

A multi-stakeholder response to natural disasters during COVID-19

[Concept note]

Information about the session

Date and time

Tuesday 16 June

07:00 - 07:45 New York time

Background information

Vanuatu was the first country to be hit by a natural hazard while in COVID-19 lockdown. Since then, we have seen several other hazards from earthquakes to tropical storms challenging countries as they also continue to address the different impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This live session will explore how National Disaster Management Organizations (NDMOs) have collaborated with companies to prepare for, respond to or recover from natural hazards during the COVID-19 pandemic. Focus will be on the value of collective private sector engagement to support national efforts. The session will highlight the experiences from the Philippines - identified by the World Risk Index as one of the most hazard-prone countries in the world - and discuss how their lessons learned can be applied in other countries.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented a new challenge for the private sector to support preparedness and response efforts in the Philippines. The country's experience in Typhoon Haiyan and other major disasters since then has showed how disruptions in critical lifeline services such as power, telecommunications, water and, more importantly, the provision of basic services by the local government unit, impact the ability of communities to adapt and recover. Businesses play a critical role in supporting governments in building resilient communities.

Objectives

The session will help participants understand the role of public-private partnerships in strengthening national capabilities to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural hazards while also addressing the impacts of an epidemic or pandemic. More specifically, it will:

- Highlight good practices on public-private collaboration to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural hazards during COVID-19;
- Discuss the roles and responsibilities of different actors (government, UN, private sector, civil society) in disaster management;
- Explore challenges and solutions to collectively build disaster resilient communities and businesses while supporting the Sustainable Development Goals;

Agenda [times below are in EST)

07:00 – 07:10 Opening remarks

07:10 – 07:40 Interactive panel discussion: Example from the Philippines

- Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Chief Executive Officer, Ayala Corporation
- Veronica Gabaldon, Executive Director, Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF)
- Undersecretary Ricardo B. Jalad, Administrator, Office of Civil Defense & Executive Director, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, Philippines
- Moderator: Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, Chief Emergency Response Section | Response Support Branch, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

07:40 – 07:45 Closing remarks

Speaker biographies



Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala

Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala is Chairman and CEO of Ayala Corporation, one of the largest conglomerates in the Philippines, with interests in real estate, banking, telecommunications, water, industrial technologies, power, infrastructure, healthcare, and education. Jaime is a member of various business and socio-civic organizations, including the JP Morgan International Council and Mitsubishi Corporation International Advisory Council. He is the Co-Chair and Trustee of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF). He also chairs the Harvard Business School Asia-Pacific Advisory Board and the SMU

Advisory Council in the Philippines, as well as working with the Harvard Global Advisory Council, the University of Tokyo Global Advisory Board and the Endeavor Philippines board of trustees. Jaime represented the Philippines on the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Advisory Council from 2010 to 2015.



Veronica T. Gabaldon

As the Executive Director of Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation, Veronica T. Gabaldon leads the strategic direction, programs, and administration of the organization towards the achievement of PDRF’s vision to build resilient businesses and communities in the country. Recognized as one of the active women leaders in the DRR community in the country, she led the design, launch, and operation of the country’s only private sector-led Operations Center in Clark, Pampanga. As a strong advocate of the way private sector engages before and during crises, she has been active in the Connecting Business initiative platform of OCHA and UNDP where she shares her expertise and

experiences. Before being appointed as Executive Director, she acted as PDRF's Senior Program Manager, leading the Recovery Program and the Telecommunications Cluster. For 18 years, she also headed Smart Communications' nationwide initiatives and operations to boost customer and community relations.



Ricardo B. Jalad

Undersecretary Ricardo B. Jalad is the 12th Administrator of the Office of Civil Defense, a civilian bureau under the Department of National Defense. By virtue of Republic Act 10121 or the Philippine DRRM Law of 2010, Undersecretary Jalad holds a dual role in the Philippine DRRM System as on June 30, 2016. Since then, he has introduced various reforms in the OCD to ensure efficiency in the delivery of its mandate as well as improve transparency in the organization. As OCD Administrator, Undersecretary Jalad takes the lead in overseeing the country's implementation of various programs in the area of disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM). Under his leadership, the New

NDRRM Operations Center was constructed and operationalized. Also, new warehouses located in Regions II, III, V, IX, and NCR were established; and the ones in Batanes, Fort Magsaysay, Samar, and Dinagat Islands are presently being built to ensure a more efficient disaster response in vulnerable areas.

