Step 6: Establish or join existing support systems

The development of EAPs and set-up of systems for their implementation requires a team of dedicated people with different skill sets. In cases where this work is done with a TWG, membership to the TWG should be sought from relevant government ministries, humanitarian organizations, academia among others depending on mandates and expertise. The TWG should be a recognized structure by government to review, guide and valid the FbF process. The engagement of various stakeholders and cooperative work gives credence to the whole FbF systems development. It can facilitate the support to EAP implementation by the different agencies at later stage, contribute to scale up if other agencies replicate the actions and in the longer term encourage those part of the discussion to come up with EAPs for the government or integrate FbF in existing systems in different ways. It is important that government designates its staff to participate in this process and these become the FbF champions as well as provide guidance on opportunities and protocols on engaging different government agencies.

Practical Example: Philippines



© GRC

Creation of Technical Working Groups at sub-national level for FbF Readiness

The establishment of sub-national TWGs (known in the Philippines as, the “the FbF core group”), has been instrumental to FbF. These core groups are set up at provincial level by the respective Philippines Red Cross chapter and involve all relevant provincial agencies involved in FbF. In doing so, not only does this help buy-in of the provincial partners, but more importantly it facilitates the coordination in case of activation.

TWGs were heavily involved in the development of the EAP, especially in the selection and the planning of the early actions. As such, they are well aware of the PRC intervention once a trigger is being reached and can complement the work of the PRC with additional resources (trucks, use of provincial facilities) when needed.

In Davao Oriental, a full scale livestock evacuation drill was planned in coordination with the entire core group, with the Red Cross chapter supporting the evacuation with its volunteers, and recruiting workers for setting up temporary fencing; while trucks were provided by the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (PDRRMO), water for the animals came from the Bureau of Fire and free food and medical supplies were provided by the provincial Veterinary department. Livestock evacuation plans were also put to practice during the test activation of the typhoon EAP in anticipation of typhoon Tisoy in December 2019. In this case the PDRRMO of Camarines Norte supported the PRC by letting them use their training center as a livestock pooling area and also provided trucks for the animals.

The TWG at the national level and the core groups at sub-national level were specifically created to coordinate interventions around FbF and were not pre-existing bodies. However, most members are also members of the Provincial DRRM Council, which meets when there is an upcoming emergency or on an ad-hoc basis.

“Using sub-national TWGs works well for the Philippines and is crucial due to its geography and the lead times we are dealing with…”

Damien Riquet, Philippine Red Cross

Overview of Philippines "core FbF group" of government and non-government TGW FbF agencies at the sub-national level

Regional:

- Office of Civil Defense (OCD)
- Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)
- Department of Agriculture

Provincial:

- Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council

- Provincial Planning and Development Office
- Provincial Budget / Accounting Office
- Provincial Engineering Office
- Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office
- Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAG)
- Provincial Veterinary Office
- Provincial Fisheries Office
- Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA)
- Commission on Audit
- Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)
- Department of Education (DepEd)
- PAGASA

Municipal:

- Selected Local Government Units