

Citizens' Disaster Response Center



*Annual
Report
2008*

CDRC in 2008

The year 2008 was the first year of the newly-crafted 5-year Strategic Plan of the Citizens' Disaster Response Center. From 2008 to 2012, CDRC is geared to attain three main operational goals:

- Building the capacities of intermediary bodies and support agencies to directly and effectively link with and provide support to disaster-affected and at-risk communities in their continuing efforts to sustain the depth and to extend the breadth of CBDM practice towards building disaster-resilient communities.
- Effective and sustainable disaster response and management that is attuned to the distinct demands of global climate change.
- Development of a robust organization that can adapt to the fast-changing and much demanding disaster management work.

The 2008 program, as a building block towards attaining the three operational goals, focused on preparing CDRC as it takes on its role as *the* resource center on Community-Based Disaster Management in the Philippines.

Specifically, CDRC vigorously pushed in 2008 to replicate its experience on a nationwide scale by technically supporting the regional centers comprising the Citizens' Disaster Response Network (CDRN) to attain standardization in capacities and systems amid the rapidly emerging challenges of climate change. Additionally, the 2008 program paved the way for CDRC in forging more humanitarian partnerships here and abroad not only to learn and share emerging trends in disaster work but also to consciously endeavor to develop strategic sustainability.

Field Operations Department

Education and Training

The Field Operations Department (FOD) led the assessment of the existing training modules and materials being used by all CDRN regional centers during the first half of the year. All the modules met the standards and classifications set by the CDRN in its 2007 National Consultation. All regional centers have also periodically updated their data, and adapted the modules to their local contexts as necessary, and that popular methodologies in conducting the training modules were utilized.

A module on Climate Change was drafted and pilot-tested in selected Disaster Preparedness Committees in the National Capital Region. The module was redesigned in such a way that it locates itself in the frame of the existing Community-Based Disaster Management (CBDM) module.

The Training Needs Assessment conducted among the CDRN members in 2007 identified four modules of trainers' training: Disaster Management Information System (DMIS), International Standards on Psychosocial Intervention (ISPI), Gender, Child Rights & Special Sectors' Considerations in Disaster Management (GCR & SSCDM) and Creative Resource Generation and Emergency Appeals Writeshop. Three of these identified training needs were conducted.

Two batches of ISPI were separately held in September, one with 5 training staff of Leyte Center for Development and Education (LCDE) and another one with 5 training staff of Tarabang Paras Bicol (TABI). LCDE and TABI were chosen as participants because of their relatively advanced track record in handling psychosocial cases during emergencies.

Capping the UNICEF project was a discussion on GCR & SSCDM module held on September 29-30 with 6 staff of the Center for Relief & Rehabilitation Services-Cagayan Valley (CRRS-CV) attending. CRRS-CV was one of the implementing regional centers of the UNICEF project and has had a distinctly rich experience in the fields of gender and child rights during the project duration.



CRRS-CV staff discussing the GCR & SSCDM modules

A DMIS Training was organized from December 11 to 13. The attendees included 24 personnel representing 12 CDRN member-regional centers (ABI, BREAD, CRRC, CPRS, CRRS-CV, CDRC, DIRECT, IRDC, KADAIT, Panday Bulig, STPRC & TABI) and 1 would-be member of the network (CREST). The 3-day training-workshop was able to impart knowledge to and develop basic skills of participants in data-gathering and information system for use in community-based disaster management before, during and after a disaster.

The FOD, through the Core Program support, also conducted 9 batches of educational activities in the National Capital Region as an integral element of continuing CBDM promotion and capacity-building among CDRC's partners. These trainings include Disaster Management Orientation (DMO), Community-Based Disaster Management (CBDM), Trainers' Training-CBDM, and Disaster Preparedness Training (DPT). There were 223 participants who attended these trainings.

Compared to the previous years' targets in CBDM courses in the NCR, the target for the period was significantly reduced. This was due to the establishment of an NCR-based regional center---the Community Response for Enlightenment, Services & Transformation (CREST)--- in the first half of 2008 which has started to take on conducting CBDM courses especially in communities. Wherefore CDRC was the lone service-provider in the NCR, the establishment of CREST was a welcome development. Until CREST is sufficiently able to conduct CBDM in its designated areas in the NCR which are basically communities and people's organizations, CDRC will have to provide technical support. Thus it is envisioned that in the next reporting period, CDRC shall be able to better focus its resources to other areas -- the academe, the corporate bodies, and the government agencies in the NCR, for instance.

In addition to the CBDM modules conducted in the NCR, the FOD, in collaboration with regional centers concerned, also conducted CBDM and project-related courses outside the NCR. A total of 277 batches were conducted under the Core Program of Diakonisches Werk, UNICEF, and the two ongoing rehabilitation & mitigation projects separately funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and DW, and CARITAS-Switzerland. There were 9,835 participants in disaster-prone communities.

Most of the modules conducted in project areas were related to GFFO-DW's supported project, "Disaster Preparedness & Mitigation in Typhoon-Prone Philippine Regions." The period was

mainly aimed at simultaneously preparing all of the project's 72 communities in dealing with disasters through various disaster preparedness courses and training. Thus for the most part of this reporting period, CDRC significantly allocated resources and human efforts to this end.

Disaster Preparedness Committees

The CBDM courses meaningfully contributed to meeting the set tasks concerning Disaster Preparedness Committees (DPCs), both in consolidating existing formations as well as in organizing new ones. From 118 DPCs in 2007, the number of full-fledged DPCs all over the country increased to 203 in 2008.

All DPC formations took part in various emergency responses. They were active in resource generation and acted as volunteers during relief delivery operations. They were also instrumental in the implementation of disaster-related activities in their respective areas.



DPC formation and orientation in Bicol

Promotion of CBDM for Replication

On the task to popularize CBDM beyond the confines of CDRN, each regional center has employed strategies appropriate to their local contexts. These included: attendance to development planning of local government units; attendance to disaster management-related forums initiated by local government units, NGOs, people's organizations, schools/universities, etc.

For its part, CDRC has maintained its active participation, including memberships in various disaster-related formations, in both government and non-government initiatives. During the period, CDRC was invited to 21 forums/gatherings, 15 of which were directly related to disasters. By being resource persons or active participants in these activities, CDRC personnel were able to discuss and further promote CBDM as an alternative disaster management approach to other groups and sectors of the society who were mostly exposed to the mainstream disaster work that only revolves around relief goods distribution.

Emergency Response

CDRC was able to serve 13,685 families and 214 individuals in 2008. Majority of the families served were those affected by typhoons (7,970 families), floods and landslides (2,894 families), and armed conflict (2,151 families). Out of the 107 Relief Delivery Operations (RDOs) conducted, 81 (75%) were for typhoon victims. There were also 214 individuals served during a cholera outbreak in General Nakar in Quezon province in December 2008.



CREST during a relief delivery operation in Malabon

Table 1. RDOs conducted by disaster type.

Type of Disaster	No. of RDOs	No. of families served	No. of individuals served
TYPHOON	81	7,970	
FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES	15	2,894	
ARMED CONFLICT	7	2,151	
FIRE	2	600	
DEVELOPMENT AGGRESSION	1	70	
EPIDEMIC	1		214
TOTAL	107	13,685	214

Two types of responses were extended by CDRC and the rest of the CDRN regional centers in 2008 for the different disaster events that happened. One was through the Emergency Relief Assistance Fund (ERAF), a stand-by fund built-in in CDRC's Core Program. ERAF is designed to enable CDRC and its regional centers to quickly respond after each disaster event. It is disbursed by CDRC 24 hours after each disaster. The other type was the Major Emergency Response (MER). This applied to major disasters whose effects were severe and the costs beyond the capacity of CDRC's Core Program to shoulder. Because of the large amounts needed, MERs are appealed to funding donors.

CDRC, together with the regional centers concerned, conducted 19 RDOs under ERAF which benefited 4,200 families and 214 individuals. For MER, there were 88 RDOs conducted which served 9,485 families.

Table 2. RDOs by type of assistance.

Type of Assistance	No. of RDOs	No. Families Served	No. of Individuals Served
ERAF	19	4,200	214
MER	88	9,485	
TOTAL	107	13,685	214

The bulk of the relief delivery operation took place in Luzon and Visayas, where 92 (46 for each island group) out of the 107 Relief Delivery Operations (RDO) happened. Majority of the beneficiaries are in the Visayas (43% or 5,862 families), followed closely by Luzon (40% or 5,482 families), and lastly Mindanao (17% or 2,341 families).

Table 3. RDOs conducted by island group.

Island Group	No. of RDOs	No. of families served	No. of individuals served
LUZON	46	5,482	214
VISAYAS	46	5,862	
MINDANAO	15	2,341	
TOTAL	107	13,685	214

All RDOs consistently followed a careful selection of recipients. Based on the Damage, Needs & Capacity Assessment (DNCA) conducted simultaneously throughout the affected areas by regional centers concerned, recipients of RDOs were prioritized. This preferential treatment for

the most disadvantaged would justify the fact that although the combined number of families served by both ERAF and MER was only a small percentage of the total number of affected families by all disasters within the year, CDRC believes that the RDOs were a success. RDOs served those whose incomes were below the poverty line and those that were least served by either government or non-government relief goods operations, if at all.

Disaster Rehabilitation Programs

Two rehabilitation projects were concluded in 2008. First was the 1-year implementation of “*Relief and Rehabilitation after Typhoon Reming (Durian)*” which CDRC successfully implemented in Marinduque province. The project, funded by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), was officially turned over to the beneficiaries in March. It benefited 1,002 families in Brgys Yook, Guisan, Argao, Silangan, Hinagayon, Paye and Banalakan in the municipalities of Buenavista and Mogpog.

The project played a pivotal role in restoring the primary means of livelihood in said areas (fishing) by assisting fishermen to own small fishing vessels once again after typhoon Reming destroyed all fishing boats in the area in late 2006. A total of 64 fishing boats were distributed to clustered 128 families.

Alternative sources of livelihood were also introduced and implemented. The communal green house farm is reportedly well-managed in serving the vegetable seedling needs of individual farms.



Distribution of small fishing vessels in Marinduque

The second project that ended in 2008 was “*Upholding the Rights and Welfare of Children and Women*”. This UNICEF-funded project was implemented in Cagayan Valley, Panay and Negros Oriental benefiting 6 villages from three municipalities and provinces. The program was able to raise the capacities of the community members through the organization of Children Brigades for Peace and Disaster Preparedness Committees. These formations are now in-charge of managing their community health centers and functional literacy schools. The UNICEF-provided medical kits and some equipment for the community health center are now being managed by trained health workers. For functional literacy, UNICEF provided school materials, supplies and kits for school children; the community-identified daycare teachers are now running the centers.

The organization of the children and women also contributed food productivity not only in their families but also for their community. UNICEF program brought livestock and animal farms from the nearby villages and distributed these to the beneficiaries of the project. The community, particularly the women and youth, was once again activated in backyard farming when UNICEF distributed different vegetable seeds and farm tools. The mothers and their children helped one another in managing their farms and taking care of their farm animals.

While helping alleviate their economic situation, the program also provided them training and orientation on disaster risk reduction management (especially during armed conflict situation), on the rights of women and children, on conducting drills and identifying evacuation centers as well as training on evacuation management.

Meanwhile, a 3-year rehabilitation project funded by Caritas Switzerland in the Bicol Region, “*Enhancing Flood Preparedness and Helping the Survivors of Super Typhoon Reming (Durian)*,” started implementation in mid-June. CDRC is jointly implementing the project with the regional center in Bicol, Tarabang Para sa Bicol (TABI). The project areas consist of 8 villages in 3 municipalities (Guinobatan, Camalig and Daraga) in Albay Province.



The following were the highlights of the implementation:

Community tree planting activity in Albay

Nursery Development & Seedling Propagation – Sites were selected from among the vacant lots within the project area. Preparation was undertaken by the project beneficiaries --- weeding, soil conditioning, fencing. Nursery tools and germination materials were distributed to the 8 communities. Seeds propagation began in November.

Community Tree Planting- A total of 4,823 trees were planted in all 8 communities within December. Each community planted 250 mahogany saplings, 350 assorted hard wood and fruit trees.

Petition Signing & Community Mobilization- Two campaigns were launched: Clean and Green Contest was aimed at advancing community health & sanitation through proper waste disposal, sanitary drainage systems, and the development of safer water sources; while the Signature Drive was intended to promote awareness on the Disaster Management Bill now pending in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Distribution of Farm Tools and Draft Animals - Each community received one set of farm tools while 5 heads of carabaos (heifers) were dispersed to 3 communities in keeping with the project design to facilitate farming activities.

Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Practices- Several field demonstrations and 6 forums on Multi-cropping Systems and Organic Farming were conducted to promote ecologically sound agricultural practices as a way to ensure project continuity.

Community Organizing – An area-wide federation of DPCs was formed to address common concerns in the project areas

Information Dissemination & Advocacy – Activities to promote disaster awareness and mitigation were conducted: 5 forums on Disaster Risk Management Bill, 6 forums on Bicol Regional Socioeconomic Situation, 5 forums on Food Security, and 4 forums on Caring for Farm Animals.

Disaster Mitigation Project

The German Federal Foreign Office and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe-funded major disaster mitigation project, “*Disaster Preparedness & Mitigation in Typhoon-Prone Philippine Regions*,” was off the ground in July. It involves 72 communities in five regions in the country. The phase one of the project was aimed at preparing communities in dealing with disasters through various disaster preparedness courses and trainings.

Implementers include the following CDRN regional centers: CRRS-CV in Cagayan Valley, STPRC in Quezon and Southern Tagalog, TABI in the Bicol Region, LCDE in Leyte and Samar, and BREAD in CARAGA Region.

A Focus Visit by the GFFO-DW focus person, Mr. Tommy Bouchiba in July, served as the kick-off activity. A follow-through visit was again conducted by Mr. Bouchiba in October where he visited 3 of the 5 regions where the project is located. His ocular visits to the regions of Caraga, Bicol and Southern Tagalog-Quezon showed regional centers BREAD, TABI and STPRC in action.



Tommy Bouchiba during one of his field visits to the GFFO-DW project areas

Research, Publication & Information Department (RPID)

CDRN-wide Online Databank System Upgrade and Management

In a continued effort to upgrade CDRC's online databank system, several activities were launched within the year.

An improved special sector-specific Damage, Needs and Capacities Assessment (DNCA) gathering tool was pilot-tested and fine-tuned within April to June, in cooperation with two regional centers. Initial reports revealed that aside from quick data processing, the tool will potentially contribute to giving better focus on special sectors' needs during interventions.

To propagate the tool's utilization, CDRC has launched several training-workshops not only to its staff, but to the CDRN member-organizations as well.

The RPID staff had a hands-on training on Databank System Management on August 1 and a Web Management Training on August 15. These were aimed at ensuring that all staff under the RPID fully grasp the use of the data gathering tools and can manage data especially those that would be coming from the regional centers, and that they are able to electronically systematize these for end-users.

As mentioned earlier, a Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) Training was also organized in December for the Regional Centers. It put to work basic knowledge, skills and attitudes on gathering data on disaster concerns and systematizing information for use in management of disasters by utilizing workshops and related activities.



DMIS training for the Regional Centers

It was agreed upon during the training that since Internet connections are usually problematic during disaster time, there was a need to explore other means of forwarding information. Thus a mobile phone-based Form 1 was thought of as an efficient way of communicating the initial data within 24 hours. Form 1 can be used in practically all areas even if there are no landlines and/or

Internet connections. The DPCs and the regional centers can simply send the initial report through SMS following the template given.

A system to rapidly gather data and make reports was given emphasis throughout the training. Open discussion, hands-on training and more workshops were utilized to ensure a full grasp of the concepts.

The participants are looking forward to the updated version of the database. Thus it was agreed that the baseline data be submitted in January 2009. This will facilitate a more detailed database system for all regional centers including CDRC in gathering first-hand information, and in validating the secondary data gathered from other disaster agencies.

CDRC has also maintained online coordination with government agencies and other humanitarian aid groups, e.g. National Disaster Coordinating Council, Office of Civil Defense, UNICEF, CWC and other disaster-related NGOs.

Meanwhile, aside from undergoing a new redesign, CDRC's website was regularly updated. RPID posted issues of Disaster Alert, latest schedules and news stories about the activities of CDRC, effectively operating as the central hub for all regional centers.

Resource and Training Center

The CDRC library and conference room have been refurbished to better cater to end-users' needs. All hard and electronic copies of informative materials have been catalogued for easy retrieval and access.

Both facilities are now fully operational, and in fact have resumed service to a growing number of clients. Top users for the period were NGOs (conference room) and students (library).

A campaign for book donations launched in June bore results towards the end of the year. Online cataloguing of these materials is still underway, utilizing the voluntary services of Library Science students. The next plan is to launch the library's catalogue online in order to be more accessible to users.

Disaster-related Information Materials

RPID came up with 16 issues of Disaster Alert, each issue numbering 1,000 copies. Disaster Alert issues were likewise sent to local and international partners to keep them abreast of the disaster events in the country and to solicit resources for the affected families and communities.

The CDRC 2007 Annual Report, submitted for printing in June, was finally released in November. One thousand copies were printed, most of which were distributed to local and international partners. The Annual Report comprehensively showed the activities of the year and the resources used to implement the targets set.



The 2009 Calendar, a information material showcasing child-survivors' artworks in the annual ABKD Contest and tips on what to do before disaster events, was printed and sent to partners and friends of CDRC.

The Disaster Statistical Report 2007, *Changing Times, Changing Climate*, summarized the disasters that occurred in the year 2007. The report carried information on disasters in that year and the extent of their effects to population and areas affected, as well as the frequency of their occurrence. A review on the major disasters that battered the Philippine islands within the past decade was also presented. Much effort had been made to ensure that this statistical and narrative report be presented in a simple yet substantial form.

Visibility and information materials for the GFFO-DW project were released: two tarpaulins and 230 pieces of T-shirts for visibility; and 1,000 pieces of disaster preparedness calendars as information materials were distributed to the regional centers and friends of CDRC. A video on the best practices of the Phase 1 of the GFFO-DW project was also released.

Research on the Impact of Disasters

CDRC successfully conducted the MICRODIS Survey (Integrated Health, Social and Economic Impacts of Extreme Events: Evidence, Methods and Tools) in Albay from December 1 to 22. This survey on the impacts of disasters on communities covered 8 villages in 1 municipality and 1 city in Albay, with a total of 400 quantitative respondents, 12 in-depth interviewees, and

4 focus group discussions.



Microdis FGD in Brgy. Balangibang, Polangui

Other survey-related activities conducted within the year were:

- Translation of all quantitative instruments into the local dialect.
- Pre-test and revisions of the survey instruments
- Enumerators' training with Xavier University.
- Courtesy calls with the provincial governor, mayors, and provincial and disaster coordinating officers of the survey sites.
- CDRC MICRODIS team and country team meetings
- Facilitation of the visit of Coordinating Team members (Prof. PC Joshi of University of Delhi, Ms. Laura Irvine and Ms. Bernadette Dubus of the Universite Catholique de Louvain) to Albay.
- Collation of contextual reports of all survey sites (Europe and Asia).
- Data gathering to generate the sampling frame of survey sites with assistance extended by TABI, the regional center in Albay.
- Attendance in the project's annual meeting in New Delhi, India
- Attendance in the survey training in Hanoi, Vietnam

ABKD Poster-Making Contest for Children

The ABKD 2008 successfully culminated in an Awarding Ceremony on October 6 after CDRC officially declared the contest open in June. Entries, totaling to 490 (251 from NCR, 172 from the rest of Luzon, 8 from Visayas and 59 from Mindanao), began coming right after the announcement until the extended deadline on September 20.



Awarding ceremony of ABKD 2008

The activity pulled through through the auspices of sponsors, e.g. Sara Lee Philippines, UNICEF, Quezon City Vice-Mayor Herbert Bautista and Quezon City Councilor Bernadette Herrera-Dy.

Information about the contest were announced through the media, Department of Education, through tarpaulins donated by Councilor Herrera-Dy hanged in prominent areas, and through visibility materials like T-shirts and mugs.

Image Projection and Policy Influence

Announcements and CDRC positions on disaster-related issues were sent to the tri-media on a regular basis. The following media exposures were recorded:

- August 4 – Radio interview on DWSS 14.94 regarding disaster preparedness, ABKD, and call for donations intended for disaster-affected communities.
- August 13 – Senate hearing participation on PDRM Act; released a position paper-critique to the Act to national media.
- August-September – CDRC, upon request, supplied Manila Times journalist Nora Gamolo with materials and data regarding the armed conflict in Mindanao. Her articles came out in The Manila Times, The Manila Examiner, Institute for War and Peace Reporting, Relief Web, and Pinoy Press.
- August – UK-based ITV.com coordinated with CDRC regarding documentary on storms. CDRC further endorsed them to TABI for the regional dimension.
- Three files were posted on YouTube.com. These are: Institutional Video, CDRC History and CBDM. The posting was intended to propagate CDRC and CBDM to niche viewers and hopefully generate interest from these distinct Internet users.
- Continued postings and updates on social networking sites like Multiply, Facebook and Friendster.

International & Local Partnerships Development Desk (ILPD)

Friends of CDRC (FCDRC)

FCDRC conducted several activities within the period that effectively contributed to resource generation:

A year-end assessment (2007) of its activities at de la Salle University (DLSU) was held in January, and showed that much of the success of its 2007 plan was attributed to NSTP, a regular part of the academic curriculum which students are required to enroll in. Through FCDRC's

advocacy work at DLSU, school authorities favorably endorsed to the students CDRC as their institution of practicum. The students participated in the conduct of CDRC's services to communities. A significant number of these students have remained as on-call volunteers during disasters even after the duration of their practicum period.



CDRC student volunteers

On May 15, these students and the FCDRC members at DLSU mounted a Resource Mobilization & Donors' Forum. The activity generated immediate donations, most of which were in kind (used clothing, toys, foodstuff, books for children, shoes), and earmarked for the RDOs in succeeding months.

To provide guidance to the increasing student-volunteers, the FCDRC conducted a Partner Organization Orientation on June 7 at DLSU. Activities for the remaining months of the year were also firmed up, with continuing resource generation for disaster survivors as the primary goal.

Likewise, the FCDRC in Miriam College conducted educational forums and other activities that redounded to periodic donations. Within the period, Miriam College donated used clothing and canned goods to CDRC in more than three instances, thereby cutting some costs in RDOs. The advocacy work of FCDRC at several schools and universities in the NCR contributed to resource generation. At the De la Salle University and Miriam College, campaigns for donations were launched within the period. As a result, a total of 50 boxes of used clothing, 8 boxes of canned goods, and 3 boxes of medicines were delivered to CDRC in support to the Typhoon Frank-affected communities. The bulk of these goods went to Panay and Negros in the Visayas and Masbate in Bicol--the areas affected the most by the disaster.

Individual FCDRC members also campaigned for funding support to the ABKD. The aforementioned sponsors mentioned in the RPID report were tapped because of these initiatives.

The 24th Anniversary Celebration of CDRC in October was also made possible through solicitations done by the FCDRC. The resources generated were used to defray costs in food, venue and materials.

Local Partnerships

CDRC scored a couple of breakthroughs in forging new local partners.

Through its MICRODIS project implementation, coordination with Xavier University's research unit is effected. The technical expertise required of academic studies is now within reach, allaying dilemma in taking on future scientific studies.

Exploratory talks with CREST, a newly formed disaster response NGO in the NCR, were held in the first quarter of the year. It was agreed in principle that CREST will formally join CDRN during its 2009 Assembly. When this materializes, CDRC will be better able to focus on providing technical support to CDRN members since CREST will assume the role of directly providing services in the NCR, a task CDRC performed for the past couple of years.

CDRC has also linked up with a major player in mainstream disaster response, the ABS-CBN's Sagip Kapamilya Foundation. CDRC's track record and FCDRC's advocacy activities gained ABS-CBN's trust as it started to stockpile its relief goods at CDRC's warehouse, and involving CDRC in its various relief operations. Joint operations, as planned for the 2nd half of the year, would enable CDRC to reach out to the other areas countrywide where CDRN members are not present.

CDRC is also a member of a newly organized Disaster Risk Reduction Network Philippines (DRR Net Phils). On 12 June 2008, a total of thirty one (31) participants coming mainly from different civil society organizations (CSOs) involved in and advocating a "Community Based Disaster Risk Management" (CBDRM), discussed the DRM Bills pending in the Senate and now in the House of Congress. The discussion resulted in having a plan to pursue legislative advocacy and to ensure the passage of an enhanced DRM Bill before the end of the session of the 14th Congress or before the national elections in 2010. CDRC/ CDRN shared the 2004 experience of collaborative initiatives in lobbying a DRM Bill and participated in the series of workshops involving the government agencies, LGUs, and CSOs as well as helping the government to draft the "Strategic National Action Plan" (SNAP) as a concrete expression of the government's concurrence to the Hyogo Framework. Some of the highlights of CDRC's involvement in DRRNET include:

- Going on air at DZBB radio station in July to discuss the bill, its implications, and what it should be in the light of community-based disaster management;
- Became one of the resource persons during the Senate's Public Hearing held on August 11;
- Attended the Technical Working Group Senate Hearing on August 28 and submitting a position paper-critique; and
- Attended the 1st Public Hearing of the House of Representatives on Sept 6.



