
Community-led Innovations for Resilience: Case in the Philippines

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LO-ACT

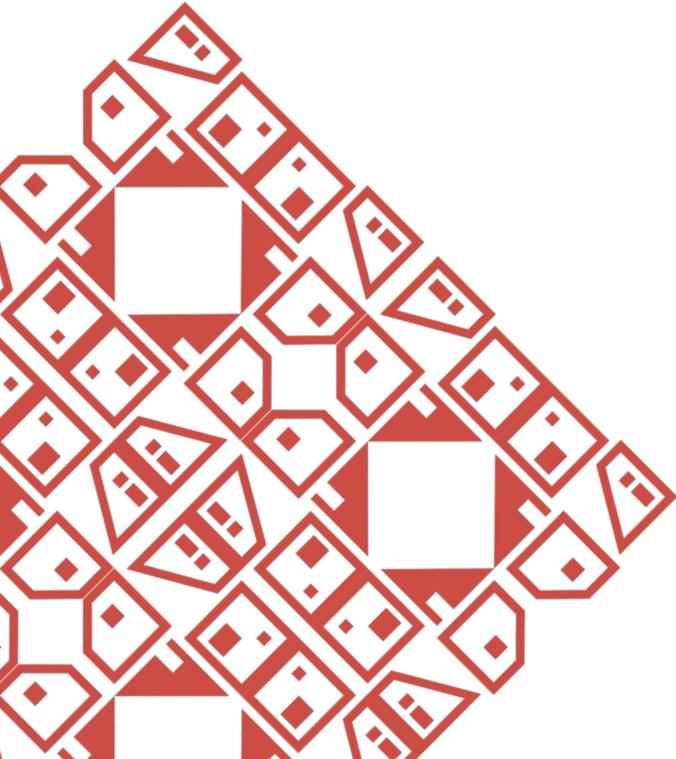
Low Carbon Action
in Ordinary Cities



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Low Carbon Action in Ordinary Cities (LO-ACT)



Lo-Act is a research project that looks at the 'ordinary actions' taken by citizens to improve everyday life while tackling climate change.

Its purpose is to understand urban climate action and urban innovation in the context of rapid urbanization.

With particular focus in Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia, Lo-Act examines specific examples of climate change actions and policies to find out how ideas, materials, technologies, and expertise can be transferred across urban contexts, and will develop tools to design and discuss urban climate change politics.

L0-ACT Project in the Philippines



OBJECTIVES:

- Will focus on past projects (15+ years) of the Philippine Alliance (HPFPPI, PACSII, TAMPEI, LinkBuild, CAMFI) to consolidate data and document the different low carbon innovations done in the communities.
- Develop a platform for knowledge exchange of community experiences and actions in building resilience in communities.
- Advocate community-led initiatives and processes for inclusion in climate change policy discussions and governance.



Philippine Urbanization & Climate Risk..

The Philippines..



Photo: www.rappler.com

Is one of the **fastest urbanizing countries** in Southeast Asia.

- 110.8 million Total Population (as of 2021, POPCOM)
- ~47% live in urban areas
- ~4.5 million either homeless or living in slums
- 18.1% Poverty Incidence (PSA)

As well as one of the countries with the **highest levels of exposure to climate-related risks** worldwide.

- Ranked 17th in the world as the most affected country from extreme weather events in the Global Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2021.

Issues faced by poor urban communities..



Photo: TAMPEI

- Hazards, eviction & demolition
- Lack of access to social, financial & technical services
- Increasing land values in cities
- Limited affordable housing options
- Disaster risks
- Pandemic

Poor urban communities are extremely vulnerable to the combined impacts of climate change and urbanization, and have limited access to resources for recovery.

