

# **TWO** YEARS AFTER THE TYPHOON ACCORDING TO THE SURVIVORS

How children and their communities perceive their lives now two years after Typhoon Haiyan devastated Eastern Visayas

Typhoon Haiyan Recovery and Rehabilitation Programme  
Plan International Philippines  
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## ACRONYMS

<b>ASRH</b>	<b>Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health</b>
<b>ATIP</b>	<b>Anti-Trafficking in Persons</b>
<b>BCPC</b>	<b>Barangay Council for the Protection of Children</b>
<b>BDRRMC</b>	<b>Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee</b>
<b>BEMONC</b>	<b>Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care</b>
<b>BHS</b>	<b>Barangay Health Station</b>
<b>BHW</b>	<b>Barangay Health Worker</b>
<b>CCDRM</b>	<b>Child Centred Disaster Risk Reduction and Management</b>
<b>CFS</b>	<b>Child Friendly Space</b>
<b>CPIE</b>	<b>Child Protection in Emergencies</b>
<b>DRR</b>	<b>Disaster Risk Reduction</b>
<b>FGD</b>	<b>Focus Group Discussion</b>
<b>ODF</b>	<b>Open Defecation Free</b>
<b>OSY / OSC</b>	<b>Out-of-School Youth / Out-of-School Child</b>
<b>PQAL</b>	<b>Programme Quality, Accountability, and Learning</b>
<b>RHU</b>	<b>Rural Health Unit</b>
<b>TESDA</b>	<b>Technical Education and Skills Development Authority</b>
<b>VAWC</b>	<b>Violence Against Women and Children</b>
<b>WASH</b>	<b>Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene</b>

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*Plan International conducted 36 focus group discussions (FGDs) with 339 persons (87 boys, 87 girls, 74 men, 91 women) from 11 villages in eight municipalities and one city in Region VIII to learn more about how they perceive their lives now two years after the devastating Typhoon Haiyan struck their areas. The questions focused on what has changed with their lives and their current issues and concerns.*



*One of the FGDs with girls conducted in Eastern Samar. The FGD participants were grouped according to social categories of sex, age, and geographic location.*

*Although we also asked about Plan’s significant contributions in their communities and solicited suggestions on how we can improve our work with them, this report is not a review of Plan’s work. This report focuses on how children and their communities understand their current situation. Further assessments may be conducted from the results of this learning activity.*

## Children and their communities two years after Haiyan

*The FGD participants’ varied thoughts and experiences were categorized according to Plan’s programmatic themes or “sectors”:*

SECTOR	BETTER NOW	REMAINS THE SAME OR BECAME WORSE
Education	<i>Children and parents have observed that, due to the education support of various agencies, there is improvement in children’s academic performance. They also believe that more children are now in schools, and that the livelihood interventions from various agencies have helped send children to schools.</i>	<i>Some families with prevailing challenges in income generation are having a hard time supporting their children’s education. Children also noted that some schools have insufficient school facilities and school books. Children leave from farflung sitios have a hard time accessing schools.</i>

<b>Livelihoods</b>	<p><i>The FGD groups shared that there are more livelihood opportunities now compared before.</i></p> <p><i>They have also observed that men and women now share both productive and reproductive roles.</i></p>	<p><i>Although there are more livelihood opportunities, financial stability remains to be a challenge.</i></p>
<b>CCDRM</b>	<p><i>The FGD participants cited that children and their communities are more prepared now and that their BDRRMCs are more confident and understand their roles and responsibilities better.</i></p>	<p><i>The communities do not have enough resources to establish evacuation centres.</i></p>
<b>Protection</b>	<p><i>The people mentioned that boys and girls understand their rights better now. Women as well understand their rights and child rights better. They have also observed that their villages are safer and there are fewer cases of child abuse, bullying, and corporal punishment.</i></p> <p><i>People are more aware of and even help advocate anti-child and human trafficking. They also appreciate that the birth certificates destroyed by the typhoon are being restored now.</i></p>	<p><i>Despite the observed decreased number of cases of corporal punishment, there are still some teachers and parents who practice it.</i></p> <p><i>The FGD groups also noted some schools with classrooms that have only one comfort room for both boys and girls.</i></p>
<b>Health &amp; Nutrition</b>	<p><i>The participants said boys and girls are now healthier, their health stations and services are better, and their health workers are more active.</i></p> <p><i>The mothers were able to describe in detail how to do proper breastfeeding.</i></p>	<p><i>Even though the participants have observed that many boys and girls are healthier now, there are still those who are malnourished. They also cited some barangay health stations constructed are not functional.</i></p>
<b>WASH</b>	<p><i>Most of the FGD groups said that they have better access now to safe water. They have observed that sanitation and hygiene practices in schools and communities have improved.</i></p>	<p><i>Despite the noted improvement in access to water and hygiene practices, the FGD participants cited some schools and communities that do not have water and toilets. They also shared in one municipality that even those that have toilets still practice open defecation because of the lack of access to water.</i></p>
<b>Shelter</b>	<p><i>The FGD participants cited that there are more houses now and they are sturdier and safer.</i></p>	<p><i>Some houses are still made of light materials and are situated in hazardous areas.</i></p>



# 1. INTRODUCTION

November 8, 2015 marks the two-year anniversary of Typhoon Haiyan (local name: Yolanda), the strongest typhoon to make landfall in recorded history that claimed at least 6,300 lives, destroyed houses and displaced millions, and devastated livelihoods across various regions in the Philippines.

For two years now, Plan International has worked and continues to work with children and their families in helping address immediate and intermediate needs arising from the havoc brought by the typhoon. The organization has had significant contributions in helping stakeholders and duty bearers deal with child rights violations.

