

Community-based volcano disaster risk reduction: A comparison of Barangay Biaknabato, La Castellana and Barangay Pula, Canlaon City, Negros Island, Philippines

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The implementation of community-based disaster risk reduction and management in two pilot communities, Barangay (community) Biaknabato, La Castellana and Barangay Pula, Canlaon City, Negros Island, in the Philippines involved programmed activities that were planned based on the resources and unique needs identified for each site. Methods included rapid rural appraisal for community profiling, individual interviews, and group discussions to gather validated data on hazards and risks perceptions. Self-awareness approach that aimed for community consciousness building was conducted through series of focus group discussions. When information needs were determined, appropriate knowledge and skills building activities such as sessions on orientation on the new Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management law (R.A. 10121 or DRRM Law 2010), and hands-on activities on elements at risk and resource mapping, were implemented. For the community mapping session, the initial paper-based mapping was leveled up with the use of participatory 3-D mapping approach.

During the implementation, differences and similarities in the responses, steps taken and decisions made by the two pilot sites, Barangay Biaknabato and Barangay Pula were observed. The set target end outputs were similar- such as (a) updated community profiles (b) documented reorganized Barangay DRRM structure with defined roles, functions and responsibilities; (c) updated barangay risk and resource map; (d) action plan during a volcano emergency, (e) planned community-initiated DRR activities such as information campaigns and (f) establishment of early warning system. Initial testing of community established locally-available and indigenous communication system (batingting and toltog) as well as conduct of evacuation drills were planned and implemented. The process- from methods and media used through which the targets were attained, varied and were adjusted. The possible factors in the differences and similarities were looked into.