



A different kind of child friendly space?

Learning from partnership in the response to Typhoon Haiyan

Executive Summary

While many claims are made about the value of working in partnership with local organisations in relief and development contexts, there remains a large gap between rhetoric and reality.

This report looks at this issue through the lens of child-focused programming in emergencies, focusing on a case study of partnering with local-faith based organisations in the response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. Although focusing on a single case study, this also enables a depth of learning showing examples of the ways that working through local partners may have greater impacts for children at risk.

This research takes the model of 'child friendly spaces' (CFS), one of the most common child-focused programme responses in emergencies, and asks whether CFS goals, which include improving children's protective and psychosocial wellbeing, and involving the local community, can be achieved in alternative ways through the responses of local partners. This case study builds on Viva and Food for the Hungry's earlier research in Lebanon which found that alternative child-focused responses in the Syria crisis had potential for greater impact for children if better researched and resourced.

The research is not a comprehensive evaluation of PCMN's work or the wider Haiyan response but seeks to highlight responses which could provide learning for other situations.

Key findings:

In terms of CFS goals, PCMN's programme response demonstrated distinctive ways of fulfilling the same objectives. While typical CFS were often perceived by communities as simply providing a safe place to play, PCMN more deliberately targeted gaps in the provision for children, by implementing a targeted psychosocial camp, creating a youth friendly space, and developing a comprehensive programme for children in need of special protection which included assessment, support and referral, as well as alternative foster care.

As a local network, PCMN demonstrated flexibility in being able to develop a variety of programme responses in line with identified needs, and was able to base responses on a detailed needs assessment made possible by the network's presence on the ground through local church partners. While initially intending

to implement only child friendly spaces, on evaluating the situation of children and the gaps in provision, PCMN developed more comprehensive responses. This included directly supporting existing structures providing services for children, in terms of early childhood education, helping children go back to school, and also supporting local child protection committees and social workers to strengthen the protective environment.

Working through a network of churches also enabled a greater level of connectedness between the initial relief response and the wider context of risk for children; many of the responses were able to target ongoing issues and root causes, particularly in terms of a focus on strengthening families.

Partnering with local organisations had limitations in terms of ability to rapidly scale up, since responses were locally focused and designed, requiring a significant initial investment in capacity building, and the sudden expansion of the programme stretched the network's capacity. However, some of the programmes developed have been successfully replicated in multiple areas, and local partners are now well placed to respond in future emergencies and remain on the ground to continue to work on longer-term structural issues affecting children at the same time as providing emergency responses.

This case study points to the value of finding creative ways to support local partners to respond in emergency contexts. It is important to invest more in learning from further case studies to develop good practice around making the rhetoric of partnership a reality in these contexts.

Recommendations

- PCMN should seek to address the long-term needs of children by considering developing ongoing psychosocial support programmes to build on the Haiyan response and by linking families with livelihoods and parenting support, as well as advocating for structural changes that would create safe environments and access to services for children
- Viva, FH and others should continue to invest in learning from working with local faith-based partners in emergencies and use this learning to develop good practice on effectively working in partnership to have the greatest impact for children

Introduction

Typhoon Haiyan (known locally as Yolanda), which swept through the Philippines in November 2013, was one of the most destructive typhoons ever recorded. More than 6,000 people died and more than 14 million were affected, of which almost 6 million were children. The typhoon was quickly followed by a significant humanitarian response involving both the government and national and international NGOs. In addition to meeting the physical needs of children, many NGOs sought to provide psychosocial support for children and to create protective and child-friendly environments.

Many agencies established child friendly spaces (CFS) as part of their response to the typhoon. CFS seek to bring together communities to provide safe spaces for children affected by natural disasters or conflict, and can include play, education, health and psychosocial support, as well as providing links to other available services, particularly acting as referral points to wider protective structures for children. They are generally short to medium term programme responses, often with temporary structures such as tents. CFS are intended to improve children's protective and psychosocial wellbeing. Reviews of existing research and evaluations on the impact of CFS suggests that while children benefit from a return to normal routine in a safe environment, there is little evidence definitively backing up the claims of their impact on children (Metzler et. al, 2012). A UNESCO study focusing on programming for education in emergencies concluded that, 'the child friendly space model has become something that organisations automatically undertake, and the relationship to education or protection needs has become, in some cases, irrelevant' (Penson and Tomlinson, 2009), indicating the need to look more deeply at the motivation for and impact of CFS in practice. At the same time there is little evidence on the impact of alternative approaches to meeting the protective and psychosocial needs of children in emergencies, particularly through work with local or faith-based partner organisations.

This review of PCMN's work offers a case study of the impact of supporting children in emergencies by working through local partners, in this case a network of local partner churches across Eastern Samar, one of the areas most severely affected by the typhoon. This research views PCMN's child-focused responses through the lens of the specific goals and claimed impacts of CFS, to see whether the impact attributed to CFS might also be achieved through other approaches. The review provides further insights for Viva and Food for the Hungry (FH)'s learning on good practice in supporting local partner churches and organisations to

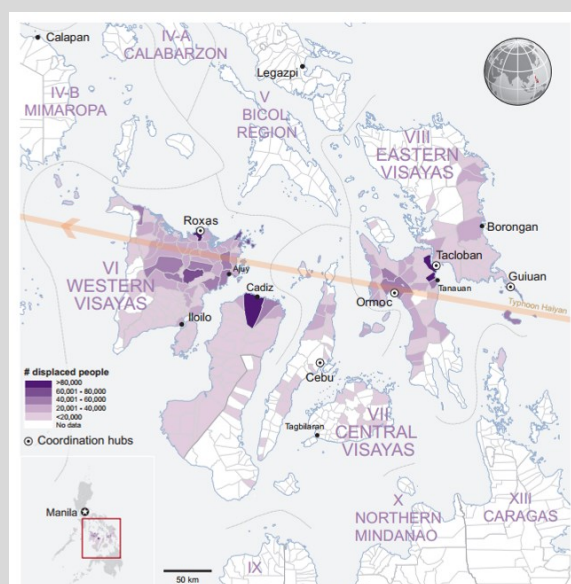
Philippines Children's Ministries Network (**PCMN**) is a networking organisation whose vision is 'Protecting Filipino children as we restore lives together'. PCMN brings together over 300 Christian agencies and churches working to achieve transformation in the lives of Filipino children in Metro Manila, Mindanao, Samar, and Negros Oriental. For over 15 years PCMN has been uniting the Christian response to children through facilitating and empowering effective joint-action programmes addressing critical key issues such as street children, child labour, sexual and domestic abuse and trafficking, as well as relief.

Viva is an international Christian charity working with partner networks and supporters to inspire lasting children in children's lives through the power of collective action. Viva's vision is to see children safe, well and fulfilling their God-given potential. Viva believes that a network of churches and community organisations, locally focused and united in purpose, is the best possible vehicle for bringing lasting change for children.

respond to the needs of children in emergencies, building on Viva and FH's recent learning from the work of churches in Lebanon and Syria which indicated that there was space for churches and local organisations to have significant and sustainable impact in these contexts. The onset of Typhoon Hagupit/Ruby during the research period prevented the review from including learning from FH Philippines' child-focused response in the same region, but at the same time enabled a greater insight into the nature of the immediate response of PCMN's local partners in a typhoon situation.