On October 20-21 2015, Plan talked with affected boys, girls, men, and women to learn more about their current situation and prevailing needs. The organization conducted 36 focus group discussions (FGDs) in 11 villages in eight municipalities and one city across Region VIII attentive to differences in people's experiences in terms of age, sex, and geographic location. A total of 339 persons (87 boys, 87 girls, 74 men, 91 women) became part of these FGDs representing a cross-section of the affected population in areas where Plan continues to work. This report builds primarily on the insights and opinions of those who were involved in the FGDs.



Left photo: FGD with men from Barangay 62, Tacloban City. Right photo: FGD with women in Barangay San Andres, Julita, Leyte.

This is a quick and “surface level” learning activity. Further assessments may be designed basing from the results of the FGDs. It is indeed necessary to triangulate these with secondary data and interviews with Plan staff and other agencies working in the areas.

## 1.1 Purpose

The overall purpose of this learning activity is to engage children and their communities in understanding their current situation two years after Typhoon Haiyan. Plan also wanted to identify what they think are the major contributions of the organization and their suggestions for us to improve.

The questions are as follows:

- a) *Two years after Yolanda, what has changed in your lives and in your communities? What is different between your lives before Yolanda and now? Is it better now, worse, or just the same two years ago?*

- b) *Two years after Yolanda, what are your current needs and issues? Despite all the efforts from government and humanitarian actors, what are your needs that are not met? What are your school's/community's current problems?*
- c) *Two years after Yolanda, how has Plan contributed to the positive changes in your lives? What do you do now do you don't normally do before Plan started working with you? Do you notice any behavioural changes in yourselves, your families, and your communities?*
- d) *What are your suggestions to improve the way Plan is working with you? What do you think should we do better next time?*

## 1.2 Methodology and limitations

*The ethnographic approach guided the methodology used by Plan in that the learning activity is both qualitative and subjective based on the FGD participants' perception. Purposive sampling was used following social categories of sex (male and female), age groups (children and adults), and geographic locations (rural coastal, rural lowland, rural upland, and urban). The FGD groups were then composed of people coming from the same categories (e.g. boys in a rural upland community were grouped together and formed one FGD group; the same was done with girls, men, and women).*

*Each FGD group had 6-15 participants. A total of 36 FGDs were conducted with 87 boys, 87 girls, 74 men, and 91 women. The diversity of the participants generated varied thoughts and experiences which were then categorized in common themes and trends.*

*The results derived from the 339 participants from 11 villages in eight municipalities and one city in three provinces in Region VIII may not represent the entire population of those affected by Typhoon Haiyan. Also, because people's perception is subjective, some answers of FGD groups coming from the same villages may be seen as contradicting. While this may be interpreted in many different ways, it is indeed necessary to triangulate this report with secondary data and interviews with Plan staff and other agencies working in the areas for us to better understand the current situation. This report solely banks on the FGD groups' common insights, opinions, and major issues and concerns which they think relate to themselves, their families, and their communities.*

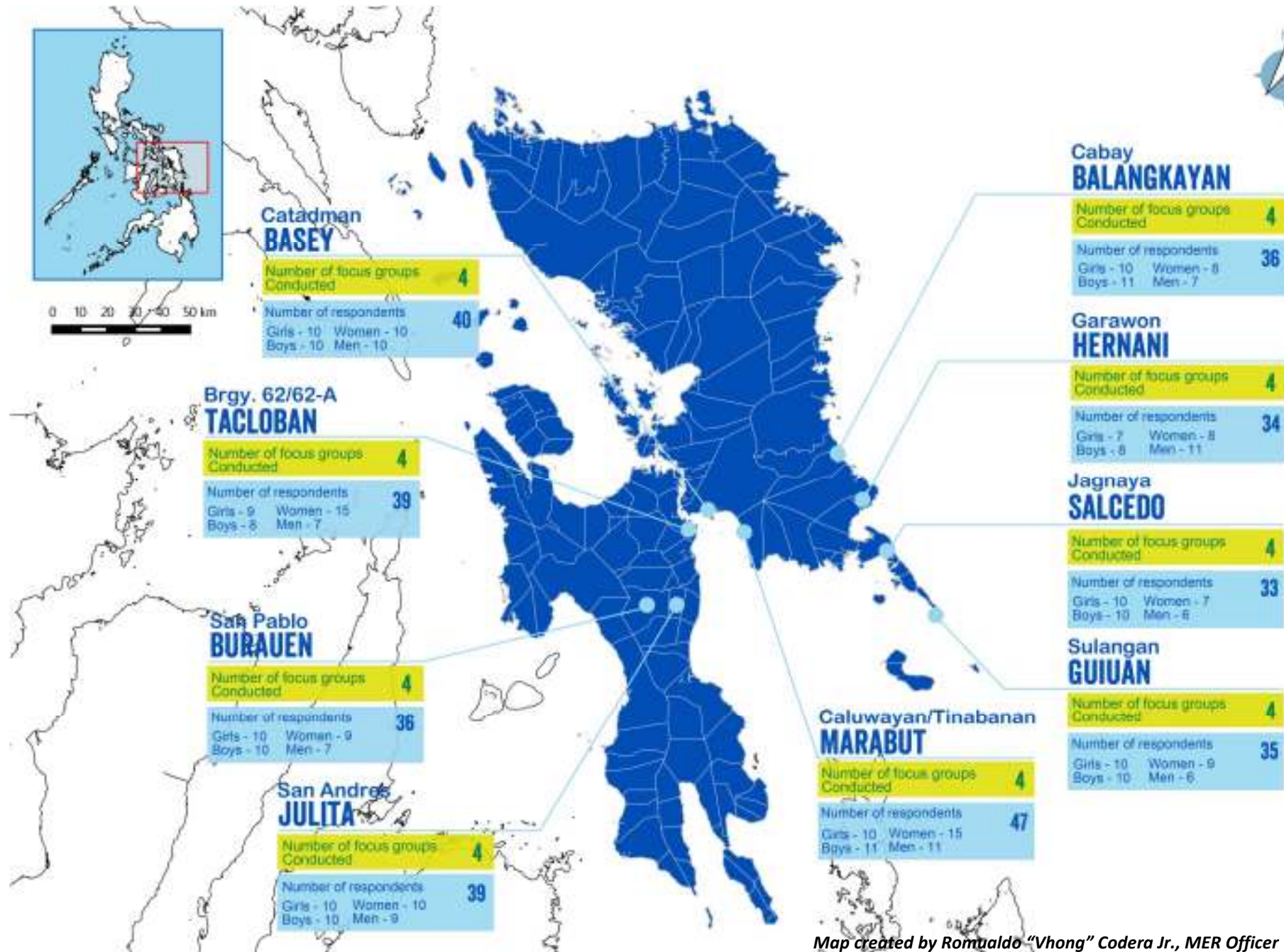
*Most of the Plan staff which composed the FGD teams currently work with the identified villages which give them familiarity to the language, customs, social structures that exist, and the different programs and projects being implemented in the areas. The teams are also composed of staff from different program teams of Plan (Education, Livelihoods, Protection – ATIP and CPIE, DRR, and Health and Nutrition); their level of understanding of the different programs helped in composing more outcome-oriented probing questions.*

