

# PHASter REPORT

Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation in Emergency Response  
Barangay Mangsee, Balabac, Palawan / September 07-16, 2018



## Background

At 5:00 PM on December 20, 2017, the Low Pressure (LPA) East of Hinatuan, Surigao Del Sur has developed into a Tropical Depression (TD) and was named "VINTA".<sup>1</sup>

TD "VINTA" has maximum sustained winds of 45 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 60 kph. Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal (TCWS) No.01 was raised over Surigao del Sur and Northern Oriental.<sup>1</sup>

On December 21, 2017 at 5:00 AM, "VINTA" intensified into a Tropical Storm (TS) as it continues to track westward. At 11:00 PM, "VINTA" has intensified into a Severe Tropical Storm (STS) with maximum sustained winds of 90 kph and gustiness of up to 125 kph moving West at 20 kph.<sup>1</sup>

At 10:00 AM on December 22, 2017, "VINTA" has weakened into a Tropical Storm after crossing Davao Region. And at 5:00 PM, TS "VINTA" further weakened into a Tropical Depression (TD) and is in the vicinity of Zamboanga del Sur area.<sup>1</sup>

December 23, 2017 at 1:00 AM, TD "VINTA" has re-intensified into a tropical storm and was over Sulu Sea. At 5:00 PM, "VINTA" has intensified into a Severe Tropical Storm and is threatening Southern Palawan and at 10:00 PM it made landfall in Balabac, Palawan.<sup>1</sup>

On December 24, 2017 at 5:00 AM, "VINTA" has intensified into a Typhoon as it approaches the western boundary of PAR.<sup>1</sup>

The typhoon left the Province of Palawan in a State of Calamity; in Barangay Mangsee in Palawan's southern tip the typhoon has left a number of people dead and missing and damage to properties and infrastructure.



## Objectives

The objective of the implementation is to:

- Conduct a baseline assessment in order to have a better understanding on the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of the community when it comes to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.

<sup>1</sup> DOST-PAGASA Severe Weather Bulletin

- Educate the local community and the IDP's of Brgy.Mangsee, Balabac, Palawan on the importance of personal hygiene such as proper hand washing, personal cleanliness, different ways of treating water for drinking, and importance of toilet use.
- Facilitate through the participatory method the local community and IDP's to plan for solutions on the current Water, Sanitation and Hygiene issues and develop a plan for new facilities and behavior change.

## Methodology

The Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation approach used in Brgy.Mangsee, Balabac, Palawan fostered behavior change, as opposed to just simply increasing the community member's knowledge. It is based on the understanding on how the community thinks and behaves, their available resources, constraints and limitation and the reasons why they might resist change.

The methodology was a five-step process which requires broad community participation. The first part of the is focus solely on identifying the problems in the community; the second is Problem Analysis; the third is Planning for Solution; the fourth is Selecting Options and the fifth part is Planning for new facilities and behavior change. These process is done through brainstorming, small group discussion, demonstration, question box, storytelling and reflective learning.

In conducting the activity an additional set of tools was developed in order to adopt on what can be seen in the community setting.



## Campaign

### PHASTer Session

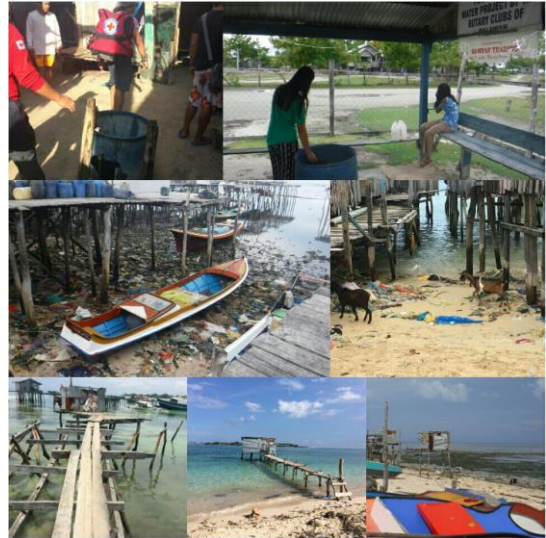
- Problem Identification
  - Community Stories

The community members were given a set of flash cards wherein they are encourage to transpire a story on what usually happens in a household in their community. During the activity they came up with a story where a so called household's daily routine from the time they wake up in the morning to the time they sleep.

As the participants are all women, in the morning they prepare for their children to go to school, prepare food for their husband before they leave to the open see to fish, then clean the house and wash the dirty clothes and just before lunch time right after their husbands came back bringing

the catch of the day they will cook their lunch. And as the majority members of the community are practicing Muslims they have a scheduled time every day for worship.

