Background of the Study

Albay province, located in the Bicol Region in the southern part of Luzon (one of the three island groups in the Philippines), is one of the most typhoon-prone provinces in the Philippines. The area is located on the typhoon belt and experiences an average of two major destructive typhoons per year. In November 2006, Albay was one of the areas hardest-hit by Typhoon Reming (International name: Durian). The typhoon brought 466 millimeters of rainfall, the highest in 40 years. A number of communities in Albay were immediately buried under tons of rocks and mud that rushed down from Mayon Volcano’s slopes during the typhoon.

The MICRODIS survey was conducted in the municipality of Polangui and the city of Legazpi in Albay. Eight villages were identified from the sampling. There were 400 household interviews (50 for each barangay) conducted for the quantitative component; and 4 focus group discussions and 12 in-depth interviews for the qualitative part.

Summary Statistics

Social Impacts

- A very large majority of the respondents (93.5 and 95 percent in most affected and least affected areas) shared the apprehension that their lives were in danger during disaster.
- Majority (61 to 59.5 percent) evacuated during disaster. They left their homes and sought shelter elsewhere.
- The disaster event was “extremely” traumatic for the respondents based on the trauma intensity scale of 4.6 to 4.7 for least and most affected areas (1 denotes “not at all” which translate that the experience did not in any way generate any emotional trauma and 5 denotes the “extreme” impact of the event.)
- Respondents indicated low ability in dealing with the situation.

Economic Impacts

- Except for two households in Albay, all incurred damages to their properties and sources of livelihood.
- Nine out of every ten respondents reported damage to their houses.
- Aside from their dwelling units, one-half of those in affected areas suffered loss of livestock and personal belongings and loss of employment. On the other hand, in the least affected areas in Albay, the three top items in which substantial percentage of households declared losses are personal belongings, employment and farm or shop.
- Two out of every ten believe that their economic position is worse than before while six out of every ten claimed it got much worse.
Health Impacts

- One out of every four believed that access to health services as compromised after disaster.
- The difficulty to access health services was exacerbated by the destruction of health centers in Albay especially in most affected areas. Other reasons given for poor access to health services include lack of doctors and nurses and unavailable transportation.
- Other major reason for inaccessibility of health services was due to lack of medicine. Damage to road may inhibit access of people; visits to health centers may not be possible because of impassable roads. Moreover, obtaining the needed medicine may have been delayed, thus compromising the health of those who need to be attended to.
- Four types of infectious diseases were identified by the respondent: diarrhea, acute respiratory infections, skin infections, and fever/colds.

Source: