



AUSTRALIAN AID INTERNATIONAL



Australian Aid International (AAI)

Healthcare Project in Response to the Typhoons in the Philippines



February, 2010
End of Month Report

Project Name: AAI Disaster Risk Reduction and Capacity Building Project

Location: Los Banos, Laguna District, Republic of the Philippines

Report prepared by: Australian Aid International, Philippines

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1.0 Operations

Australian Aid International (AAI) and partners have been conducting a relief recovery program entailing disaster risk reduction and capacity building projects in the Laguna district since January 2010.

AAI has been on the ground in the Philippines since the typhoons hit, and has been providing direct medical care as well as capacity building trainings to many affected communities. AAI has been involved in providing training to assist with long-term recovery and to improve community resilience against future disasters. While many areas are still feeling the effects of these recent disasters, the Philippines is transitioning out of the emergency phase and moving into the recovery and rehabilitation phase.

Since January, 2010, AAI has been operating in Los Banos and surrounding municipalities in the Laguna District. In recognition of the increasing need for health and disaster risk reduction education, AAI has been actively delivering ongoing disaster risk reduction programs in the area of Hygiene Promotion and Disaster Medicine.

AAI's comprehensive hygiene program in the Los Banos municipality concluded at the end of February. This involved pre assessments, training of Barangay (village) Health Workers (BHWs), Barangay Nutritional Scholars (BNSs) as well as day care workers, community follow up and post assessments. This training program is reviewed in section **2.0: Program Summary**. AAI has now moved its hygiene efforts into neighbouring municipalities; Victoria and Pila.

In the month of February, AAI successfully conducted two Disaster Medicine Training courses. Details pertaining to Disaster Medicine Training are reviewed in section **2.0: Program Summary**.

AAI's Program Objective

To improve the capacity of local health care workers and the greater community through the provision of training – particularly in the area of disaster response and hygiene promotion.



Hygiene training community follow up in Los Banos day care.

2.0 Program Summary

During the month of February 2010 AAI conducted the following activities: **Medical Distribution, Local Partner Assessments for Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Medicine Training Course and an ongoing Hygiene Promotion Training Program.**

AAI Medical Distribution

After thorough assessment of community needs and numerous conversations with local health officials and municipality officers, it was identified that health posts in the Barangays of Los Banos and surrounding municipalities were recovering from the effects of the typhoons. Many health centres were back up and operating and AAI considered that it was vital to encourage communities to make use of their existing services and personnel. As a result, AAI donated a large quantity of medications and supplies to medical facilities in Los Banos and surrounding municipalities.

AAI has been working in partnership with the Municipal Health Office of Los Banos in aim of reducing vulnerabilities to future disasters and to improve local capacities. AAI donated a range of medications including antibiotics, fungal ointments, analgesics and vitamin supplements. The donated medications will be used for local medical outreach services.

AAI also donated a range of medical supplies including weight scales, stethoscopes, otoscopes, surgical instruments and blood pressure cuffs to the Christian Reformed Church in the Philippines - Classis Southern Luzon as they were actively involved in medical outreach clinics after the typhoons and they will continue to be involved in disaster response in the future.

AAI has also assisted in the restocking of rural health units through similar donations. AAI was able to restock four Barangays located in Western Pakil. The western part of the municipality of Pakil was severely affected by the typhoons. The Barangays that received the medications are geographically isolated from the main Municipal Health office and therefore communities are very reliant on their Barangay health posts.



Medication donated to four Barangays in Western Pakil

While the provision of supplies allows these units to get on their feet, there still remains an ongoing need to work with local health officials. AAI is working to ensure that communities and health workers are equipped with the right set of tools to reduce vulnerabilities during a future disaster.

AAI Disaster Medicine Training

AAI conducted a one day Introduction to Disaster Medicine Training Course on 1 February, 2010 and a 2 day Disaster Medicine Training Conference on 4-5 February, 2010. The training course was developed and delivered by AAI staff and was based on AAI Introduction to Humanitarian Operations Course and the Medicine Sans Frontier (MSF) Refugee Health hand book.

1 February, 2010:

On 1 February, 2010 a total of 11 participants took part in the introduction training course. This one day training was delivered to health workers and individuals who were actively involved in the most recent typhoon disaster response. The one day training course functioned as a 'pilot' course for the 2 day conference that followed later in the week.

4-5 February, 2010:

On 4 and 5 of February, 27 participants from all over the Philippines arrived in Los Banos, Laguna for a comprehensive Disaster Medicine training conference developed and delivered by AAI. The training participants were all members of local NGOs that respond in the medical field following a disaster. Over 15 different local NGOs from the Philippines were represented at the conference. The interactive training course provided participants with information on key priorities when responding to a disaster. A variety of teaching methods and tools were used throughout the training conference and participants engaged in group discussion, lectures, small group work and presentations.

