

2018-2019 Report





2018-2019 Report

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Foreword

CDP's 2018 and 2019 have been fruitful and productive, as the organization ushered in a new strategic plan for 2018-2020. CDP's vision was refined, and its mission reaffirmed in line with its unique contribution to the attainment of the vision together with values and principles that CDP upholds in its organizational life. Measurable end-results were determined for the achievement of its mission and strategies were reviewed to determine what would adopt and facilitate the attainment of its goals on the basis of assessing the opportunities and threats in its external environment as well as its own internal strengths and weaknesses. What's astounding with 2019 is the fact that it coincides with CDP's 20 year of journey with partner-communities and the most vulnerable sections of the population towards achieving safe and resilient communities for a sustainable future.

For the past years, CDP has had five major programs which paved the way for developing and catalyzing the varied components of its work over the years. CDP later decided to integrate the different components of previous programs into two major programs for coherence and a more holistic view of undertaking important competencies and the mandate of the organization. This also led to making CDP personnel generalists and ready to take on roles and responsibilities required by the programs.

The Community Services Program strikes at the heart of the most marginalized and most vulnerable population and communities that CDP puts premium in serving. Projects and activities in this program encompass capacity development for at-risk population; conduct of baseline research as the regular starting point of every project inception towards implementation in identified focus areas; advocacy, partnership and networking for engaging multi-stakeholders on issues and common development agenda in the locality; and humanitarian response whenever the project areas are affected by crisis and emergencies.

Alongside the Community Services Program is the Technical Assistance Program that initiates project endeavors and engagements to address key agenda concerns at the national, regional and global levels such as localization agenda; transforming the humanitarian ecosystem; and promoting and upholding the rights and dignity of the affected population and communities. In a complementary manner, the program ventures in various consultancies with government stakeholders, fellow civil society organizations and the private sector on needed technical assistance such as capacity development on community-based disaster risk reduction and management and other related courses plus module development for partners; research and study up to evaluation of projects and programs.

CDP has been instrumental in the passage of the current law on disaster risk reduction and management. And due to the fact that the current administration is looking into the replacement of the current law, CDP is again vigorously active in policy engagement in the Halls of Congress and at the same time consulting the stakeholders at varying levels to put their stakes into the final process of crafting a replacement law. Civil society organizations with CDP and the network that it leads are at the forefront in engaging the various stakeholders and the general public on what is beneficial and what works based on more than a decade of experience with the current law. A law that helps to address the root causes of vulnerabilities of at-risk population and provides space and opportunity for an all of society engagement.



As the newest integration into the mandate of the organization, CDP defines its niching in humanitarian emergencies and response by promoting and undertaking mental health psychosocial support services (MH-PSS) for primary responders, frontliners and the affected people. CDP capacitates local government units and civil society organizations on the ground who are responding and assisting the affected population to immediately address their needs and situations during emergencies. Through MH-PSS, the first responders and frontliners are provided with the space and venue to check on the impact of disaster on their well-being and disposition considering their significant role to play in emergency response. CDP mentors and accompanies fellow service providers in providing MH-PSS to affected people and communities. CDP likewise advocates for the mainstreaming of MH-PSS in the programming framework and response action of all agencies, government and non-government, in humanitarian and development.

Towards the last year of the strategic plan by 2020, CDP continues its journey in partnership with different stakeholders in committing to strengthen the capacities of vulnerable groups in community-based, development oriented disaster risk reduction and management and uphold their rights and reduce their vulnerabilities. It will at the same time influence duty-bearers and service providers in such direction and pathway. CDP is always keen to learn from all its experience and praxis and purposively shares its learnings and lessons with partner-stakeholders at varying levels.