Context: Eastern Samar

Eastern Samar in the Eastern Visayas region of the Philippines was one of the areas most severely affected areas by Typhoon Haiyan, experiencing heavy rainfall, flash floods and landslides which caused widespread damage to buildings and the natural environment. Eastern Samar's 23 coastal towns face the Pacific Ocean. Within this region there is a population of approximately half a million living in 597 barangays (local council areas) representing 91,252 families, all of which were affected by the typhoon. Towns in the northern part of the province were difficult to reach following the destruction caused by the typhoon. In addition to casualties and damage to housing, livelihoods were dramatically affected in Eastern Samar because of the high reliance on farming as the primary source of income. More than 42 million coconut trees in Eastern Samar were destroyed, representing the primary livelihood of 280,000 people; vulnerable small-scale coconut farmers are still struggling to recover (ACTED, 2014). Even before the typhoon, Eastern Samar was among one of the poorest regions of the Philippines, with 63.7% of the population living in poverty (ACAPS, 2014).



OCHA Humanitarian Snapshot, 12th December 2013

Methodology

Rather than simply looking at the processes and programmes delivered, the research sought to look more deeply at underpinning motivations and values and how these influenced the network's response to the challenges and opportunities at each stage of the process. The research did not seek to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the whole of PCMN's response but focuses on selected child-focused programmes, particularly those with an intended protective or psychosocial impact.

Interviews and focus groups (below right) were carried out in a field visit to Eastern Samar over one week in November-December 2014. Research with children, network partner churches and communities consisted of a combination of semi-structured interviews and participatory research methods. The findings of the field research were combined with desk research including situation analysis documents, and analysis of PCMN programme proposals and reports.

The specific research questions for this study were informed by claims made about the design and impact of child friendly spaces:

Objectives for Child Friendly Spaces (Save the Children, 2008)

- To offer children opportunities to develop, learn, play, and build/strengthen resiliency after an emergency or crisis, or during a protracted experience
- To identify and find ways to respond to particular threats to all children and/or specific groups of children, such as those with particular vulnerabilities, after the emergency/crisis, or during a protracted emergency

Advantages of CFS identified by Unicef: flexibility, rapid start-up, scalability, low cost, mobilisation of the community

Key principles for CFS (Unicef, 2009):

- CFS are secure and 'safe' environments for children
- CFS provide a stimulating and supportive environment for children
- CFS are built on existing structures and capacities within a community
- CFS use a fully participatory approach for the design and implementation
- CFS provide/support integrated services and programmes
- CFS are inclusive and non-discriminatory

Research Questions

What process did the network go through to decide on their programme response?

- How did PCMN assess the needs of children?
- How did PCMN assess the network's capabilities as well as the resources of the community?
- How did PCMN gain input from the community and how did this influence programme design?

In what ways did the response model "CFS" goals?

- Did the response seek to provide protection for children?
- Did the response seek to provide psychosocial support for children?
- How did the response promote community ownership?
- How did the response demonstrate flexibility and how was it able to adapt to the local situation and needs, rapidly?
- What existing community structures and relationships did the response build on?

What was the impact on children?

- Protection: are children safer?
- Psychosocial wellbeing: are children better able to cope?
- Did the response enable families and caregivers to support children?
- Did the response help children to access other services?
- Did the response help children to return to normal routines?

How have the programmes transitioned after the initial relief response?

What was distinctive about a network/church-based response?

Stakeholders Consulted

Semi-Structured Interviews

PCMN staff

- PCMN network manager
- Protection programmes manager and education programmes manager

Partner churches and volunteers

- 2 town coordinators (Lawaan and Giporlos)
- 1 church volunteer (Quinapondan)

Viva

- Network consultant to PCMN

Community

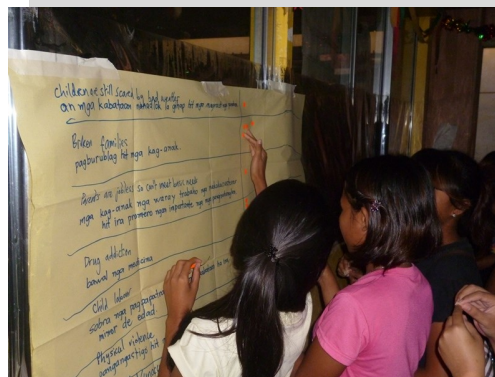
- 7 parents (Quinapondan, Lawaan, Balangiga)

Local government

- MSDWO social worker and day care worker (Quinapondan)
- MSDWO social worker (Lawaan)

Focus Groups

- 30 children aged 7-13 (Lawaan)
- 12 Operation Safe leaders (Quinapondan)
- 16 Operation Safe leaders (Lawaan)
- 16 parents (Lawaan)
- 12 church leaders and Supervised Neighbourhood Play (SNP) workers (Lawaan)
- 9 SNP leaders (Balangiga)
- 8 young people aged 13-17 and 3 Youth Friendly Space leaders (Balangiga)



What process did the network go through to decide on their programme response?

PCMN's decision to respond to Typhoon Haiyan built on a pre-existing relationship with a network of local churches across Samar. Between 2006-2010 PCMN had worked extensively with churches and community organisations in Samar on a child trafficking prevention programme, forming local networks for child protection in each of the three regions of Samar involving over 180 members. PCMN and the local network were in constant contact before and following Typhoon Haiyan, discussing the situation and possible response plans.

How did PCMN assess the network's capabilities as well as the resources of the community?

At the end of November 2013, PCMN and Viva facilitated a 2-day consultation with churches in Samar. 43 delegates representing 86 churches attended, and the meetings initially consisted of psychosocial support for the church members who were themselves victims of the typhoon. Following this, the consultation invited delegates to develop a vision for the response of the network, with ideas suggested such as safe spaces, food and water relief, pastoral care, rebuilding houses, health and hygiene, children's education, psychosocial support for children, and disaster preparedness training. Network delegates developed questions to be used to establish a baseline and this was used along with inputs from disaster specialists and international standards, and training given on children's assessment and standards for working with children in disasters.

How did the network gain input from the community and how did this influence programme design?

Because of the network's presence in more difficult to reach affected areas through local churches, PCMN was able to focus on locations that were not already being reached with aid. PCMN participated in Government coordination meetings, during which



