

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

November 4, 2024

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. 789.2024

ROLL-OUT OF BATANG EMPOWERED AND RESILIENT TEAM (BERT)

To: Schools Division Superintendents
Heads, Public Elementary and Secondary Schools
All others concerned

1. The Department of Education-CAR in partnership with Save the Children Philippines issues the enclosed guidelines on the Roll-out of Batang Empowered and Resilient Team (BERT) which aims to institutionalize the BERT program in all public schools. BERT will help increase the capacity and resilience of learners and ensure that they will be protected from harm and danger brought by disasters and emergencies.

2. These guidelines provide the minimum instructions on how to begin with the roll-out of BERT. School organizations, such as the Supreme Elementary Learner Government (SELG), Supreme Secondary Learner Government (SSLG), School Watching Team (SWT), and the Girl and Boy Scout organizations in every school, may act as BERT and adopt its programs and activities.

3. The BERT program supports DepEd Order No. 55, s. 2007 and DepEd Order No. 33, s. 2021 that seek to mainstream the implementation of DRRM at all levels and implement preparedness measures and response mechanisms during hazards.

4. All public schools, both elementary and secondary, are encouraged to utilize the BERT materials. Printing of the modules and other related expenses shall be charged to Disaster Preparedness and Response Program (DPRP) funds and/or other available sources of funds, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

5. The Division DRRM Coordinators in collaboration with the Division Learner Formation Coordinators shall facilitate the conduct of the training on BERT for all School DRRM Coordinators.

6. For immediate and wide dissemination.


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GUIDELINES ON THE ROLL-OUT OF BATANG EMPOWERED AND RESILIENT TEAM (BERT)

I. Rationale

Children are among the most vulnerable inside and outside of school during disasters or any other serious disruptions affecting the community. School children should be equipped with the capacity to know the man-made and natural hazards, help them understand the risks and vulnerabilities that could affect them, and equip and engage them to be prepared for any emergencies or disasters. DepEd Order No. 23, s. 2015 encompasses the initial steps in organizing the School Watching Team (SWT) to be aware of the potential hazards within and around the school.

Batang Empowered and Resilience Team (BERT) is a program that capacitates our learners on what to do before, during, and after a disaster.

II. Objectives

1. Identify hazards and distinguish them from disasters;
2. Identify the vulnerabilities and learn to increase the capacity to lessen the impact of disasters;
3. Know and understand Children's Rights;
4. Familiarize with early warning signs and evacuation route; and
5. Understand basic first aid and life-saving skills.

III. SCOPE

This program shall be implemented by all public elementary and secondary schools in the DepEd Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). Private schools are encouraged to adopt the program.

IV. Definition of Terms

Disaster- it is a serious disruption of a community or society's functioning due to widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses, damages, and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.

Emergency- unforeseen or sudden occurrence, especially danger, demanding immediate action;

Hazard- any phenomenon that has the potential to cause disruption or damage to humans and their environment, e.g. typhoon, flood, fire.

Risk- the expected number of lives lost, persons injured, damage to property, and disruption of economic activity due to natural phenomenon, and consequently the product of specific risk and elements at risk.



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Specific risk means the expected degree of loss due to a particular phenomenon, e.g. the population, buildings and civil engineering works, economic activities, public services, utilities and infrastructure, etc., at risk in a given area.

School- refers to any structure or space with or without marked visible boundaries which is either recognized by the government or known by the community as a learning space for children.

V. Policy Statement

This policy enjoins all public elementary and secondary schools to adopt the Batang Empowered Resilient Team (BERT) Program. Private schools are highly encouraged to adopt the program.

Awareness and preparedness is a must since calamities may come without warning. Education for disaster preparedness can provide lifesaving and life-sustaining information and skills that may protect particularly the most vulnerable groups during and after emergencies.

BERT will prepare learners for potential disasters, thereby reducing the impact of said disaster. If the learners can then transfer the knowledge to other learners as well as to the members of their families, it becomes general knowledge, and the community can be prepared for any eventuality.

