

Livelihood in the aftermath of Yolanda

Asst. Prof. Clarinda Berja
University of the Philippines Manila



- ◆ Restoring employment and livelihood of people in the community is a vital component of post-*disaster* reconstruction. But this process **takes a longer time for people living in poverty**.
- ◆ Typhoon Yolanda struck the Philippines in November 2013 and one of the severely affected provinces is Leyte.
- ◆ Livelihood vulnerability is expected since poverty is widespread in Leyte.
 - ◆ Poverty incidence increased from 40.2 percent in 2012 to 46.7 percent in 2015. At the national level, the direction of change is reverse.
 - ◆ National poverty incidence declined from 27.9 percent in 2012 to 26.3 percent in 2015; and the levels are way lower compared to Leyte Province.

40% of those affected are women; 43% are self-employed and unpaid family workers

- ◆ About 14.9M people across 9 regions were affected by Yolanda
 - ◆ 5.6M workers affected - **40% are women** and 20% are youth.
 - ◆ In the 4 most-affected regions incomes were **temporarily or permanently affected**.
 - ◆ 43% of those affected were **self-employed and unpaid family workers**.
 - ◆ Different occupations experience varying extents of vulnerability to different disasters.

Disasters not only affected income and productivity, it also affect availability of goods and services to people.

- ◆ 24,200 enterprises were affected - 10,000 of which were totally damaged, affecting more than 140,000 workers.
- ◆ Micro- and homebased enterprises (93%) constitute the largest proportions of enterprises affected.
- ◆ vast quantities of crops were destroyed, including 161,400 hectares of coconut farms damaging 1.1M tons of rice, corn and coconut.
- ◆ losses of livestock, agricultural equipment, post-production facilities, fishing vessels, and irrigation systems affecting 1.6M people.

Objectives

- ◆ To examine livelihood vulnerability as a consequence of disaster and vulnerability of people's existing socio-economic realities
- ◆ To describe external aid and community support, which are deemed crucial in making resilient livelihood to reduce the detrimental impact of disaster on people's lives.

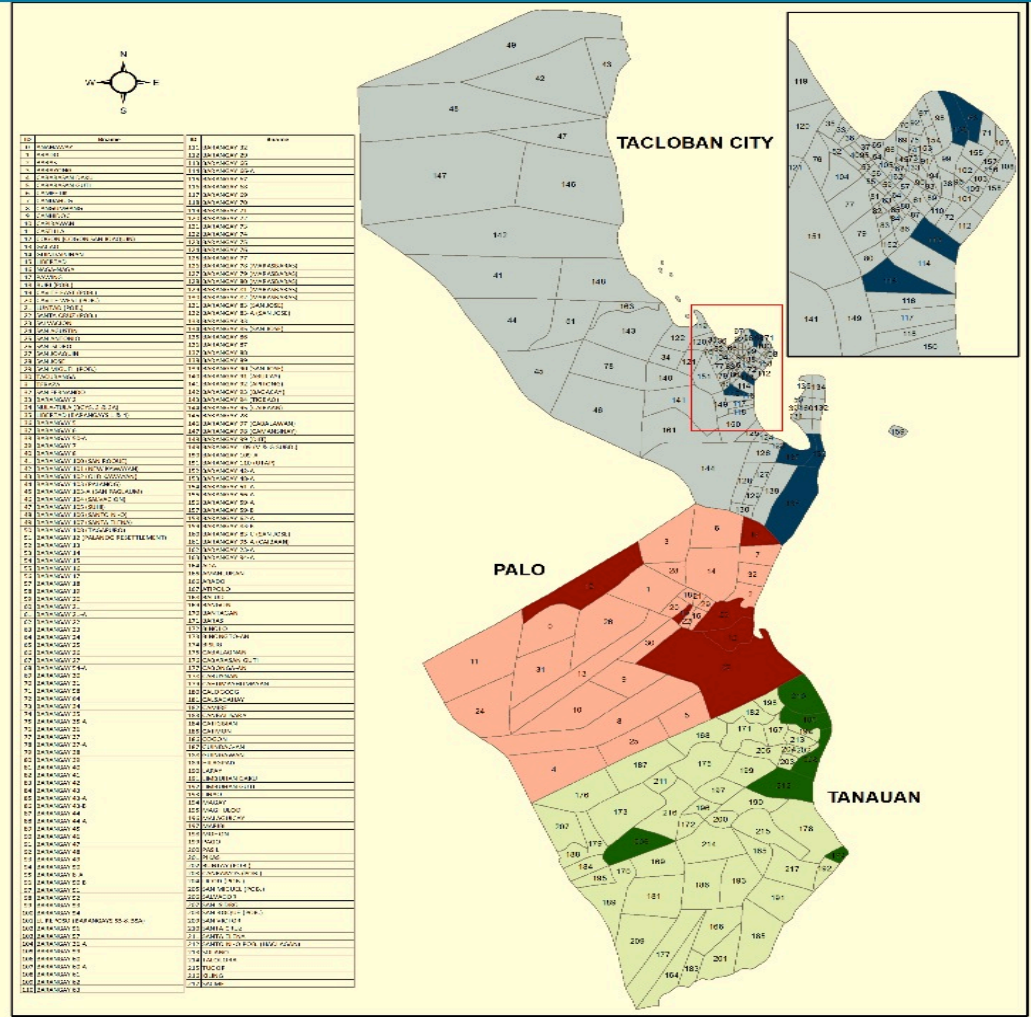
The study takes off from the position that adaptation and resilience measures of livelihood may not be effective in coping with disaster without assessing and identifying vulnerability of people's existing socio-economic reality (UNISDR [2004](#)).

A total of 800 households were sampled from 20 barangays. 40 households per barangay; data about all household members were generation using the household roster.

Sample areas

3 localities adjacent to each other and have coastal areas that were severely affected by the Typhoon.