In the afternoon they will have time for siesta or rest after the morning work is done. After the siesta both men and women even the older children have a task to fetch water for domestic and drinking use. For their domestic use they will fetch on a water point just meters away from their dwelling while their water for drinking they collect it either on a well in the Mosque or Masjid, a well in the open space near the barangay health center or barangay hall or on the other Island which is 3 minutes away from the main Island via boat and when there's a bad weather some of the household will utilize rain water for drinking.



In the afternoon as the children came home from school the parents sometimes asked them to dispose of the waste gathered throughout the day. They usually dispose of their household waste in the ocean or in the sea. And whenever a family member will use a toilet facility they will use the overhung latrine situated randomly around the seashore. If they don't have access to the latrine they practice open defecation using cat method in the sea shore and they will just bring water to clean up for themselves.

At the end of the day some housewife will prepare their husband's things before they leave for the open sea to fish and prepare food for dinner and after dinner most of the children to go to sleep.

#### ○ Health Problems in our community

During the activity the community identifies four (4) key individuals or institutions as to where they usually asked for help whenever they have problems or concerns. Those are the Barangay Captain which represents the whole barangay council, the Barangay Health Center, the Barangay Health Worker, the Philippine Marines and the Dr.Majul.

In the activity the community indicates that they will approach the Barangay Captain when they have trouble in peace and order in the community, some of the community members are afraid or have second thoughts in approaching the barangay captain because they don't know him personally.

When a community member needs to monitor his or her blood pressure they would asked the Barangay Health Worker or whenever they need a refill on their maintenance medication; then they will refer the community member to the Barangay Health Center. And when a family member is ill they will go directly to the Barangay Health Center to be treated and when there is a real emergency in life and death situation the Barangay Health Center will call for a Rescue and send a Helicopter from Brox Point. The community prefers to ask assistance to the Health Center because if medicines are available it is free or they will just make a small donation.

In the weekend especially when the Health Center is close the community members will approach Dr.Majul an unlicensed doctor that can provide health care services and prescribe medicines. They will also approach the detachment of the Philippine Marines in case a fisherman is being wounded or if any member of a household needs help because the detachment has supplies and a core man a doctor that can treat patients.

- Problem Analysis
  - Mapping Water and Sanitation in our community

In the activity during the said session the participants were grouped into three and was asked to draw their community and to highlight their roads, main infrastructure, livelihood, place of worship, dwelling, school, latrines, garbage disposal site and their water points.

During the activity they only draw those important legends like a house's, school, a place of worship, cementery, and the sea where their husbands are fishing, their overhung latrine, and their water source. Though the drawings are not as details as it was intended the presenter presented the output with much information as possible.

During the presentation of their output they indicated that their houses are situated close with one another and that in a house one or more families are living together. From their houses only a few meters away is their water source for domestic use; while their water source for drinking it is located more than 100 meters away to some of the household because they will gather water for drinking on a well in the Mosque or Masjid wherein just a few meters away are their cementery. They also indicate that when they think that the water from the Masjid is not safe they have a well in their people's park near the Barangay Health Center and Barangay Hall where they can collect water but it can only cater a few household because it is far away from other sitio's and others will fetch water from the other Island which is a 3 minute boat ride from South Mangsee and the community members would usually pay 5 pesos per gallon when they will gather their drinking water in North Mangsee. And if the weather bad and heavy rain is experience some of the household will collect rain water. During the session they verbalized that they don't usually treat their water for drinking because they know that it is safe and if they have doubt then they will boil the water but for them it was expensive to boil water because they have to buy gas for their gas stove and it is also expensive to buy chopped woods.

During the community map activity in Purok 1; the water tank which was a project of Hon.Frederick Abueg came up. But once the project was turned over to the barangay it was not sustained because of budgetary constraints. Because the Water Tank is automatic pump operated it cost the barangay much when it comes to the fuel consumption thus the barangay can't sustain the expenses.

In the presentation the participants indicate that they don't have a site for garbage disposal. They have a whole located in the school but they are discouraged to throw their waste there. And in order to protect their ground water they prefer to throw their garbage in the ocean or on the sea shore.

They also presented their overhung latrine in which the human waste will drop directly to the sea. It is also in the ocean their source of food and livelihood. The community verbalized that they know that what they throw or drop in the ocean will still come back to them.

- Good and Bad Hygiene

In the activity the participants were asked to pick a flash card and one by one will present it to the whole group and decide whether it is Good, Bad or if they have doubts they can place it In Between.

During the session the community members have segregated all the good and the bad in the flash cards being presented except for one which was throwing of their garbage in the ocean. Some of the community members indicate that it is bad because it will harm the environment and causes environmental pollution especially in the ocean where they have their source of food and livelihood and the other group said that it is good because they don't have other means of where to dispose of their garbage and if they bury their garbage it will contaminate their ground water. As the group was split into two they have decided in unison that throwing garbage in the ocean is bad.

