

A photograph of a tropical village with a damaged building and two children standing in the foreground. The building has a corrugated metal roof that is partially collapsed. Palm trees are scattered throughout the scene, some leaning over the damaged structure. Two young children are standing in the foreground on a sandy area, looking towards the camera. The sky is overcast and grey.

B-READY

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February 2022

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When a climate disaster hits, the world turns upside down for people most vulnerable to disasters. Already, the number of annual disasters is more than four times higher than it was in 1970s, with more disasters on our horizon as the worsening climate crisis looms in our futures. For communities in disaster-prone areas, this can lead to an expensive cycle of disaster, rebuilding lives from losses, and debt. Every dollar invested in preparing ahead of a disaster can save up to five times the amount spent on the response after it strikes.

FAO. 2021. The impact of disasters and crises on agriculture and food security: 2021. Rome.

What is B-READY?



Preparing for a disaster goes far beyond personal actions. It can range from preparing for one's family by keeping a go-bag ready or preparing for one's community by knowing all the evacuation routes to safety. It can also be about providing that extra support for families to prepare before a disaster strikes. This is why initiatives in anticipatory or early action such as the **B-READY approach** are vital in times of crisis.

B-READY (Building Resilient, Adaptive and Disaster-Ready Communities) is an anticipatory action approach that combines three innovations:

1. **Impact-based disaster forecasting** – *predicting the next crisis, before it hits*
2. **Pre-emptive action**, through cash

transfers – getting the money to those who need it the most before the crisis hits so they can prepare better

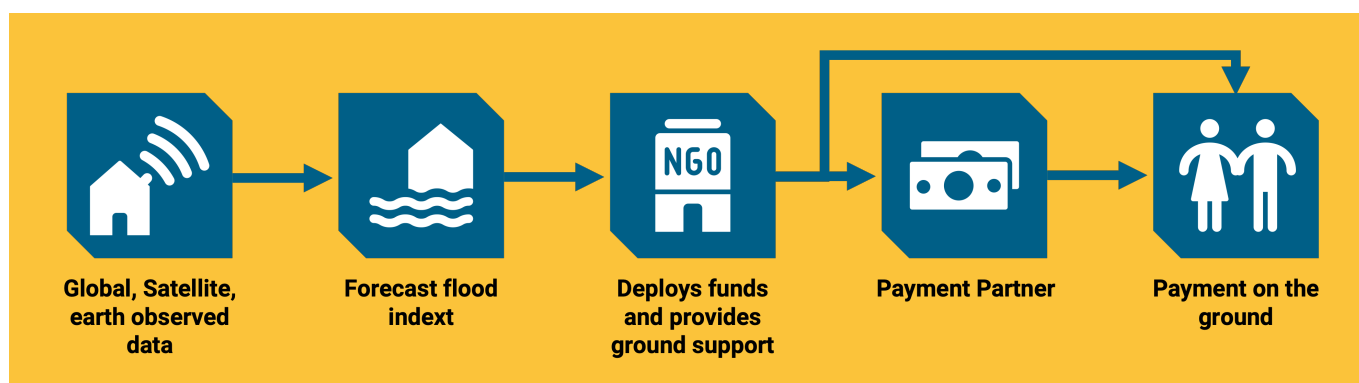
3. **Shifting from humanitarian response after disaster to pre-emptive response** – *investing in communities' resilience and in preparedness, so the crisis becomes less of an emergency before it even happens*

The B-READY approach

The first step of the B-READY approach is to work with climate-vulnerable populations – those in places that are most at risk of a disaster. Then using data from global, satellite networks with community's knowledge of the lived disaster experiences in their history,

an impact-based forecast model is developed to predict how the next disaster will look like from scientific data, combined with community-identified “triggers” indicating how and when people react when they know a disaster will be serious. Having communities merge their knowledge with climate data gives everyone a better understanding of what to prepare for and when. Then when the

ingredients for a climate disaster or “triggers” meet the threshold (for example, strong wind speed or high-water levels), cash transfers are pre-emptively distributed for families that are the most vulnerable to future impacts. Having the cash on hand allows people to prepare for what they need – like food, medicine, water, protecting their assets, bolstering their homes or even transport to safety.



