

Income of Fishing Households before and after Typhoon Haiyan

A Study on Coastal Communities of Batan and Altavas, Aklan, Philippines

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INTRODUCTION

Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) is the most devastating tropical cyclone that hit the Philippines in recorded history. It occurred in November 2013, claimed 6,300 lives, injured 28,688 individuals, and 1,062 were reported missing. The Province of Aklan in Panay Island is one of the areas hit by the typhoon.

This study compares the income of fishing households before and after the occurrence of Typhoon Haiyan in the coastal areas of Batan and Altavas, Aklan.

Initial data gathering was done with randomly selected fishing households in 2012 using an interview schedule. A return visit to the households was done in 2014.

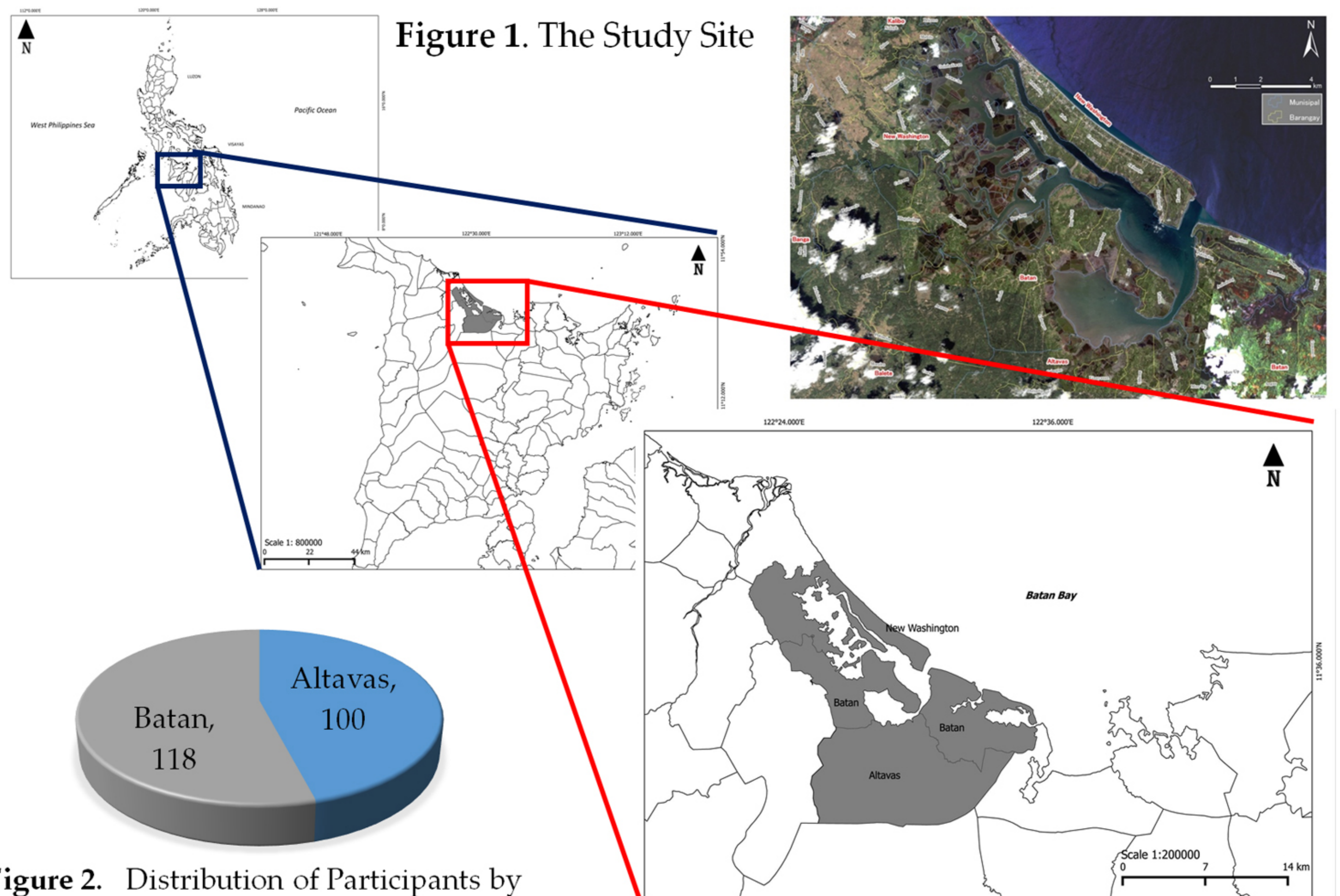


Figure 2. Distribution of Participants by Municipality

RESULTS

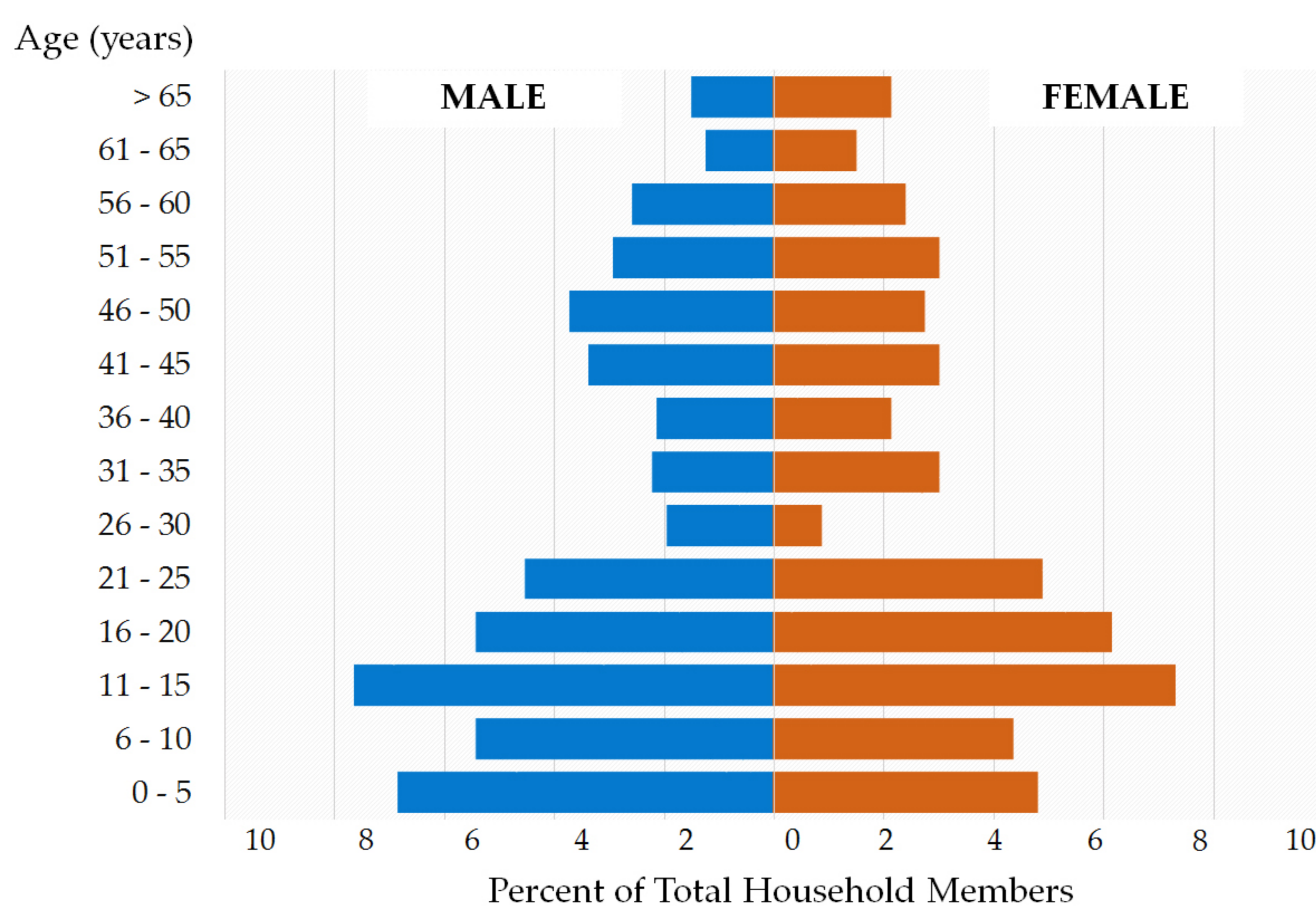


Figure 3. Population Pyramid

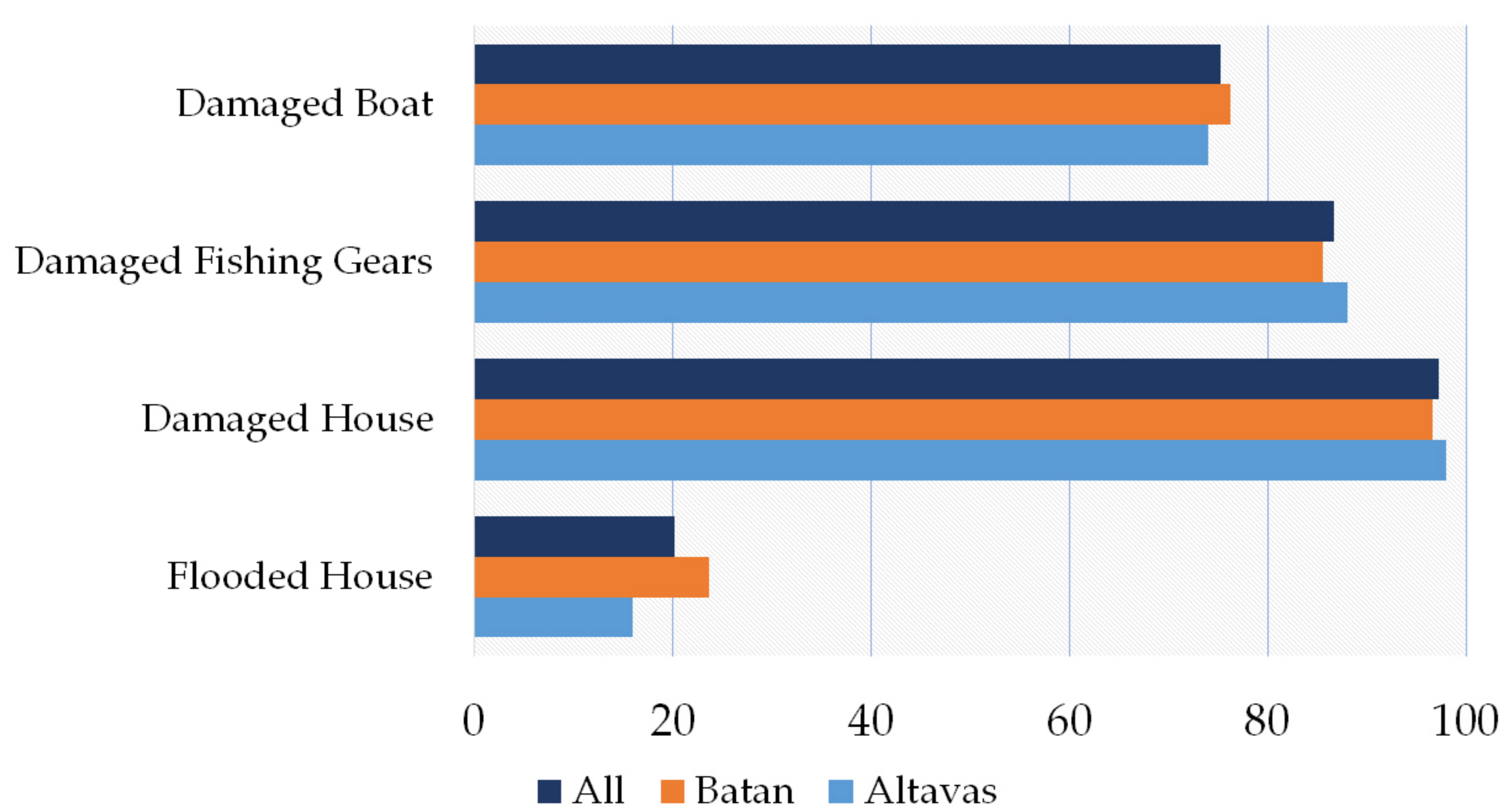


Figure 4. Percentage of Households by Impacts of Typhoon Haiyan

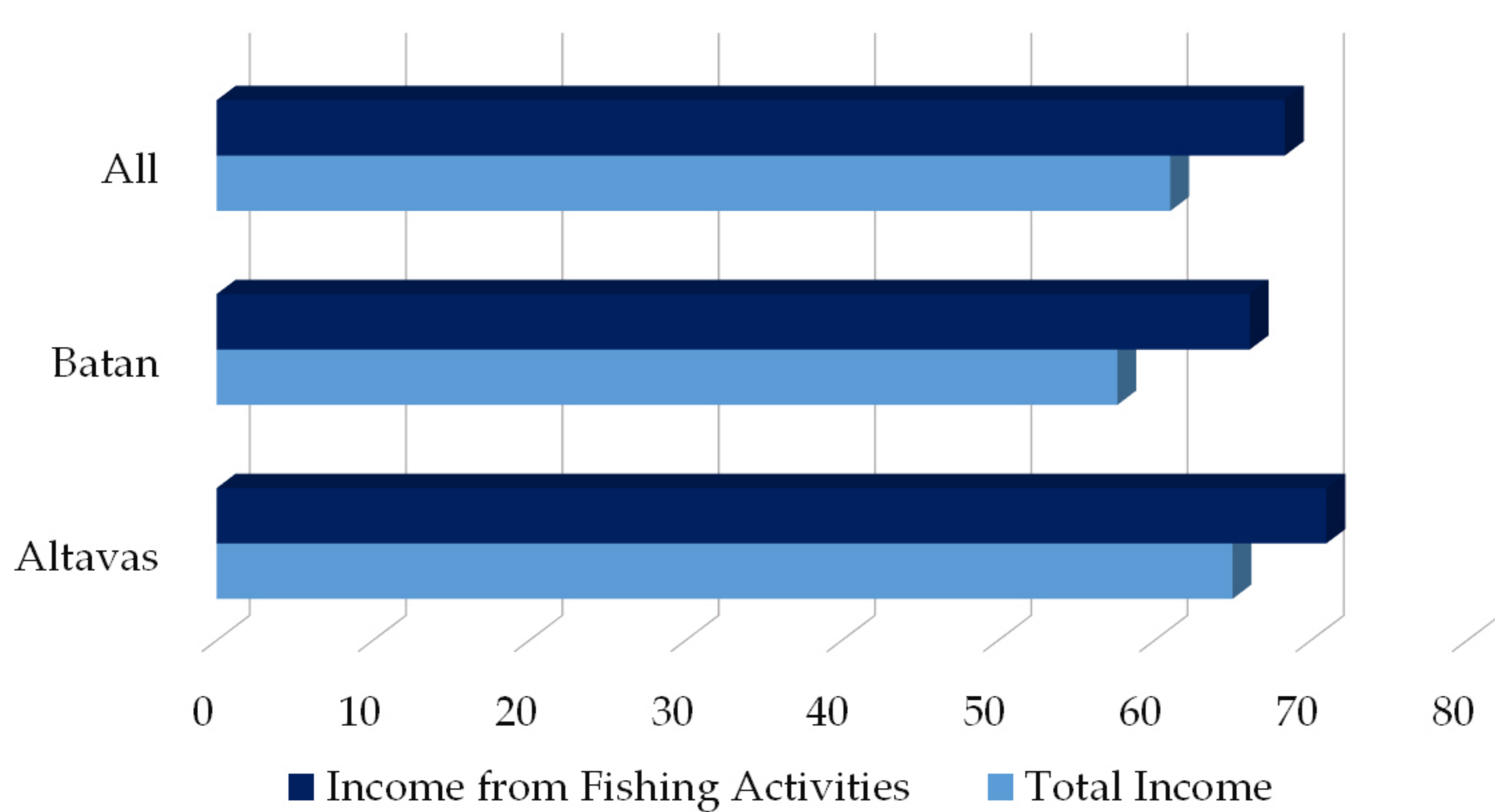


Figure 5. Percentage of Households that Reported Lower Monthly Total Income and Monthly Income from Fishing Activities in 2014 compared to 2012

Table 1. Percentage Distribution of Households by Economic Activity, 2014

	Altavas	Batan	All
Owns a fishing boat	78.0	77.1	77.5
Operates an oyster farm	7.0	4.2	5.5
Operates a fish cage	0.0	8.5	4.6
Sells marine products	78.0	39.8	57.3
Operates an agricultural farm	0.0	6.8	3.7
Engages in poultry or livestock raising			
Chicken	18.0	22.9	20.6
Pig	51.0	38.1	44.0
Cow	3.0	0.8	1.8
