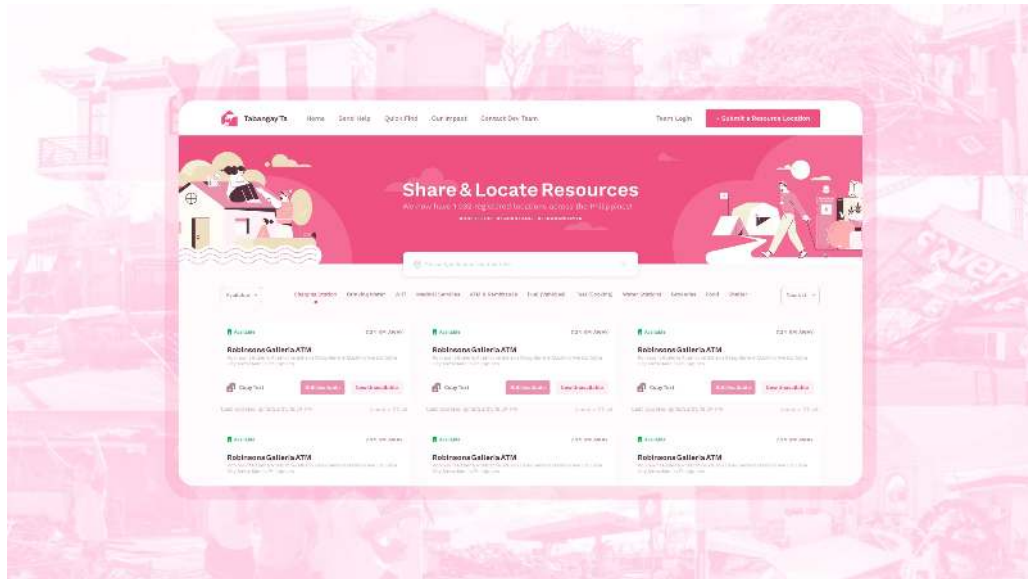

A product designer's response to Typhoon Odette

Because of Super Typhoon Rai, I now have a deeper appreciation for the different job functions humans perform.



Regrets of the Past

As a child, I enthusiastically kicked little mounds built by ants for fun. I would cackle as the ants raced away, carrying what seemed like their eggs as they looked for another area to roof their mandibles. So as typhoon Odette struck, I could only pray that the wind would not launch my house like a rocket—*though that would be a rocket less efficient than Musk's (and my house would need proper thrusters to propel itself)*. Who knew nature could be so poetic and so... vengeful?

View the full album of my photographs [here](#)

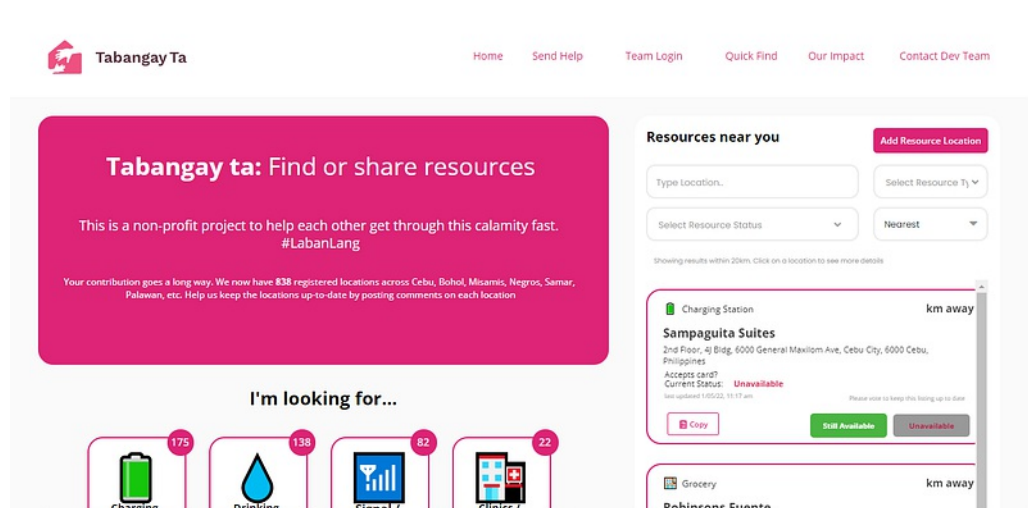
I reside in Lapu-Lapu City, this means I was part of the areas where “Malditang Odette”, a name given to the typhoon which translates to “Mean Girl Odette”, unleashed her wrath and harvested our electric posts. Our house would sway and cracks started on the ceiling to appear. The morning right after, at about 8:00, I went out to take [photographs](#) and put together a [mini documentary](#) to show people how Odette let loose from an insider's point of view.