B-READY In Action

Jonas Cabacaba Fisherfolk, Barangay Butig, Philippines

When Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) came, our house and everything in it was washed out. We had to rebuild from the ruins. My small boat was beyond repair. We went through many hardships. Other typhoons that came also damaged our livelihood. B-READY gives us fisherfolk hope that when a typhoon is looming, help comes before the strong winds and harsh rains arrive. If our houses or boats are damaged, at least we have cash to use to repair our houses or boats. If what we need is food, we have cash to buy rice and other items. If we want to use the cash to purchase nets, paint, epoxy or anything for the boat, we can do so right away. We can also choose to use it for the school needs of our

children. For the fisherfolk, increasing the amount to repair damages on our boats and make it bigger and stronger can really help us a lot. We can make our boats more resilient against the strong waves.

To help sustain B-READY in our community, we fisherfolk are eager to organize ourselves so we can also help implement it. We would like to train ourselves to know early warnings better and share what we also know about the sea based on experience. We would like to be more involved and have some say in the DRR programs and activities. B-READY helps us do that.

How can we B-READY for the next disaster?

The best way to reduce the damage from a climate disaster is to support communities and governments to become more resilient and adaptable. Resilient communities begin working with people directly affected by disasters. Involving them from the start of disaster planning process fosters an approach that is inclusive, practical and centered on the experiences of people who have been the most impacted.

People experience disasters to a different extent. Vulnerable groups such as women and children, people with disabilities, refugees and displaced people, and the elderly are some of the most heavily impacted and bear the toughest burdens in their communities. Listening and working with communities and paying close attention to the needs of different groups within their communities, will help prepare them for a disaster, with actions specific to how they react and the difficulties they face. This ensures that as many people as possible can build their own preparedness so that the impacts they would normally face become easier to address on their own allowing them to rebuild their lives in a safer and more secure situation. Most importantly, due to the program, plans and policies such as risk-management and guide for specialized serviced, the protection of children, women and vulnerable groups is addressed.

Having a head start in preparing for climate disasters allows climate-vulnerable

communities to take the lead in responding before, during and after a disaster. This could make a huge difference to the well-being of all who live and work in these areas and interrupt a cycle of constant disaster and losses. With a clear and precise vision of what actions to take and when, communities and their governments can better plan for, withstand, and recover from current and future emergencies. An approach that can break the cycle of damage and loss is through anticipatory or early action.

What is anticipatory or early action?

Actions taken before an anticipated crisis have occurred with the aim of preventing the disaster or mitigating its impact. In other words, it covers the range of preventive activities that can still be taken before the crisis reaches its peak, to prevent major losses.

The Beginnings of B-READY

Oxfam in the Philippines conceptualized the approach, with the belief that rising humanitarian needs requires a different approach, one that pre-emptively acts rather than reacts to a disaster. Oxfam partnered with Global Parametrics who brought in their expertise in natural disaster and weather risk modelling, and

management in global climate and satellite data and technology. Plan International brought in their safeguarding and protection expertise, supporting the partnership with their long-time work for children and youth, along with the expertise in advancing equality for girls.

This approach was then tested in the Philippines from 2019 – 2021 focusing on flooding in the Municipality of Salcedo, Eastern Samar province (Cotabato City, Cotabato), supported and funded by Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA). PDRRN (People's Disaster Risk Reduction Network), a local partner and long-time pioneer in disaster risk reduction and management in the Philippines, brought their expertise at communities' level and local humanitarian leadership to bridge local to global. The government partner, the Salcedo municipality, lent their support, expertise and institutionalisation of DRRM embedding in the B-READY framework. PayMaya as financial service partner supported the capacity building and delivery of pre-emptive cash transfers. The B-READY consortium of expert public and private partners with different specialties in disasters and communities was created to identify, analyse, and act to help out the local population before the disaster.

