ISSN (Online): 2455-3662
EPRA International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (IJMR) - Peer Reviewed Journal
Volume: 11| Issue: 3| March 2025|| Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra2013 || SJIF Impact Factor 2025: 8.691 || ISI Value: 1.188

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FIRE AUXILIARY GROUP PROGRAM: BASIS FOR A PROPOSED INTERVENTION SCHEME

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the basis for a proposed intervention scheme in implementing a Community Fire Auxiliary Group (CFAG) program in six high-fire-hazard barangays in Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte: Poblacion 1, Poblacion 2, Poblacion 3, Poblacion 9, La Union, and Tolosa. Focusing on 101 CFAG members, the research explored program implementation, challenges, and potential interventions to enhance efficiency and sustainability. Key findings include the socio-demographic profile of respondents, revealing that 85.15% were male, 93.07% were married, and 60.39% were high school graduates. Most volunteers (95.05%) served for 1-3 years, with many engaged as barangay tanods or tricycle drivers. Respondents strongly agreed on the effectiveness of program components, such as training (mean = 4.58) and implementation (mean = 4.44). However, challenges emerged, including inadequate firefighting equipment (mean = 4.59), limited volunteer availability, and funding constraints. The study highlighted significant differences in CFAG implementation across barangays, emphasizing the critical roles of funding, training, and community engagement. Proposed interventions include allocating budgets for equipment, training, and operational costs; certifying volunteers; and enhancing community fire response plans. Funding primarily stemmed from donations and barangay council reallocations, as no formal local government budget was dedicated to CFAG. The findings underscore the need for local government prioritization, policy alignment, and sustained community involvement. Strengthening CFAG through adequate funding, skill development, and proactive implementation will enhance fire safety, resilience, and public awareness. Recommendations also include providing honoraria to support fire volunteers and their families.

KEYWORDS: *Fire Auxiliary Group Program, Community Fire Auxiliary Group, Fire Safety Protocols, OLP*

INTRODUCTION

Community preparedness is the first line of defense for any type of emergency is it natural or man-made. A community able to respond immediately to calamities is the epitome of community preparedness and a testament to unity and people empowerment. It is therefore the responsibility of all agencies tasked with responding to natural and man-made emergencies to build and increase the capabilities of every community in the country by establishing a first line of defense or first responders, (Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations on RA 9514).

The creation and implementation of Community Fire Auxiliary Group (CFAG) in the Philippines are based on the principles of community engagement, resource optimization, and disaster risk reduction. This initiative aims to empower communities, improve fire prevention and response capabilities, and enhance overall resilience in the face of fire-related disasters and other emergencies (BFP- Philippines, Community Fire Protection Plan, and OLP Guide Book).

Under the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9514, Rule 6 "govern the organization, equipage, operation, and proficiency training of company and community fire brigades as well as continuous training and competency evaluation of fire volunteers and fire volunteer organizations in the country who shall undergo mandatory fire prevention, fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical services and other related emergency response training programs and competency evaluations to be conducted by the BFP.

In contemporary societies, fire auxiliary groups play a fundamental role in augmenting the capabilities of traditional firefighting services. This study, titled "The Operations, Problems, and Contributions of Fire Auxiliary Group: A Correlational Study," aims to delve into the intricate dynamics surrounding these auxiliary units. As urban landscapes evolve and communities face increasing risks of fire-related incidents, understanding how these groups operate, the challenges they encounter, and the positive contributions they make becomes imperative for enhancing overall community safety. (London-fire.gov.uk-online source).

The term "operations" encompasses various facets, including the efficacy of training programs, the availability of essential equipment, and the organizational structures supporting fire auxiliary groups. Investigating these elements will shed light on the foundations that determine the effectiveness of these groups in emergency situations. Simultaneously, recognizing the challenges or "problems" faced by fire auxiliary groups, such as resource constraints, communication breakdowns, and coordination difficulties, will provide a comprehensive perspective on the obstacles hindering optimal performance.
The study, "The Implementation of Fire Auxiliary Group Program: Basis for a Proposed Intervention Scheme," explores the current practices, challenges, and effectiveness of the Fire Auxiliary Group (FAG) Program. It aims to evaluate its implementation to identify gaps and areas for improvement that can be addressed through an intervention scheme. By examining the program's structure, operational procedures, and

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community impact, the study provides insights into how the FAG Program can be optimized to enhance its role in fire prevention, emergency response, and disaster management. The findings are expected to serve as a foundation for proposing a strategic intervention scheme that ensures the program's sustainability and alignment with the goals of the Bureau of Fire Protection and local communities.

Theoretical Framework

Social Learning Theory: The Social Learning Theory, proposed by Albert Bandura, emphasizes the role of observational learning and modeling in shaping behavior. In the context of the implementation of the Fire Auxiliary Group Program, individuals within the community are likely to learn and adopt fire safety practices through observation, imitation, and interaction with the Fire Auxiliary Group members. This theory supports the idea that interventions should focus on creating positive role models and fostering a community of practice to enhance the effectiveness of the program.

Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM) S Fries, 2020: CBSM is a theoretical framework that blends social psychology principles with marketing techniques to promote sustainable behavior change within communities. In the case of the Fire Auxiliary Group Program, CBSM can guide the design and implementation of strategies to influence community members' attitudes and behaviors towards fire safety. Utilizing CBSM principles, the program can identify and leverage community-specific motivators and barriers to encourage active participation and adherence to fire safety guidelines.

Diffusion of Innovations Theory: Developed by Everett Rogers (1962) and cited by JW Dearing, (2018), the Diffusion of Innovations Theory focuses on how new ideas or innovations spread within a social system. In the context of the Fire Auxiliary Group Program, this theory can help identify key factors that influence the adoption of fire safety practices among community members. Understanding the characteristics of innovators, early adopters, and laggards within the community can inform the development of targeted interventions to accelerate the adoption of the program and sustain long-term behavior change.

Community Resilience Framework John Green & Gary Goreham, 2019: The Community Resilience Framework provides a lens through which to assess and enhance a community's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. Applying this framework to the Fire Auxiliary Group Program allows for the identification of existing community resources, strengths, and vulnerabilities related to fire safety. By building on community resilience factors, the program can tailor interventions to reinforce existing assets and mitigate vulnerabilities, thereby fostering a more resilient and fire-safe community.

Health Belief Model, Hye Eun Oh, et.al 2022: The Health Belief Model explores how individuals perceive health risks and the factors that influence their decision-making regarding health-related behaviors. In the context of fire safety, this model can guide the development of interventions by addressing perceived susceptibility to fire hazards, perceived severity of potential consequences, perceived benefits of adopting fire safety practices, and perceived barriers to action. By understanding and addressing these factors, the Fire Auxiliary Group Program can enhance community members' motivation to engage in fire-safe behaviors.