- Palo is classified as a third income class municipality,
- Tanauan is a second class municipality
- Tacloban is a highly urbanized first income class city, (PSGC 2016).



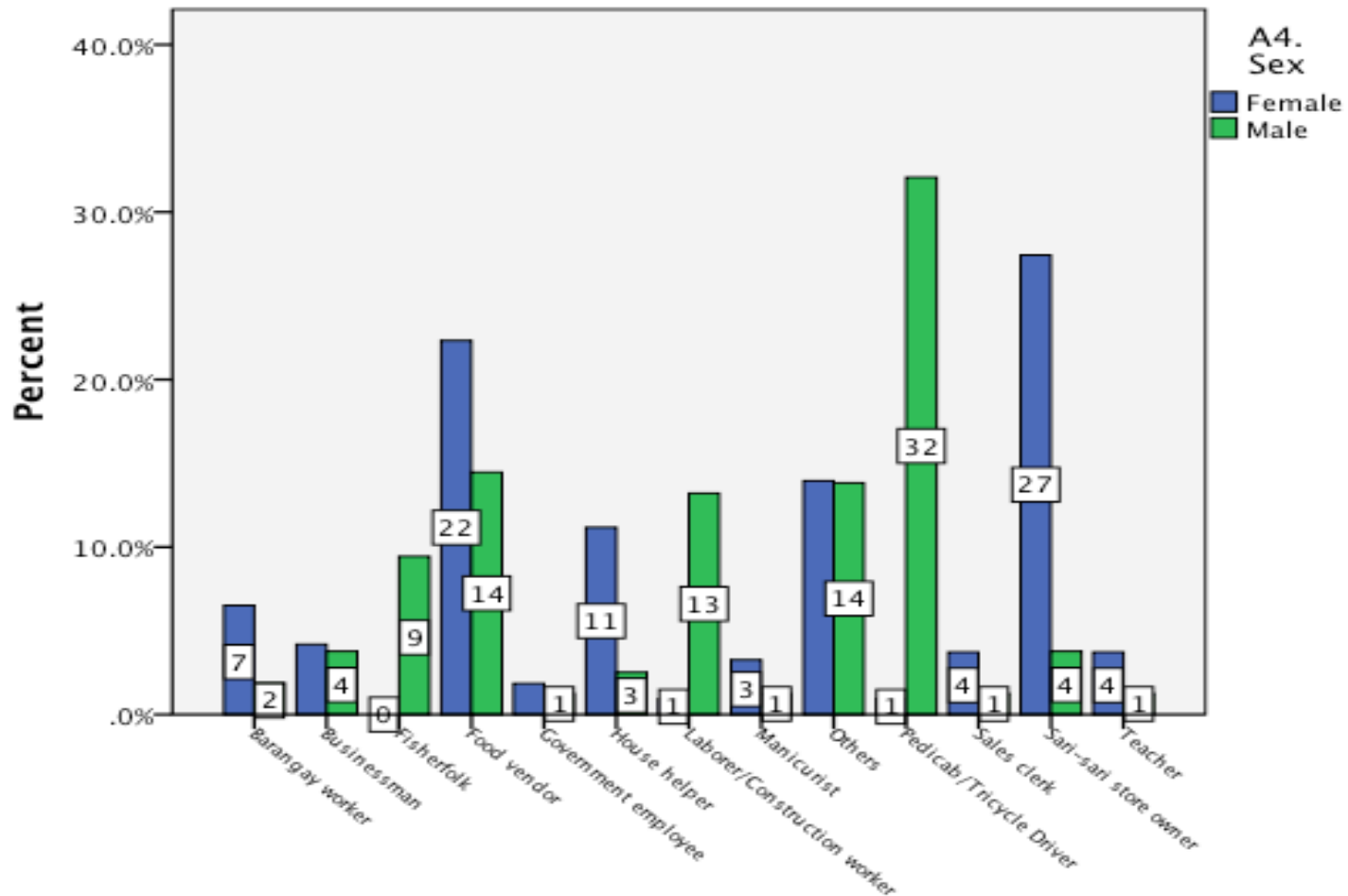
Date Sources: GADM, PSA 12D(0)

The boundaries and names and the display used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Profile of respondents

- ◆ Educational attainment is generally low.
- ◆ More than half reported that they are unemployed. There are more females than males (65% vs. 18%) who are currently unemployed. Most of them are engaged in elementary occupation, most of them are working as pedicab drivers, food vendors, manicurist, construction laborers and house helper.
- ◆ A large majority of them (83%) earn less than 10,000 pesos per month. For an average household size of 5, per capita would be 2,000 pesos per month or roughly 40 US dollars per month.
- ◆ Based on the household data, dependency ratio is 57.2. As expected dependents are mostly children, child dependency is 52.1 while old dependency is 5.1. There is higher female dependency (62.4) than male (52.4).