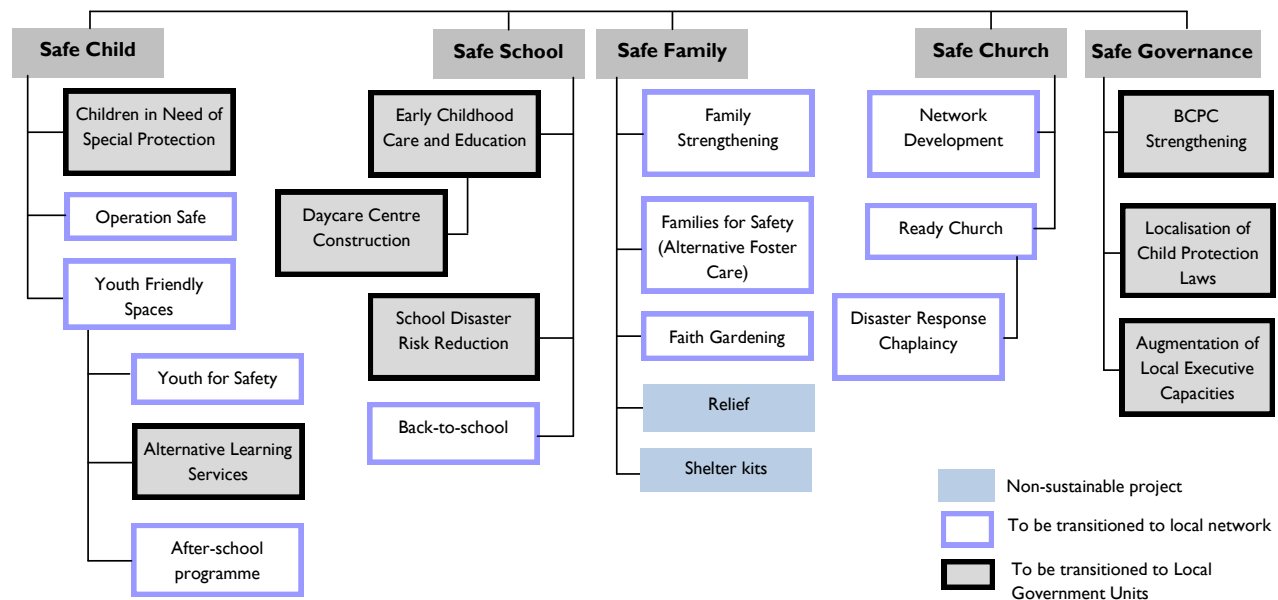
PCMN was allocated 6 of the 11 rural coastal towns, Quinapondan, Lawaan, Hernani, Giporlos, Balangayan and Balangiga.

PCMN carried out a detailed needs assessment through churches in Eastern Samar. A team of network members travelled on motorcycles to reach severely affected towns. PCMN worked closely with local town governments to assess the needs for relief and recovery intervention. The churches found that some barangays remained unreached by aid, especially the upper ones not directly on the road. Temporary shelters were needed and mass clearing of debris had not taken place in more inaccessible areas.

How did PCMN assess the needs of children?

In addition to the immediate needs which could be met by relief efforts, PCMN's needs assessment also revealed other issues facing children as a result of the typhoon. The assessment recognised a need for trauma debriefing for families and children, and noted an escalation of violence in families because of the additional stress. Children had lost homes, education, clothing and space and play materials. Many schools were damaged or destroyed and were not equipped to re-open. Livelihoods had also been severely damaged, limiting families' ability to provide for their children. Data on separated and unaccompanied children was not available and PCMN's partner churches identified more than 600 children in need of special protection through door to door interviews. PCMN's longer-term programme response therefore included a focus on working with vulnerable families and children to seek to meet these identified needs, as well as seeking to address gaps not being filled by other agencies.

PCMN Programmes in Eastern Samar (REST: Restore Eastern Samar Together)



Did the response seek to provide protection for children?

Children in Need of Special Protection (CNSP)

Under a specifically recruited programme coordinator for the 'Safe Child' projects, each of the 6 towns appointed a volunteer town coordinator and care workers who were trained to act as para-social workers, identifying children at risk, linking them with government services, and providing mentoring support to families. Assessment of the identified most vulnerable children's needs took place in more depth, including assessment of exposure to specific risks such as abuse, domestic labour and commercial exploitation, bullying and exclusion. Children in the programme are supported to live with their existing families where possible, and parents receive mentoring and support in ensuring that their home provides a safe environment for children and are given goods and services to support them to care for the child.

Alternative Foster Care

In addition to seeking to reunite separated children with family members, PCMN wants to provide safe family care for vulnerable children by training foster parents to be able to take in and care for children in need of protection. Fostering is only permitted for families registered with the government, and few families are on this list. So far 91 families have been trained by PCMN and the care workers will work with these families to prepare them for

taking in children and attaining the requirements for registration with Social Services.

Strengthening existing child protection mechanisms

At all stages of the response PCMN has sought to involve and work with existing child protection mechanisms. During the needs assessment phase church partners met with barangay (town) councils, raising awareness on child protection and trafficking issues and advocating for the creation of mandated Barangay Child Protection Committees (BCPCs). The 'Safe Governance' stream of programmes seeks to strengthen and support the creation of BCPCs to ensure that community leaders and members are aware of child protection issues and equipped to deal with those that arise.

Youth Friendly Spaces

In Balangiga PCMN opened a 'Youth Friendly Space' (YFS) which is a child friendly space for older children. Older children are given the opportunity of a safe place to be as well as having the chance to take part in art, music, sports and games. They learn life skills and participate in youth advocacy, anti-child sexual abuse and trafficking awareness, and resiliency training. The 'Youth for Safety' programme equips young people to be youth advocates against sexual abuse.

Did the response seek to provide psychosocial support for children?



Operation Safe

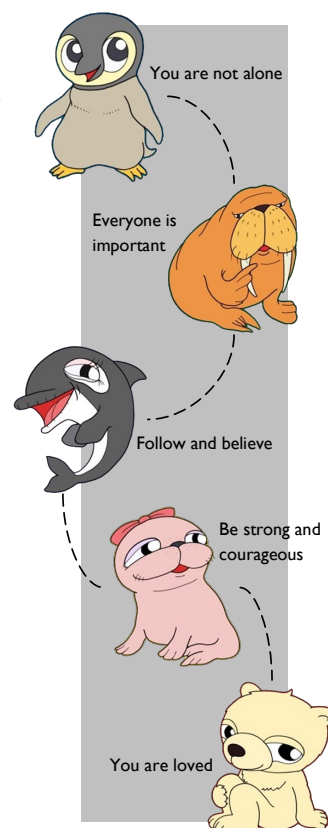
The programme targeting children's psychosocial wellbeing most deliberately is Operation Safe, a five-day activity programme for children which PCMN adapted with support from CRASH Japan where the programme originated. Operation Safe guides children through the story of 'Pete', a penguin separated from his family who finds ways to deal with his experience through the friends he meets along the way. The process gives children space to deal with their experiences in a safe place, covering one key idea each day, which is reinforced with activities and resources and delivered in the local language. The

programme seeks to provide a fun and child-like approach to recovering from trauma. It includes games, crafts, snacks, story and Bible stations that children pass through in each session. Operation Safe is run by a trained team of 30 local volunteers.

Community members and church leaders in several locations felt that Operation Safe offered a unique focus on psychosocial support which was not available in other child-focused responses; a parent in Lawaan observed, 'In all of the NGOs that were here, there was none doing anything for children in debriefing traumatised children—that's why the children were so eager.' While parents of children attending typical child friendly spaces felt that their children enjoyed their time there, they felt that these CFS were more focused simply on play rather than psychosocial support.

How did the response promote community ownership?

Throughout all programmes PCMN sought to work through churches and local volunteers, as well as alongside existing community structures. Both education and protective responses are staffed by volunteers, and the CNSP programme has trained local volunteers to be para-social workers supporting the government social work response.



Operation Safe characters from the story of Pete the Penguin and the daily themes

How did the response demonstrate flexibility and how was it able to adapt to the local situation and needs, rapidly?

Needs Assessment: Churches on the ground

While UN agencies and INGOs tended to either be Manila-based or operated from the aid hubs, NNGO [national NGO] partners were most often located within communities which assisted in building trust and gave them a far greater knowledge of their priority needs. This provided a strong foundation for providing people with what they most required and as a result assistance delivered in partnership was often considered among the most relevant by recipient communities.

(CAFOD et al, 2014)

The needs assessment carried out by the network in the early stages of the response enabled an in-depth understanding of the context to directly inform the rest of the programme. Churches are already on the ground and have a pre-existing relationship with and understanding of the communities they serve. PCMN's church members involved in the needs assessment were able to access otherwise unreached areas where damage had made roads almost impassable; teams of volunteers were sent out by motorcycle and often found that they were the first to reach these areas and discover the needs.