Stakeholder Engagement Theory, J Kujala, 2022: Effective stakeholder engagement is crucial for the success of any community-based program. This theory emphasizes the importance of involving various stakeholders, including community members, local authorities, and businesses, in the planning and implementation process. The Fire Auxiliary Group Program should actively engage stakeholders to ensure their perspectives are considered, build community support, and enhance the program's sustainability over time.

By integrating these theoretical frameworks, the study on "The Implementation of Fire Auxiliary Group Program" can develop a comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing the adoption of fire safety practices within the community. This integrated framework provides a solid basis for designing and implementing a targeted intervention scheme that addresses the specific needs, perceptions, and dynamics of the community, ultimately promoting a safer and more resilient environment.

Conceptual Framework

Program Components: Training and Education: This component involves imparting essential fire safety knowledge and skills to community members through structured training programs conducted by the Fire Auxiliary Group. Community Outreach: Engaging in proactive outreach efforts to raise awareness about the Fire Auxiliary Group Program and its benefits within the community. Resource Mobilization: Establishing mechanisms to acquire and allocate resources such as firefighting equipment, communication tools, and educational materials.

Stakeholder Engagement: Community Involvement: Fostering active participation and collaboration among community members to create a sense of ownership and shared responsibility for fire safety. Local Authorities: Collaborating with local fire departments, government agencies, and other relevant stakeholders to ensure alignment with existing fire safety initiatives and regulations.

Communication and Information Dissemination: Internal Communication: Facilitating effective communication within the Fire Auxiliary Group to ensure coordination and information sharing among members. External Communication: Developing strategies for communicating fire safety information to the broader community through various channels, including workshops, pamphlets, social media, and community meetings.

Behavioral Change Strategies: Positive Reinforcement: Implementing strategies to positively reinforce desired fire-safe behaviors within the community, such as recognition programs or incentives for active participation. Normative Influence: Leveraging social norms and community influencers to

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encourage the adoption of fire safety practices and promote a culture of safety.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Performance Metrics: Defining key performance indicators (KPIs) to assess the effectiveness of the Fire Auxiliary Group Program, including response times, community participation rates, and changes in fire incident statistics. Feedback Mechanisms: Establishing feedback loops to gather input from community members, Fire Auxiliary Group members, and other stakeholders for continuous improvement.
Sustainability Strategies: Capacity Building: Investing in ongoing training and skill development for Fire Auxiliary Group members to ensure their sustained effectiveness. Integration with Community Activities: Embedding fire safety practices into existing community events and activities to enhance long-term adoption and integration into daily routines.

Crisis Response and Preparedness: Emergency Protocols: Developing clear and efficient protocols for responding to fire incidents, including coordination with local fire departments and other emergency services. Community Drills: Conducting regular fire drills and simulations within the community to enhance preparedness and test the effectiveness of the Fire Auxiliary Group Program

This conceptual framework serves as a guide for understanding the key components and interactions involved in the implementation of the Fire Auxiliary Group Program.

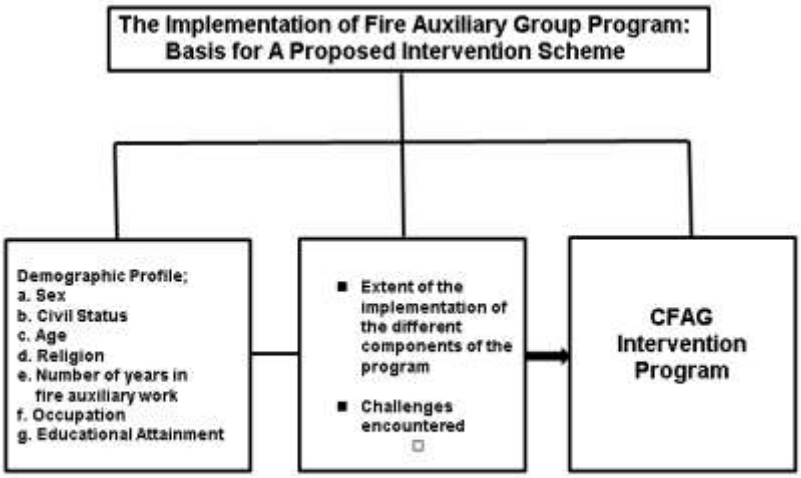


Figure 1. Schematic Diagram of the Study

Statement of the Problem

This study assessed the Community Fire Auxiliary Group members (CFAG) in the six (6) high risk/vulnerable barangays in Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte: Specifically, answered the following questions:

1. What is the socio-demographic profile of the Community Auxiliary Group members in terms of:
   1.1. Sex;
   1.2. Civil Status;
   1.3. Age;
   1.4. Religion;
   1.5. Number of Years in Fire Auxiliary Work;
   1.6. Occupation; and
   1.7. Educational Attainment?
2. What is the extent of implementation of the different components of the program in terms of:
   2.1. Funding;
   2.2. Training of Fire Volunteer;
   2.3. Assessment of Fire Volunteer; and
   2.4. Implementation?
3. What are the problems or challenges encountered in terms of the following:
   3.1. Stability of Recruitment and Retention of CFAG Members;
   3.2. Training and Certification of Fire Volunteers;
   3.3. Source of Funding of Fire Volunteers;
   3.4. Firefighting Equipment of Fire Volunteers; and
   3.5. Volunteers' Availability during Emergency Responses?
4. Is there a significant difference on the implementation of CFAG among the six (6) barangays?
5. What intervention of the program maybe proposed based on the findings of the study?

Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study focused on the implementation of a Fire Auxiliary Group Program and aims to establish a basis for a proposed intervention scheme. The details of the study would likely probe into the program's structure, objectives, and the potential impact it may have, serving as a foundation for suggesting ways to enhance or intervene in the existing system. This research focused to the one hundred and one (101) Community Fire Auxiliary Group members in the six (6) barangays which were categorize as the high risks in fire hazard in Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte namely; Poblacion 1, Poblacion 2, Poblacion 3, Poblacion 9, Brgy. La Union and Brgy. Tolosa. The scope of this study likely involves on the implementation of Fire Auxiliary Group Program: Basis for a proposed intervention

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scheme. The limitations may include sample size constraints, potential biases, or generalizability issues.

The study was conducted last August 2024, the researcher facilitated and gathered data from the respondents from the five (5) barangays in Cabadbaran City categorized as high risk/ fire hazard barangays with a total of one hundred and one (101) fire volunteers or members of CFAG and twelve (12) key informants for the Focus Group Discussion.

The limitation of this study was not all barangays were included based on the data provided by the Bureau of Fire Protection, Cabadbaran City Fire Station only the five (5) mentioned barangays were identified as high risks/fire hazard.