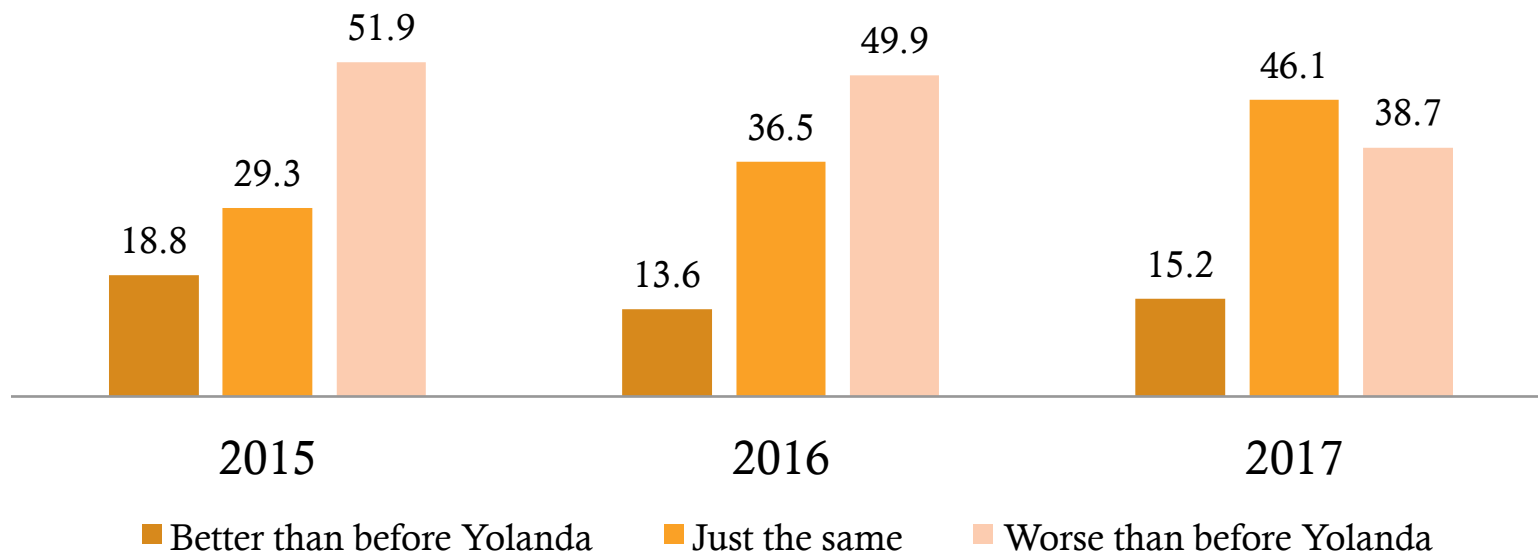
Both men and women are engaged in menial jobs



A10. What is your occupation?

About half mentioned that source of livelihood has gone worse than before Yolanda in 2015 and 2016; 38.7% in 2017.

Would you say that your source of livelihood became...?

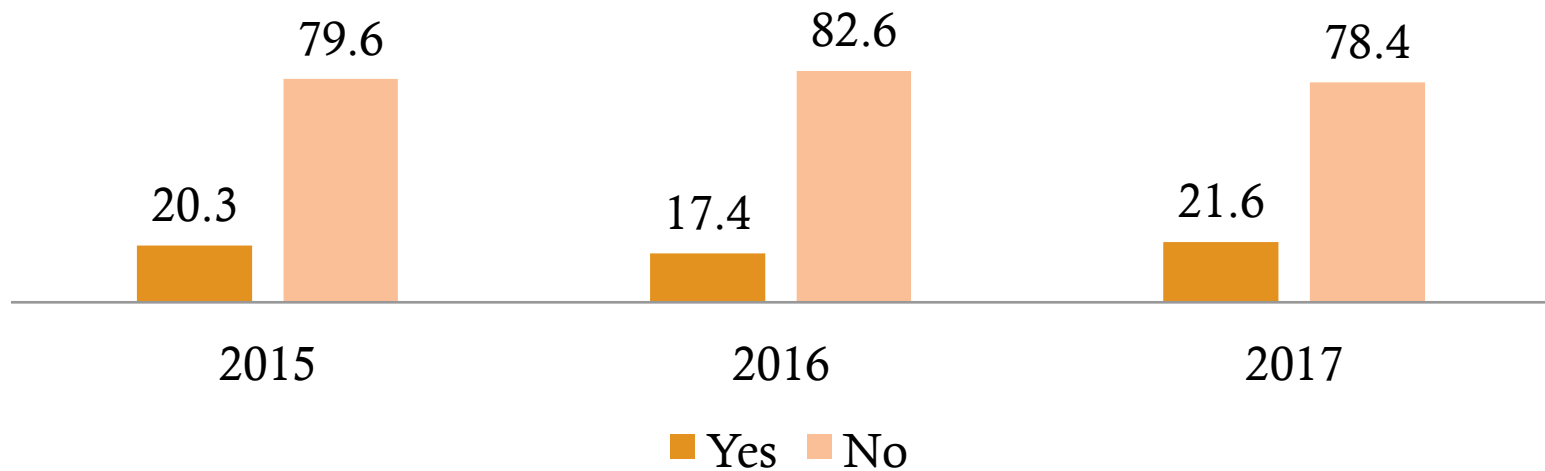


Aid received are less likely for re-establishing livelihood...

- ◆ While most of those affected by the typhoon reported that they received assistance from government, foreign and local organizations, only 21.3 percent mentioned that they received “aid” (financial assistance) or training that would help them re-establish their livelihood.
- ◆ About 22.2 percent of females and 18.9 percent of males reported that they received assistance for livelihood.

