

The background features a light purple to blue gradient. In the upper left, there are several realistic water droplets of various sizes. A faint, glowing sun is visible in the upper center. In the lower right, there are more water droplets, including a large, prominent one.

WOMEN FISHERS WEATHERING YOLANDA:

*HERSTORIES OF BUILDING RESILIENCE
IN TIMES OF NATURAL DISASTERS*

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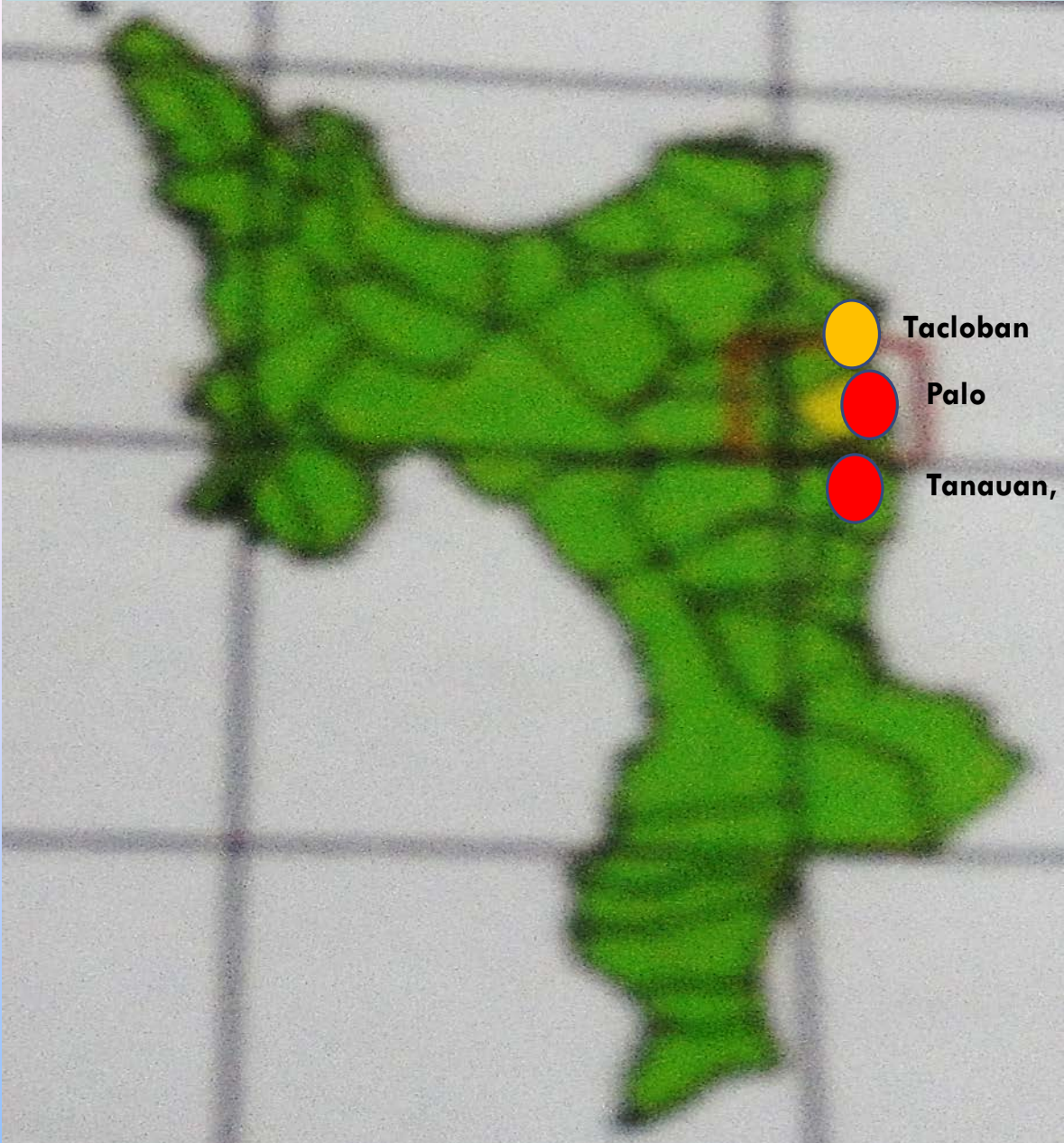
OBJECTIVES