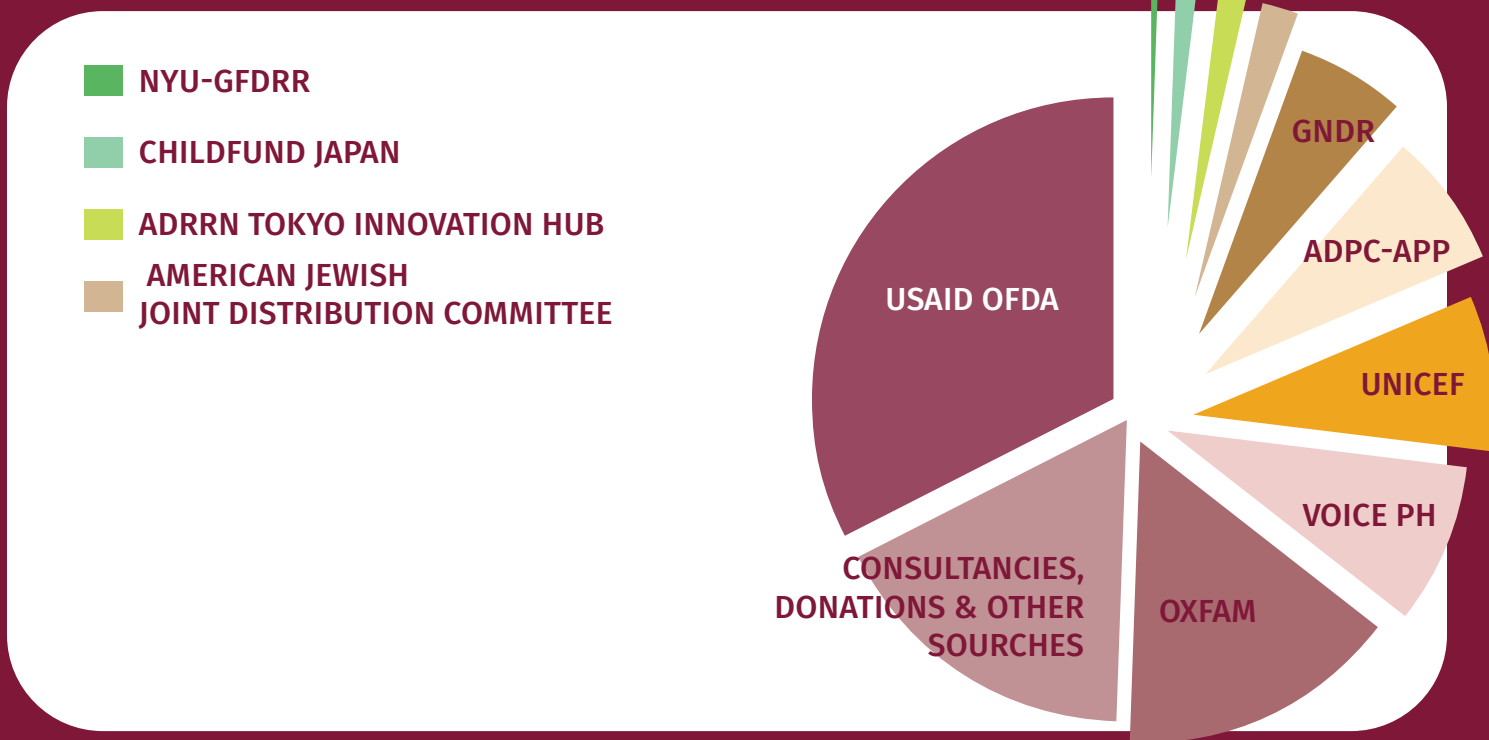
Loreine Dela Cruz
Executive Director



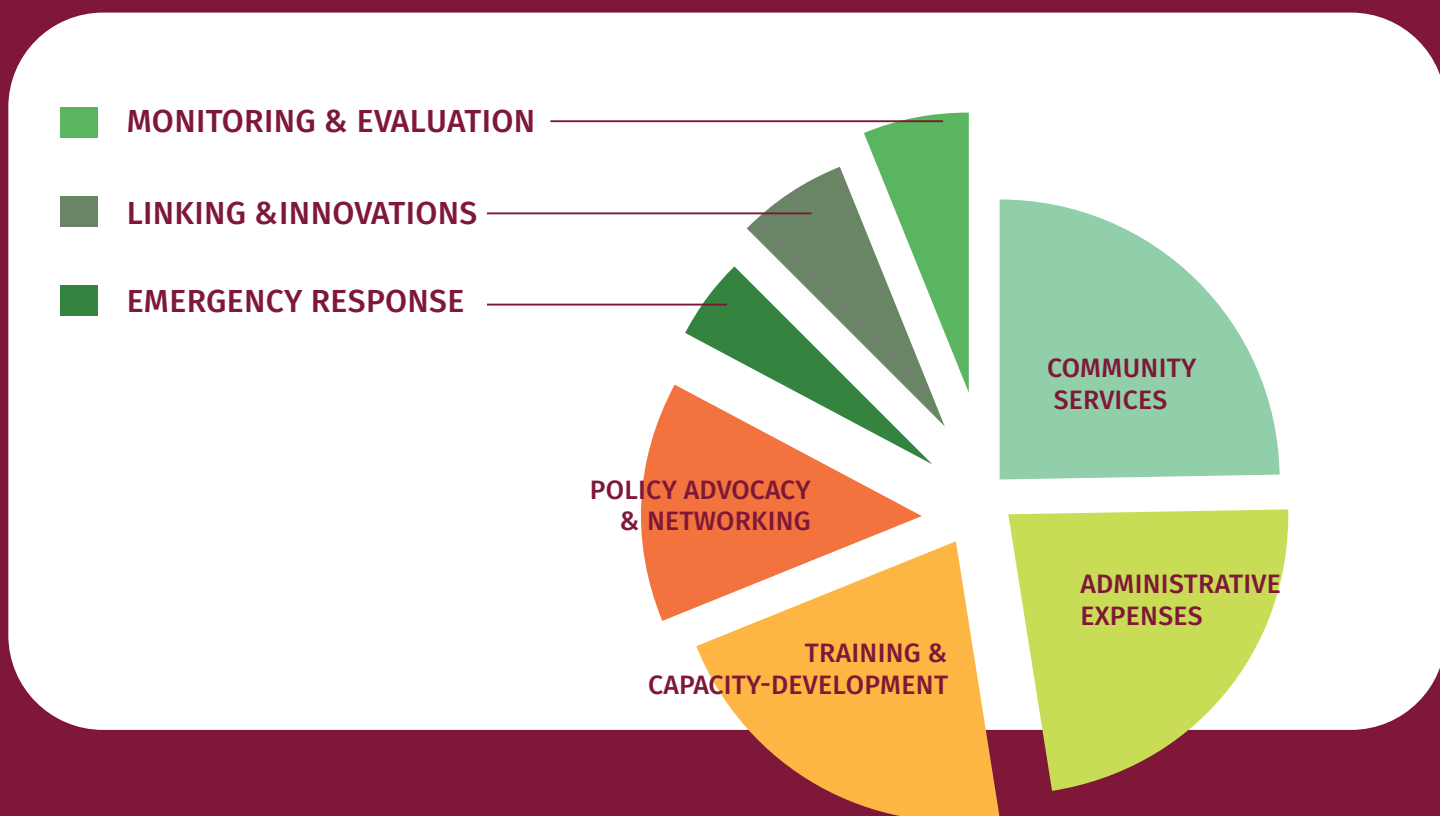


Our 2018-2019 at a Glance

Sources of Funding 2018 - 2019

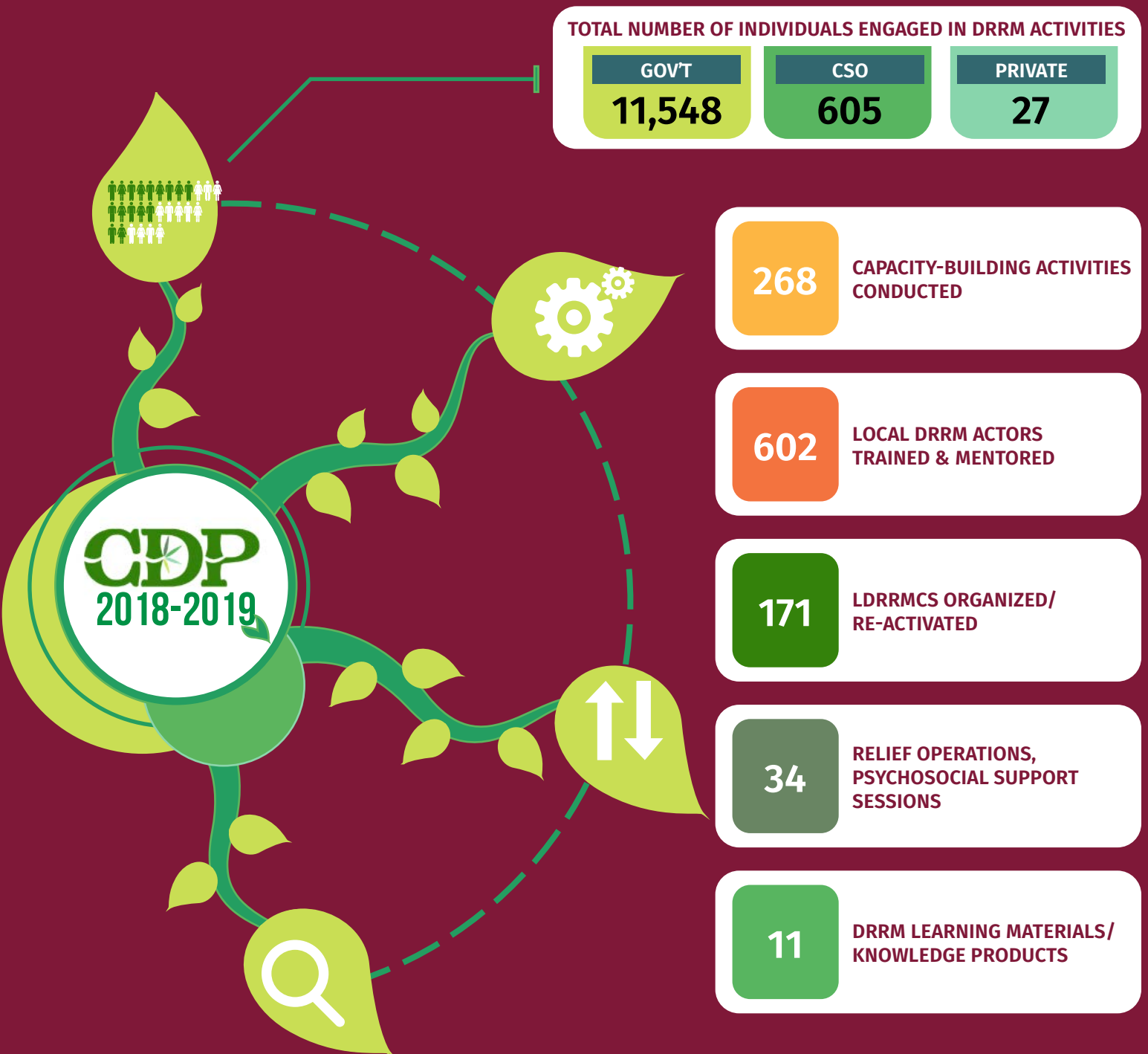


Expenses 2018 - 2019



The Center for Disaster Preparedness, through the help of its generous donor partners, was able to make an impact in communities by working with partners from the government, civil society organizations, and private sector in at-risk areas in different parts of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Some of these areas include Camarines Norte, Eastern Samar, Leyte, Zamboanga Peninsula, and Quezon City.

It continues to be a resource center in community based disaster risk reduction and management (CBDRRM) through training, interactive fora, consultancies, research and publication, networking and advocacy.



Working with Communities Towards Empowerment and Resilience

At the heart of our work are the communities on the ground, especially the most marginalized and vulnerable sectors. Constantly guided by the vision of realizing a safe, resilient, and sustainable future that enables them to enjoy and uphold their rights, we continuously engage in and support undertakings that strive to bring the communities' voices to the fore. With the past two decades serving as a testament to this, we continue to assert our unwavering commitment not only to the empowerment of communities but also toward attaining resilience, inclusion, coherence, and sustainable development across all levels – with particular focus at the grassroots level.