Rapid Assessment in North Cotabato with CWC Sub-Committee members

CDRC was also heavily involved in the Council for the Welfare of Children's Sub-Committee on Children Affected by Armed Conflict (SC CAACD) which merited the following:

- Leadership of CDRC in the Rapid Assessment in North Cotabato (armed conflict) conducted with other CWC Sub-Committee members on August 18-21;
- Participation to the CPIE ToT national level; and
- Leadership of CDRC in the Rapid Assessment with UNICEF (Typhoon Frank) in August.

Meanwhile, CDRC maintained ties with the other local partners and NGOs, aside from the ones mentioned above, through constant updates, attendance to invites for various occasions/activities, and other forums.

International Partnerships

CDRC has maintained its core international partners which have, in various capacities, supported CDRC's operations: Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, Canadian Fund for Livelihood Initiatives, UNICEF-Philippines, Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters/European Commission.

Adding the list during the period are the German Federal Foreign Office, which has tied up with Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in a disaster-preparedness project, and Caritas Switzerland, for a rehabilitation project in Albay.

Meanwhile, a group of overseas Filipinos, through their Philippine - Charities Foundation, supported a village in Albay in its efforts to restore farm activities. The PCF donated cash intended to purchase basic farm implements and vegetable seedlings. The donation benefited 70 farming families in Malobago, Albay; and the farmers have since resumed their economic activities.

Management, Administrative & Finance Department

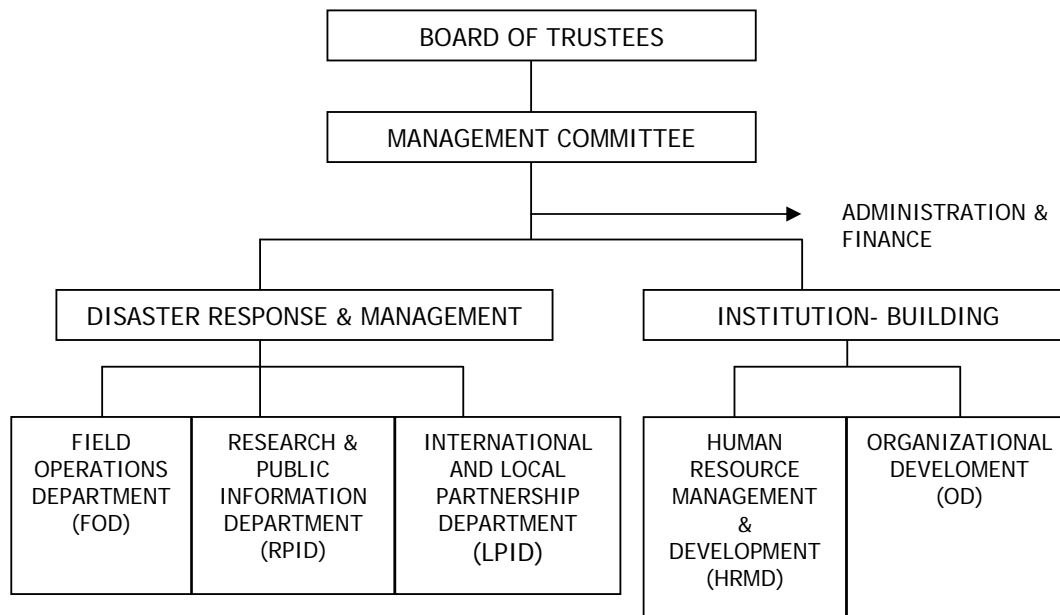
Organizational Development

The new CDRC organizational structure, developed during the Strategic Planning conducted in 2007, became operational in 2008. The new organigram features a streamlined structure where the main concerns of CDRC, disaster response & management and institution-building, are given due emphasis. These two concerns now serve as the core concerns of CDRC in the next 5 years.

Apart from lending a clearer focus, the new organigram paves for more efficient and effective execution of tasks, fast decision-making processes, and timely feedback.

The streamlined structure, after its 1st year of implementation, was evaluated as appropriate vis-à-vis the 5-year core focus of CDRC, to wit: disaster response & management and institution-building.

Figure 1. CDRC's New Organizational Structure



Given the lean number of personnel (12) in a period which demanded new ways of doing things (Core Program, Caritas, MICRODIS) and fast-tracked implementation (GFFO-DW, MER), the simplified but clearer structure was an enabling mechanism that paved for more efficient and effective execution of tasks, fast decision-making processes, and timely feedback.

Human Resource Development (HRD)

Within the period, there were 12 staff members that carried out the targets set.

Lourdes Louella E. Escandor, formerly the Deputy Executive Director and OIC Executive Director, officially took over in July as the Executive Director, a position which was left by Tarcisia Gador who was on terminal leave since February.

Effectively within the period, four out of 12 were newly hired personnel. Aside from Tarcisia Gador, there were three more resignations within the period--- 2 for greener pastures and 1 for personal reasons. Thus to beef up the minimum requirements of staffing, four persons were immediately hired.

Per assessment, the current workforce was the barest minimum for the expected results to be delivered out of the 4 programs/projects that CDRC has been implementing. The period was too hectic for everyone in the plantilla, especially so that there were entirely new things and phasing that all had to keep up with. Unfortunately, the funding for personnel costs was very limited.

CDRC thus employed several stop-gap measures to ensure that the deliverables for the period were met. One was the multi-tasking, a mechanism that was not anymore strange to NGO workers. Each one, aside from being assigned to his/her primary program/project, had to take on secondary tasks. Two, the members of the Management Committee had to spread themselves, thinly at most times, to the various programs/projects on hand. And lastly, staff

development activities were conducted to primarily provide the new staff with the necessary concepts and skills in disaster management work.

The stop-gap measures, however, could only do so much and at a given time as well. The Management Committee argued, in its year-end evaluation, that such arrangement would not be effective for the long haul. Thus as a resolution, the Management Committee agreed to review the personnel requirements for the coming period and to ensure that accompanying costs are allocated accordingly on a per-project basis.

The 8-member Board of Trustees conducted its regular meeting for the period on July 4. Discussed were: the report of the period covering January-June; and the approval of program activities for the period July-December. In the interim, individual updating with Board members was accomplished with the Management Committee members taking turns doing the task.

All Manila-based Board members were active, involving themselves even in CDRC's activities. Chairperson Bernadette Aquino was especially visible in all major occasions that CDRC had to attend. Drs. Adolfo de Guzman and Susana Balingit (Treasurer) provided advisory services to CDRC's MICRODIS team. Atty. Pedro Gerali (Secretary) was 24/7 available for legal and program implementation strategies. Mr. Casiano Cabalan, Jr., who just joined the Board in the first half of 2008, was instrumental in forging ties with the corporate world for resource generation.

CDRC as the secretariat of CDRN was able to do its tasks, as follows:

- The regional center in NCR, CREST, met the necessary requirements for affiliation to CDRN, pending official acceptance into the network in the 2009 assembly;
- CDRC facilitated the smooth implementation of all regional centers involved with the GFFO-DW and CARITAS projects;
- CDRN trainers' trainings were held;
- CDRC conducted DMIS, and facilitated a faster way of information exchange applicable to all regional centers;
- Finally, CDRC repackaged and endorsed 2 MERs for the period which was implemented by 8 regional centers.

CDRC's memberships to local and international humanitarian aid groups were maintained, e.g. CWC Sub-committee on Children Affected by Armed Conflict, Technical Working Group of the DRR Network, National Disaster Coordinating Council's Protection Cluster, and Active Learning Network for Accountability & Performance (ALNAP).

CDRC's associations with these formations engendered new referrals to other groups and involvement in joint undertakings (rapid assessments in Mindanao) which all contributed to a broadened arena of CBDM promotion.

Meetings were regularly held to plan-assess activities (Management Committee – monthly; departments- monthly; and general staff-quarterly). These meetings were also avenues for resolving issues.

Administrative

The first bi-annual performance evaluation and appraisal of staff was conducted in February. All staff members underwent peer and management evaluation, the results of which were made a basis for job matching when the new organigram was adopted.

The modified design of the annual peer evaluation was also approved in December. Basically geared to match job and skills, the new design also takes into consideration working attitudes and other significant factors that could influence the performance of each staff. The evaluation has been set for January 2009 when all program assessments shall have been accomplished.

In the interim, criticisms-self criticisms sessions were held on a quarterly basis, scheduled after each general staff meeting. This mechanism served the purpose of enhancing strong points and immediately correcting weaknesses.

The Office Policies and Procedures Manual was reviewed at the latter part of the period to determine which policies and procedures were obsolete and which needed updating.

Salary adjustments, put on hold in the whole year, are up for review as resolved during the Management Committee meeting in December. Adjustments are, however, subject to availability of funds.

Resource Generation

The period saw more aggressive efforts at generating resources. Aside from the material and non-cash goods which the FCDRC and volunteers took primary charge of, funding sources were pursued.

The financial resources for the period were drawn from the following external sources:

- 2008 Annual Core Program (Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe)
- Disaster Preparedness (GFFO-Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe)
- Reming Rehabilitation (Caritas Switzerland)
- Major Emergency Response-Flooding and Landslides in Region 8 (Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe)
- Major Emergency Response-Frank (Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe)
- 2008 MICRODIS Annual Budget (CRED/EC)
- MICRODIS Survey (CRED/EC)
- Farm Implements and Seeds in Malobago, Albay (PCF)
- CPIE Training (UNICEF)

All approved projects, except for the Core Program and CPIE, were designed to be implemented in the regions per the call enshrined in the 5-year Strategic Plan, with regional centers as main implementers. This design was in accordance to the intention to raise the capacities of regional centers in managing and carrying out projects in their respective localities. In all these, CDRC acted as the coordinator of the projects undertaken, ensuring that targets were achieved.

While the intention is noble and right, CDRC, over the past reporting period, was left with approximately only 6-8% of the total resources generated to cover for the operational costs in pursuing its Core Program and other relevant activities. This limited budget vis-a-vis the activities it had to attain was constraining. It was thus agreed that the Core Program budget be

adjusted subject to the approval of DW, to enable CDRC to fully implement its targets, many of which were temporarily shelved in the past for lack of funding. Furthermore, there is a pressing need to tap other program donors which would complement the DW-funded Core Program.

Meanwhile, through the conscious and aggressive efforts at local generation (e.g. solicitations, local counterpart mechanisms, rental of CDRC training facilities, honoraria of CDRC personnel), the institutional trust fund grew considerably.

2008 Philippine Disaster Report

In 2008, 253 natural and human-induced disasters were reported in the Philippines. These killed 194 persons, affected more than 1.7 million families or 8.5 million people, and caused over P22.074 billion in economic damages.

Table 1. Comparative Table of Disasters (2007 and 2008)

TYPE OF DISASTER	2007			2008		
	FRE Q	AFFECTED		FRE Q	AFFECTED	
		FAMILI ES	PERSO NS		FAMILI ES	PERSONS
DEVELOPMENT AGGRESSION	1	750	42,000	5	24,500	122,500
DROUGHT	2	41,240	197,827	0	-	-
EPIDEMIC/OUTBREAK	5	2,254	3,197	3	1,455	2,328
FIRE	138	22,426	112,716	97	10,819	46,681
FISHKILL	1	50	300	4	150	900
FLOOD	24	107,684	504,365	39	377,628	1,844,563
INFESTATION	-	-	-	3	4,895	29,370
LAHAR	-	-	-	0	-	-
LANDSLIDE	7	1,355	6,256	32	2,263	8,961
ARMED CONFLICT	26	39,057	209,652	42	141,418	684,626
REDTIDE	-	-	-	1	37	222
STORM SURGE	7	15,846	76,895	2	569	3,414
TORNADO	7	1,732	8,324	13	531	2,694
TROPICAL CYCLONE	13	890,629	3,027,226	11	1,178,725	5,786,222
VOLCANIC ERUPTION	3	13,798	66,330	0	-	-
EARTHQUAKE	2	4,956	27,675	1	204	1,361
GRAND TOTAL	236	1,141,777	4,282,763	253	1,743,194	8,533,842

These figures placed the country on the top five list of the countries most affected by disasters in 2008 (See Table 2). According to the *EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database*, the Philippines was also among the countries which reported the largest number of natural disasters that year, competing closely with China, the US, and Indonesia.