- To hear the voices of women fishers who are survivors of Super Typhoon Yolanda (aka Haiyan):
 - ✓ How did women fishers prepare for Yolanda?
 - ✓ How did they respond to the negative impacts of the disaster?
 - ✓ How are they rebuilding their lives and livelihoods
- To draw the elements of a disaster resilience agenda for women fishers

PATH OF TYHOON HAIYAN



Province of Leyte



RESEARCH LOCALE (1)

- Barangay San Roque, Tanauan
 - Population = 6,062
 - Lives lost = 132
 - Houses damaged:
 - Partially damaged = 29%
 - Totally damaged = 71%



RESEARCH LOCALE (2)

- Barangay San Joaquin, Palo
 - Population = 2,677
 - Lives lost = 377
 - Houses damaged:
 - Partially damaged = 3%
 - Totally damaged = 97%



RESEARCH LOCALE (3)

- Barangay 89A, Baybay, San Jose, Tacloban City
 - Population = 1,024
 - Lives lost = 70
 - Houses damaged:
 - Partially damaged = 0
 - Totally damaged = 100%

METHODOLOGY

- Focus Group Discussion
- Key Informant Interviews
- Secondary Data collection



SELECTION OF WOMEN FISHERS

- Lives in a coastal village along the Leyte Gulf
- The house is located within the 40-meter No Build Zone from the shoreline
- Engaged in fishing or fishing-related activities such as fish drying, fish vending and shell gathering
- Personal experience of surviving Yolanda
- Never left the village since 8 November 2013

INTERVIEW AND FGD QUESTIONS ON

- Preparations made to mitigate the negative effects of the disaster
- Women fishers' and their families' response to the disaster during the emergency and recovery phases
- From the Yolanda experience, what are the elements of a disaster resilience plan for women fishers

IMPACT OF YOLANDA ON THE WOMEN FISHERS

FIRST 48 HOURS

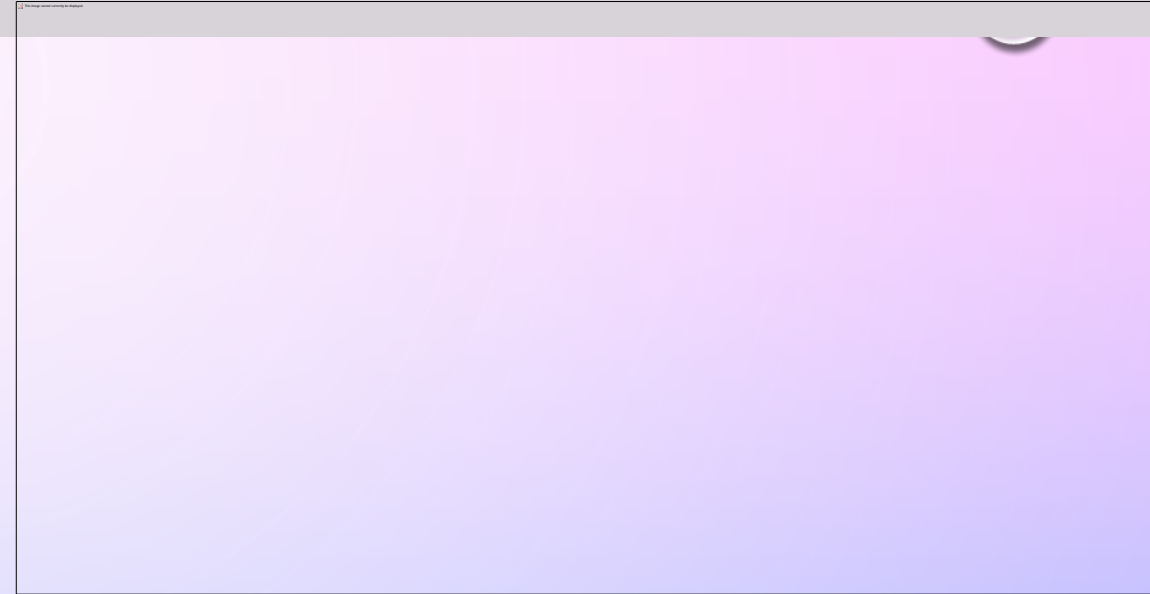
- No clear source of food and water
 - ✓ Food provisions brought to the evacuation center was good for 1 day or 2 days only (according to practice)
 - ✓ Communication lines were cut, hence, local needs were not known to the external community