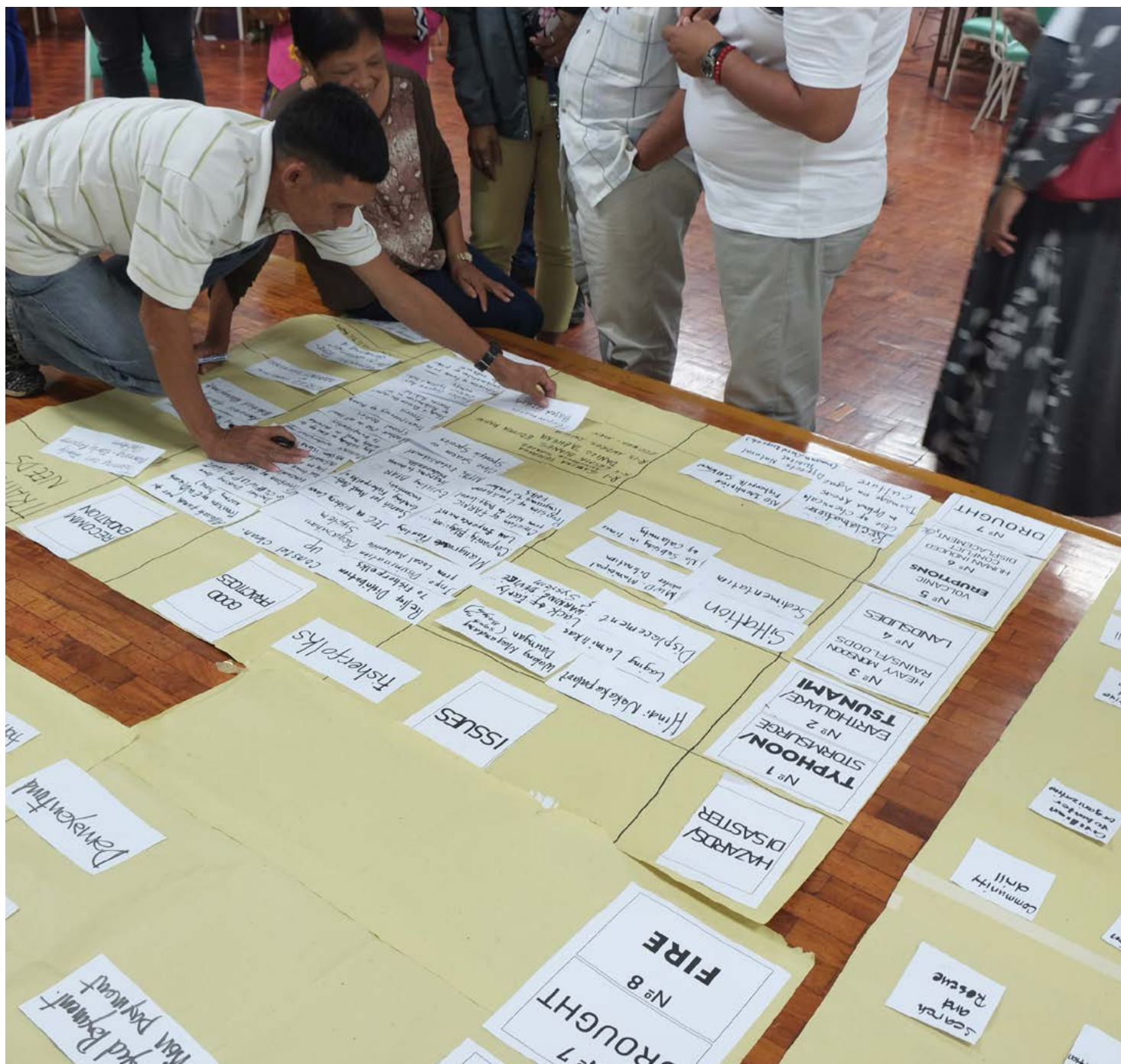
CDP Stands by its Commitment to Empowering Communities Toward Safety and Resilience

In 2018 and 2019, we continued to uphold our long-standing commitment to empowering communities to become more resilient, true to our core Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction Management (CBDRRM) and rights-based frameworks.

Through our engagements at the community level – in urban, rural, and peri-urban settings alike – we helped facilitate and carry out training and capacity development initiatives in areas such as Barangays Bagumbayan, Commonwealth, Dona Imelda, and Talayan in Quezon City as well as Balangiga, Lawaan, Salcedo and Quinapondan in Eastern Samar through Project KONEK and Project ALERT respectively:

- Barangay DRRM Planning (BDRRMP),
- Contingency Planning (CP),
- Participatory Capacity and Vulnerability Assessments (PCVA),
- Rights-Based Humanitarian Action and Protection (RBHAP),
- Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Campaigns with the youth sector,
- Evacuation Center Management (ECM),
- Mental Health-Psycho-social Support Services,
- Fire-fighting and Basic Life Support (BLS)/Basic First Aid (BFA)





Parallel to our enduring commitment to enable at-risk sectors, we had also facilitated short to medium-term capacity-building engagements for key stakeholders and partners like microfinance cooperative Kasagana Ka (private sector), the Center for Social Concern and Action Office of De La Salle University (academe), Samaritan's Purse (CSO), employees from the Upper Legislative House (Senate), and the Department of Interior and Local Government-Local Government Academy (national government agency). Aligned with our institutional goal of fostering stakeholders' capacities to better mainstream resilience, we also carried out training and module development sessions on Family Preparedness, CBDRRM, and Gender-Inclusive DRRM; with modules made to fit the respective contexts and needs of the concerned partners and their respective focus communities and partners. This is analogous to our institutional goal of ensuring that duty-bearers and communities alike are enabled and capacitated to contribute toward resilience building.





