Lorna Dela Pena is a woman from Barangay Tinabanan, municipality of Marabut in Samar province. She's 63 years old, widowed with seven children: the eldest is 39 years old, the second child is 35 years old, the third child is 33 years old, the fourth child is 31 years old, the fifth child is 28 years old, the sixth child is 25 years old, and the youngest is 23 years old. She's currently the President of Marabut Women's Federation, the board of director of Unhan Kababayen-an han Tinabanan Organization (UKTO), and member of women-led DRR committee in her community.

Expressing her appreciation to PKKK

For Nanay Lorna, the trainings provided by PKKK helped her gain her self-confidence and mould her character. Her involvement with PKKK opened a lot of opportunities, and it aspires her to be committed to serving the community. "I was able to travel in different places, and I learned a lot from other people—my world becomes wider."

As part of women-led DRR committee in Barangay Tinabanan, she leads in providing information dissemination in relation to evacuation to the community. "They (residents) learned a lesson from the Yolanda experience, so whenever we inform them about emergency drills, they cooperate right away."

"We are also thankful to ActionAid for providing us emergency items such as life vests, stretcher, first aid kits, wheel chair, megaphones, and an emergency car." Because of their generosity, we managed to fulfil our duty as women-led first responders. We are also receiving invites from NDRRMC to attend more trainings on DRR. With the support of PKKK and ActionAid, our contingency plan is also adopted in the barangay which helped us become more resilient in disaster situations."

"I hope in the future, there will be more aspiring young rural women leaders who can continue our legacy — to advocate women's rights, amplifying women's voices in the decision making processes, and be committed in leading women in resilience building in emergencies. I want to see them unite, learning about disaster risk reduction, solid waste management, and climate change. I am not getting any younger, and I want the future generations to take this seriously. I don't want them to suffer the same experience that we had during the typhoon Yolanda. I am hoping that more learning opportunities will come, so they can develop their skills and potential as future women leaders."

