



Partnership



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PhilPrep

The Philippine Preparedness Partnership (PhilPrep) is the collaboration between key stakeholders of the four main actors in humanitarian action, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) for the government, the Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP) for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) for the private sector, and the University of the Philippines Resilience Institute (UPRI) for the academic sector. As the primary advocate of tripartite partnership in the country, PhilPrep ensures cohesive action between the three sectors in any and all humanitarian initiatives it conducts across the three major islands of the Philippines--Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

Considering that the Philippines is among the world's most disaster-prone countries, there is a strong recognition of the local actors' capacity in the development sector, including the various groups and networks that have varying levels of experience in emergency

preparedness and response as a result of responding to different hazards turning into disasters. At the national level, the partnership sustains efforts in line with national summits and related activities, at the same time that there are certain activities that will serve to continue the rolling out of capacity-building activities on the ground for the benefit of the partner communities and local government units. PhilPrep has pilot provinces, municipalities, and barangays (villages) in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao engaging the most marginalized and most vulnerable sections of the population.

The project contributes to building community resilience, risk reduction, and adaptation to changing climate by way of saving and sustaining lives, preventing people's suffering, and upholding human dignity. Community resilience is anchored on the right to life with dignity. PhilPrep strikes at a time when real collaboration and true partnership between the government, CSOs, and private sector is not only more possible but also severely needed.

