



Philippines

Rapid Gender Analysis for the El Niño Crisis

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Disclaimer

This document represents a working draft that encapsulates the initial findings from the Rapid Gender Analyses (RGA) conducted in *Kalinga* and *Negros Oriental* provinces. RGA is an interactive process that incorporates more information as it becomes available. The analyses and recommendations are based on the data and observations collected during the initial phase of the study.

Currently, we are awaiting the completion of the RGA for *North Cotabato* and *Zamboanga del Norte*. The findings from these additional provinces will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the gender dynamics and disparities across the studied areas. Consequently, the final report may include significant updates and modifications to the information contained in the initial report.

This working document's purpose is to share the preliminary results with stakeholders, enabling them to provide feedback and contribute to the ongoing analysis. We encourage all recipients to review the findings critically and offer insights that may enhance the accuracy and relevance of the final report.

Please be advised that the data presented here should not be used as a basis for decision-making until the full analysis is complete. Any use of the information in this draft should be made with the understanding that it is part of an evolving study.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we work towards delivering a thorough and accurate gender analysis that will inform future initiatives and interventions in these provinces. Thank you for your continued support and collaboration in this important endeavor.

For any inquiries or further information regarding this document or the ongoing analysis, please do not hesitate to contact the project team.

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Abbreviations

BHW	Barangay Health Worker
BLGU	Barangay Local Government Unit (BLGU)
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CDRC	Citizen’s Disaster Response Center
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CorDis RDS	Cordillera Disaster Response and Development Services
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment
GGGI	Global Gender Gap Index
HPP	Humanitarian Partnership Platform
LGU	Local Government Unit
NDHS	National Demographic and Health Survey
NDRRMC	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council
OFW	Overseas Filipino Worker
PAGASA	Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration
RDANA	Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment
RGA	Rapid Gender Analysis
TIMS	TUPAD Information Management System
VAWC	Violence Against Women
WEF	World Economic Forum



Dried up rice fields in Kalinga due to the extreme heat and lack of rainfall caused by El Niño. @CorDis RDS

Introduction

El Niño in the Philippines

OUTLOOK FOR AREAS POTENTIAL FOR DRY CONDITION, DRY SPELL AND DROUGHT

end of May 2024

LEGEND

- DROUGHT
- DRY SPELL
- DRY CONDITION
- NOT AFFECTED

Drought is defined as 3-consecutive months of way below normal rainfall condition (>60% reduction from average rainfall).

Dry spell is defined as 3-consecutive months of below normal rainfall condition (21-60% reduction from average rainfall).

Dry condition is defined as 2-consecutive months of below normal rainfall condition (21-60% reduction from average rainfall).

WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

PHILIPPINE SEA

SULU SEA

NOTE: Based on Dec 2023 - Apr 30, 2024 Observed Rainfall and May - Oct 2024 Forecast Rainfall



Issuance: 2024-05-06

Source: PAGASA

affected areas of the El Niño.

On July 4, 2023, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) issued its first advisory on the El Niño. The advisory announced the likelihood of below-to-normal rainfall conditions, which could bring dry spells and droughts inducing negative impacts on water resources, agriculture, energy, and public safety. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), on the other hand, reported that a total of twenty-three (23) provinces under Luzon, fourteen (14) in Visayas, and nine (9) provinces in Mindanao experienced a meteorological drought. The total number of accounted affected persons reached 4,481, 299 individuals or 1,163,681 affected families. With a significant percentage of Filipinos relying on the agricultural industry for livelihood and sustenance, the agricultural loss reaching up to Php9.5 billion (162 million US Dollars) induces a significant adverse impact on individuals of all genders and age groups in communities.

Recognizing how humanitarian emergencies such as drought and El Niño impact men, women, girls, and boys differently and how disasters disproportionately affect women and girls, CARE Philippines and its partners from the Humanitarian Partnership Platform (HPP) carried out the rapid gender assessment (RGA) in heavily affected areas in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The RGA complemented the rapid damage and needs assessments performed by emergency responders of CARE's local partners, which showed the covered areas of the RGA as among the worst

This report outlines the changes in the roles, responsibilities, access to resources, sectoral needs, coping mechanisms, and primary needs of women, girls, men, and boys affected by the El Niño in the Philippines in the summer of 2024.

Country and gender data

Population Data

Category	Data
Sex Disaggregation	
Males	50.6% (55.02 million)
Females	49.4% (53.65 million)
Age Disaggregation	
15-64 years old	63.9% (69.40 million)
65 years old and over	5.4% (5.86 million)
Average Household Size	4
Female-headed Households	1 in 4 households
Literacy Rate	
Male	96.8%
Female	97.1%
Infant and Maternal Mortality Rate	27.5 per 1,000 live births
Violence against Women	17.5% (15-49 years old)
Disability	1.57% of the population

Source: Age and Sex Distribution in the Philippine Population (2020 Census of Population and Housing) | Philippine Statistics Authority | Republic of the Philippines. (n.d.). <https://www.psa.gov.ph/content/age-and-sex-distribution-philippine-population-2020-census-population-and-housing>

The Philippines is an archipelagic country in Southeast Asia and one of the world's largest archipelago nations located in the Pacific Ocean; it consists of 7,641 islands. The country is mainly divided into three main islands: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao with 18 administrative regions. The country is highly geologically vulnerable to natural disasters, including earthquakes, typhoons, and volcanic hazards that can be found along the Pacific Ring of Fire.