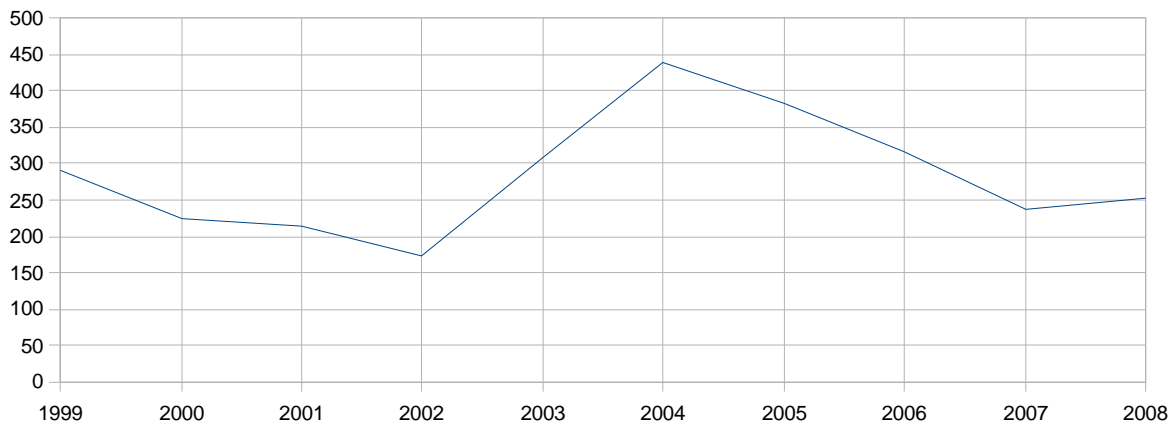
Table 2. Human Impact in 2008

Country	No. of people affected (million)
China P. Rep.	133.3
India	14
United States	13.4
Thailand	11.6
Philippines	8.5

Source: CRED Crunch, April 2009

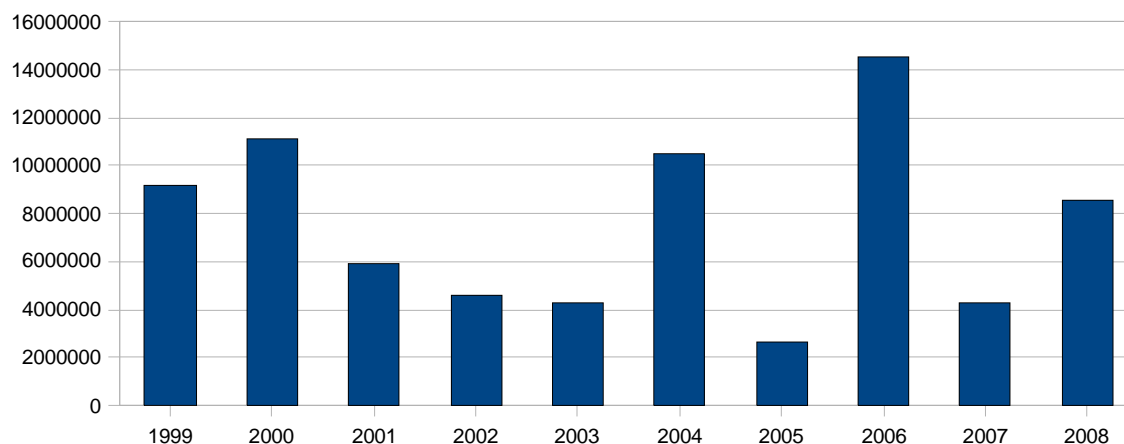
Last year's reported number of disasters was slightly higher than the 2007 figure, and veered away from the downward trend that has been observed since 2005. This slight increase was driven not only by natural disasters, but by human-induced disasters as well. Armed conflict, fire, flood, and tropical cyclone are major contributors to the increase. (See Figure 1)

Figure 1. Frequency of Disasters, 1999-2008



Although no “mega disaster” was reported, the number of affected people increased compared to the 2007 figure. From 4,282,763 affected people in 2007, the number almost doubled to 8,533,842 in 2008. (See Figure 2)

Figure 2. Number of Affected Persons, 1999-2008



Major source of casualties last year were tropical cyclones, floods, and armed conflict. Tropical cyclones alone affected more than 5.7 million people in 2008. Typhoon Frank, which entered the country in June, brought last year's biggest disaster. It affected 150,241 families or 764,380 persons.

Table 3. Consolidated Disaster Statistical Data 2008

DISASTER	FREQ	TOTAL AFFECTED	
		FAMILIES	PERSONS
DEVELOPMENT AGGRESSION	5	24,500	122,500
DROUGHT			
EPIDEMIC/OUTBREAK	3	1,455	2,328
FIRE	97	10,819	46,681
FISHKILL	4	150	900
FLOOD	39	377,628	1,844,563
INFESTATION	3	4,895	29,370
LAHAR			
LANDSLIDE	32	2,263	8,961
ARMED CONFLICT	42	141,418	684,626
REDTIDE	1	37	222
STORM SURGE	2	569	3,414
TORNADO	13	531	2,694
TROPICAL CYCLONE	11	1,178,725	5,786,222
VOLCANIC ERUPTION			
EARTHQUAKE	1	204	1,361
GRAND TOTAL	253	1,743,194	8,533,842

Top Five Disasters

As in previous years, fire incidents outnumbered other disasters in 2008 (See Table 4). The total number of fire incidents for 2008 account for 97 of the 223 disaster events monitored. However, the number of fire incidents in 2008 is significantly smaller than in 2007's. Only 138 incidents were registered last year. The affected population is also significantly smaller. While there were 22,426 families or 112,716 individuals affected in 2007, there were only 10,819 families or 46,681 individuals affected in 2008 (See Table 1). A total of 6,124 houses were totally destroyed while 194 others were partially damaged. Major fire incidents in 2008 include the fire in Malabon City in Metro Manila last May, which left more than 1,000 families homeless.

Table 4. Top 5 Disasters in Terms of Frequency of Occurrence

DISASTER	FREQ	TOTAL AFFECTED	
		FAMILIES	PERSONS
FIRE	97	10,819	46,681
ARMED CONFLICT	42	141,418	684,626
FLOOD	39	377,628	1,844,563
LANDSLIDE	32	2,263	8,961
TORNADO	13	531	2,694
GRAND TOTAL	223	532,659	2,587,525

Following fire in terms of frequency in 2008 is armed conflict. Several communities were caught in the middle of armed confrontations between government forces and rebel groups. Forty-two (42) armed conflict incidents, which affected 141,418 families or 684,626 individuals, were recorded. This number is higher than the 2007 figure of 26 occurrences and 39,057 families or 209,652 individuals affected. Involved in the conflicts were the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the New People's Army (NPA), the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), and the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG). In August last year, almost half a million people were displaced when fighting between the AFP and the MILF intensified in Mindanao.

Meanwhile, flood incidents increased from 24 in 2007 to 39 in 2008. The number of people affected dramatically increased from 107,684 families or 504,365 individuals in 2007 to 377,628 families or 1,844,563 individuals in 2008. Floods posted the highest number of casualties with 112 dead and 69 injured, and was second to tropical cyclones in terms of size of affected population (See Tables 5 and 6). Apart from tropical cyclones and typhoons, incessant rains ranging from moderate to heavy and lasting for days, were the causes of floods. Week-long heavy rains in Bicol, Eastern Visayas and parts of Mindanao left 45

people dead in February last year. Continuous rains in November caused flashfloods in Cagayan and Isabela, affecting 32,575 families or 136,490 persons.

Table 5. Disaster Casualties, Damages and Cost

DISASTER	CASUALTIES			HOUSES DAMAGED		COST	
	DEAD	INJURED	MISSING	TOTAL	PARTIAL	INFRA	AGRI
FIRE	15	22		6,124	194		
FISHKILL							8.5 M
FLOOD	112	69	30	3,844	65,913	894 M	2.017 B
INFESTATION							66M
LANDSLIDE	4	12		93	92	40 M	.7 M
ARMED CONFLICT	19	31		1,223	81		
TORNADO		2		63	152	.2 M	48 M
TROPICAL CYCLONE	44	26	84	106,548	409,464	6 B	13 B
GRAND TOTAL	194	162	114	117,895	475,896	6.934 B	15.140 B

Usually, at least 20 typhoons visit the Philippines each year. In 2008, however, only 11 typhoons entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR). While only a few typhoons entered the country last year, the impact of these typhoons have been no less destructive. Tropical cyclones tops the list in terms of affected population. The 2008 figures – 1,178,725 families or 5,786,222 individuals affected by typhoons – are much higher than 2007's figures – 890,629 families or 3,027,226 individuals. The damage to agriculture and infrastructure amounted to P19 billion. Typhoons or tropical cyclones are second to floods in terms of number of casualties. In 2008 typhoon-related disasters left 44 dead and 26 injured.

Table 6. Top 5 Disasters in Terms of Size of Affected Population

DISASTER	FREQ	TOTAL AFFECTED	
		FAMILIES	PERSONS
TROPICAL CYCLONE	11	1,178,725	5,786,222
FLOOD	39	377,628	1,844,563
ARMED CONFLICT	42	141,418	684,626
DEVELOPMENT AGGRESSION	5	24,500	122,500
FIRE	97	10,819	46,681
GRAND TOTAL	194	1,733,090	8,484,592

Landslide incidents in 2008 occurred three times more often than during the previous year. There were 32 in 2008, while only seven were recorded in 2007. Landslides affected 2,263 families or 8,961 persons, which are more than the 1,355 families or 6,256 persons affected in 2007. Continuous rain and typhoons were the main triggers for landslides.

Thirteen (13) tornadoes hit different parts of the country in 2008, a number significantly higher than that recorded in 2007, which was only seven (7). The number of persons affected by tornadoes, however, decreased from 8,324 in 2007 to 2,694 in 2008.

Development aggression incidents increased as well from only one (1) incident in 2007 to five (5) incidents in 2008. The number of affected population went up from 42,000 in 2007 to 122,500 in 2008.

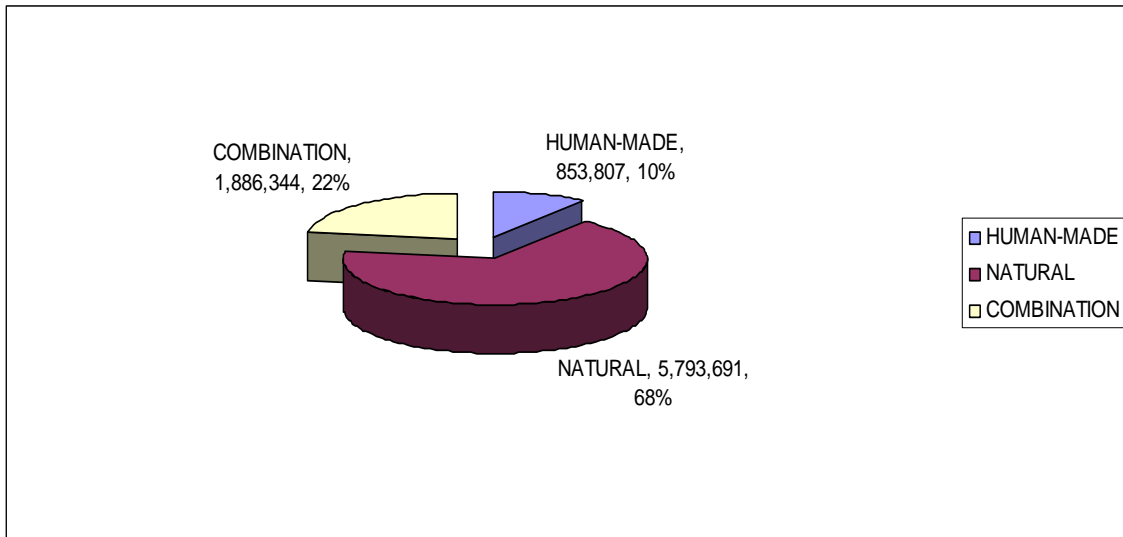
Types of Hazards

Natural hazards remained the leading cause of massive disasters in the Philippines in 2008. There were 5,793,691 people affected by natural disasters in 2008. This number is 68% of the total number of people affected by disasters in 2008. Natural disasters include drought, lahar, storm surge, tornado, tropical cyclone, earthquake and volcanic eruption (See Figure 3).

