



# PLANNING A DISASTER-RESILIENT CITY in Cebu, Philippines

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## Profile

The oldest city in the country, rich in culture & heritage



**Japan**

**Yokohama**

Part of a larger environmental network of Asian cities

“Queen City of the South”: the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest center of business in the country, next to Metro Manila

**Philippines**

**Cebu City**

3<sup>rd</sup> Most Competitive City among 142 highly urbanized cities in the Philippines, next only to Manila and Makati





Recurrence of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) events

Intensifying tropical cyclones

Rainfall, river flow and flooding becoming more extreme

Fire incidence

# THE CITY'S CURRENT RISKS AND VULNERABILITIES

High vulnerability to landslides from rainfall

Major earthquakes

*"Hazards become disasters when vulnerable conditions exist among people, resources and other elements are exposed to risk, and capacity/measures to cope with consequences are insufficient."*  
National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (NDRRMP 2011-2028)

Saltwater intrusion due to excessive groundwater extraction

Photo credits: The Freeman, Cebu Daily News, gmanetwork.com, AFP



Water shortage due to El Niño



Flash floods

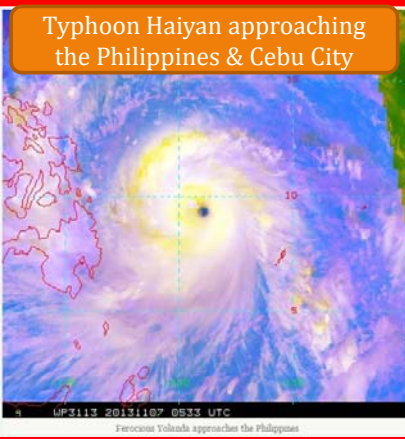


Landslides & body bags

An AF Force rescue team carries the body of one of two persons killed in a landslide that buried three houses after a riprap wall collapsed Tuesday night at the Casa del Rio subdivision in Talamban, Cebu City. (AFP/Juel)



Philippines have just an estimated five million strong typhoons as Typhoon Haiyan pummeled Cebu City, in central Philippines on November 8, 2013. One of the most intense typhoons on record hit the Philippines on November 8, killing three people and tanking millions of dollars worth of crops and livestock and causing massive coastal storm surge damage. (AP/Wide World)



Typhoon Haiyan approaching the Philippines & Cebu City



A mother and her children brave heavy rains as they head for an evacuation centre amidst strong winds as Typhoon Haiyan pounded Cebu City. (AFP/Getty Images)