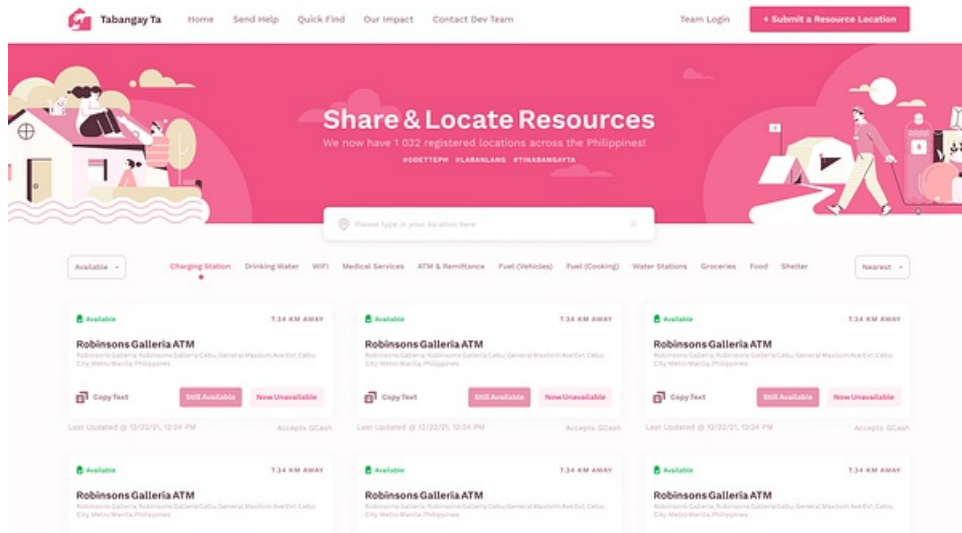
Not to sound privileged, but after seeing the destruction first hand, I felt a bit more satisfied with life. I experienced something usually only seen on T.V. and even got to document it. My journalist heart is wondered!

I don't usually speak Cebuano Visayan, but here I managed to interview fellow victims of #BagyongOdette.

With great power—and WiFi—comes great responsibility.

The company where my mother works at gave free hotel accommodation and food subsidy. I was in a very lucky position. Specifically, with WiFi and electricity, I was in the perfect position to help. I have already amplified the voices of the affected with my journalistic endeavors. So this time, I wanted to help in the technical side: I volunteered for [Tabangay Ta](#), a website made to help victims of Odette locate essentials like water and remittances with the help of crowdsourced information.





UI Redesign (right) by [Carl Kho](#) for [Tabangay Ta](#)

Funny story: I volunteered to work on the website's UI design & non-developer tasks. To my surprise, I was given the responsibility of facilitating the adding of features through [bubble.io](#), a no code tool for building web apps. Fortunately, I am acquainted with the said tool. Just like that, I became a full-stack, no-code developer. Working with data, which I have never done before, was suddenly done with ease. This was because the founder of Tabangay Ta, Stephen Suico, was the only person working on the site. It was a blessing in disguise since I downloaded courses to learn React JS, hoping to improve career-wise over the holidays. Now, I have become (almost) well-versed in handling data and logic. I'm glad I got to help my country rise with the privilege to upskill. It was a major win and made a nice Christmas present to end year 2021.

By [Carl Kho](#) on [January 6, 2022](#).

[Canonical link](#)

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