IMPACT OF YOLANDA ON THE WOMEN FISHERS

FIRST 48 HOURS

- No clear source of food & water
 - ✓ Lack of information where food distribution centers are located
 - ✓ Unpassable roads due to heaps of debris and dead bodies, hence, food from nearby
 - ✓ towns not affected by Yolanda could not enter the Yolanda devastated areas



IMPACT OF YOLANDA ON THE WOMEN FISHERS

FIRST 48 HOURS

- Health and wellness concerns
 - ✓ Decaying human bodies & animals
 - Searching for missing family members
 - Identifying the dead
 - Burying the dead
 - ✓ Mental health and trauma



IMPACT OF YOLANDA ON THE WOMEN FISHERS

FIRST 48 HOURS

- Health and wellness concerns
 - ✓ Nursing mothers
 - Need for safe drinking water
 - ✓ Wounded members of the family
 - Health facilities were damaged and not operational
 - Health personnel were victims, too



IMPACT OF YOLANDA ON THE WOMEN FISHERS

FIRST 48 HOURS

- Partially and totally damaged shelter
 - ✓ House and household properties were lost/damaged
 - ✓ Some schools which were used as evacuation centers collapsed and were damaged, too



IMPACT OF YOLANDA ON THE WOMEN FISHERS

FIRST 48 HOURS

- Livelihoods were lost
 - ✓ Fishing boats were carried away and destroyed by the waves
 - ✓ Fishing paraphernalia were damaged/unusable
 - ✓ Other sources of fishing households' income e.g. livestock and variety stores were lost



HEIGHTENING CONCERNS AND NEEDS OF WOMEN FISHERS

- Hygiene and sanitation at the evacuation center
 - ✓ Cramped --- too many in too little space
 - ✓ Not all evacuees observed cleanliness of surroundings
 - ✓ Not equipped with adequate comfort rooms
 - ✓ Source of water supply was far from the center

HEIGHTENING CONCERNS AND NEEDS OF WOMEN FISHERS

- Security and peace
 - ✓ Rumor that prisoners have bolted from the provincial jail
 - ✓ Rumor that women are being raped by men who are looking for food
 - ✓ Rumor that those without food were snatching provisions from people walking in the streets
 - ✓ No electricity --- it was dark (no flashlights for some)
 - ✓ Yolanda-damaged houses could not be locked

HEIGHTENING CONCERNS AND NEEDS OF WOMEN FISHERS

- Nowhere to buy food and water
 - ✓ Businesses were damaged
 - ✓ Some were looted as early as the afternoon of Day 1
 - ✓ For those businessmen who were not affected, they were afraid to open their stores because of rampant looting
 - ✓ Other businessmen left Tacloban at the first available commercial flight (to return three months later)