Pastors expressed a feeling that their capacity to respond in future emergencies has been built by their involvement in PCMN's post-Haiyan programme. Since the research period coincided with the onset of Typhoon

It was the first week in December – we started with three towns – Balangiga, Hernani, and Giporlos – with three teams, each team with 6 people, each with 3 motorbikes. Food was scarce, houses were ruined, there was not much relief from other people. People were begging for food and daily needs – there was no way of making income.

Church volunteer, Quinapondan

Hagupit/Ruby in December 2014, it was possible to observe the local network's initial response to the typhoon. In Lawaan, immediately after the typhoon, PCMN's town coordinator (a local pastor) visited the barangay offices to learn about the statistics on affected families and checks prices in local stores to prepare for possible relief programmes (right), immediately ready to respond on the ground. This knowledge helped PCMN to identify the areas most in need for the relief response they later delivered.



Several other examples of PCMN's response demonstrate a flexible development of programmes that was able to take account of the needs identified by communities. The 'Safe School' branch of the programme in particular responded directly to the findings in the needs assessment that children were unable to return to school or access educational opportunities that should be available to them. Rather than setting up additional centres or programmes, PCMN found ways to strengthen and expand the existing education system, for example by supporting children with material resources to enable them to go back to school, and strengthening provision for young children through establishing Supervised Neighbourhood Play (SNP) sessions, as well as supporting the reconstruction and work of existing day care centres in communities. Alternative learning, after-school programmes and supplementary classes also responded to the need to strengthen and increase access to educational provision.

In terms of protection, the Alternative Foster Care programme initially showed adaptability by recognising a need to first create and strengthen opportunities for children in need of special

protection to be placed with families by empowering parents to become registered foster parents. This adaptability to local circumstances is particularly shown in the realisation that marriage was one of the main barriers to qualification as foster parents, since marriage can be expensive and does not always happen. In one instance the local churches facilitated a mass wedding for 28 couples to enable these families to become qualified foster carers, creating space for more children to find protection when they need it and building long-term protective capacity in the community.

Another example of flexibility to change programme goals in light of emerging needs is evident in the network's decision to create a 'Youth Friendly Space' (YFS) targeting the protection and psychosocial needs of adolescents, in light of the reality that many INGOs were focusing on younger children in child friendly spaces. Unicef's study of other existing CFS in the Haiyan response found that, 'Activities for adolescents in Child Friendly Spaces have been rare and one-dimensional... this age group has not been widely engaged in CFS' (Unicef Philippines, 2014).



How did the response build on existing community structures and relationships?

Building on churches

PCMN's programmes build on existing relationships between people in the community, seeking to strengthen and grow their capacity. PCMN has sought to build on the existing reach of churches into the community, and churches existing desire to support vulnerable children. One town coordinator stated that in Lawaan, 'there are 16 churches. All of the churches are doing something to help... All have their own projects serving the community.' PCMN's response has engaged with this existing resource of churches and their members, equipping and facilitating them to be the ones to take action and bring the programmes to life.

Local child protection systems

In each town, a municipal social welfare and development officer (MSWDO) is responsible for case management for child protection issues, but because of their broad responsibility for covering all community social work issues, the protective environment for children is limited. PCMN has sought to work with the local government to provide support in case management and referrals and through training and mentoring support. Care workers trained by PCMN act as a link between the community and local government, strengthening capacity for identification of cases and for action to be taken.

PCMN are even more active than us [on child protection] because of the multiple tasks we have... they help us a lot, especially in following up of cases.

Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer (MSWDO), Lawaan

PCMN has also developed working relationships with INGOs also working to strengthen child protection, and works in partnership with four other NGOs in delivering the broader Restore Eastern Samar Together (REST) programme. Involvement in UN cluster meetings also enabled the network to understand issues that may need more attention and to support the development of their relationships with government.

Strengthening Early Childhood Education Provision



Supervised Neighbourhood Play (SNP) is a government-mandated provision for children aged 0-4 years old, to have a space to play and learn within their community before they are ready to enter day care. PCMN found that this provision was not running in practice in several barangays, and so in coordination with the social welfare department is now providing this service three times a week for parents and young children in PCMN's six focus towns. The programme is informal and includes songs and games, arts and crafts, as well as a chance to play with toys.

Before Yolanda we did not have supervised neighbourhood play in our barangay – after Yolanda we have it. It's a big help.

Church leader, Balangiga

Day care provision is also a government service and a significant number of existing day care centres were damaged or destroyed during the typhoon. One year after the typhoon, over 1,300 day care centres remained in need of repair or reconstruction (OCHA, October 2014). PCMN is providing and managing the

Daycare centres were existing but they were totally damaged so PCMN constructed daycare centres – it's a big help. They are building to a better standard and with better materials, and the design is clear and adaptable by the community.

Social worker, Quinapondan

construction of day care centres in five municipalities. Rather than creating separate safe spaces for young children, PCMN in this way strengthened government and community structures to be able to provide this service themselves. So far two of these day care centres are completed and operational. PCMN carried out training of day care workers in each town.



The impact on children: Are children safer?

Protection issues resulting from Typhoon Haiyan

In a December 2013 assessment, the Child Protection Working Group identified specific issues areas of risk resulting from Haiyan. Dangers and injuries were more likely owing to the debris and unsafe or destroyed housing; this finding was also mentioned in focus groups with parents. Children were also found begging on the roadside. Parents mentioned an increase in unaccompanied and separated children, and there was an increased risk of trafficking. Lack of adequate shelter and security increased the risk

of sexual violence, and one month after the typhoon there were 387,450 internally displaced people in 1,552 centres, 90% of these in Eastern and Western Visayas. There was also a potential increase in child labour and out of school children given the destruction of sources of livelihoods for many families. A focus group of young people in Lawaan confirmed that child labour, physical and sexual violence, and unaccompanied and separated children were issues facing children and young people.

Preventing and responding to abuse

During the initial needs assessment phase, PCMN church partners collected lists of separated, unaccompanied and at risk children and then carried out family tracing and reunification and sought to place children with foster families. Initially, 300 children were identified as being in need of special protection, but this was reduced after family reunification took place and 150 children are now part of the programme. A large number of these are not living with parents. The 50 most at risk children are being supported by the Children in Need of Special Protection (CNSP) project, which provides mentoring and support for caregivers, improvements to the child's environment and material support for the child. Care workers have noted a decline in the risk of abuse in these households, but where children are in danger the programme has been able to see them placed with registered foster families, part of the PCMN programme in another area of the island. At the same time, PCMN's alternative foster care programme has recruited and trained 91 families that have committed to becoming foster families who can be registered with the government and so able to take care of children whose living situation is putting them at high risk of abuse, strengthening the protective environment in the long term.

Referrals have also taken place between programmes; one girl who was being abused by her father told staff that she gained the courage to disclose the situation because of the messages she heard while attending Operation Safe, and was then referred to the CNSP programme. Volunteers for Operation Safe are trained as care workers and able to identify signs of abuse and vulnerability; 30 children from Operation Safe are now part of the CNSP programme. PCMN staff report that referral systems have been strengthened and that people now have more courage to report cases. The 'Youth for Safety' programme run as part of the youth friendly space is also equipping young people to understand more about how to protect themselves as well as sharing this information with others. One young person explained, 'We learnt how to protect ourselves... before Youth for Safety we were not aware of our own safety – we didn't think about it. Now we are trying to reach other youth for their future and safety; we're sharing the message with our peers.'