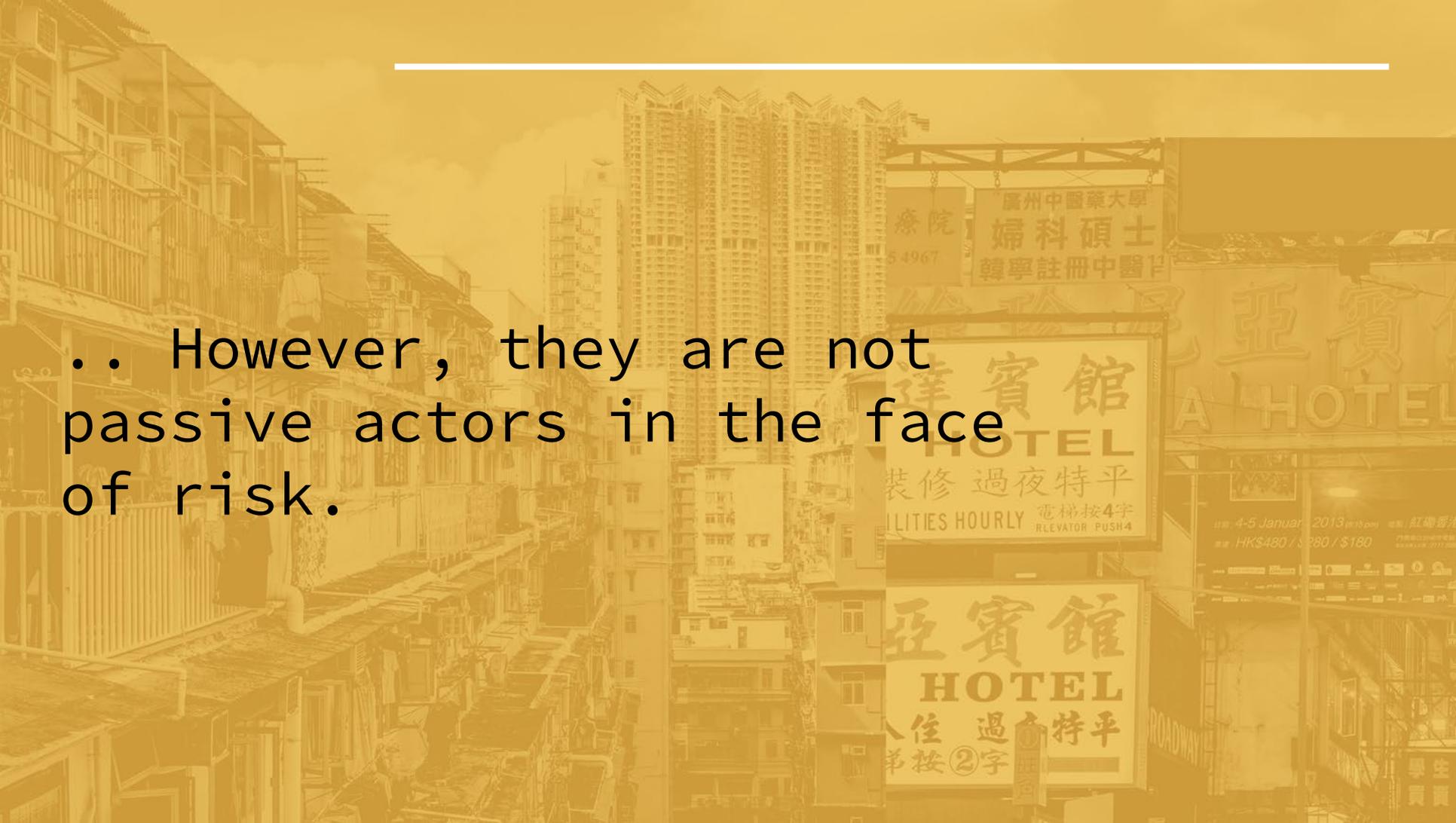
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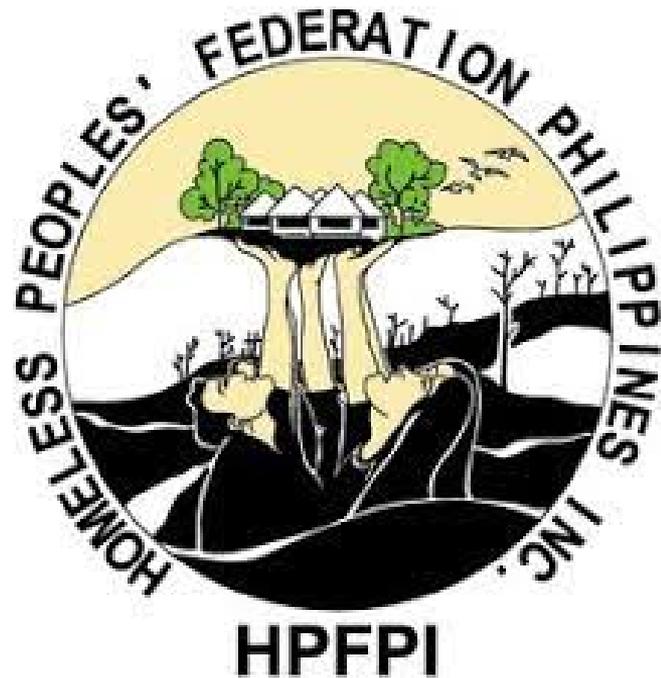
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.. However, they are not passive actors in the face of risk.