Significance of the Study
This study will give valuable information to the following agencies;

Fire Safety and Prevention. The study addresses issues related to fire safety and prevention, it could be significant in enhancing public safety and reducing the risk of fire incidents. Community Involvement, the study focuses on the implementation of a Fire Auxiliary Group Program; it may highlight the importance of community involvement in firefighting efforts. This could contribute to building a sense of community responsibility and resilience. Intervention Strategies, the proposed intervention scheme mentioned in the title suggests that the study might offer new strategies or recommendations for improving existing fire safety programs. This could be valuable for policymakers, emergency services, and community leaders. Research Gaps, might identify gaps in current fire safety practices and propose solutions to address these gaps. This could be significant for future research and the development of more effective fire prevention measures. Policy Implications, study's findings have implications for policy development or improvement in fire safety regulations, it could influence how local or national governments approach fire safety and emergency response. Community Resilience, study might contribute to the resilience of communities by empowering them with the knowledge and tools to respond effectively to fire incidents. This could include training programs, awareness campaigns, or community-based initiatives.

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). The Department of Interior and Local Government, which oversees the functions and activities of the BFP, benefitted from this research in intensifying the bureau's program the OPLAN LIGTAS NA PAMAYAN or OLP through the implementation and creation of the Community Fire Auxiliary Group or CFAG.

Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP). This study provided relevant information to identify needs, areas needing improvement, and problems as basis for possible intervention such as support program and room for policy formulation. This research would also evaluate if the implementation of this program is in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of R.A. 9514.

City and Barangay Local Government Officials. This study provided avenue for the management to evaluate their own status of fire code compliance implementation, giving insights, and suggestions to the regulatory agencies for action and support.

Community Fire Auxiliary Group Members. This study gave avenue for the Community Fire Auxiliary Group Members to identify their gaps and strengths and gave additional knowledge and skills on firefighting as a result of the study. This study also aimed to encourage all responsible individuals to be fire brigade volunteers in their respective barangays.

Future Researchers. The findings of the study provided idea for possible research topics in the future researchers. Future researchers play a vital role in advancing knowledge by building upon existing studies, addressing gaps, and exploring new avenues. Their work contributes to the continuous growth evolution of various fields, pushing the boundaries of understanding and innovation.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the research design, locale, respondents, questionnaire, data gathering procedures, and data analysis employed in the study.

Research Design
For this study "The Implementation of Fire Auxiliary Group Program: Basis for A Proposed Intervention Scheme," the researcher used quantitative research instruments. Surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions can gather insights from participants, while data analysis tools can help quantify key variables. Consider tailoring the instruments to assess program effectiveness, participant satisfaction, and any relevant socio-demographic factors.

This study used descriptive-survey research where a questionnaire checklist will be utilized to reflect the specific problems namely; the socio-demographic profile of the Community Auxiliary Group members, and the components under the Implementation of Fire Auxiliary Group Program: Basis for A Proposed Intervention Scheme. The questionnaire-checklist underwent validation by the three (3) panels of experts and underwent a reliability test by a statistician.

Research Locale
This study was conducted on the top six (6) barangays categorized as the high-risk/most vulnerable to fire hazards in Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte.

Poblacion/Barangay 1, is one of the central barangays of Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte, Philippines. As part of the city's urban core, it is a vibrant hub of Commerce, culture, and community activities. The area is known for its accessibility, being close to major establishments such as schools, government offices, and businesses. The barangay is home to a mix of residential and commercial zones, fostering a lively environment that supports both the local economy and the needs of its residents.

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Poblacion/Barangay 2 is one of the core barangays in Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte, situated within the city's bustling urban area. Known for its dynamic mix of residential and commercial spaces, the barangays serve as an important part of the city's economic and social framework. The area features easy access to essential facilities such as schools, churches, public markets, and government offices, contributing to the convenience and well-being of its residents.

Poblacion/Barangay 3 is a key barangay in the City of Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte, located within the city's urban center. Known for its harmonious mix of residential neighborhoods and commercial establishments, it plays a significant role in the city's daily activities and economic growth. Its accessibility and community-oriented environment make it an essential part of Cabadbaran's vibrant urban life.

Poblacion/Barangay 9 is a barangay that contributes to the city's vibrant urban fabric. It is characterized by its welcoming community and a blend of residential and small commercial areas. Its strategic location within the Poblacion are ensures its significance in supporting the city's overall growth while preserving its local charm.

Barangay La Union is situated in a relatively elevated area, offering a cooler climate and picturesque views. Its strategic location connects it to neighboring barangays. This barangay is known to be the biggest barangay in the 31 barangay of the city. Had a population of 7, 400 as estimated by the 2020 census, representing 9.21% of the city's total population. (www.philatlas.com)

Barangay Tolosa is one of the rural barangays of Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte. It is known for its agricultural landscape and serene environment, making it a significant contributor to the city's agricultural sector has vast farmlands, where crops such as rice, coconut, and other agricultural products are cultivated. As of the 2020 Census, it has a population of 5,998, accounting for approximately 7.46% of the city's total population. (www.philatlas.com).

Research Respondents

There were one hundred and one (101) total numbers of respondents in this study and twelve (12) respondents out of a total of 101 were used for the Focus Group Discussion (FGD). The Community Fire Auxiliary Group Members (CFAG) of the top six (6) barangays who were categorized as the high-risk/most vulnerable in fire hazard in Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte. The study adopted the sampling design.

Table 1. Distribution of Respondents

Respondents CFAG Members	SEX		Total
	Male	Female	
Barangay 1	12	3	15
Barangay 2	13	2	15
Barangay 3	14	1	15
Barangay 9	16	4	20
Brgy. La Union	18	3	21
Brgy. Tolosa	13	2	15
TOTAL	**86**	**15**	**101**

Research Instrument

Statistical tools suitable for this study "The Implementation of Fire Auxiliary Group Program: Basis for A Proposed Intervention Scheme" included: Descriptive Statistics: Summarize and describe key features of data, providing an overview of program implementation and participant characteristics. Inferential Statistics: Utilize tests like t-tests or ANOVA to analyze the impact of the intervention on different groups within the study. Regression Analysis: Assess relationships between variables, helping identify factors influencing the success of the fire auxiliary group program. Chi-square Test: Evaluate associations between categorical variables, offering insights into the distribution of characteristics within the study.

The questionnaire has four (4) parts. The first part was the socio-demographic profile. The second part was the operation of the Community Fire Auxiliary Group as to funding, training of the Fire Volunteer, assessment of the Fire Volunteer, & implementation the third part was the operation with regards to Problems/challenges encountered by the members and the last part was the questionnaire intended for the selected twelve (12) key informants as the Focus Group Discussion in the study.

The survey questionnaire- checklist underwent validation and was scrutinized thoroughly by the five (5) panels of experts including the research adviser and underwent a reliability test from a registered statistician. Then it was subject to launching after the conduct of the validation process.

Data Gathering Procedure

This research study was guided with the following procedure in data gathering: First, a letter of permission was sent to the adviser to conduct the study. After the approval, this was followed by sending a letter of permission from the six (6) barangays as respondents through Punong Barangays approval. Upon approval, the researcher administered the survey questionnaire to the CFAG members of the respective barangays categorized as the top six (6) high-risk/most vulnerable to fire hazards. Then it was consolidated, analyzed, and interpreted to be able to come up with the recommendations and findings.