Addressing pre-existing protection issues?

A distinctive aspect of PCMN's protective response is the way that although the response is seeking to address issues raised by the typhoon, at the same time it has identified risks already facing children before Haiyan and has had an impact on addressing these longer term protection issues. Although the needs assessment for children in need of special protection sought to identify children put at risk as a consequence of the typhoon, PCMN staff note that around 90% of the children identified were actually at risk because of situations which existed before the typhoon. Although Haiyan certainly exacerbated these risks, programming initiated because of the devastation caused by the typhoon has meant that children who were previously living at high risk of abuse are now being better cared for. One staff member went so far as to say that for these children, 'Yolanda is a blessing for them'.

It was only because of Yolanda that these children were noticed.
Church volunteer, Quinapondan

Sexual abuse and trafficking are key examples of this. In one case, the post-typhoon needs assessment identified a 16-year-old girl who had been abused several years ago by a relative she still lived with, and the case was noticed and referred to the social welfare department only because of the post-typhoon needs assessment.

Eastern Samar is one of the poorest regions and acts as a transit point to

Manila or Cebu for trafficking for sexual exploitation and for child labour. Child neglect was often stated as a key pre-existing and ongoing protection issue exacerbated by the typhoon, as many parents are not caring for children because of broken relationships, poverty and travel outside of Samar for work. Youth in Balangiga identified lack of attention and neglect by parents as one of the most significant issues faced by young people.

Addressing the root causes of risk: Broken families and poverty

When asked to describe the protection issues facing children and to rank their importance, a focus group of youth in Lawaan clearly identified broken families as the most serious issue (right). They explained:

“Parents have affairs—they have insufficient resources and can’t meet their basic needs—so they think the best way out of their problems is to separate.”

“The children go to their dad and he gets a new family—they have problems in the new family.”

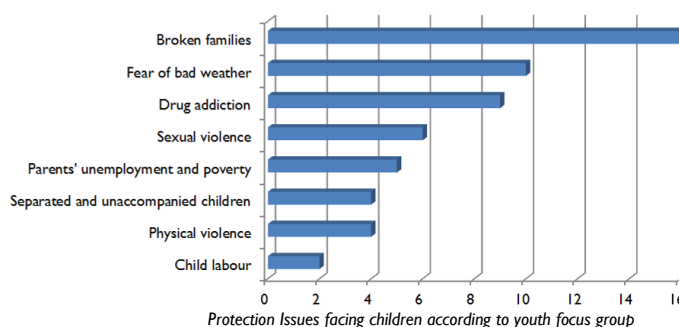
Older children attending the youth friendly space (YFS) stated that a key benefit they experienced from the YFS was that it addressed the gaps they felt in receiving care from their parents; one young person stated, ‘the youth that lack attention from their parents are seeking attention from the other YFS youth and leaders so these youth that have problems in their home feel the security from them, so it is a big help for them. They find security in their peers.’

When families break down, children are frequently left with grandparents, other relatives or community members and this contributes to neglect, with many children out of school as they lack parental support. One of the key reasons for children becoming separated from parents is the large number of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), whose children are at risk of losing parental care. The Child Protection Working group estimates that roughly 4-6 million children of OFWs are left behind in the Philippines. Because of poverty and lack of other opportunities, Samar is a key location where leaving to work in another area, either in Manila or overseas, is common. In these cases separated and unaccompanied children are not created by the emergency but by an ongoing structural lack of opportunity, which is exacerbated by loss of livelihood and economic security through natural disasters such as Haiyan.

The biggest issue is education. I trained these young people on how to be a leader, but what’s next after that? Education is very powerful. Every barangay has an elementary school but there is only one public high school per town; high transport costs stop a lot of children going.

PCMN staff member

Child labour is also an issue for the same reasons; girls as young as 12 years old travel to Manila to work as house helps since access to education is limited and opportunities for alternative employment are rare. In these situations there is a high risk of exploitation.



There is an 11-year old boy called Gabriel. Despite the smile on his face he’s experiencing serious problems. His parents separated when he was 8. One of his brothers was killed in a fire caused by children playing, and his house was burnt. This happened while his mother was working in Manila. His mother came home when the brother died, and after the brother’s funeral she left them again. And then Yolanda came and she didn’t come back – there was no communication with his mother.*

His father is a drunkard so sometimes the children can’t even eat once a day – he is malnourished. Once Gabriel took food from his brother at the snack station – it was because they are only eating once or twice a day. Even though Operation Safe only lasts for five days, I think it really helped him. For example the message that ‘You’re not alone’ – he really applied it.

Young leader, Operation Safe

Children also often carry out heavy work at home or on farms, sometimes limiting their educational opportunities. These factors together contribute to putting children in dangerous situations; one 10-year-old girl in Lawaan stated, ‘We are doing everything in the house – we are alone because my mother left. Our mother is in Manila – our father is a drunkard, so most of the time we’re left alone.’

By identifying and addressing the wider situations of children at risk through the CNSP programme and others, PCMN’s response begins to respond to these wider structural issues which put children at risk in a more long-term way. Typhoon Haiyan clearly put children in situations of greater risk, but in many instances it seems that this impact was an exacerbation of existing significant protective gaps in the lives of many Filipino children on the island of Samar. To have a lasting protective impact, therefore, responses need to take this context into account and ensure that they are addressing issues such as the causes of family breakdown and poverty.

**Name changed for child protection purposes*



The impact on children's psychosocial wellbeing: are they better able to cope with life?

Operation Safe

PCMN's targeted 5-day psychosocial support programme had a demonstrable positive impact on children's psychosocial wellbeing. By December 2014, 3,327 children had participated in the camps across the six towns, and further camps are now planned to respond to Hagupit-affected areas. Through interacting with the story and responding through a variety of different activities each day, children were given a safe space to deal with their emotional responses to the typhoon.

A key aspect of the programme was the involvement of volunteers who led activities and interacted with the children. Each volunteer takes responsibility for 15 children and observes and monitors their behaviour and wellbeing each day, noting children who may be in need of further support and referring them further if need be. One volunteer explained that the approach enabled the children to feel free to express themselves in a culture where people sometimes aren't able to share their feelings: 'Here in the Philippines most kids think if you cry you're weak, so most kids try to mask their feelings. We try to tell them that it's ok to cry, to be angry, and to connect with their emotions.' Leaders and volunteers saw it as their responsibility to be people that children are able to trust and to talk to.

Leaders describe observing a change in children's behaviour over the five sessions. Children were often seen to be withdrawn at the start of the camp but through building trust and participating in the activities and hearing the story children become more engaged. One volunteer described how participating in Operation Safe enabled children to return to normal routines; 'Before the typhoon, children were playing outside doing what they want to do, but the life of children stopped after the typhoon. The normal life of children comes back after Operation Safe.' Children are also able to remember and draw on the messages learnt from the camp.

Although the response is designed to be a short term intervention responding to a crisis, many parents and children expressed a desire for more ongoing psychosocial support for children. Without a comprehensive measurement of children's psychosocial wellbeing before and after Operation Safe it is also unclear as to the exact impact both immediate and long-term and this would be useful to measure to ensure that children's psychosocial wellbeing is maintained.