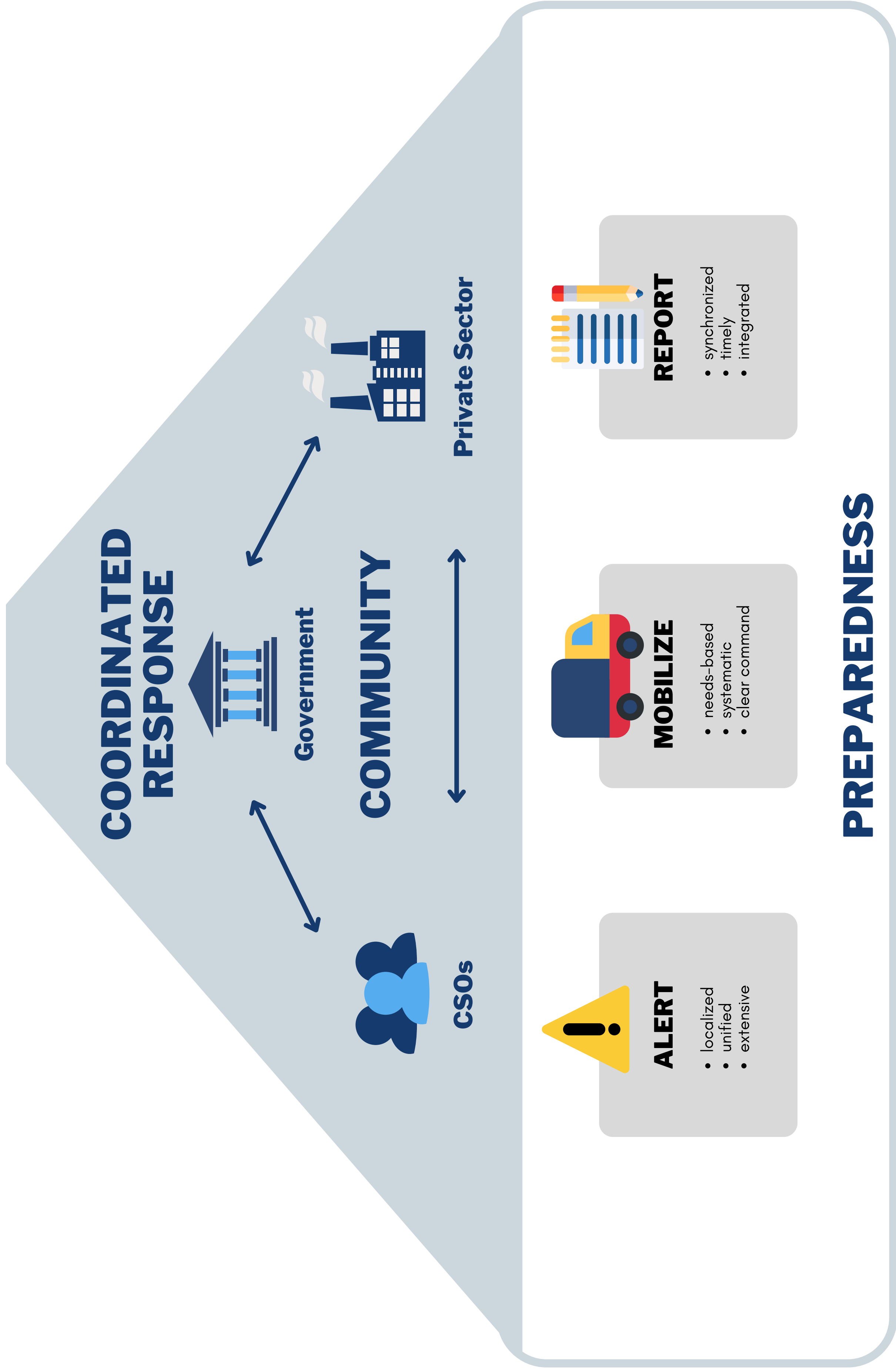


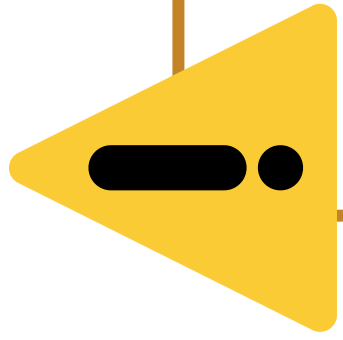


Response Framework

At the 2019 National Humanitarian Stakeholders' Summit collaboratively undertaken by the tri-partite partnership, a framework for humanitarian response has been crafted based on the contributions from different workshops held during the two-day Summit. The framework's ultimate goal is for a Resilient Philippines which is anchored on preparedness translated into an event-based response divided into three steps: Alert, Mobilization, and Reporting. Each component is guided by principles that describe the quality of actions to be undertaken by various actors.

RESILIENT PHILIPPINES



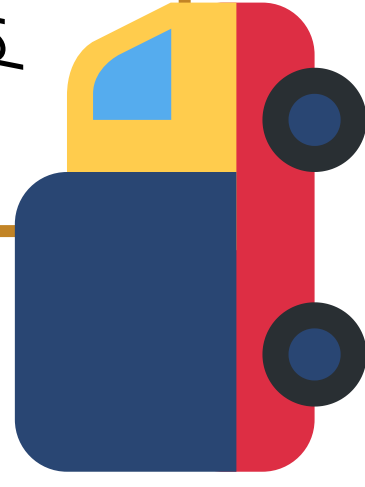


ALERT

A localized mechanism guided by realities on the ground, inherent capacities, and most accessible resources. It shall be a unified approach by responders guided by an organized set of information from various groups, but integrated network of actors. The Alert phase shall also be extensive, reaching not only immediate communities, but also remote areas; not only the most vulnerable but encompassing affected population.

MOBILIZE

Response and actions shall be needs-based to attain optimum use of resources and clear signals of prioritization. Moreover, the mode of service delivery shall be systematic - which is the application of protocols and mechanisms that are proven to work and result to effective and efficient operations. Lastly, mobilization shall have a clear command as characterized by existing protocols such as the ICS.