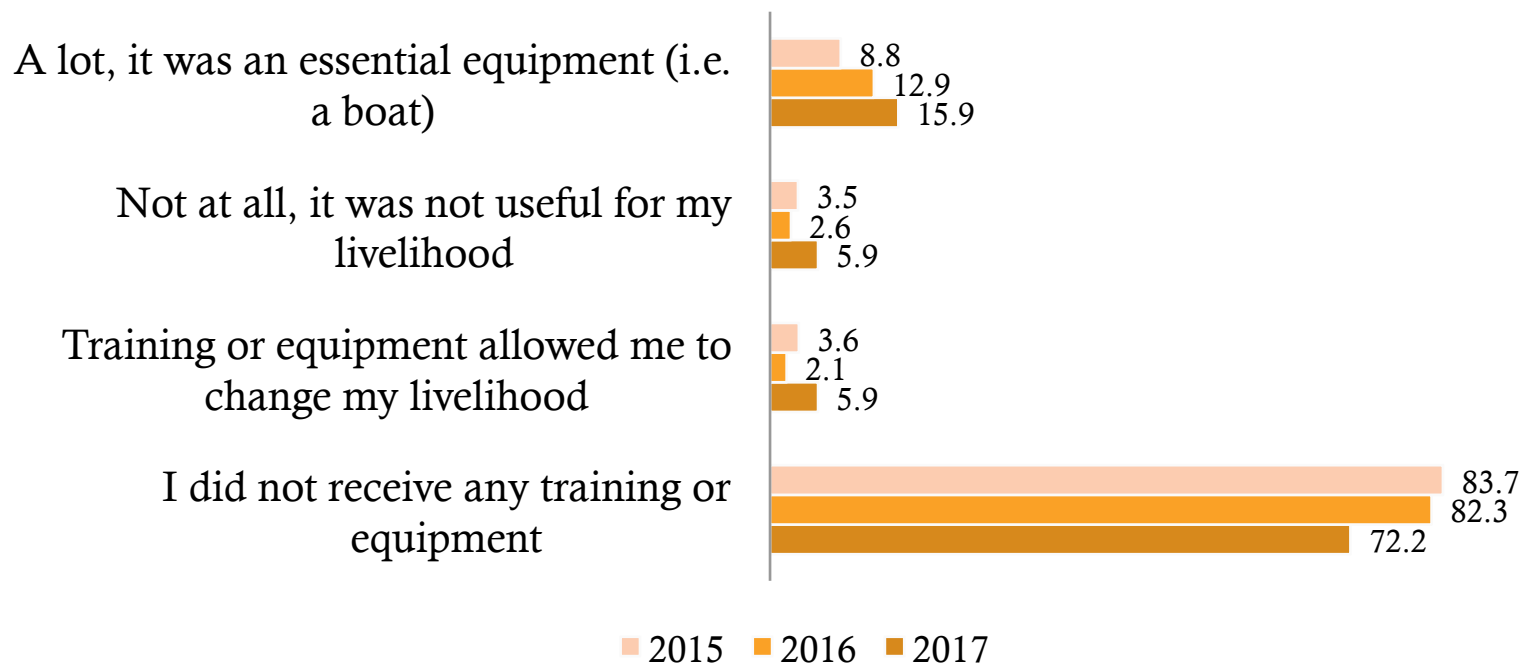
1 in 5 received aid or training that allowed them to re-establish livelihood

Did you receive aid or training that allow you to re-establish your livelihood?



There is a slight increase in livelihood assistance reported from 2015 to 2017.

To what extent did the aid or training you received allow you to re-establish your livelihood?