Being susceptible to natural disasters including a long-lasting armed conflict in some parts of the country, particularly in Mindanao, the wider effects of climate change continue to impede sustainable development. The Philippines' susceptibility to the hazards is mainly caused by its specific geographical and physical features that have become vulnerable due to continuous environmental damage and exacerbated climate change. The country's socio-economic crisis and political situation aggravate these vulnerabilities.

In recent years, natural crises caused the most disastrous impact in the Philippines including the health crises caused by the Covid-19 pandemic which affected approximately 4,127,856 cases, 4,057,177 recoveries, and 66,779 deaths as of December 11, 2023, based on World Health Organization Philippines Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report #142.

As socio-economic crisis and disaster arise, gender-based violence (GBV) surges, despite government and civil society efforts to address the issue, cases of GBV are still high at 17.5% of Filipino women ages 15-49 have experienced any form of physical, sexual, and emotional violence from their intimate partners based on the report of Philippine National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) in 2022, and 2 out of 5 did not seek help. 17.5% of women experiencing violence from intimate partners. While COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated online exploitation on women and children.

Presently, traditional gender roles persist, with women often confined to unpaid domestic work while men handle financial responsibilities. Women earn less than 60% of men's annual earnings and face significant employment barriers, particularly in rural areas where men dominate higher-paying agricultural jobs. Women in urban areas also struggle to balance full-time work with unpaid care duties. Despite high literacy rates, women face obstacles in the labor market due to family responsibilities and gender

stereotypes. Only 49% of women participate in the labor force, compared to 76% of men. A significant proportion of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) are women, often in vulnerable domestic roles.

In the 2023 Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI) Report by the World Economic Forum (WEF), a position that is leading in Asian countries in closing the gender gap. While it's encouraging that the Philippines leads the Asia Pacific in global gender equality indicators and has implemented various national and local policies, significant efforts are still needed to promote gender equality further. Despite notable progress, challenges and disparities persist in achieving true gender equality in the country. Laws exist to protect women, but implementation gaps persist. Women and girls with disabilities, as well as those from marginalized communities, face additional discrimination.

The Philippines has made international and national commitments to gender equality, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Magna Carta of Women. The Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Plan 2019-2025 guides governmental efforts, yet challenges remain in achieving true gender equality.

About CARE's Rapid Gender Analysis



A staff of CorDis RDS facilitates a focus group discussion with women in Kalinga. @CorDis RDS

In an emergency, Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA) begins at the same time as the initial assessments and continues throughout the project cycle. Gender analysis is a tool that humanitarian responders use to identify the different needs, capacities, and contributions of women, men, girls, and boys before, during, and after an emergency.

The assessment answers five important questions in humanitarian response:

- (1) Who is affected?
- (2) Who needs protection and how?
- (3) Who has access to what assets and services, and what prevents others from gaining access to those services?
- (4) What are the capacities of women, men, boys, and girls to respond to the crisis?, and
- (5) Whether women and men participate equally in decision-making?

RGA provides a set of quantitative and qualitative tools to choose from, emphasizing qualitative data collection. The toolkit is the first step-by-step guide for gender analysis in humanitarian crises. RGA adapts the tools and approaches of gender analysis frameworks to the tight timeframe, rapidly changing contexts, and insecure environments that often characterize humanitarian response.

Methodology

CARE Philippines, together with its local partners from Cordillera Disaster Response and Development Services (CorDis RDS) and Citizens Disaster Response Center (CDRC) conducted the rapid gender assessment from May 3 to 11, 2024. The study employed focus group discussions and key informant interviews to address the questions of the RGA.

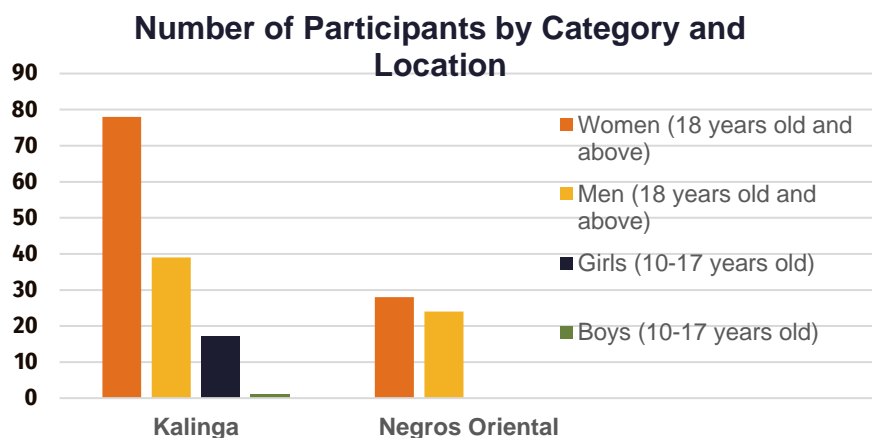
To understand the different experiences, challenges, and coping mechanisms of different genders and age groups, the study purposively engaged women, men, girls, and boys as participants in the focus group discussions. Moreover, key informant interviews were conducted with community leaders to gather a more in-depth understanding of the communities' situation and the available programs and services for the community.

