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University of Colorado **Boulder**
Mortenson Center in Engineering
for **Developing Communities**

Post-Disaster Permanent Relocation

Case Studies in Tacloban City, Philippines

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Problem Statement

Urbanization



Kara Santos/IPS

Hazards and disasters



Bullit Marquez/AP

Relocation



Shelter and *Settlements*

An aerial photograph showing a large, organized settlement of colorful, single-story houses. The houses are arranged in a grid pattern with narrow alleys between them. The settlement is surrounded by dense tropical forest, including many palm trees. The houses have various colored walls, such as red, yellow, green, and blue. There are some larger buildings and a paved area in the center of the settlement.

Settlements and area-based approaches ‘involve a shift away from narrow, **sectorally driven delivery** towards a multi-sectoral approach based on strong inter-sectoral collaboration’ and **spatial focus** (Sanderson 2017).

Post-disaster Relocation

Decision makers

What can we learn from relocation implementation that could inform settlements approaches?

Community members

What is the state of holistic outcomes at relocation sites – and why does it matter?



*Central
Philippines*

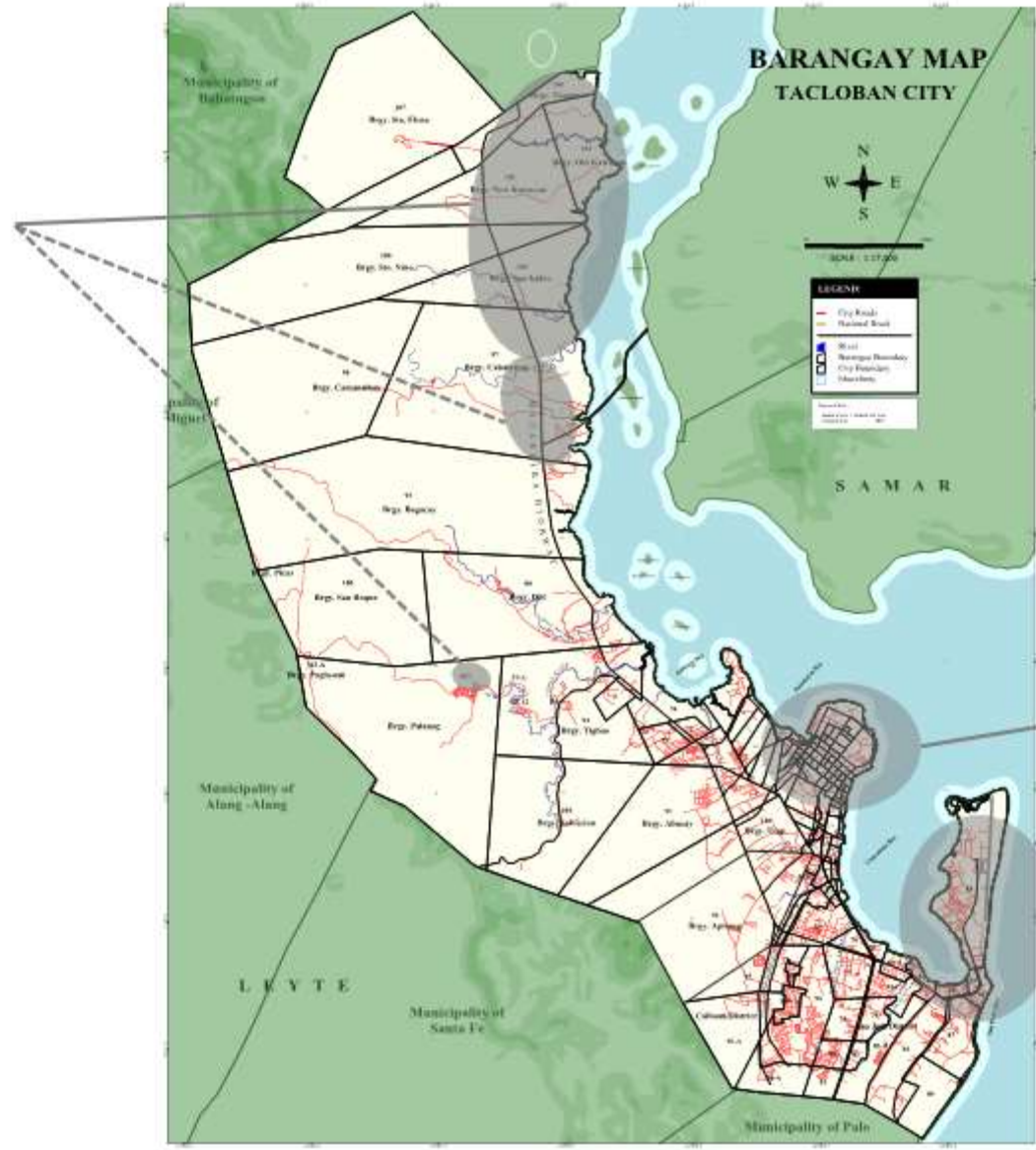
Eastern
Samar

Tacloban ●
City

Cebu

Leyte

Relocation
Areas



City Center &
Original Locations



Site development,
construction, and
move-in



Establishing new
homes and a new
community



Infrastructure issues
delay transfer and
entice abandonment



Post-disaster Relocation

Decision makers

What can we learn from relocation implementation that could inform settlements approaches?

Interviews

47 government and NGO officials

Community members

What is the state of holistic outcomes at relocation sites – and why does it matter?