Disasters caused by both humans and natural hazards affected 1,886,344 people or 22% of the disaster-affected population. These disasters include fishkill, floods, landslide, epidemic, infestation, and red tide.

Human-made disasters, namely armed conflict, fire, and development aggression affected 853,807 people or 10% of the total disaster-affected population in 2008.

Figure 3. Distribution of Affected Population According to Types of Hazards

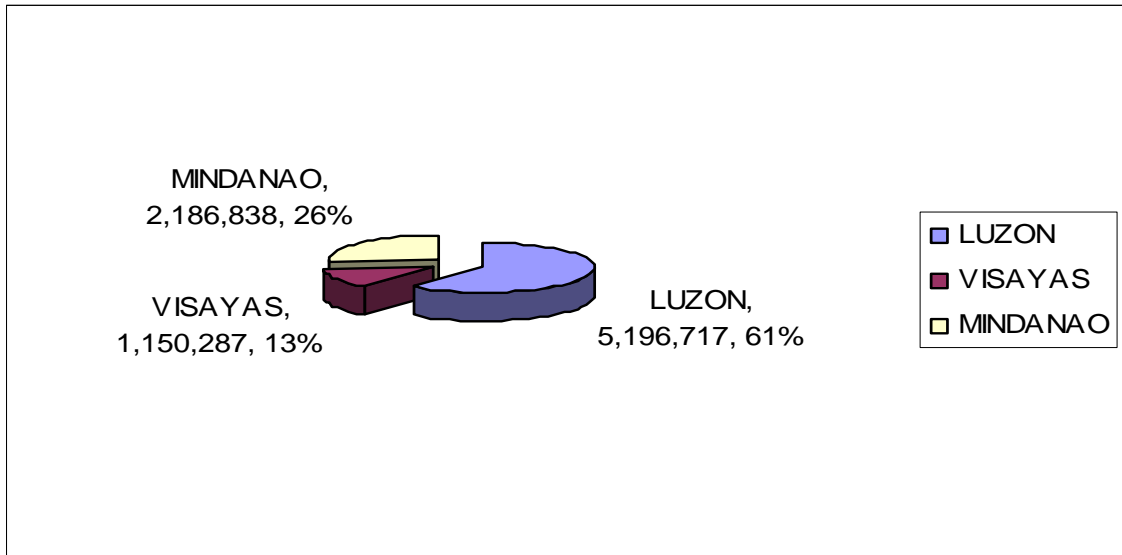


Geographical Distribution

The 253 disaster incidents were spread out all over the country, with Luzon having the greatest number of people affected by disasters, followed by Mindanao and then by the Visayas (See Figure 4). Luzon was also home to the most number of those affected by natural disasters. Those harmed by human-induced disasters, particularly caused by armed conflict, were concentrated in Mindanao.

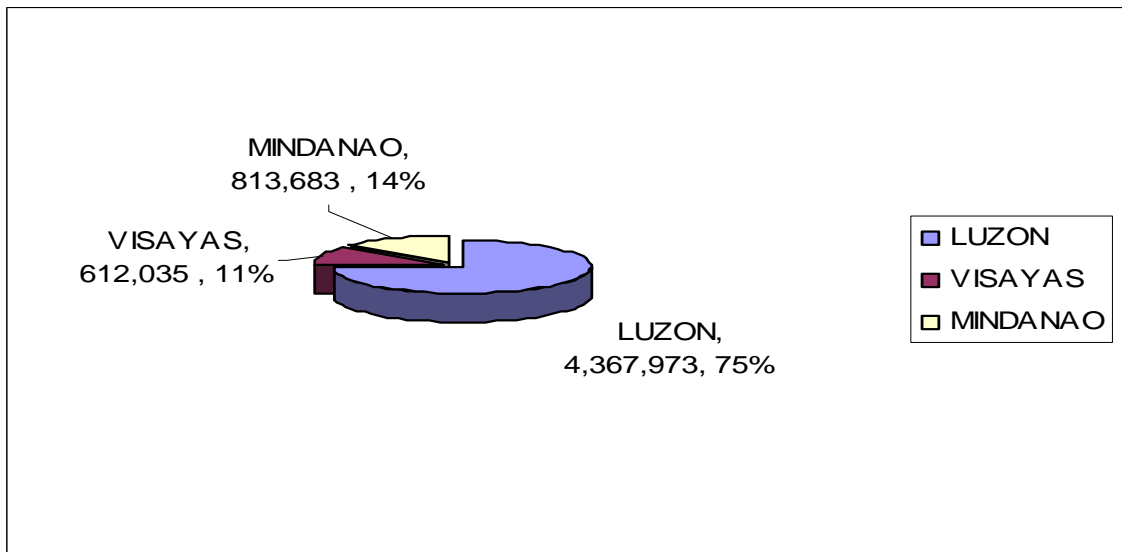
Luzon residents made up 5,196,717 of the 8,533,842 people affected by disasters in 2008. This is 61% of the total number of persons affected by both natural and human-made disasters. Mindanao residents made up 2,186,838 or 26% of the total disaster-affected population, while Visayas residents accounted for 1,150,287 people or 13% of the total disaster-affected population (See Figure 4).

Figure 4. Geographical Distribution of Affected Population



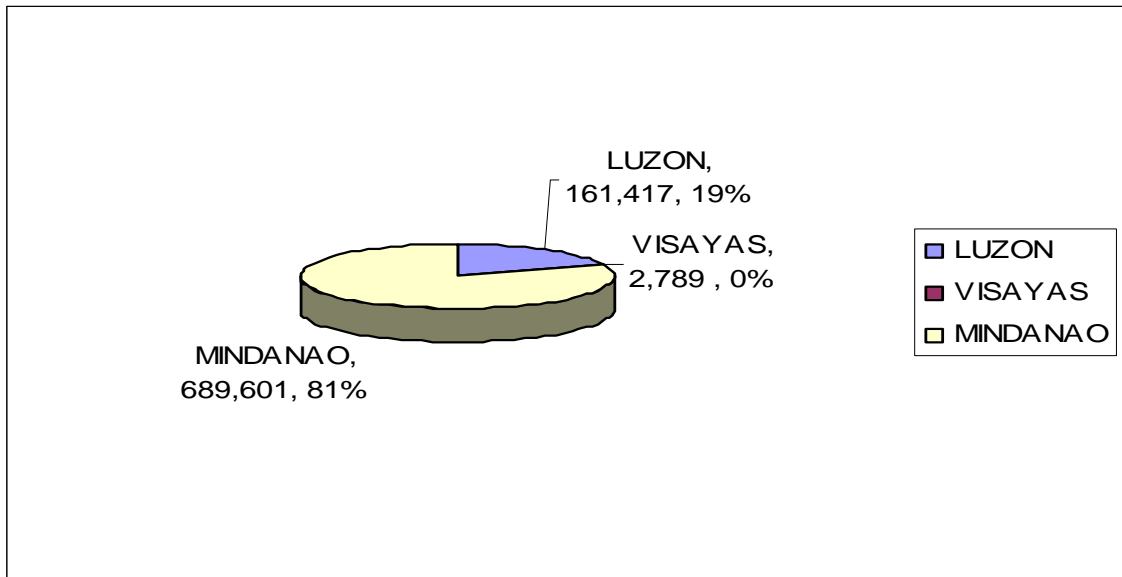
In terms of natural disasters, 75% (4,367,973) of those affected in 2008 were in Luzon. Mindanao accounted for 14% (813,683) of the population, and Visayas accounted for 11% (612,035). (See Figure 5)

Figure 5. Geographical Distribution of Population Affected by Natural Disasters



The greatest number of people affected by human-induced disasters were living in Mindanao (81% or 689,601 people out of the 853,807 affected by human-made disasters). Luzon was home to the rest (161,417 people). (See Figure 6)

Figure 6. Geographical Distribution of Population Affected by Human-made Disasters



For combination disasters, Mindanao accounted for 37%, Luzon 35% and Visayas 28% (See Figure 7).

Figure 7. Geographical Distribution of Population Affected by Combination Disasters

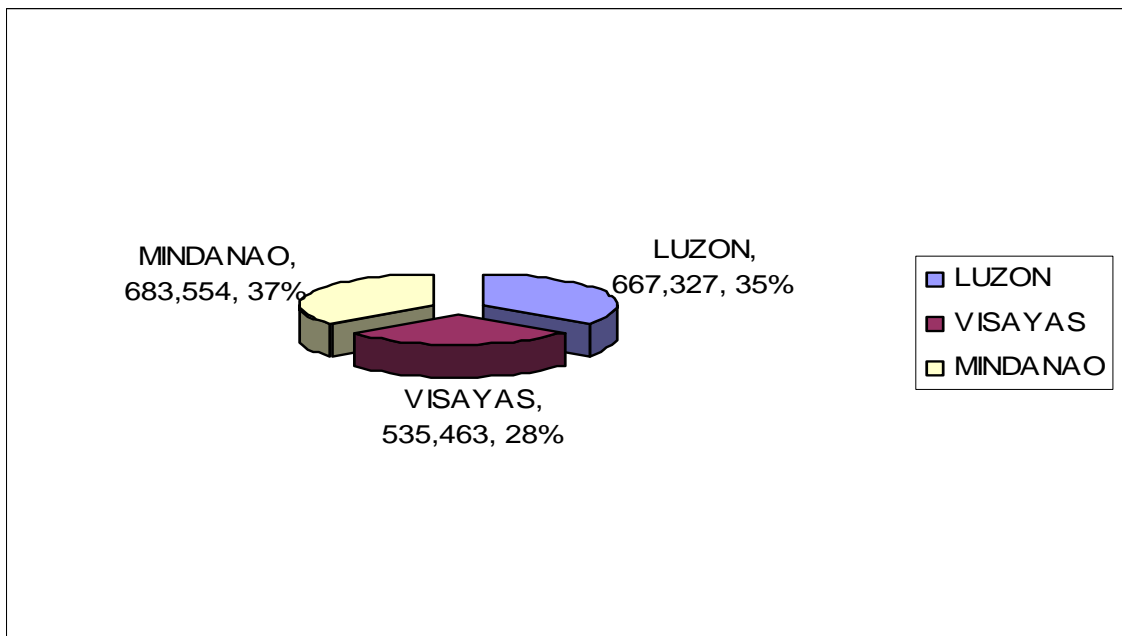


Table 7. Disasters in the Philippines (1999-2008)

TYPE OF DISASTER	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		GRAND TOTAL	
	FREQ	PERSONS	FREQ	PERSONS	FREQ	PERSONS	FREQ	PERSONS	FREQ	PERSONS	FREQ	PERSONS	FREQ	PERSONS	FREQ	PERSONS	FREQ	PERSONS	FREQ	PERSONS	FREQ	PERSONS
Armed Conflict	39	231,695	17	743,035	9	303,253	28	100,082	80	585,107	12	63,036	23	180,503	27	114,045	26	209,652	42	684,626	303	3,215,034
Development Aggression	39	139,147	39	32,815	9	26,846	22	49,487	40	87,895		1165	11	131,313	18	91,342	1	42,000	5	122,500	184	724,510
Drought						653	1	185,385	1	55,212			6	280			2	197,827			10	439,357
Earthquake	3	61,182	33	15,769			1	71,757	1	7,965	4	1500					2	27675	1	1361	45	187,209
Epidemic	40	12,608	12	4,770	44	8,152	19	2,685	32	17,108	11	10,062	24	91,244	12	88,686	5	3,197	3	2,328	202	240,840
Fire	40	44,629	32	58,787	49	95,555	53	96,138	69	111,160	295	102,468	254	97,349	169	87,876	138	112,716	97	46,681	1,196	853,359
Fishkill	14	17,174	2	8,568	1		2	128	1				7	248	13	4,359	1	300	4	900	45	31,677
Flood	31	5,763,650	13	1,115,344	14	714,204	6	3,285,749	39	1,426,318	41	3,166,915	28	964,927	31	1,916,187	24	504,365	39	1,844,563	266	19,275,904
Industry Related	14	33,616	4	93	11	235	5	25,370													34	59,314
Infestation	32	173,208	26	317,890	11	18,579	7	4,233	3	575	5	69,276			3	11,981			3	29,370	90	625,112
Lahar	1				1	36,760	1	1,521							1	55					4	38,336
Landslide	14	285,396	23	9,516	41	3,890	17	83	12	19,563	17	25,948	15	116,747	15	24,144	7	6,256	32	8,961	193	500,504
Redtide	1	6	2	13,221	4		2	17	1	3,853					1				1	222	12	17,319
Storm Surge	4	10,937	3	4,003	7	22,796	3	488	6	357	1	220	1	8,535	7	69,396	7	76,895	2	3,414	41	197,041
Tornado	8	761	8	4,764	7	6,479	4	630	3	882	29	58,051	9	1,276	7	1,106	7	8,324	13	2,694	95	84,967
Toxic Waste	1	30	1	1,014					1	423											3	1,467
Tropical Cyclones	7	2,299,126	9	8,881,040	6	4,612,624	3	783,605	19	3,362,991	25	6,966,136	6	1,019,646	11	12,030,904	13	3,027,226	11	5,786,222	110	48,569,520
Volcanic Eruption	2	91,184	1	92,743	1	56,808	0							2	66,709	3	66,330				9	373,774
TOTAL	290	9,164,349	225	11,103,372	215	5,906,834	174	4,607,358	308	4,253,091	440	10,464,777	384	2,612,068	317	14,506,790	236	4,282,763	253	8,533,842	2,842	75,435,244

