

B-READY

B-READY Online Learning Event: Summary Report

29 March 2022 (ZOOM)

The Building Resilient, Adaptive and Disaster-Ready Communities (B-READY) is a novel humanitarian-development nexus disaster risk reduction model, funded by the DRA Innovation Fund (DIF), that strategically invests in disaster preparedness and anticipatory humanitarian action. It features innovations such as the use of scientific early warning systems or pre-emptive cash transfer. And it puts communities at the centre and builds on localisation and complementarity with local actors.

During the learning event local partners and the B-READY initiators of Oxfam, Plan and Global Parametrics presented their learnings on using the innovative B-READY model and will present the [B-READY Toolkit](#). The aim of this meeting was to explore the advantages that the B-READY multi-stakeholders' partnership model can have in the humanitarian space.

Speakers:

- **Magali de Biolley**, Global B-READY Communications and Knowledge Management Specialist - Oxfam
- **Toby Behrmann**, Head of Partnerships & Business Development at Global Parametrics
- **Junver Arcayna**, Oxfam Financial Inclusion Specialist at Oxfam in the Philippines
- **Marie Nessa Gardiola**, Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning Officer at Plan Philippines
- **Peter Heintze**: coordinator (moderator)

Kick off: short [video](#) explaining the basics of B-READY

Introduction to B-READY – Magali de Biolley (B-READY)

Five key elements to B-READY:

1. Impact based disaster forecasting.
2. Pre-emptive action through cash transfers.
3. Shifting from humanitarian response after disaster, to pre-emptive response that strengthens community resilience.
4. Merging scientific knowledge with lived experiences of people and local knowledge: bridging the gap between the scientific sector and local knowledge
5. Addressing disasters with a lower threshold to work on community reconstruction after smaller scale disasters.

B-READY in short:

An impact-based forecast model that predicts how the next disaster is going to develop. By combining scientific data and community indicated signs, triggers are determined. There are also preparedness trainings for the local population. When the triggers are met, people receive cash on their card to use to prepare themselves.

Aims of B-READY model:

- Improved dignity, decision making capacity, and wellbeing of communities.
- Better protection of vulnerable groups.
- Better prepared communities.
- Local governments become invested in disaster preparedness.
- Communities find it easier to prepare.
- Private sector becomes involved.

More information: <https://b-ready.org/>

Impact-based forecast models - Toby Behrmann (Global Parametrics)

Role of Global Parametrics in B-READY:

Global Parametrics brings data sources together to get a consistent view of risk. The innovation is to add information from local communities to scientific data, including information from the nation meteorological institution. From this a parametric index is created to get an objective view of risk, that is monitored automatically. When risk occurs for a predefined event, B-READY is activated and a pre-agreed amount of money is transferred.

Finance:

Because this is an objective instead of subjective view of risk, it is possible to have private financial contracts instead of donor funding. This is important because donor funding is often insufficient and take more time to arrive.

Moving forward:

B-READY can expand to include other perils besides cyclones, such as earthquakes, rainfall/flood, and drought. It can also expand to other places in the world as the concept can work anywhere.

Pre-emptive cash transfers, financial inclusion and community based disaster preparedness - Junver Arcayna (Oxfam Philippines)

Pre-emptive cash transfers:

Cash transfers are not new, but they are very important in disaster responses. Communities need to receive the cash 3-5 days prior to disaster to be able to prepare themselves. Cash transfers give back dignity to the household, as it enables them to decide for themselves what they need: buy food, strengthen the home, or flee to a different area. It also allows them to seek shelter with relatives without feeling like a burden. Pre-emptive cash transfers thus work empowering.

Incorporating the private sector:

It is also an opportunity to show a new market to private companies and introduce them to populations that are not usually the target for innovative business projects. This way, the private sector is also included in the B-READY model.

Community-based disaster preparedness:

Part of B-READY is also to organize information projects for the local community that inform people about the necessary documents if they are forced to leave the area and about financial management strategies like savings and insurance. All of this is done in the local language of the community. This means that the entire process is understood by the community, which created the opportunity to set up a local anticipatory action team. Hereby, B-READY's continuation in the future is ensured.

Question from participant:

What is the task of the municipal AA team and how were they institutionalized?

The municipal AA team is a technical working group that was created to help improve and adapt the cash transfers and the B-READY approach in general. They have compiled everything we learned from the last three years of B-READY to create a guideline for pre-emptive cash transfers and a standard operating procedure (SOPs). The challenge now is to keep pulling funds for this local team to allow them to continue improving these processes and influence the government to support their initiatives at the policy level

Gender and Protection of vulnerable groups - Marie Nessa Gardiola (Plan Philippines)

How gender and protection of vulnerable groups are incorporated in B-BEADY projects:

- Community consultations and trainings: making sure that there is a level headedness of the situation on the ground, and have people understand that they are consulted and part of the process.
- Gender trainings: trainings that focus on gender awareness, with the aim of a better appreciation of what gender is means and how it affects their relationships with their families and children. People are encouraged to further advocate gender and protection, and some women's groups have come into being.
- Protection monitors: they are community volunteers in charge of ensuring that people in vulnerable sectors and groups are taken care of, especially during evacuation. They are an integral part of successfully championing gender and protection in the community. During the pandemic, for example, they went door to door to inform households about domestic violence and other pandemic-related social risks.
- Disaster-preparedness training: Women often not involved in the decision-making process during a disaster response. But they are interested in knowledge about how to prepare. This training teaches them basic life support skills, first aid skills, how to prepare to go bags, etc. This empowers them to take on a decision-making role in their families.
- Community savings group: This initiative highlights disaster preparedness as a social protection intervention. Participants can save funds for future disasters, which are released in case of a disaster and can then be used for evacuation, the fortification of houses or as a supplement to the preemptive cash transfer.
- Contingency plans including gender and protection measures: Contingency plans made by B-READY include plans on how to ensure that vulnerable groups are safeguarded during disasters. This way, the community has something to refer back to in times of emergency.
- Measures to enable and simplify the reporting of gender-related issues: Smartphones that serve as hotlines, public service announcement systems, gender-based violence

flyers and referral pathway systems are created and/or distributed so that women can report safely and make sure that the proper agency addresses their issues.

Sustaining anticipatory action & a call to action - Magali de Biolley

Making B-READY sustainable:

Local governments have an obligation to their citizens to help them prepare for disasters, and to involve local communities in this from the start. B-READY serves as an example of an inclusive, practical and people-centered approach to do so. This approach should be institutionalized in disaster response mechanisms employed by the government, because humanitarian workers are only there until the government can take over.

Achieving sustainability:

- Continue to learn and to share experiences and lessons, use this as evidence for developing B-READY further.
- Scaling up the project, ensuring government investments.
- Advocacy in the anticipatory action sector: put more focus on the human case/community-led AA approach instead of only economic motivators.
- Including the private sector further into the project, as they are becoming more important in humanitarian responses and can add to a resilient humanitarian ecosystem.

This event was not only about learning, it is also a call to action to:

- Invest in B-READY
- Support communities and governments in taking anticipatory action
- Scale up: gather more evidence and work with national governments
- Share and learn: inform yourself and those surrounding you about B-READY and what we do

Any additional information can be shared with us by e-mail at info@b-ready.org. You can also visit our website: www.b-ready.org.

