



ACTED's Fecal Waste Management in Eastern Samar



In May 2017, in order to address the problem of severely compromised access to safe water and sanitation in the Eastern Samar province and specifically in Guiuan municipality after super typhoon Haiyan, ACTED launched a longer-term vision for total sanitation through proper local septage management, mostly absent of provincial and municipal development plans. Supported by UNICEF, Alstom Foundation and Suez Foundation, and partnering with WASTE, an NGOs specialised in water engineering and systems, ACTED implemented a programme aiming at setting up a low-cost and sustainable locally-led sanitation system that consists in the collection and treatment of faecal sludge, transformed into organic fertilizers. The programme relies on an integrated approach engaging populations, authorities, farmers associations and a local social business in charge of taking over the system. In order to achieve this objective, ACTED successively conducted activities aiming at increasing awareness on sanitation issues and needs at household and community level, developed a faecal sludge management facility which will allow the transformation of the collected sludge into organic fertilizer, and created a social business model to ensure the sustainability of the project.

While the awareness campaign on sanitation issues is ongoing and has successfully reached out nearly 9,000 households up to date, the construction of the facility recently started. After acquiring the necessary land with the support of Guiuan municipality, ACTED conducted a topographic survey with the help of a geodetic engineer company. With the result of the topographic survey, ACTED was able to identify the appropriate area for the construction of the septage treatment facility, which was cleared and prepared for the construction. Formworks (a frame of structures to hold wet concrete until it is set) have been installed and drying beds are being constructed. In the meantime, materials for the creation of the Reverse Osmosis Membrane (ROM) system, the device for the collection of the sludge designed by WASTE, have been purchased. It will allow the development of ROM in the next weeks. The vacuum truck on which the ROM will be affixed to be transported within the targeted communities has also been acquired. The construction of the septage treatment facility and the development of the sludge collection system is expected to be finalized in April 2018.

2018 ACHIEVEMENTS

Conducting a capacity building training of a local partner to establish a sustainable social business

To ensure the sustainable and local management of the project, one of the main objectives was to establish a local and fully functioning social business which will ultimately be in charge of providing the desludging services to households in the targeted communities and facilitating the sale and marketing of organic fertilizers produced by the sludge treatment facility. Through a specific tool tailored to analyse the strength and weaknesses of local civil society organizations for potential partnerships, ACTED identified the Farmers Entrepreneurs Association (FEA) of Salcedo, one the municipality of Eastern Samar targeted by the project. ACTED had already been working with FEA in the past, and, in order for the partnership to be effective, it was planned to organize trainings on how to operate the treatment facility, but also managerial skills (financial literacy and management, project cycle management, marketing, etc.). The capacity building training have begun on January 26th 2018. 12 representatives from FEA were trained. The technical training will be conducted once the construction of the septage treatment facility is completed.

SHELTER RESULTS:

Emergency Response to Tropical Storm Vinta (Tembin):

- 100 vulnerable households, , received emergency shelter repair kits and awareness raising sessions on Build Back Safer techniques;

WASH RESULTS:

Emergency Response to Tropical Storm Vinta (Tembin):

- 631 vulnerable households received immediate WASH assistance through the provision of hygiene kits.
- 4,485 of the most vulnerable households' members received key information on proper hygiene practices.

Emergency Response to Tropical Storm Urduja (Kai-Tak):

- 9,696 beneficiaries of Eastern Samar have received hygiene and water kits.

Faecal Sludge Management in Guiuan:

- 10,116 households were orientated on toilet maintenance and other sanitation issues
- 142 Barangay Health Workers, Barangay Sanitary Inspectors, Barangay Nutrition Scholars and Municipal Sanitary Inspectors trained on sanitation community mobilization,

NFI RESULTS:

Emergency Response to Tropical Storm Vinta (Tembin):

- 571 of the vulnerable households received non-food items kits.

Reduced vulnerability to typhoons in Southeast Samar



Between April 2015 and April 2017, ACTED, in partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD) and the Alstom Foundation, implemented a water, hygiene, sanitation and shelter-related project in order to improve the living conditions of populations affected by the increasing number of typhoons in the Philippines, mainly in the Southeast Samar region.

“When typhoon Urduja hit Guiuan in December, I felt confident that our home, built by ACTED, would withstand the disaster”

Vilma, one of ACTED shelter project beneficiaries

In the frame of this action, ACTED constructed 126 permanent shelters along with sanitary facilities and a water supply network, in accordance with the techniques and standards of the “build back safer” approach. One year later ACTED is glad to say that the constructed shelters effectively reduced communities’ vulnerability to natural disasters. When interviewed in March 2018, the beneficiaries highlighted the quality of the infrastructures and their continued feeling of improved safety. Gody, one of the residents of the site, stated that thanks to the shelters, despite his disabilities, “I feel at ease because I know that my family will no longer be vulnerable to risks that might occur in the future”.



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