The selection of areas for the study included PAGASA's report on the top 10 areas affected by El Niño and other variables such as the vulnerability of the affected population and the capacity of LGUs to respond based on the initial assessments conducted by local partners in the area.

In keeping with ethical considerations, informed consent forms were administered to all participants of the study. Participants for the boys and girls focus group discussions under the legal age were discussed and administered the informed consent forms with their guardians.

To ensure that the data collection activities uphold the "Do No Harm" principle, CARE staff and local partners who conducted the data collection were oriented on CARE's Safeguarding policy ensuring the protection of vulnerable groups, especially women and children.

Demographic Profile of Participants

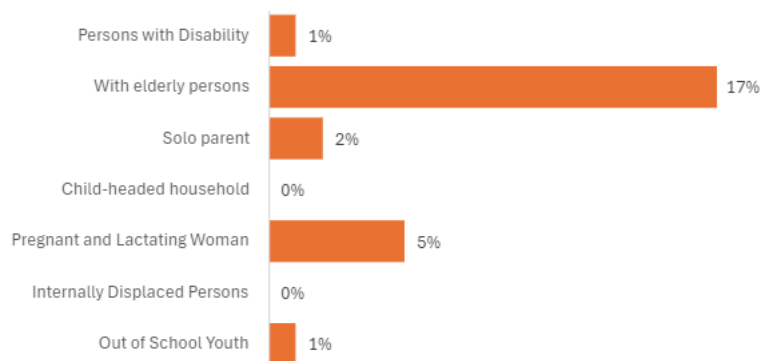


- The participants of the study included community members from 5 barangays in 4 municipalities in Kalinga and Negros Oriental. The participants included women, men, girls, and boys in Kalinga and women and men in Negros Oriental. The lack of girl and boy participants is due to parents' hesitation to allow their children's participation in the activity due to safety reasons.

- In total, the RGA engaged 106 women, 17 girls, 63 men, and 8 boys.
- Girls and boys participants are ages between 10 to 17; whereas, women and men participants are aged 18 and above.
- Based on records of participants, 17% are elderly, whereas 5% are pregnant and lactating women

- Overall, 17 focus group discussions were conducted for the RGA in El Niño.

Vulnerability of RGA Participants



Findings and Analysis

Changes in gender roles and responsibilities

In both areas of Kalinga and Negros Oriental, no significant changes were observed as to the assignment of roles between women and men because of El Niño. Both men and women still engage in livelihood activities; although women still also bear other responsibilities in the household, such as cooking, feeding their animals, preparing their children for school, and washing clothes and dishes.

Livelihood for men mostly consists of farm-related work and construction, whereas for women, livelihood usually involves farming, selling vegetables, and doing laundry for other households. Decision-making has remained the same for both genders: men are still in charge of decisions on the rice field, whereas women decide on matters related to apportioning food and alternative sources of livelihood for the household.

For both genders, however, El Niño caused either the **deceleration or the complete stop to the performance of their roles as livelihood earners of the family**. For instance, in Kalinga and Negros Oriental, due to the intense heat, men have reduced their time working in the field, which significantly reduced their productivity and harvests, and therefore their household income. For some families who fully rely on farming, full stop from work is not an option even with the debilitating effect of the heat on their bodies; one male farm worker shared:



“For us who work for daily labor, we observe that we are easily tired because of the heat. We still endure the heat and follow our daily work routine, because if we rest, we can’t receive our

A farmer looks on the dried rice fields in Hacienda Canlargo, Bais, Negros Oriental @Jennifer Anne Mendoza | CARE)

For some women, the significant adjustment in the usual everyday activity was that during El Niño, they needed to wake up early at dawn between 3 to 4 in the morning to work in the field and delay remaining tasks until late afternoon to avoid working directly under the sun.

As for the youth, girls are often tasked to help with household chores and go to school. Boys, on the other hand, often bear the responsibility to find other sources of water supply for their household even after school. As a boy participant shared on this experienced change:

Gender roles and responsibilities

“There is a change because the water coming out of our faucets is in very small amount and we are tasked to look for another source of water to bathe.”

Sometimes, this role of finding other sources of water is shared with other members of the household.

In many cases, since the livelihood source of farming has become futile due to their yields drying up, boys are often left without an option but to engage in sideline jobs such as joining construction work.

