

Regional Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction, Preparedness and Disaster Displacement

19-21 June 2018, Bohol, Philippines

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP
ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION,
PREPAREDNESS AND DISASTER DISPLACEMENT**
19 TO 22 JUNE 2018, BOHOL, PHILIPPINES



in support of the implementation of
the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,
regional and national DRR Strategies and the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda
in the Asia-Pacific Region

CONCEPT NOTE

Date 19 to 22 June 2018

Venue Bohol, Philippines

Host/Organizer **The Philippine Government**

(The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST))

In partnership with the **Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)**
and the **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)**

With the support of the **governments of Germany and Switzerland**

Background

The Asia-Pacific region has seen great progress in social and economic development and poverty reduction, yet remains highly vulnerable to natural hazards and the effects of climate change. Between 1980 and 2015, the number of people and assets exposed to floods and cyclones in the region has increased by an estimated 70 per cent (UNISDR, GAR 2015). In 2017 alone, an estimated 8.6 million people in the region were displaced from their homes by disasters brought on by sudden-onset natural hazard events (IDMC, GRID 2018). Per capita, Small Island Developing States in Asia-Pacific and the Philippines are among countries with the highest levels of disaster displacement. In response to these challenges, much is being done at the community level to increase the resilience of the population and reduce vulnerability to natural hazards, including through the development and use of scientific knowledge and technology.

Countries in the Asia-Pacific have developed a wide array of programs and strategies to reduce disaster risk. These countries' governments and other DRR stakeholders share a sense of urgency to identify, develop and implement effective strategies and practices to advance the reduction of disaster risk and strengthen resilience.

In the Philippines, there is a continually growing wealth of knowledge and experience in the governance and management of disaster risk at local community to national levels. This is borne out of its high exposure and vulnerability to a wide range of hydrometeorological hazards, including tropical storms and coastal and riverine floods, and geophysical hazards, including earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic activity. The Philippine government gives high priority to strengthening resilience and reducing disaster risk as demonstrated by its firm commitment to implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2015-2030 and to supporting other States and stakeholders in doing so. It is in this spirit that the Philippine government is organizing this Regional Workshop to share innovative and effective approaches and practices to reduce and manage disaster risk, including displacement risk.

The Philippines' and the Pacific region's approaches to DRR respond distinctly to their diverse, respective socio-economic, cultural, political, geographical and environmental contexts - but they also have much in common. This includes their particular challenges as island countries or archipelagos and their championing of action on climate change. They also place great importance on building community resilience for sustainable development and addressing the risk and reality of disaster displacement. Science and technology plays a very important role in creating the knowledge, tools and innovation needed to achieve the goal of greater community resilience to avoid, withstand and recover from shocks.

Methodology

The workshop will be held at the technical level, bringing together government experts from Pacific Island Countries, Timor Leste and different Philippine government agencies that are leading on strategy and action in disaster risk reduction/disaster risk management, science, technology and innovation for DRR, climate change and displacement/migration-related policy, strategy and practice.

Its content will be structured around the exploration of three cross-cutting themes:

- 1) A Goal: Community Resilience
- 2) An Issue: Disaster displacement
- 3) Knowledge and tools: Science, technology and innovation

The methodology will aim to maximize participation and dialogue around the exchange of knowledge, experience and good practice to inform and inspire solutions and further collaboration

and to identify substantive elements for DRR strategy. This last point also recognizes opportunities to inform the focus on DRR strategies (Sendai Framework Target E) in upcoming Regional and Global Platforms on DRR in 2018 and 2019.

Objectives

The workshop will bring together technical experts from the governments of 12 Pacific Island Countries, Timor Leste and the Philippines, to:

1. **Share and exchange good practices, lessons learned and experiences** in disaster risk reduction and risk management around three cross-cutting themes: building community resilience; preventing, preparing for and addressing disaster displacement; and science, technology and innovation to achieve this.
2. **Identify elements for potential inclusion in the development/revision of DRR strategies and plans**, including on science and technology, community resilience as well as provisions to address challenges related to human mobility/displacement.
3. **Prepare for substantive engagement at the upcoming Regional and Global DRR Platforms** in the Asia-Pacific region in 2018 and to feed into the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in May 2019.

