



The MEND Guide: Comprehensive Guide for Planning Mass Evacuations in Natural Disasters Workshop and Simulation Exercises in Borongan City, Eastern Samar

In June 2015, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) team from IOM Philippines, in cooperation with the Global CCCM team from IOM Geneva, facilitated a four day training workshop and simulation exercises to pilot *The MEND Guide: Comprehensive Guide for Planning Mass Evacuations in Natural Disasters*. Participants included representatives from the Philippines National Police (PNP) and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and the Local Chief Executives (LCEs), Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officers (LDRRMOs) and Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officers (MSWDOs) from the municipalities of General MacArthur, Guiuan, Hernani, Mercedes, Salcedo and Quinapondan, in Eastern Samar.

Martin Sjöholm, IOM Global CCCM Simulation Expert, and Albrecht Beck, IOM Global CCCM Civil Protection Specialist, commenced with an overview of *The MEND Guide*, and established a strong collegial environment for collaborative learning from the outset. Kenneth Punay and Carl Caro, Project NOAH Research Specialists, were invited to discuss integration of multi-hazard maps in community based disaster risk reduction and management. Project NOAH is a Department of Science and Technology (DOST) initiative to develop a more integrated and responsive disaster prevention and mitigation system in high risk areas. Megan Genat, IOM Architect, presented key considerations for planning, designing and constructing suitable evacuation shelters, and Mark Maulit, CCCM Capacity Development Specialist, summarised cross-cutting issues of protection, legislation and the importance of local and community participation in evacuation planning. Conrad Navidad, CCCM Programme Coordinator and National Operations Officer, then worked with participants to develop an evacuation plan based on the rich experience that each municipality has pre-planning and planning mass evacuation in natural disaster, and incorporating the recommendations of *The MEND Guide*.

The highlight of the week was the simulation exercises that required participants to role play the evacuation plan and generate contingency plans to ensure the simulated mass evacuation was implemented effectively and efficiently to provide life safety and minimise exposure to harm within the affected community. Alejandro L. Bersana, Salcedo MSWDO said that 'the workshop enabled me to gain skills that are helpful in planning' and that *The MEND Guide* will allow the community to 'plan for things in a systematic way'.

www.globalccmcluster.org/tools-and-guidance/publications/mend-guide



Participants giving a thumbs up to the group evacuation plan outline © IOM 2015



Conrad Navidad working with the team from Guiuan and Mercedes © IOM 2015