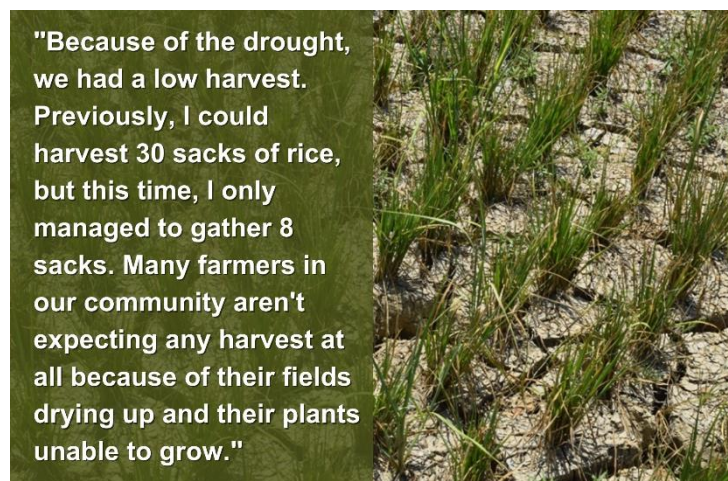
Access to and control of resources

According to both men and women, access and control to basic resources such as water, shelter, food, and services have often been egalitarian between men and women even with the El Niño. Women expressed that decision-making on the use of these resources is often consultative between them and their spouses. Men, however, noted that they are more likely to make decisions on matters related to their rice fields. Even with the reported equal distribution of control and access, all participants of different genders and age groups have emphasized the adverse effects of El Niño on critical resources such as food and water supply.

Sectoral needs

Livelihoods

In both Kalinga and Negros Oriental, households are mostly reliant on farming, although households in Bais City, Negros Oriental have access to coastal livelihood sources. Both men and women pointed to the significant negative effects of the El Niño on their livelihood as they experienced change. Among the most common for farming households is the increased infestation due to drought and the drying of rice fields, both of which cause significant loss of harvests. Additionally, those reliant on vegetable farming are also not expecting harvests this season, as plants are no longer growing under intense weather conditions. As one female farmer pointed out:



The heat cause rice fields to crack and prevented the rice to grow in Kalinga @CorDis RDS

In Negros Oriental, households with coastal livelihoods have also adjusted their fishing schedule to avoid the intense heat from the El Niño. The compressed time frame limits the catch potential; compounded with the difficulty of the fish moving to deeper waters to avoid the heat, coastal livelihood earners are left with depleted income sources. Small-scale fishermen are also threatened by large commercial fishing operations that encroach on their fishing grounds, reducing their catch. Worsening the situation, the selling price for fish has also dropped from 110 pesos (1.87

USD) to 80 pesos (1.36 USD).

Lastly, boys in households with severely affected livelihoods from El Niño were left without option but to engage in other livelihood sources such as joining construction and working on their neighbors' farms with irrigation. No girls have been noted to participate in livelihood.

Shelter

According to all genders and age groups, no significant movement or migration occurred during and as caused by El Niño; although boys noted that, during intense hot periods, they put up hammocks outside their homes to sleep there.

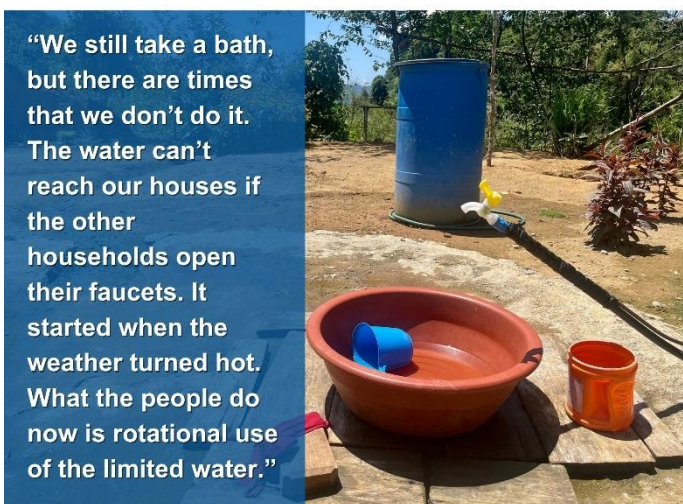
Non-food items

Needs for non-food items have been expressed differently by men and women. For men, the lack of farming inputs even before El Niño had been a defined gap that their local government failed to address. For women, on the other hand, material protection against heat and its effects were the identified needs. These include sunglasses, hats, mosquito nets, slippers, clothes, and soap.

As for the girls, they have identified school supplies, umbrellas, sunscreen, flasks, and electric or mini fans as necessary to ease the hot temperature, especially when they go to school. The boys have mentioned money as the NFI needs to help with their parents' expenses.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Participants from both genders and age groups noted that water is short for both household and agricultural use. In Kalinga, the water source is mainly rotational and while most households have faucets, water interruptions occur frequently with the households only having access to water for 3 to 4 hours a day. In the municipality of Anonang in Kalinga, all seven pump wells in 2019 have dried up. This limited and rotational access to water causes boys not to bathe at all---as shared by one boy participant in Kalinga:



“We still take a bath, but there are times that we don’t do it. The water can’t reach our houses if the other households open their faucets. It started when the weather turned hot. What the people do now is rotational use of the limited water.”

