Climate Change Adaptation, Dispossession, and Displacement (CiCADD) Project

Research Institute for Mindanao Culture (RIMCU)

Unity, Peace, Living in One Place, Living in Harmony

Macapaya, Camaman-an, Cagayan de Oro City
26 September 2026

Chona Castillo



The Philippine CiCADD Team attended the the Day of Macapaya Celebration. This is one of the relocation sites of the households relocated due to the construction of the mega dike and one of the study sites of the CiCADD study.

The theme was "Unity, Peace, Living in One Place, Living in Harmony" which captured the spirit of the Araw ng Phase 1A celebration at Bayanihan Village in Macapaya, Camaman-an, Cagayan de Oro City on 26 September 2026. The Homeowners' Association (HOA) organized the event to unite residents in a celebration of their shared experiences and community spirit. As part of the effort, the Research Institute for Mindanao Culture (RIMCU), a partner institution of the Climate Change Adaptation, Dispossession and Displacement (CiCADD) project, disseminated chosen survey data from residents. The presentation gave the community an opportunity to reflect on their experiences since relocation, specifically the increased sense of safety from flooding and the day-to-day challenges that remain, such as access to transportation, basic amenities, and livelihood prospects.

Strengthening the CiCADD–Community Partnership

RIMCU's participation reflects an important commitment of the **CiCADD project**: to remain present and engaged in the activities of its Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members and community partners whenever appropriate and possible. The CAC is envisioned not simply as an advisory body, but as a group of active partners in the project whose experiences, knowledge, concerns, and recommendations help ground the research in community realities.

Participation of CiCADD in community activities such as Araw ng Phase 1A is an opportunity to build relationships, hear from residents outside of formal research activities, discuss pertinent findings, and keep the conversation going. This is indicative of the project's dedication to working with communities rather than conducting research about them.

Understanding Climate Change and Relocation

The presentation, titled *"Pagbag-o sa Klima ug Kasinatian sa Relokasyon"* (Climate Change and the Experience of Relocation), highlighted the effects of climate change, lessons from past disasters, and the experiences of families that have been relocated.

The CiCADD project explores how communities might adapt to climate threats in ways that are inclusive, participatory and attentive to the realities of vulnerable people. The presentation highlighted the necessity for flood protection but also stressed that adaptation should cover access to livelihoods, water, transportation, health services, markets, and other fundamental needs.

This is especially important for Macapaya residents. The Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan de Oro River (FRIMP-CDOR) relocated families from flood-prone areas along the Cagayan de Oro River. Relocation has made people physically safer from flooding, but they still face issues with distance, transportation, services, and livelihoods.



Perry Rockwell discussed the CiCADD project with the community and presented the results of the study conducted in their area.



Teodorico Cose, HOA president, explained the series of activities conducted under the CiCADD project to the community.



A community member shared his feedback on the presentation given by RIMCU.

What the Data Reveal

The survey results show that inhabitants recognize the flood-protection benefits of the mega-dike and relocation in general, while they still face challenges in their daily lives. Almost all respondents (99.1%) reported having learned from prior catastrophes. 97.3% stated that the mega-dike helped to lessen their susceptibility to flooding. Similarly, 89.6% rated relocation as an effective reaction to past climate-related threats, and 95.5% rated it as a feasible long-term adaptation solution. However, only 33.4% of inhabitants felt the mega-dike directly benefited relocated people. This suggests residents may have different perceptions of flood protection and its impacts on daily life.

In addition to water worries, locals also spoke of some of the challenges they are still facing in the relocation region. These include transport costs and limited transport options (30.5%), water-related issues (24.5%), and livelihood challenges, especially the distance between their residences and workplaces (26.1%). Travel is also necessary to access basic services. 78.8% indicated they had to travel to access a health center or hospital and 85.1% to access the market.

These experiences indicate that while relocation may have offered increased protection from flooding, access to basic amenities, affordable transportation, and livelihood opportunities remain vital to the well-being of moved families.

From Community Concerns to Collective Action

Survey results also indicate that citizens remain engaged in neighborhood issues. Almost all respondents (99.5%) said meetings were held to discuss local issues, and 85.6% reported feeling a sense of belonging to the community. Similarly, 81.1% felt comfortable and supported raising their issues. But 61.3% said only some obligations in the relocation process were honored. These replies suggest that resident, community leader, and concerned government agency focus areas continue to center on ongoing communication, follow-through on earlier commitments, and visible community participation.

The lecture also gave people a chance to reflect on their relocation experiences, including changes in their vulnerability to flooding and the issues they still face in their new town. HOA President Mr. Cose led a conversation in which residents expressed their concerns and debated potential actions. One difficulty raised was the condition of the entrance road to Macapaya. Residents said they would like to continue working with the City Government to improve it, as better road access could ease transportation challenges and lower travel costs. The community's willingness to work together and continue the discourse with relevant agencies on issues that impact their day-to-day lives was brought to the forefront of thediscussion.



Perry Rockwell provided an overview of the CiCADD project.



Michael Lou Montejo provided a brief overview of the poster-slogan making contest to the community.

Working Together for a Safer and More Livable Macapaya

Establishing a safer, more resilient community means more than infrastructure that protects them from flooding; it also means recognizing community members. Also vital are easy-to-use roads, affordable transport, access to a reliable water supply, opportunities to make a living, and public services that meet their day-to-day needs. Community members also recognized the importance of having a say in community choices and working collaboratively with other citizens, local leaders and government agencies to address issues affecting their lives.

For the CiCADD project, remaining present in the activities of its CAC members and partners is part of building this continuing partnership. It creates opportunities for the project to listen, learn, share evidence, and support communities as they identify and pursue practical solutions.

Macapaya's experience reinforces the importance of turning community knowledge and empirical evidence into practical action, such as strengthening collaboration among residents, the HOA, *barangay* (means village and the smallest administrtive division and local government unit in the Philippines) and city governments, DHSUD, CHUDD, and other relevant agencies, toward a safer, more connected, resilient, and livable Macapaya.