

General Objective

By the end of 2009, the MDCC and BDCCs of St. Bernard, Southern Leyte should have met the basic needs of affected population and decreased the number of casualties by accelerating its disaster preparedness and mitigation activities.

Emergency Policies and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

1. Transparency and accountability to beneficiaries is imperative and foremost. Accountability and transparency to donors follow.
2. Do no harm. Emergency assistance will enhance existing capacities of target beneficiaries. A 'damage, needs and capacities assessment' -(DNCA) of the specific target area will be conducted to check appropriateness of responses and to ensure participation of the community. The number and names of beneficiaries will be jointly defined by the target communities and MDCC.
3. Emergency response is an opportunity to build local capacities. The local authority will lead the emergency operations. The role of higher government units (provincial, regional, national) is to support the local government unit, unless stated otherwise. On-the-job training activities will be conducted so that staff and volunteers are equipped with knowledge and skills to perform their specific duties and tasks.
4. Operational expenses should not exceed 20% of the total emergency costs. 80% of the total resources should go to direct services to beneficiaries.
5. Criteria for beneficiary selection. The LGU must consciously take the effort to reach out for the most affected and least served families. More should be given to those who have less.
6. Regular schedules. Operations start at 07:00 in the morning and end at 11:00 in the evening. All staff will work at 8-hr shifts, 7am to 3pm and 3:00 to 11:00 pm. Daily briefings will be conducted at 7:00 to 8:00 in the evening to cap the activities and set the next days' target. Midterm and end of the operations assessments will also be conducted to draw lessons and define improvements needed.
7. Cash assistance during emergency is only considered as the last option, if and when delivery of non-cash assistance is not possible.