Psychosocial issues resulting from Typhoon Haiyan

An early assessment carried out in November 2013 identified Eastern Samar as a key location where children were experiencing psychosocial difficulties as a result of the impact of the typhoon (CPWG). Children and adults spoke about the shock of seeing the destruction of their surroundings, and of the sounds and sights they remembered from the typhoon. Children in Lawaan recalled, 'roofs were flying, the sound of the wind, the rain, the trees were broken and the houses destroyed, the coconut trees didn't have fruit at all.' Children described hearing 'a strange sound—it was a painful sound.' One child explained, 'We were feeling nervous and scared, and we cried'. The long-lasting destruction

meant that the psychosocial impact was also extended.

One husband tried to kill himself because he didn't know what to do; his wife was sick and he had young children. The morning after Yolanda everyone was sitting down and doing nothing, because there was nothing... One 7-year-old boy was floating for three days, just holding on to something. People tried to help their loved ones who were drowning – but it was early morning and it was too dark.

Church volunteer, Quinapondan

We evacuated in our neighbour's house. I was afraid of the strong winds and the painful sound and by the wind. After that when we got home I saw my mum crying and our house was destroyed. When I saw my mum crying I felt the feeling of my mother. I'm still a little bit afraid of the strong wind and heavy rain.

Jeffrey, 11, Lawaan

Before Operation Safe arrived my children (aged 2, 6, 7, 13) were still in trauma. Only a little rain and wind and they would say, "Mum, is there a typhoon again, is Yolanda here again, will our house blow away again?" After Operation Safe arrived and my children were able to participate their behaviour changed – they became happier and peaceful... They became confident and assured again. They found out they don't have to be afraid. Even now I can see the effect. They are not afraid any more, and they learned many things.

Kate, Lawaan

During Yolanda my 12-year-old son's hand was injured and he didn't go to school any more because he was afraid of being bullied by other children. Before Yolanda he was kind and then after the typhoon he changed – he became wild, and violent towards other children. Operation Safe has really helped my son. Through it he became creative – he started to colour and do crafts – he got knowledge there. He started going back to school. He changed a lot and became kind again. He told me the story of the characters, that there are characters that are kind and honest. I myself was challenged by the characters and the behaviour the children had afterwards. My son learnt how to accept what had happened to him and he could mingle again with other children.

Mae, Lawaan



Psychosocial wellbeing amidst continuing insecurity?

We still need emotional and spiritual support from PCMN especially – my children still cry with heavy rain, especially when I'm not there. They're still in trauma. The younger children are still scared. My 7-year-old child is very weak. Even if the dog barks, or if there's lightning and thunder, she's still scared, even until now. Maybe it's because our house is still not fixed – we still have a tent roof – they saw how the tent shakes in the wind and so I think that's why they're still scared. One year after Yolanda we're still not recovered.

Jessica, Lawaan

They are still scared now about the weather... My child told me when there is a low pressure and strong winds and heavy rain, the children told me, "We want to leave the house and go to the farm because in the farm we are safe." It's because we're living near to the river.

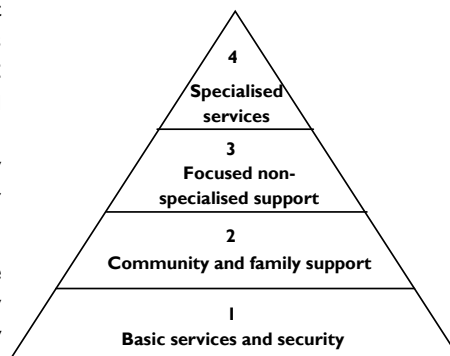
Rolanne, Lawaan

Philippines). Programmes addressing issues of poverty and loss of livelihoods are therefore also critical for children's psychosocial wellbeing.

PCMN's programmes which have facilitated children's access to education, as well as work on strengthening families' capacity to support their children can significantly contribute to children's psychosocial wellbeing, although the network may need to find ways to further address the structural context of poverty in which many children live.

Although targeted psychosocial programmes such as Operation Safe have demonstrated a positive impact on enabling children to deal with difficult experiences and be better able to cope with life, these interventions cannot be seen in isolation from the wider circumstances of children's lives. While many children and parents shared stories of children's recovery from the impact of Typhoon Haiyan, others described the continuing reality that children are still afraid of bad weather (left). In light of the reality that one year after Haiyan 25,000 people are still living in transitional sites and around 95,000 households (475,000 children) are estimated to be living in unsafe or inadequate makeshift shelters (OCHA, November 2014), it is to be expected that children would have concerns about their safety. The first and most essential requirement for children's psychosocial wellbeing according to the IASC guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial support is the restoration of basic services and security (right), and where this has not fully happened, other responses targeting deeper psychosocial impacts will not be as effective.

Parents clearly recognised that inadequate housing or living in an unsafe location is a key barrier to children's psychosocial recovery (left). Parents in a focus group in Lawaan stated that a primary way to make children feel safe would be 'to have a safe place for the whole family'. This issue particularly affects Eastern Samar which in an assessment in September 2014 showed that 78% of housing still showed major damage or was totally damaged (Shelter Cluster,



I have 6 children living with me here. When Yolanda came we felt that it was a nightmare. We evacuated to my in-laws. The water got high in our house – then we were afraid of the coconut trees, that they would hit us. The water was up to our waist. From my in-laws we transferred to another house – a concrete one – the neighbour of my in-laws. When we got home we saw our house damaged and washed out. We felt so sad because we really lost our source of income, the coconut trees and other plants – because we're farmers. Right after Yolanda we suffered a lot because we didn't have enough food. My 6-year-old child cried and prayed to God to stop the strong winds.

My children were happy to attend Operation Safe – it was the avenue for an outlet for their trauma. They enjoyed the dancing and the songs... They are still afraid of the weather. They're afraid of the forthcoming typhoon [Hagupit]. It was really unforgettable for the children, so if ever they hear bad news about the weather they feel scared. We're asking God to not let coconut trees, banana trees be destroyed – we're thinking of our houses. And thinking about our lives.

Isabel, Lawaan



Lawaan the day following Typhoon Hagupit in December 2014: much of the damage visible remains unrepaired from Typhoon Haiyan

Did the response support families and caregivers?

Supporting families and caregivers to be able to provide for and support their children is a key strategy for promoting children's protection and psychosocial wellbeing, particularly given the pre-existing issues of broken families and poverty. Churches are uniquely placed for work with families since this is one of their ongoing activities, and churches in the PCMN network in Eastern Samar are seeking to reach out to support families in their communities. PCMN directly provided support to families through relief and shelter programmes, targeting the most vulnerable and unreached families through their needs assessment and access to unreached areas, and also through family strengthening programmes. The Children in Need of Special Protection programme deliberately takes a family-based approach, supporting children in their environment by strengthening and working with families, and then also by supporting families to become foster carers and ensure that the most vulnerable children are able to grow up with the support of a family. Interviews and focus groups with parents suggest that parents would appreciate further family strengthening programmes and livelihoods support to enable them to better care for children.

Did the response help children to access other services?

Signposting access to other services also represents basic psychosocial support to children. Links between PCMN's programmes mean that it is possible for children recognised as being in need of further support in one area to be referred for further help from the CNSP (Children in Need of Special Protection) programme; similarly this programme and the safe governance programmes enable children to be further linked with existing protective services and supported through this process by trained volunteer care workers. Strengthening provision for early years services also enables very young children to access other services; PCMN staff described how day care centre workers work together with barangay health workers for health monitoring and vaccinations, and where children are not able to attend day care centres they can miss out on these vital services. Similarly, parents and PCMN staff suggested that attendance at supervised neighbourhood play and day care centres increases the likelihood of children regularly attending primary school.