The Disaster Medicine Training Course covered the following priorities involved in disaster response: Introduction to Disaster Medicine, Initial Assessment, Measles, Food and Nutrition, Water and Sanitation, Shelter and Site Planning, Health Care (the System), Health Care (the Specifics), Control of Communicable Diseases, Public Health Surveillance and Conclusions.

The training aimed to equip the participants with the requisite knowledge and skills to be able to assess and respond to a future disaster in a methodical, well informed and efficient manner.

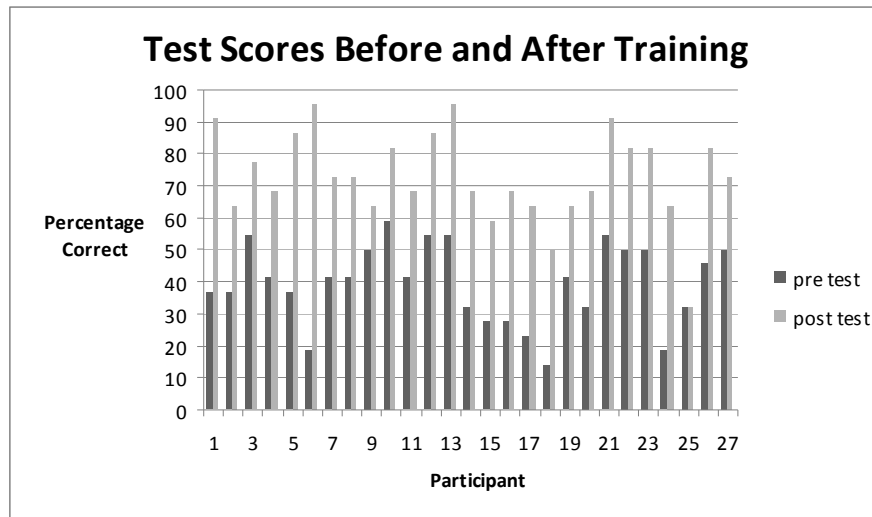


Disaster Medicine Training Participants Engage in Group Work and Presentations.

At the commencement and termination of the training conference, each participant completed a Knowledge, Attitude and (current) Practice questionnaire. The Knowledge and Attitude sections of the questionnaire were multiple-choice questions, and the participants had to choose the best answer from a short list of potential answers. The surveys were completed to determine if there were improvements in knowledge, attitude and practices after the training.

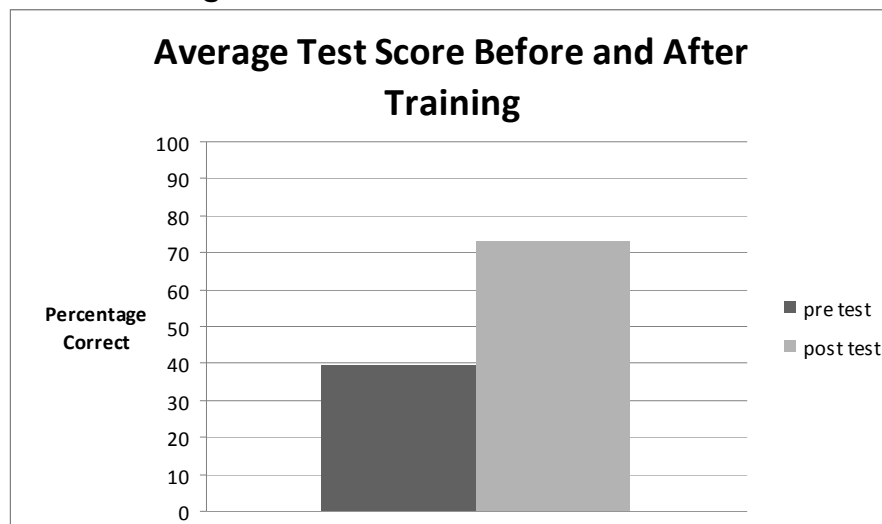
Knowledge Results:

Individual Participants:



The graph depicts each participant's level of knowledge. Every participant scored markedly better on the post assessment except one participant whose knowledge remained consistent.

