



**EVERY YEAR, AN AVERAGE OF 20 TYPHOONS HIT THE PHILIPPINES. IT ALSO LIES BETWEEN TWO MAJOR TECTONIC PLATES WHICH MAKES THE COUNTRY EXPOSED TO EARTHQUAKES. AT LEAST 20 OF THE COUNTRY'S MORE THAN 200 VOLCANOES ARE CONSIDERED ACTIVE. COUPLED WITH ECONOMIC CHALLENGES, THE PHILIPPINES RANKS AMONG THE TOP COUNTRIES AT RISK OF NATURAL DISASTERS.**

## THE FORMATION OF THE XU DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT (DRRM) TEAM

As an academic institution geared to respond to the needs of the community, Xavier University has consistently given its assistance in times of calamities mainly through relief operations.

However, in the past decade, the university's disaster-related activities evolved to more proactive approaches. In 2002, the XU Civil Engineering Department did a study on fire hazard mapping of the Poblacion area in Cagayan de Oro. In 2008, the XU Engineering Resource Center (XUERC) partnered with Barangay Carmen in developing methodologies for disaster risk assessment and mapping of various hazards at the local level.

In January 2009, intermittent rains submerged a large part of Cagayan de Oro, affirming the need for a disaster risk reduction paradigm. Right after the onslaught of TS Sendong in December 2011, the Xavier University Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (XU DRRM) Program was conceptualized. Tropical Storm Washi, locally known as Sendong, left more than 1,000 persons dead, hundreds missing, and more than hundreds of thousands displaced. Xavier University was quick in providing immediate relief goods for the survivors while also planning for longer-term assistance designed for the rebuilding of resilient communities.

The university together with partner institutions, built the Xavier Ecoville. This resettlement site did not only provide shelter for survivors but also



provided on-site formation programs that are the core of the university's mission as a Jesuit institution.

To sustain these engagements, in 2013, the XU DRRM Program was formally institutionalized to facilitate the convergence of the expertise of the different XU units; thus the formation of the XU DRRM Team. The program is envisioned



not only to respond to calamities but also to capacitate various actors and communities in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and management in local and sub-national development plans and projects.

XU is a member of the regional, provincial and city DRRM councils.

# THE FIVE COMPONENTS OF THE XU DRRM PROGRAM



## RESEARCH

The XU DRRM Team conducts data gathering and analyses necessary for implementing interventions for the prevention and mitigation of disasters. These include participatory disaster risk assessment, community-based hazard characterization and mapping, as well as other environmental and health studies related to disasters and changes in the local climate.

The XU Engineering Resource Center (XUERC) is presently the lead unit for research. XUERC also serves as the over-all coordinator of the XU DRRM Program.



## CAPACITY BUILDING

Given the complex geophysical and meteorological situation of the country worsened by the reality of climate change, there is a clear need to not only reduce disaster risk but also to adapt to these current realities through the concerted efforts of key actors and community stakeholders. With the XU Governance and Leadership Institute (XUGLI) as the lead unit, this component extends trainings to stakeholders as well as assists them in formulating their community-based DRRM plans which include disaster preparedness and disaster drills.

The University, a small community in itself, also aims at the knowledge improvement of its members-- involving not only its faculty but also its students through the integration of DRRM in the curriculum and regular activities of their respective departments.



## ADVOCACY

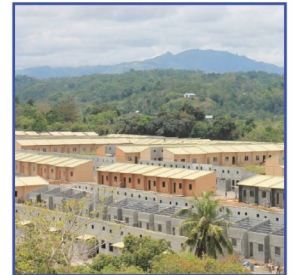
Part of the program is the dissemination of information and research outputs to the general public. Knowledge products are disseminated through information campaign and popular communication channels.

The advocacy component is also engaged in policy review and formulation. This component is being led by the XU Press.



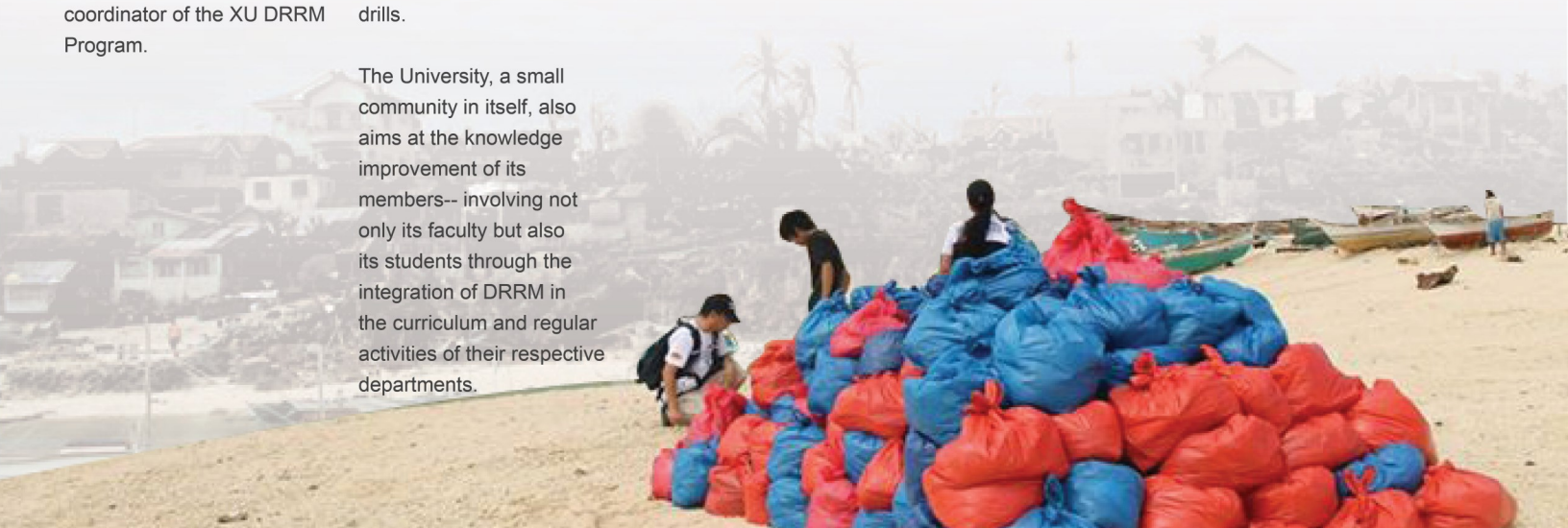
## RESPONSE

Since 1991, Xavier University has been involved in various disaster-response activities-- organizing networks of donors and delivering relief goods to disaster stricken communities. This has been exemplified recently in the series of tireless relief operations led by the Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana- Social Involvement Office (KKP-SIO): Tabang-Zamboanga, Tabang Bohol and Tabang Visayas. Through the years, XU has proven the trust and confidence of generous donors from many parts of the world.



## REHABILITATION

In response to Sendong, XU pioneered a university-led resettlement community, the Xavier Ecoville. XU partnered with the city government and various local and international donors in providing new homes for more than 500 families who survived the flood. The mission of Xavier Ecoville is clear: "We are not just building houses. We are building Communities."



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