## 1.3 Description of areas

*Plan has used the following criteria in selecting the villages from which the FGD participants were identified:*

- a) *The villages are in municipalities and cities in the provinces of Leyte, Samar, and Eastern Samar – provinces that were badly hit by the typhoon. Plan ensured that there are participants from all three provinces;*
- b) *The villages where Plan has significant presence from the first few months of the emergency phase until present. This ensures that these communities have received assistance from Plan on, at least, Education, Child Protection, Livelihoods, and Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. These four programmatic themes are the focus of Plan's Yolanda Recovery and Rehabilitation Strategy;*
- c) *The villages are rural coastal, rural upland, rural lowland, or urban. Plan ensured that there are participants from all four village-types;*





Map created by Romualdo "Vhong" Codera Jr., MER Officer



## 2. CHILDREN AND THEIR COMMUNITIES TWO YEARS AFTER HAIYAN

When we asked affected boys, girls, men, and women about their lives two years after Typhoon Haiyan devastated their villages, we received varied interesting thoughts and insights. We grouped their answers into programmatic themes or “sectors” – Education, Livelihoods, Child Centred – Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, Protection, Health and Nutrition, WASH, and Shelter. The inputs below describe how people perceive their current situation. The people interviewed do not necessarily pertain to Plan’s work alone, thus this report should not be treated as an evaluation of the organisation’s humanitarian efforts.

Our Child Centred Community Development Approach guides us to work with and help capacitate different rights bearers and duty bearers in the communities, which includes children, parents, civil society organizations, local government units, and government agencies. The Philippine Government and various humanitarian agencies have had significant contributions in areas where the FGDs were conducted. Achievements and failures shared below cannot be attributed solely to Plan or any one organization.



### 2.1 Education

#### Better now

##### *Improved children’s academic performance*

There is a general appreciation of the education support received by the communities from Plan and other agencies. Boys and girls note that schools are better now because of their new classrooms, adding that they are “convenient for learning”. They also appreciate the new computers, books, and schools supplies which they said inspired them to do better in school. The boys in one of the FGDs in Guiuan mentioned that their grades improved because of this.

*“My child is excited to study in the new classrooms because they are cosier and have electric fans. He/she goes to school early.”*

*Emely Obaob, 35 year old woman, Barangay Secretary, San Pablo, Burauen, Leyte*

*“Because of the school supplies provided to us, our family was able to save. We study better now and are more interested (to study).”*

*Kyla, 11 year old girl, Jagnaya, Salcedo, Eastern Samar*

*“Without the school supplies that you have distributed, we wouldn’t have been able to go to school.”*

*Yna, 13 year old girl, San Andres, Julita, Leyte*

##### *More children in schools*

More children are in school now as compared before and they have observed a lower dropout rate. The girls during one of the FGDs in Marabut, for example, noted that they have more schoolmates now concluding that there are more children enrolled. The men interviewed in Hernani mentioned that there are less out-of-school youth (OSY) because of the opportunities provided for them to study, adding that Plan is one of the agencies that is supporting them and helping link them to TESDA which gives them vocational training.

##### *Livelihoods’ support to children’s education*

The FGD participants cited that income generation is directly linked to education. Boys and girls mentioned that they had a hard time performing good in school before because their parents hardly had any financial resources to support them. They added that they don’t have money to make school projects before; but now because of the

*livelihood opportunities provided to their parents they are able to go to school, concentrate better, and comply with the requirements.*

*“We prioritize on education (for our children) and food first before the restoration of our house.”*

*Josie Rivera, 37 year old woman, Daycare Worker, San Pablo, Burauen, Leyte*

### **Remains the same or became worse**

#### **Prevailing challenges in income generation linked to children’s education**

*The women interviewed in Guiuan, however, mentioned that it is harder now to send children to school compared before Haiyan because they had a more stable source of income. Although men and women during the FGDs have expressed a better appreciation of education now, they said they are still having difficulties in providing uniforms, shoes, and school supplies of their children.*

*“We really need livelihood projects in our barangay so that our parents may be able to buy us school supplies, uniform, and shoes.”*

