According to the World Risk Index 2018, the Philippines is among the most vulnerable countries to the impact of natural disasters and climate change worldwide. Every year around 30 typhoons affect the country, with the poor population living in remote areas suffering the consequences.

The number and intensity of typhoons in the country continue to heighten, together with the frequency of flooding and increase of sea level attributed to climate change. This puts livelihoods of 14 million people depending on agriculture and fisheries at risk every year.

The project, “Philippines – Increasing the Resilience to Natural Hazards” or “INCREASE” aims to increase the resilience of 45,000 women and men small-scale farmers and fishers, including 720 extreme poor female-headed households, to natural hazards and the effects of climate change. INCREASE will run from 2019 to 2021 in different parts of the Philippines.

INCREASE will be working with 36 barangays across 8 municipalities in the provinces of Mt. Province, Cagayan, Northern Samar, and Surigao del Sur.

These barangays are among the most vulnerable communities who are the first to be impacted by strong rain and typhoons along the east coast of the Philippines. These communities share the same landscape – upland, riverine, coastal – building on the landscape approach of the project.

**Project Components and Activities**

From 2019 to 2021, the project aims to to strengthen the disaster preparedness and risk reduction capacities of vulnerable barangays and municipalities by improving capacities of communities, and vulnerable groups through:

- **Early Warning Systems**
  - Hazard and risk assessments, contingency planning, community drills

- **Alternative Livelihood**
  - Household production planning, market scanning, farmer field schools

- **Climate and Disaster Governance**
  - LGU and agency partnerships, trainings for local leaders, learning exchanges
Cross Cutting Themes

Integrated Risk Management

The project will provide opportunity for implementing and further developing an integrated risk management approach, combining emergency response with disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation (CCA) and eco system management and restoration (EMR). Through this integrative approach, communities will be able to develop resilience plans that is rooted in actual and forecasted needs, as well as create sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Gender Equality

Equal opportunities for women and girls are the key to sustainable development and central for all CARE projects. CARE’s Gender Equality Framework is based on the experience that empowering women requires changes in their agency (self-confidence, knowledge), relations (family, social network and decision makers and the surrounding structure (social norms and cultural belief preventing women from access to education and finance). To address these underlying causes of poverty the action will strengthen equal social, economic and political opportunities women and girls.

Implementing organizations

The project is spearheaded by CARE Philippines, together with partners Assistance and Cooperation for Community Resilience and Development, Inc (ACCORD); Cordillera Disaster Response and Development Services (CorDis RDS); Leyte Center for Development, Inc. (LCDE), and; Agri-Aqua Development Coalition Mindanao (AADC Mindanao).

INCREASE builds on CARE, AADC Mindanao, ACCORD, CorDis RDS, and LCDEs extensive experiences in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation work with high-risk and vulnerable communities; working with and partnerships with local government units (LGUs), civil society organizations, and; advocacy with relevant subnational and national government agencies.

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