Bringing benefits to climate-vulnerable communities

As seen in the example from the Philippines, B-READY creates positive impact in a number of expected, and unexpected, ways. Because it is an anticipatory action approach, it

Pilot-Study: Flooding in the Philippines

In Sorsogon, a flood-prone area of the Philippines, the most vulnerable populations were identified so that help could get to those that were expected to be the most affected. In parallel, a forecast model was created using both global data and local knowledge to create the most complete picture of the potential impacts of these floods. Global Parametrics, an expert in natural disaster and weather risk modelling, created the flood model while local partner, Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction Network (PDRRN), worked with the communities to share their knowledge and develop community-based "triggers". Weather events, such as heavy rain and high water-levels, act as the triggers which alert the flood model. Grants were then immediately sent to vulnerable populations identified by PDRRN, Oxfam, and Plan International. These cash transfers were delivered by private sector payment partner PayMaya.

This partnership executed pre-emptive cash transfers using this model most recently before Typhoon Rai hit the Philippines, supporting 2,650 families in 40 barangays in Eastern Samar to assist households to prioritize their urgent needs three days before the projected impact of the Typhoon. The project is also in partnership with PDRRN, PayMaya and Smart Padala, which help strengthen the cashless ecosystem that allows target groups to access financial aid immediately. The model also rely not just on GP but also on PAGASA as a local provider of weather advisories allowing to address the impact of small-scale disasters to communities.

- **Improve dignity, decision-making and well-being** of people supported by B-READY. People who received cash grants prepared for the disaster by buying their necessary basic needs, evacuating to safer ground, and actively engaging in “preparedness plans” before disaster strikes.
- When people had the cash in-hand before disaster, they bought from their local markets and shops, **keeping the money circulating in the community**. In turn, communities found this an easier system as it minimized the need to travel to other places to receive their pre-emptive cash transfers.
- **Communities are better prepared for disasters**, by being involved in developing triggers, engaging in community disaster preparation activities, having increased awareness of risks and damage reduction, and developing community risk maps.
- **Local governments are invested** after seeing a successful example of anticipating in action, leading to improved policies and programmes that are more inclusive and tailored to the needs of those at risk, paying close attention to gender and vulnerability in government action. Philippine government partners are now working towards allocating calamity funds before the disaster.
- **Women, children, and vulnerable groups are better protected** by plans and policies such as risk-management plans addressing their needs and indicating services they could turn to for help.

Where Phase 1 was about testing the

feasibility of the approach with communities, B-READY is now in Phase 2 that is focusing on learning, improving and evidencing the B-READY model so it is most effective for scaling up. Phase 2 continues to be steered by the above partners through the B-READY Consortium.



CALL FOR ACTION


Investing to allow B-READY approach to **scale up** will directly support the well-being of communities and families making a significant and measurable difference to the people dealing with the impacts of ever-increasing climate disasters and **generating evidence** for future adapted response.

Supporting communities and governments to B-READY will help break the disaster-rebuild-debt cycle and help communities (and therefore countries) grow and prosper.

Gather and use all types of knowledge from different sources **to share and learn**. By sharing and using experiences and know-how through B-READY or other anticipatory actions, you will add to the wealth of knowledge that will benefit everyone.

CONNECT & CONTACT

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The B-READY Consortium



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Population at Risk

Brgy. Matarinao

Purok / Sitio / Zone

Infant
0-11 mos.

Children
1-12 YO

Adult
13-59 YO

Older Person
60 YO + AVE

	Infant		Children		Adult		Older Person	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. PUROK 1	1	0	21	20	63	44	21	18
2. PUROK 2	0	0	8	4	44	46	13	11
3. PUROK 3	1	1	54	51	163	166	16	14
4. PUROK 4	0	0	32	23	112	99	16	20
5. PUROK 5	1	0	48	40	170	159	26	33
6. PUROK 6	0	0	38	23	113	91	22	17
7. PUROK 7	0	0	8	4	64	43	13	19

PWD

Single Parent

Pregnant

Lactating
Mother

LGBT
Lesbian / Gay

Male	Female	Male	Female	Pregnant	Lactating Mother	LGBT Lesbian / Gay
2	2	4				
0	0	0			0	0
7	1				0	1
3	0				0	0



B-READY