HPFPI and its communities



Homeless People's Federation Philippines, Inc. (HPFPI)

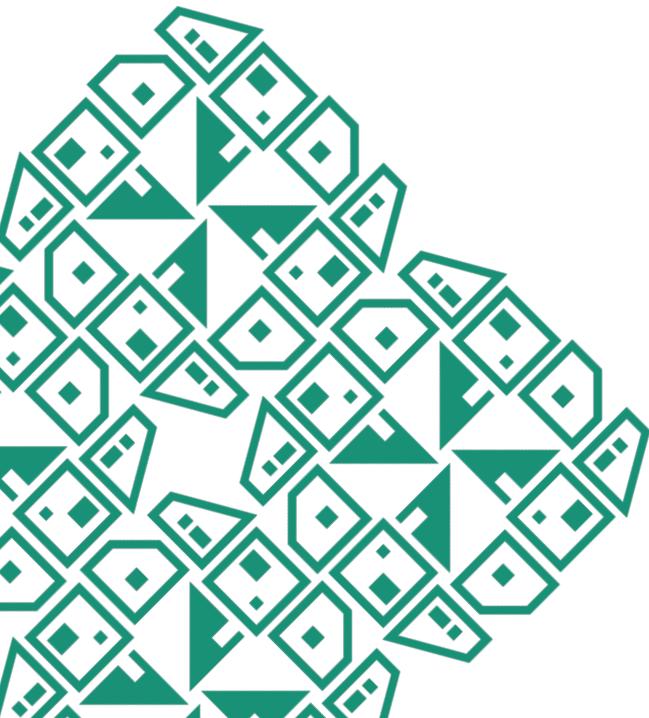
HPFP is a national federation of community associations pursuing community-led housing and upgrading processes.

They started in mid 1990s in Payatas, Quezon City with the creation of savings groups composed of waste-pickers living on a garbage dumpsite in Barangay Payatas.

Currently, HPFPI operates in five regions: National Capital Region, Bicol Region, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, and Southern Mindanao

Process and data collection

- Mapped out existing and previous locally-led innovations on climate adaptation and resilience over the past two decades and selected specific projects as case studies.
- Categorized the projects according to its typology:
 - **Community Organizing & Development**
 - Organizing and Savings Program
 - Land Tenure – different process of land acquisition
 - Livelihood and Food Security
 - **Small Upgrading**
 - Site Development and Basic Services
 - Water and Sanitation
 - Use of Alternative Building Materials
 - **Housing and Site Development**
 - Disaster Response
 - Disaster resilience and Climate Adaptation
- Field visits conducted to validate and further substantiate the data.



