

OPERATION KAJO: A Student-Led Disaster Response for Farmers in Benguet

You can apply for one or more of the following six categories: (1) industrial application, (2) entrepreneurial spirit, (3) ethical value, (4) student mobility and openness, (5) crisis management, and (6) Progress in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. If you have more than one project, please use one template per project with serial numbers from 1 through N.

Program Profile	
University name	Cordillera Career Development College
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Email address	jtagle@ccdc.edu.ph
(Serial number) Program name	(ccdc_01) OPERATION KAJO: A Student-Led Disaster Response for Farmers in Benguet
Category (Please mark (x) just one)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Industrial Application <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Entrepreneurial Spirit <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Ethical Value <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Student Mobility and Openness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. Crisis Management <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Progress in the Fourth Industrial Revolution
Abstract of Program (200-300 words)	
<p>As an educational institution, the Cordillera Career Development College, whose mission is to deliver quality education through holistic, accessible and inclusive learning experiences to build socially and environmentally responsible global leaders and citizens provide opportunities for them to learn beyond the walls of the school's halls. Even during the pandemic, students learn responsiveness and disaster risk management through hands-on experiences and through collaboration with private organizations with shared goals related to disaster management and response.</p> <p>The Philippines is one of the most hazard-prone countries in the world. Benguet is a mountainous region in Northern Philippines that is home to indigenous Cordillera groups, the majority of whom rely on highland vegetable growing as their primary source of livelihood. According to studies and data, the Municipality of La Trinidad is prone to flooding and landslides brought on by approximately 10-15 typhoons that hit the locality annually. In October 2021, Typhoon Maring hit La Trinidad, and the entire Benguet Province causing severe damage to vegetable crops, resulting in collective loss of millions of pesos for local farmers.</p> <p>Students, guided by school personnel, coordinated with the Benita and Catalino Yap Foundation and the Shell Foundation for a needs-based disaster response activity. The disaster response initiatives aim to integrate interpersonal engagement, volunteerism and civic responsibility among the ADMIRALS (Administrator, Mentors and Personnel, Investors, and Parents, Retirees and former employees, Alumni and Local Government, community and Students) while advocating genuine social responsibility and continuous efforts for climate action.</p>	
Planning	
Background	<p>In the spirit of Binnadang and Aduyon, the traditions of the indigenous peoples of the Cordillerans in the Philippines to voluntarily help and reach out to others in need, particularly during disasters, CCDC coordinated with the Benita and Catalino Yap Foundation and the Pilipinas Shell Foundation for an activity to help 351 farmers affected by the onslaught of Typhoon Maring in October 2021.</p> <p>The valley was flooded affecting largely the agricultural areas, for strawberries and vegetables, and even residential areas.</p>

		<p>The La Trinidad Agricultural Office forecasted that 34 hectares' agriculture land, including the strawberry Farm was affected by Typhoon Maring in the whole of La Trinidad. Hence, with the support of the school extension office, students gathered data to assess the damage and list priority needs of farmers affected by the typhoon for a disaster-relief response activity.</p> <p>This student-led disaster-relief response focused on assisting farmers' avail of new planting materials to help them recover from the crisis while allowing themselves to learn from actual experiences through volunteerism. This activity was also an opportunity to value partnerships and collaborations with various organizations and groups.</p>
Subject (Names & titles)	Initiator(s)	Annabelle B. Gondales, VP Administration Benita Catalino Yap Foundation Pilipinas Shell Foundation
	Leader(s)	Marcial Etong, Kimberlyn Valdez
	Team members	Michelle Palongdias, other CCDC Student Volunteers
Environment	Nature/society	The Municipality of La Trinidad is a first-class municipality and the Capital Town of Benguet, with a total land area of 80.795125 square kilometers, representing 2.7% of the province's total area. Agriculture and agrotourism are the primary industries. The municipal government has 4,718.44 hectares of agricultural property. This represents 58.40% of the municipality's land usage. However, the overall agricultural land area is 3,060.00 hectares. According to reports and statistics, the Municipality of La Trinidad is prone to floods and landslides.
	Industry/market	La Trinidad has established itself as a trading center, transacting and marketing approximately 85% of Benguet's entire vegetable production. However, several issues emerged as a result of the Covid Pandemic and the occurrence of natural disasters. Among the issues found were unscrupulous vegetable pricing, which was unfavorable to the farmer, and the quality of vegetables produced.
	Government/others	The municipal government, led by the Mayor, governs 16 barangays, the smallest unit of government.
Resources	Human requirements	CCDC Student Volunteers CCDC Focal Person
	Financial requirements	<p>Cost for the Disaster Response Initiative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Typhoon Maring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From the Pilipinas Shell Foundation , Inc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 35 Rice Sacks (50kg per sacks) - P80,500 b. Packet Seeds – P124,000 2. From CCDC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 3 Rice Sacks (50 kgs each) - P6,600 b. Re-packing (eco-bags) - P2,500 c. Transportation and Food for Volunteers - P10,000
	Technological/other requirements	none