7. This program supports various DepEd policies relative to DRRM such as DepEd Order No. 55, s. 2007 entitled *Prioritizing the Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction Management in the School System and Implementation of Programs and Projects Relative Therefore*, DepEd Order No. 83, s. 2011 entitled *Disaster Preparedness Measures for Schools*, DepEd Order No. 23, s. 2015 entitles *Student Led School Watching and Hazard Mapping*, and DepEd Order No. 33, s. 2021 entitles *School Based Disaster Preparedness and Response Measures for Tropical Cyclones, Flooding and other Weather-Related Disturbances and Calamities*, which seeks to mainstream the implementation of DRRM in the systems and processes of the Department in all public and elementary and secondary schools.

VI. Procedures

A. Organization of the BERT -

Existing school organizations such as the Supreme Elementary Learner Government (SELG) and Supreme Secondary Learner Government (SSLG), the Girl and Boy Scouts organization, and the School Watching Team (SWT) are integral part of the School DRRM Team (SDRRMT). They play a major role in advocating and implementing DRRM programs and strong participation of learners in holistic extra- and co-curricular activities.



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Existing organizations are strongly enjoined to adopt BERT as one of their the program. In case there are no SELG/SSLG organization in the school, the School Watching Team can serve as the BERT.

A. Training of School DRRM Coordinators

The Division DRRM Coordinator in collaboration with the Division Learner Formation Coordinator shall conduct the BERT training for all School DRRM Coordinators. The three core modules are Learn, Survive, and Be Protected.

B. School Training

The Homeroom adviser, together with the school DRRM Coordinator shall act as facilitators in their respective schools.

A team of SWT/SELG/SSLG-BERT facilitators composed of 5 members may be formed per grade level from Grade 4 to Grade 6 in the elementary. For secondary schools, one team composed of 5 members may be formed per grade level from Grade 7 up to Grade 12. The number of teams would depend on the size of the school. Each team may give a presentation in front of the class (same grade level) on a scheduled basis.

It is suggested to conduct a BERT presentation after the flag ceremony, after the afternoon class, or during the class period where DRRM can be integrated into a subject.

C. Support from LGU and other Stakeholders

All divisions may tap the support of stakeholders in the roll-out of the BERT program.

D. BERT Roll-Out (SWT-BERT presentation in school)

After the training of the BERT, the final output would be the presentation in front of the class or the Peer-to-Peer Teaching. This should be done regularly at least once a year. They will give a presentation on the three stations (Learn, Survive, Be Protected), the difference between hazard and disaster, the list of things contained in an emergency bag, first aid kit, and others.

For big schools, a program may be organized where all learners are gathered in a gymnasium and the SWT-BERT will present in front of them. The school facilitator should prepare a script and rehearse the team for the big event.

VII. Monitoring and Evaluation



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The School DRRM Coordinators/BERT advisers shall submit accomplishment reports (e.g. photo documentation with the narrative report, attendance sheet, and pre-post test result) to the Division Office. The Division DRRM Coordinator shall note the implementation issues and concerns and submit reports to the Regional Office. This will serve as input to succeeding development initiatives and recommendations.

VIII. Reference/Resources

DepEd Order No. 55, s. 2007 (*Prioritizing the Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction Management in the School System and Implementation of Programs and Projects Relative Therefor*)

DepEd Order No. 83, s. 2011 (*Disaster Preparedness Measures for Schools*)

DepEd Order No. 23, s. 2015 (*Student Led School Watching and Hazard Mapping*)

DepEd Order No. 33, s. 2021 (*School Based Disaster Preparedness and Response Measures for Tropical Cyclones, Flooding and other Weather-Related Disturbances and Calamities*)

Click the link <http://bit.ly/3ZrBJWy> or scan the QR Code to access and download the BERT Modules.

IX. Effectivity

This issuance shall immediately take effect upon approval. BERT programs and activities shall then be officially included as part of the regular program of the activities of the School Watching Team (SWT) and be implemented in all public schools in the Cordillera Administrative Region

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