

MOVING FORWARD

This training outlined the importance of knowing the individual's basic rights in order to preserve their dignity, which is one of the most crucial aspects of saving and protecting one's life and welfare. The most important concept I have learned in this training, is that **respect** and **dignity** are of the utmost importance. We must understand, internalize and believe in this principle in order to effectively provide our services.

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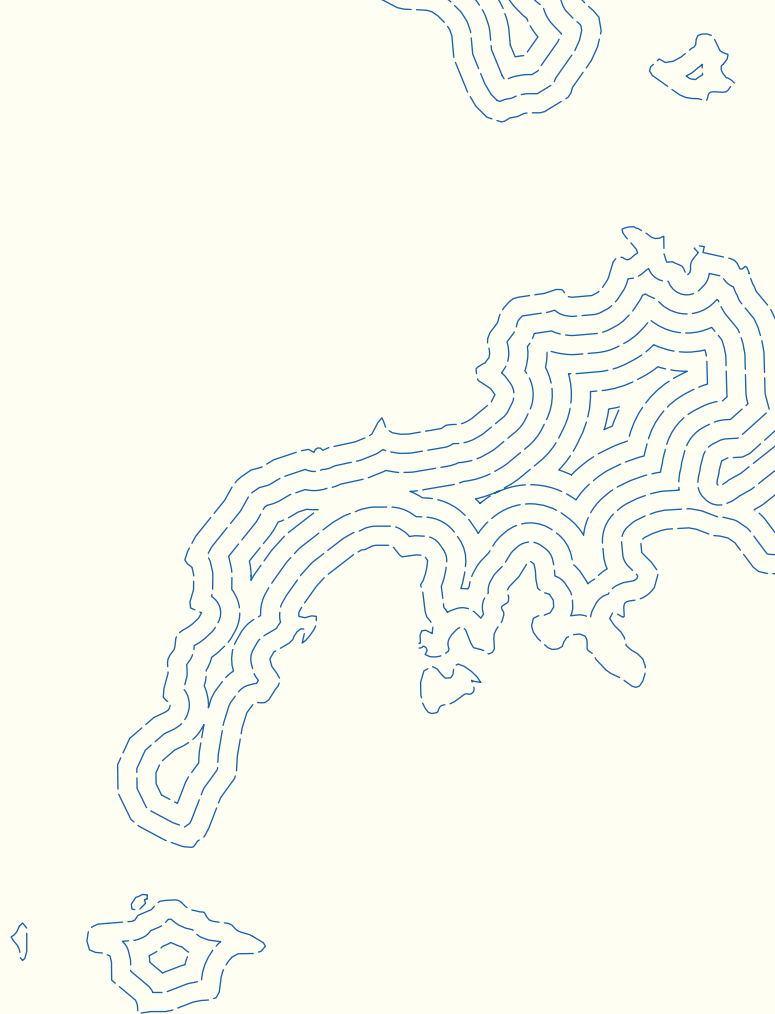
My advice for other Project Development Officers is that, with our important responsibilities and limited resources, we should connect with stakeholders on a personal level, and inform them of the work that we do and why we do it. We can teach children what we know but we need parents and teachers to support us by welcoming this new information and reinforcing it with their children.

Following the formation of a student-led school watching and hazard mapping activity by the Department of Education, my priority has been to evaluate the effectiveness of this activity in the schools. I have held meetings with school principals and teachers to ensure that participation is voluntary.

Today 804 schools in our division implement this activity with voluntary pupil participation.



Participants at the Rights-Based Training



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The interviewee has explicitly given consent to have their responses recorded and the content, including photographs, published digitally or in print for APP communication purposes.

Upholding Rights-based Approaches for Humanitarian Response in the Philippines

The Philippines Preparedness Partnership (PhilPrep) is committed to safeguarding the rights and dignity of children and youth in times of disaster





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TITLE **Project Development Officer for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS) at the Department of Education (DepEd)**

YEARS WORKING IN DISASTER RESPONSE **4**

WORKING AREA **Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte Province, Philippines**



A view of Dipolog City

CONTEXT

Dipolog City is prone to floods, **landslides**, and **minor earthquakes** but public funds are limited for training the community in disaster preparedness. As a result, residents including teachers do not even have basic knowledge of disaster preparedness, which makes particularly vulnerable in times of disaster and after.



Checking the repair, rehabilitation and construction integrity of school buildings

As a Project Development Officer, my primary responsibilities include providing psychosocial training to guidance counselors, guidance advocates, teachers and school nurses. At first, I was overwhelmed at this task because the level of knowledge was so low. My office also offers Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) for children affected by disasters, which made me understand the importance of learning continuity in children's development.



Temporary Learning Spaces in construction, facilitated by DepEd

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH DURING DISASTERS

In December 2018, I participated in the Rights-Based Humanitarian Response Training, organized under the Philippines Preparedness Partnership (PhilPrep) of the Asian Preparedness Partnership in collaboration with the Consortium on Humanitarian Action and Protection (CHAP).

Throughout the training, the facilitators emphasized the importance of **protecting human rights** particularly during crises such as armed conflicts, displacement and disasters especially for vulnerable groups such as children and youth.

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I was able to learn about camp coordination and management, particularly the SPHERE standards for evacuation spaces and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services. I now feel confident that I can teach school children and parents about their rights and the special needs of children in times of crisis. I believe that access to basic rights of food, medicine and shelter is necessary for their educational development and psychosocial well-being.

The training also made me realize that community involvement is key to proper DRRM, as all stakeholders and sectors within the community need to be engaged to safeguard and protect the rights of children and youth.