No water flows from an open faucet in Brgy. Santor, Rizal, Kalinga @Josephine C. Kusain/CARE

In Kalinga, every household and the school in the community were noted to have comfort rooms; albeit with weak and rotational water flows.

Meanwhile, in Negros Oriental, the main water source is the community water tank and deep well, and even in the coastal community in Negros Oriental, water flow has severely weakened. In the city of Bais, the local partner’s assessment report described the situation: *“It can take anywhere from 1 to 2 hours to fill an average-sized pail, indicating a significant strain on time and resources. The water*

quality is also a concern, as it often has a noticeable smell and contains sediments. It was also shared that there is lack of water quality testing in the areas. The safety of the water is questionable, given that it hasn't been properly tested for contaminants. This poses health risks to the community,

with increased concerns about waterborne diseases”¹.

With the financial constraints from the livelihood impacts of El Niño, girls have also expressed that sanitary pads, soap, and shampoo or hygiene items as among their primary needs during the El Niño. Moreover, sanitary kits are also mentioned needs in Negros Oriental to alleviate a portion of the financial burden of households.

Health

Cough, diarrhea, and rashes were common among community members in Kalinga and Negros Oriental. For adult men and women, hypertension, aching joints, arthritis, and rheumatism were experienced. One man shared: **“I observed that I get frequent aching joints, the hot weather triggers arthritis and rheumatism”**.

Girls in Kalinga have shared that they observed the rise of urinary tract infection cases, nose bleeding, fever, and fainting during El Niño. Diarrhea and chicken pox were also experienced among children around March.

Persons with Disabilities are expected to be among the disproportionately affected by El Niño, especially in accessing healthcare services. In Santor, Kalinga, the LGU provides persons with disability with 3,000 pesos quarterly, but the amount was described to be insufficient to cover their needs.

Access to a health facility varies for each of the covered municipalities, but adults confirm the availability of barangay health workers or midwives but have noted that only basic medicine, such as paracetamol and cetirizine, were available at the facilities.

Food Security

Food has been identified as the most affected resource by El Niño, apart from water supply. The lack of water supply affects the irrigation of farmlands, which as a result, negatively affects the farming households’ main source of food, especially rice. The young participants are particularly conscious of this situation of depleting sources of rice, vegetables, and fruits. As one boy participant expressed:



“Rice is the number one need right now. Since there is no water for irrigation the rice fields were not cultivated. The rice fields are the main source of food.”

The rice grains are completely dried and will not mature because of the drought in Kalinga. @ CorDis RDS

In Kalinga, as an alternative to the depleting rice harvests, women cultivate other food sources for the households’ consumption and for selling—which includes bamboo shoots, moringa, and bitter melon. Households rarely afford meat and live with their livestock for protein sources. Cardios or pigeon peas, and tomatoes were also alternatives. According to the women of Kalinga, before the drought, vegetables and even a certain amount of rice can be shared for free by relatives and

¹ RGA: Hacienda Canlargo, Brgy. Canlargo, Bais City

neighbors during harvest season. They also shared that their livestock such as pigs, goats, chickens, and ducks that are meant for livelihoods are consumed for personal use and considered as a loss.

Moreover, still in Kalinga, the low supply of *buko* (coconut) due to drought was observed by girls as a threat to their food supply—as the fruit serves as a primary food source in the community.

Nutrition

In Kalinga, despite experiencing El Niño, food practices and dietary preferences are multi-dimensional. Women, do food preparation and ensure family nutrition by utilizing local vegetables such as moringa, bamboo shoots, and foraging snails. Women's resilience extends socio-economically as women sell some vegetables and snails for essential goods.

However, cultural traditions intersect with modern influences as seen in girls' desire for junk food. Although girls recognize the importance of staples like vegetables, fruits, rice, and meat, they express a desire for junk food such as soft drinks, ice cream, and cold juices, including cold water to ease the heat.

In Negros, the hacienda system restricts families from owning land and cultivating gardens limiting their chance to plant fruits and vegetables to supplement their diet. This limitation leads to a reliance on processed foods and non-perishable items, resulting in nutritional deficiencies and health issues. Parents, faced with limited resources, prioritize their children's well-being by skipping intake. These challenges faced by families in accessing nutritious food options and the trade-offs made to prioritize the health and well-being of children. The food intake according to women respondents in the current situation has decreased to two times a day compared to three times a day before the drought.

Both girls and boys in Kalinga adapt to the impact of drought on food supplies by relying on locally available food like pigeon peas and tomatoes, demonstrating resilience in the face of environmental stressors. Despite this adaptability, cases of malnutrition are on the rise, prompting community action.

On the other hand, acknowledge women's predominant role in cooking and meal preparation, they recognize that women estimate the quantities needed for cooking, particularly the amount of rice required. While men occasionally cook, they often defer to women for guidance on measurements reflecting traditional gender norms.

According to a Barangay Health Worker (BHW) respondent in the women's focus group discussion (FGD), cases of malnutrition are on the rise, prompting the Barangay to implement feeding programs indicating a proactive approach to mitigating the health impacts of food insecurity. Generally, FGD respondents are aware of this issue.

