Resettlement in Tacloban: Vulnerability and Values Formation in post-Typhoon Reconstruction.

Daniel Jones

Research for MSc International Development and Social Anthropology, Birkbeck College, University of London.
Data gathered through semi-structured interviews with citizens of Tacloban, City Government Officials and NGOs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Tacloban</th>
<th>Housing Type</th>
<th>Sites Visited</th>
<th>Interviews Conducted</th>
<th>No. of Interviewees</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tacloban North</td>
<td>Permanent</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tacloban City</td>
<td>No dwell zone.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Housing outside of no dwell zone</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Google Maps.
Vulnerability flows from ‘ordinary life’.

- City authorities focused on risks from natural hazard (e.g. hazard maps).
- Vulnerability also encompasses wider social and economic wellbeing.
Citizens of Tacloban engaged in a trade-off to manage their own vulnerability.

- Some citizens feel safer as a result of resettlement.
- Resettlement poses a risk to livelihoods.
- Citizens often spoke of balancing these two concerns.
Authorities managing resettlement had a one-sided perception of vulnerability.

- Officials downplayed the problem of livelihoods and income posed by resettlement.
- Drive to resettle citizens in Tacloban North before basic services (water, electricity) in place.
- Proposed resettlement of fishing community illustrated lack of understanding / consultation.
‘Values formation’ is prevalent as a way of building new communities in Tacloban North.

- Programme of behaviour change for citizens of new housing.
- Aspiration of formalising behaviour/outlook as part of resettlement.
- Extended to multiple prohibitions/sometimes abstract norms in new housing settlements (e.g. ”No Shirtlessness”).
Citizens’ vulnerability and ‘values formation’ are linked.

- Values formation work on financial literacy risks being undermined by threats to income and livelihood from resettlement.

- Values formation is an attempt to build new communities, part of building resilience – but replicates top-down approach of resettlement to new housing.
Conclusions

- Resettlement aims to reduce vulnerability – it risks aggravating wider vulnerability through affecting income and livelihoods.

- Values formation aims to build new communities. Approach to physical resettlement is replicated in values formation which attempts formalisation in a top-down way.

- Research is a snapshot. More needed to trace long-term effect of resettlement and values formation work on citizens’ vulnerability, and the success of new communities in Tacloban North.