

Preparing for Disaster: A community-based approach

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Organisation

Through its 86 active chapters, the **Philippines National Red Cross (PNRC)** serves an important auxiliary function to many government structures in the Philippines particularly at the municipal level. Through its established Disaster Management Service (DMS), the PNRC trains disaster response volunteers, disseminates information and provides much of the grassroots-level relief and rehabilitation in disaster situations.

The **Danish Red Cross** supports disaster preparedness programmes through partnership with many different Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies. One key partnership has been the development of the Integrated Community-based Disaster Preparedness Programme (ICDPP) in collaboration with Philippine National Red Cross. The main objective of the ICDPP is to work with affected people and provide communities with adequate knowledge on disaster management to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards. The ICDPP model extends the DMS services to focus more on preparedness and mitigation than on response preparedness.

Philippines National Red Cross Website: www.redcross.org.ph;

Danish Red Cross Website: www.redcross.dk;

IFRC's Disaster Preparedness webpage: www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/dp

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Abstract

This publication provides lessons learnt and good practice on integrated community disaster planning program (ICDPP) to work with local people and reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards. The ICDPP model is a six-step method which seeks to mobilise community members to participate more fully in protecting their lives and the resources they depend upon. Many of the

steps and tools in this publication are based on the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) methodology. Tools and methodologies mentioned consist of community, risk, hazard and GIS mapping of natural hazards.

Intended end users

Intended end users are **community development workers, disaster risk management field practitioners** and the **donor** community.

Geographical focus

Although the manual was developed in the **Philippines** context, it can be used in communities **throughout the world** with the purpose of reducing risk from natural hazards through Community-Based Disaster Preparedness.

Type of Material

This **step by step** booklet is a summary of lessons learnt during 10 years of designing and adjusting a programme for community-based disaster management. The publication contains practical examples from CBDP experience in the Philippines. It does not detail the tools necessary to carry out an assessment.

The booklet describes the following 6 step process:

- ◆ Identifying and selecting vulnerable areas
- ◆ Forming partnerships with municipal and provincial government units
- ◆ Creating and training a community disaster action team (CDAT)
- ◆ Mapping the risks and resources in the area
- ◆ Establishing mitigation measures, and
- ◆ Sustainability by fully integrating ICDPP into the local government unit on an ongoing basis

Language

This manual is written in English.

Scale of assessment

The focus of the assessment is at the **community** and **locality** level.

Type of assessment

The ICDPP model seeks to mobilise people in the community to participate more fully in **hazard preparedness** to protect their lives as well as the resources upon which they depend. Many of the steps and tools in this publication are based on the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) methodology. Tools and methodologies mentioned consist of community, risk, hazard and GIS mapping of natural hazards.

Analytical methods

The methods and tools are mentioned in reference to lessons learned in community-based disaster management in the Philippines. The core of this publication centres around the six steps to engage the community and various levels of government to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards. Analytic methods are not covered in detail, however the following are mentioned.

Disaster Risk Assessment Methods mentioned are:

- ♦ **Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA)**

General Assessment methods include:

- ♦ **Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)**
- ♦ **Hazard Analysis**
- ♦ **Vulnerability Analysis**

The publication also describes some of the challenges of selecting target areas, overcoming sceptic communities and local governments, and identifying relevant mitigation measures. The last chapter on 'Experiences and Ideas' contains "do's and don'ts" in CBDP.

Tools

The publication describes in detail the sequence of steps required to successfully carry out an ICDPP process and highlights through lessons learned the different participatory and technical assessment tools. While the lessons learned provide useful considerations in the process, they do not elaborate how to actually use the tool. Users would require a separate publication to do this.

The participatory tools include:

- ♦ **Community Mapping**
- ♦ **Hazard and Resource Mapping**

Technical tools include:

- ♦ **GIS Mapping**

Notes on methods

This document provide useful lessons learnt and would be helpful for practitioners who want to know considerations when undertaking participatory community-based hazard assessment and planning.

Case studies / practical examples

The publication provides small case studies that illustrate the integrated community-based disaster preparedness program (ICDPP). There are practical examples provided in boxes throughout the publication to demonstrate the challenges encountered in the various steps of the program.

Resource people

For more information, contact Mr. Raul Garganera of the Philippines National Red Cross, Disaster Management Services at pnrnhq@redcross.org.ph, or the Danish Red Cross, International Department at info@drk.dk.

Author of guidance note

The ProVention Consortium contracted Stephanie Bouris to author this guidance note.

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