Survey

908 respondents across 13 Tacloban City relocation sites

Interviews with Decision Makers

Insights

Question

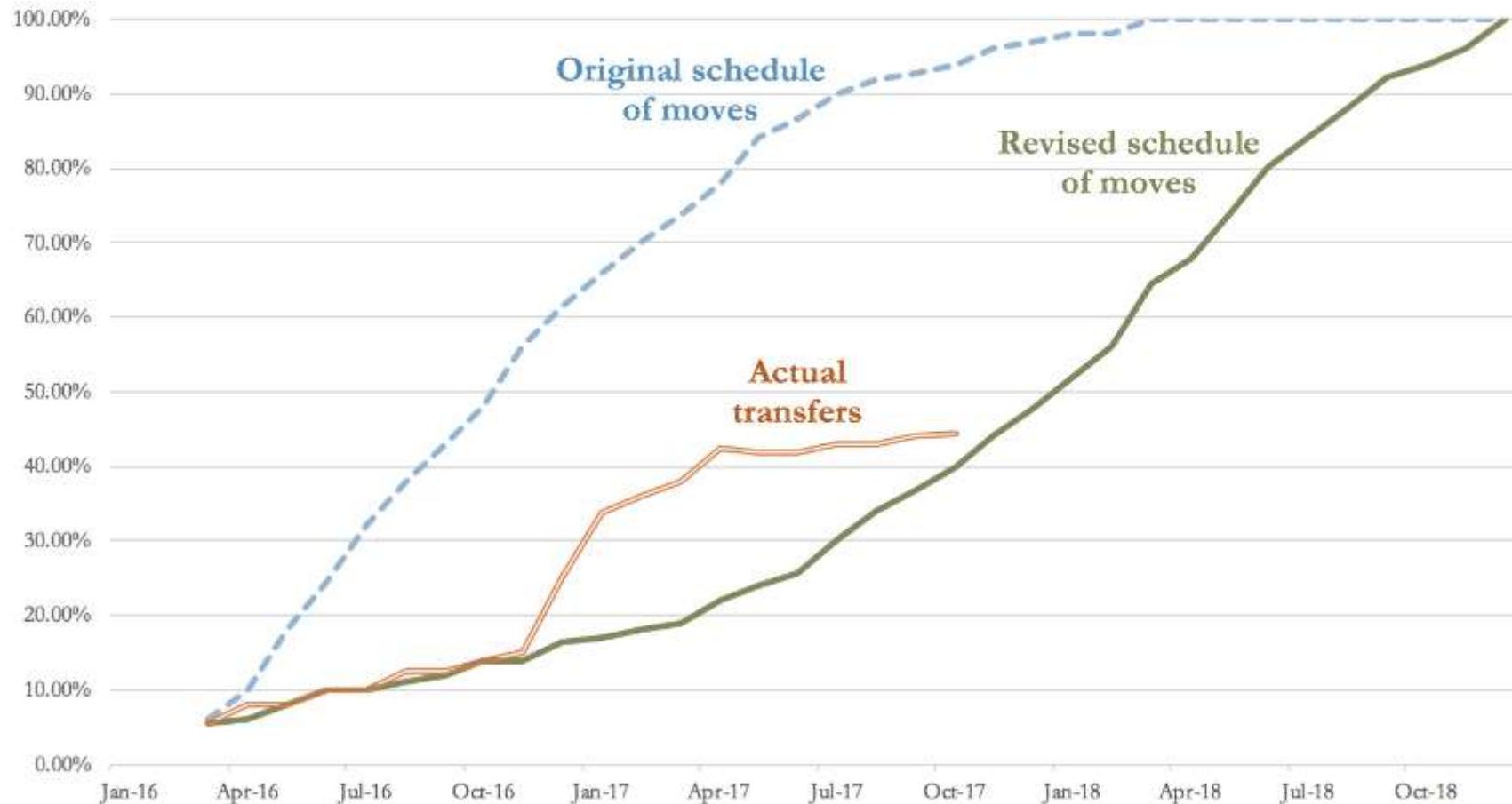
What can we learn from relocation implementation that could inform settlements approaches?

- ❖ Lack of alignment between housing timeline and support infrastructure and services



Interviews with Decision Makers

Planned versus actual transfers



Interviews with Decision Makers

Insights

Question

What can we learn from relocation implementation that could inform settlements approaches?

- ❖ Lack of alignment between housing timeline and support infrastructure and services
 - ❖ Biggest difficulty: extending and formalizing water provision
 - ❖ Currently out to bid



Interviews with Decision Makers

Insights

Question

What can we learn from relocation implementation that could inform settlements approaches?

- ❖ “Taking a risk”
 - ❖ Perceived incompetency or corruptibility of local leaders by regional and national official
 - ❖ Need for good governance metrics



Interviews with Decision Makers

Insights

Question

What can we learn from relocation implementation that could inform settlements approaches?

- ❖ Structural and auditing constraints
 - ❖ Pride in sectoral mirroring
 - ❖ Fear of COA



Interviews with Decision Makers

Insights

Question

What can we learn from relocation implementation that could inform settlements approaches?

- ❖ Untangling public versus private funding regulations
 - ❖ The local government is denying a settlements approach-type project utility services because it's private property



Survey Takeaways

The Good

- ❖ Overall high rates of social capital, access to basic health services, and nearby schools for their children

Improving

- ❖ Relocation takes a significant amount of time, and timelines for housing and support infrastructure are not aligned
- ❖ Limited livelihood activities and few promising emerging investments in local light industrial/agricultural work

The Bad

- ❖ Over 40 percent of households reported construction defects
- ❖ Many relocated households continue to live with severe natural hazard impacts, particularly flooding

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