*Adrian, 12 year old boy, Catadman, Basey, Samar*

#### **Insufficient school facilities**

*Children mentioned during the FGDs that even though the K-12 curriculum includes teaching them about computers, they have barely touched one. Some schools lack computer laboratories, libraries, and clinics.*

*“We need a school clinic because the health centre in our village is not functional. Children who get sick or injured are brought all the way to the Rural Health Unit which is far from here.”*

*Shiela, 11 year old girl, Caluwayan, Marabut, Samar*

#### **Insufficient school books**

*School books were destroyed by Haiyan and access to them remains a challenge because there were only a few agencies that had this type of support. Due to the limited number of school books, children had to go to their classmates’ homes to do their homework and study. They usually end at the evening which, they said, makes it unsafe for them to travel back to their own homes. The girls interviewed in Salcedo note that a lot of snakes crawl in their area at night.*

*“The books in our school are not enough for all of us. Also, it would be good if we have more school supplies.”*

*Sofia, 15 year old girl, Sulangan, Guiuan, Eastern Samar*

*“The money our parents gave us for our snacks is usually used for photocopying the school books because the school doesn’t provide these to the students.”*

*Errol, 16 year old boy, Tacloban City, Leyte*

#### **Challenge in accessing schools for children in hard-to-reach areas**

*Men and women in Balangkayan and Salcedo cited that children from farflung sitios have a hard time going to schools. Some children even walk until the evening which is not safe for them.*



## 2.2 Livelihoods

### Better now

#### *More livelihood opportunities*

*The men interviewed from all areas mentioned that although income is less now compared to their livelihood before (mostly coconut farming and fishing), they now have more livelihood opportunities which may grow in time from the support of Plan and other humanitarian agencies. They now plant root crops, vegetables, banana, and pineapple. They also do animal raising (hogs, goats, and chicken). They also appreciate receiving small machineries (e.g. tractors) which may help them in farming and trainings on agricultural and business techniques.*

*“A lot of people here in our village benefitted from the livelihood projects.”*

*Purita Catayong, 44 year old woman, Barangay Health Worker, Garawon, Hernani, Eastern Samar*

*“Our parents have become a lot better and I feel loved. They persevere more in their work.”*

*Kim, 12 year old girl, San Pablo, Burauen, Leyte*

*They received microfinance support which gave them opportunities to put up sari-sari stores (small variety stores) and buy fishing gears and equipment. Children who were part of the FGDs have observed that the microgrants from Plan gave substantial income for their families and helped them buy their basic needs. They added that they are able to eat more nutritious food now because of this.*

*Women in Basey mentioned that their community savings group, which Plan helped organize, provides them accessible budget for family emergencies without liquidating their assets.*

*Men and women interviewed claimed that they had a hard time looking for jobs after Haiyan. Plan linked them with TESDA which gave them trainings, mostly carpentry, which became their main source of income until today.*

*“Because of the TESDA scholarship provided by Plan, it will be easier for him/her (her son/daughter) to reach his/her dreams.”*

*Melissa Palomo, 52 year old women, Catadman, Basey, Samar*

*“A lot of people were able to find work because of Plan’s projects (pertaining to the work with TESDA).”*

*Joahna, 12 year old girl, San Pablo, Burauen, Leyte*

#### *Male and female shared productive and reproductive roles*

*In Tacloban City, the women in one of the FGDs mentioned that they are happy now that they share with their husbands the responsibility to earn income for their families and in taking care of their children.*

### Remains the same or became worse

#### *Earning money remains to be a challenge*

*Children have observed that their parents had to change their sources of livelihood because of the typhoon. Although Plan and other agencies have helped families open the door for other livelihood opportunities, the children cannot say if it’s better now or worse. The boys in Marabut, for example, said that nothing has changed, that poor families remain to be poor, and that livelihood is still difficult. The boys in Burauen shared that some of their classmates go to school without snacks or money to buy snacks.*

*“Life is harder because the money being earned is lesser. Many are hungry.”*

*Arvin, 12 year old boy, San Andres, Julita, Leyte*

***“We bought a pig after being paid from Plan’s cash-for-work project; but I realized I had to feed my family. If you don’t have enough capital, how are you going to earn income?”***

***Josie Rivera, 37 year old woman, Daycare worker, San Pablo, Burauen, Leyte***

***In Guiuan and Salcedo, the FGD groups believe that they had better livelihoods before Yolanda. There were more fish to catch and coconuts provided them enough income. The men in Guiuan even estimated that out of around 600 families affected by Yolanda, only 200 have recovered in terms of having livelihoods.***

***“(Life) is hard now. The coconuts are gone and we can’t go fishing because we hardly catch any fish, unlike before Yolanda, the sea was very abundant of fish.”***

***Ariel Alvarado, 20 year old man, Jagnaya, Salcedo, Eastern Samar***

***Women expressed their interest in being recipients of livelihood assistance projects. In Salcedo, the women shared that before Haiyan their village used to weave mats and hats as a source of income. The plants that provide the main raw material for weaving were destroyed by the typhoon. Now that the plants have grown back, some of them returned to weaving but didn’t push through because of the low price and the lack of market for the finished products.***

***“I hope that women be given livelihood assistance so that we can also help in providing for the needs of our families.”***

***Melanie Glino, 46 year old woman, Barangay Kagawad, Cabay, Balangkayan, Eastern Samar***

***Some parents also left their villages to look for work elsewhere. The girls who joined the FGD in Salcedo shared that they would like their parents to have permanent work or livelihoods in their village so that they no longer need to leave their families.***





## 2.3 Child Centred Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (CCDRRM)

### Better now

#### *Children and their communities are more prepared now*

Although they feel that they still need to learn more, all FGD groups from all areas have expressed that they are more prepared now largely because of the awareness-raising activities conducted by Plan on DRRM in their schools and communities. Some identified evacuation centres were also improved by other agencies, including the caves in Caluwayan, Marabut where the people evacuated during Typhoon Hagupit (local name: Ruby). Men and women FGD participants in the municipalities of Eastern Samar said that they are more alert now and they have realized the importance of early evacuation.