Statistical Treatment

The data was examined and interpreted using the following statistical approaches in order to obtain the output of the study. Problem 1 used frequency and percentage for categorical variables to highlight demographic details. Problems 2, & 3,

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based on the indicators given used weighted mean and rank. The implementation of Fire Auxiliary Group program: Basis for A Proposed Intervention Scheme used for the significant relationship with the challenges, impact of the program, and extent of implementation of the Community Fire Auxiliary Group (CFAG).

Table 2
Scoring and Quantification of Data

The following variables were quantified as used for statistical analysis;
Extent of implementation, & problems or challenges encountered in the program CFAG

SCALE	WEIGHT	VERBAL DESCRIPTION
4.21 – 5.00	5	Very much implemented/Strongly Agree
3.41 – 4.20	4	Implemented/Agree
2.61 – 3.40	3	Less Implemented/Fair
1.81 – 2.60	2	Not Implemented/Disagree
1.00 – 1.80	1	No Program at All/ Strongly Disagree

The table shows above the parameters on how to measure the extent of implementation and the problems or challenges encountered in the Community Fire Auxiliary Group (CFAG) were crucial for several reasons: a.) assessing the program effectiveness, b.) identifying gaps and weaknesses, c.) improving resource allocation, d.) enhancing stakeholder engagement e.) strengthening community resilience, f.) guiding policy and program development, g.) ensuring sustainability.

Measuring the extent of implementation and challenges encountered in the CFAG program was essential for improving effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability. It provides the evidence needed to address gaps, & enhance community engagement.

PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

This study assessed the Community Fire Auxiliary Group members (CFAG) in the six (6) high-risk/vulnerable barangays in Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte:

Table 3
Socio-demographic Profile of the Respondents

Indicators	Frequency	Percent (%)	Rank
Sex			
Male	86	85.15%	1
Female	15	14.85%	2
Civil Status			
Married	94	93.07%	1
Single	7	6.93%	2
Separated	-	-	-
Widow/ Widower	-	-	-
Age			
18-28 years old	33	32.67%	2
29-39 years old	38	37.62%	1
40-50 years old	25	24.75%	3
51-61 years old	5	4.95%	4
Religion			
Roman Catholic	97	96.04%	1
Islam	-	-	-
Others	4	3.96%	2
Number of years in fire auxiliary work			
1 – 3 years	96	95.05%	1
4 – 6 years	4	3.96%	2
7 years and above	1	0.99%	3
Occupation			
CVO/Tanod	68	67.32%	1
Civilian Volunteer	12	10.62	3
LGU Employees	3	2.97%	6.5
Student	3	2.97%	6.5
Housewives	4	3.96%	4.5
Tricycle Drivers	17	16.84%	2
Farmer	4	3.96%	4.5

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Others	2	1.98%	7
Educational Attainment			
College Graduate	5	4.95%	4
College level	15	14.85%	3
High School Graduate	61	60.39%	1
High School Level	18	17.83%	2
Elementary Graduate	2	1.98%	5

Table 3 shows the socio-demographic profile of the respondents; the majority of the respondents were males which was 85.15% out of 100% respondents while females were 14.85%, most of the responders were married with 93.07% and single were 6.93%. The majority of the respondents' age ranged from 29-39; followed by 18-28, next was age ranges from 40-50 years old, and lastly age ranges from 51-61years old. Most of the clientele were Roman Catholic with 96.04% of the total population. The majority of them 95.05% rendered 1-3 years as fire volunteers, 67.32% were CVOs/Tanods, followed by the tricycle drivers 16.84%, were farmers & housewives, LGU employees & students, and others. Their educational attainment majority of them was high school graduates 60.39%.

Presenting the socio-demographic profile of respondents in this study has several important implications:

Understanding the Respondent Characteristics: Tailored Interventions, by analyzing demographic data such as age, sex, educational attainment, and occupation, researchers can design a more tailored and effective intervention scheme. For instance, if most respondents were young adults, training programs could incorporate more digital or interactive elements. Identifying Training Needs: For example, if a significant portion of respondents have low education levels, the study may suggest the need for simplified training materials. Policy and Program Development: this can help inform policy decisions by highlighting the need for specific interventions. Resource Allocation, understanding the demographic makeup of respondents can guide the allocation of resources. Enhancing Community Engagement, Identifying Potential Barriers, and Contributing to Academic and Practical Knowledge.

Table 4
Extent of implementation of the different components of the program CFAG

Implementation of the different components of the program	Weighted Mean	Verbal Description
A. Funding		
1. The Barangay Local Government Unit is the source of budget of Community Fire Auxiliary Group	4.32	Very Much Implemented
2. The Municipal/City Government Unit is source of budget of the Community Fire Auxiliary Group	4.43	Very Much Implemented
3. The Municipal/City Risk Reduction Management Office gives budget for the CFAG	4.21	Very Much Implemented
4. The source of CFAG budget is coming from donations	4.11	Implemented
Average Mean	**4.27**	**Strongly Agree**
B. Training of Fire Volunteer/Implementation		
1. Firefighting techniques is the most priority training needed to CFAG	4.56	Very Much Implemented
2. Bucket relay is the most practical way in firefighting particularly in far flung areas	4.58	Very Much Implemented
3. Basic Life Support training is also important in emergency responses	4.59	Very Much Implemented
4. Standard First Aid training is also needed by CFAG members	4.61	Very Much Implemented
Average Mean	**4.58**	**Strongly Agree**
C. Assessment of fire volunteer		
1. Enhancement Skills and Trainings to CFAG members is a priority	4.50	Strongly Agree
2. Experience & history of fire responses also helps level-up the effectiveness & efficiency of a CFAG member	4.31	Strongly Agree
3. Physically & mentally healthy is an asset being a CFAG member	4.43	Strongly Agree
4. Availability of CFAG member during response time is in need	4.48	Strongly Agree
5. Fully equipped with firefighting apparatus is highly effective in emergency responses	4.60	Strongly Agree
Average Mean	**4.46**	**Strongly Agree**
Overall Weighted Mean	**4.44**	**Strongly Agree**

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The data revealed that the extent of the implementation of the components of the program in terms of; a. funding, b. training of fire volunteers, c. assessment of fire volunteers, and d. implementation based on the respondents' answers was described as strongly agree with an average weighted mean of 4.58 for the training of fire volunteers, 4.46 for Assessment of fire volunteers, 4.44 on the implementation & 4.27 for the funding of the program.

This means that the Community Fire Auxiliary Group (CFAG) success relied on a well-trained and regularly assessed volunteer force, well-funded & integrated within a structured implementation framework that engages the community and coordinates with relevant authorities. This comprehensive approach ensures that communities are better prepared to handle fire incidents and mitigate their impact.