Cumulative Average:



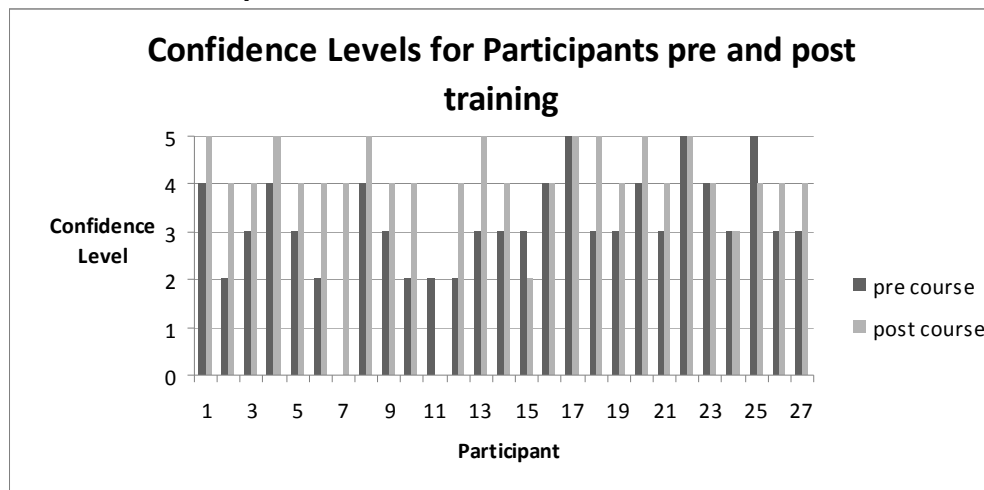
Overall, the pre assessment revealed a knowledge level of approximately 39% and the post assessment revealed a knowledge level of approximately 73%. Therefore, it can be concluded that there was a knowledge increase of approximately 34%.

Each participant also responded to a confidence section. Based on the Likert scale, each participant had to respond to how comfortable they were in regards to post

disaster management. Each response was scored on a Likert scale. The score of 1 was assigned to 'strongly disagree,' a score of 2 was assigned to 'disagree,' a score of 3 was assigned to 'neutral,' a score of 4 was assigned to 'agree' and a score of 5 was assigned to 'strongly agree'.

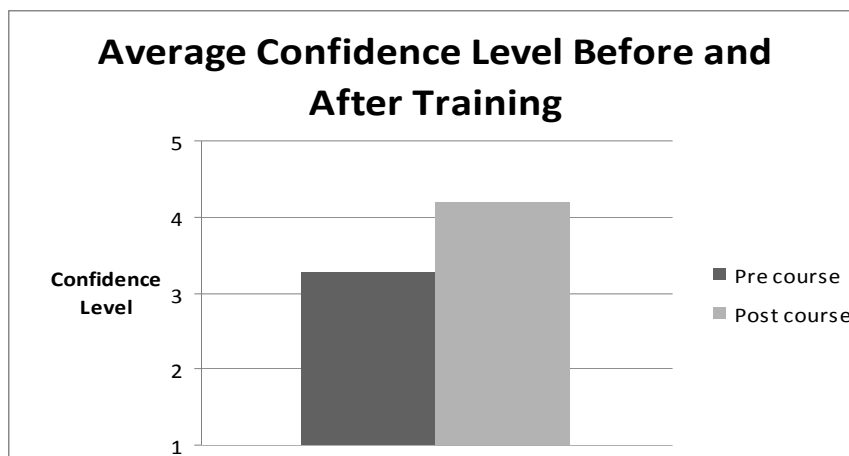
Confidence Results:

Individual Participants:



The post test results reveal that there was an increase in confidence in most participants. Some confidence levels stayed the same between the pre and post training.

Cumulative Average:



This graph depicts the average confidence level for all participants both pre and post course. The confidence levels went from 'neutral' to 'agree'. Therefore it can be concluded that there was an average increase in confidence and after the training conference participants 'agreed' that they were confident with their skills in post disaster management.

'Thank you very much for the invitation for this Course, I may personally say that its is really helpful for us especially in our organisation since we are just starting to develop a Disaster and Relief Preparedness Program'- *course participant of the Disaster Management Training Course*



Hygiene Promotion Training Program

During the month of February, AAI continued with its comprehensive hygiene training program. The ongoing hygiene training program that was implemented in Los Banos in January carried forward throughout the month of February. During February, the hygiene training program was also delivered in the Municipality of Victoria. The trainings were delivered to the Barangay Health Workers (BHW), Barangay Nutritional Scholars (BNS) and Day Care Workers.

Los Banos:

The municipality of Los Banos is divided into 14 Barangays and throughout February AAI continued to deliver its hygiene promotion training program. In the first week of February, AAI conducted community monitoring and follow ups in day care centres in all of the Barangays for the BHW and BNS hygiene training that was delivered on 26 January, 2010. The follow ups were done to ensure the hygiene messages were being transmitted to the children and that the BHWs and BNSs were using the various tools to assist in teaching Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) messages. At the day care follow ups, AAI staff functioned as a support and advisor and were available to respond to any questions or concerns.

On 16 February 2010, AAI delivered a hygiene training to day care workers from each Barangay. The training was held at the municipal health office in Los Banos. A total of 29 individuals attended the training; 14 were day care workers.