Forms of innovations

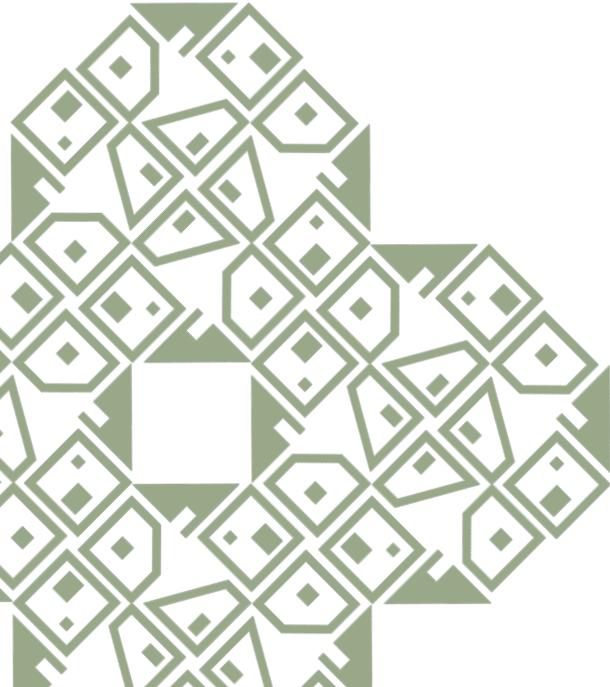
Soft Innovations

- Governance (community organizing, mobilization)
- Finance (community savings)

Physical Innovations

- The Built Environment (alternative building technology)
- Service Provision (water and sanitation systems)
- Disaster Management (permeable contention walls)

These forms of innovations **intersects** across all or most of the projects and initiatives examined.





Community Actions & Innovations

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Community Savings

- Main program of HPFPI
- Used as a tool for organizing
- Seen as a means to tackle issues of land security and housing, and has been an important part of developing the communities' ability to plan for the future.
- Has been a valuable resource during crisis, e.g. during COVID-19 lockdowns



Photo: www.tampej.org

Land Acquisition

- Different modes of land acquisition:
 - Direct purchase - communities directly buy land from its owner through their savings.
 - Government provided lands - can be in the form of an offsite relocation or a public land donated by the government.
 - Community Mortgage Program (CMP) by the Social Housing Finance Corporation, - communities avail a loan from CMP to purchase private lands.
- Became a response for communities after disasters



Matina Bamboo Bridge (Davao)

- Implemented and managed by **The Matina Crossing Federation** which is composed of four different community associations (Matina-Balusong Neighborhood Association [MABANA]; St. Benedict Neighborhood Association [SBNA]; St. Paul Neighborhood Association [SPNA]; and Shalom Community) through a community loan.
- Explored alternative building material that is economical, environmentally sound, locally available and can be easily managed and handled by the community.



Photos by: Andrea Fitrianto and TAMPEI

Atisan Community Water System

- Atisan Seaside Homeowners Association is an informal settlement along the coast of Talisay City, Cebu formed in 1990 and started community savings in 2000
- They developed a community-managed water system in 2011 through loaned money that directly supplies water to individual households powered by an electric pump (main source).
- Supplies water to 49 households, but only 32 of them were installed with a water meter to save cost.
- Currently, the water system is supplying to almost a hundred households including non-members ISFs.