*“Before, I don’t listen to the news when there is a storm. Now, even if the storm has not made landfall yet, I prepare and place our things for easy evacuation.”*

*Josie Rivera, 37 year old woman, Daycare worker, San Pablo, Burauen, Leyte*

*“Even if Plan will leave us, we know now how to be prepared for a disaster. If ever they will transfer to another village, I hope that they will be able to help the new village much better.”*

*Romulo Elpedes, 64 year old man, Barangay Kagawad, Cabay, Balangkayan, Eastern Samar*

Boys and girls said they now know what to do and where to go in case another typhoon would hit their villages. They note that through Plan, they received training on disaster preparedness and joined in earthquake and storm surge drills. They said they didn’t know anything about disaster preparedness before Haiyan. In Hernani, the girls shared that disaster preparedness is even being discussed by their parents in their homes.

*“We should increase our knowledge on disaster preparedness so that if there will be a disaster, we are more confident and protected.”*

*Carlos, 13 year old boy, Sulangan, Guiuan, Eastern Samar*

*“I learned that not only the children can learn from their parents; we can also learn from our children. My children teach me what they learn in school. For example, DRR. I listen to my children’s thoughts and opinions, unlike before when my own parents didn’t listen to me.”*

*Emely Obaob, 35 year old woman, Barangay Secretary, San Pablo, Burauen, Leyte*

#### *BDRRMCs are more confident now*

After participating in various trainings, the FGD participants have observed that the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committees (BDRRMCs) are now more confident that they will be able to perform their tasks on preparedness and response. They cite that they are more systematic now. The men interviewed in Guiuan mentioned that their BDRRMC now understand their roles better. They now have an Evacuation Plan and they are asking support from various agencies to provide early warning devices.

### Remains the same or became worse

#### *Not enough evacuation centres*

There is a general feel that there are not enough evacuation centres for their villages that are safe and unreachable by tsunamis and storm surges. The men in Guiuan and Marabut suggested that the construction of the sea walls be continued.

*“I hope that an evacuation centre will be constructed outside our village because the one identified currently is in a coastal area.”*

*Rowena Manlapaz, 47 year old woman, Barangay Health Worker, Cabay, Balangkayan, Eastern Samar*



## 2.4 Protection (includes Child Protection, Anti-Trafficking in Persons, Gender, and Birth Registration)

### Better now

#### **Boys and girls understand child rights better now**

Boys and girls shared that they now understand their rights better mainly because of Plan's orientations and CFS sessions. They also know where to go if they will report child abuse cases. In Salcedo, the girls shared that teachers and parents help in informing them about their right to education and right to play. Women from Salcedo also shared that children have become more responsible now after being taught about their rights.

*"Because of our knowledge of our rights, we are less worried now. We know we are being protected and guided. We know what to do if we are being bullied."*

*Nina, 9 year old girl, Jagnaya, Salcedo, Eastern Samar*

#### **Women understand child rights and women's rights better now**

Women across all areas mentioned that they are now more aware of child protection laws, child rights, and the role of the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC). They added that before Haiyan, they didn't know about women's rights but now they do through Plan's WFS volunteers and other agencies. They are more active now in reporting abuse cases and they now know how to report these cases through the "referral flow". The girls from the FGDs in Burauen and Hernani have observed that parents in their communities have adapted what they have learned from Plan's orientations on child rights. The women from Hernani cited that they also learn from their children about child rights.

The women from Guiuan shared that women are more confident now and that they are more empowered.

The men from Salcedo shared that their wives are already aware of anti-violence against women and children (Anti-VAWC). They added that family relationships in their village have improved.

*"I was encouraged to help other parents do what is right for their children. I am also an advocate of child protection."*

*Rosalinda, 46 year old woman, Tinabanan, Marabut, Samar*

*"Before Yolanda, women stayed in their homes most of the time. After Yolanda, we've been going out attending trainings and seminars like Health and Nutrition, Gender and Protection, DRR, and others."*

*Lea Santilla, 31 year old woman, Jagnaya, Salcedo, Eastern Samar*

#### **Fewer cases of child abuse, bullying, and corporal punishment**

The boys and girls from the different areas have also observed that there are less abused children (Balangkayan, Marabut, and Hernani), there is a decrease in the number of "bullying situations" (Burauen), and they said that their parents do not hit them anymore to discipline them (two FGD groups). One FGD group of boys have observed that their parents do not easily get angry now and they no longer hit them.

*"My parents do not beat me anymore."*

*11 year old boy, Leyte*

Men from Salcedo have shared that most of the community members are already aware of child protection, hence corporal punishment on children has already stopped. Women from Guiuan shared that they learned about positive disciplining.

