Program enhancing disaster resilience of Makati and QC governments launched

13 November 2019, MANILA—Project KoNeK or Komunidad at Negosyo Tungo sa Katatagan—led by Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) and supported by the USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)—was launched for the City Government of Makati City and Quezon City last November 13. The project aims to further enhance the institutional and organizational capacity of the two pilot local government units (LGUs), as well as other LGUs in the National Capital Region, for continuity planning and working with critical private sector stakeholders within the cities.

Focusing on public service continuity capabilities, the program has partnered with the Makati City Government and the Quezon City Government to help LGUs plan and prepare for disruptive events and to contribute significantly to ensuring that disruption of critical services to communities is minimized.

“In PDRF’s essence, we are here to help organizations and communities become more resilient and there is no clearer, more direct way to do that in localized programs such as Project KoNeK,” said PDRF President Butch Meily.

The launch is part of the second phase of Project KoNeK, which began in 2018 to help build the disaster risk reduction and management capabilities of Barangay Commonwealth and Barangay Bagumbayan in Quezon City through initiatives ranging from awareness-promotion sessions, risk assessment, and participatory three dimensional mapping to family preparedness, business continuity for MSMEs, and drills and simulations. In that year alone, Project KoNeK reached over 8,000 community members.

In partnership with the Quezon City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (QCDRRMO), Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP), and the Philippine Geographical Society (PGS), Project KoNeK will also be ramping up its disaster resilience efforts, aiming to reach more barangays, including Barangay Talayan and Barangay Doña Imelda in Quezon City.
Advocating for the whole-of-society approach in disaster risk reduction and management, PDRF has been leading community resilience efforts since 2016. Currently, it represents the private sector as a member of the disaster risk reduction and management councils of Quezon City and Makati City.