



Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR)

Participatory Learning and Action: A Course for Senior Managers and Facilitators

Communities around the world, especially in Asia, are facing a serious challenge towards establishing sustained progress due to the changing climate pattern. Farmers and pastoralists in Africa who are experiencing delayed rains are coping to bridge the gaps of food insecurity and adapting new ways to recover for the next season. Increasing frequency of flooding in South Asia and hurricanes in Central America are some of the manifestations of climate variability. Indeed climate change is happening and felt by communities. Equally, HIV- aids epidemics, and famine are pressing communities on the verge of disaster. Efforts of many development agencies are facing a major set back if the capacities of communities are not able to cope, risk is not reduced hence the occurrence of disasters. Therefore, an approach that would safeguard the accumulated years of development gains is relevant. Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) is an approach that shows the relationship between disaster and development and offers solutions.

CMDRR refers to building people's capacity to prevent and mitigate the impact of hazards and reduce the degree of vulnerability of communities at risk through increased individual survivability and community readiness. Building resilient communities therefore means strengthening the foundation of safety and also enhancing disaster risk reduction measures to fully attain resilience against any impending hazards. Disaster solely happens when the foundation of safety is weak and disaster risk reduction measures are not in place. Thus, this course on *Facilitating Community-Managed Disaster Risk Reduction* is designed to respond to the call of time.

Course content

This course is designed for senior managers and facilitators enabling them to learn together the ways, hows and a way forward in CMDRR.

Module 1: Concepts, Principles and Practices in CMDRR

This module tackles the link between disaster and development and explains the concept, process and approach to CMDRR. It discusses the role of facilitation, clarifying basic conceptual foundations of both content and process.

Module 2: Facilitating CMDRR: Methods and Process

This module introduces participants to the principles and techniques of conducting disaster risk assessment premised on the following disaster risk formula:

$$\text{Disaster Risk} = \frac{\text{Hazard} \times \text{Vulnerability}}{\text{Capacity}}$$

It discusses the key principles and practical steps in undertaking hazard, vulnerability and capacity assessment in order to come up with a disaster risk assessment. It concludes with the other key considerations in disaster risk assessment, namely perception of risk and gender.

Employing a guided field practicum approach, this module equips participants with the tools and methodologies to facilitate communities to assess and plan for CMDRR. It also equips participants with the skills as well as appropriate methods and tools to facilitate communities to design and conduct self-monitoring and evaluation and learning activities.

Module 3: Sustaining CMDRR

This module teaches how to facilitate documenting and sharing of CMDRR experiences as part of policy advocacy, resource mobilization, networking, monitoring and evaluation and organizational learning. Participants enhance their understanding on ways to link community organizations with other potential actors active in disaster risk reduction and to access resources for CMDRR. Participants are provided with various ways of mobilizing communities towards influencing policies supportive of CMDRR. It engages further in clarifying the concepts and use of self-sustainability assessment and action framework and how to integrate it in the CMDRR process.

Module 4: Action Planning

Synthesizing and applying lessons from Modules 1 and 2, this module guides the participants in developing an action plan for implementation. The plan, which is based on the realities of the community and implemented in line with organizational, program or project thrusts, is critiqued by course facilitators and other course participants.

Course highlights

- The methods use in the course is highly participatory (simulation exercises, focus group discussion, workshops, role play, video showing, case stories, games, field practicum, etc.)
- Participants are active key resource persons, facilitators and learners
- Field practicum for hands-on practice of participatory community risk assessment
- Action plan of participants

Who should attend?

The course targets key staff (senior managers and facilitators) of both local and international NGOs, United Nations and Government departments that need to sharpen their skills in facilitating community managed disaster risk reduction and to enable them to integrate CMDRR to their institutional policies and programs.

When and where

The two-week course will be held on November 23 – December 4, 2009 at IIRR's Y.C. James Yen Center in Cavite, Philippines. Course participants are expected to arrive one day before the start of the course. Course participants will be met by an IIRR staff upon arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila.

IIRR is an ideal environment for learning and reflection. Courses are held in IIRR's 50-hectare campus in Silang, Cavite, about an hour's drive from Manila. Facilities include air-conditioned training rooms, open-air centers for outdoor sessions, a dining hall, and participants' hostel and dormitories. It also has recreational facilities and nature trails.

Course facilitators

Rusty Biñas, International CMDRR consultant

Hassan Hulufu, CMDRR Manager for Africa Regional Center

Isaac Bekalo, President, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction and Director, Africa Regional Center

Course fees

The course fee of US\$2,500 covers training costs, course-related local travel, materials, meals, accident insurance and shared double room accommodation (single room accommodation can be requested for an additional fee of US\$10 per day of stay). It does not include international airfare, laundry and incidental expenses (a minimum pocket allowance of US\$100 per week is suggested for incidental and personal expenses). Applicants are encouraged to secure financial support from their organizations or donor agencies. Special discounts can be arranged for senior Philippine government officials involved in managing or coordinating disaster councils.

How to apply

For more information and to receive an application form, contact:

Education and Training Program

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