Sources: CDRC Data Base Monitoring 2008, CDRC Disaster Alert 2008, DROMIC-DSWD 2008 Annual Disaster Occurrences Statistical Consolidation, CDRN and PO Reports, Kadamay QC-CBD Primer 2008, NDCC-OCD Summary of Man -made and Natural Incidents, January-December 2008 News clippings from the following broadsheets: Philippine Star and Philippine Daily Inquirer

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Emergency Relief Operation in Regions affected by Typhoon Frank

Typhoon Fengshen (locally named "Frank") was the fifth typhoon of the 2008 Pacific typhoon season. Although it affected Hongkong, Macau, Shenzhen and Guangdong, the Philippines was the most heavily affected country, leaving in its wake havoc and widespread destruction, numerous deaths and countless others missing.

Initially, 'Frank' was predicted to move towards northwest by international weather observers; but instead, it tracked towards the east and caught the Philippines unprepared. The poorly forecasted 'Frank' made a direct hit on the Philippine area of responsibility from June 20 to 23. Throughout its lifetime, its path was unpredictable, thus battering several regions across the country, hitting these areas in utter surprise.

On June 20, "Frank" made its first landfall on Samar Islands in the Visayas. As it moved towards the northwest, it continued to intensify. It was initially forecast to go through the Bicol Region in Southern Luzon but later shifted its course further westward, eventually going towards the

direction of Mindoro Province in Luzon. However, before even reaching Mindoro, it again shifted its direction northward towards the direction of Metro Manila on June 22, and exited out of the country on June 23.

In the province of Iloilo in the Visayas, 59 were reported killed and 40 missing. Some 30,000 people were forced onto rooftops when a nearby reservoir burst. In Romblon, Visayas, a passenger ship (MV Princess of the Stars) carrying some 856 persons capsized, rendering 800 deaths while the others were missing and presumed dead. In the Bicol Region down Luzon Island, more than 200,000 people sought temporary shelter from the typhoon. Meanwhile, as the storm passed through Metro Manila and its nearby provinces, it caused widespread power outages which lasted for hours.

THE DISASTER EVENT AND ITS AFTERMATH

‘Frank’ was regarded as one of the top ten deadliest typhoons in the Philippines. At least 598 people have been killed mostly by drowning as ‘Frank’ dropped torrential rain that caused flooding and mudslides across the country.



‘Frank’ affected a total of 4,784,634 persons in 6,377 ‘barangays’ (villages) in 419 municipalities in 58 provinces across 13 regions all over the country. The National Disaster Coordinating Council initially placed the death toll at 557, excluding the 800 confirmed deaths in the capsized ship. Moreover, there were 87 missing (again excluding those at the ship) and 826 injured.

In terms of damages, agricultural losses amounted to almost PhP7.5 billion while infrastructure losses were recorded to have reached PhP5.9 billion. A total of 37,235 houses were totally damaged while around 74,219 were partially destroyed.

The most affected areas were concentrated in the Visayas: Iloilo, Capiz, Aklan, Antique in Panay Island, Leyte and Eastern Samar. Substantial damages were also reported in the National Capital Region (Luzon), the Bicol Region (Luzon), CARAGA Region (Mindanao), Cebu Provinces (Visayas) and SOCSARGEN Region (Mindanao).

INITIAL STEPS AT DISASTER RESPONSE

The widespread devastation which engendered crisis situations in a number of regions necessitated CDRC and its regional partners in affected areas to conduct rapid assessments. Simultaneous Damages, Needs and Capacity Assessment (DNCA) activities hit the ground immediately after the disaster, lasting until June 27, in five regions namely: the National Capital Region, Bicol Region, Region 6 (Iloilo, Antique, Capiz and Negros Occidental), Region 7 (Cebu) and CARAGA Region.

From the data gathered by six regional centers in the above-mentioned 5 regions, CDRC drafted an emergency appeal to Diakonische Katastrophenhilfe. The proposal was immediately submitted and subsequently approved.

Meanwhile in the course of awaiting the appeal from DW, another regional center, the Disaster Response Center (DIRECT), which is based in SOCSARGEN region, appealed for the inclusion of two of its communities which were also severely affected by flash floods. Finding its appeal to be valid, CDRC immediately advised DIRECT to conduct DNCA in order to assess the communities' situation. DIRECT's participation to project implementation was officially approved by CDRC on July 10.



During this time, too, CREST requested CDRC to take charge in project implementation in selected areas in the National Capital Region due to some human resource limitations on the part of CREST. CDRC readily accepted the request.

Social preparations went in full-swing as early as June 27 up to July 15.

The simultaneous social preparations undertaken by eight participating regional centers attained the following results: a) formation of project teams and volunteer groups from among the ranks of disaster survivors in each target community; b) community discussions on the country's disaster situation and forging commitments to alleviate the situation; c) identification of most affected but least served communities; d) unities on criteria and screening of project beneficiaries; e) networking with other sectors and groups for local support and donations; and e) information drive.

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

By the first week of July, all eight participating regional centers came up with validated lists of project beneficiaries. Using the criteria of selection (i.e. family income should be below poverty line, have not received the same services from any government and/or humanitarian agencies), a total of 4,010 families was approved by CDRC as project beneficiaries.

a) National Capital Region (CDRC areas)	-	200 families
b) Bicol Region (TABI areas)	-	500 families
c) Negros Occidental (CPRS areas)	-	500 families
d) Iloilo, Antique & Capiz /Panay Island (PCDR areas)-		1,810 families
e) Cebu (CRRC areas)	-	200 families
f) CARAGA Region (BREAD areas)	-	200 families
g) National Capital Region (CREST areas)	-	450 families
h) Sarangani Province (DIRECT areas)	-	150 families

Although the number of areas to be served increased due to the inclusion of Sarangani Province, the same number of families indicated in the approved appeal was retained. A total of 150 families was screened out from Iloilo and Antique areas due to the relative number of relief missions already conducted in the areas; the same number of families was in turn assigned to accommodate DIRECT's affected areas in Sarangani.

Purchases and repacking of relief goods were decentralized to all eight participating centers. First center to start this task was CREST, owing to its schedule in Relief Delivery Operations (RDOs) which were set ahead of the rest; last to undertake this was PCDR, as they had the bulk of beneficiaries.

RDOs were conducted from July 11 to September 21.

GOALS REACHED AND THEIR IMPACTS

The project was highly successful. For one, there were 4,537 families who benefited from the RDOs as against the target 4,010 families. With the same project funds spent, all eight regional centers were able to solicit goods from various benefactors thereby accommodating 527 more families as recipients of relief packs. Most of the beneficiaries were families of fisherfolks, farmers, farm workers, public utility drivers, urban poor dwellers, women and their children.



Food and non-food items, where necessary, were distributed as designed. The delivery of relief assistance to the socially and economically displaced 4,537 families provided the coping mechanism in facing the effects of the disaster. It has provided the much needed support to the affected families in building their lives anew.

The direct participation of affected communities as well as the countless faceless volunteers in planning and implementation of the project raised the capacities of the affected families and facilitated the identification of solutions to their problems.

Moreover, the disaster management discussions which all regional centers conducted prior to RDOs equipped the affected communities with analytical skills on how disaster work in the country should be viewed and how to be better prepared the next time a disaster strikes. These discussions were also venues for communities' realization of the need to organize themselves and foster community spirit and cooperation in order to mitigate the effects of future disaster events.

The active participation of volunteers from among the affected communities was an empowering experience. Majority of the volunteer-survivors, mostly women and members of people's organizations, expressed that they are not after all helpless, that they have their own capacities to bounce back after each calamity.

The psychosocial activities for children and youth were also appreciated. These served as venues for releasing anguish and fears.

Finally, a healthy network of community-based disaster management centers was once again proven to be crucial especially in such a disaster where crisis situations were imminent and destructions severely widespread. It would have been impossible for CDRC alone to do all the responses across the affected regions of the country.

Relief Delivery Operation in Mindanao

The Citizens' Disaster Response Center conducted a relief delivery operation on September 3, 2008 in Purok Macau, Purok Calamba, Dinsalan, Purok Duranta, Purok Malipayon, Purok Riverside, and Centro, Barangay Kablacan in Maasim Saranggani. The relief operation benefited 487 out of an estimated 2,345 families with 12,000 dependents who were evacuated due to armed conflict between the military and the MILF. For most of the residents, this was the first time that they had ever been forced to evacuate because of armed violence.



A joint relief delivery operation by Direct-SOCSARGEN and CDRC

Rumors spread throughout the local region that the entire community in Purok Macau, Barangay Kablacan had been taken hostage by the MILF on August 18, 2008. In fact, there was no such hostage-taking incident, but fighting did take place very near the community, killing several residents, and was sufficiently traumatic and upsetting to the daily routines of the people in Barangay Kablacan. Residents reported hearing as many as 75 explosions per day.

In response to the growing numbers of IDPs in the area, the Disaster Response Center SOCSARGEN (DIRECT), a member of the Citizens' Disaster Response Network (CDRN) in Saranggani, initiated an effort to provide relief goods to the affected communities. DIRECT distributed four hundred bags containing clothes, canned goods, rice, noodles, mats, and other essentials to the affected residents.

At the same time, Kawagib, a human rights organization in North Cotabato, quickly sought the assistance of CDRC through the Mindanao Inter-Faith Foundation (MISFI), a regional partner in the area, to help handle the increasing number of families living outside the evacuation centers in Pikit and Aleosan. With homes, schools, mosques and chapels burned, some 15,788 families with 78,940 dependents were staying outside evacuation centers as of August 17, according to the National Disaster Coordinating Council.



Relief packs being distributed to the beneficiaries

These families faced the choice of either risking a return to their communities or moving into the interior areas to stay with relatives. Those who could not be accommodated in the formal evacuation centers set up informal shelters in houses and makeshift encampments.

Most of the families in Pikit and Aleosan, North Cotabato were living in interior areas where most relief agencies had not ventured. Kawagib and CDRC distributed relief packs to 320 families in those areas on September 5, 2008.

The relief operations in North Cotabato and Saranggani were funded by the German funding agency Diakoniches Werk.

CDRC awards 12 winners in ABKD contest

CDRC awarded twelve winners of the Apoy, Bagyo, Kalamidad: Dibuhong Pambata (ABKD) 2008 poster making contest which was participated in by four hundred ninety (490) children ages 7-12 years old from all over the country.

Major prizes for Category A (7-9 years old) went to **Vanessa Gayle Tiu Tanguenco** of St. Jude Catholic School in Manila, and **Jasmin Muños Dabasol** of Baliwasan Central School in Zamboanga City.

For Category B (10-12 years old), the major winners were: **Kryst Lindley Caballero Nasol** of Sto. Tomas Central School in Davao Del Norte, and **Elena Defeo** of Llano High School in Caloocan City.



ABKD major winners show off their winning works

Since 1996, ABKD has served as a venue for children to show their creativity and artistic talents, as well as express their views and concerns on disaster-related issues. In its initial staging, ABKD has only attracted the participation of more than 50 children aged 7-12 years old. The years that followed showed a consistent rise in number of entries and participants. In 2008 alone, more than 400 entries were submitted from all over the country, attracting the participation of both private and public schools. From the National Capital Region, there were 266 participants; in Luzon 151; in Visayas 12; and Mindanao 61.