HEIGHTENING CONCERNS AND NEEDS OF WOMEN FISHERS

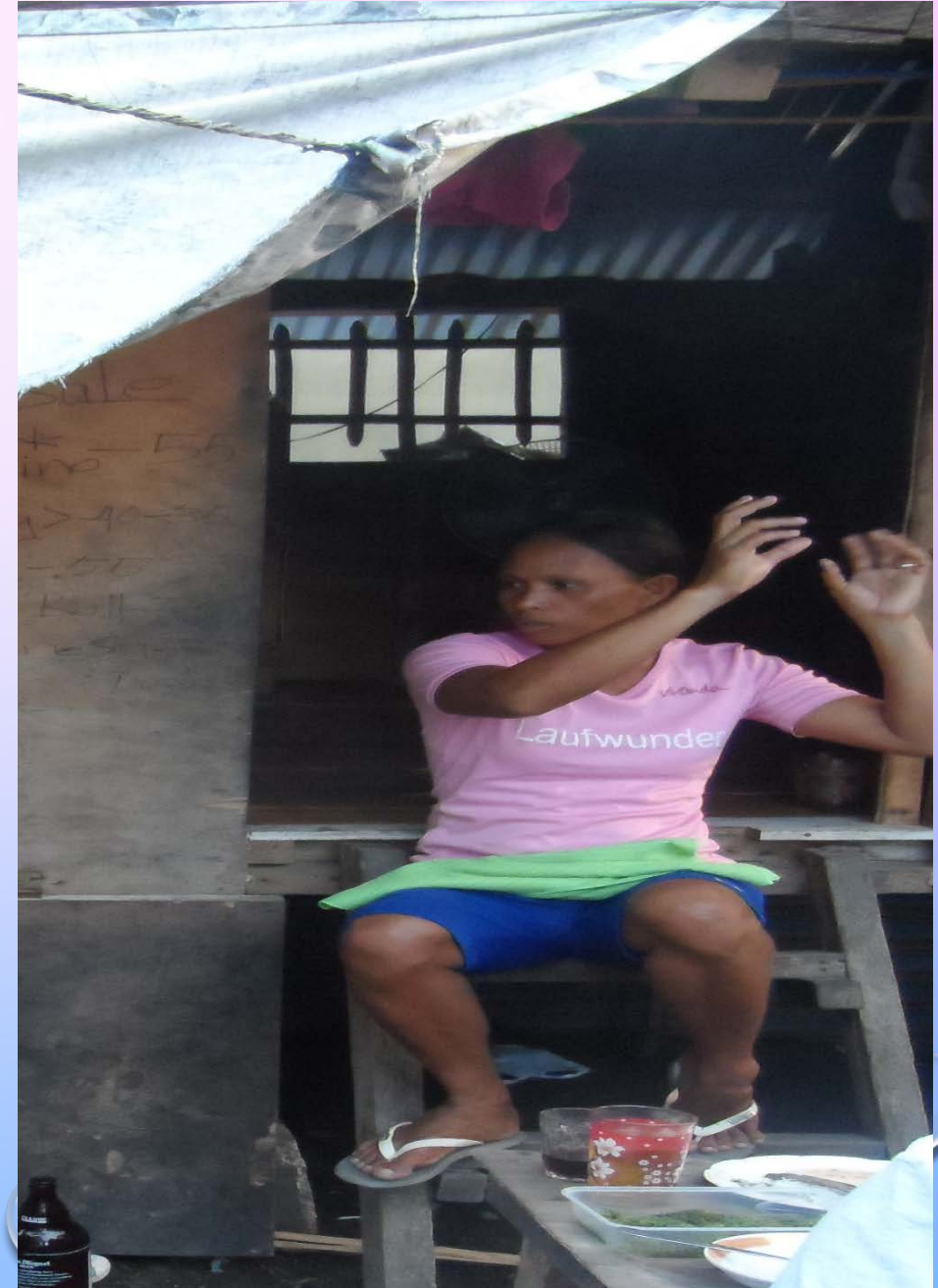
- No system and coordination in the distribution of relief goods
 - ✓ Inavailability of records for beneficiaries
 - ✓ Alleged politicization in prioritizing distribution of goods
 - ✓ Allegation that those in-charge in the distribution were hiding the imported (donated) food items and changing it with locally produced sardines, noodles and corned beef
 - ✓ Too slow for government to distribute food relief, to the extent that a number needed to be buried because of its expiry

HEIGHTENING CONCERNS AND NEEDS OF WOMEN FISHERS

- Lack and/or inadequate information
- Medical services were lacking
 - ✓ There were no hospital admissions
 - ✓ All the 5 biggest hospitals in Tacloban were heavily damaged
 - ✓ Health facilities were destroyed
 - ✓ Pharmacies were either destroyed or looted
 - ✓ Trauma among the survivors

“We were NOT prepared...”