According to the Mediterranean Journal of Basic and Applied Sciences www.mjbas.com. The BFP has various programs that aim to strengthen the fight against destructive fire incidents. These programs are contained in PD 1185 or the Fire Code of the Philippines. To achieve the goals of the plan, every city and municipal Bureau of Fire Protection offices are required to set up and implement their localized Fire Prevention Programs. The BFP traces its roots to the defunct Constabulary Fire Protection Bureau, then later the PC-INP Office of Fire Protection Service. The agency was founded on January 29, 1991, pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act 6975, which established the Department of Interior and Local Government. The challenge of implementing their fire prevention programs varies from one fire station to another. In Urdaneta City, the Fire Prevention Program of the Bureau of Fire Protection manifested a "High" rating in its implementation, Ernesto F. Gandia, 2008. This paper looks at the extent of implementation of the Fire Prevention Programs of the Bureau of Fire Protection, Aparri Fire Station particularly on Fire Safety evaluation and inspection, Fire Safety Inspection Certificate, and Fire Safety for Hazardous Materials it also seeks to find the factors that affects the implementation of Fire Prevention Programs of the Bureau of Fire Protection Aparri Fire Station.

The above-mentioned study supported the revealed data from the respondents' answers. When the respondents rated funding, training of fire volunteers, assessment of fire volunteers, and implementation as "strongly agree," it reflected their collective acknowledgment of the critical importance of these factors in ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of fire volunteer programs. Below is a detailed elaboration for each aspect: Funding Respondents likely recognize that adequate funding is the backbone of any successful fire volunteer program. It ensured that essential resources such as equipment, vehicles, uniforms, and safety gear were available. Funding also supports the operational costs of training sessions, maintenance of facilities, and outreach programs. Without sufficient funding, volunteers may face challenges in performing their duties effectively, compromising their readiness and response during emergencies. Training of Fire Volunteers Training was pivotal in equipping fire volunteers with the skills and knowledge needed to handle various fire and rescue scenarios. The respondents strongly agree because they likely see the tangible benefits of training in improving volunteer competency and confidence. Proper training also ensures that volunteers can work safely and effectively under pressure, minimizing risks during operations. This could include technical training on firefighting equipment, first aid, disaster response, and communication protocols. Assessment of Fire Volunteers, Regular assessment ensures that fire volunteers maintain a high level of preparedness and efficiency. Respondents likely viewed assessments as crucial for identifying strengths, addressing weaknesses, and ensuring continuous improvement. Assessments can also help determine if volunteers meet the required standards, ensuring the reliability and professionalism of the team. Implementation, the respondents' strong agreement highlights the importance of translating plans and strategies into actionable programs. Implementation ensures that fire volunteer efforts are organized, consistent, and aligned with the community's needs. Effective implementation likely includes clear protocols, proper coordination with local government units (LGUs) and agencies, and active community involvement, which respondents might see as a measure of the program's success.

To conclude, the respondents' "strongly agree" rating likely reflected a shared understanding that these four elements are interconnected and essential. Adequate funding provides the means to train and assess fire volunteers effectively, while proper implementation ensures that these resources are utilized optimally to protect and serve the community.

Table 5
Problems or challenges encountered in program CFAG

Challenges encountered	Weighted Mean	Verbal Description
Stability of recruitment and retention of CFAG members		
1. Consistent or increasing numbers of new members joining the group	4.30	Strongly Agree
2. Monitoring the percentage of members who stay with the group over time.	4.33	Strongly Agree
3. Members commitment to the group's mission and willingness to invest time & effort in skills development.	4.53	Strongly Agree
4. Regular feedback from members through surveys or informal discussions can reveal their level of satisfaction.	4.30	Strongly Agree
5. Active participation demonstrate a strong sense of community service & dedication among members	4.39	Strongly Agree
Average Mean	**4.37**	**Strongly Agree**

ISSN (Online): 2455-3662
EPRA International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (IJMR) - Peer Reviewed Journal
Volume: 11| Issue: 3| March 2025|| Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra2013 || SJIF Impact Factor 2025: 8.691 || ISI Value: 1.188

Training and certification of fire volunteers		
1. Adequate training and certification of members	4.51	Strongly Agree
2. Active participation in training sessions and drills.	4.52	Strongly Agree
3. Monitoring the percentage of fire volunteers who successfully complete training and certification.	4.50	Strongly Agree
4. Skills Proficiency, assessing fire volunteers' ability to demonstrate the skills learned during training.	4.44	Strongly Agree
5. Tracking the percentage of fire volunteers' who successfully renew their certification on time provides an indication of program's long term impact and sustainability.	4.46	Strongly Agree
Average Mean	**4.49**	**Strongly Agree**
Firefighting equipment of fire volunteers		
1. Provided with uniforms and protective gear, to ensure their safety.	4.68	Strongly Agree
2. Provided with Fire Extinguishers often carry portable which can be used to tackle small fires and prevent them from spreading until professional firefighters arrive.	4.59	Strongly Agree
3. Fire volunteers may have easy access to hoses and nozzles connected to water sources/hydrants allowing them to provide water to firetrucks.	4.45	Strongly Agree
4. Skilful in operating water tanks, pumps for a quick response and assistance to firefighters.	4.53	Strongly Agree
5. Communication devices such as; radios, mobile phones are essential for fire volunteers to coordinate with other emergency services.	4.69	Strongly Agree
Average Mean	**4.59**	**Strongly Agree**
Volunteers' availability during emergency responses		
1. Communication Channels, volunteers often designated communication channels, where they can indicate their availability during emergencies.	4.47	Strongly Agree
2. Availability of schedule, members should indicate their availability for emergency responses, either in advance or in real-time.	4.38	Strongly Agree
3. Notification system, this can be used to alert members about emergency situations, allowing them to quickly respond and indicate their availability	4.43	Strongly Agree
4. Volunteers are typically trained to respond emergencies efficiently and to make themselves available when needed.	4.47	Strongly Agree
5. Deployment Protocols, in place to mobilize available members quickly and effectively during emergencies.	4.49	Strongly Agree
Average Mean	**4.45**	**Strongly Agree**
Overall Weighted Mean	**4.45**	**Strongly Agree**

Table 5 revealed that the problems or challenges encountered in the program Community Fire Auxiliary Group (CFAG) were the following; the topmost need was the. Firefighting equipment of fire volunteers with an average mean of 4.59, 2. Volunteers' availability during emergency response, Training & certification of fire volunteers with the same average mean of 4.49, 3. Stability of recruitment and retention of CFAG members' average mean of 4.37 & lastly, the Source of funding of fire volunteers with an average mean of 4.35.

