



## FORMAT FOR GOOD PRACTICE DESCRIPTION

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| <b>Title of the good practice</b>   | Breaking the Barriers to Inclusion: Network Building for Disability Rights and Inclusion in Disaster Risk Management in Cebu Island, Philippines  |
| <b>Name of organization or coalition that implemented the good practice</b> | A2D Project-Research Group for Alternatives to Development, Inc. (A2D) and Cebu Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network (Cebu DiDRR Network)   |
| <b>When is/was the good practice implemented?</b>                           | Year 2015 to present  |
| <b>Where is/was the good practice implemented?</b>                          | Cebu Island, Philippines  |
| <b>Total budget of the good practice</b>                                    | Php 900,000 (15,300 euros)  |
| <b>Central theme of the good practice</b>                                   | Promoting disability rights and inclusion in DRR processes  |
| <b>Target group of the good practice</b>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disabled People's Organization (DPOs)</li><li>• Cebu Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (Cebu PDRRMO)</li><li>• Cebu Province</li><li>• Local Government Units (LGU) in Cebu Province</li><li>• Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and other Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Stakeholders in Cebu Island</li></ul> |

### A. General description

#### ***Why did you initiate the project?***

In times of disasters, it has been established that Persons with Disabilities are highly at risk<sup>1</sup>. The relative poverty of Persons with Disabilities, combined with problems of inaccessibility and low prioritization, places persons with disabilities at greater likelihood of being left behind in the face of climate change and in times of environmental and humanitarian disaster. In Cebu Philippines, some persons with disabilities were left in their cages when Typhoon Yolanda battered the region.

#### ***Goal and Objective?***

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<sup>1</sup> In the 2013 UNISDR Global Survey of Persons with Disabilities, about 80% of persons with disabilities are unable to evacuate immediately without difficulty in the event of a sudden disaster, while 71% do not have personal preparedness plans thus making it more likely for them to be left behind in the event of a calamity.



The Cebu DiDRR Network<sup>2</sup> was established to create a platform for discussion and collaboration towards disability inclusion in DRR and development, in general, with the end goal of influencing policies and programs that will create inclusive and resilient communities where everyone, including persons with disabilities, are secured and protected.

**What were the activities?**

*What did you really do? With whom? (100 words)*

The Cebu DiDRR Network has organized provincial and national summits and conferences that called on and urged local government units to include persons with disabilities in their DRR plans and programs. The Cebu Summit and Learning Event on Inclusive DRR is now an annual gathering of DRR stakeholders and disability rights advocates to discuss inclusive approaches on DRR. The network also hosted various consultation workshops that aim to get the insights of persons with disabilities in new inclusive DRR programs initiated by international and national institutions. Lastly, trainings were also provided to network members to increase their capacities.

**What were the results?**

*Describe the main results of the good practice ? (100 words)*

The network shifted perspectives on persons with disabilities from merely being recipient of aid to being recognized as capable of contributing to DRR:

- **They become visible.** Data of persons with disabilities are now prioritized, with the increasing LGU efforts to reach them and the inclusive data management system underway.
- **Their voices are heard.** Persons with disabilities are now decision-makers. They sit in different local development councils.
- **They become a DiDRR resource.** Persons with disabilities have become experts – providing trainings and often consulted when new inclusive approaches are introduced.
- **They are DRR implementers,** with access to government funds supporting DiDRR activities.

## B. Detailed description

### B.1 LOBBY AND ADVOCACY

**Describe per question below what you did relating to L&A.**

The network’s activities are geared towards influencing duty bearers to adopt rights-based and twin-track approaches in program development – remove barriers and enable conditions wherein disability perspectives are mainstreamed and access can be given to persons with disabilities to participate.

Concretely, the network has organized summits where the Six-Point Agenda on Inclusive DRR, 2018 - 2022 Roadmap on Inclusive and Resilient Communities, and the National Declaration on DiDRR were adopted. These declarations provided a framework of action for LGUs to operationalize and institutionalize inclusive DRR. Unexpectedly, the hotels, where we held these activities, adopted the universal design when they did renovations.

| Validate | Whom |
|----------|------|
|----------|------|

<sup>2</sup> The Cebu Disability-Inclusive DRR Network is an advocacy coalition of civil society organizations and Persons with Disabilities organizations in strong collaboration and partnership with government organizations working towards disability inclusion in disaster risk reduction and community development. The network was among the most notable achievement of the ENABLED Project. This is an initiative implemented by A2D in 2015-2017 and funded by Arbeiter Samariter Bund that aims to enhance capacities on disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction.



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| <p>Describe the main outcomes of the project related to <b>advocacy</b>, resulting from your project? Specify <b>who did what, when and where</b>.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% increase in the registration of persons with disabilities by the PSWDO<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Ongoing development of an inclusive data management system by CDP<sup>4</sup>.</li> <li>• Allocation of Php 3million<sup>5</sup> by the PDRRM office to support 2016 -2018 Cebu DiDRR Network activities</li> <li>• A2D represent on in Cebu DRRM council;</li> <li>• Persons with disabilities as pool of trainers on <i>Lahat Handa</i></li> </ul>   |
| <p>Describe <b>how</b> your organisation contributed to this change, as described above.</p>   | <p>The summits, hosted and organized by the network, opened spaces for persons with disabilities to call on LGUs and government agencies to include them in DRR. The network organized roadshows to localize these agenda, and to encourage more LGUs to adopt inclusive approaches to DRR. The network members sit in local councils and uses it to leverage the agenda of the at-risk groups in development programs. The network has provided continuous capacity development support to its network members who have now become the trainers on inclusive DRR. Lastly, the network did accessibility audits which influenced hoteliers to adopt accessibility design.</p> |
| <p>Which organisation or persons could <b>validate</b> the change described above?</p>   | <p>These changes can be validated by the partners of Cebu DiDRR Network since its inception in 2015, the Cebu PDRRMO and the Cordova LGU, to name a few.</p> <p>During the learning visits, both DRR heads expressed how the network has emphasized the urgency of ensuring that at risk groups like, persons with disabilities should be included, and participate in DRR discussions, and how inclusion is a necessity and not an option. By partnering with the network, the current DRR plans, activities and programs of these LGUs are shaped to be more inclusive and accessible to at risk groups.</p>  |