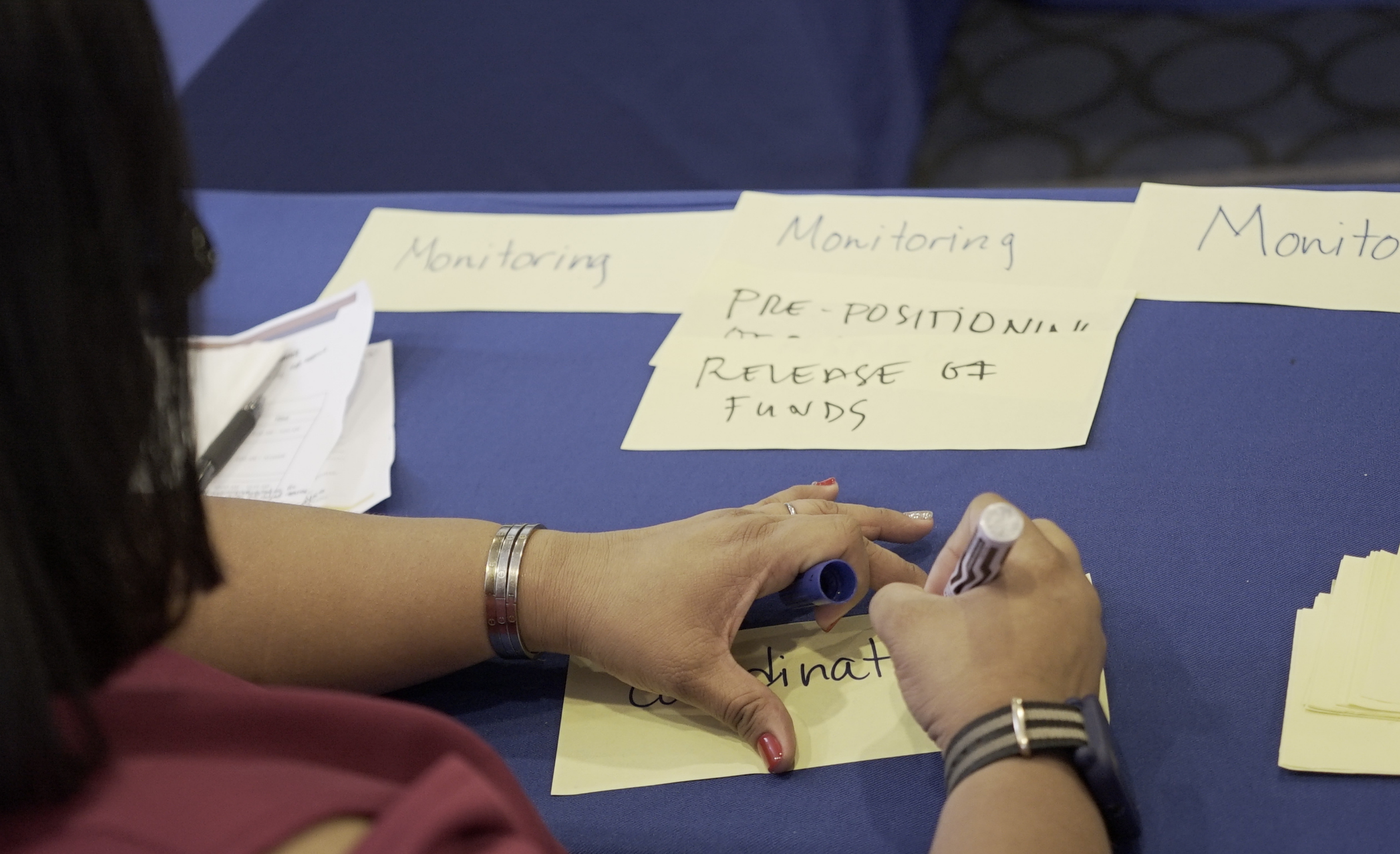


REPORT

The flow of information shall be synchronized, capturing what is most useful for a particular timeline, thus resulting in a timely analysis and understanding of the situation. Information across the response landscape shall be integrated to have a holistic as well as a targeted picture of the overall situation, and use this to further improve humanitarian response.







Case Story

**Tabang sa mga Biktima sa Masbate, Inc. (TABI Masbate):
Collaboration between the Government and Civil Society
towards Sustainable Child-Centered Disaster Risk Reduction
and Management Program**

In the course of the CCDRR program implementation led by TABI, the Municipal Government of Milagros has noticed a big difference in the quality of disaster response in the three barangays covered. The level of confidence and competence among the barangay responders is undeniably high and this is manifested in their organized mechanisms and processes during evacuation. Given these commendable response efforts, the municipal government is determined to influence and capacitate the other 24 barangays to meet the same level of preparedness and competence.

When DRR-related awareness-raising activities are carried out in the barangays and schools, TABI would always remind the participants that knowing the basics of disaster is not enough. To guarantee the success of the project, TABI has emphasized the importance of two factors, which include knowledge on DRR and support from the local government. They stressed the importance of having knowledge and appreciation of DRR among the local people. The support of community leaders and other relevant authorities is also imperative for timely, effective, and appropriate response in times of disaster.



The realization of the abovementioned factors in all 73 the 27 barangays of Milagros is indeed a challenge. The urgency of addressing this concern is deemed important given the geographical characteristics of the municipality- some barangays are located near the coast which makes them prone to storm surge while others are situated in the upland area which makes them vulnerable to regular drought. Armed conflict is also identified as a continuing risk in upland communities.

Fostering Linkages between Civil Society and Local Government

The partnership between government and civil society organizations is not new to TABI. However, the experience of TABI Masbate in the implementation of the CCDRR program is quite different and therefore it is worth considering as a good practice. The LGU of Milagros was very supportive and encouraging in working together with the civil society. On the other hand, the civil society, represented by TABI, has manifested openness to partner with the

LGU in the municipal-wide replication of the DRRM program activities conducted in the pilot areas even before the project ended. The growing level of trust and confidence in the partnership between the two sectors was already evident as early as the beginning of program implementation.