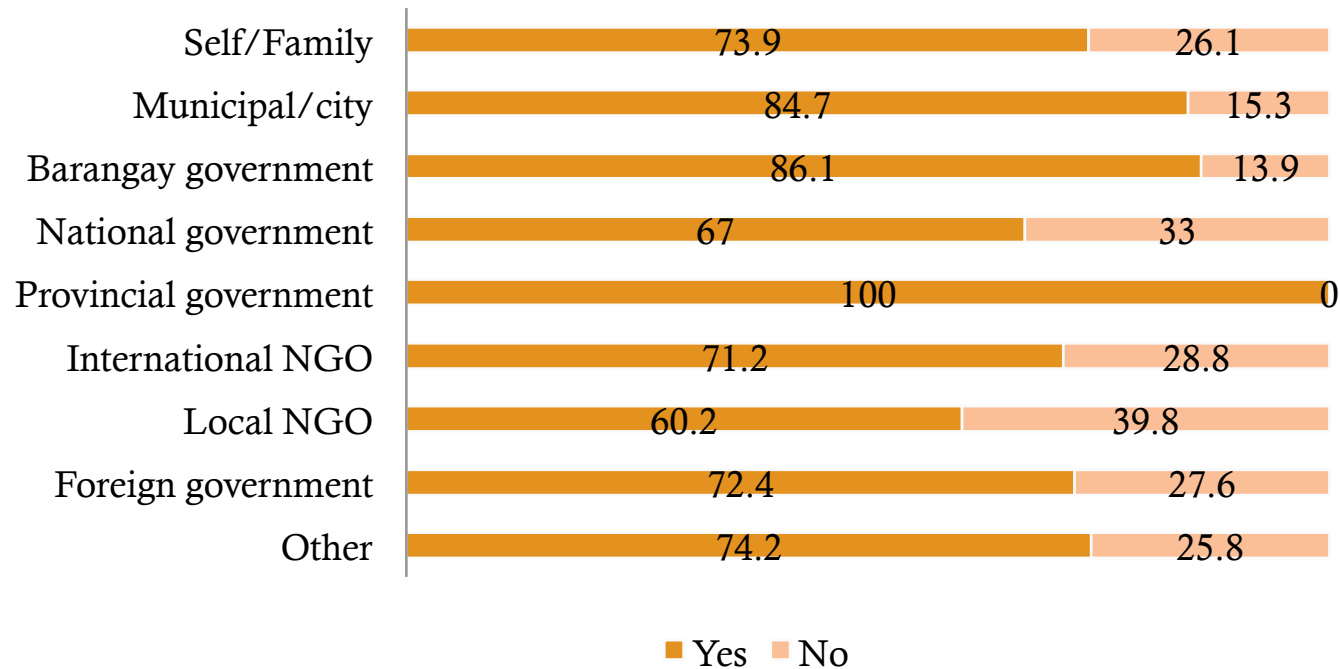


Most of the aid came from International NGOs and Foreign Governments

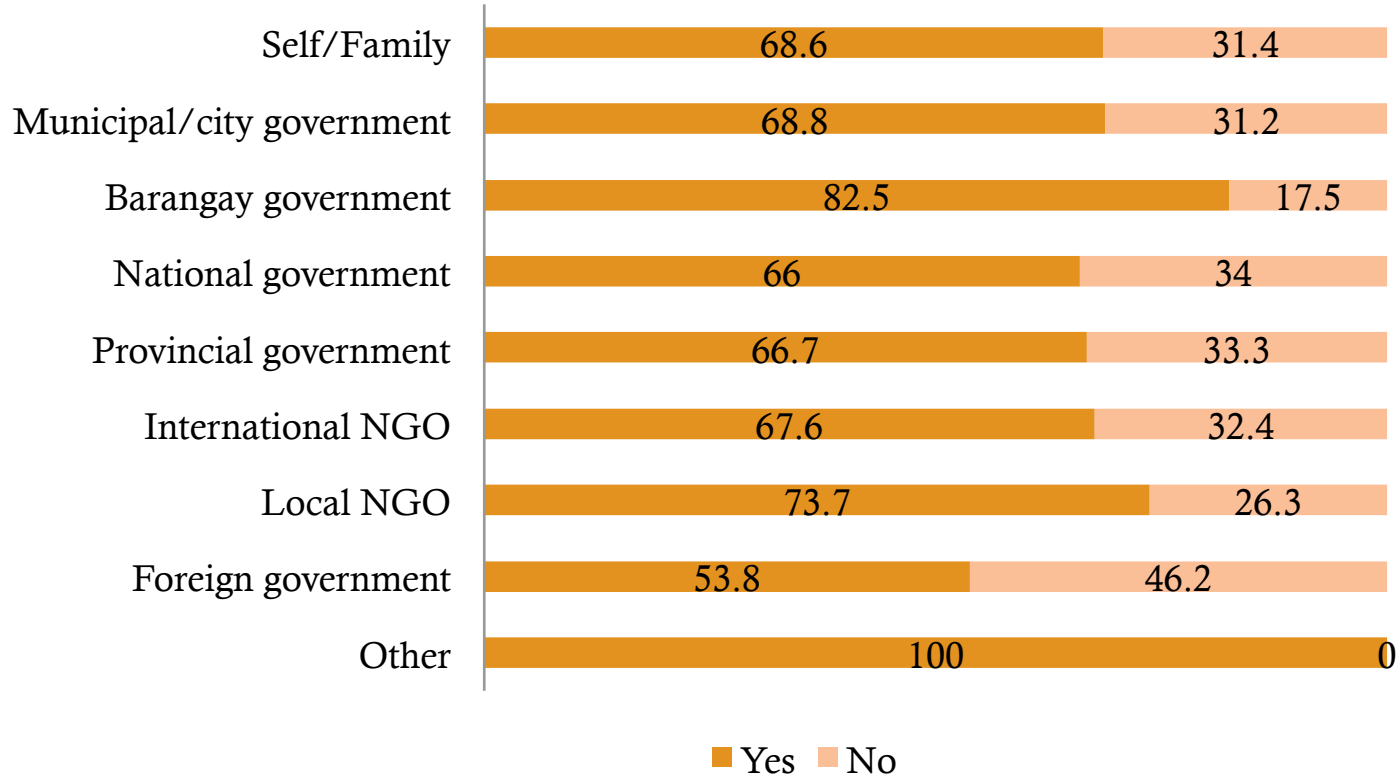
- ◆ When asked which are the top three organizations that helped them the most, they answered - International NGOs (87.9%), national government (54.1%) and local government (30.2%). About 31 percent of them mentioned that they received did not receive external help and that their own/ family resources help them re-establish their livelihood.
- ◆ A quarter of the respondents (25.6%) own a mini micro-enterprise. These are mostly “sari-sari” or small variety stores, which are home-based. Other enterprises that were mentioned include small canteen, tailoring and barbershop. (2017 Survey)

Those who received help are more likely to be resilient than those who did not receive help.

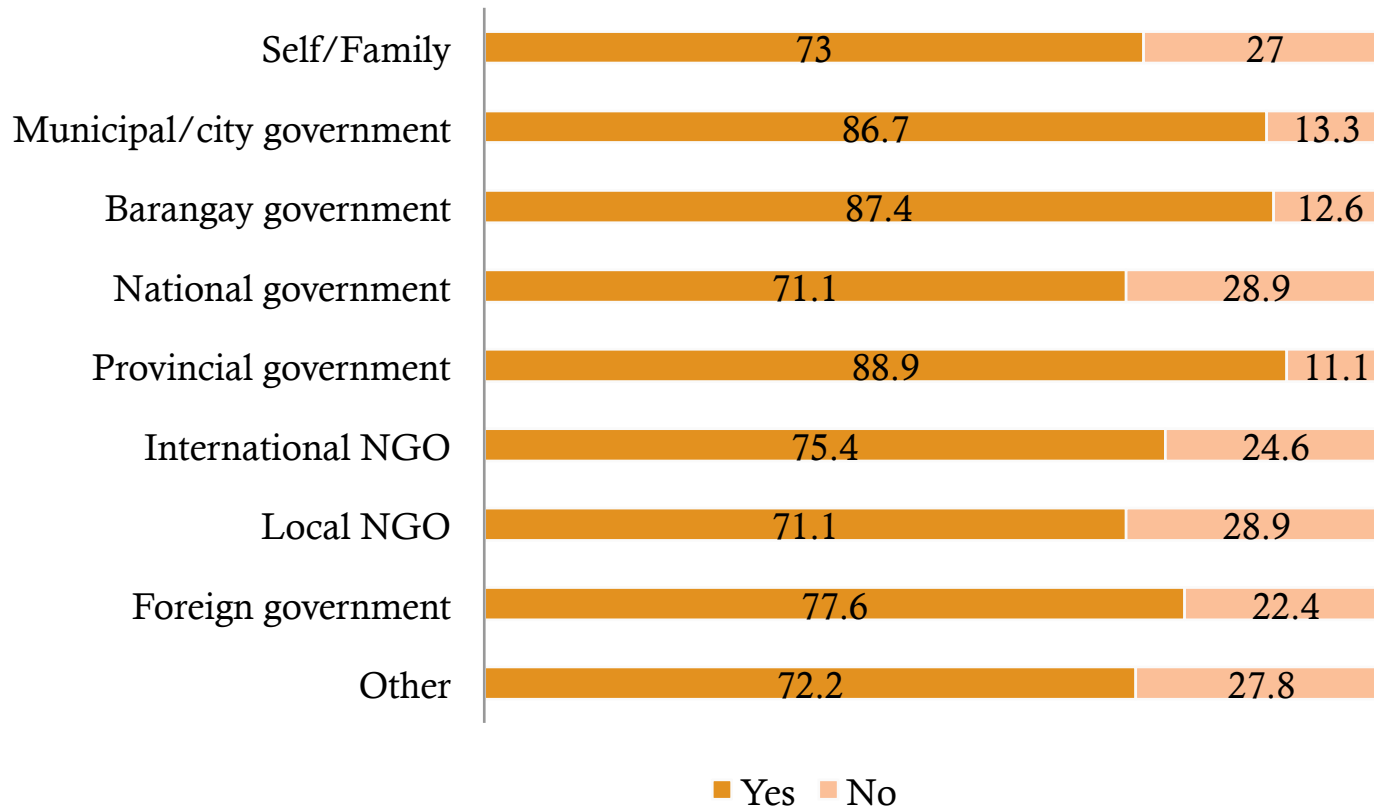
% who reported that they are resilient, 2015