**Praktikal na
Gabay para sa
Pagsasagawa ng:**

- ✓ WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)
- ✓ CHILD PROTECTION
- ✓ HEALTH
- ✓ NUTRITION
- ✓ EDUCATION

**Sa Panahon ng
Emergency**

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Further deepening our commitment to empowering at-risk and marginalized sectors, we also helped enable the young people of Camarines Norte by nurturing their rich knowledge and wisdom while also building on the capacities of local duty-bearers and stakeholders in their community. Through Project DRREAM BIG, youth organizations WEVOY and THUNDERS in Paracale, Camarines Norte became active participants and engaged advocates for Child-Centered CBDRM in their respective communities, as we facilitated leadership trainings and youth convergences with and for them, enabling group leaders and members alike to become better advocates and leaders.

Given the active participation of our partner communities, we were able to facilitate the improvement of their Barangay DRRM and Contingency Plans, ensuring that the rights and needs of the children and youth are highlighted and mainstreamed. Led by our partners in Paracale, these plans were tested out through community drills, which helped them determine other aspects for enhancement in their respective DRRM plans and structures.

In partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd) in Camarines Norte, local stakeholders and teachers were able to undergo CC-CBDRM, BLS/BFA, PFA Trainings. This collaboration paved the way for the enactment of Executive Order No. 14 – Series of 2017 (EO #14-2017), which institutionalized the creation of a pool of trainers at the local level, mandated to facilitate the rollout of CC-CBDRM in Paracale. This directly corresponds to our institutional thrust of ensuring that DRRM Councils at the local level engage and work with vulnerable sectors, aligned with the overarching goal of ensuring that communities are empowered frontliners in DRRM.

Steered also by the mission to influence stakeholders to capacitate vulnerable sectors, we were also able to scale up and mainstream CBDRM not only at the local but also at the provincial level, helping the Zamboanga Peninsula carve a path towards resilience through Project PROSPER. Myriad trainings and learning activities were conducted to help train key stakeholders and duty-bearers on Inclusive CBDRM; Family-level Preparedness; School Preparedness; Humanitarian Preparedness and Response; Geographic Information Systems (GIS); WASH, Search, and Rescue (WASAR); and BLS.

Apart from helping to strengthen our partners' capacities, we also mainstreamed the importance of working and engaging with civil society and peoples' organizations, which helped facilitate better synergy and coherence at the subnational and local levels.





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Another testament to our commitment to help communities attain resilience is our staunch dedication to promote inclusion by enabling people with disabilities. In the last two years, we have helped carry out capacity development efforts through an undertaking aimed at establishing Inclusive Data Management Systems (IDMS) for people with disabilities at the local level. Through the VOICE-IDMS project, we were able to facilitate and enable enumerators from Bislig City (in Surigao del Sur), Las Pinas City (in Paranaque), and the municipality of Lawaan (in Eastern Samar).

With the use of the Kobo Collect tool, people with disabilities were empowered to participate in the development of a tool and mechanism that caters to their issues and needs. Other than being able to train our partners and stakeholders, we were able to help streamline local innovation and systematization, particularly in the aspect of inclusive data management. Focus localities under the IDMS Project can now make use of the data gathered from the tool to genuinely include persons with disabilities in their fund allocation and development agenda, which is a crucial step toward the realization of inclusion and resilience.





Further reinforcing our steadfast commitment to enable partners and stakeholders are the great strides we achieved under the enduring engagement with GNDR. Through this initiative, we have been able to facilitate and support the enrichment of inherent capacities, wisdom, and knowledge of local CSOs, duty-bearers, and persons with disabilities. During the National Training Course on Institutionalizing Sustainable CBDRM (ISCBDRM) in June 2019, the aforesaid sectors were able to deepen their understanding of the local CBDRM context in each major island.

Concerning its main objective, the activity served as a viable platform for all participants and stakeholders to learn further about the successes and barriers of local CBDRM as it relates to their own experiences as well as the ingredients on ISCBDRM. The activity also helped to strengthen relationships between local CSOs and the local government, helping to underscore the significant context of CBDRM at the national level. Through this undertaking, sectors in attendance were able to take concrete steps toward the following:

- Identification of the successes and barriers of their current local CBDRM context;
- Elucidate ways of utilizing the ingredients of the Cookbook in the CBDRM process;
- Determination of entry points for embedding ingredients in current CBDRM activities; and
- Practicing the development of a “recipe” for an Institutionalized and Sustainable CBDRM (ISCBRM).

