



REGIONAL ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON

## GENDER AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

16-18 May 2016  
Ha Noi, Viet Nam

# REDUCING VULNERABILITIES BY RAISING CAPACITIES:

## The San Luis, Aurora Experience

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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Disaster in the Philippines and San Luis, Aurora: An Overview
- Purpose of Presentation
- Disaster Preparedness (San Luis, Aurora)
- Recommendations

# Disaster in the Philippines and San Luis, Aurora: An Overview

## ➤ The Philippines

- World Risk Index Report 2011 Says, “PHILIPPINES No. 3” Source: UNU IEHS (Sept 26,2011) <http://ihrrblog.org/2011/09/26/2011-un-world-risk-index/>
- One of the world’s most natural disaster-prone countries due to a combination of high incidence typhoons, floods, landslides, droughts, volcanoes, storm sure, and earthquakes. There are 20 average typhoon events per year.
- Half the storms of the strongest ones to hit land in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries ended up striking the Philippines (Jeff Masters, meteorology director of the Weather Underground).

# Disaster in the Philippines and San Luis, Aurora: An Overview

## ➤ Philippine Laws on DRR

- **Republic Act No. 9729** (Climate Change Act of 2009) mainstreams climate change into government policy formulations, establishes the framework strategy and program on climate change, and creates the Climate Change Commission. The Local Government Units as frontline agencies ... shall formulate their Local Climate Change Action Plan, consistent with the provisions of the Local Government Code, the Framework, and the National Climate Change Action Plan.
- **Republic Act No. 10174** creates the People's Survival Fund to provide long-term finance streams to enable the government to effectively address the problem of climate change.
- **The National Climate Change Action Plan** (NCCAP) outlines the country's agenda for adaptation and mitigation for 2011 to 2028. Its ultimate goal is to build the adaptive capacities of women and men in their communities, increase the resilience of vulnerable sectors and natural ecosystems to climate change, and optimize mitigation opportunities towards gender-responsive and rights-based sustainable development.

# Disaster in the Philippines and San Luis, Aurora: An Overview

## ➤ San Luis, Aurora

- Biggest municipality of Aurora Province in terms of land area
- Agriculture (coconut, vegetables and fruits) is its main industry.
- It is in the frontline of many storms, vulnerable to earthquakes, tsunamis, flooding, and man made disasters. Our people are vulnerable, mostly women, children, and also the elderly and PWDs. The vulnerable have limited capacity to reduce the potential negative consequences of risk.
- 12 out of 18 barangays are flood prone or 62.37% of population are at risk for flood
- 56% of the population are vulnerable or marginalized individuals

# Disaster in the Philippines and San Luis, Aurora: An Overview

## ➤ San Luis, Aurora

- In risk assessment and mapping, the vulnerabilities of the infrastructure and other community assets are identified, aside from the vulnerabilities of the people.
- Through community-based monitoring system (CBMS), now on its 2<sup>nd</sup> round, household- and individual-level data from these censuses were produced including data on disaster-hazard mapping, vulnerabilities and climate change adaptation.
- Tight coordination with relevant government agencies, i.e. the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Science and Technology and the Philippine Coconut Authority, among others.
- Distribution and prominent posting of hazard maps in barangay halls for the constituencies' information.

# Purpose of Presentation

1. To share the San Luis experience on Disaster Risk Governance
2. To provide a glimpse of the LMMAAP brand of governance addressing gender in disaster risk reduction and management

# Disaster Preparedness



# Our DRR Vision

A highly responsive and proactive community working towards a safe environment and a progressive society

## Mission

Ensure sufficient and effective emergency response and disaster preparedness with active participation of the community

# Leadership Structure

- **EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 03 S. 2011** – Organization of Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (with specific functions, composition and structure). Council members included representatives from People's Organizations/NGO/CSO
- Designation of **Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer**.
- **Incident Command System** (ICS) ensures the effective consequence management of disaster or emergencies.

# Guide to Action

## Institutionalized Planning and Budget

- Approved Disaster Risk Reduction Management Plan
- Available Contingency Plan for Flood
- Funded DRRM and Climate Change Adaptation activities in the Annual Budget (Climate Change Adaptation for LGUs and BHW Disaster Preparedness & Climate Change Adaptation)

# Disaster Preparedness

- **Community Awareness**

- MDRRMC Resolution No. 2012 – 01 dated April 19, 2012 (A Resolution Adopting & Implementing the Flood Evaluation Guide for Families and for Other Purposes)
- Mode of dissemination are website and community orientation or distribution of the Guide to households (barangay visitation, earthquake and fire drills and IEC)

- **Contingency Planning (Early Warning System)** - Flood monitoring indicator at vulnerable barangays; Operational audio signaling devices

# Disaster Preparedness

- **Stockpiling and Equipping** – non-perishable goods and beddings for disaster are available in stock at MSWDO Building, San Luis, Aurora; Disaster equipments are available at San Luis Police Station and MSWDO Building, San Luis, Aurora
- **Emergency Response Teams** organized in all 18 barangays, trained on Basic Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, and were provided simulation exercises conducted as part of the skills-training with schools and constituencies.
- **Contingency Planning (Evacuation Alert System)** when the evacuation operation should take place e.g. patrolling around the area on board service vehicle with loud horn or “*bandilyo*”.
- **Disaster Operations or Emergency Center** located at MSWDO Building at Barangay 02, San Luis, Aurora.

# Remember we have the MANDATE

1. Approve, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the LDRRMPs and regularly review and test the plan consistent with other national and local planning programs.
2. Ensure the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into local development plans, programs and budgets as a strategy in sustainable development and poverty reduction
3. Recommend the implementation of forced or Pre-emptive evacuation of local residents, if necessary
4. Convene the local council once every three (3) months or as necessary

# Partnership, Volunteerism and Innovation

- Partnership with Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and Philippine Army for training MDRRM Council members, barangay officials and barangay tanods on Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response
- Partnership with volunteer groups & civil society such as Blue Falcon, Rural Improvement Club, Bikers Association and Women's Groups on the implementation of Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction of the municipality

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- A Program Mainstreaming Gender Equity in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (LMMAP to work with the identified 125 of the most vulnerable among the member municipalities)
  - One day participatory sessions for women leaders in each of the lady mayor' municipality most prone to disasters.
  - Provision by Lady Mayors of leadership mobilizing women leaders in mainstreaming gender DRR and adaptation at community and barangays.
  - Gender-sensitive risk assessment and preparedness will be the key outputs of the discussion with community women leaders on all local hazards and resulting scenarios.



# RECOMMENDATIONS

## ➤ A Program Mainstreaming ... (cont'd)

- Introduction of social enterprise development and on creating spaces for women and girls to participate in other activities of the Local Government Unit.
  - Introduction of protocols such as the “Minimum Initial Service Package” or provision of services to pregnant women, dignity and hygiene kits distribution, family planning and other female and infant health concerns.
  - At the national level, popularization of the program results, of how and what are the actions needed to ensure that women are supported in times of disasters.
- ## ➤ Sex and age disaggregated data on deaths/disabilities/vulnerabilities in disasters/calamities.

Let us all be prepared!