“We did not understand what storm surge means. If they only told us that the waves will be as high as the coconut tree, then we would have been better prepared, and have acted more appropriately.”







THE RESPONDERS

Day 3 onwards: Food relief packs from national government agencies, local NGOs/POs, private persons

Week 1 onwards: Donations (cash, goods and services) from all over the world started coming



Day 2: The C130 transported people, goods and services



Month 1 onwards: shelter/tents and roofing materials; cash for work; livelihood start-ups (such as pedicabs, variety store, vegetable production)









VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT
NO AFFILIATION REQUIRED
PLEASE GO TO RED CROSS BOOTH
NEAR THE TOWN PLAZA



MADE OF PROJECT: CONSTRUCTION OF TEMPORARY SHELTER
FOR SYRILIAN HUMANITARIAN
IMPROVED OFFICE BUILDING OFFICE - 2
SALVAGE OF RUB DEBRIS



WOMEN FISHERS' ROLES

- The Barangay Health Worker (BHW) who monitored daily the incidence of illnesses in her catchment area
- The Barangay Chair who immediately made a headcount of her constituents, and made the lists available to donors
- The nursing mother who fed another mother's baby at the evacuation center
- The mother-substitute who took into her folds two kids who were orphaned by Yolanda

WOMEN FISHERS' ROLES

- The prayer leader who recited prayers for the dead, and who obliged to lead in community prayers
- The church volunteer who gathered the survivors to “listening sessions” to those who were experiencing trauma
- The grandmother who had a water pump --- taught those who fetched water how to use the water treatment tablet
- The newly-widowed mom who was left with four small kids to feed and take care of --- she looted food in the market

TODAY . . . THE WOMEN FISHERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE BOUNCING BACK



CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

Is the capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function at an acceptable level.

Is the ability to survive and recover from the effects of climate change

Rockefeller Foundation (2007):

CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

Is the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner.

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Is the capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and reorganize while undergoing change

The Resilience Alliance

WHAT DO WOMEN FISHERS SAY?

Despite being unprepared for such a big disaster, the women fishers **survived** because

- They looted for food before food relief from external sources arrived
- They air-dried wet/seawater-soaked rice before cooking
- They dug on the shorelines, and they found kitchen utensils, dinnerware, pails and furniture (to help start their new home)
- They gathered any debris that they could use to build a shelter

WHAT DO WOMEN FISHERS SAY?

Despite being unprepared for such a big disaster, the women fishers **survived** because

- They agreed to have a resource pooling mechanism at the evacuation center and at the neighborhoods so that food will last
- As many members of the family lined up in the streets for water and food as early as 4:00 or 5:00 in the morning
- They walked in the dark streets looking for missing family members on a buddy-buddy system for safety as it was real dark and roads were unrecognizable (security officers were victims/survivors, too)

WHAT DO WOMEN FISHERS SAY?

- They **recovered** from the losses because
 - ✓ Of the cash-for-work program
 - ✓ Of the outright cash (dole-out) given by the various iNGOs, foreign governments, and national NGOs/POs/private groups
 - ✓ Of the livelihood assistance (cash and kind)
 - ✓ Of chainsaws that became available soon to clear the lands
 - ✓ Of the distribution of boats, engine and fishing paraphernalia plus cash for gasoline/fuel

WHAT DO WOMEN FISHERS SAY?