The implication of the table above was that the findings from the study on the implementation of the Community Fire Auxiliary Group (CFAG) program revealed several critical challenges that hinder the effectiveness of fire volunteer efforts. The most pressing issue was the lack of adequate firefighting equipment, with an average mean of 4.59, highlighting the need for proper tools to ensure effective fire response. This was closely followed by the limited availability of volunteers during emergencies (4.49), which could affect the responsiveness of the group. Additionally, the need for training and certification (4.49) underscores the importance of professional development to enhance the capabilities of the volunteers. The stability of recruitment and retention of CFAG members (4.37) pointed to difficulties in maintaining a consistent volunteer base, which was essential for long-term success. Finally, the issue of funding (4.35) emphasizes the financial challenges that restrict the expansion and sustainability of the program. Addressing these concerns was crucial for strengthening the program and ensuring that fire auxiliary groups can provide reliable support in times of disaster. Such insights align with the broader literature on community-based disaster response programs, which highlight the importance of equipping, training, and

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sustaining volunteer networks for effective crisis management (RAGAY CAMSUR ASPE ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA).

Challenges encountered and insights of the Bureau of Fire Protection Personnel towards responding to Fire Incidents. Fire departments respond to numerous cases to save lives and protect valued materials while countless obstacles make the task difficult and dangerous for both firefighters and those in need of rescue (Veszprémi, & Pántya, 2021). The cost of fire incidents is enormous. It results in the pain and death of victims, waste of time, money, and materials, and damage to equipment and structures (Adegboro & Ojoye, 2019). For the past years, fire incidents have become a big problem for the Philippines, since they affect the socioeconomic growth of the country (Asor, Lerios, Sapin, Padallan, & Buama, 2021). Firefighting operations in the Philippines take too much time to finish due to the minimal resources and low upgrades in technologies in the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP); the poor performance results in increased damage that makes it close to impossible to save all of the lives affected by the fire incident (Zadeh, Abdulwakil, Amar, Durante, & Santos, 2021). Mediterranean Journal of Basic and Applied Sciences (MJBAS) Volume 6, Issue 2, Pages 103-117, April-June 2022).

The above-cited insights highlighted that Community Fire Auxiliary Group members played an important role. Fire responders and CFAG members must be fully equipped with firefighting tools to ensure they can effectively respond to fire emergencies and protect lives and property. Adequate equipment, such as fire hoses, extinguishers, protective gear, and communication devices, allows them to manage fires efficiently, especially in areas where professional responders might be delayed or unreachable. The absence of these tools compromises their ability to perform their duties safely and effectively, putting both responders and affected communities at greater risk. Moreover, continuous training is essential for CFAG members to stay updated on the latest firefighting techniques, safety protocols, and emergency response strategies. With proper training, volunteers can better handle diverse situations, reduce risks, and improve their effectiveness during emergencies. Studies show that well-trained and properly equipped volunteers can make a significant impact on minimizing fire-related damages, thereby enhancing community resilience.

Table 6
Significant difference on the implementation of CFAG program among the six (6) barangays

	Source of variances	p-value	Decision	Conclusion
Implementation of CFAG among the six (6) barangays	Funding	0,002	Failed to reject H_0	Sig.
	Training of Fire Volunteer	0.001	Failed to reject H_0	Sig.
	Assessment of fire volunteer	0.090	Accept H_0	No Sig.
	Implementation	0.049	Failed to reject H_0	Sig.

Table 6 shows the significant difference in the implementation of the CFAG program among the six (6) barangays, based on the answers from the respondents from Brgy. 1, 2, 3, 9, La Union & Tolosa. The significant differences in the implementation of the CFAG program were the following; 1. Funding- adequate funding ensures that fire volunteers have access to essential equipment and supplies such as; PPEs, fire extinguishers, hoses, and communication devices, 2. Training of the fire volunteers includes; skill development, safety, and preparedness, and for the 3. Implementation of the (CFAG) community fire auxiliary group program involves; community engagement, efficiency, and sustainability contributing to the overall safety and resilience of the public.

The result indicated a significant difference in the implementation of the Community Fire Auxiliary Group (CFAG) program across the six barangays, particularly in the areas of funding, volunteer training, and program implementation, suggesting that these factors contribute substantially to the program's success. Variations in funding sources across barangays likely lead to disparities in the availability of essential firefighting equipment and resources. Some barangays may have more financial support, allowing them to equip their CFAG members better, while others may struggle with inadequate resources, impacting their effectiveness. Similarly, the difference in training quality and frequency across barangays can result in varying levels of preparedness and competence among CFAG members. Where training was more robust, volunteers were likely better equipped to handle emergencies effectively.

Lastly, the overall implementation of the program may differ due to these factors, with barangays that have stronger funding and more frequent training demonstrating better execution of the CFAG's objectives. This disparity highlights the need for uniform support across all barangays, ensuring that every CFAG is equally equipped and trained to serve its community effectively, which ultimately strengthens the fire response system and reduces risks during emergencies. The significance of these differences underscores the importance of addressing resource gaps and enhancing consistency in training and program support to achieve the desired outcomes for fire safety.

The implications regarding the significant difference in the implementation of the CFAG program/study were based on the following; Resource Allocation and Funding Disparities, Targeted Finance Support, Policy Adjustments, Variations in Training Quality and Access, Implementation Challenges and Regional Disparities, Impact on Program Effectiveness and Outcomes, Equity and Inclusivity Concerns and Policy and Strategic Recommendations on the above-mentioned program.

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While contrary to the implications with regards to the not significant difference on the implementation of the CFAG program, the Assessment of Fire Volunteers shows no/not significant difference with the study the implications would be; Consistency in Volunteer Assessment, this suggests that the assessment of fire volunteers was being carried out consistently across different regions or groups. Standardized Training and Evaluation, helped maintain a high and consistent quality of volunteer preparedness across the program, ensuring all volunteers are equally capable of handling fire emergencies.

The lack of significant difference in the assessment of fire volunteers across the six barangays in the implementation of the CFAG program could be attributed to several factors. First, the assessment criteria for fire volunteers might be uniform across all barangays, meaning that the same set of standards and performance expectations are applied irrespective of local conditions. This standardization could result in similar volunteer evaluations, even in areas with differing levels of resources or support. Additionally, while resources like funding and training vary across barangays, the core responsibilities and tasks of fire volunteers might be perceived similarly, leading to consistent assessments. Furthermore, community-based volunteer programs often emphasize volunteer commitment and availability over specialized skill development, which might not vary significantly from one barangay to another. These factors suggest that while the resources for fire volunteers may differ, the foundational understanding of the volunteer role remains largely consistent, leading to no marked differences in assessments of their performance across the barangays. The consistency in evaluation criteria might overshadow the resource-based differences, indicating that factors such as commitment, motivation, and teamwork play a more significant role in shaping volunteer performance than the disparities in resources.