Did the response help children to return to normal routines?

A key aspect of enabling children to return to normal routines is through restoring access to educational opportunities. 120 children who were not able to access education are part of the 'back to school' programme which is providing practical support including transport costs, enrolment fees and school materials to enable these children to return to education after Haiyan. Both supervised neighbourhood play and day care centres are also supporting children's psychosocial wellbeing. In one supervised neighbourhood play location in Balangiga, volunteers described how children were quiet and unengaged when the programme first started, but now appreciate the routine and enjoy the programme of arts and crafts, action songs, dancing and play with their peers. A social worker in Quinapondan noted that the number of children enrolled in the day care centres has increased since before Haiyan because of the quality provision in the PCMN day care centres. A parent with a 2-year-old daughter attending supervised neighbourhood play in Balangiga described the value of the regular space to come and play and meet with other parents, saying that there isn't anywhere else for her to take her daughter.

Being at school is one very important aspect of building resiliency... If school or day care not in place – part of the child's world is lost and their stability is affected.

PCMN staff member

How have the programmes transitioned after the initial relief response?

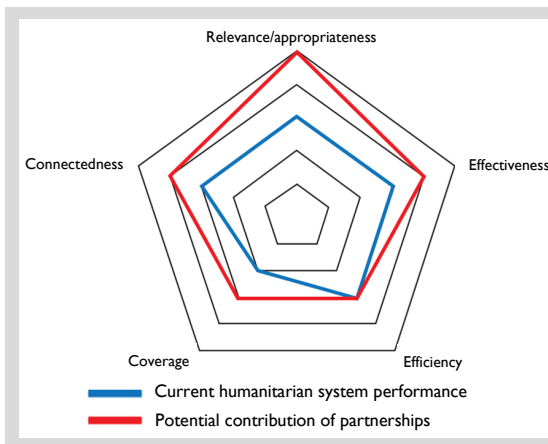
As a church we will be there – as long as the community welcome us we will work.

Pastor, Lawaan

Transitioning from an initial relief response to a longer-term development response can be a difficult issue in disaster contexts. The IASC Inter-Agency Evaluation of the Typhoon Haiyan Response (IASC, 2014) notes that the boundaries between relief and the post-relief phase were not clearly defined and that there were tensions between government and INGOs in this area. It can also be difficult for child-focused programmes such as child friendly spaces to transition and for the INGO to exit appropriately from child-focused programming.

Working through local churches to some extent changes the framework, as there is no need to consider how to leave the environment since these churches are already rooted in the communities and will continue to work there, although relief-focused programmes will still face issues of transition. The network's relief and provision of shelter kits were one-off emergency responses, but other programmes are planned to become sustainable through equipping the local churches and local government to be able to continue these programmes following the end of the current programme cycle in 2016.

What was distinctive about a network/church-based response?



A 2013 study by five UK-based INGOs concluded that in comparison with the current performance of the humanitarian sector against OECD-DAC evaluation criteria, working in partnership had the potential to significantly add value in the areas of relevance/appropriateness, effectiveness, and connectedness, and in the other two areas of efficiency and coverage the was both potential and challenges (Christian Aid et al., 2013). Looking at the distinctiveness of PCMN's response in light of these areas provides a case study showing instances where working through partnership with a local network of churches strengthened the response, particularly in the areas of connectedness and relevance/appropriateness.

Diagram taken from Christian Aid et al., 2013

Relevance/appropriateness

International humanitarian responses can be limited by a lack of understanding of local contexts, inability to engage with the changing nature of need, poor information gathering techniques and inflexibility (Christian Aid et al., 2013). By contrast, PCMN's post-Haiyan response demonstrated distinctive strengths stemming from the network's existing rootedness in the communities. Being already present on the ground meant that network churches were able to mobilise rapidly and to accurately identify the needs of their communities, accessing hard-to-reach areas, identifying the most at-risk children and targeting the causes of risk in a focused way. Although the network initially intended to offer child friendly spaces as a protective and psychosocial response for children, after recognising the gaps for young people they decided to establish a youth-focused space instead and to pursue other means of supporting children's wellbeing. This flexibility does not appear to be as easily available to larger international NGOs who tended to implement CFS as a standard response. The relationship between CFS and existing government-run day care centres is potentially problematic because CFS often recruited staff previously employed by day care centres and/or made use of day care centre facilities to create child friendly spaces. Observations of child friendly spaces across 30 locations indicated that CFS appeared to target younger children (Unicef Philippines, 2014). Rather than creating CFS as a separate entity, PCMN had the flexibility to decide instead to strengthen day care provision in their towns of operation, physically repairing existing structures, providing resources and training staff. Supervised neighbourhood play, alternative learning and back to school programmes also demonstrated a flexible response created in response to emerging needs. Operation Safe provided targeted psychosocial support which was had been identified as a gap in the existing response for children.

Effectiveness

Assessing the impacts of child-focused programmes against the intended goals of CFS is a helpful measure of effectiveness. While child friendly spaces in general had a positive impact for children by giving them a safe place to spend time, a sense of returning to a normal routine, and reported a positive impact on children's psychosocial wellbeing (World Vision, 2014; Unicef Philippines, 2014), the claims of CFS as providing a deeper protective response appear to be overstated in the reality of how CFS operated in the post-Haiyan context. A review of 30 child friendly spaces (CFS) in 10 municipalities across Panay, Leyte and Samar run by a range of INGOs and government actors revealed that CFS have 'primarily been viewed as safe spaces for children to play and enjoy structured activities' rather than as providing a way of identifying and addressing protection concerns (Unicef Philippines, 2014). The report concluded that there was not a strong link between CFS and identification or referral of child protection concerns in communities (right).

PCMN's range of protection-focused responses were more effective in achieving safety for children, through deliberately identifying and responding to children in need of special protection, through a targeted youth advocacy programme in the youth friendly space, and particularly in their strengthening of community-based protection structures in terms of training volunteer care workers to support government social workers and directly link families and children with government services. Working alongside and directly investing in local child protection structures gave the programme a more deliberate protective approach and more targeted impact on children's safety, evidenced by children who have been removed from dangerous situations and others whose parents or caregivers are being supported to care for children safely.

In most cases, CFS facilitators indicated that there were few or no instances of abuse, violence, exploitation and that their communities were very safe... when asked about the identification of concerns among children in the CFS, no instances were mentioned.

Unicef Philippines, 2014

Connectedness

Connectedness describes the way that relief responses are able to take account of the longer-term and interconnected problems that also exist in the operating context. PCMN's programmes have sought to target the environment around the child and to address structural and pre-existing factors which present risks for children, by focusing on developing safe family environments and working to strengthen existing service-provision for children. PCMN's response recognises that addressing immediate protection concerns in reality occurs in a wider context of structures which needs to be addressed in order to create a genuinely safer environment for children. Local church members involved in the response often viewed the programmes as enabling them to address long-running issues such as broken families at the same time as the presenting issues; one church volunteer stated, 'This is what we wanted to do. If Yolanda didn't come I don't think we'd have had these programmes and this visibility.'

