Enhancing Community-Based Disaster Preparedness and Adaptive Capacity Project

Balay Mindanaw Foundation, Inc. (BMFI) is a non-government organization based in Mindanao. Established in 1996, they work primarily on issues related to rural development such as agrarian reform, parity rights, and people’s participation in local governance. They also work on peacebuilding through education and dialogues. Based in Cagayan de Oro City, their work on disaster risk reduction and preparedness began when they responded to the emergency caused by Typhoon Washi (Sendong) in December 2011. Since then it continued to integrate disaster risk reduction (DRR), preparedness and resilience into its programs.

**Project Goals and Objectives**

The project aims to build back for better the community of Barangay (village) Ban-ao, municipality of Baganga, Davao Oriental by building the capacities of the community to prevent and mitigate impacts of future disaster events. It hopes to achieve zero casualties and minimal economic damage in the community by engaging multiple stakeholders to optimize local resources and capacities. Key activities of the initiative included:

- Training on disaster preparedness for community members
- Conduct of simulations and drills
- Community information and education campaigns
- Reconstruction, repairs and installation of community economic assets to revive enterprises and enhance employment

**Changes and Results**

The work of BMFI has resulted to the following significant changes in the community during the rebuilding after Typhoon Bopha (Pablo):

- Developed skills for 48 men on hollow block-making, carpentry and building dikes for irrigation to provide new livelihood opportunities;
- Strengthened the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee by integrating DRR into their development plans
- Mobilized some PhP20M for funding of priority projects;
- Established relocation site, installed water filtration system (sky hydrants), constructed health center, and market (talipapa) in the barangay.

**Key Lessons**

A key lesson from this project is the importance of treating disaster survivors not just as recipients of humanitarian aid but as key partners and players in the rebuilding of their community.

BMFI also engaged the various community stakeholders to revive collaboration and pooling of capacities and resources to rebuild their community. With these lessons, Barangay Ban-ao was recognized as the fastest barangay to recover in all of the 19 Typhoon Bopha-affected barangays in Baganga.