



Being the voice of the people to the Council

On October 25, 2016, the faith-based organizations in the country had its next round of discussions focusing specifically on enhancing its engagement with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

“In the bigger context, we would want to have a faith-based voice in the humanitarian center, because of the strong theological basis of the churches’ humanitarian action and the values that motivates the FBOs to serve the communities in need,” Ms. Lot Felizco emphasized.

NDRRMC & the FBOs

Mr. Edwin Salonga, Chief of Disaster Risk Governance Division, briefly presented an orientation to the RA 10121 or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management System, the NDRRM Framework and its structure. Salonga stated that, “FBOs play an important role in amplifying various efforts in DRRM, by identifying and filling the gaps done by the government and other stakeholders, consolidating resources.”

“The FBOs can participate at various levels, from national to regional to municipal and up to barangay level. We encourage you to apply for the seats designated to FBOs at all levels,” Salonga added.

Sharing on the experience as a representative to the NDRRMC, Mr. Marc Alejo, Government Relations Specialist of World Vision, “The role and contribution of FBOs to the DRRM work can be seen in the areas of capacity building, intensifying coordination and strengthening the DRRMC formations from regional to the local level.”

With the recognition of the unique role of FBOs in the DRR and humanitarian action, the potential of amplifying the voice of the communities they serve in the various levels of the Council is significantly seen. But this, as the participants claimed, can only be realized if the voices would unite, and is grounded to upholding the dignity of the most vulnerable people.