PCMN's response recognised and relied on the commitment and passion to serve children already existing in the local network of churches, mobilising many hours of volunteer time to implement the programmes whilst also seeking to ensure that the network structure would remain to serve after the relief programmes finished. This approach had challenges in that capacity building (in terms of meeting requirements in financial understanding and accountability) required a significant investment in training and equipping local partners, and where community members who are volunteering to serve are also in need, there are tensions where their needs may not meet criteria for provision of relief and yet they have also been affected by the crisis. There are also tensions in terms of how willing donors are to allow flexibility to change programmes in light of needs that are identified in the ongoing work of the churches with communities, which can undermine the potential of this strength of working through partnership. However, despite these challenges, PCMN's response demonstrated a deeper level of partnership realised through working with an ongoing network rather than simply recruiting individual volunteers to an externally-owned programme, and has resourced a core of people in the operation towns who are now equipped with a better understanding of child protection issues and able to respond in similar situations.

There is ample reason for concern about the connectedness of the humanitarian response to longer-term challenges. These include the influx of humanitarian staff from outside the country... the speed with which organisations had to work... the de-linking by some agencies of their development programmes from their humanitarian response.

CAFOD et al., 2014

Efficiency and coverage

After Yolanda left, I was just numb, like a robot... Having a role helped me to take action; that was the start of my recovery.

Town Coordinator, Lawaan

Working through local partners has savings in terms of lower costs for staff and transport, but at the same time, the approach involves a significant time and resource investment into capacity building. It is also difficult to quickly scale up a response in partnership to provide a wider coverage; it was a stretch for PCMN to balance the need for plans for donor funding to be made as rapidly as was required at the same time as gaining consensus and input from the local network in Samar. While partnering with local church members is an advantage in terms of a rapid and context-sensitive response, it is also important to take into account the fact that these same church members are also survivors of the emergency and themselves require support. It may therefore be that they are not best placed to operate large-scale immediate relief responses. At the same time, volunteers recalled that it was being part of the relief response that initially helped them to begin to overcome their own psychosocial distress. The costs of investing in local partners means that a response is less rapid and less wide-scale; yet these partners are able to reach inaccessible areas and provide accurate local knowledge which could be built on more effectively by international partners to ensure the best possible distribution of relief services. PCMN's church partners were able to access areas off the road where larger NGOs had not yet reached and this is an area where partnership working could make initial responses more efficient.

Working through local partners has savings in terms of lower costs for staff and transport, but at the same time, the approach involves a significant time and resource investment into capacity building. It is also difficult to quickly scale up a response in partnership to provide a wider coverage; it was a stretch for PCMN to balance the need for plans for donor funding to be made as rapidly as was required at the same time as gaining consensus and input from the local network in Samar. While partnering with local church members is an advantage in terms of a rapid and

One of the most disturbing aspects of the lack of coordination was that, although local community-based organisations were providing accurate information about remote areas where aid had not been received, this information was not being transmitted to the clusters... this information could have been disseminated to those members with the resources to help.

Humanitarian Practice Exchange, 2015

PCMN's response through local church partners offered some clearly distinctive approaches and outcomes which supports the view that it is important to invest more both in supporting partnership responses and in learning from them in more depth. The combination of an in-depth knowledge of context and ability to find out accurate data with the recognition of and flexibility to respond to the need to build on existing structures rather than creating parallel ones, as well as being present in the location both before, during and after the emergency all worked together to enable PCMN to develop a unique response which involved the community in meeting the immediate and long-term protective and psychosocial needs of children. The costs of operating on a smaller scale and investing in building the capacity of local volunteers seem to be outweighed by the ability of the network to respond to specific needs in targeted ways, particularly when the large scale relief response was already being carried out by many international organisations in coordination with government. The distinctiveness of PCMN's response implies a crucial role for local organisations in connecting the emergency phase of response to longer term development interventions and in flexibly responding to accurately identified needs.

Conclusions

PCMN's response to Typhoon Haiyan demonstrates that local faith-based and network responses can demonstrate distinctive strengths in relevance, flexibility, effectiveness and connectedness. They were able to connect immediate responses with long-term and deep-rooted structural issues to develop a multi-faceted response which addressed the needs of children in their wider context. The network's rootedness in its community was a key factor in enabling a rapid and effective response which genuinely addressed unmet needs and enabled otherwise unreached children at risk to be identified and protected.

While investing in necessary capacity building in order to work with partners is costly, for PCMN it has meant that the local network is now better equipped to respond in future emergencies, as has been evident in the subsequent typhoons which have continued to affect Samar. Local churches are already invested in working with families, and the typhoon response enabled the network to be resourced to do more of the work they already wanted to do and to strengthen families as a key to protection.

Feedback from families as well as reported results indicate that typical CFS did have a positive impact for the children they were serving, but lacked the targeted psychosocial debriefing which many families appreciated in PCMN's provision of Operation Safe, and did not realise their extended protective function. PCMN's work around strengthening existing protection structures as well as targeting children in need of special protection appears to have better achieved this outcome. A focus on restoring or creating access to government-mandated spaces for play and education such as day care centres and supervised neighbourhood play, as well as facilitating access to school, is also having a sustainable impact.

PCMN's work also revealed underlying and structural issues affecting children's protection and psychosocial wellbeing which have not yet been fully addressed by the network. Many children continue to be affected by poverty and live in unsafe housing, and experience a lack of opportunity to pursue secondary education and positive livelihood opportunities in the future. PCMN's work has begun to address these issues, particularly through the youth friendly space. The insecurity of children's wider environment means that they remain at risk to some extent, and a network's ability to remain in and engage with communities for the long term should be used to seek to address these structural issues over time.

This case study indicates that there are advantages to attempting to achieve CFS goals for children in different ways and that a network of churches or local organisations has the flexibility and local rootedness to be able to do this effectively and appropriately. There are costs involved in this way of working and it adds complexity to the response, but at the same time the value of equipping local communities to respond sustainably creates long term gains. More investment in learning from good practice in the responses of local faith-based organisations is crucial in order not to miss the opportunities of learning from these less visible but effective programmes as well as finding better ways of channelling resources in emergencies to ensure that the most vulnerable children are supported in ways that will make a sustainable and long term difference in their lives.

Recommendations

- PCMN should ensure that responses continue to address the long term needs of children and consider manageable ways the local network can be equipped to follow up Operation Safe with ongoing psychosocial support for children and families.
- PCMN should continue to target families, finding ways to link families with livelihoods programmes and parenting support to equip families to better care for children. The network might consider advocacy for structural changes that would contribute to safe environments for children and greater access to services.
- Viva, FH and others should continue to invest in learning from working in partnership in emergency contexts, through documenting and sharing stories of existing good practice, supporting local partners to implement quality responses and by developing resources to guide approaches to partnership
- International NGOs should invest in learning from and in resourcing local faith-based organisations and networks in the areas where they have the potential to make a distinctive contribution to responses

The approach taken to partnerships in the majority of humanitarian responses tends to be reactive, driven by emergency, and shaped by ad-hoc interactions that take place at the point of crisis. The sector is not yet systematic about partnerships: how they are thought about, designed, implemented or assessed.

Christian Aid et al., 2013

Reference to churches and/or faith-based organisations was very uncommon... CFS implementing agencies might consider engaging faith-based organisations in their initiatives as they seem to be relevant and well-connected community partners.

Unicef Philippines, 2014

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Written by Kezia M'Clelland, February 2015

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Names have been changed for child protection purposes and to protect the privacy of interviewees



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