GENDER-DIFFERENTIATED ADAPTATION AND COPING MECHANISMS TO EXTREME CLIMATE EVENT: A CASE STUDY ON THE COASTAL HOUSEHOLDS IN DUMANGAS, ILOILO, PHILIPPINES

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Typhoon Frank was considered as one of the strongest and most destructive typhoons that struck the municipality of Dumangas and the Island of Panay, Philippines. Records from the Dumangas Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) showed that 81% of the coastal households in Barangay Bantud Fabrica and 59% in Barangay Cayos in Dumangas were heavily affected by the flood brought about by Typhoon Frank. This study was conducted to identify and analyze gender-differentiated adaptation measures and coping mechanisms formulated and implemented by these households to mitigate the impacts of flooding. Sixty respondents per barangay were selected using fixed proportion sampling. Key Informant Interviews, Focus Group Discussions and secondary sources were also used to supplement information obtained from the household surveys.

Fifty-four percent of the respondents were women; majority was married. Seventy-nine percent belongs to the 21-60 years age group. Average number of members per household is 5. Primary sources of income include farming, fishing and casual labor employment (labor).

Seventy-eight percent of the sampled households identified adaptation strategies to mitigate impacts of disasters and results show that a high percentage of women cited strengthening of dwelling units, transfer of household members to evacuation area, tree planting and securing of household belongings. Men respondents, on the other hand, cited relocation to safer place permanently, resorting to other income sources, and “being alert always” as their adaptation strategies. As to coping mechanisms, both women and men respondents cited getting a loan as their primary means to mitigate the impacts of disasters. It was noted that the women respondents were more likely to seek financial assistance from money lenders compared to their men counterpart. Coping through hard work, asking assistance from relatives and livelihood diversification were also cited by the respondents.