*“Child protection mechanisms are better now because there are NGOs which help our barangay council and the parents.”*

*Nilo Ramelo, 53 year old man, Barangay Captain, Sulangan, Guiuan, Eastern Samar*

#### ***Villages are safer***

*People have associated the Protection program with security of their areas from bad and illegal elements. From the FGDs, there was a general feel that villages are safer now and barangay tanods (village police) roam regularly at night unlike before. In Tacloban, there is appreciation of the solar lamp posts put up by Plan and mentioned that these have made walking their villages at night a lot safer, and during power outages.*

*Children feel safer to play games in the child-friendly spaces (CFSs) supervised by the volunteers.*

*“We have a mobile CFS in our barangay where children play. They feel safe in the CFS.”*

*Neil Arellano, 25 year old man, San Pablo, Burauen, Leyte*

#### ***People are more aware of child and human trafficking***

*The FGD participants shared that people in their villages are more aware now of child and human trafficking. Some even help spread information about it to their fellow community members.*

#### ***Birth certificates are being restored***

*There is appreciation with Plan’s assistance in restoring the birth certificates which were destroyed by the typhoon.*

#### ***Fathers’ role on child care realized***

*In Salcedo, women have shared that there is now a realization that both mothers and fathers should be involved in child care contrary to what has been practiced where mother were the only ones taking care of the children.*

### **Remains the same or became worse**

#### ***There are still those who practice corporal punishment***

*Despite the noted decrease of corporal punishment cases observed by the FGD participants, they note that there are still those who practice it. For example, in one of the FGDs, the boys shared that they know a teacher who pinches her pupils in school and a father who spans his children with a broomstick. One group of girls shared that corporal punishment still exist in schools where scotch tape is used to cover the mouths of noisy pupils. Women from Hernani also cited that there are still parents who hit their children with broomsticks, belts, and bamboo.*

#### ***Some classrooms do not have separate comfort rooms for boys and girls***

*In some schools, even the ones repaired by Plan, the comfort rooms are being shared both by boys and girls. In Guiuan, for example, the girls cited that they had to share the comfort room in their classroom with the boys.*

*“School buildings that were donated to us do not have separate comfort rooms for boys and girls.”*

*Sheryl, 14 year old girl, Sulangan, Guiuan, Eastern Samar*

#### ***“Inactive” BCPC and lack of child protection desk***

*Women FGD participants in Hernani shared that their BCPC is inactive, while women in Guiuan mentioned that although their BCPC is active, they don’t have a child protection desk in their barangay.*



## 2.5 Health and Nutrition

### Better now

#### *Healthier boys and girls*

*The FGD participants in various areas in Leyte, Samar, and Eastern Samar cited that children and adults are healthier and more properly nourished now. The girls in Hernani also mentioned that have observed that cough, cold, and diarrhoea are very seldom now compared before. The boys in Guiuan said they are able to eat food more regularly now compared before.*

#### *Better health stations and health services*

*There is also appreciation of repaired barangay health stations (BHSs) in Balangkayan and Julita where the FGD participants mentioned that they are better now compared before. Women FGD participants in Julita added that their BHS is better equipped because it now has birthing facilities and they can now cater normal deliveries. Boys in Guiuan shared that they have better health services now than before.*

*In Salcedo, although still lacking some equipment, the men said it is better now because they have a mobile clinic and a health post. In Julita, the mobile clinic provided by Plan, also known as an E-Ranger, is used to transport community members to the RHU during emergency cases; before, they said, this was very challenging for them.*

*Also, in Marabut, the men said that before Yolanda they would have to go to the Rural Health Unit to access medicines, but now they have medicines in their barangay.*

#### *Communities understand the value of nutrition better*

*Women from Hernani have shared that they have learned about health issues and illnesses that may be caused by poor health and nutrition practices.*

*In Tacloban and Guiuan, the orientations on health and nutrition helped the community residents prepare nutritious food for their families, according to the men and women interviewed.*

#### *Better understanding of proper breastfeeding*

*Mothers interviewed from Salcedo discussed with Plan in detail what they learned about the proper way of breastfeeding – from sanitizing through water and soap to the proper positioning of the baby. They also explained that this has an effect to the mental wellbeing of the babies. They said they didn't know this before Yolanda.*

#### *BHWs are more active and confident*

*According to women who participated the FGDs in Guiuan, their Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) are more active now compared before. They further explained that this is because they have gained confidence to do their tasks through the various trainings they have received about health. Women in Basey also shared that BHWs now conduct regular weight monitoring of children. Girls in Marabut have observed that the BHWs are regularly visiting pregnant women in their village to check on them and remind them to have themselves checked-up by doctors and midwives.*

### Remains the same or became worse

#### *There are still malnourished children*

*Although the boys from Guiuan mentioned that they eat food more regularly now, the girls have observed that there are more malnourished children now because of the challenges parents are facing in earning money for their families. Women interviewed from the same barangay said that their children used to be livelier before because of the food they get fresh from their farms.*



*Men, boys, and girls from Balangkayan, Burauen, and Guiuan said that children are thinner now. Feeding activities in schools are being done in order to address this.*

***“Children were healthier before.”***

*Dominic, 11 year old boy, San Pablo, Burauen, Leyte*

*Women and girls from Hernani and Salcedo, however, said that health and nutrition is still the same as before.*

***Illnesses are getting worse***

*According to the men interviewed in Balangkayan, there are now cases of chikungunya and schistosomiasis, and illnesses are getting worse.*

***Far or non-functional health stations***

*In Marabut, the different FGD groups cited that their barangay health station is not operational. The girls explained that the structure is there but no one is around to provide the services. The boys mentioned that they still have to go to the Rural Health Unit if they get sick. In Burauen, the girls mentioned that the BHS is very far so it is difficult for them to get checkups.*

***“Health services are hard to access for us. We need to go to the RHU to have checkups which is very far.”***

*Shiela, 11 year old girl, Caluwayan, Marabut, Samar*

*Women from Balangkayan shared that the birthing facility provided to them is not yet functional. They added that their midwives and nurses need to have trainings on Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEMONC).*

***Unavailability of midwife***

*The women who participated in the FGDs in Julita mentioned that their midwife is not always available.*