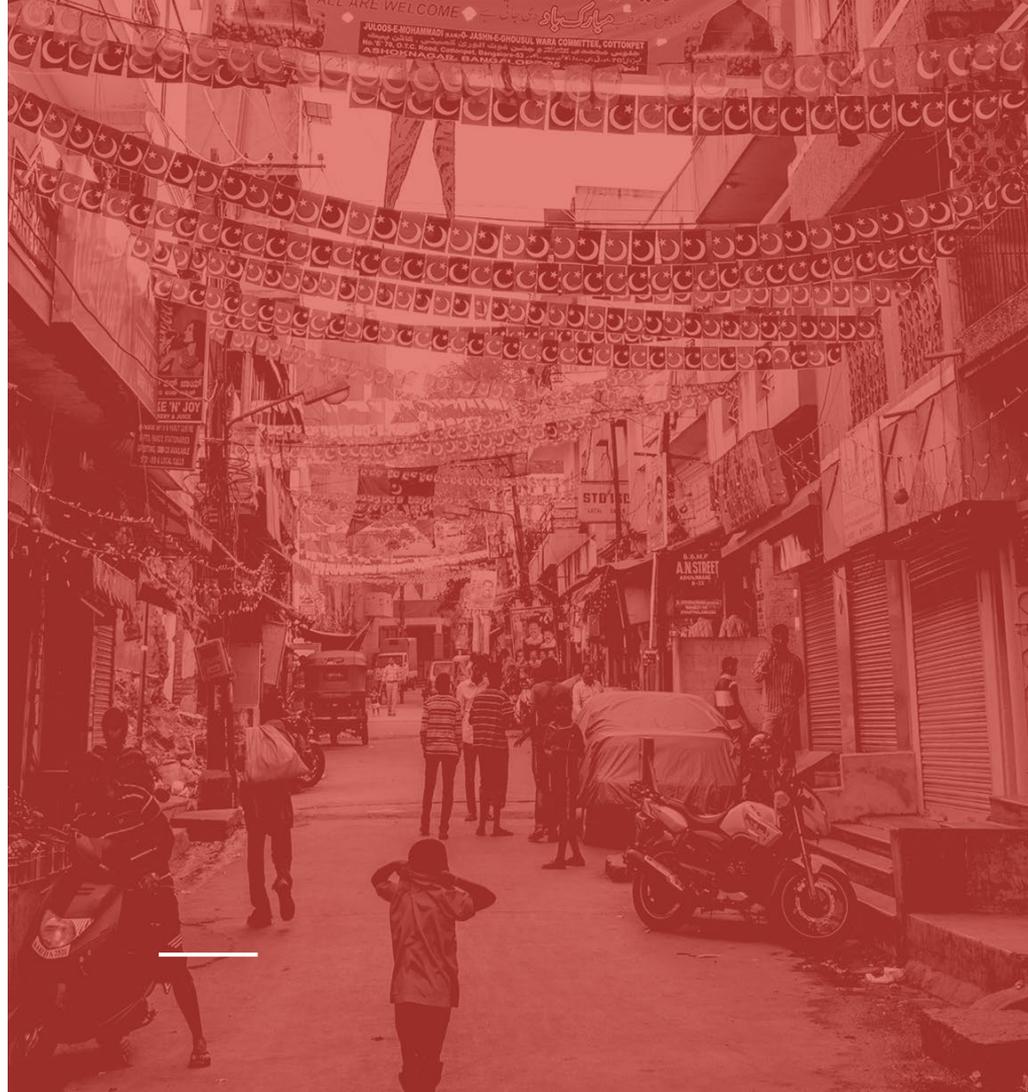
SAJUSSA Coastal Embankment

- San Juan Seaside Settlers Association is a coastal community in Davao City with 108 members including indigenous people.
- Often experienced strong waves damaging the pathways and electric posts. To manage the effects of upsurges, they gather sandbags along the shore.
- They loaned in 2010 to purchase materials to construct a 23-meter long riprap wall made of concrete.
- At present, the embankment was demolished by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) due to the construction of a concrete dike. The project aimed to mitigate flooding in the coastal area, but it also displaced several households because of its construction.



Key Takeaways

- Communities are not passive actors in the face of crises. They know how to act and provide solutions.
- Active sectoral participation of women, youth, elderly, and LGBTQIA+ was evident in the projects and communities visited.
- Community actions / initiatives are not perfect – it goes through different processes that requires time and patience. Most of the time, it is a matter of trial and error – learning by doing.
- Communities' perspective on resilience – something that will help improve their everyday lives to be able to adapt to ongoing conditions.
- Not all forms of “developments” are towards progress – some are destructive to society, human relationships, and the environment.





Salamat po!

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