and agricultural productivity. ACTED, with the technical expertise of the organization WASTE, will advance the PhATS "Philippines Approach Total Sanitation" strategy by supporting communities to collect, manage and treat human waste. In more than 20 countries around the world WASTE advisers empower people to improve their own environment and livelihood by facilitating sustainable sanitation and solid waste systems.

ACTED **intends** to develop local public and private capacities, in particular by working with a social entrepreneurial business who will take over the system once technical, logistic and financial literacy trainings are accomplished and once the sustainability of the process is ensured at a cheap cost for households

### CONTACT US

**Thibault Henry, Country Director**

[thibault.henry@acted.org](mailto:thibault.henry@acted.org), +63 (0) 977 189 8499

**Adele Bigot, Program Development Officer**

[adele.bigot@acted.org](mailto:adele.bigot@acted.org), +63 (0) 977 189 8498