

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 Brief description of project

The RESILIENCE project aims to contribute to national efforts to build community resilience and reduce vulnerability to natural hazards by enhancing capacities of LGUs and other stakeholders towards good governance in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM). It has three main complementary components—policy development, capacity enhancement and improved coordination—that contribute to enhancing the resilience of communities against the effects of calamities and disasters. The proposed project complements existing projects and programs on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

The set of activities to be pursued towards accomplishment of the project outcome and outputs include: 1. Inventory, assessment and harmonization of existing policies, programs, mechanisms and resources that address DRRM issues as well as an institutional review of the various agencies involved in DRRM; 2. Capacity development on good governance in DRRM that will help the claim holders and duty bearers to acquire perspectives, skills and tools that will enable them to generate enabling policies and facilitate the integration of DRRM into community and city-wide development planning processes; and, 3. Policy dialogues and knowledge sharing sessions towards the development and eventual establishment of an inter-LGU, multi-stakeholder, river basin-wide DRRM governance framework and structure.

1.3 Main Conclusions, Lessons Learned and Recommendations

In the midst of the localization of the new national legislation for DRRM and CCA, the RESILIENCE Project as a pilot project, contributed to an enhanced level of awareness for a paradigm shift to a more proactive approach to disasters, encompassing all aspects of DRRM and a collaborative approach that goes beyond political boundaries.

In terms of policy enhancement, the project contributed to the need to integrate DRRM into local development planning and budgeting processes –especially the CLUPs. An exposure database survey, from the Exposure Database Module (EDM) of REDAS, was initiated with the participation of LGUs, CSCAND agencies, cooperating partners, and local volunteers. This helped LGUs develop their internal capacity and facilitated linkages, including the volunteer sector to gather information on their localities' exposure to different types of hazards. This data was utilized not only in the enhanced CLUP formulation but also for the updating and enhancement of the contingency plans for flood and earthquake risks of each LGU also undertaken during the project.

The project also assisted the LGUs in the formulation of LDRRMPs in accordance with the NDRRMP. Workshops were conducted analysing the present situation with efforts to include a gender sensitive approach to DRRM. *This could have been further developed with the conduct of a gender analysis at the beginning of the project.* When translated into LDRRMPs these were expanded into the specific needs of women with regards to evacuation/camp management providing distinct spaces for women and children. The draft LDRRMPs are complete and are awaiting approval and integration into the 2014 Annual Investment Plans. Similarly the finalization of the CLUPs is still in process.

The project also contributed to the drafting of the JMC for the utilization of the LDRRMF and also assisted in the drafting of a JMC on LDRRMO creation and institutionalization.

This component provided the critical foundation of an enabling localized policy and planning environment for DRRM initiatives.

In terms of capacity enhancement, many strategies were utilized including orientations, trainings, learning visits, drills that tested contingency plans, school fairs, development of IEC materials, and provision of FEWS and response equipment. A community based and participatory approach was employed to the capacity enhancement component. This component was developed with the conduct of a capacity assessment at the beginning of the project to assist in the formulation of capacity development strategies for the LGUs. The RESILIENCE project contributed to the development of capacity of other stakeholders, apart from the LGUs, which included the barangay leaders and sector representatives, the business/private sector representatives (managers and security officers who attended trainings), school heads, teachers and students, the local and national media, and UN agency representatives who attended the gender-responsive DRRM trainings.

A training manual was produced for this component and can be used by other LGUs and sectors and can contribute to the education provisions within R.A. 10121 for LGUs and the Civil Service Sector.

The main impact stated for the RESILIENCE project is that of enhanced awareness/knowledge with regards to DRRM and assisting the paradigm shift from a reactive managing disasters approach to a more proactive disaster risk reduction approach.

In terms of partnerships, the project built upon existing networks and further enhanced them with knowledge sharing sessions. The mechanism for sustaining the initiatives and the partnerships is via a MOA that details clearly the roles and responsibilities of all partners, together with accountability mechanisms. The MOA was formulated towards the end of project and has not been signed by all partners.

If the project is to be assessed purely on planned outputs and outcomes then there are only a few unfinished items. However the purpose of this evaluation was to go beyond a mere input-output assessment. Although with a 2-year project it is too soon to assess impact, the evaluation has surfaced a richness of lessons learned during the implementation of the RESILIENCE project in terms of project design, implementation and management. As a pilot project this is to be expected and should be used as a guide for future projects of a similar nature.

