**ANNEX 2B**

**Focus Group Discussion on Early Financing and Early Action Protocols and**

**4th Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on MH-IBF-EWS**

**July 4-5, 2019, Legazpi City, Albay**

**CONSULTATION AND WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS**

**Participants** : PAGASA – Central Office

Landbank – Central Office

Climate Change Commission

Representative of World Food Programme

Representatives of PAGASA – Regional Services Division (Southern Luzon)

Representatives of DRRMO (Legazpi, Tuguegarao, Palo and New Bataan)

Representatives of DILG – Legazpi City

Representatives of MGB – Region 5

Representatives of Philippine Red Cross

50 Barangay Captains and Barangay Representatives of Legazpi City

DRR-CCA focal persons of DepEd – Legazpi City

**FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (FGD)**

*July 4, 2019*

*City Mayor’s Conference Room, City Hall, Legazpi City, Albay*

**Purpose** : The objective of this FGD is to understand what actions are taken by Legazpi City Government before, during and after an extreme weather event.

The FGD was facilitated by Dr. Marqueza Reyes through the presentation of early warning responses and existing DRRM mechanisms and protocols. The discussion was attended by the MH-IBF-EWS Team together with all the local officials and representatives of Legazpi City, Albay.

Based on the discussion, the following points, present actions/status and findings were noted:

| **TOPIC** | **RESPONSE** |
| --- | --- |
| **Current status of DRR in Legazpi City** | Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) protocols and actions in Legazpi City, Albay was noted to be fully established and recognized by the community and different institutions in the Region. Vulnerable barangays are also already identified. Nonetheless, household level vulnerability identification is still pending but can be done by barangay officers during implementation of this proposed project.  The City has its own group that is closely collaborating with other emergency/disaster response agencies (e.g. DILG, PAGASA and OCD) before, during and after the event. Also, the city has already inter-linked protocols to be followed and implemented. These Disaster Response Protocols (DRPs) are focused on the warning, mobilization and evacuation mechanisms that include the following:   1. Communication protocol 2. Transportation protocol 3. Evacuation Procedures 4. Security Support 5. Medical Support 6. Relief   Aside from these technical protocols a local belief, *Oratio imperata* (Prayer for Deliverance from Calamities) is being exercised by the locals to help them prevent from further damage.  Communication is disseminated immediately from the PDRRMO to the city up to the barangays (household members) through siren, cellphone, pick-up points, etc.  The last largest hydromet disaster happened in Legazpi, Albay was in 2006 or during TY Reming. This caused/affected more than a thousand people (of which 518 was declared dead) while 45,199 houses were partially damaged and 68,617 houses were totally damaged during and after the disastrous event. |
| **Challenges identified** | With all these early actions and protocols already in place, one of the identified challenges by the LGU is the cultural factor. People do not want to evacuate during special days of the year (e.g. Christmas, New Year, etc.). |
| **Disaster response mechanisms** | There is an automatic trigger for activation of these early actions every emergency disaster that is based on the bulletins and warnings being issued by PAGASA. Once the bulletin has been received by the LGU, the LISTO and LGU-DRR protocols will be activated. This activation includes the following mechanism:   1. **Convene**  * Barangay disaster response officers to national disaster response team shall convene to gather initial actions and prepare actions/decisions for early actions preparedness and response  1. **Determine thresholds**  * PAGASA is the official source of the data and thresholds. This threshold shall be used by APSEMO which protocol and warning shall be implemented and activated   + If the event, say typhoon, will be a direct hit to the province, “action required” protocol shall be activated. Else, “prepare” protocol shall be implemented. * Thresholds are already available for flood and severe wind.  1. **Implement DRPs**  * These DRPs are already established however, there was no written report/manual of actions prepared by the LGU |
| **Funds mobilization and allocation** | The allocation and utilization of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRMF) of Legazpi city follows the Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2013-1 dated March 25, 2013 of NDDRRMC and DILG.  Based on the discussion, the LDRRMF shall cover the 30% lump-sum allocation for Quick Response Fund (QRF) and 70% for disaster prevention and mitigation, preparedness response, rehabilitation and recovery. However, this QRF (30%) will not utilized until a state of calamity is declared. |
| **Preventions and early actions** | LGU-Legazpi has already capacitated their barangays and schools (through the conduct of training / drills) as part of their preparedness strategies. This is being conducted every quarter or as the need arises (at least twice a year), chargeable against the City’s 70% of the 5% LDRRM Fund. |

