

# Asia PHILIPPINES

## CBDRM JOURNEY OF SAN ILDEFONSO AND DILAGUIDI BARANGAYS IN AURORA PROVINCE

The local organisation Alay Bayan-Luson, Inc. (ABI) shares its experience on how community engagement can be best leveraged for disaster preparedness.

### KEY INGREDIENTS



#### SUSTAINABILITY



##### Permanence

- Instil behaviour change to counteract negative actions and to promote a community of active agents of resilience plans



##### Effectiveness

- Foster collaboration between CSOs, government, communities by creating spaces for open dialogue



##### Ownership

- Map and utilise local capacities
- Encourage self-organisation e.g. establishment of local governance and thematic committees



##### Inclusion

- Identify marginalised groups before the project starts so they can participate from the onset



#### INSTITUTIONALISATION



##### Structures and mechanisms

- Recognise informal structures (e.g. community leader groups) as channels for effective engagement
- Define roles and responsibilities of national and local structures in CBDRM and develop TORs for community DRM committees to define their roles in these structures

This recipe treats community participation in DRM activities quite differently, by engaging with the local population as full partners rather than beneficiaries.

The communities of Casiguran and Dilasag, in Aurora province (located in Central Luzon region, north of Manila) face several disaster risks, related to typhoons, storm surges, tsunamis, but also unsustainable development and tourism. Although natural hazards are quite well understood, the communities are less aware about the potential impacts of development and tourism. The local organisation Alay Bayan-Luson, Inc. (ABI) engaged with the community to undertake trainings and other activities to raise awareness about the risks.

ABI decided to partner directly with community representatives, engaging women, youth, indigenous people, and local authorities. A Disaster Preparedness Organisation (DPO) was set up, which was responsible for the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the activities. This structure, replicated in several villages, is responsible for conducting community training on preparedness and response, organising

volunteer task groups for evacuation and relief distribution, and development of early warning systems aimed at reaching the most vulnerable and marginalised groups. All community members have a role to play, whether they are women, indigenous people, children or people with disabilities.

Engaging with DPO (and thus the community) as a partner ensured not only the endorsement of the organisation by the local government, which is supporting its activities still now after ABI's involvement ended, but it also ensured a change in culture of community members themselves: indeed, they have developed a much stronger culture of helping each other, as a result of seeing the benefits of working together in a coordinated and organised manner.

The presence of DPOs in several villages has contributed to their endorsement as a recognised structure by the local government and the barangay (village) authorities.



Photo credit: Alay Bayan-Luson, Inc