

KEY MESSAGE 1: It is important to build the resilience of local communities to disasters and promote their participation in DRRM planning and implementation.

In line with upholding the people's constitutional rights to life and property, the government is duty-bound to build the resilience of local communities to disasters, particularly by recognizing and strengthening the capacity of local governments and communities in mitigating, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the impact of disasters. The importance given to local resilience is reflected in the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act of 2010. The law establishes a DRRM approach that promotes the involvement and participation of the local community, and the development and implementation of a National DRRM Plan that will strengthen the capacity of the national and local governments to build the resilience of communities to disasters.



KEY MESSAGE 2: Climate change adaptation measures should be integrated into local DRRM planning and implementation.

It is State policy to mainstream not only disaster risk reduction but also climate change in development processes (i.e. policy formulation, socioeconomic development planning, budgeting, governance) and multi-sectoral concerns. The NDRRMC and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) have the duty to coordinate with each other in formulating and implementing a framework for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and management. The National DRRM Plan also identifies measures not only to reduce disaster risk but also projected climate risks.

At the local level, the Philippine DRRM Act mandates the Local DRRM Council to ensure the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in local development plans, programs and budgets as a strategy towards sustainable development and poverty reduction. The Local DRRM Office of each barangay, municipality, city, and province is also responsible for consolidating local disaster risk information, including climate change risks.

KEY MESSAGE 3: Localized risk assessments and local risk patterns should guide DRRM measures.

Local resilience is important. The Philippine DRRM Act recognizes that there are different local risk patterns across the country and the need to strengthen the capacity of local governments for disaster risk reduction and management through decentralized powers, responsibilities, and resources at the regional and local levels. The Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (LDRRMO) is responsible for consolidating local disaster risk information and maintaining a local risk map for each local government unit, in order to guide DRRM policies and implementation at the community level.



KEY MESSAGE 4: DRRM measures must be respectful of human rights of all peoples, including the rights of vulnerable groups that are crucial for their protection from disasters.

The Philippine DRRM Act underscores the importance of maintaining respect for human rights in the implementation of disaster risk reduction and management. This means, principally, that DRRM measures must be sensitive and responsive to the different needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as women, children, persons with disabilities, and indigenous people, in order to protect them from disaster risk.

KEY MESSAGE 5: Gender responsiveness must be integrated in DRRM measures at the local and national level.

It is State policy to ensure that DRRM and climate change measures are gender responsive, including at the community level. For example, the law mandates that the Office of Civil Defense has to include gender analysis in its early recovery and post-disaster needs assessment. Gender-sensitive assessments are required at the local level as these enable the Local DRRM Office to ensure an efficient mechanism for immediate delivery of food, shelter and medical supplies for women and girls, and create a special place where internally-displaced mothers can find help with breastfeeding, feed and care for their babies and give support to each other during the response phase.



KEY MESSAGE 6: The differentiated needs of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups must have formal representation at the local level.

The Philippine DRRM Act goes beyond recognizing that different kinds of people, particularly those who are vulnerable and marginalized (i.e. women, persons with disabilities), have different needs. The law actually institutionalizes their formal representation and participation in local DRRM policy-making and implementation to ensure that the voices of the vulnerable and marginalized are heard at the community level. For example, at the barangay level, the barangay chairperson has the responsibility to facilitate and ensure the participation in the Barangay DRRM Council of at least two (2) civil society organization (CSO) representatives from existing and active-community-based people's organizations representing the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in the barangay. In 6 other levels of local government, the head of the local Gender and Development (GAD) Office and at least four (4) accredited CSOs must have seats at the LDRRMC.

Persons with disabilities (PWD) may be represented at the LDRRMC by locally accredited PWD organizations. This is supported by the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons (RA 9244), which provides that local government units shall promote the establishment of organizations of disabled persons in their respective territorial jurisdictions.



KEY MESSAGE 7: The government encourages volunteerism for DRRM through community disaster volunteers.

The Office of Civil Defense is responsible for creating an enabling environment for substantial and sustainable participation of volunteers and communities, and recognize their contributions in the government's disaster risk reduction efforts. It is tasked to prepare the criteria and procedure for the enlistment of accredited community disaster volunteers (ACDVs).

Under the law, local government units may mobilize individuals or organized volunteers to augment their respective personnel complement and logistical requirements in the delivery of disaster risk reduction programs and activities. It is important to note that the local government unit or any other entity that mobilizes community disaster volunteers is responsible for their enhancement, welfare and protection, including compensatory benefits and accident insurance.

KEY MESSAGE 8: There are mechanisms for both proactive and reactive local DRRM funding for the benefit of the community. Community members are encouraged to participate in DRRM planning to influence the use of these local DRRM funds.

Adequate funding is key to ensure that DRRM is implemented at the local level for the benefit of the community. The Philippine DRRM Act provides that each local government unit should allocate at least five percent (5%) of its estimated revenue from regular sources for the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRMF). In line with the national policy of prioritizing disaster risk reduction (i.e. disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and building back better), a bigger portion of the LDRRMF (70%) is allocated for disaster preparedness programs including training, purchasing life-saving rescue equipment, supplies and medicines, post-disaster activities, and for the payment of premiums on calamity insurance.

Of the amount appropriated for LDRRMF, thirty percent (30%) shall be allocated as Quick Response Fund (QRF) or stand-by fund for relief and recovery programs in order that situation and living conditions of people in communities or areas stricken by disasters, calamities, epidemics, or complex emergencies, may be normalized as quickly as possible. Community members are encouraged to participate in and influence the planning and updating of the Local DRRM Plan which is the basis for the utilization of the LDRRMF. This can be achieved through their active participation in the LDRRMC.

KEY MESSAGE 9: The local government is responsible for ensuring the safety of its community from risk through preemptive evacuation, and the community has the right to be consulted on plans for preemptive evacuation.

The LDRRMC has the power to recommend the implementation of forced or preemptive evacuation of local residents when necessary. This is based on the principle that local governments are responsible for ensuring the safety of the community including from disaster risk. Community members, however, have the right to be consulted on plans to implement preemptive evacuation. DRRM measures must be respectful of human rights.

KEY MESSAGE 10: The local government is the community's "first responder". It has the primary duty to prevent and alleviate human suffering of its constituents due to disasters, making sure that the differentiated needs of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups are immediately addressed.

As first responder, the local government has the primary duty to prevent and alleviate their constituents' suffering as a result of disasters and other emergencies. The Philippine DRRM Act provides that part of this duty is to make sure that there is an efficient mechanism for immediate delivery of food, shelter and medical supplies for women and children and a designated place where internally-displaced mothers can find help with breastfeeding, feed and care for their babies and give support to each other, in recognition of the high level of risk that they face during and after disasters.

It follows then that local governments should also be sensitive and immediately respond to the differentiated needs of other vulnerable groups, such as older persons and persons with disabilities within their community, as these people face the highest exposure to disaster risk.