

Planet. Tales: Climate change experiences in the rural Philippines

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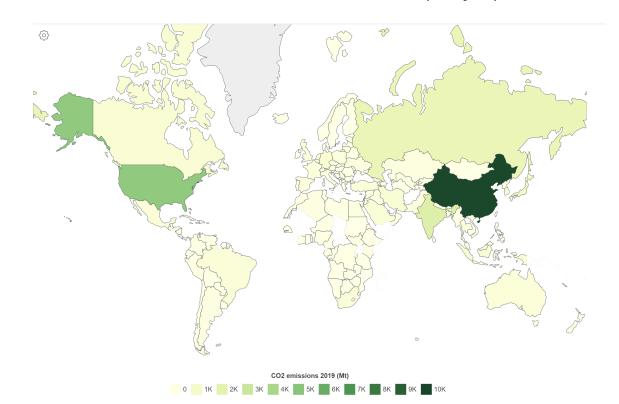
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Impacts of climate change on developing nations

While developing countries (excluding India and China) have only contributed **35%** of the greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) last 2011, they are **disproportionately facing the negative impacts of climate change**, experiencing extreme heat waves, floods, and other climate-related disasters (Tietjen).



Source: World Population Review

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Documenting people's stories

As a native of the **Philippines**, I went back to my hometown, Cauayan, to share with you how this is manifested even in the smallest form of community. *More than the numbers, how is climate change affecting the people in the most remote areas of the planet?* With a **website** that shows data, images, videos, and interview, I aim to amplify the voices of the unheard giving justice to the most vulnerable.

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Exacerbated typhoons

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\$280M worth of agricultural damages in 2020

42.51% of the Philippines' lands is used for agriculture (World Bank). In Cauayan, the income source of most families including mine is agriculture. Because of the **weather's extremity and unpredictability**, all the farmers I interviewed have had **reduced profits** from crops (mostly rice and corn) being completely submerged in water and fallen due to floods and strong winds, respectively. Moreover, using **Sentinel-2 satellite images**, the rise of water in Cagayan River was observed from a typhoon last Nov. 13, 2020.



True color composite map showing the flooded areas. © Sentinel 2, Nov. 2020. All rights reserved.



Photos I took using a drone showing the fallen corn crops due to Supertyphoon Egay. Red marks indicate the fallen crops.



A photo I took of a local farmer spraying fertilizer on the rice crops

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Compromised children's education

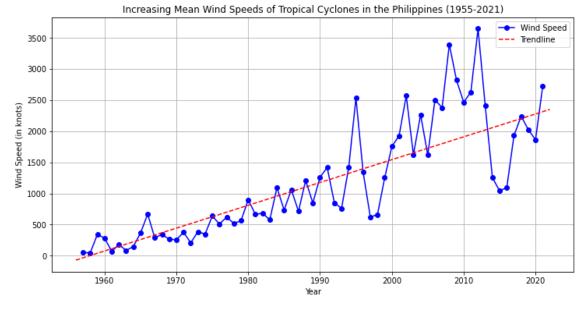
Apart from the 24% decline of the Department of Education's 2023 budget, the public education system still lacks **159,000 classrooms** to accommodate all students (Rappler). Consequently, according to my interview with teachers, some students of ages 10-12 are still **not able to read** and **perform basic mathematical operations**.





Photos I took in a **summer supplemental class** for kids who need further instructions.

The Philippines is a developing country in Southeast Asia visited by an average of **20 tropical cyclones per year** (IAC). The warming of the oceans have **strengthened the typhoons** in Southwest Pacific (see figure below). PAGASA (our local weather service) has also seen an **upward trend on the number of tropical cyclones** visiting the Philippines. Even during my stay, **Supertyphoon Egay** made landfall in our region. With winds of up to **140 mph**, Egay has an estimated damage of **123.6 million USD** (INQUIRER.net).





Short video edit on my Instagram showing my perspective during the onset of the typhoon

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The deliverable: a website

Using **HTML**, **CSS**, and **JavaScript**, I developed a website that portrays the locals' narratives revolving around the three themes: **typhoons**, **agriculture**, and **education**.

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Conclusion

Every decision we make may affect a group of people 10,000 miles away from us. We may be experiencing the same global environmental issue, but we do not have the same systems in place to mitigate and adapt to these changes. The worse part is that none of the locals I interviewed is aware of climate change's role in their struggles.

Help me spread these stories, so people who have the means to initiate change can hear these voices.



Follow **@limit.dnex** to see the images and videos I took for this project.



Check out the website! planet-tales.org