

The image features a blue background with a white horizontal band in the center. A dark blue rectangular area is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the blue section. The word "Governance" is written in a bold, dark blue font within the white band.

Governance



Governance

Good governance is good DRR.



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The Philippines

The Philippines is an archipelagic country composed of 7,641 islands, with only 2,000 islands inhabited by 112 million people. The country is divided into three major areas from the northernmost tip of Luzon to Visayas, and Mindanao in the south. It's proximity to the Ring of Fire and typhoon belts in the Pacific Ocean make it prone to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and other natural disasters. Due to its location right above the equator, the Philippines islands are surrounded by warm waters causing the occurrence of 20 typhoons a year that threaten the 60% of the population living along in the low-lying coastal areas. According to the 2021 World Risk Index, the Philippines ranks 8th as most at-risk country for disasters.



Disasters, however, do not occur only as a result of natural events like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and typhoons. They are also the product of the social, economic, and political environment -- an environment where people live in adverse socio-economic situations that lead them to inhabit high-risk areas and engage in unsustainable and dangerous livelihoods. Not all hazards necessarily result in disasters. They only become disasters when they affect people who cannot cope with the physical, economic, and social impact. The resulting disaster is, therefore, more than a function of the physical strength, intensity, and magnitude of a hazardous event. It is also determined by society's and people's peculiar capacity, i.e. its ability to withstand, protect itself and recover rapidly from damaging events.

R.A. 10121

In an effort to manage and reduce the country's risk to disaster, the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 (RA 10121) was passed. This Act shifted the policy environment and the way the country deals with disasters from mere response to preparedness. RA 10121 provides a comprehensive, all-hazard, multi-sectoral, inter-agency, and community-based approach to disaster risk management through the formulation of the National Disaster Risk Management Framework (NDRRMF).

The NDRRMF serves as "the principal guide to disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) efforts to the country...." The Framework envisions a country of "safer, adaptive and disaster-resilient Filipino communities toward

sustainable development.”

A National Disaster Risk Management Plan (NDRMP) is being formulated, developed, and implemented as a road map on how DRRM shall contribute to gender-responsive and rights-based sustainable development. It is the master plan that will provide the strategies, organization, tasks of concerned agencies and local government units, and other guidelines in dealing with disasters or emergencies. Through this plan, coherent, integrated, efficient, and responsive disaster risk management at all levels will hopefully be achieved.

The NDRRMP has four thematic areas:

- Disaster Prevention and Mitigation
- Disaster Preparedness
- Disaster Response
- Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery

Each priority area has its own goal in support of attaining the country’s overall goal of “Safer, adaptive, and disaster-resilient Filipino communities towards sustainable development.”



Disaster Preparedness

Establish and strengthen capacities of communities to anticipate, cope, and recover from the negative impacts of emergency occurrences and disasters

Disaster Response

Provide life preservation and meet the basic subsistence needs of affected population based on acceptable standards during or immediately after a disaster

Safer, adaptive, and disaster-resilient Filipino communities towards sustainable development

Disaster Prevention & Mitigation

Avoid hazards and mitigate their potential impacts by reducing vulnerabilities and exposure and enhancing capacities of communities

Disaster Rehabilitation & Recovery

Restore and improve facilities, livelihood and living conditions, and organizational capacities, and reduced disaster risk in accordance with the "building back better" principle



RA 10121 also recognizes local risk patterns and trends and decentralization of resources and responsibilities and thus encourages the participation of NGOs, private sectors, community-based organizations, and community members in disaster management. It inhibits the full participation of the Local Government Units (LGUs) and communities in governance. The approach tends to be 'response-oriented' or 'reactive.' This is evidenced by the widespread emphasis on post-disaster relief and short-term preparedness, such as forecasting and evacuation, rather than on mitigation and post-disaster support for economic recovery.

Moreover, the Act mandates the establishment of a Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO) in every province, city, and municipality, and a Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee (BDRRMC) in every barangay.

Finally, RA10121 provides for the calamity fund to be used in support of disaster risk reduction or mitigation, prevention, and preparedness activities for the potential occurrence of disasters and not just for the response, relief, and rehabilitation efforts.



Gawad KALASAG

The concept of Gawad KALASAG (KAlamidad at Sakuna LABanan, SARiling Galing ang Kaligtasan) was adopted from the Filipino term for a shield, 'kalasag', used by early Filipinos as a means of protection from attacks of enemies or harmful animals.

Initiated in 1998, Gawad KALASAG is NDRRMC's current recognition scheme in its search for excellence on DRRM and humanitarian assistance. It was established as the country's premier annual award for outstanding contribution in the fields of DRRM and humanitarian assistance. It is the principal mechanism by which the NDRRMC advances awareness of the best practices of DRRM and humanitarian response and action. Moreover, it aims to appreciate individuals, groups, or institutions that have shown extraordinary courage, heroism, and sacrifice in times of emergency, be it natural or human-induced.

The Search covers major categories and special recognitions for government agencies and institutions, local government units, civil society organizations, private sectors, and individuals who have engaged in the promotion of inclusive DRR-CCA.



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