

**International Symposium on Social Impact Assessment (SIA in East Asia And The Pacific)**

# **COMMUNITIES AS STAKEHOLDERS IN SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT THE PHILIPPINE EXPERIENCE**

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Virtual Event  
June 7, 2022 - 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM (Manila time)

# THE CHALLENGE

## *For the World Bank and Government*

Identify, assess, and manage the potential social risks and impacts in a project's life cycle

## *For the People and Communities affected by the project*

### **They**

- Identify: who and how they will be affected?
- Assess benefits: who will gain – who will lose?
- Manage potential social risks, impacts of a project's life cycle: process?

## *Co-knowledge Generation*

### **co-production, co-implementation, co-ownership, co-benefits**

- Community-Government-Private Sector partnerships
- World Bank: Benefits sharing



# IMPORTANCE OF PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION in SIA

## Social Impact Assessment as Partnerships in Governance

- People as stakeholders; meaningful participation
- Community identification of issues and stakeholders from the beginning
- Prioritizing and planning
- Information access
- Implementation
- Monitoring and evaluation: who has benefitted? Lost out? Why?
- Feedback as accountability, transparency



# IMPORTANCE OF PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION in SIA

## Communities/People as Primary Stakeholders

- They know their situation and aspirations best; inside view
- They want to improve their lives and wellbeing --but at what cost?
- They expect or wish the government would listen to their aspirations and priorities
- They are willing to get actively involved *if they have a say from the beginning and throughout.*
- NGO partners/Social devt workers build people's capacities to assert their interests and rights
- Co-owning the project promotes trust and sustainability



# CASE STUDY 1: URBAN INFORMAL SETTLERS IN METRO MANILA

COVID-19 in BASECO, Manila – (J. Tonelete and M. Racelis 2020 and 2021)

## Problem definition

**Government – health threat; Community – economic threat**

- **Government prioritized lockdown and health checks enforced by police; people prioritized economic survival**
- **Social impact**
  - Organized communities led mostly by women took on key community sustainability roles while government was still organizing assistance;
  - PO leaders in the best position to assess social impact of government programs during COVID-19.



Photo Source: Rappler.com

# CASE STUDY 1: URBAN INFORMAL SETTLERS IN METRO MANILA

COVID-19 in BASECO, Manila – (J. Tonelete and M. Racelis 2020 and 2021)

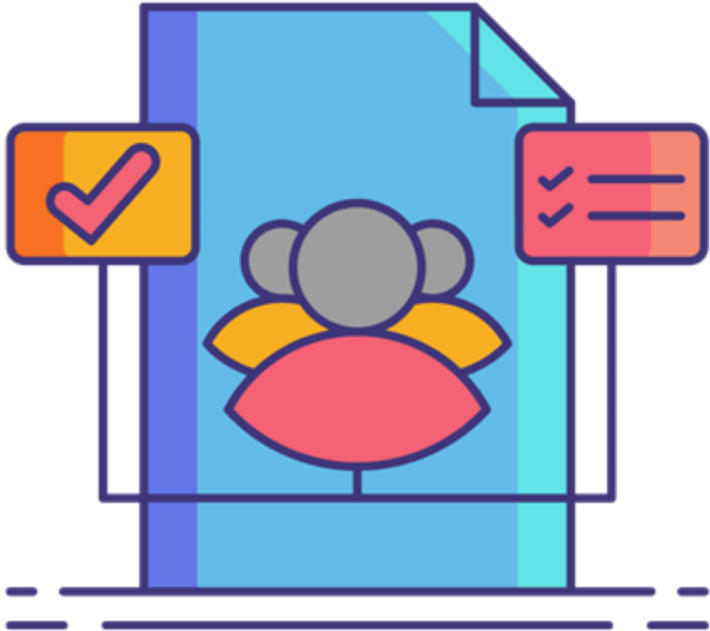
## Community – Government cooperation through PO initiatives/strengths

- o PO's updated community household list helped fair distribution/monitoring *ayuda*/cash grants and food pack distribution; govt lists outdated 2015
- o Shared allocations with those left out
- o Accessed food, medicine, PPE support from partner NGOs/faith-based groups/corporation/VP Leni Robredo's office
- o Set up community feeding kitchens
- o Created vegetable gardens for hh consumption and sale.
- o Did marketing for families quarantined at home; accompanied them to public quarantine facilities or hospital
- o Set up income-generating for women: sewing masks, making PPEs; hampered by mothers having to supervise their children's schoolwork

