The urban context in the Philippines

In the Philippines, urban populations grew from 30 percent in 1960 to 44 percent in 2016, based on data from the World Bank. The country’s urban areas are so dense that Metro Manila, a sprawling metropolis of about 13 million people as of 2015, even ranked 18th among 31 megacities — those with upwards of 10 million inhabitants — in the UN’s 2016 World Cities report.

These cities and urban poor dwellers are affected by recurrent and protracted disasters of different scales. Natural and human-induced hazards force people in high risk communities into displacement, disrupt community life and leave behind massive livelihood damages and economic setback.

Resilient communities
UNISDR defines resilience as the “ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform, and recover” utilizing the essential basic structures and functions through risk management.

With communities in the Philippines, particularly in the urban areas facing perennial and long-term setbacks brought on by hazards, resilience, then means providing communities with the capacities to manage these effects, improve preparedness, and develop a system that will take them out of the cycle of disaster and recovery.
Objectives of the action
To increase preparedness and risk reduction capacities of local populations and government units through replication and scaling up of interrelated urban resilience strategies on alternative temporary shelter and resilient livelihood (including risk transfer) in hazard-prone, urban poor communities.

Alternative Temporary Shelter System
An ATS system aims to help safeguard the right of displaced populations to safe and dignified shelter during disasters or emergencies. It consists of the temporary shelter structures themselves as well as guidelines for proper camp coordination and camp management (CCCM).

MOVEUP supports communities and local government units through:
- Shelter needs assessment
- CCCM Trainings/Planning workshops
- Contingency Planning workshops
- Dialogue with private sector for inclusive planning, investing in preparedness, and participation.
- Simulation exercises
- Sharing of available ATS models designed to cater to various contexts - type of hazard, duration of displacement, location, and needs of the community. They are modular, quick to set up, and made of locally available materials. They were created in consultation with communities and with the help of experts from the United Architects of the Philippines - Emergency Architects.

Resilient Livelihoods
When disasters strike urban poor communities, people are displaced, and their livelihoods severely affected. Because of this, actions must be taken to make livelihoods resilient. To achieve this, MOVEUP helps communities strengthen, protect, and diversify their livelihoods through:

- Livelihood needs assessments
- Community savings group formation
- Financial literacy
- Community-based enterprise development for establishing new livelihoods or improving existing ones
- Business continuity planning
- Risk transfer mechanisms including micro-insurance.

MOVEUP also works with the government in finding ways to integrate urban resilience strategies into subnational (Metro Manila) and national policies and programs to institutionalize good practices. ATS and Resilient Livelihood interventions are implemented through collaborative and participatory approaches that contribute to improving people’s social positions and sound enabling environment.