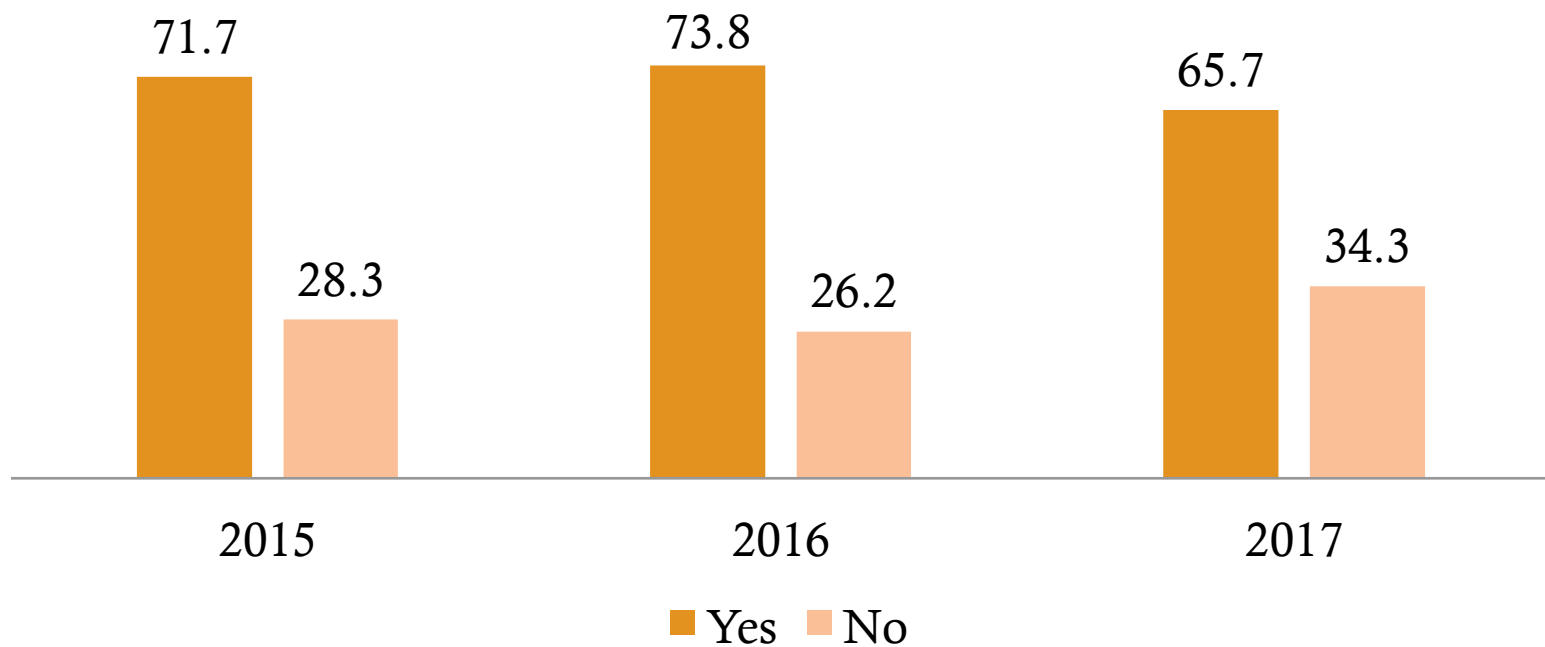
% who reported that they are resilient by organization, 2016