## B.2 INTERSECTIONALITY (MAX. 50 WORDS)

**Describe per question below what you did relating to intersectionality.**

Below are examples of how we use intersectional approach:

- Use non-religion-specific opening prayers during activities;
- Consultation with LGBTQA++ members and participants re: room arrangement;

<sup>3</sup> Cebu Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office or Cebu PSWDO is the social welfare agency in the provincial level.

<sup>4</sup> Center for Disaster Preparedness, or CDP, is a non-profit non-government organized based in Manila, Philippines. In 2016, during the first Cebu Summit on Inclusive DRR, CDP was invited by the network to participate the activity. In 2017, CDP, A2D and Cebu DiDRR Network jointly organized the National Conference on DiDRR which led to the adoption of the National Declaration on DiDRR.

<sup>5</sup> Php 3,000,000.00 is equivalent to 52,120.50 euro at 1Php to 0.017 euro



- Hire Filipino Sign Language interpreter (not American) for Deaf Filipinos and Deaf Relay for Unschooled Deaf;
- Exchange of information on employment opportunities and free assistive devices;

| <b>Validate</b>  | <b>Whom</b>   |
|--|---|
| Describe the main outcomes related to <b>intersectionality</b> , resulting from your project?<br><i>Specify <b>who did what, when and where</b>.</i> | Before the network was established, there's the common misconception that American and Filipino Sign Language are the same. However, one of our network member, a Deaf Transwoman, corrected this misconception. At present, we ensure that hired interpreter uses culture-specific sign language interpretation.   |
| Describe <b>how</b> your organisation contributed to this change, as described above.  | The network shares to other institutions who hire/ will hire sign language interpreters the correction to the misconception that ASL and FSL are the same. Apart from this, the network has also become an advocate to professionalize sign language interpreters in Cebu. Previously, sign language services are considered voluntary and free. At present, the Cebu DiDRR network, together with its Deaf members, calls on to others that FSL interpretation should be a paid service. Also, in adherence to our core value on diversity, we do not discriminate members who are part of the LGBTQ++ community and the network ensures that they are respected and protected in the conduct of our activities. |
| Which organisation or persons could <b>validate</b> the change described above?  | Our pool of sign language interpreters (not Cebu DiDRR network members) can validate that the network has played an important role to professionalize their skills. In fact, the FSL interpreter during the learning event expressed that prior to being engaged by the network, her services used to be voluntary and free.  |

## C. Learning

### What did your organisation learn from this good practice? (50 words)

***Describe what your organisation learned especially regarding L&A and intersectionality.***

- Inclusion is about making processes accessible and removing barriers to participation. It is not about singling out and creating special programs.
- Disability data and perspectives are essential to inform DRM.
- DiDRR is better achieved through multi-level engagement.
- Persons with disabilities are the most effective advocates for advancing disability rights.

### What are 3 tips you would give to other organisations?

**Tip 1:** Make persons with disabilities visible in development programming and resilience-building by enhancing collection of disability data. It is equally important to capacitate DRR stakeholders on how to utilize these data to inform DRM and other development programs.

**Tip 2:** Go “twin track” in the approach to disability inclusion and shift perspectives from disability and medical model to a rights-based model that recognizes persons with disabilities as persons that can contribute to risk reduction and attainment of development goals. Further, enable them to represent



themselves as they are the best resource for promoting disability inclusion across various processes of disaster risk reduction, and development, in general.

**Tip 3.** Connect with like-minded institutions and organizations to gain support for disability-inclusive DRR as well as to expand the resource base for carrying out advocacy for DiDRR. Moreover, provide an enabling environment for continuous dialogue and engagement between communities of practice working in disability rights promotion and in disaster risk management.

What makes this project a good practice? (max. 50 words)

*Please describe what made this project special and more successful than other projects you have done before?*

The network harmonizes efforts on inclusion and DRR in Cebu, which were previously considered two separate development agenda. The network has facilitated the participation of DPOs who had previously not been involved in DRR. Further, it puts greater importance in mainstreaming disability perspectives in DRR.

## D. Award

If your organisation would win the award of €5.000,- , how would you use this prize? (100 words).

The cash grant will be used to organize the 4th Provincial Summit on DiDRR. The summit will be designed like a State of Province Address where the roadmap will be assessed to answer the question, *How far is Cebu from becoming an inclusive and resilient province?* It is aimed that at the end of the summit, it is expected that there will be concrete agreements, action and budget plans among the LGUs – provincial, city/ municipal – on how to achieve an inclusive and resilient community. A small portion of the cash grant will also be used to support network development and organizational capacity building activities – self-rescue training and FSL module on DRR Training, among others.

Are we allowed to use this good practice in a publication on good advocacy practices?

- Yes, we give permission to include **both** the name of the organisation and the good practice
- Yes, we give permission, but **ONLY** for including the good practice (organisation will be anonymous)
- No, we **do not** give permission to use this good practice in any publication