The awarding ceremony was held at the **Quezon City Hall** on **October 6, 2008** through the generosity of the following sponsors: UNICEF-Philippines, Sara Lee Philippines, Quezon City Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista and Quezon City Councilor Bernadette Herrera-Dy.

CATEGORY A (7-9 YEARS OLD)

MAJOR WINNERS:

Vanessa Gayle Tiu Tanguenco, St. Jude Catholic School (Volcanic Eruption)
Jasmin Muños Dabasol, Baliwasan Central School (Fire)

FINALISTS:

Edward Lecaros, T. Tecson Elementary School (Floods)
Lord Devine Cabocan, Tuguegarao North Central School (Environmental Destruction)
Aira Claire Nicomedes, Muestra Señora De Aranzazu Parochial School (Earthquake)
Mary Scarlet Lomosad, Enrique Villanueva Central School (Landslide)

CATEGORY B (10-12 YEARS OLD)

MAJOR WINNERS:

Kryst Lindley Caballero Nasol, Sto. Tomas Central Elementary School (Armed Conflict)
Elena Defeo, Llano High School (Climate Change)

FINALISTS:

Veronica Gayle Tiu Tanguenco, St. Jude Catholic School (Drought)
Jamia Mei Tolentino, St. Stephen's High School (Fishkill)
Edmon Lecaros, T. Tecson Elementary School (Infestation)
Tricia Co Reyes, St. Stephen's High School (Epidemic)

CDRC launches trainings for women and children

When natural or man-made disasters strike, time is of the essence. Yet for many communities located in remote, rural areas, limited resources and access to government services—especially medical aid—can slow relief efforts, putting lives at risk. In many of these communities, the majority of people are too poor to afford even basic medical supplies.

With this situation, CDRC's UNICEF-supported program “Upholding the Rights of Women and Children Affected by Armed Conflict”, continued to launch trainings in 2008.

To help remote communities achieve greater self-sufficiency in responding to medical emergencies, the Center for Relief and Rehabilitation Services – Cagayan Valley (CRRS-CV)

conducted a series of **Training Workshops for Community Health Workers** in June 2008. The workshops covered Basic Health Orientation and Skills, First Aid, and Herbal Preparation and Production.

The workshop on Basic Health Orientation and Skills held from June 12 to 16 drew 23 participants. The workshop was designed to provide participants with a better understanding of basic health care with an emphasis on preventive medicine and methods of working around the limitations of health care in their respective communities. Other topics included sanitation, nutrition and personal hygiene, and mental health.

The training on First Aid on the other hand was held from June 20 to 21 and drew 22 participants. Participants were instructed in basic first aid techniques, which were reinforced through a practicum. The seminar on Herbal Preparation and Production was held from June 25 to 27 with 23 participants. The seminar began with an overview of the development of herbal medicine in the Philippines and focused on familiarizing participants with the capabilities of different kinds of medicinal plants and various methods of cultivating and preparing them.

In addition to the June workshops, the Center for People's Resources and Services (CPRS) held two 4-day community health worker training sessions beginning July 10 and 31, respectively, drawing 25 participants. The majority of the participants who attended were women, youth and indigenous leaders from Barangays Macayu-cayu, San Mariano, Isabela and Barangay Binobohan, Guihulngan, Negros Oriental.

From June 6 to 8, 2008, CRRS-CV conducted a **Ladderized Community-Based Disaster Management training** seminar wherein 21 representatives from various community-based organizations in Barangay Buyusan, San Mariano, Isabela attended.

The Community-Based Disaster Management training constitutes an important part of building the community's disaster response capacity. Participants learned vital disaster planning skills and covered topics including risk reduction, disaster preparedness, community evacuation drills, and community-based monitoring and research.

As part of the workshop, each participant was tasked with designing a barangay disaster response plan which included mechanisms to monitor, document and provide warning in the event of a disaster. The training paved the way for the reactivation of Disaster Preparedness within the structure of the local council, raising their awareness of the complementary role of community-based organizations and other sectoral formations in disaster reduction management. During the workshop, participants also reviewed the responsibilities of the local council and discussed ways to improve its functionality and responsiveness during disasters.

Between June 4 to June 8, Panay Center for Disaster Response (PCDR) conducted another Community-Based Disaster Management training workshop with 30 participants from Sitio Tina, Sitio Badas and Barangay Proper of Acuña, Tapaz, Capiz. Some of the participants already possessed a background in Disaster Risk Reduction Management and has attended ladderized trainings as part of PCDR's project in Food Security and Nutrition Improvement Program, initiated four years ago. The disaster committee established as part of that training still exists and was strengthened during the workshop.

Despite the long hours of trekking down the barrio and leaving their daily routine work for five days, participants were eager to attend. The residents of Barangay Proper generously hosted the participants from Sitios in their homes for the duration of the training.

Many of the participants were illiterate farmers and laborers, but they were attentive, rapidly learned the material and took the opportunity to listen to the testimonies of people who had suffered as a result of natural and man-made disasters. Most participants possessed first-hand experience in coping with disasters and the workshop provided them with an integrated, systematic approach to risk reduction. A follow-up training workshop was conducted to reinforce what they learned about disaster risk reduction management. Here, trainers found visual aids to be helpful in conveying information. In addition to strengthening and enhancing the local disaster committee, participants were able to practice gathering data on disaster incidents using the Disaster Needs Capacities Assessment tool.

Promoting children's participation is one of the core objectives in conducting **Disaster Preparedness Training for Children**. By organizing children into a disaster preparedness committee and peace brigade, they are transformed from passive recipients of aid and empowered to become active participants in disaster prevention activities.

The CPRS conducted Disaster Preparedness Training for Children last July 27 - 29, with 25 participants ranging from 13 to 17 years of age.

Participants in the training workshop learned to identify different types and phases of disasters, as well as various ways in which they can respond to in the event of a disaster.

Through the training, the children learned how to assist their parents in emergency situations. In addition, they also established an organization for disaster response advocacy with the help of the people's organization and the barangay council.

In violent armed conflict, the most vulnerable population—children—often suffer the most trauma. Yet the psychological trauma of violence can leave far deeper scars than the physical wounds. Such trauma can have devastating long-term effects on children as they mature, affecting their studies, social interactions and behavior. It is the children's right to be restored to a healthy condition, to grow and to develop as normal children.

To help communities provide aid to children suffering from psychological trauma, the CRRS-CV conducted a **Psychosocial Therapy Training** from July 9 to 11, 2008 with 21 participants. The participants who attended were from Barangay Buyasan, San Mariano, Isabela, representing a variety of community-based groups. The training taught participants basic counseling skills in working with children experiencing stress caused by armed hostilities. Among the topics discussed in the training were: Situation of the Children, Rights of the Child, Child Development, Overview of Mental Health and Psychosocial Therapy.

Most of the participants had had no prior training in psychosocial interventions. This may have contributed to some misunderstanding about the activity, as many of the participants were composed of children because the activity for children was thought to be a psychosocial activity by the organizers.

The participants became aware of the children's rights especially those affected in times of armed hostilities. They become better equipped in understanding the children's situation in

militarized areas and in addressing their psychosocial needs through psychotherapy like basic counseling.

The PCDR conducted the training on Psychosocial Therapy last June 13 to 15, 2008 with 28 participants. Majority of the participants were farmers and farm laborers from Sitio Tina, Sitio Badas and Barangay Proper of Acuña, Tapaz, Capiz.

Since most of the participants had just attended the Community-Based Disaster Management Training five days earlier, many of them were prepared to attend the Psychosocial training workshop. The majority of the participants had already been taught the importance of expressing their feelings and emotions in previous trainings. The workshop discussed signs and symptoms of stress, trauma and basic knowledge on how to manage these.

The parents shared the situation of their children when the importance of knowing their children's needs were discussed. Most of them realized that they were not aware of their children's needs, since they are preoccupied with work in the farm most of the time.

Despite the illiteracy of most of the participants, they were all very engaged in the training, which utilized visual aids to good effect. Most of them were interested in psychosocial topics, especially those concerning their children. Some of the key concepts that parents learned from the training were understanding the need of their children while growing up, and leaning the importance of expressing and managing their needs and emotions.

The training conducted by CPRS last July 17 to 19, 2008 was attended by 26 participants from Barnagay Binobohan, Guihulngan, Negros Oriental. The participants were mostly officers and members of the local people's organization.

The participants were able to discuss problems regarding the effect of armed conflict in the area. They learned how to identify signs and symptoms of stress and how to intervene. By the end of the training, the participants were able to make an action plan on child protection concern in three groups, namely, women, children and farmers. One of the major problems during the session was the presence of military forces in the area affecting the concentration of the participants, especially the men who were frequently being harassed.

Formation of Disaster Preparedness Committees:

- Disaster Preparedness Committee (DPC) formation and orientation - 72 DPCs were organized in every community with 1,089 core members in 5 regions. Duties and responsibilities of each member were defined; officers or the core group were selected from among the members. Members signed a membership form and took an oath before the community.
- Counter disaster planning (CDP) - CDPs were drafted in a workshop and deliberated on by DPC members. 72 CDPs were formulated for each village with 1,112 members of DPC attended and each was presented to the village local government units



DPC formation and orientation in Surigao City

Long-term risk reduction and mitigation instruments:

- Sustainable Agriculture (SusAg) - 24 batches of Sustainable Agriculture seminars were launched and participated by 739 DPC members. The training gave the participants overview and context of proper means of agriculture, venturing to organic farming and waste composting and doing away with commercial fertilizers and inputs.
- Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) - 24 batches of SALT were conducted and participated by 728 DPC members. New approaches to farming methods and techniques were introduced to the farmers. Though most of them were new to this concept, they have expressed their willingness to change their old ways of farming. They were also open to new ideas especially with the phenomenon of climate change. They were all amazed and eager to learn after their exposure to the demonstration farm.
- Forest Management - 24 batches of Forest Management training conducted and participated by 680 DPC members. Most of the participants got new ideas in these training, especially the correlation of the climate change and forest preservation. Many of them realized the value of planting trees to mitigate the impact of climate change as well as the flashfloods in their areas. In the training, they shared the types of the soil in their land or in the mountainous areas so as to plan the type of trees that they would plant.



SusAg Training in Camarines Sur

Production and Distribution of information and visibility materials:

- 25 flip charts and 1000 calendars cum information materials were distributed for the 72 communities by CDRC
- Production and Distribution of Best Practices Video - 500 DVD copies were produced and distributed for regional partners
- Various forms of visibility were made by CDRC and regional partners. These ranges

from T-shirts, tarpaulin, bags, and identification cards. Various tarpaulin layouts were produced for the project – thematic streamers, stage backdrops, event streamers – bearing the logos/devices of the project partners. As specified, the German federal colors were visible, with the words “Deutsche Humanitäre Hilfe” printed underneath. The DKH logo was also prominently featured, followed by both the logos of regional centers and CDRC. This assemblage appeared in T-shirts for the DW-GFFO staff and for DPC members, and was also printed on training envelopes, IDs, and certificates that were distributed during the trainings.

Institutional support:

- Benefited the 5 regional partners and CDRC through acquisition of 6 motorcycles, 7 mobile phones, 6 digital cameras and 6 audio recorders.

Impacts

Activities conducted during the nine months of project implementation have contributed to the risk reduction of the effects of natural disasters on the most vulnerable sectors in the project areas. Capability trainings fulfilled the target goals of providing basic knowledge to community members on how to address their vulnerabilities and organize themselves through grassroots disaster response machineries which will address vulnerabilities through activities and advocacy in their respective areas before, during and after disaster events.

The families whose livelihood and income has been affected and destroyed during previous disasters shared and released their emotions during trainings. The farmer beneficiaries took active participation not only on disaster management but also on environmental concerns. They acquired alternative farming methods that lessened impact on global warming. They further expressed that the disaster preparedness program has deepened their understanding of their community’s hazards, vulnerabilities and steps that can be done. They learned combined agriculture and forestry not only to mitigate disaster but also to improve their socio economic conditions.

It is observable that most of the participants in the trainings were women and youth. From the usual routine of women attending to the 4 Bs: bana (husband); bata (children); baboy (pigs) and balay (household chores), they are now in the forefront in disaster preparedness activities. Most of them can now give trainings in their respective communities and can conduct health and sanitation advocacy.

During trainings, people have come up with plans of action like assigning other community members to take care of the small children to give these mothers a chance to attend. This is part of providing external conditions for the women to have equal opportunities to learn.

