PLANNING
A DISASTER-RESILIENT CITY
in Cebu, Philippines

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Profile

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

"Queen City of the South", the 2nd largest center of business in the country, next to Metro Manila

Japan

Yokohama

Part of a larger environmental network of Asian cities

Philippines

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

Cebu City
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

“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)

High vulnerability to landslides from rainfall

Saltwater intrusion due to excessive groundwater extraction

Major earthquakes

Water shortage due to El Niño

Flash floods

Landslides & body bags

Typhoon Haiyan approaching the Philippines & Cebu City

7.2 earthquake toppled centuries-old Sto. Niño church belfry

Rescue operation after massive earthquake

Huge fire at Bgy. Luz

Fire hits urban poor community

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

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Four distinct and mutually reinforcing Thematic Areas under the NATL 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, LDRRMO & 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 risk assessments conducted.

✓ Formulation of a long-term DRRM plan interfaced with the mandated City Climate Change Action Plan to ensure continuity even after incumbent public officials are replaced by another set of officials.