For TABI, as part of its protocols, the staff would always have courtesy calls to the LGU of the target areas. This was intently done by TABI in the municipality of Milagros when the program dubbed UNICEF DRR Program: A Child-centered Approach was implemented in 2014 (Phase 1) and 2016 (Phase 2). The project objectives, area coverage, expected deliverables, and the coordination requirements in relation to the program were discussed. Honorable Natividad Magbalon, the then Mayor of Milagros, warmly welcomed the TABI staff and expressed high interest in the program. Diane Bulalacao, the community organizer of TABI, recalled the words of the Mayor: "You are most welcome here in Milagros. The program seems great and that would definitely help our townmates, especially now that we want to give more attention to the disaster preparedness of our municipality."



In the succeeding coordination of TABI with the municipal government of Milagros, the Mayor endorsed them to the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO), Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO), and Municipal Planning and Development Office (MPDO). Since then, the linkage between TABI and the LGU has been constant and the planned activities were carried out through close partnership.

TABI conducted several activities for the personnel of Milagros namely, (1) CC-DRR Orientation; (2) Multi-hazard Child Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping System led by the University of the Philippines Philippine Geographical Society (UPPGS); (3) updating of the municipal DRRM plan; (4) training on sectors (health, nutrition, WASH, education, and child protection) in emergencies; and (5) launching of the Incident Command System - Module 1 training.

On the other hand, the LGU of Milagros showed commitment to the activities of TABI by providing logistics which include transportation, venue, and office space; giving material support like seedlings as well as food and drinks during municipal-wide gatherings; security assistance through dispatchment of police, firemen, and firetruck during big activities; membership to the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC) as NGO representative; facilitating TABI and its beneficiaries' participation in the provincial government activities; and provision of resource person/s in some of TABI's trainings and fora.

The collaboration between the LGU and TABI has been evident for quite some time now and it has already become a "new SOP" which resulted in the optimization of resources and better delivery of services to the people.

The Gains of Collaborative Work

When asked how she would assess the partnership between the government and civil society, Jessica “Chingkee” Madrilejos, the Municipal Planning Officer of Milagros and former Head of the MDRRMO, shared, “Just like DRRM as a new normal, the partnership of the Municipal Government of Milagros and TABI Masbate has become a usual practice. They complement each other because what the local government lacks, TABI provides; or the other way around. The conduit (partnership) even goes beyond DRRM with the enhanced participation of ordinary citizens in community development. The Honorable Mayor is supportive and has challenged us to replicate the good practices of the three pilot barangays in the remaining 24 barangays.”

The LGU is steadfast in influencing the other barangays to adopt the good practices from the CCDRR program. In fact, the replication of some DRR activities is already happening. In July 2018, the municipal government of Milagros held a DRR Forum, which convened the barangay chairpersons and other officials of the 27 barangays to hear the experiences of the three pilot barangays on the implementation of the CC-DRR program. During the forum, Honorable Jose Magbalon Jr., the Municipal Mayor and Chairman of the MDRRMC, reiterated the goal of the municipality, which is to achieve zero casualties in times of disaster. Furthermore, Alet Bulalacao, TABI’s Program Manager, also called for the utmost cooperation of every stakeholder in building safe and resilient communities. At present, the LGU of Milagros is all set to complete the DRRM Planning in the 27 barangays

of the municipality. The barangays were divided into three clusters. The first batch, which falls under Cluster 1, was launched in September 2018. The staff of TABI were among the resource persons and facilitators of the activity. The planning sessions for Cluster 2 took place in November 2018 while the last batch happened in December 2018.

Through the partnership of TABI and the LGU of Milagros, the youth representative in the MDRRMC was chosen from the qualified members of the youth theatre groups organized by the former. This is an advantage for the council because the youth representative, Cristina Fuentes, prior to her appointment in the MDRRMC, had already undergone several CC-DRR trainings and other capacity building activities. Cristina's exposure in the field of DRR made her more prepared in assuming the duties and tasks of a council member.

Furthermore, resource optimization was achieved through replicating the pilot program even before its implementation has ended. The municipal government started the conduct of DRRM planning in all barangays using its own resources while tapping the CSO as resource persons and facilitators. Mr. Rolando Tuyan of the MDRRMC shared, "The experience of TABI in implementing the CCDRR program is a valuable input to other barangays since it has given them insights on how to replicate the said program."

What facilitated collaboration?