- They **recovered** from the losses because
 - ✓ Of volunteerism among people (strangers and friends alike)
 - ✓ Of the medical missions and psychological first aid sessions
 - ✓ Of prayers and faith in God
 - ✓ Of the presence of numerous local NGOs, POs, CSOs, iNGOs who came to help: electricity, clearing and cleaning, shelter, medical/health

WHAT DO WOMEN FISHERS SAY?

- They **recovered** from the losses because
 - ✓ Of relatives in non-Yolanda affected areas who
 - Provided shelter, board and lodging
 - Gave cash and non-cash donations
 - ✓ Of generous business establishments in non-Yolanda affected areas which either turned over their food stocks to government for distribution to survivors, or opened their businesses without increasing prices of goods

WHAT DO WOMEN FISHERS SAY?

They **recovered** from the losses because

- ✓ Government's/MFIs' moratorium on payment of existing loans
- ✓ Government/MFIs opened special loan windows/packages for survivors
- ✓ Health needs were addressed immediately

WHAT DO WOMEN FISHERS SAY?

They could have suffered **minimum losses/damages and bounced back immediately** had:

- ✓ They understood scientific terms and weather forecasts
- ✓ They had savings
- ✓ They had life and property insurance
- ✓ They have diversified sources of income including non-sea based
- ✓ Their leaders in local government had linkages and connections with the private business sector and social enterprises in non-Yolanda affected areas

WHAT DO WOMEN FISHERS SAY?

They could have suffered **minimum losses/damages and bounced back immediately** had:

- ✓ The Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction Management Plan was functional/operational
- ✓ The local leaders were quick in producing post-disaster needs assessment and the corresponding rehabilitation project proposals for funding
- ✓ Landowners allowed fisher-farmer tenants to clear the land from fallen coconuts/trees and other debris

WHAT DO WOMEN FISHERS SAY?

They could have suffered **minimum losses/damages and bounced back immediately** had :

- ✓ They planned what to bring to the evacuation center
- ✓ The evacuation centers were more equipped to cater to the health needs of the evacuees
- ✓ There was coordination in the distribution of relief goods
- ✓ There was sharing of information among responders particularly on the results of post-disaster needs assessments (PDNAs)
- ✓ There was no politicization in the priority list of beneficiaries

ELEMENTS FOR A DISASTER RESILIENCE AGENDA FOR WOMEN FISHERS

Knowledge management

- ✓ Accurate, timely and localized weather information and technical/scientific weather reports
- ✓ Data collection and inventory of fishing village assets which can be used during the relief and recovery phase
- ✓ Indigenous and local knowledge on disasters need to be integrated in barangay (village) DRR
- ✓ Advocating preparations of family-based disaster kits
- ✓ Safekeeping of databases

ELEMENTS FOR A DISASTER RESILIENCE AGENDA FOR WOMEN FISHERS

Organizing women fishers into

- ✓ Voluntary organizations equipped with skills training on rescue operations
- ✓ Evacuation center management teams
- ✓ Health and hygiene teams
- ✓ Storytellers to children
- ✓ Psychological first aiders
- ✓ Information/news bearers in times of disaster