Photo Source: [ourworlddata.com](https://www.ourworlddata.com)



# UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE'S ISSUES THROUGH RESEARCH



## Traditional research approaches: extractive

- Externally determined project
- Technical experts know
- Statistical surveys only; no qualitative explanations of *why* these results
- Implementation decisions made by government: people expected to accept; limited or no feedback to community
- Focus on outputs with limited attention to outcomes and impact: who gained, who lost?

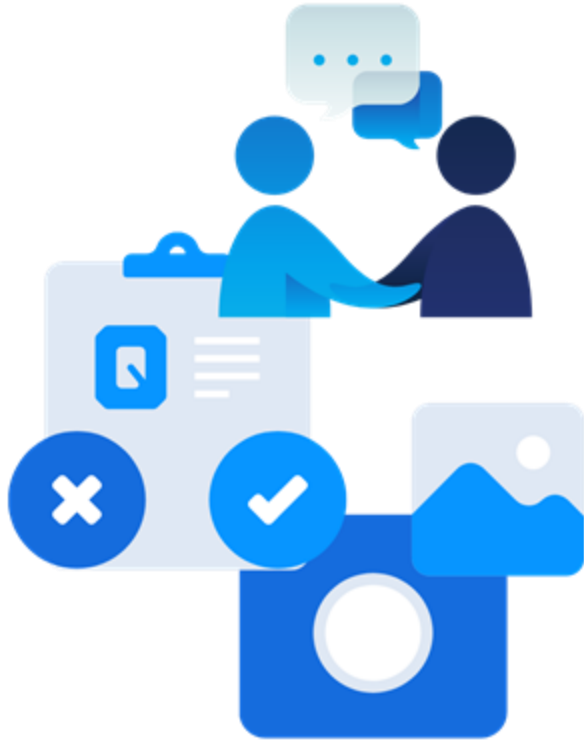
# PROJECTS AS PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH (PAR)

- Project development as mutual problem solving (Robert Chambers)
- Local people's capacity building, enabling them to plan and act (Bryman 2008); women's leadership
- Cyclical process: planning, observing, acting reflecting (Walker 2009);
- Community monitors process throughout; periodic evaluations
- Importance of social development workers, community organizers/facilitators to facilitate the process and address challenges along the way
- Drawback: project is externally defined; people participate in the outsider's project vs co-developing and owning the project





# CO-KNOWLEDGE GENERATION: CO-PRODUCTION, CO-IMPLEMENTATION, CO-OWNERSHIP, CO-BENEFITS



- People define the issues and projects aimed at addressing them
- Priorities and preferences
- Problem-solving approaches
- Mutual learning
- Continuous information systems feedback
- Sustainability
- Rights, dignity, and respect

# WHAT IS DISTINCTIVE ABOUT SOCIAL IMPACT CO-ASSESSMENT?



- Focuses on people and community agency
- Recognizes people are local experts; builds on local knowledge
- Acknowledges communities differ; disaggregation is important
- Supports people's desire for improved, equitable community wellbeing, especially vulnerable groups; listening approach
- Involves primary stakeholders in monitoring through the changing process cycle; evaluation
- Promotes sustainability through co-ownership

# CASE STUDY 2: Alliance of People's Organizations Along the Manggahan Floodway: Baseline criteria for 5 Community-selected Sustainable Development Goals: EDUCATION during COVID-19

- Every child has ipad
- Signal improvement; wi-fi; load subsidy
- Proper lighting in every household; electricity
- Mothers/caregiver assisted in learning modules
- System of supervision, so mothers can go out to earn
- Children have learned at expected grade levels; promotion
- Alternative programs for youth who have to work to earn