All trainings conducted were timely and essential since most of the 72 areas have no or have little knowledge in disaster management. They have no structure or mechanisms that will help or guide them during typhoons and floods. With the institutionalization of disaster preparedness

and a shift from relief and emergency response, this will help the community ensure more lives and properties save from the destruction and loss.

Network building

The project received endorsement or recognition from most of the local government units either in the village or in the municipal level. Recognition of the project also varies, in the village level, most of the community leaders attended and became members of the DPC. While in the municipal level, resolutions were filed in the council for continuation and expansion of the project to the other areas either supported by the government or donor aid agency.

The DPC have also formed new ties with other community based associations, government organizations and maintained ties with old partners. These partnership range from exchange of information materials, resource persons, discount in venue and vehicle rentals, repair of equipments and hiring of facilitators and speakers during trainings.

Challenges

Aside from the typhoons, floods and landslides, most of these areas are also armed conflict areas. In the “search and destroy” missions to flush out the rebels, the Philippine military often subjects civilian non combatants to various degrees of harassment ranging from torture, illegal detention to extra-judicial killings. Villagers in the project areas are not spared from these violations and are often suspected of dubious acts when getting involved in community activities. With this situation, the regional centers ensured the endorsement from the municipal mayors of their cooperation agreement so as not to hinder the implementation of the project.

So far, the noted harassment the project implementation has met was the interrogation the GFFO staff from Mindanao experienced last January. After this, the regional partners came up with a resolution, especially for those areas considered as “hot spots”. The project staff has to coordinate and inform the military officials of their training and project orientation before going into the area. Though this will not guarantee safety but will help in the security measures while doing the work. Despite this risk, most of the target activities were implemented without untoward incidents.

There were also challenges that the project encountered, dynamics of the people organizations and the local village officials especially those who have felt this may be a threat to their positions. The peace and order situation whenever there is military operations was also a challenge. Activities had to be re-set due to armed conflict related incidents as well as weather conditions like the heavy rains which caused flooding and landslides. There is still a lot of work to do in terms of advocacy and education with other members of the community and to the adjacent communities on disaster risk reduction and sustainability, given that this is a low priority program of the government.

The national office conducted the feedback and evaluation of the 72 DPC for the documentation of best practice. Most of the participants shared that the trainings conducted have empowered and taught them how to face the disasters. Here are some excerpts of the evaluation:

“Personally, I’ve become more alert and prepared for emergency situations. I’ve learned about proper procedures during these crisis periods. Now, I know what and who to prioritize should disasters strike us. I used to think that disaster management activities are the sole responsibility of the government and donor agencies, but because of

the project, and when I became a DPC member, I now think that the survivors' own determination and their self-help activities in rebuilding their lives and their communities are more important if disaster risk reduction were to have a lasting impact to a community."

Rosario C. Montales
Member, DPC-San Ramon

"This project has renewed hope in our village. As you know, we experience the most number of typhoons as compared to people in other places in the region, but sadly, perhaps we have the lowest level of disaster consciousness. Because of the project though, we are beginning to raise our level of awareness and alertness. In Asgad and in our neighboring villages, for example, regular drills are now scheduled to instill a sense of preparedness in our communities. Other organizations in our village, such as the abaca farmers' association, are conducting their own DM activities in tandem with our DPC. Our village officials, who have long overlooked community disaster management, are now adopting our Counter Disaster Plan."

Emma O. Subion
DPC Asgad Secretary

CDRC conducts Microdis survey in Albay

CDRC successfully conducted the MICRODIS Survey (Integrated Health, Social and Economic Impacts of Extreme Events: Evidence, Methods and Tools) in the province of Albay from December 1 to 22, 2008. This survey on the impact of disasters on communities covered 8 villages in the municipality of Polangui and the city of Legazpi, with a total of 400 quantitative respondents, 12 in-depth interviewees, and 4 focus group discussions.

Albay is one of the most typhoon-prone provinces in the Philippines, making it suitable for the Microdis study funded by the Center for the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) and European Commission (EC). The area is located in the typhoon belt and experiences this hazard at the average of two major destructive typhoons per year.

In November 2006, Albay was one of the areas hardest-hit by Typhoon Reming (International name: Durian). Reming was one of the most deadly and destructive tropical cyclones to ravage the Philippines in recent years. The typhoon brought 466 millimeters of rainfall, the highest in 40 years. A number of communities in Albay were immediately buried under tons of rocks and mud that rushed down from Mayon Volcano's slopes during the typhoon.



The survey team together with the local officials in Brgy. Napo, Polangui

Deployment of the survey team



Field enumerators doing a sampling procedure in Brgy Kinale, Polangui

CDRC deployed eight seasoned enumerators from Xavier University, another Microdis partner, on December 1, 2008 to conduct the survey in Albay. Also part of the team were staff from CDRC and Tarabang Para sa Bicol (TABI), CDRC's Regional Center in the area.

The team chose to enter the municipality of Polangui first, and then the City of Legazpi next for the conduct of the survey. Both of these municipalities are typhoon-prone areas, with Typhoons Milenyo and Reming as their recent disaster experience in late 2006.

In all of the survey villages, the barangay chief and/or council graciously offered to house the enumerators in their respective barangay halls for the entire duration of the survey.

Facilitative factors

In order to facilitate the smooth entry of researchers in the survey sites, courtesy calls to local government officials were conducted. Preliminary data were also gathered during the pre-survey site visit which includes profiles of each municipality.

The pre-survey site visits were conducted by the Country Team last September 16-18, 2008. In Albay, courtesy calls with the Provincial Governor of Albay, the Municipal Mayor of Polangui, the OIC-Mayor of Legazpi City, the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council Officer of Albay, and the Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council officer of Polangui were done.

After the courtesy calls, the team successfully clinched the approval and support of the local officers on the survey. Data on the survey sites like site maps, demographic profiles, socio-economic profiles, and disaster profiles were obtained by the team as well. The local executives also gave the commitment to endorse the project to the village-level officials.

The local government officers in turn requested for the results of the survey to be returned to the communities in the form of study dissemination.

After the pre-survey site visit conducted by the Country Team, TABI made follow-up visits to village-level officials to inform them about the survey, and gain their support. Accommodations of the enumerators within the villages for the actual survey were



The Microdis Philippine country team paying a courtesy call to Albay Gov. Joey Salceda in September 2008

arranged by TABI as well. Most village officials offered their barangay (village) halls for free.

Adaption of Instruments to Local Context

Together with Xavier University, the survey questionnaire was adapted into the local context. The core questionnaire was extended to include reproductive health questions as a focus issue. The questionnaire was then translated from English to Filipino.

The translated questionnaire was pre-tested in a flood-prone community in Dagat-dagatan, Caloocan City to 10 respondents on October 14-15, 2008. Problems with the questionnaire surfaced during the pre-test.

Based on these feedback and comments during the pre-test, the survey instrument was revised accordingly.

Training of Enumerators

The enumerators' training, jointly organized with Xavier University, was conducted on November 25-27 in Cagayan de Oro City. The training facilitated a standard interpretation of instruments and ensured that data entry procedures and guidelines were uniformly understood by the enumerators.

The objectives of the study, sampling design, methodology, area coverage, team composition, deliverables and timeline were discussed during the training.

A line by line discussion of the survey questionnaire was done to facilitate clarity and uniform understanding of the key concepts and variables used in the study.

On the third day of the training, the enumerators field tested the questionnaire in nearby communities in Cagayan de Oro City. Several issues and clarifications were ironed out after the field test. It also gave the enumerators a feel of the actual interview, and how long it would take to complete one questionnaire.



During the enumerators' training at Xavier University, Nov 25-27, 2008

Challenges and Achievements

One of the main factors that facilitated the success of the field survey was the good coordination on the ground. Months before the actual survey, the team has already sought the support of local executives. From the Governor, Mayors, down to the Barangay Captains -- everyone in the community was properly informed.

The proper endorsement from the Governor and the Mayors was important in gaining entry into the communities. They also provided necessary documents like maps and town profiles to the research team.

The cooperation and support of the village councils on the other hand was just as important. They provided accommodation, access to their facilities, and even security to

the enumerators during their stay in the communities. The village councils also provided the list of households, and much needed assistance to the researchers in finding their way around the communities.

The role of the local coordinator was also very important in the smooth flow of the field operations. He made all the initial arrangements with the barangay heads, informing them beforehand about the purpose, requirements and schedule of the survey. A local person representing a local organization like TABI, who already has a good track record in the locality, helped ease whatever hesitations that the village councils might have had.

Finally, having seasoned enumerators with years of experience in doing field research made it even easier for the team to move forward without too much problem. The researchers are used to rough terrains, changing weather conditions, and sparse accommodations, that these things never bothered them.

Getting the trust of the community members was an important factor in the success of the survey. The enumerators would often mingle with the residents after interview sessions or during breaks for informal talks. They would also oblige if there were invitations to attend village gatherings. These interactions made the residents at ease with the survey team. Often, the residents would even offer snacks to the enumerators after the interviews. Knowledge of the local culture was also very important in building rapport with the community.

Problems Encountered

The weather posed a challenge to the enumerators during the conduct of the survey. It was the rainy season, and the team had to brave muddy terrains just to get to the respondents. The houses in some of the villages were also far apart, and the team had to trek or hike to reach some of the hilly sites.

The questionnaire itself was very thick, and some of the respondents have shown fatigue in answering it. Others found the social questions repetitive, and the economic questions too detailed.

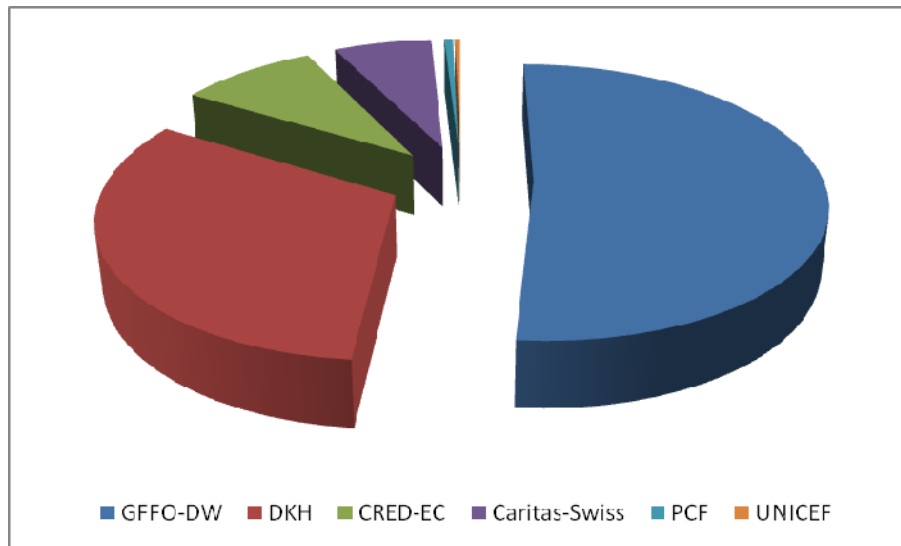
The baseline data gathered from the government also became a problem. The enumerators found out during the survey that the barangay classified by the local government as least affected was in fact a most affected barangay.

Several people from the community were asking why they were not included in the survey. They said they too have stories to tell. The team patiently explained that the selection of respondents was random, and was not biased at all.

Finally, the people were asking what they could possibly get from the survey. They aired sentiments of previous researchers coming into their communities, but were never heard of again. The team promised to return and report the results of the research.

Support Gained

The Citizens' Disaster Response Center (CDRC) was able to obtain Php 38,966,272.67 worth of foreign grants and contributions in 2008. The biggest bulk of the grants came from the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and Diakonisches Werk (DW) which amounted to Php 20,042,049.60 or 51% of the total grants and contributions received. Money from GFFO-DW was used to finance the project: "Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation in Typhoon-Prone Philippine Regions".



The second largest donor was Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH) with PhP 12,531,671.10 or 32% to support CDRC's core programs and services, and major emergency relief and rehabilitation projects.

The third largest donor was the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) and European Commission (EC) which gave Php 3,520,793.67 (9%) to fund the MICRODIS research project or the "Integrated Health, Social and Economic Impacts of Extreme Events: Evidence, Methods and Tools".

The fourth largest donor was Caritas Switzerland which gave 2,513,391.30 (8%) that went to the funding of the project: "Enhancing Flood Preparedness and Helping the Survivors of Typhoon Reming Help Themselves".

Other donors were: Philippine Charities Foundation, which granted Php 217,797.00 for the Malobago Rehabilitation Program, and UNICEF which gave Php 140,570.00 for the Child Protection in Emergencies Training-Luzon Cluster.