Outcomes/outputs

Expected outcomes/outputs of the workshop are:

1. **Nationally- and/or regionally- relevant “takeaway” learning or ideas** for each participant.
2. **Proposals for new or strengthened provisions for DRR strategy** and for **further areas for exchange or collaboration**, including at the Regional DRR Platforms and the 2019 Global Platform on DRR.
3. **A meeting report** providing a summary of the workshop proceedings together with an **audiovisual record** of the workshop, such as photographs / video.

Workshop participants

The governments of 12 Pacific Island Countries and Timor Leste have been invited to participate in this Regional Workshop. Each was invited to nominate up to three technical experts from their agencies responsible for disaster risk management, climate change action, and human mobility (migration/planned relocation/disaster displacement).

Participating governments will include:

- Cook Islands
- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Timor Leste
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

Participants from the Philippine government will come from the different hosting ministries listed below as well as from the Bohol Provincial government:

- Department of Foreign Affairs (Office of the United Nations and International Organizations [UNIO] and the Philippine Permanent Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland)
- Office of Civil Defense (OCD)
- Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
- Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

A small number of **national and international experts** from partner organizations have also been invited to help facilitate the workshop proceedings and contribute to meeting the workshop objectives through their substantive expertise. The workshop is funded with support from Germany and Switzerland who will be represented as observers. There will be a total of about 60 workshop participants.

About Bohol

Due to its geography and geology as an island, Bohol Province is exposed to a variety of natural and human-induced hazards. On 15 October 2013, Bohol Province was put on the disaster map when homes, livelihoods, infrastructure and cultural assets were damaged or destroyed by the devastating impacts of a 7.2 magnitude earthquake. At the same time, under the leadership of the indefatigable Governor, Edgar M. Chatto, awareness, momentum and commitment increased among the Boholano people to work together to “build back Bohol better” and pursue sustainable development. The disaster further inspired provincial leaders and stakeholders, especially the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (PDRRMC), to revise Bohol’s existing Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management (PDRRM) Plan to better address the exposure and vulnerability of Bohol’s population and assets to disaster, ensure social protection and economic security.

As the chosen location for this workshop, Bohol offers participants the opportunity to learn from its lessons, best practices and progress made, guided by effective local governance, a socially-inclusive approach and a strong spirit of stakeholder commitment to achieving disaster-resilient, climate change adaptive and safe communities.

About the Host Government

The Philippine Government

The Philippine Government’s National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) was established by Republic Act 10121 (2010) to ensure the protection and welfare of the people during disasters or emergencies. It is a working group of various government, non-government, civil sector and private sector organizations. The four Philippine agencies who worked together in preparing this workshop are part of the NDRRMC– the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

- The **Office of Civil Defense (OCD)** is the implementing arm of the NDRRMC. Its primary mission is to administer a comprehensive national civil defense and disaster risk reduction and management program. The OCD provides leadership in the continuous development of strategic, systematic approaches and measures to reduce the vulnerability of communities to hazards and enable their management of the consequences of disasters.
- The **Department of Science and Technology (DOST)** provides central direction, leadership and coordination of scientific and technological efforts, and ensure that the results generated are geared and utilized in areas of maximum economic and social benefits for the

Filipinos. In the field of disaster risk reduction and climate change, the department maximizes the use of science, technology and innovations in generating the hazard and risk knowledge, as well as science-informed solutions needed to lead the Filipino communities towards becoming safer, more resilient and sustainable societies.