This discussion was concluded by a wrap-up discussion emphasizing the need for close collaboration between LGU-Legazpi and NGAs. Mayor Rosal also accentuated that the local government/community/everybody must understand the science. Science-based warnings should always be communicated and transferred to the community. This science should be translated to actions governed by the authority and governance. He closed his remarks by expressing full support and commitment to the project and further emphasizing the need to combine the science, technical and governance in securing and protecting lives of the people.

**4TH STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION WORKSHOP**

*July 5, 2019*

*Bicol Delight Restaurant, Legazpi City, Albay*

**Purpose** : The objectives of this consultation include the following:

* To discuss the GCF funding proposal on MH-IBF-EWS and solicit inputs and views of local stakeholders;
* To determine barriers and challenges in making EWS more effective; and,
* To share experiences in successful early actions taken by your barangay/  
  community

The fourth stakeholders’ consultation was facilitated by Dr. Marqueza Reyes through participatory discussions and sharing of insights and experiences of the invited representatives of the most exposed/vulnerable barangays in Legazpi City. The workshop was also attended by the LDDRM office representatives of each identified project site, i.e. New Bataan, Palo and Tuguegarao, to better share their knowledge and experiences on disaster prevention and mitigation.

The workshop started with a technical discussion on the Legazpi City’s climate trends and projections to familiarize the attendees on need for MH-IBF-EWS. Ms. Thelma Cinco, presenter and AWSC-IAAS of PAGASA, underlined that the main role of PAGASA is to provide weather/climate information and Hydromet Early Warning for the protection of lives and properties. However, the information being provided by the agency are just inputs to a more comprehensive plans and actions needed for disaster response and early action. Thus, progressing from weather forecasts and warnings to multi-hazard impact-based forecast and warning services could serve as key in saving lives and protecting people especially during hydromet-induced disasters as this would focus more on what the weather will do instead of what the weather will be. Further, during the talk, Ms. Cinco also discussed some forecast and warning examples to better communicate the need for a transformative change in providing forecast and warning services in the Philippines. This talk was followed by the project details presentation of Ms. Rosalina de Guzman, presenter and AWSC-CADS of PAGASA, highlighting all the information regarding the project (objectives, outcomes, outputs and detailed activity description). On the other hand, presentation on FbF and Legazpi City’s DRR-CCA best practices were also conducted.

Based on the workshop outputs and discussion led by Dr. Marqueza, the following are the consolidated points, present actions/status and findings:

