



STRENGTHENING THE ENGAGEMENT OF DIASPORA FOR ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO SAFER SHELTERS IN DISASTER RESPONSE, PREPAREDNESS AND RECOVERY (PHASE II)



Residents of Brgy Banica, fix their houses with the tarp given by IOM. IOM./Alan Motus.

WHY IS THIS PROJECT RELEVANT?

The unprecedented number and scale of humanitarian crises around the world are challenging national and international actors to meet the demand for assistance and services in increasingly complex situations. This is particularly true in the shelter sector where only 10-20% post-disaster housing needs are met.

Diaspora groups play a significant role in development and humanitarian fields in the pre-crisis, crisis, and post-crisis contexts. They are often the first responders, along with the local population. They send home billions of dollars in remittances every year. These remittances spike following natural disasters in the migrants' home countries, and they have a significant impact on disaster response. Diasporas are also involved in many other aspects of disaster response, including fundraising, direct assistance and medical missions to their home countries.

This project, implemented by IOM Washington, with funds from the U.S. Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), will build upon the first pilot phase with the intention of **contributing to the promotion of safer shelters by taking a new approach: involving diaspora organizations (DOs). It will work to expand DOs engagement with humanitarian actors in countries of origin working in the shelter sector at the global and national level.** The project will continue to work with the diaspora communities targeted in the pilot phase; U.S. based diaspora organizations from **Haiti, Bangladesh, and the Philippines**. These countries were selected based on country level vulnerability, the incidence of large-scale disasters, and the size of the diaspora within the U.S.

OBJECTIVES

- Expand and deepen targeted diasporas' communities awareness and level of knowledge concerning safer shelter needs, standards, and practices.
- Contribute to strengthen diaspora's role in increasing affected communities' capacity to build back safer shelters and overall reduce communities risks.

Increasing diaspora's engagement in disaster response is key to a shifting humanitarian context, where humanitarian actors are looking to involve different stakeholders for a more coordinated and effective response.

HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE THE PROJECT GOALS?

- Provide **trainings** of diaspora groups through online and in-person courses/workshops. A stronger **cooperation** between diaspora actors and humanitarian actors in their countries of origin will be promoted.
- The creation of **diaspora response cells** and other tools for a more effective and coordinated response in the shelter sector will be promoted.
- Conduct broader **outreach** through media campaigns utilizing both diaspora-run outlets (tv, radio, social media) and IOM applications iDiaspora, MigApp, and the Global Diaspora Platform.
- Strengthening **capacity building** efforts on Build Back Safer and DRR for pilot affected communities.
- Remittances and the use of **mobile money transfer infrastructures** will be leveraged to disseminate DRR and Build Back Safer messaging.