- Investigating Community Practices

In the activity a pocket chart was introduce to the participants. They were given tokens in which they have use in voting. In the session they were asked to pick a 3 or 4 flash cards a bad and good practice. They choose the mother who's teaching her son handwashing, the handwashing with soap, the open defecation, urinating in public and the throwing of garbage into the sea.

In tallying the output of the activity it was concluded that some of the mothers have practiced open defecation in which they have passed on to their children; the husbands and sons practiced public urination. And as the mothers are the ones left at home to take care of the children they have greater influence on the practices of their children. They are also the one responsible in teaching the children to do handwashing.

- How Diseases Spread

In the activity the participants are grouped into three wherein they were given a set of flash cards and were instructed to create a diagram as to how they think a disease like diarrhea and dengue spread.

The groups have difficulties in formulating a diagram but they were guided step by step. They presented that disease came from flies as flies that drop into the feces and went into their food and that's why they think they got sick. In a separate session some of the participants think that flies also carry dengue as it spread from people to people. And they also indicate that they got sick because of the dirty air they breathe.

- Planning for Solutions

- Blocking the Spread of Disease

From the output of the group on the previous step; the group will again formulate the diagram that was presented. From the diagram they have agreed a set of drawings in order to block and stop the disease from happening.

During the activity the participants selected latrines to stop the occurrence of open defecation and the field will be free from faeces; and treating the water from like boiling to assure that the water is safe for drinking; practicing handwashing and cutting of nails; and covering of foods to protect it from flies to avoid contamination. They also indicate a disposal site for their garbage to control the increasing occurrence of flies.

- Selecting the Barriers

In this activity the community indicated that having a latrine will be very effective but hard to do in preventing the spread of disease because of financial constraints and the materials for the construction is hard to purchase and when they want to construct a latrine with septic tank these might contaminate their water source. And also they indicated that handwashing is very effective and is easy to do because it is inexpensive and effective but they also said that there are times that they sometimes forgot. And treating the water like boiling for them is very effective but hard to do because purchasing wood is expensive. And also the covering of foods to protect it from flies is effective for them and is easy to do.

- Tasks of Men and Women in the Community

In this activity the group is divided into three. The first group was asked to draw the task that only women in the community are doing; the second group were tasked to draw what the men are doing and the third group were asked to draw the task of both men and women, the task that both of the gender can do.

During the session the 1<sup>st</sup> group presented that the women mostly are tasked to do household chores and take care of the children; and the 2<sup>nd</sup> group presented that the men the one fishing and the hard labor; and the 3<sup>rd</sup> group shows that both men and women can share all household chores. A discussion was done that the women can't do the men's work because they have to focus on the taking care of the children and doing household chores and the men are responsible in providing food and doing hard work.

- Selecting Options

- Choosing Sanitation Improvements

The participants were given a set of flash cards on sanitation option and water options where in the participants have formed a ladder as to what they consider to be worst to their current situation and as to what they want to have in the future.

They place in the ladder open defecation as the worst, next is the pit latrine, next on the ladder is the over hung latrine and what they want in the future was a personal latrine or a communal latrine. They indicated in while they presented their output that currently they are still on the bottom of the ladder because some of the community member still practice open defecation and cat method and others are on the middle of the ladder as they are currently using the overhung latrine. In the future they wanted a latrine that has a septic tank either communal or personal but the risk of contaminating the ground water still worries the community.

- Choosing Improved Hygiene Behaviors

In the activity the group goes back to the three pile sorting flash cards, and the group picked handwashing as to the healthy behavior that they want to encourage and open defecation and throwing of garbage in the sea as an unhealthy behavior that they want to discourage.

The community members would like to encourage handwashing with soap and water especially after defecating and even on handling garbage and other dirty thing and even if they have doubt that their hands are clean. And they would like to discourage open defecation because can cause diarrhea and also the throwing of garbage in the ocean because this can affect the food that they eat and their livelihood.

- Taking Time for Questions

In taking time for questions everyone is encourage to share a question that they want to ask their fellow community members. When the question box was pass on some important questions were raised with regards to their environmental sanitation.

The questions were answered by their fellow community members like “How can we not discipline ourselves?” The community responded that because they are hard headed and it takes time for them to adopt change. Next question was “Why is it hard to change?” The community members answered that it is hard to change because they are used to what they have been practicing in the community. Another question was “How can we resolve the problem with flies?” They responded that they should have a clean surrounding so that they cannot attract flies. And question was “How can we resolve the problem with our garbage?” They said that the barangay should have a garbage disposal site where in the members of the community can use in disposing of their garbage.