This training equipped the attendees with the necessary skills, knowledge and tools to promote safe (WASH) practices in their designated Barangay. The training provided the day care workers with practical tools to teach hygiene messages to children. Each day care worker was provided with a resource kit that included a variety of tools to teach hygiene promotion. Some of the tools included: paint, construction paper, napkins, buttons and spray bottles. The day care workers were also provided with a detailed teaching manual (in Tagalog) that

included numerous games, songs and activities for teaching children WASH messages. The resource packages also included educational hygiene posters and flyers kindly donated by UNICEF which were displayed in the day care centres and distributed to parents.

The training reviewed the relationship of hygiene and disease, safe hygiene practices including effective hand washing, safe disposal of excreta, safe drinking water, hygiene messages to consider in an emergency (the Sphere Guidelines) and tools for teaching children.

The attendees gained knowledge and confidence to transmit WASH messages in their day care centres. The training manual provided over 17 tools to teach hygiene messages. This training aimed to increase day care workers and other attendee's capacity when teaching WASH message to children.



Day care workers practice actions to a song about effective hand washing and training participants at the completion of the hygiene training with their certificates and resource kits.

As a part of the comprehensive program, pre and post assessments of randomly selected day care centres were completed. These post assessments were completed on 23-24 February, 2010. Seven of the 14 day care centres were visited and key information was ascertained from each location in regards to the WASH messages delivered during the hygiene promotion training. Improvements were found in a number of areas, including, the number of children who washed there hands after going to the toilet, the presence of soap at wash stations, the cleanliness of the wash areas and the number of posters with hygiene messages on the walls of day care centres.

As a case study example, Barangay Lalakay, Los Banos showed significant improvement after the training. All children washed their hands after leaving the toilet; those that could not independently were assisted by the day care worker. The day care worker had also used the hygiene song in the training manual with the children a number of times and was excited to implement more of the tools in weeks to come. The hygiene posters were also strategically placed near the wash station.



Lalakay day care worker assists child to wash hands thoroughly after hygiene promotion training.

All day care centres that were assessed showed a committed to using the tools and promoting a higher level of hygiene. This is an ongoing process and therefore positive changes in children's hygiene practices will continue to occur in the future.

Victoria:

A very similar hygiene project to the Los Banos hygiene project is being delivered in the municipality of Victoria. The municipality of Victoria is made up of 9 Barangays.

Five day care centres were randomly selected for the pre assessment which occurred on 15 & 17 February, 2010. The pre assessment results will be used against the post assessment results to determine the effectiveness of the training.

On 25 February, 2010, a hygiene training was delivered at the Municipal Health Office in Victoria. A total of 28 participants attended the training. This training was delivered to 11 day care workers (each Barangay was represented), 8 BHWs and 9 BNSs. AAI wanted to have all Barangays represented at the training course. The training participants were provided with similar resources mentioned in the Los Banos training.

After the training, follow ups in each day care centre will take place. AAI staff will visit the day care centres from each Barangay to assist and support the day care workers, BHWs and BNSs in teaching WASH messages to the children. These follow ups will take place on 4 & 5 March, 2010. The post assessments will occur on 11 March, 2010 and the results for the Victoria hygiene project will be available in the March report.



Lecture during the Victoria training session and participants at the completion of the training with their resource kits.

3.0: Upcoming Operations

After a busy few months, AAI will begin to finalise projects in Los Banos, Philippines by the middle of March and AAI will prepare to hand over projects to local communities. AAI has invested a significant amount of time into increasing the capacity of local Barangay Health Workers, Barangay Nutritional Scholars, day care Workers, health officials and local NGOs. AAI has equipped these individuals and the greater community with the tools and knowledge to carry forward the messages of hygiene promotion and disaster preparedness.

AAI has delivered two Disaster Medicine trainings to date and these trainings have equipped individuals who are involved in disaster response to be able to respond to future disasters with timely effectiveness. In the month of March AAI will deliver one final Disaster Medicine conference on 1-2 March, 2010. This course will be held in Los Banos and will be delivered to a variety of local NGO's who are involved in Disaster Medicine Response.

In the month of March AAI will also finalise the ongoing hygiene program that was delivered in the municipality of Victoria. The Victoria hygiene program has involved WASH pre assessments of day care centres, a hygiene training for BHWs, BNS and day care workers which was delivered on 24 February, 2010 and the community follow ups which are scheduled to take place on 4-5 March, 2010. AAI staff will visit day care centres and will support the day care workers, BHWs and BNSs deliver their hygiene messages to the children. The staff will encourage effective training and will be available if there are any further questions. AAI staff will be completing post assessments in Victoria the week of 8 March, 2010.

AAI will also be delivering hygiene training to BHWs, BNSs and day care workers of Pila on 3 March, 2010 as well as 9, March, 2010. Follows ups are scheduled to occur on 10-11 March.

AAI will hand over efforts in Los Banos on March 12, 2010.

End of Statement.

Emma Sturrock
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