ELEMENTS FOR A DISASTER RESILIENCE AGENDA FOR WOMEN FISHERS

Establishing localized post-disaster systems

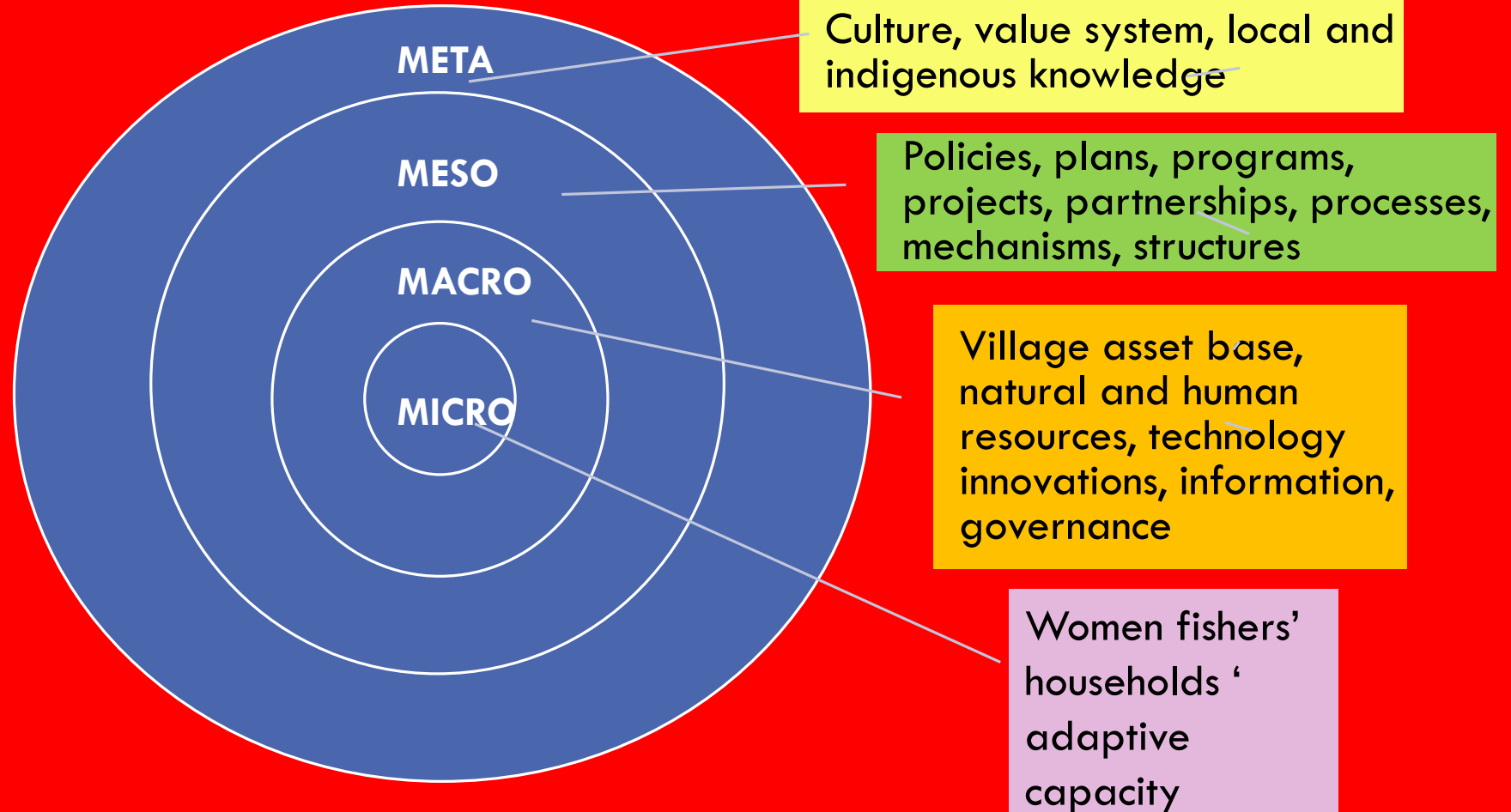
- ✓ Communication flows, coordination and networking
- ✓ Security, peace and safety
- ✓ Food and water distribution
- ✓ Medical assistance; ambulatory health care system
- ✓ Livelihood support
- ✓ “Bill-me-later” arrangements with local business survivors
- ✓ Food and medicine storage facilities

DISASTER

Coordinated, Localized, Organized, Planned Disaster Resilience Interventions

EXTERNAL HELP: National and international

Search/
identification/
burying the
dead; clearing,
cleaning;
carpentry; food
and water;
medical and
hygiene; shelter;
cash; cash-for-
work; livelihood



NO PARKING

SALAMAT, PILIPINAS!!!
THANK YOU, WORLD!
TINDOG TAGLOBAN #TINDOG SINIRANGAN
BISAYAS!!!
from: BARANGAY 24

Handwritten notice on a piece of paper pinned to the wall.