Photo Source: APOAMF

The Manggahan Low Rise Building Project in Pasig City, Philippines

# CONTEXT AND PROCESS MATTER

- SIA begins with the project: baseline, monitoring, evaluation as Co-Production
- When and how have the affected people learned about the project? Reactions?
- Rumors vs information
  - Trusted officials
  - Iterative consultations
- Government listening vs telling; meaningful participation;
- Enhancing credibility, legitimacy and trust: conversations; story-telling
- Assessing power relations; if unequal, people will opt for short-term not long-term benefits (Vaclay)
- Time consuming consultative process but more effective in the long run



# CASE STUDY 3: PRIETO DIAZ, SORSOGON, BICOL REGION, LUZON

*Community-generated resource management plan becomes a local government policy*

Source: Wilhelmina L. Cabo 2007

## **SAMAMAMU**

*(Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda sa Muntopar/Assn of Small Fisherfolk of Muntopar)*

- PO organized by local priest

## **Tambuyog**

- development NGO, invited to carry out its program on sustainable coastal area development (SCAD) in partnership with SAMAMAMU – 1994

**Community Organizing: not only preparatory but continues throughout project**



# CASE STUDY 3: PRIETO DIAZ, SORSOGON, BICOL REGION, LUZON

*Community-generated resource management plan becomes a local government policy*

Source: Wilhelmina L. Cabo 2007

## ***Successful community-owned five-year development People's Plan for Sustainable coastal area development is integrated into municipal plan and ordinance***

- Group self-assessment, teambuilding, running meetings, community assemblies and discussions, information gathering, situation analysis, leadership training, stakeholder dialogues, lobbying and negotiating with local officials
- Resistance to DENR selected contractor with top-down orientation; reorganized
- From Association to Cooperative for sustainability
- SAMAMAMU – electoral campaigning for supportive local officials, who won
- Interagency multi-sectoral task force created to review municipal fishery code

# Case Study 4: Claiming the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title – Iraya Mangyan, Occidental Mindoro – AnthroWatch – National Commission on Indigenous People (San Jose, 2012)

- IPRA – Indigenous People’s Rights Act RA 8371 1997
- Free prior and informed consent (FPIC)
- Land is life and identity
- Discrimination and dispossession
- Building trust
- CADT Process: pre- actual- post-survey – submit to NCIP
- Iraya learn; genealogy, kinship charts, census, photos, ethnographic data, land surveys, landmark identification

Photo Source: Stairway Foundation



# CO-KNOWLEDGE GENERATION AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- **Focus on marginalized groups: Who benefited? Who was excluded? Why?**
- **People's perceptions of local power dynamics and alternatives**
  - Government
  - Business
  - Big families and clans
- **Unequal power relations move people toward short-term benefits**
- **Accounts of discrimination and social injustice**
- **Deprivation of dignity and respect**
- **Grievance mechanisms**
- **Claiming successes**





# CASE STUDY 5: NAGA CITY: MAYOR JESSE ROBREDO, NAGA CITY URBAN POOR FEDERATION AND PEOPLE'S COUNCIL (Cabo 2007)



Photo Source: [fb.com/nagacitypeoplescouncil](https://www.facebook.com/nagacitypeoplescouncil)

- Governance partnership generated pro-poor programs and policies:
- Land tenure and housing;
- Local implementation of Urban Devt and Housing Act on anti-eviction and anti-demolition rights;
- Onsite upgrading/nearsite relocation; access to resources
- Urban Poor Affairs Office created
- Reform of City's internal management, service delivery, and public feedback system.
- Mayor Robredo re-elected unopposed, serving 9 full-term years; DILG Sec'y

# CONCLUSIONS: SIA WORKS BEST WHEN

- Affected people and communities are brought into discussion from project conceptualization to conclusion in a continuing partnership through Co-Production, Co-Ownership, Co-Benefits – and CO-SI ASSESSMENT.
- **Community organizers** – NGOs, social development practitioners are key partners
- Informed and empowered people and communities take initiatives and responsibility for the project; resolve community differences



# CONCLUSIONS: SIA WORKS BEST WHEN

- Women's talent, interest and efficacy as effective community leaders are recognized.
- Government partners value and support the efficacy of citizens making their voices heard to increase efficiency, accountability of government; good governance.
- People are enabled to collaborate effectively and sustain project outcomes and impact because their knowledge, interest to learn, and participate are appreciated
- Marginalized citizenry's right to dignity and respect is affirmed and valued.





# THANK YOU!

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