Education

Changes in school schedules due to heat, and limited water supply in schools exacerbated by El Niño, mean students now spend half-days in school and may complete modules at home. As classes become asynchronous to avoid extreme heat, students, particularly those with disabilities, face difficulties attending school.



“I fainted while walking to school because of the heat, so we (parents) and I decided to stop schooling.”

A focus group discussion with boys in Canlargo, Bais, Negros Oriental. @Jennifer Anne Mendoza/CARE)

Outdoor playtime is also restricted due to high temperatures, affecting both school and home environments:

“Before, we could go and play outside with friends in the middle of the day because the temperature was bearable, but now, we can no longer do it.”

Girls and boys preferred a face-to-face class for better learning and appreciating teachers' presence, even if they needed to endure the heat and sun exposure.

Specifically in lessons they experience hard to understand, only teachers can help them. Alternatively, they use Google to translate the content, but internet connections are one big problem in the community.

On the other hand, women expressed that to supplement household income, children may be encouraged to seek additional work, such as laundry services but not forced to do it.

Protection and GBV

Women in the community express feeling unsafe or avoiding places where men gather to drink *“places were men used to drinks”*. To address alcohol-related issues, the Barangay Local Government Unit (BLGU) has implemented several measures to address alcohol-related problems, including a curfew policy, store closures, and a liquor ban from 8 PM to 4 AM, with stores closing at 7 PM to prevent alcohol sales. A liquor ban is enforced to deter teenage drinking, with penalties for loitering or disruptive behavior associated with alcohol consumption.

While no harassment cases were reported during El Niño in Balbalan, preventing violence against women is a priority in Kalinga, with fines for hurting or shouting worth 500 pesos. In cases involving drugs, community meetings are convened, reflecting women's concern for their children's safety *“Our concern is our children”*.

Community Tanods oversee community safety, and sleeping arrangements traditionally segregate males and females, except for couples. Unfortunately, a recent rape case in Santor, Kalinga involved minors as victims and suspects, leading to intervention by the local Department of Social Welfare and Development. Both parties now undergo in-house schooling due to bullying concerns. Women express that these effects are particularly pronounced during El Niño, as they have more time to engage online where they can watch inappropriate content due to their classes being only half-day. In Negros Oriental, according to women respondents, their children are currently not working in the sugarcane fields due to the intense heat.

On the other hand, when girls asked about places they try to avoid for protection and safety concerns, the girls responded that *“There is no place in the community they are trying to avoid due to safety and security issues”* When there are safety issues in the community girls are aware that they can go to Brgy. Council. They are also aware that elders have a role in their community in

keeping safe *“Elders meeting to come up with an ordinance for our protection”*. Men also support it when asked the same question *“The cultural root in the community is strong and it resulted in no cases of abuse. They have a strong security for their families.”* This culture was observed in places in Kalinga by people who live in their ancestral land. While the Brgy. With identified rape case is a place where people who already migrated from another place of Kalinga.

According to community reports, there were no cases of violence against children during El Niño from January 2024 to the current date, although a previous incident of bullying in school was addressed through intervention by guidance counselors involving the students and their parents. Additionally, there have been unfortunate cases of children drowning in the dam and river before the El Niño, discouraging girls from frequenting these areas unlike boys, who seem to be more inclined towards swimming there during weekends and holidays.

Coping strategies

Women maintain traditional practices such as *bayanihan*, supporting each other during difficult times, and organizing prayer meetings for sick elders. Used of traditional herbal medicine for minor health conditions are practiced by both men and women in the absence of medicine and health services.

Coping mechanisms for heat include seeking shaded areas, scheduling water collection times, and using various containers for water storage. They contribute to family finances by finding work, including harvesting and selling cogon grass and borrowing money for various needs. They also look for alternative or additional jobs to cope. *“Our husbands will go find work as carpenters”*, said one of the women participants, *while other women were selling vegetables.*

Girls adapt to the modular approach by utilizing Google Translate to understand lessons without the presence of a teacher. Coping with heat for both girls and boys involves staying hydrated, bathing regularly, some of them swimming and using umbrellas for shade. Girls observed that to be able to cope with current crises, their parents are borrowing money and collecting available vegetables from the community.

While men, coping with water and food shortages during crises involves resourcefulness. They fetch water from neighbors' pump wells and borrow money for food, relying on the community's willingness to lend and understanding that repayment occurs after harvest. *“The good thing here is that you can borrow for your neighbors and pay it after you have been able to harvest.”*

Those with resources use water pumps to irrigate fields daily to prevent total dry-up of rice fields. If unable to work due to water scarcity, men seek employment outside the community for income, borrowing rice from relatives if necessary. They also report damages to relevant government agencies and NGOs for assistance.

Programs and services

Women shared that while regular government assistance such as senior citizen pension and persons with disabilities financial assistance is available, they are not provided monthly but rather quarterly. The amount received varies depending on factors such as disability, with some receiving 1,500 pesos and others 3,000 pesos every six months. Senior citizens receive 1,000 pesos per month. In one barangay, the TUPAD Information Management System (TIMS) by Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) offers cash-for-work opportunities, but not everyone receives the expected 4000 pesos after working for 10 days. This data was also shared by men during the FGD.