## 2.6 Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

### Better now

#### *Improved sanitation and hygiene practices of children in schools*

*Boys and girls from all FGD groups have expressed improvement of their understanding and practice of proper sanitation and hygiene. Children from Marabut, Burauen, Hernani, Balangkayan, and Guiuan mentioned that they are practicing proper hygiene with the help of the hand washing facilities provided to their schools. Aside from hand washing, the girls from Guiuan mentioned that they were taught how to properly brush their teeth and bodies, and how to keep the environment clean. The girls interviewed from Balangkayan said that they now have access to safe water because their school's water system was repaired when a hand washing facility was constructed.*

*Women from Salcedo said that the toilets constructed in schools are a big help because their children no longer need to run home whenever they need to use the toilet.*

*Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) awareness-raising activities were highlighted by the girls interviewed in Balangkayan, saying that they improved the hygiene practices of children.*

#### *Improved sanitation and hygiene practices of communities*

*Similar to the schools, there is general expression of improvement in sanitation and hygiene in the communities where we conducted FGDs. In Marabut, for example, the men and boys (in separate FGDs) said that every household in their barangay now have their own comfort rooms, and the girls shared that there is now a hand washing facility in the village plaza. Women from the same village mentioned that they learned about personal hygiene.*

*In Balangkayan, the boys shared that people learned how to use comfort rooms and no longer defecate along the seashore. The men and women from the same municipality have mentioned that, even though not all of them were given comfort rooms, most of them "have used the comfort rooms already".*

*The girls from Tacloban have observed that people in their barangay now work together to ensure that their surroundings are clean. They further explained that there were orientations conducted on proper hand washing. Women from the same village mentioned that they are now aware of proper sanitation and proper waste disposal, and that they apply what they have learned in their daily lives. They thank Plan for helping improve the hygiene in their barangay.*

*Men and women interviewed from Hernani shared that, because of Plan's WASH support, their barangay has been recently declared as an open defecation free (ODF) community. All households have their own latrines and households are now observing proper hygiene, according to the women interviewed.*

*In Guiuan, the women estimated that before Yolanda, only around 40% of their barangay's households have toilets in their own houses; but now it's around 60%. They attribute it to various agencies which helped them construct their shelters because they included the toilets. They added that they are more conscious now of their hygiene.*

#### *Improved access to safe water of communities*

*"The tap stand installed by Plan International is really a big help for the community. It made water very accessible for us."*

*Josephine Aranjuez, 34 year old woman, Jagnaya, Salcedo, Eastern Samar*

*"Before, we need to wait until 12 midnight for us to get our water ration. Now, we have water any time of the day."*

*Jake Dimtangol, 18 year old man, Tacloban City, Leyte*

*People who joined the FGDs in Hernani and Salcedo shared that access to safe water is better now, adding that it is because Plan helped improve the water system in their barangay. Men from Tacloban shared that before Yolanda, getting water was difficult. Now it's easier because of new and repaired water connections in their barangay. They added that they are able to use the water catchment provided by Plan.*

*Women from Basey mentioned that the jetmatic pumps repaired by Plan help in providing adequate water supply for their barangay.*

### **Remains the same or became worse**

#### **Constructed comfort rooms in schools are not enough, without water, or without faucets**

*In Burauen, Hernani, Julita, and Guiuan, FGD groups for boys and girls shared that their comfort rooms either do not have faucets inside or the faucets do not provide water, thus these are either always dirty or not used. Girls from Julita said that they still need to go out of school grounds to fetch water.*

***“We don’t have water in our school. We need to fetch water in a deep well near the river.”***

*Yna, 13 year old girl, San Andres, Julita, Leyte*

*Girls from Guiuan and boys from Salcedo mentioned that they do not have separate comfort rooms for boys and girls, even in the newly constructed classrooms provided to them by various agencies.*

*In Tacloban, the boys said that their school needs more toilets.*

#### **Remaining problems with water systems and water supply in communities**

*Women who joined the FGDs in Salcedo shared that before Yolanda their barangay had a level 3 water system. Plan International repaired it but it was relegated to level 2.*

*The men, women, and boys who participated in separate FGDs in Guiuan mentioned that because their water supply is inconsistent (sometimes there is no water, sometimes there is), there are times that they don’t have enough drinking water in their households. In the FGD with girls, they said that they don’t get water for drinking from their water source now because they are saltier now than before. Their families are forced to buy purified or mineral water.*

*In Julita, they don’t have water at all now because their water taps and pumps are not working, according to the men and boys. In Tacloban, the women shared that some of the households in their barangay do not have access to potable water because they are not connected to the water system.*

***“We have toilets in our houses but we do not have water supply.”***

*Teddy Tibre, 29 year old man, San Andres, Julita, Leyte*

#### **Households’ toilets were better before**

*In Julita, the boys said that their toilets were better compared to the latrines provided to them. In Hernani, the boys shared that some of the latrines provided were destroyed so they have to be repaired.*

#### **There are still those who prefer to practice open defecation**

*In Marabut, even though it was mentioned in the FGDs that people have observed a decrease in those who are practicing open defecation because all households were given latrines, there are still those who prefer to “defecate outside”. The men explained that the water system project of a government agency is still not finished until now, thus they do not have water in their homes that may have been the reason why people still practice open defecation.*

*Women from Balangkayan and girls from Guiuan shared that not all households have their own latrines until now.*

***"Not all households in our village have their own toilets."***

***Aubrey, 9 year old girl, Sulangan, Guiuan, Eastern Samar***

## 2.7 Shelter

### Better now

#### ***More houses and better houses***

***Across all FGD groups from all areas, there is a general observation that there are more houses now because families who didn't have houses before received shelter support from various aid agencies. Most of the houses are also better now because, according to them, they are sturdier and more spacious than before. There were those who were relocated to higher areas which made them feel that they are safer now.***

***"Our house was repaired and now it's bigger and better."***

***Jahzen, 10 year old girl, Cabay, Balangkayan, Eastern Samar***

***Women from Tacloban also cited that they have comfort rooms and water connections now in their houses because of Plan.***