Table 7
CFAG Intervention Program

Areas of Concern	Specific Objectives	Strategies/ Methodologies	Time Allotted	Persons Responsible	Expected Outcome
1. Funding	To allocate ample budget to CFAG program	Write a resolution for the budget allocation and approval from the council	6mos.	DILG, DRRMO LGU/BLGU	CFAG implementation will be effective due to full allocation of budget
2. Training & Certification of fire volunteers	Equip CFAG members with appropriate skills through hands-on training	Implement training and certification program that combines theoretical instruction, practical exercises.	Twice a year	BLGU/CDRR	Effective, skilled, knowledgeable, and certified members
3. Implementation of the CFAG program to the community	To enhance fire safety awareness To support firefighting efforts To conduct fire drills & simulations To promote community involvement To facilitate quick emergency response	Community Engagement & Awareness Recruitment & Training Partnerships & Collaboration Resource Mobilization Regular drills & Simulations Public Education & Outreach	Twice a year (per semester)	BLGU, DILG	Enhanced Fire Safety Awareness Improved Emergency Response Reduced Fire Incidents & Losses Strengthened Community Resilience Positive Community Impact
4. Inter-Agency Coordination (BFP to DILG specifically on Committee of Peace & Order Council	To work closely with fire departments, advocating for clear communication channels & coordination protocols	Lobbying of parameters in the checklist for the grant of Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG)	Twice a year (while waiting for the approval)	BFP/DILG/G LGU Officials	Budget will be allocated for the Community Fire Auxiliary Group upon approval from the proper authorities

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Table 7 data revealed that the proposed interventions of the program based on the findings are as follows;

1. Funding for the purchase of equipment and supplies, facility maintenance, and operational costs such as the ongoing expenses for logistical needs and maintenance of equipment require a steady stream of financial support.
2. Training and certification of fire volunteers, proper training will equip volunteers with knowledge and skills to respond effectively to fires and other emergencies, minimizing damage and saving lives.
3. Implementation of the CFAG program, and effective implementation of fire response plans involves engaging the community, raising awareness about fire safety, and encouraging proactive measures. To conclude, funding, training, and implementation are interconnected elements that collectively enhance the efficiency, safety, and effectiveness of the Community Fire Auxiliary Group (CFAG).
4. Enhancing Program Effectiveness, improving response time and efficiency. This intervention could include measures such as better coordination with local fire departments or enhanced communication tools, leading to quicker response time and more efficient firefighting efforts. This would contribute to reducing fire-related damages and casualties.
5. Aligning with National and Local Priorities, this intervention aligns with National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Goals. This alignment ensures that the CFAG program contributes to the country's overall disaster resilience strategy. Local Government Priorities, ensure buy-in and support from key stakeholders, facilitating smoother implementation and greater impact. Those interventions would ultimately strengthen the CFAG program's ability to protect communities from fire hazards effectively.

Interventions for Preventing Residential Fires in Vulnerable Neighbourhoods and Indigenous Communities: A Systematic Review of the Literature. Numerous preventive strategies and interventions have been developed and implemented to protect individuals against residential fires. These interventions included fire education programs (knowledge of common causes of preventable fires), home visitations and inspections (fire-safety hazard, smoke alarm, and sprinkler installation), and fire prevention legislation. Specific interventions have targeted high-risk groups such as vulnerable individuals, young children, the elderly, and the youth (e.g., juvenile fire-setter programs). The longitudinal effectiveness of existing fire prevention interventions varies considerably in terms of enhanced residential fire safety, reduced frequency of fire incidents, and more importantly, decreased fire-related injuries and casualties. Nonetheless, existing fire prevention initiatives lack conclusive and formal evaluation as to their effectiveness and success, particularly in the longer term.

Table 8
FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (FGD) QUESTIONNAIRE
Total Key Informants: 12

Source of funding of fire volunteers			
A. Source of Funding	**Well-Budgeted**	**Partially-Budgeted**	**No Budget**
1. The Local Government Unit support in form of budget allocation, grants, or subsidies.	**-**	**10**	**2**
2. Donations given from sponsorship from individuals, businesses, and organizations within their communities.	**1**	**11**	**-**
3. Fundraising activities, to support and supplement their fund, to generate additional revenue for group's mission & activities.	**1**	**3**	**8**
4. Government grants and aid programs that can provide valuable financial assistance for training & others	**-**	**3**	**9**
B. Availability of Funds			
1. Examination of government or local agency budget documents to determine the amount of funding specifically allocated to CFAG.	**1**	**5**	**6**
2. Identification of funding sources such as grants/donations as support to CFAG program	**12**	**-**	**-**
3. Analysis of financial statements to verify funds spent on training, and other operational needs.	**2**	**5**	**5**
4. Presence of dedicated emergency funds or contingency funds within the program of CFAG	**-**	**3**	**9**
C. Utilization of Funds			
1. Records showing the purchase of firefighting gear, safety equipment and other essential resources.	**8**	**3**	**1**
2. Training and development expenses. Documentation of expenditures on training sessions.	**11**	**1**	**-**

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3. Operational and Maintenance Costs, regular expenses related to the program & operations.	**1**	**11**	**-**
4. Financial records of campaigns, seminars, and public awareness activities funded by the program.	**7**	**5**	**-**
5. Purchase of communication devices (e.g. handheld radios/cell phones.	**7**	**5**	**-**

Table 8 revealed that the data gathered from the Focus Group Discussion of the Community Fire Auxiliary Group members based on the sources of funding of Fire Volunteers, showed that the majority of the source of funding & partially budgeted was coming from the donations given from sponsorship from individuals, businesses, and organizations within their communities. The Local Government Unit support in the form of budget allocation, grants, or subsidies 10/12 of the respondents answered that they were partially budgeted. While fundraising activities, to support and supplement their fund, to generate additional revenue for the group's mission & activities, and government grants and aid programs that can provide valuable financial assistance for training & others were no budget allocated.

For the availability of funds, all of the twelve (12) key informants answered Identification of funding sources such as grants/donations as support to CFAG program thru or in the form of donations and the presence of dedicated emergency funds or contingency funds within the program of CFAG majority also answered no budget at all.

On the other hand, on the utilization of funds, the majority of 11/12 of the respondents answered that the training and development expenses, and documentation of expenditures on training sessions were well-budgeted through the initiative of the barangay council. Followed by records showing the purchase of firefighting gear, safety equipment and other essential resources 8/12 of the respondents answered that it was well-budgeted from the funds coming from the barangay council. Financial records of campaigns, seminars, and public awareness activities funded by the program and purchase of communication devices (e.g. handheld radios/cell phones 7/12 respondents answered as well-budgeted.

Based on the interview conducted for the FGD respondents, the Local Government Unit never allocated a budget specifically for the Community Fire Auxiliary Group it was the Punong Barangay together with his/her council members decided to slice and allocate budget for the immediate needs of the fire volunteers, most likely they sliced budget from the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction to supplement firefighting gears, safety equipment and other essential needs, provide trainings and seminars and make available their communication devices for fast and easy contact.

Fortunately, the fire volunteers together with the Barangay Officials headed by the Punong Barangay were also glad that their council members were generous in providing financial assistance and donations for the realization of their different activities conducted in their barangay. They prioritized looking for budget and assistance for the purchase of firefighting gears, safety equipment, and other essential needs, pieces of trainings, and seminars for the fire volunteer to level up their skills and knowledge in responding to any emergencies particularly, fire incidents.