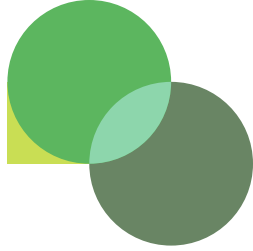




Consistent with our time-honored commitment to empower partner communities toward genuine resilience, we are also committed to providing relief and response in the field of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS). Akin to CBDRRM and rights-based approaches as well as the Core Humanitarian Principle of Humanity, we recognize that safeguarding and ensuring the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of affected sectors, duty-bearers, and other relevant stakeholders is crucial to the attainment of resilience across all levels.

In 2018, we effectively provided Psycho-social First Aid (PFA) and Psychosocial Support Services (PSS) in areas that were affected by Typhoon Ompong (International Code Name: Mangkhut): Itogon, Benguet and Pangasinan. Building on the intrinsic sense of strength and fortitude of these affected communities, we facilitated the interactive sharing of stories of different sectors in the respective communities, making every effort to ensure that both the individual and social wellbeing of these affected sectors were taken into account and are ready to move forward.





CDP Helps Bring the Voices of its Partners to the Fore

True to our vision of empowering communities toward resilience, we constantly aim to enable our partners by engaging and ensuring their meaningful participation in development and DRRM planning processes. At the crux of our work is the aim of emboldening communities to be ready frontliners able to partake in resilience building not only in their respective communities but across varying levels of engagement.

Steered by the core principles espoused by participatory, rights-based approaches, we have, in our two decades of existence, strived to promote convergence and meaningful participation in all our efforts and undertakings. 2018 and 2019 were certainly no exception to this, as we continued to employ these core values and principles by continuing to actively engage and work with vulnerable sectors as well as duty-bearers and key stakeholders from the inception to culmination of each project. Akin to our institutional goals, we endeavored to empower communities to be empowered frontliners while also ensuring that duty-bearers and service providers are capacitated to uphold human rights and dignity in their respective DRRM undertakings, better facilitating coherence and multistakeholders' participation.

Making every effort to advocate the philosophy supported by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other global frameworks of leaving no one behind, we highlighted local capacities through identification, engagement, and mobilization of champions at the community up to municipal levels. This paved the way toward the active participation and engagement of at-risk sectors in the following areas:



Promoting Meaningful Participation through Participatory Lobby and Discourse:

At the local and subnational levels, we have strived to strengthen and empower vulnerable sectors by ensuring their involvement in development and DRRM planning processes through the following projects: ALERT, DRREAM BIG, GNDR-ISCBRM, KONEK, PhilPrep, PROSPER, and VOICE-IDMS.

Consonant to the disaster risk governance approach and coherence framework, we made every effort to ensure that at-risk sectors were able to participate meaningfully in the planning and implementation of development, DRRM, and other related plans. To wit, the aforesaid projects managed to facilitate the following gains and milestones:

- **ALERT:** Multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral convergence in DRRM planning
- **DRREAM BIG:** Empowerment and meaningful participation of children and young people in DRRM and development planning
- **GNDR-ISCBRM:** Further development of inherent capacities, wisdom, and knowledge of local CSOs and DRR practitioners on the successes

and barriers in the local CBDRM context and journey apropos their sharing of current CBDRM experiences and learning of ingredients on Institutionalized Sustainable CBDRM

- **KONEK:** Capacity development of duty-bearers and stakeholders in local governance to ensure that they are responsive and respectful of the needs and rights of vulnerable sectors
- **PhilPrep:** Ensuring that humanitarian stakeholders and duty-bearers at the national level are not only responsive but also engaged advocates of inclusive and resilient DRRM, analogous to international humanitarian standards and principles
- **PROSPER:** Apart from ensuring multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral convergence and lateral coherence amid the provinces in Zamboanga Peninsula region, we managed to uphold CSO participation in their Provincial DRRM Council as we were involved as active partners and advocates of said local government unit
- **VOICE-IDMS:** contributing to the visibility of persons with disabilities and utilizing suitable and appropriate tools to capture data collection for consideration in planning processes at the local level. Apart from capacitating the focus organizations and sectors, the project also helped develop the capacities of local duty-

bearers (barangay officials) and stakeholders (POs, CBOs, and other sectoral groups) in inclusive data management. The project also paved the way toward the development of an inclusive profiling and data gathering tool, where issues, needs, and rights of persons with disabilities can be better mainstreamed in the local development agenda

Given that DRRM systems and mechanisms in the country are bent toward tokenistic and cursory forms of participation, we worked with our partner communities and localities to ensure that vulnerable sectors such as persons with disabilities, children and young people, women, older persons, indigenous peoples, and other marginalized groups are at the forefront of both capacity development and planning efforts.

From the initiation phase of a project to its culmination, we strived to engage and empower the most vulnerable sectors, recognizing that the path toward resilience entails the coordination, cooperation, and coherence of all actors and stakeholders, especially those disproportionately impacted by disasters.



Upholding the Civic Democratic Space in DRR Legislation and Policy:

Through our role as lead convener of DRRNetPhils, we managed to foster community-based and led discourse, advocacy, and lobbying efforts, particularly in advocating for the strengthening of current DRRM systems and mechanisms under the RA 10121. Sustaining the landmark campaigns of the network that have sought to call for coherence and refinement of our current DRRM policies and institutions, we continued to cultivate dialogue and constituency building by organizing and conducting island-wide consultations, advocacy workshops, and multi-stakeholder fora and summits alongside our co-lead conveners and stakeholders in key sectors (government, academe, private sector).

