

# #InfoIsAid: Citizen Journalism Training for Typhoon-Affected Communities

Ms Karen LAPITAN, the Philippines

## Background

On November 8, 2013, Typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda) brought massive destruction in the Philippines in a matter of hours. At least 6,000 people died while millions were affected.

One year on, much still needs to be done.

Access to information remains one of the most pressing challenges.

## Background

- Similar trainings were done in three municipalities in the province of Leyte, Philippines in May 2014. The typhoon survivors expressed interest to undergo the training for them to take part in upholding accountability.
- The proponent is currently a development writer working in Haiyan-affected communities.

## Objectives

Generally, the action plan aims to train residents affected by Typhoon Haiyan on community journalism.

Specifically, the project will

- train 30 residents affected by the super typhoon and equip them as trainers of the succeeding sessions
- involve members of the local media in helping the residents in using the basic tools of citizen journalism
- encourage typhoon-hit residents to uphold accountability as they report progress of recovery in their areas (positive and negative)

## Project Details

The project will equip residents of typhoon-hit areas with basic knowledge on citizen journalism, which they can use in monitoring the on-going rehabilitation efforts in their respective areas. This can help in upholding accountability in humanitarian response while increasing the interest of the media in covering the recovery phase.

Cultural sensitivity will be upheld during the training.

Participants will be asked to sign up through their village leader.