7.2 earthquake toppled centuries-old Sto. Niño church belfry



Rescue operation after massive earthquake



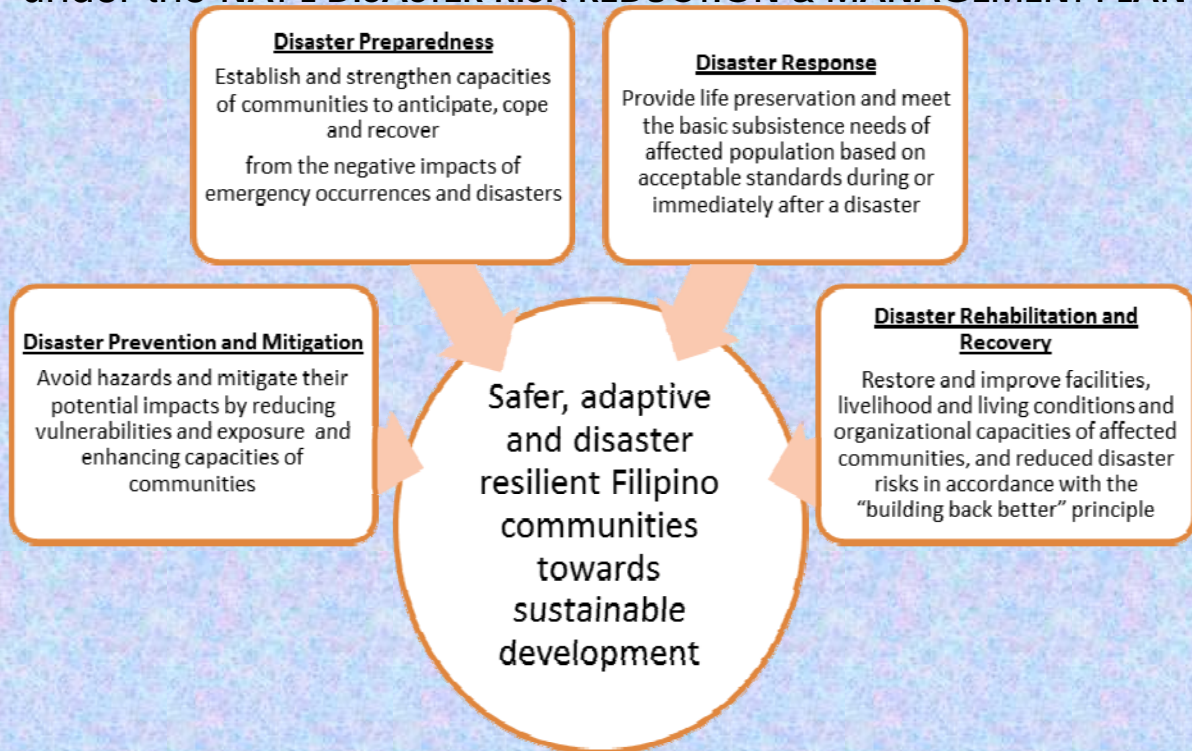
Huge fire at Brgy. Luz



Barangay Lorega, Cebu City fire March 18, 2014

Fire hits urban poor community

## Four distinct and mutually reinforcing Thematic Areas under the NAT'L DISASTER RISK REDUCTION & MANAGEMENT PLAN



These thematic areas mutually reinforce each other; do not, should not and cannot stand alone; are centered on problem-needs and asset-strengths; and all point to one direction: reduce people's vulnerabilities & increase their capacities.

## CITY'S ACTIONS/RESPONSES TAKEN ALONG 4 THEMATIC AREAS

### Prevention & Mitigation

- Mainstreaming of DRRM & Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) into local development policies, plans, programs & budget (ex. CLUP)
- Functional multi-sectoral platforms (City DRRM Council, LDRMO & Barangay DRRM Committees)
- Conduct of risk assessments
- Establishment of early warning systems

### Preparedness

- Multi-stakeholders dialogues and inclusive planning
- Development of IEC materials
- DRRM seminars & training
- Comprehensive Risk, Evacuation & Resource Mapping
- Participatory Risk Assessments
- Development of school curricula
- Emergency drills
- Procurement of emergency equipment
- Establishment of a Communication & Command Center
- Establishment of procedures on disaster communication
- Creation of Project Reduce Danger Zone (REDZ)

### Response

- Operationalization of the Communication & Command Center (C3) (with 700 volunteers)
- C3 hotline numbers in partnership with telecommunication companies
- Rapid assessment of damage & needs
- Provisioning of tents & relief goods
- Management of evacuation centers

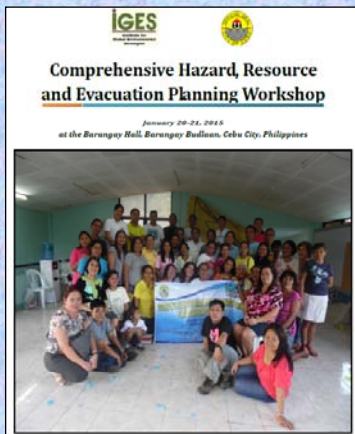
### Rehabilitation & Recovery

- Relocation assistance
- Provision of housing materials
- Financial aid
- Crisis counseling

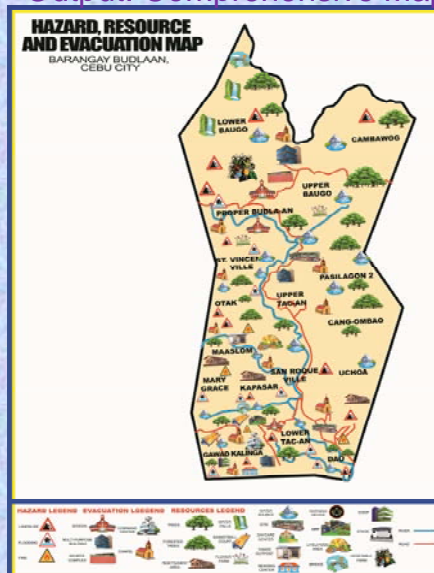


## EXAMPLE OF RESULTS

### Workshop with IGES



### Output: Comprehensive Map



Inclusion of Risk Assessments in Major Undertakings and Scrutiny of Future Relocation Sites to be purchased by the City Government in its Housing Program



Other Barangays expressed interest to conduct comprehensive mapping

### ACTIONS/RESPONSES ALSO RESULTED TO:

1. Approval of local law: *guidelines on forced evacuation*;
2. Filing of local law on creation of a multi-stakeholder disaster council;
3. Inspection of quake-vulnerable buildings in the City.

## CHALLENGES AND KEY LESSONS

### ✓ INTEGRATION OF THE NEEDS OF CONSTITUENT BARANGAYS.

Although Cebu City has been awarded "Best in Disaster Preparedness" by the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Policy Center in 2010, recognized for its response and recovery efforts after the 7.2 magnitude earthquake and for its preparedness and response initiatives prior to and after the landfall of Super Typhoon Haiyan, there is still a lot of work to be done in harmonizing and integrating the needs of its constituent barangays ("villages") into the disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) program of the city to achieve resiliency.

✓ **LACK OF A COMPREHENSIVE AND HOLISTIC RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT** that integrates results of all risks assessments conducted.

✓ **FORMULATION OF A LONG-TERM DRRM PLAN INTERFACED W/ THE MANDATED CITY CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN** to ensure continuity even after incumbent public officials are replaced by another set of officials.