The partnership between TABI and the LGU both at the barangay and municipal levels has been very fruitful due to several factors. First, in consideration of the project design, UNICEF encourages close linkage between the LGU and its partner civil society organization (CSO). Give this, coordination was carried out on a regular basis.



For TABI, as part of its practice, courtesy visits were done with the offices of the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and other department heads such as the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer, Municipal Health Officer, and Philippine National Police Chief. Open communication and the recognition that the government is the primary agency responsible for its constituency played a significant role for the civil society sector to collaborate and complement the efforts of the government.

On the part of the municipal government, the LGU officials have shown their strong support for the program throughout its implementation. The LGU allocated an office space for TABI within the premises of the municipal hall. Furthermore, they also provided logistical assistance and invited TABI to their socio-cultural activities.

Challenges Encountered Amid Collaboration

TABI had to deal with a number of challenges which involve the LGU during the CC-DRR program implementation. The municipal government has already started with their DRRM planning for the remaining barangays to replicate the gains of the CCDRR program. However, the implementation of the said plan at the barangay level remains as a big challenge due to limitation in resources and lack of political will. Constant monitoring among barangay LGUs is crucial. The prioritization and support of the current administration, particularly the Mayor, aided in the successful implementation of the DRRM program in the municipality. With the upcoming election in 2019, the sustainability of what the program has started is at stake since there might be a change in leadership. Although TABI's Government Liaison Officer shared that there is a big chance for the incumbent Mayor to be re-elected again, it is still important to think of mechanisms to sustain the support of the LGU and protect the gains of the CCDRR program.

Another serious concern faced by the program is the active insurgency situation in the upland barangays. This affects the conduct of follow-up activities in the said communities. Security measures have to be in place since the program staff will have to tread the thin line between being suspected as "assets" of the military or be thought of by the military as "conniving with the



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insurgents".

The municipal government also needs to invest more in programs that would harness and promote active participation of the youth sector in DRRM. It is not enough that a youth representative sits in the MDRRMC for them to realize meaningful participation. A DRRM program, which is specifically designed with and for the youth, is fundamental for them to have an enabling and inclusive environment as development actors.

While TABI did not encounter any major problems in working with the barangay officials, there are some who are not that enthusiastic yet to pursue comprehensive DRRM plans. Some of them are contented with mere compliance with the government's requirement of having a DRR program. TABI feels the need to really push for a child-centered approach in DRRM. In addition, TABI also deems the

importance of expanding the program further to incorporate climate change adaptation.

Sustaining the Gains of Collaboration

For as long as TABI Masbate is operating in Milagros, the collaboration between the LGU and CSO will thrive. The partnership is already established and there is no reason at all for it to cease. Being a member of the MDRRMC, TABI is committed to contributing to enhancing the DRRM work of the municipality towards safety and resilience.

The priority given by the LGU to developing its DRRM program is a key factor to achieve sustainability. It has allocated resources, which support the goal of having a more prepared community. Even after the implementation of the UNICEF-funded CCDRR program, TABI will continue its partnership with the LGU on matters related to DRR and CCA. Furthermore, if the same partnership is replicated in the youth sector where the youth representative in the MDRMC, the SK, and youth organizations in the barangays will engage in collaboration, the CCDRR program will continue to flourish.

In the past, the CSO sector had habitually coordinated with the LGU to inform them of the program design and implementation strategy as part of the protocols. There were also times that the LGU thought of CSOs as groups who inspect and criticize the government. On the part of the CSOs, the stereotyping of government and politicians as corrupt and opportunists also hindered efforts to

establish and deepen partnerships. The experience of TABI proved that a closer and more meaningful collaboration between the CSO and LGU is possible. For TABI, what they proved that a closer and more meaningful collaboration between the CSO and LGU is possible. For TABI, what they have experienced in the CCDRR program is indeed heart-warming and humbling. The program made them realize that there

warming and humbling. The program made them realize that there are people in the government such as the LGU of Milagros who have a genuine intention and willingness to help the vulnerable communities achieve resilience.

With the right attitude and perspective on the partnership, the collaboration between the government and CSO can contribute in reaching out to a wider populace and in delivering better services. The CCDRR program did not only extend benefits to the pilot barangays but it was also able to help the remaining 24 barangays of Milagros. The strong support of the LGU and the willingness of TABI to advance collaboration played a major role to make this happen. Such kind of partnership needs to be sustained to continuously create a platform where multi-stakeholders can work together to keep communities out of harm's way and instill a culture of preparedness.

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