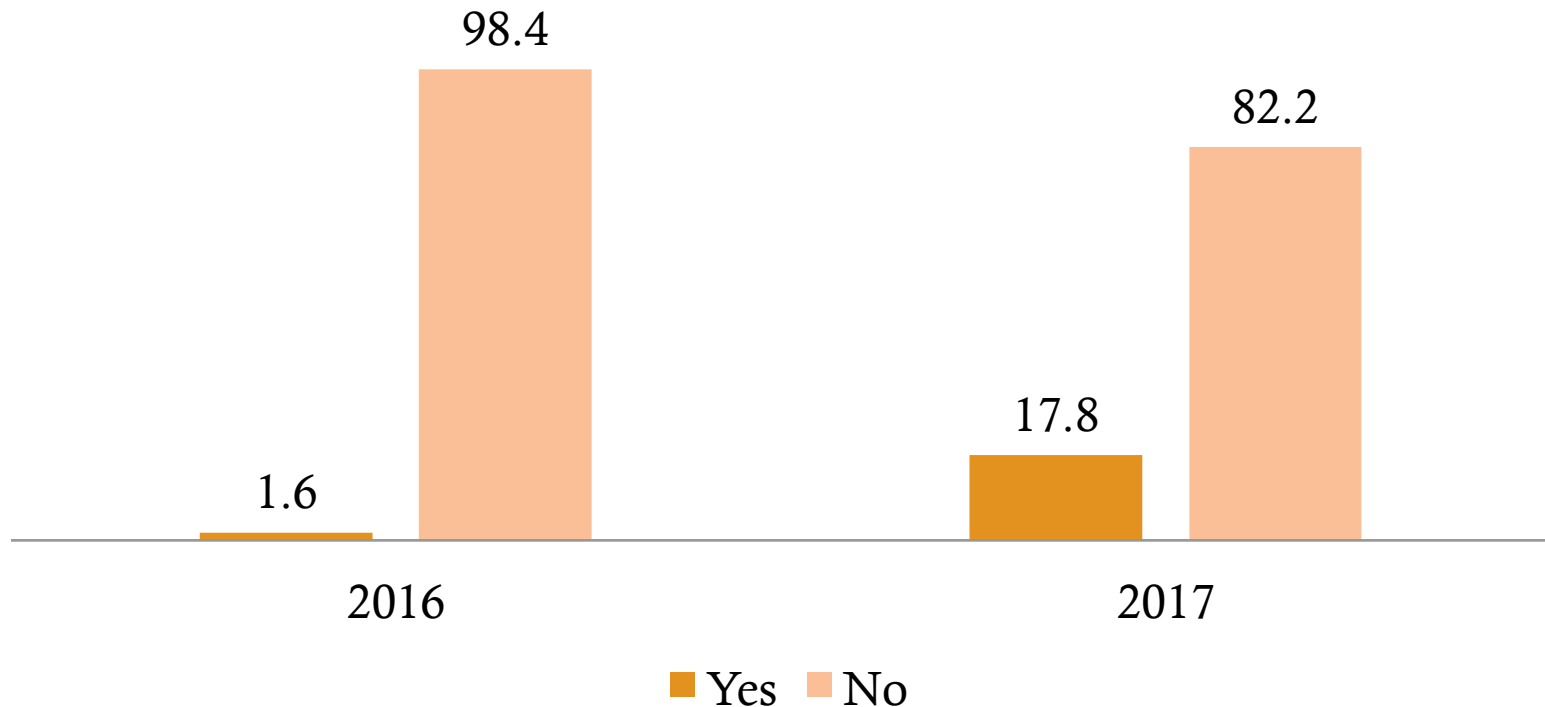
% who reported that they are resilient by organization, 2017



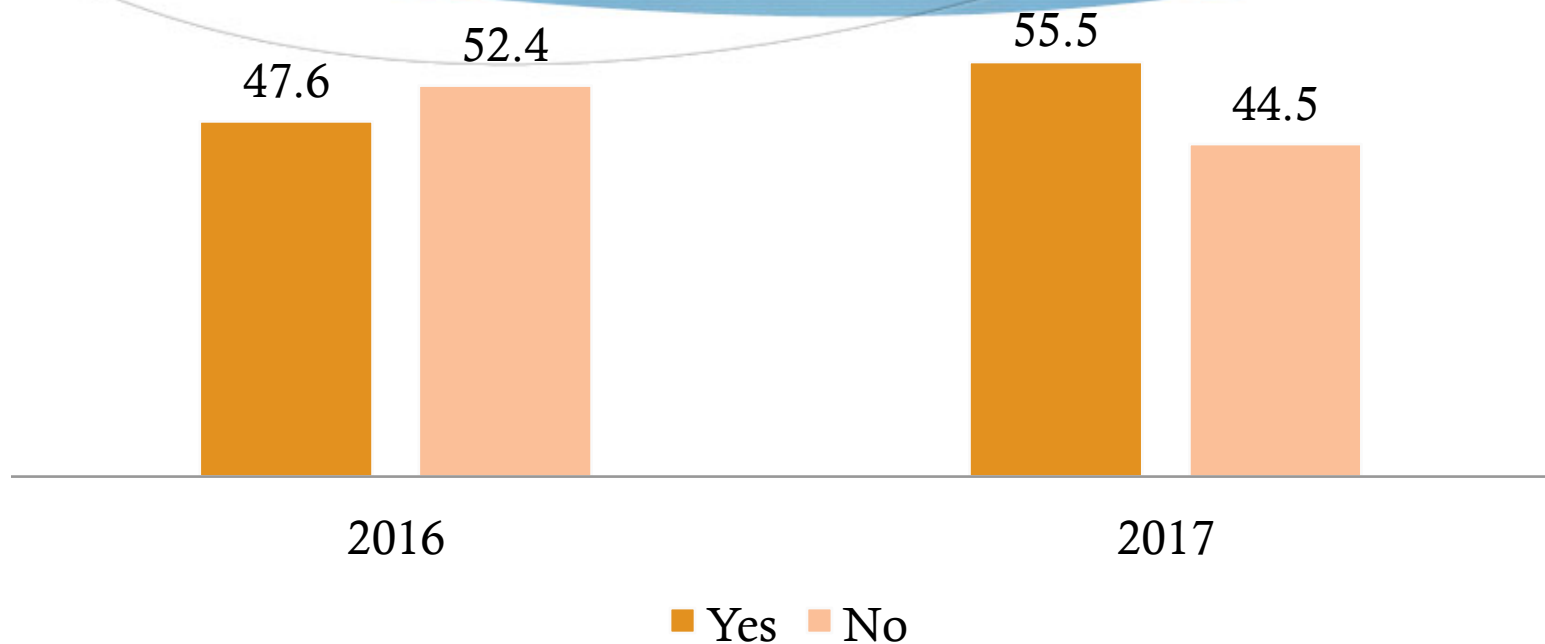
Majority mentioned that people in the community support each other if income is inadequate



17.8% reported that they received livelihood assistance in 2017 while only 1.6% received it in 2016.



Half of those who received livelihood aid think it is adequate. They also draw personal savings and loans from relatives for initial capital.