Duck	3.0	0.8	1.8

Table 2. Percentage Distribution of Households by Type of Assistance Received after Typhoon Haiyan

Type of Assistance	Altavas	Batan	All
Food and Water	91.0	94.1	88.6
Clothing	13.0	50.0	31.6
Housing Materials	51.0	47.5	46.9
Fishing Gear	0.0	3.4	1.8
Fishing Boat	0.0	6.8	3.5
Fishing Paraphernalia	0.0	17.8	9.2

Table 3. Average Total Monthly Income and Average Monthly Income from Fishing Activities in 2012 and 2014

	Altavas	Batan	All
Average Total Monthly Household Income (in USD*)			
2012	154.5	155.2	154.9
2014	135.5	139.4	137.6
Percentage Change	-12.3	-10.2	-11.2
Average Monthly Income from Fishing Activities (in USD*)			
2012	88.1	90.0	89.1
2014	48.3	62.3	55.9
Percentage Change	-45.2	-30.7	-37.3
Percent of Household Income Derived from Fishing Activities			
2012	57.0	58.0	57.5
2014	35.6	44.7	40.6
Percentage Change	-37.6	-22.9	-29.4

* 1 USD = 47 PHP

CONCLUSION

Majority of the fishing households in coastal communities in Altavas and Batan, Aklan reported a reduction in total monthly household income in 2014 compared to 2012. Households also reported a more than one-third reduction in income derived from fishing activities. This may be due to the damaged fishing gears and fishing boats because of the occurrence of Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda). Only residents of Batan reported that they received fishing boats and gears as assistance after the typhoon.

Livelihoods in coastal communities of Batan and Altavas are dependent on fisheries and other natural resources. Due to the nature of their income sources, people in these communities are vulnerable to natural calamities such as typhoons.

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