Mechanism	Strategic options available	The enthusiasm, responsiveness of the partner organizations, the Benita and Catalina Yap Foundation and the Pilipinas Shell Foundation, along with the school and students to work and do their share in working towards the shared goal of immediate and timely disaster-relief activity for affected farmers is key to ensure the meaningful conduct of the program.
	Their relative importance	The significance of the project Operation Kajo are characterized by the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. INTERPERSONAL ENGAGEMENT - The development of interpersonal skills in engaging in community service is a fundamental aim of training and development activities for many volunteer individuals, particularly students. 2. VOLUNTEERISM - Students obtain real-world experience and develop critical skills such as leadership, problem-solving, and time management via community service. Volunteering allows students to apply what they've learned in the classroom to real-world settings. 3. CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY - through this participation, students' emotional intelligence and feeling of psychosocial well-being increase as a result. Students who engage in civic participation develop vital interpersonal skills, cross-cultural teamwork, and a feeling of self-efficacy for positively impacting individuals, organizations, and communities.
	Their sequences for execution	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collaboration and partnership with Benita Catalino Yap Foundation 2. Gathering of initial data through coordination with the target barangay through assessment and interview with the affected families 3. Consolidation of the gathered data to form the Situational Report 4. Receiving of the goods for re-packing. 5. Coordination and Distribution of the goods 6. Evaluation and collaboration for continued development
Content	Operation Kajo for Disaster Response was able to establish a partnership with a private organization that was utilized for disaster response. In which students were prepared to partake in community immersion and involvement with affected families even during the epidemic and just after the crisis. This project will continue to expand its services, not only to assist society or community in crisis response, but also to support students in becoming noble citizens and lifelong learners through immersion.	
Key points	Climate change is waiting around the corner to discourage us from achieving a high quality of life. As a result, we used the notion of "I VOLUNTEER MYSELF" to demonstrate and equip students that whatever happens or comes around, they are resilient and ready to volunteer in the needs of the community or society.	
Differences from traditional approaches	Effective and meaningful extension services, to include disaster-relief response, is a meaningful and productive learning	

	<p>experience for students who have the genuine intention of facilitating that needed resources reach well-deserving beneficiaries in a timely manner. Disaster-relief response has become a learning avenue for students to value partnership and collaboration with various government agencies, like the local government, and private organizations, it strengthens communication skills, appreciates the value of data and information and imbibes the value of social responsibility and volunteerism.</p> <p>On the other hand, disaster-relief response and other extension activities, also bridges the gap between the academe and the community, it showcases that those in the academe are not only confined in their own respective comfort zones but also is relevant to the everyday community activities in the hope to promoting sustainable development in their own respective communities. Such is the idea of the Operation Kajo: Student-Led Disaster Response for Farmers affected by the Typhoon.</p>
Doing	
Launch date	October 15, 2021
Responsible organization	Cordillera Career Development College, Benita Catalino Yap Foundation, Shell Foundation
Progress as of today	Continuous partnership with the aforementioned Agency for other disaster-response activities.
Problems in implementation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communication with Beneficiaries. Lack of cell phone signals, and other communication technologies, especially in the aftermath of a typhoon where electric supplies are disrupted. 2. There are insisted groups who wish to be included as beneficiaries but upon verification, are not among those greatly affected by the Typhoon.
Approaches to solve the problems	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordination with Barangay officials has been instrumental in making sure that the team is able to have continuous communication with the beneficiaries. 2. Transparency in showing the criteria and process to select deserving beneficiaries with the help of the barangay officials.
Completion date, if completed	November 25, 2021
Seeing	
Impacts on students	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With the conduct of the activity, students were exposed to learning from the community, through hands-on guided activity in data gathering, interviewing and documentation of affected farmers; 2. As a result of Covid Pandemic, most students were more engaged in their electronic devices. But by this initiative it elevated the students' sense of volunteering by which they were empowered and enlightened that engaging in volunteer activities benefits them as well as the community.
Impacts on professors and university	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professors and the College in general, are able to integrate the experiences, extension practice in relevant topics as a way to motivate students to be socially responsible, responsive and encourage volunteerism.

	2. Experiences in volunteering and community immersion provide a boost to self-confidence, self-esteem and life satisfaction. Doing good to others and the community which provides a natural sense of accomplishment.
Responses from industry/market	Private organizations have also expressed interest in partnering with the school for similar projects, which are also aligned with their respective community social responsibility projects.
Responses from government	The local government disaster risk reduction and management councils have recognized the efforts of the school and of the students and have included the team as part of the overall disaster coordinating council of the municipality of La Trinidad.
Measurable output	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 395 farmers were given initial planting materials to start up their farms; 2. 395 farmers were given rice packs, necessary to help them get through the crisis and encourage them to continuously strive to recover and be resilient; 3. 67 students were able exposed to the disaster-relief response activity to experience and learn the dynamics of disaster-response, communicating with various groups, agencies and organizations, and doing voluntary and socially responsive work
Cost-benefit analysis for effectiveness	Operation Kajo: Student-Led Disaster-relief Response Activity for Farmers affected by the typhoon is a cost-effective program since it maximizes the existing services and programs of private organizations and channeling them to deserving beneficiaries in the locality. The initial investment of the partner agency for the planting materials and rice are well-spent having purchased said rice directly from a nearby rice-farming community and the vegetable seedlings from local manufacturers.
Future Planning	
Where does the project go from here?	The project will continue to be conducted and strengthened as a means to genuinely help those affected by calamities and disasters, alongside with efforts for climate action. It will continue to strengthen the program as an authentic venue for students to learn from actual experiences that showcase social responsiveness.
Miscellaneous	
Exhibits, pictures, diagrams, etc.	Photo Documentations
Reports, mimeos, monographs, books, etc.	Initial Situational Report on Typhoon Maring for La Trinidad, Benguet and Post Activity Report
Others which may help explain the project	Post Activity Report