Coherence and Convergence of DRR and Humanitarian Stakeholders:

Acknowledging that disasters should not be managed in silos, we sought to employ a people-centered and integrated approach to resilience building by helping foster coherence and convergence across different levels of engagement, starting with the most vulnerable and affected sectors. This vision resonated in our following milestones:

- Through the PhilPrep Project, humanitarian stakeholders (particularly CSOs, government, and the private sector) gained myriad venues and platforms to foster convergence and coherence, as the tripartite partnership forged under the project paved the way for the following:
 - Conducted in collaboration with the National Anti-Poverty Commission – Victims of Disasters and Calamities (NAPC-VDC) Council in November 2018, the National DRRM Summit which highlighted the involvement of survivors of past disasters as well as the other 13 basic sectors under NAPC.
 - The event facilitated the Identification of the needs of the 14 basic sectors regarding disasters; their training needs; further recommendations for the 14 basic sectors on DRRM; and policy review and recommendations for the pending amendatory bill.
 - Apart from this, the event served as a venue for sharing and mainstreaming local and indigenous perspectives on disasters, facilitating the discourse towards a more localized approach to DRR. This paved the way toward the publication of policy paper which articulated recommendations to better mainstream and integrate the perspectives of indigenous peoples and victims of disasters and calamities in RA 10121.
- In partnership with DRRNetPhils, the project was also able to facilitate the National Humanitarian Stakeholders' Summit in June 2019, which focused on harnessing the gains of the tripartite partnership between and among the government, CSOs, and the private sector. Gathering more than 90 individuals from different sectors and levels of engagement, the summit served as a

viable platform for multi-stakeholder knowledge exchange which led to the development of a framework and covenant for strengthening preparedness towards coordinated response.

- By the same token, the project also helped facilitate the conduct of the First National Disaster Resilience Summit which led to a plethora of gains, including the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform for common understanding and appreciation of the issues and challenges in the implementation of the Philippine DRRM System and climate change action systems.
 - Through this significant event, not only dialogues on local innovations, strategies, and best practices for replication in support of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) were undertaken. Targets in line with Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030) were discussed and prioritized but also convergence and meaningful participation were upheld, as it provided a conducive venue for stakeholders at the local level to emphasize the wins and gains we managed to achieve through the implementation of RA 10121.
- The project also facilitated the conduct of the National MSME Resilience Summit in July 2019, underlining the imperative for enhanced efforts toward disaster preparedness for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the country.

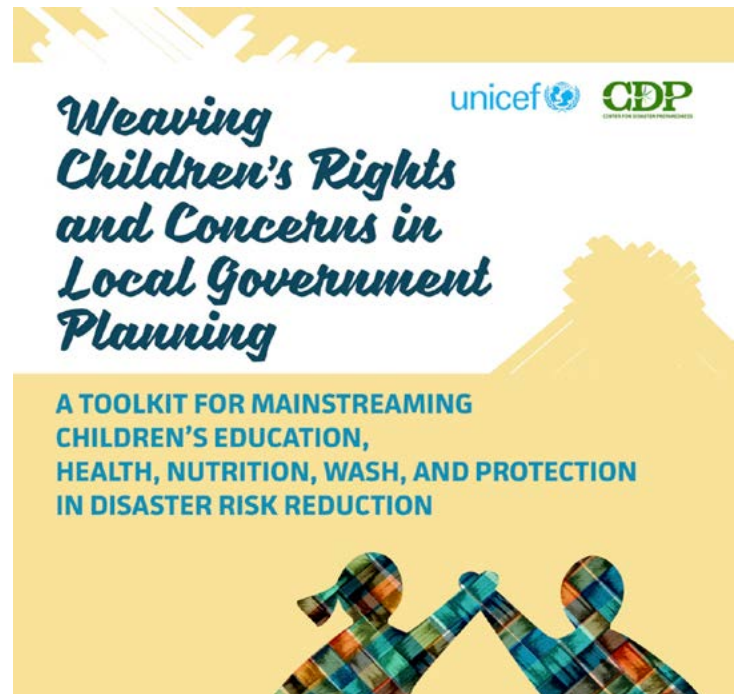


CDP Promotes and Shares Local Wisdom, Knowledge, and Innovation

True to our enduring role as an established regional resource center, we were able to develop myriad of knowledge outputs and resources that sought to highlight the rich insights and wisdom of our partners coupled with our technical expertise. Recognizing our crucial role as stewards of this wealth of knowledge across different levels of engagement, we were able to publish and disseminate the following knowledge outputs and materials:



Enhancement of the Rights-Based Humanitarian Response (RBHR) Modules – Through the PhilPrep Project, updated versions of the RBHR modules were rolled out, which put special focus on coordination in all phases of emergency preparedness and response among all stakeholders. Dubbed RBHAP (Rights-Based Humanitarian Action and Preparedness), the modules also proffered localized versions of the Core Humanitarian Principles and Standards, translated in both Filipino and Cebuano. Among the good practices we managed to replicate was the co-sharing of the module with Project ALERT to ensure the continuity of established mechanisms on the ground. The module roll-out was conducted in Eastern Samar, Visayas (particularly in the localities of Salcedo, Lawaan, Balangiga, Quinapondan) and Zamboanga Del Norte, Mindanao.