- The **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)** is the government's executive department responsible for the protection of social welfare rights and the promotion of social development. DSWD is mandated to lead the Response Cluster as Vice Chair of the Disaster Response pillar of the NDRRMC. DSWD's Disaster Response Management Group (DRMG) leads efforts across all phases of response. This includes policy development and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of disaster-related operations related to preparedness, response, early recovery, rehabilitation, disaster risk reduction, and disaster information management.
- The **Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)** is the government's executive department tasked with enhancing national security, protecting territorial integrity and national sovereignty, participating in the national endeavor of sustaining development and enhancing the Philippines' competitive edge, projecting a positive image of the Philippines, and increasing international understanding of the Philippines for mutually-beneficial relations with other countries. The Philippine Mission to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva as well as the Office of the UN and International Organizations, jointly work to promote the country's interest and lead role in DRR in the multilateral field.

About the Organizing Partners

The **Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)** is a state-led process that is working towards enhanced cooperation, coordination and action to improve the protection of people displaced in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change. Its main goal is to follow up to the Nansen Initiative and support States and other actors in implementing the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda that was endorsed by over 100 States in October 2015. PDD promotes concerted efforts at the national, regional and international levels among stakeholders dealing with a broad range of policy and action areas including humanitarian assistance and protection, human rights, migration management, refugee protection, disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and development.

UNISDR (UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction) supports the implementation, follow-up and review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which was adopted by the Third UN World Conference on DRR on 18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan. UNISDR's mandate has been defined as "to serve as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction activities of the United Nations system and regional organizations and activities in its socio-economic and humanitarian fields" (UN General Assembly Resolution 56/195).

ANNEX

WORKSHOP FLOW

*Days 1 and 3 at the workshop venue will start with registration from **8h30 to 09h00**, close at **18h00/18h30**, including **two coffee breaks** (mid-morning and mid-afternoon) and a **lunch break** (at approx. 12h30-14h00). Day 2 will be a full-day field visit. A detailed agenda will be provided.*

Day one: Introductions and Practice Expo

Opening Ceremony

Introductions: To the programme, workshop themes and to each other.

Interactive panel and audience discussion: An overview of disaster risk governance

The overall disaster risk governance system and approach in the Philippines and Pacific will be introduced and discussed.

Practice Expo

The Philippine agencies will lead a series of focused, interactive sessions presenting seven topics on DRR/DRM practices, initiatives or tools on the workshop themes - science and technology, disaster displacement and community resilience - as pre-selected by participants from the Pacific.

Participants will be invited to make observations, ask questions and add knowledge from their own practice, and then reflect on ideas they will take away as useful to their own work and which may inspire ideas for further exchange and potential collaboration.

Pre-field visit briefing

Evening Reception/Welcome Dinner

Day two: Field visit (full day)

Moving out of the workshop setting to the field, participants will spend the day visiting communities in Tubigon and Maribojoc municipalities in the surrounding areas of Bohol. They will have the opportunity to observe the context for DRM and discuss local-level experience and initiatives directly with community members and local officials involved in prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, with attention to the three workshop themes.

Day three: Strategy, Collaboration and Next Steps

Review of Days 1 and 2: Harvesting ideas and “take away” points

This final day will begin with sharing reflections and capturing take away points and questions from the Practice Expo (Day 1) and Field Visit (Day 2) through group work and in plenary.

The focus will then shift from practice back to considering DRR strategy and policy in relation to the workshop themes.

Developing DRR strategies: Interactive panel, group work and plenary discussion

Through a moderated panel discussion, speakers will share insights from different perspectives including provincial/local strategy, national/line-agency strategy and on integrating displacement issues, with questions and further contributions from the floor.

Participants will work in small groups to consider the workshop themes and take away points in relation to their own national and regional DRR strategies and feed back into plenary discussion.

Collaboration and next steps

Opportunities and ideas for further collaboration and exchange will be shared including preparations for engagement at the upcoming Regional and Global DRR Platforms and other relevant processes.

Closing Ceremony

Day four: Exposure Tour on DRR

Exploration of the workshop themes and time for participants to talk with each other will continue through a tour visiting some of the beautiful and interesting sites around Bohol, with local guides explaining places and points of interest related to disaster risk reduction.