| **TOPIC** | **RESPONSE** |
| --- | --- |
| **WORKSHOP 1:** *Bridging the Gap between the First Mile and the Last Mile: How to improve the accessibility & understanding of early warnings* | |
| **Access to warnings** | * As soon as the LGU receive a weather bulletin / advisory from PAGASA, they Mayor will for a meeting as head of city disaster council. * Mayor will then also convene and give the information to barangay leaders, city level leaders/officials * The barangay receives warnings from the National and Local DRRM Advisory, and DOST PAGASA through text message, mass media and other channels. * (In the case of Legazpi City) At the barangay level, they disseminate information through text messages, transistor radio, two-way radio, media 2-way radio at the barangay level. * (In the case of Palo, Leyte) the LDRRMO conducts monitoring using other source of information like windy.com, if outside PAR. Inside PAR, they rely on PAGASA advisories and bulletins * Animal movement/behavior |
| **Gaps and issues** | * Understanding the warnings and information. Impacts are not fully understood by the residents due to their technicality. * Lack of Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment on the ground * Severity of the danger cannot be fully understood. Underestimation of the occurrence/ severity of the situation * LGU are not confident to use the Automatic Weather Station (AWS) device; accuracy is still an issue. Hence, in the case of Legazpi City, they rely mostly on third party source of weather information (meteologix.com) * Economic displacement: people prioritize their properties (house, pigs, chicken, livestock, etc) rather than their lives. * Mandatory evacuation cannot be fully enforced. This is because of several factors being considered by the residents: cultural, experiences with past events, beliefs, customs, and traditions * Quality of the evacuation centers especially when it comes to hygiene and comfortability * In the case of New Bataan:   + the area has problems with signal of cell sites and internet connections. Reliable communication means is only through two-way radio. PAGASA advisory usually received by the residents late. Thus, the residents mostly rely on nature (e.g. animal sounds and behavior as basis of incoming typhoons, cricket sounds, etc.)   + Gaps in the customs and tradition of Indigenous People (Mandaya and Mansaka – Davaoeno) if they will shift from traditional to science   + Insurgency issues in the barangays |
| **Recommendations on how to improve communication and understanding** | * Strengthen early warning systems * Use of laymanize terms in providing alerts, warnings and bulletins * Conduct training to the community to understand the science of warnings * Handbook or manual/module of operations for local officials * Climate Disaster Risk Assessment should be prepared by each LGU and ensure that this Climate Disaster Risk Assessment should be linked with other government agencies (e.g. MGB, etc.); CDRA should also be in place. * Translate the information to the local dialect or in Tagalog * People in the local level must engage in variety of activities that reconstructs the perception and safety into reception of personal risk * Improve cell sites/internet access * In the case of New Bataan’s IP, it was suggested to capacitate them thru trainings and capacity buildings. Also, constant coordination with the three (3) IP barangays that have issues on insurgency. |
| **WORKSHOP 2:** *Translating Early Warning to Early Action: How to enable vulnerable communities to take action after receiving an early warning alert* | |
| **Response to alerts** | * In Legazpi City, the information given by the NGAs is detailed, and once the residents have the information, they prepare and evacuate. * It was suggested for (clustered) barangays to have their own observation network (e.g. automatic rain gauge equipment to be placed in strategic areas) * Capacity building / technical assistance on the use of equipment |
| **How to improve responses to warnings** | * Prioritization of vulnerable people/population * Provision of Template of Information (from Science to Data to Information to Advisory) * Hazard maps be publicly available (at least at the barangay level) * Involve residents in the development of step-by-step procedure for preparation, mitigation and response to hazard events. Through this, it is envisioned that by developing the method with residents, the locals will be able to have ownership of the proposed actions * Strengthen the Barangay DRRMC (e.g. authority to properly implement the established protocols) * Coastal alerts * Updating of the exposure database and population masterlist * Establish monitoring and feedback mechanisms (i.e. how many have already evacuated and how many are still left, how many have responded to the advisories) * Police to help the barangay officers in fully implementing the force evacuation. * In the case of New Bataan, few barangays have already existing Sangguniang Resolution that enforces force evacuation, to ensure zero casualty. * As per MGB suggestion, residents should require to sign a waiver, if they refuse to evacuate |
| **Early actions** | * Memorandum of Agreement with business establishments for emergency purchases * Impose fear, give warnings and explain what will happen if they will not follow * House proofing * Beforehand, there should be an updated master list per barangay on how many households will be affected * Prepare “claim stubs” based on the master list for provision of relief in the evacuation centers |

After the conduct of FGD and consultation workshop, the group decided to conduct a small group discussion to summarize all the findings and relevant observations pertinent to the project’s goal. The six (6) main points the MH-IBF-EWS team noted were:

1. There is really a need for impact-based forecasting and early warning system in the Philippines;
2. Three of the project sites have already financial and EWS mechanisms and systems in place. However, these are not documented nor written in any means and modes of communication thus, the documentation of good practices and manualization of their respective SOPs and protocols must be secured in the project activities;
3. Vulnerabilities of each LGU to its respective hazards should be determined and established;
4. Harmonization of the sources, technical strengths and capacities of each LGU should be prioritized;
5. Forecast-based financing could support the proper allocation and mobilization of disaster funds of the country; and,
6. Existing local threshold should be systematically validated.

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