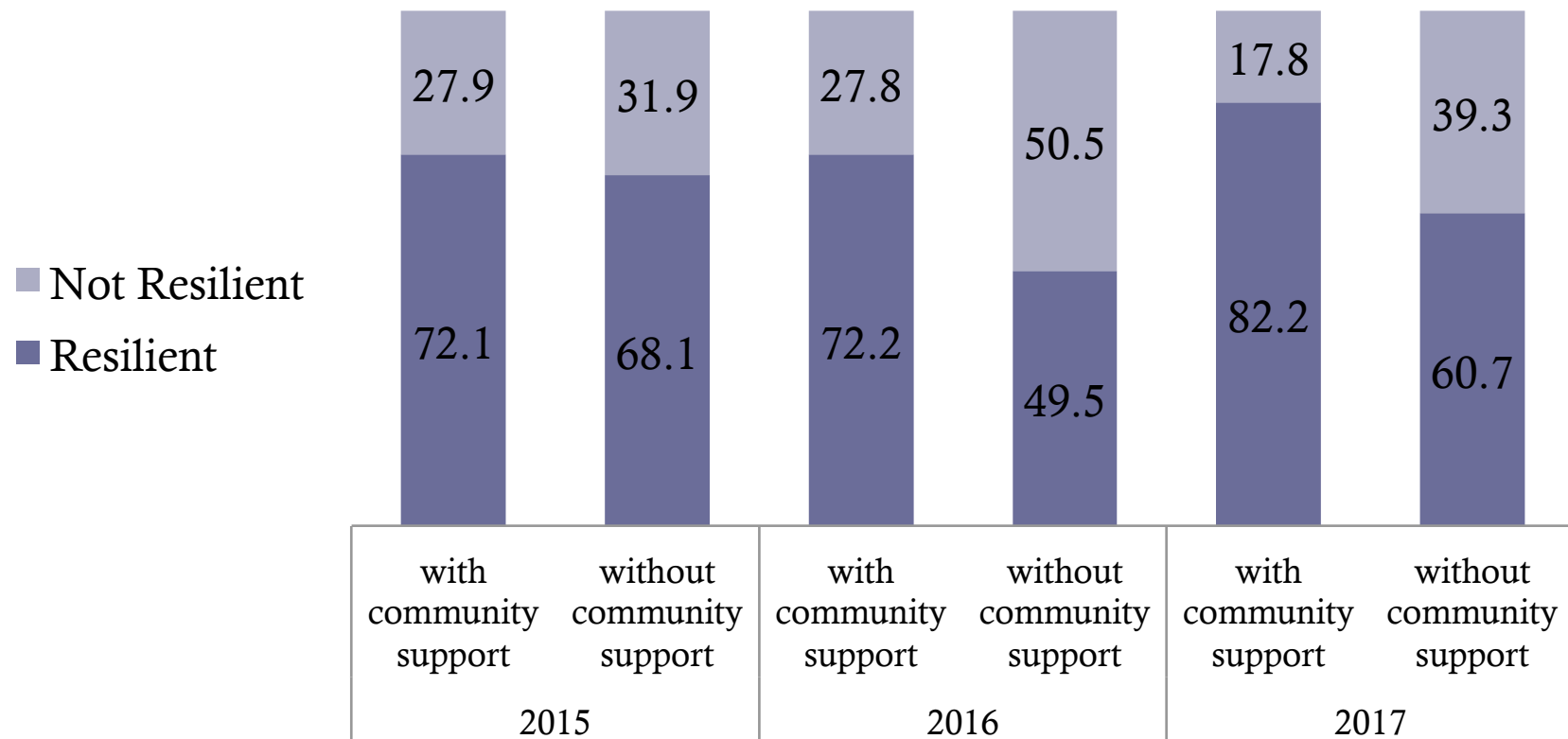


Majority of them (65.7%) drew their initial capital from personal savings or loans from relatives. A few draw initial capital from formal credit facilities.

Community support and building resiliency

- ◆ Majority mentioned that the community could have been more helpful in the aftermath of the disaster. On the other hand, 27 percent reported that their community helped them a lot after the disaster.
- ◆ After the disaster, majority of them (67%) drew support from their community through personal loans, baby-sitting while they are at work, and after the disaster, while about 17% reported that there were organizations that help people in the community to have a regular source of livelihood.
- ◆ Interestingly, perceived resiliency increased. Before Yolanda, 66.7 perceived themselves as disaster resilient. After Yolanda, the proportion of those who consider themselves as disaster resilient increased to 76.2 percent. About 69 percent feel more confident to face another disaster, after the Yolanda experience.

The role of 'social capital' (that is, relations of mutual support between neighbours, friends, community groups, and other social networks) is considered by Robin Erasing (2012) as a means to enhance community resilience.



- ◆ Previous experiences have demonstrated that livelihood-centered approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR) provided people with new opportunities and enhanced ways of earning a living and that community support is key to make it sustainable.
- ◆ Those in the most affected areas or the urban poor communities of Tacloban as well as the depressed communities in Tanauan and Palo would certainly benefit from livelihood assistance that would introduce people to other ways of making a living other than putting up a “sari-sari” store. Providing them with new knowledge and opportunities would consequently decrease livelihood vulnerability of their communities. The challenge is how to reach the most vulnerable population.

References

- ◆ Bowen, Thomas. 2015. Social Protection and Disaster Risk Management in the Philippines : The Case of Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan). Policy Research Working Paper;No. 7482. World Bank, Washington, DC. © World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/23448> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.
- ◆ Ungar, Michael (2013) 'Social ecologies and their contribution to resilience', in Michael Ungar (ed.) *The Social Ecology of Resilience: A Handbook of Theory and Practice*, New York: Springer, 13–31
- ◆ Yolanda Updates: Rehabilitation and Recovery Program. Compilation by Yolanda Program Monitoring Office NEDA (2015)