He led the development of the National Disaster Response Plans for Terrorism-Related Incidents, and for Earthquake and Tsunami, as well as the updating of the response plan for hydrometeorological hazards and the all-encompassing National DRRM Plan. He currently leads efforts to realize the President's directive to establish Government Command and Control Center (GCCC) facilities in strategic areas in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

Undersecretary Jalad is keen on emphasizing the importance of a whole-of-society approach towards a successful DRRM effort, particularly in such a disaster-prone country like the Philippines. He endeavours to involve civil society organizations, business sector, government agencies, LGUs, and other stakeholders in the OCD's various programs and initiatives. Likewise, in a bid to be inclusive, vulnerable Philippine communities and the 14 basic sectors of society are prioritized in the OCD's capacity-building programs.

"Ric", as friends call him, is a native of Bohol, and a member of PMA "Matikas" Class of 1983.



Sebastian Rhodes Stampa

Mr. Rhodes Stampa is currently serving as the Chief of the Emergency Response Section of the Emergency Response Branch in OCHA Geneva. In this role he oversees response services including the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) system, Joint Environment Unit (JEU), Operational Partnership Unit, Private Sector Engagement/NGO Partnership Unit, Connecting Business Initiative (CBI), Coordination Platforms Unit (VOSOCC, GDACS etc.) and serves as the Secretary to the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG).

Much of Mr. Rhodes Stampa's experience over the past decade has been in sudden onset natural disasters. He has been the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator for humanitarian response operations in Mozambique (Cyclones Idai and Kenneth, 2019), Haiti (Hurricane Matthew, 2016) and the Philippines (Typhoon Haiyan, 2013). He has also led United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) rapid response teams on missions to Fiji (Cyclone Winston, 2016), Vanuatu (Cyclone Pam, 2015), the Philippines (Typhoon Hagupit, 2014, Super Typhoon Haiyan, 2013 and Typhoons Ketsana and Parma in 2009), Myanmar (Cyclone Mahasen, 2013) and the Cook Islands (Cyclone Pat, 2010). He was the Deputy UNDAC Team Leader for the Japan response (Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, 2011) and led an UNDAC Preparedness Mission to Sri Lanka (2011).

Outside the UNDAC system, Mr. Rhodes Stampa has deployed throughout the region with OCHA, to both sudden onset disasters, as well as conflicts, in Bangladesh as the Senior Coordinator in Cox's Bazaar (2017), in Timor-Leste (2006 and 2007), Nepal (2007), Pakistan (2009) and the Philippines (conflict affected areas of Mindanao 2007 and 2008). He has also deployed out of the region to South Sudan (2018) as the Head of Office a.i. and Yemen (2015) as a senior advisor on strategic response planning.

From 2004-2005, Mr. Rhodes Stampa was the OCHA Middle East Desk Officer in the UN HQ New York, from where he deployed for the Indian Ocean Tsunami response (December 2004). Prior to working in UN HQ, Mr. Rhodes Stampa worked for OCHA in the Middle East (2003-2004), as a liaison officer to the Coalition Provisional Authorities and then as the Special Assistant to the UN Secretary General's Special Representative (SRSG) for Iraq.

Before joining OCHA Mr. Rhodes Stampa worked for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) from 2000 to 2002. Mr. Rhodes Stampa is a graduate of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and served in the British Forces. He holds a Master's Degree in Disaster Management from the University of Leicester. He is married with two children.

About the organizers

Connecting Business initiative (CBI)

The Connecting Business initiative (CBI) transforms how the private sector engages before, during and after crises. The initiative is jointly managed by UNDP and OCHA, and supported

by partners including the UN Global Compact. It increases the resilience of companies and people, while integrating private sector networks into disaster management mechanisms. In 2019, CBI Member Networks and their partners responded to 31 crises including earthquakes, cyclones, political unrest and health epidemics. CBI Networks play critical roles by participating in search and rescue operations, collecting and distributing relief aid, restoring critical infrastructure, sharing information, making financial contributions and working alongside governments and aid organizations. More information at: www.connectingbusiness.org

Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF)

The Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), established in 2009, continues to be the private sector's vehicle for disaster risk reduction and management. Composed of more than 80 corporate members from different industries, PDRF works with the country's largest businesses, local and international partner organizations, as well as micro and small and medium-sized enterprises in promoting the culture of resilience-building. More information at: <https://www.pdrf.org/>