

BENEFICIARIES OF THE NATIONAL GEOHAZARD MAPPING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

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When the National Geohazard Mapping and Assessment Program was conceptualized in 2005, the primary beneficiaries eyed to gain from the outputs of the program were the Municipal and City Local Government Units. The LGUs were identified end-users of the 1:50,000 scale geohazard maps as these maps were required inputs in preparation and/or updating Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUP) in accordance with guidelines set by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) at that time. It was also perceived that the LGUs would benefit from the program as the geohazard maps are basic inputs in the preparation of Municipal/City Disaster Risk Reduction Plans. With the revised guidelines in the preparation of DRR-CCA enhanced CLUPs published by HLURB, geohazard maps are becoming more and more in demand.

Not only are the 1:50,000 scale geohazard maps used by municipal and city LGUs. The maps produced by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau were also used by the National Economic and Development Authority in the implementation of its European Commission-UNDP funded project: Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Subnational Development and Land Use/Physical Planning in the Philippines where the geohazard maps were used in the hazard and risk estimation in formulating the DRR and CCA enhanced Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plans of 75 of the 81 provinces in the country.

Indeed, a number of LGUs, particularly those in Albay, now make use of the geohazard maps in the preparation of DRR-CCA enhanced CLUPs.

Provincial, City and Municipal LGUs have also made use of the geohazard maps in the formulation of their Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans as required by the DILG.

As a member agency of the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC) the MGB-RO5 is mandated to provide the Council with copies of the geohazard maps used in crafting the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan. Hazard information from these geohazard maps are also provided to member agencies of the RDRRMC during the Pre-Disaster Risk Assessment meetings of the RDRRMC for eventual dissemination to the public. PHIVOLCS also incorporates the MGB-RO5 geohazard maps in the agency's REDAS program. NGOs and INGOs engaged in disaster risk reduction programs likewise make use of the geohazard maps as well as students majoring disaster risk reduction and management, public administration, architecture, civil engineering and other fields.

Not only are the geohazard maps used as a planning tool. They are also used by LGUs in identifying safe relocation sites and evacuation sites and routes. The identified relocation sites are later assessed by MGB-RO5 in more detail.

Even before the maps are prepared and disseminated, barangay officials are immediately made aware of the possible geohazard threats in their areas through the geohazard threat advisories that are issued before leaving the barangay being surveyed. Municipal and/or city Chief Executives are also provided with a summary report indicating the geohazard findings in the surveyed barangays. This is issued during the exit conference held with the mayor or his authorized officer-in-charge.

The official assessment results and the geohazard maps are officially communicated and disseminated to the LGUs through a one-day seminar on Geohazard Awareness and Disaster Preparedness for each city/municipal LGU where, key officials who are also members of the C/MDRRMC are invited as well as two (2) officials from each barangay. MGB-RO5 shoulders all the expenses for the seminar materials, kits, maps and posters; traveling expenses of the IEC team; the honoraria of invited resource persons as well as the meals and snacks and of the participants. The one-day seminars are aimed at empowering municipal and barangay officials by providing them with information on what geologic hazards are, how and why they occur and what areas are likely to be affected. Municipal and barangay officials are also taught how to read and interpret the geohazard maps prepared by MGB-RO5 for their respective areas and how they could make use of these 1:50,000 scale maps for disaster risk reduction and preparedness planning. A mini-workshop is included for this purpose.

To benefit the masses, information on landslide and flood hazards is disseminated through tri-media. To reach a wider group of Bicolanos at a more immediate time, TV plugs are aired over ABS-CBN while radio plugs are aired either over DZGB-AM, Bombo Radyo or DZRC radio stations each year. In addition, radio guestings and TV and radio interviews are also granted to the different radio and TV stations in Region V. From time to time, press releases are made and interviews from the print media are also granted.