# Project Area Map

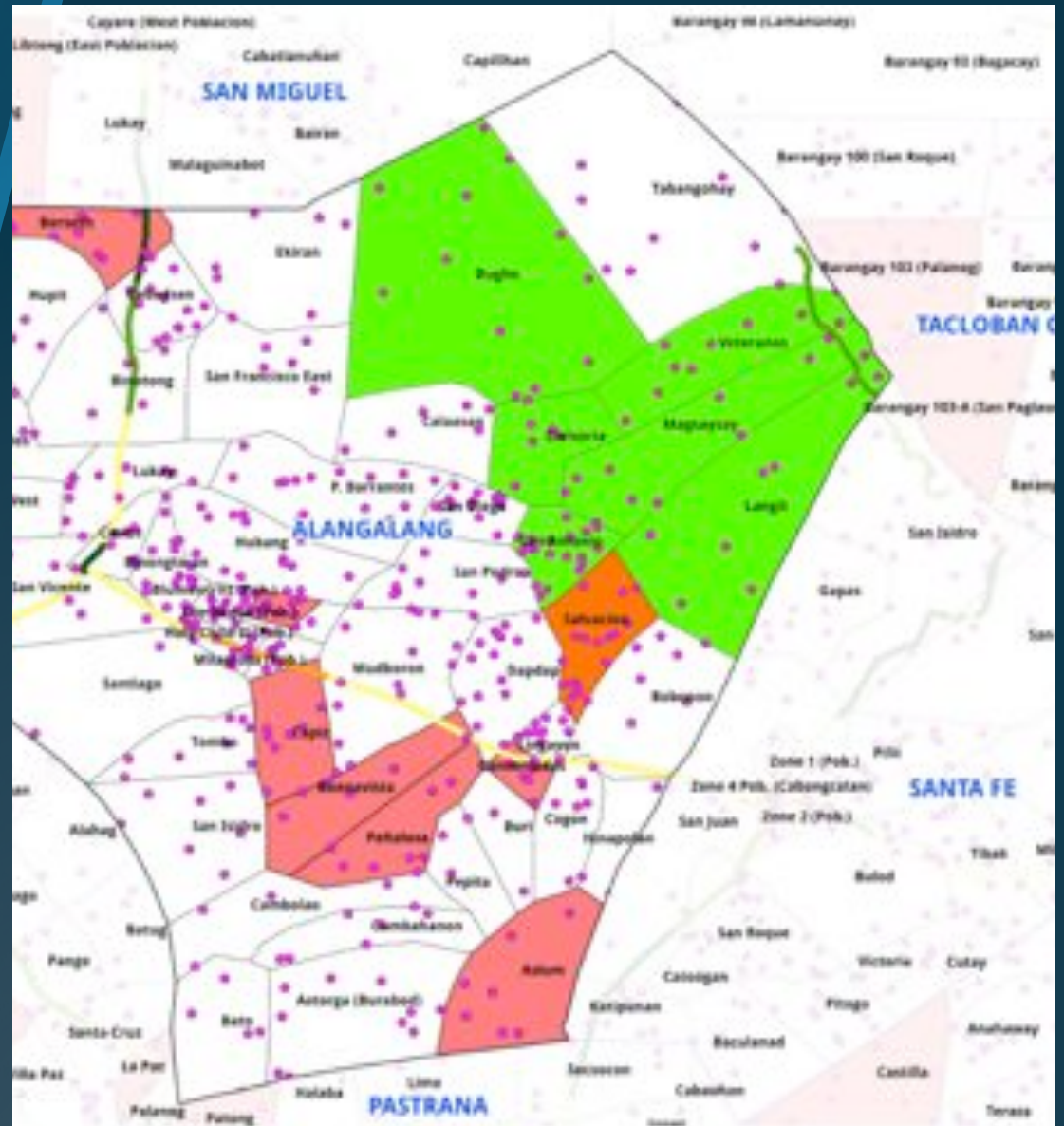


Target area is in central Philippines



Central Philippines is one of the areas hardly hit by Super Typhoon Haiyan.

# Project Area Map



Source: National Statistics Office

## Stakeholders involved in the project

- Community-based journalists
- Local government units
- Community leaders/People's organizations



# Potential Challenges

- Lack of additional funding for succeeding sessions
- Sustainability

# Strengths



- Low-cost
- Existing good working relationship with community leaders and local government units
- Wide network of community-based journalists

# Opportunities

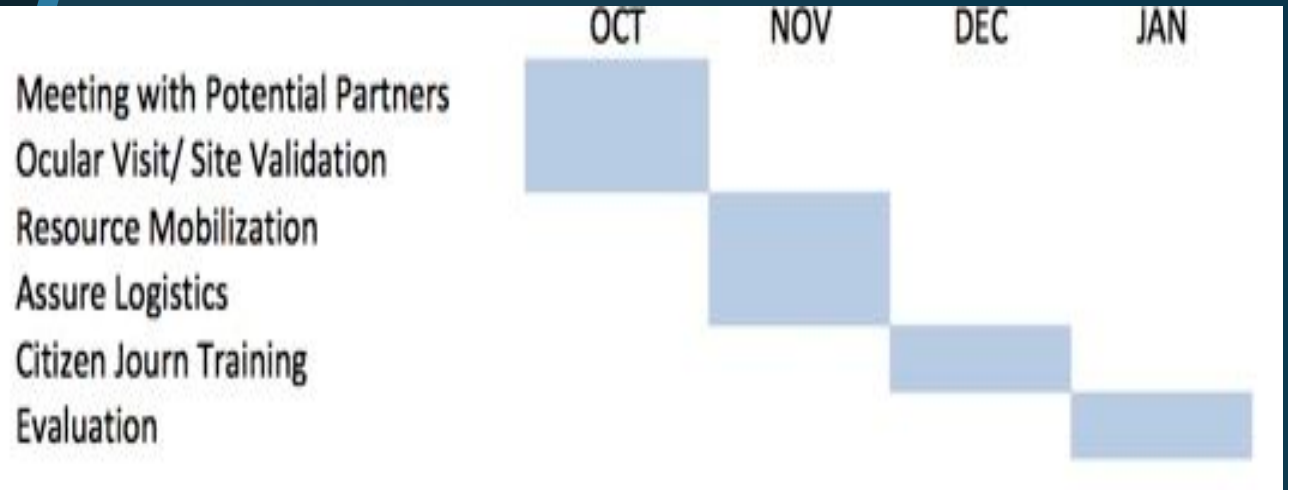
- Possible future collaborative projects with communities/people's organizations
- Increased media mileage to sustain Haiyan-related issues

# Budget

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount (USD)</b>
<b>Workshop Materials</b>	
- Metacards	50
- Markers	25
- Pens	10
<b>Food</b>	150
<b>Transpo (for facilitators only)</b>	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	260



# Timeline of the Project (2014 – 2015)



# Indicators



- Number of residents trained
- Collective media values attained after the training (number of “reports” that landed on media channels)

## Sources of Funding

- Plan A: Counter-part from partners (this is usual in the chosen communities)
- Plan B: Provincial Government
- Plan C: Training Grants

## Concluding Remarks

- Improving the flow of information in disaster-stricken areas help in identifying the gaps in the response and filling in such.
- Making the community involved would make them feel empowered to get back on their feet.



## Contact details

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