Both men and women mentioned that they noticed the absence of current services or activities to support the community during El Niño specific to livelihood. Additionally, the girls mentioned that their school conducted a feeding program, but aside from that, they did not observe any other services provided during the El Niño period. While some of the boys are aware of the presence of Violence against Women (VAWC) desks in their barangays.

Regular programs and services in place in their community are continuous access by concerned people, during the data collection for RGA in Kalinga and Negros Oriental, no programs and services specific to the impact of drought were in place.

Primary needs

According to women, their primary needs right now revolve around financial resources to purchase necessities, including their children's school allowances, electricity bills, and non-food items. Additionally, they expressed the critical need for food, particularly rice, and water as their top three priorities.

For girls, primary needs encompass healthcare, sanitary pads, food, and household items. However, when asked about personal needs, they highlight school supplies, electric fans or personal fans, and personal items like umbrellas and flasks. Boys, on the other hand, identified food supplies and children's schooling needs. Boys emphasized the necessity for gadgets as their classes shifted to virtual platforms to minimize exposure to the intense sun. Livelihood opportunities also emerged as a top concern for men, with a focus on leveraging existing skills in farming-related activities to sustain their families.

Recommendations

Overarching recommendation

CARE Philippines

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Short-term

- Distribution of WASH kits and promotion of good practices in a water-scarce context to help reinforce hygiene practices as well as promotion of safe water treatment and storage.

Medium-Term

- Conduct hygiene promotion activities to reinforce awareness of maintaining hygiene in collaboration with Barangay Health Workers and Barangay/Local Government Units.

Long-term

- Providing WASH support recognizes diverse gender and age needs. Address specific requirements of women, girls, the elderly, and persons with disabilities in sanitation facilities, ensuring privacy, safety, and accessibility in partnership with Barangay Health Workers and Barangay/Local Government Units.

- Establish a comprehensive plan that ensures the safety, effective treatment, and sustainable usability of all water sources within the community, thereby safeguarding public health and promoting environmental sustainability in collaboration with Local/ Provincial Government Offices and Agencies.

Food Security

Short-term

- Provision of food assistance and essential items to ensure that affected families have access to sufficient nutrition during the crisis period.
- When distributing food and essentials, focus on meeting the specific nutritional needs of pregnant women, lactating mothers, children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly. Develop specialized food packages for vulnerable groups.

Livelihood

Short-term

- Recognize differing livelihood needs based on gender and vulnerability.
- Distribution of farming inputs as a response to the scarcity of rice and other food sources.
- Orientation on water smart agriculture that can be applied in growing vegetables for HH consumption.

Medium-Term

- Emergency assistance programs for affected farmers, providing essential supplies and exploring alternative income sources including resilient farming practices.
- Collaborate with community stakeholders and local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to ensure inclusive livelihood recovery. Design and implement interventions that guarantee equal participation and benefits for all individuals.

Long-term

- Linkage to local finance company to access financial assistance, grants, or loans for essential supplies to recover El Niño's economic impacts.
- Enhancing livelihood resilience and improving the quality of life for community members by providing sustainable alternative livelihood opportunities in partnership with the Local Agriculture Office, Department of Trade and Industry, Local/ Provincial Livelihood Office, and local stakeholders.
- Design and implement resilient building development programs based on existing positive coping strategies of different genders (livelihood interventions and diversification of income sources) and household-level resilience.

Health

Short-term

- Launch a thorough public health campaign to inform residents in affected areas about the risks of heat exposure
- Provision of basic medicine supplies and nonfood items that are essential for health and wellness, taking into account specific age needs and vulnerabilities.
- Implement ongoing monitoring to track drought impacts and provide medical assistance for elderly with hypertension, pregnant women and person with disabilities in partnership with Barangay Health Workers and City Health Department.

Long-term

- Equip healthcare facilities with necessary resources and medical supplies to respond to the demand for healthcare services including capacity building for local health workers.

Protection

Short-term

- Coordinate with Barangay Health Workers and Local Social Services regarding the absence of doors/ locks for the majority of comfort rooms specifically in Kalinga.
- Validate the zero cases of GBV case.

Mid-term

- Coordinate with the Barangay/Local Government Unit to allocate a dedicated area for the Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) desk to ensure prompt and sensitive assistance for individuals facing gender-based violence concerns, providing a safe and supportive environment for disclosure, counseling, and referral to appropriate services.
- Review and capacitate local actors in establishing a robust reporting and referral pathway as an essential aspect to ensure the safety, well-being, and efficient management of PSEA and GBV, cases, and related incidents
- HPP members to continue monitoring the developing impact of El Niño in identified areas. Further assessments and coordination with communities and local authorities will be undertaken to determine the gaps in the provision of services and specific interventions.

Government (Local and National)

Short-term

- Provision of sufficient water distribution points.

- Provide personalized support by delivering accessible learning materials to the students' homes to ensure they can continue their education despite their disability and the challenges posed by the drought.