The Barangay officials also proposed that the fire volunteers be given honorarium/ria for them to provide financial assistance/aid or support for themselves or even their families. They will be making a resolution on this matter.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Findings

1. The socio-demographic profile of the respondents; majority of the respondents were males which is 85.15% out of 100% respondents while females were 14.85%, most of the responders were married with 93.07% and single respondents were 6.93%. Most of the clientele were Roman Catholic with 96.04% of the total population. The majority of them 95.05% rendered 1-3 years as fire volunteers, 67.32% are CVOs/Tanods, followed by the tricycle drivers with 16.84%, farmers & housewives, LGU employees & students, and others. The educational attainment majority of them were high school graduates 60.39%.
2. The data revealed that the extent of the implementation of the components of the program in terms of; a. funding, b. training of fire volunteers, c. assessment of fire volunteers, and d. implementation based on the respondents' answers was described as strongly agree with an average weighted mean of 4.58 for the Training of fire volunteers, 4.46 for Assessment of fire volunteers, 4.44 on the implementation & 4.27 for the funding of the program.
3. Table 5 revealed that the problems or challenges encountered in the program Community Fire Auxiliary Group (CFAG) were the following; the topmost need was the. Firefighting equipment of fire volunteers with an average mean of 4.59, 2. Volunteers' availability during emergency response, Training & certification of fire volunteers with the same average mean of 4.49, 3. Stability of recruitment and retention of CFAG members' average mean of 4.37 & lastly, the source of funding of fire volunteers with an average mean of 4.35.
4. Table 6 shows the significant difference in the implementation of the CFAG program among the six (6) barangays, based on the answers from the respondents from Brgy. 1, 2, 3, 9, La Union & Tolosa. The significant differences in the implementation of the CFAG program were the following; 1. Funding-adequate funding ensures that fire volunteers have access to essential equipment and supplies such as; PPEs, fire extinguishers, hoses, and communication

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5. Table 7 data revealed that the proposed interventions of the program based on the findings are as follows;
   a. Funding for the purchase of equipment and supplies, facility maintenance, and operational costs such as the ongoing expenses for logistical needs and maintenance of equipment require a steady stream of financial support.
   b. Training and certification of fire volunteers, proper training will equip volunteers with knowledge and skills to respond effectively to fires and other emergencies, minimizing damage and saving lives.
   c. Implementation of the CFAG program, and effective implementation of fire response plans involves engaging the community, raising awareness about fire safety, and encouraging proactive measures. To conclude, funding, training, and implementation are interconnected elements that collectively enhance the efficiency, safety, and effectiveness of the Community Fire Auxiliary Group (CFAG).

   d. These are the reasons for the significant difference in the implementation of the CFAG program, Local Government Prioritization, and Budget Allocation in terms of funding, training & implementation. Geographical & Demographic Factors, Community Engagement and Awareness, and National and Local Policies Implementation.
6. Table 8 revealed that the data gathered from the Focus Group Discussion of the Community Fire Auxiliary Group members based on the sources of funding of Fire Volunteers, showed that the majority of the source of funding & partially budgeted was coming from the donations given from sponsorship from individuals, businesses, and organizations within their communities. The Local Government Unit support in the form of budget allocation, grants, or subsidies 10/12 of the respondents answered that they were partially budgeted. While fundraising activities, to support and supplement their fund, to generate additional revenue for the group's mission & activities, and government grants and aid programs that can provide valuable financial assistance for training & others were no budget allocated.

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Decided to slice and allocate budget for the immediate needs of the fire volunteers, most likely they sliced budget from the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction to supplement firefighting gears, safety equipment, and other essential needs, provide pieces of training and seminars and make available their communication devices for fast and easy contact.

Fortunately, the fire volunteers together with the Barangay Officials headed by the Punong Barangay were also glad that their council members were generous in providing financial assistance and donations for the realization of their different activities conducted in their barangay. They prioritized looking for budget and assistance for the purchase of firefighting gears, safety equipment, and other essential needs, training, and seminars for the fire volunteer to level up their skills and knowledge in responding to any emergencies, particularly fire incidents.

The Barangay officials also proposed that the fire volunteers be given honorarium/ria for them to provide financial assistance/aid or support for themselves or even their families. They will be making a resolution on this matter.

Conclusions

1. The stability of recruitment and retention of the CFAG members is one of the significant factors in maintaining the number of responders in the community especially those who joined the training, pieces of training, and drills.
2. The training and certification of fire volunteers add important factors to the CFAG members this is to fully-equipped them in different ways and techniques in responding to any untoward incidents/emergencies, especially fire.
3. The source of funding for the fire volunteers stands as beneficial among the many factors this simply indicates that nobody or no one can mobilize things and put them into realization without funding or budgetary means.
4. The firefighting equipment of fire volunteers serves as their weapons in combatting fire incidents, these will also help them secure themselves and maintain safety from any untoward incidents that may arise.

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5. Volunteer availability during emergency responses is another vital task of the CFAG members to immediately and quickly respond to any unwanted emergencies.
6. Another intervention scheme should focus on equitable resource allocation, targeted training programs, and strategies to boost community involvement to achieve a more consistent and effective implementation of the CFAG program nationwide.

Recommendations

1. The Department of the Interior and Local Government together with the Bureau of Fire Protection, may craft laws related to the standardization of funding, training of fire volunteers, assessment of fire volunteers, implementation, and the standard qualifications for recruiting or selecting the CFAG members to be cascaded to all the cities/municipalities throughout the Philippines for them to effectively function their duties and responsibilities.
2. Enhanced Training Programs; develop comprehensive and continuous training programs tailored for Community Fire Auxiliary Group members. This should include regular drills, updated firefighting techniques, emergency medical response training, and the use of modern firefighting equipment. Training sessions should also incorporate scenario-based exercises to better prepare the auxiliary members to prepare for real-life situations.
3. Strengthening Community Engagement; Foster stronger community relationships by organizing regular community outreach programs. These programs can include fire safety education, awareness campaigns, and emergency preparedness workshops. Engaging the community will not only enhance the public's fire safety knowledge but also build trust and support for the Community Fire Auxiliary Group (CFAG).
4. Resource Allocation and Funding; advocate for increased funding and resources from local government units and private sector partnerships. Ensure that the Fire Auxiliary Group has access to adequate firefighting gear, communication tools, and transportation. Proper funding will enhance the group's operational effectiveness and readiness in responding to emergencies.
5. Monitoring and Evaluation Systems; implement a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to regularly assess the performance of the Fire Auxiliary Group. This system should include key performance indicators, feedback mechanisms, and periodic reviews to identify areas for improvement. Data collected from these evaluations can inform policy adjustments and intervention strategies to optimize the group's impact.
6. Research similar to this study like Community Fire Auxiliary Group members, fire volunteers, and responders shall be undertaken by future researchers to either firm up the findings of this study or go otherwise.

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