- Planning for New Facilities and Behavior Change

- Planning for Change

The planned as to what they needed in reaching their goal for the future like having a new facility. They planned that they need to work together in order to achieve the said goals. Like collecting the needed financial support, the needed materials, the man power, and the site as to where to construct the facility that cannot contaminate their ground water.

- Planning Who Does What

In this activity they have indicated as to who are responsible to do certain task. One of the group suggested that they should have a committee to monitor the said activity. The committee will elect a community member who will be responsible to collect the financial need in order for them to purchase the needed materials. The materials will be bought by a selected men and women and after purchasing an audit will be conducted to have transparency. And the construction from the excavation to the actual construction will be done by the men and the women will be there to provide snacks and food for the workers. The indicated that a bayanihan system should be done in order to save cost on labor. And the maintenance of the facility will be the responsibility of everyone in the community.



o Identifying What Might Go Wrong

The community has identified possible problems that they might encounter so that they might have a contingency plan in case something might go wrong. One of the possible problems that they have identified what that they might not have enough budget for the construction in order to address this issue they have to canvass all the needed materials so that they will have enough money to be collected. Next possible problem will be that the materials will get damage if stock in a longer period of time; the possible will be to purchase all the materials at once and construct once all the needed materials are on site. And the another possible problem might be that in time something might go wrong with the facility; in order to address this possible issue they have a contingency budget in case it is needed for maintenance and repair.



Target Reached

STEP	ACTIVITY	DATE	NUMBER OF FAMILIES REACHED
Problem Identification	Community Stories	September 9, 2018	281
		September 10, 2018	120
	Health Problems in our Community	September 9, 2018	281
		September 10, 2018	120
Problem Analysis	Mapping Water and Sanitation in our Community	September 10, 2018	321
		September 11, 2018	205
	Good and Bad Hygiene Behavior	September 12, 2018	635

	Investigating Community Practices	September 12, 2018	635
	How Diseases Spread	September 12, 2018	635
Planning for Solution	Blocking the Spread of Disease	September 13, 2018	757
	Selecting the Barriers	September 13, 2018	757
	Task of Men and Women in the Community	September 13, 2018	757
Selecting Options	Choosing Sanitation Improvements	September 15, 2018	785
	Choosing Improved Hygiene Behavior	September 15, 2018	785
	Taking Time for Questions	September 15, 2018	785
Planning for New Facilities and Behavior Change	Planning for Change	September 16, 2018	704
	Planning who does what	September 16, 2018	704
	Identifying what might go wrong	September 16, 2018	704
Distribution of 500 Hygiene Kits to 500 Families		September 17, 2018	500



## Facilitators

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The Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation in Emergency Response implementation was facilitated by two (2) volunteers one (1) is Ronette C. Bonifacio from Philippine Red Cross – Gingoog City Chapter and the other one (1) is Mark Andrew S. Sandoval from Philippine Red Cross – Palawan Chapter both were trained on WASH in Emergency Response in hardware and software component.

## Challenges and Action Taken

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- Not enough time for the implementation of the PHASter Activities.
  - *Integrate and modify activities in order to reach the time frame given.*
- The gap between each activity is not even close to ideal because it was scheduled in 7 consecutive days.
  - *Share the idea to the community as clear as possible for them to have realization on the current situation of the community when it comes to Water and Sanitation and impart an idea for a possible change in the future.*
- Increasing number of participants that attended the session. The facilitator has exceeded the maximum number of participants per session.
  - *Group the participants into smaller group so that it was easy to manage.*
- Not all participants understand tagalog.
  - *Ask the assistance of the RC143 Volunteers to help translate to the intended audience.*
- Most of the participants don't know how write or draw.
  - *Ask their co participants to assist those who cannot write on their own.*

## Recommendations

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### Barangay Local Government Unit

- Strict implementation of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 thus the barangay will adopt a systemic, comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program. Through this act the potential and benefits of recycling will not only address waste management problems but also it will alleviate poverty.
- Pass on a Barangay Ordinance in prohibiting the use of Plastic Bags and use another means of packaging or encourage the use of bayong or reusable bags.
- Support the Zero Open Defecation for 2022 of the Department of Health.

### Barangay Health Center

- Reinforce the knowledge of the Community Members when it come to transmission routes of Diarrhea Diseases and Vector Borne Disease.
- Conduct water testing on water points for drinking every 3 months.

### Philippine Red Cross

- Monitor and Evaluate the Water and Sanitation status of Brgy.Mangsee after 2 to 3 months.
- Share with the Barangay LGU a latrine design option that is applicable in area.
- Proposed a developmental project linked to Health, WASH and DRR.