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PRESS RELEASE

PDRF, NAMRIA equip Antipolo LGUs with advanced geospatial technical capacity to drive data-informed disaster, climate resilience planning

SEPTEMBER 25, 2026 | Antipolo City — The Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), through its Building Resilience through Inclusive Development and Gender Equality (BRIDGE) Project and in partnership with the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), trained 23 Antipolo City Government staff from key offices and enabled them to secure a certification in Advanced Geographic Information System (GIS). The Foundation is implementing BRIDGE Project with the support of the Government of Canada through a funding grant from the Global Affairs Canada.

In photo: Twenty-three Antipolo City Government staff have successfully completed the Advanced GIS Training course implemented by PDRF and NAMRIA on 21-25 September 2026. Photo taken on 23 September, Antipolo City.

"Antipolo's promise is simple. We want a city that is livable, inclusive, and ready. Ready for rain. Ready for heat. Ready for growth that does not eat the watershed. Advanced GIS will not solve everything. But without it, we solve the wrong problems with great confidence," said

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Mayor Casimiro Ynares III, underscoring how the Advanced GIS training course directly contributes to the efforts to strengthen Antipolo's disaster and climate resilience.

Building on the fundamental knowledge and skills imparted through the Basic GIS Training course, the Advanced GIS training is designed to reinforce these learnings and test the participants' ability to apply various spatial and mapping principles in their respective work streams. In particular, this AGIS training course, conducted on September 21-26, 2026, focused on how GIS can strengthen the city's disaster preparedness, climate resilience, and local development initiatives through data-driven planning and implementation of local programs.

The 23 participants who are now certified in Advanced GIS are from the city offices for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, Planning and Development, Engineering, Environment, Waste and Sanitation, Agriculture, Building Official, Assessors, Veterinary and Social Welfare and Development.

"Maganda siya, at nakikita namin kung saan pwede itong magamit, lalo na sa mga gawain ng CDRRMO. Sa mga inspeksyon at paggawa ng hazard at flood maps, mas madali nang matukoy at mailagay ang data para sa mga affected families. Marami pang data ang pwedeng maidagdag dito. Malaking tulong ito lalo na sa amin kapag nag-i-inspect dahil, kapag ginamit na namin ito, makukuha na namin ang eksaktong area," said Engr. Arnold Santos, Local Disaster Risk Reduction Management Officer IV of the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO), on how the training provides practical tools for field inspections, hazard mapping, flood mapping, and identifying affected communities.

Mayor Ynares emphasized how increasing the technical capacity of the city government staff is crucial in fostering self-reliance and data-informed decision-making, ***"Hindi tayo dapat forever dependent on consultants para basahin ang sarili nating lungsod. We must grow our own people who can open the software on a Monday morning and help the Mayor decide by Monday afternoon."***

This course is implemented as part of the Building Resilience through Inclusive Development and Gender Equality (BRIDGE) Project, and directly

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contributes to the efforts of the Foundation and the Global Affairs Canada (GAC) to improve the local institutions' policies and implementation of gender-responsive, climate and disaster resilient Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

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About BRIDGE Project
Supported by the Global Affairs Canada, the Building Resilience through Inclusive Development and Gender Equality (BRIDGE) Project is a four-year project implemented by PDRF to enhance the disaster and climate resilience of Baguio City by strengthening the IWRM capacities of communities (IPLC & women) and local institutions (LGU, PS, CSO); and applying gender-responsive practices.

About PHILIPPINE DISASTER RESILIENCE FOUNDATION
The Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) is the country's major private sector vehicle and coordinator for disaster resilience. As an alliance of businesses dedicated to building the disaster risk management capabilities of the private sector in the country, PDRF aims to contribute to the sustainable development and the general welfare of the Filipino people. For more information, visit www.pdrf.org.

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