Medium-term

- Develop program interventions improving access to secure and sustainable water supply
- Strengthening community-based organizations on women and child protection for Kalinga
- Promote women's leadership role in community-based organizations
- Interagency recovery program to El Niño for inclusive and gender-responsive interventions
- Ensure implementation of protection mechanisms for the safety of women and children against GBV, leveraging existing local roles and norms in the areas
- Ensure availability of medical supplies aiding conditions and illnesses induced by extreme weather conditions in Barangay Health Centers.
- Ensure the distribution of accessible learning materials and implement flexible learning methodologies to guarantee that students with disabilities and those affected by drought can continue their education during crises like El Niño.

Long-term

- Integrate the conduct of RGA as a standard protocol for assessment
- Strengthen the campaign on the Safe Spaces Act at the local level
- Comprehensive and updated DRR Plan that contains information that communities and the government can manage the emergency and provide for the needs of the affected population.
- Equip healthcare facilities with necessary resources and medical supplies to respond to the demand for healthcare services including capacity building for local health workers in partnership

Other humanitarian and development organizations

- Enhance promotion of WASH practices
- To ensure the safety of women and children, strengthen protection mechanisms against GBV leveraging existing local roles and norms in the areas
- Facilitate linkages between low-income women in communities to microfinance and cooperatives
- In coordination with local authorities, strengthen community awareness-raising strategies on safeguarding, online sexual exploitation, and child labor

Annexes

Annex 1: Gender in Brief

CARE Philippines | Gender in Brief



Philippines Country Snapshot

Population Sex Disaggregation:	55.02 (50.6%) Males 53.65 million (49.4%) females. ¹
Population Age Disaggregation:	1.15 to 64 years 69.40 million (63.9%) 65 years and over 5.86 million (5.4%)
Average Household Size:	4.2
Female Headed Households:	1 in 4 Filipino households
Functional Literacy Rate:	5 years old > male 96.8% female 97.1% ⁴
Infant and Maternal Mortality Rate:	27.5 per 1,000 live births
Rate of Violence Against Women:	17.5% (15-49 years old)
Proportion of the Population with a Disability:	1.44 million or 1.57%

¹Age and Sex Distribution in the Philippine Population (2020 Census of Population and Housing) | Philippine Statistics Authority | Republic of the Philippines. (n.d.). <https://www.psa.gov.ph/content/age-and-sex-distribution-philippine-population-2020-census-population-and-housing>

Introduction

The Philippines, an archipelago in Southeast Asia with 7,641 islands, is highly vulnerable to natural disasters due to its location along the Pacific Ring of Fire. The country also faces challenges from climate change, socio-economic crises, and political instability, which worsen these vulnerabilities. Recent crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, have had severe impacts, with over 4 million cases and nearly 67,000 deaths by December 2023.

Gender Roles and Responsibilities



Traditional gender roles persist in the Philippines, limiting women's opportunities. Women often shoulder unpaid household duties, while men dominate higher-paying jobs. Despite women's contributions to the economy, they face significant gender gaps in employment, earning less than men and being overrepresented in low-paid, informal sectors.

1 | CARE Philippines: Gender in Brief

Education and Economic Empowerment

While literacy rates are high, especially among women, this has not translated into equal employment opportunities. Women face barriers due to family responsibilities and entrenched gender stereotypes, and economic migration. The labor force participation rate for women is significantly lower than for men, and many women work abroad in vulnerable positions. Education also shows gender disparities, with boys having higher dropout rates, limiting future opportunities.

Participation and Policy

The Philippines has committed to gender equality through international agreements like CEDAW and national laws like the Magna Carta of Women. The Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Plan 2019-2025 guides government efforts to promote gender equality. Despite progress, challenges remain, particularly in ensuring the effective implementation of gender-related policies.

Gender Based Violence and Protection

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a critical issue, with 17.5% of women aged 15-49 experiencing violence from intimate partners. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated GBV, with a rise in online exploitation. While laws and support mechanisms exist, justice is not always achieved. Women with disabilities and those from marginalized groups face compounded discrimination and violence.

Gender in Emergencies

Emergencies exacerbate gender inequalities, with women and girls often facing disproportionate risks. CARE Philippines emphasizes gender-sensitive approaches in emergency responses, including conducting Rapid Gender Analyses to tailor interventions to specific community needs. Collaborating with local partners and Women's Rights Organizations ensures that interventions are inclusive and respectful of diverse gender needs.



About CARE Philippines' Response

CARE has been providing emergency relief and development assistance in the Philippines since 1949. Over the years, the organization has developed strong working relations with local communities and non-government organizations throughout the country.

Currently, CARE Philippines is implementing ranging from disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in rural and urban areas to humanitarian assistance focusing on food, shelter, cash, protection, water, sanitation and hygiene, to recovery and rehabilitation focusing on women's economic empowerment, health and livelihoods, across the Philippines.

More information: www.care-philippines.org

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For more information on RGA, visit:

<https://insights.careinternational.org.uk/in-practice/rapid-gender-analysis>

For the RGA Library, visit:

<http://careevaluations.org/>