Weaving Children's Rights and Concerns in Local Government Planning (Child-Centered CBDRR Mainstreaming Toolkit) – Through our long-standing partnership with UNICEF in the implementation of Project DRREAM BIG (Phases 1 & 2), we were able to develop a terse yet comprehensive toolkit for the effective mainstreaming of CC-CBDRR in local development and DRRM planning. Recognizing that disasters disproportionately impact children and exacerbate existing inequalities and vulnerabilities that set back the development progress of communities, we helped develop a concise guide to ensure that the rights and needs of both children and young people are taken into account in local policymaking and planning efforts.



Presentation of the 2018 State of Humanitarian System (SOHS) Report by the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance (ALNAP) – Akin to our institutional thrust aimed at empowering communities to be efficient frontliners in DRRM, we presented the 2018 SOHS Report which sought to provide a longitudinal assessment of the size, shape and performance of the humanitarian system for the period of 2015–2017. Through this undertaking, we were able to further promote knowledge sharing, ensuring that information from the global and regional platforms is shared and better contextualized for partners and stakeholders at the national, subnational, and local levels. In the same manner, this activity contributed toward better enlightening partners and stakeholders regarding the urgent need for localization in the humanitarian ecosystem.



Constant updating and enhancement of the South-South Knowledge Exchange Online Portal – Through our engagement and collaboration with Asian Preparedness Partnership, we were able to share local knowledge and innovation on the South-South Knowledge Exchange Online Portal. Among the knowledge products that were uploaded were the PhilPrep Members' Case Story Booklet, Starting Innovations, CBDRRM Case Stories in the Philippines, copies of the localized Core Humanitarian Standards (Filipino and Cebuano), copies of the enhanced RBHR Modules, RDANA/RDO Modules, Evacuation Center Management (ECM) and PSS Modules, the video of the National DRRM Summit and the National Humanitarian Stakeholders' Summit.



Supporting local innovations by serving as the Country Focal Point (CFP) under the Innovation Partnership between the ADRRN Tokyo Innovation Hub (ATIH) – In the past two years, we have helped organize and coordinate local innovations through the undertaking dubbed ‘Convening Initiative: Innovation for Earthquake Resilience and Response in the Philippines’. It primarily aimed to bring together civil society with academe, government and the private sector to explore unsolved problems in earthquake resilience and response and develop new innovative solutions and partnerships. Two workshops provided a forum for eight groups to further their understanding of current problems and potential solutions through the use of innovation tools and techniques.

Consolidating and mainstreaming local wisdom and knowledge through module development – Through the plethora of undertakings and engagements in the last two years, we have continued to aid in strengthening local knowledge, wisdom, and capacities by ensuring that the materials and modules used are founded on our core frameworks: Resilience, Inclusion, CBDRRM, and the integrated management of risks or IRM. This was seen in Project KONEK, where Barangay DRRM Planning Modules were developed to ensure that the meaningful participation of vulnerable sectors is given primacy. The same was achieved under our other engagements with partners and stakeholders such as Samaritan’s Purse, DLSU-COSCA, and DILG-LGA. Apart from this, we continue to ensure that all knowledge outputs and modules are translated to the vernacular, keeping in mind that our brand of capacity development is and has always been anchored on empowering communities to attain resilience.



Carrying on the Arduous yet Inspiring Path Toward Resilience: *Challenges, Lessons, Ways Forward*



In our twenty years of existence, we have been able to learn, document, consolidate, and replicate a wide gamut of lessons and practices from our partners across all levels of engagement. These have not only forged a trailblazing path for CBDRRM but also set our enduring journey toward realizing a resilient, sustainable, and enabling environment for Filipino communities, especially the most at-risk and vulnerable sectors.

Entwined with the groundbreaking milestones that have been achieved in the past two decades, however, is the onerous challenge of safeguarding and sustaining these meaningful gains. This has proved to be more difficult in recent years due to the current sociopolitical climate, where our civic democratic space has not only been threatened but significantly impeded. As with any challenging situation, we remain ever more steadfast and resolute in our mission to strengthen the capacities of vulnerable groups in community-based, development-oriented disaster risk reduction management to uphold their rights and reduce their vulnerabilities.

Toward this end, we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that all partners and stakeholders, particularly the most vulnerable sectors, are enabled to become active agents in resilience building. Amid pressing challenges that lie along this path, we will diligently strive to espouse and facilitate the core principles and teachings of CBDRRM as well as other core and fundamental frameworks (IRM, Rights-Based Approaches, Sustainability, and Diversity & Inclusion) across all levels of governance.





It is without doubt that the wins and gains that we have accomplished so far in this arduous yet awe-inspiring path towards resilience are owed to the staunch dedication of our partners, champions, and communities on the ground who have actively partaken and engaged in our efforts to foster resilience and sustainability. Through our concerted efforts and partnerships, countless milestones have been achieved to uphold the human rights and dignity of communities on the ground, yet the journey still has a long way to go.

Constantly driven by the vision of realizing safe, resilient, and sustainable communities, we remain firm and determined in the conviction that only when all vulnerabilities confronting Filipino communities are addressed – especially the most at-risk and marginalized sectors – can genuine resilience and sustainable development be attained. Centered on our institutional thrusts, we stand by and recognize our vital role and responsibility to not only empower communities to prepare for disasters but to enable them to actively partake and stand for their rights and resilience. ■