***Boys and girls from Guiuan, Salcedo, and Hernani mentioned that they feel more comfortable and safer now in their new houses.***

***In Salcedo, women interviewed said that they feel happy and proud of their resettlement area with concrete houses.***

### Remains the same or became worse

#### ***Some houses are still unsafe***

***Women and girls in Guiuan shared that many of the houses in their coastal barangay are still unsafe from storm surges and other risks because they are situated in hazardous areas. The houses also are made of light materials which will not stand against strong winds. They cited that some houses even have tarpaulins for roofs until now.***



## 3. CHILDREN AND THEIR COMMUNITIES' SUGGESTIONS TO PLAN

### 3.1 Explain Plan's beneficiary selection processes to communities clearer

*Plan's feedback mechanisms have always received questions from communities regarding beneficiary selection processes. The communities suggest that we explain it to them more clearly, possibly in a barangay assembly, in order to prevent confusion and possible disputes among the villagers. Specifically, they would want to understand:*

- *What were the basis for setting our priorities;*
- *Why not everyone was selected; and*
- *Why households of sponsored children were not prioritised.*

*They also suggest that Plan coordinate properly with barangay officials in terms of organizing beneficiary selection committees. In validating the lists, they mentioned that it would be good if we could include barangay officials and the selection committees themselves for more transparency.*

*For the cash-for-work activities, people cited that Plan should present clear guidelines for substitutes or proxy workers.*

### 3.2 Conduct trainings on organisational management

*There is general appreciation of Plan's work in capacitating and helping organisations of farmers', fisherfolk, health workers, and others. They suggest that in order to further strengthen their organisations and possibly facilitate sustainability, Plan should conduct capacity-building activities particularly on organisational management.*

### 3.3 Review communities' capacities to align required "counterparting"

*The FGD groups have expressed that some required community counterparts are "heavy" for them. They added that they prefer to have labour as their counterpart.*

### 3.4 If possible, complete the "unfinished" construction projects in schools and in communities

*The boys, girls, men, and women who were part of the FGDs cited examples of "unfinished" construction projects such as barangay health stations not being used and comfort rooms and hand washing facilities without water. They suggest that we make these functional or at least explain if Plan will no longer support their "completion" so they can ask support from others.*

### 3.5 Inform more people in the communities regarding Plan's feedback mechanisms

*They suggest that we inform more people about our feedback mechanisms and processes because not all people are aware of these being in place.*

### 3.6 Strengthen coordination with the barangay local government units

*They mentioned that, in order to avoid or minimise complaints and questions from the communities, we explain to their local government units at the barangay level our projects and coordinate with them our activities.*

### 3.7 Check the quality of the equipment to be distributed

The communities cited examples of equipment distributed by Plan in “low quality” – armchairs with protruding nails that may harm children, armchairs that were easily broken, and latrines that cracked easily. They suggest that we double check the quality of these equipment.

## 4. PLAN’S RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION STRATEGY

Plan’s overall early recovery and rehabilitation program strategy is positioned within the priorities outlined by the Philippine government through Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda (RAY), and UN’s strategic response to the crisis both in medium and long term. Plan seeks opportunities to objectively contribute to these efforts and also to build the capacity of relevant government structures and civil society to ensure their involvement and further strengthening their ability in and leadership of the recovery efforts.

The recovery and rehabilitation phase focuses on: Education, Livelihoods, Child Centred Disaster Risk Reduction (DRM) and Protection while fulfilling its existing commitments to shelter health and nutrition and WASH. Plan’s WASH activities are aligned with the education strategy and include a Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) component. No further health and shelter activities will be pursued.

Plan’s Vision for recovery is that vulnerable boys and girls and communities in the typhoon affected areas live a life where their fundamental rights for food, basic services and protection realized and their risk to future natural disasters is significantly reduced.

The goal is for vulnerable children and communities who have been affected by Typhoon Haiyan re-establish their livelihoods, regain access to quality education, have adequate protection and disaster risk reduction mechanisms in place

Plan’s overall Yolanda response has the following three overlapping phases: Emergency Relief (1-6 months), ends in May 2014; Early Recovery (3-12 months), ends in March 2015; and Rehabilitation (3 years July 2014-June 2017).

Over the rehabilitation and recovery phase, Plan will build on its achievements during the emergency relief and early recovery phases, taking into consideration the key lessons learned from them. This will ensure that proper linkages between its emergency and early recovery/rehabilitation phases of intervention are maintained.

### Planned coverage

<b>Locations:</b>	<b>3 Provinces: Eastern Samar, Leyte and Western Samar; 23 municipalities and 316 barangays or communities; approximate 90,000 households, or 350,000 population.</b>
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### Actual coverage to date

As of this reporting period, Plan works with 467 barangays in 23 municipalities and three cities in four provinces in two regions:

PROVINCE	NO. OF PARTNER CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES	NO. OF PARTNER BARANGAYS	NO. OF HOUSEHOLDS (2010 CENSUS)	POPULATION (2010 CENSUS)
East Samar	10	235	90,001	450,918
West Samar	2	74	31,109	155,212
Leyte	12	138	46,103	205,481
Cebu	2	20	13,484	52,072
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>180,696</b>	<b>863,683</b>

### Areas with sponsored children (SC)

PROVINCE	NO. OF PARTNER CITIES AND	NO. OF PARTNER BARANGAYS	NO. OF HOUSEHOLDS	POPULATION (2010 CENSUS)
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	MUNICIPALITIES		(2010 CENSUS)	
Eastern Samar	3	27	4,459	21,796

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A total of 58 Plan staff led, facilitated, and documented the actual FGDs:

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In behalf of the PQAL Team,

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