

3.2.5 Development of Multi-stakeholder Partnerships and Citizen Participation

Philippines

Multi-Disciplinary and Inter-Sectoral Collaboration and Cooperation in Disaster Reduction in the Philippines

The emphasis of placed by total disaster risk management (TDRM) on collaboration, cooperation and coordination can be exemplified in programs and activities that require active partnership of government agencies, NGOs, civic groups, and specialized sectors at all levels. They pull together their respective strengths and capacities, including resources and expertise, as a strategy in pursuing disaster reduction activities. These are some cases from the Philippine experience:

Disaster prevention and mitigation

- ***Brigada Kontra Baha for La Nina Mitigation***

Through collaboration among government agencies, local government authorities, local NGOs, and the AFP Engineering Brigade, the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) coordinated the de-clogging of at least eleven critical waterways and chokepoints to mitigate flooding in Metro Manila in 1999–2000.

- ***Earthquake vulnerability assessment of school buildings in Metro Manila***

Through collaboration between the Department of Education, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines (ASEP), and the Office of Civil Defense, the NDCC initiated an earthquake vulnerability and risk assessment of school buildings in Metro Manila.

Disaster preparedness and response

- ***Disaster drills and simulation exercises***

In collaboration with the private sector, the NDCC facilitated the conduct of disaster drills and simulation exercises in malls, banks, schools, hospitals, and communities at risk, among others. The NDCC, together with the Corporate Network for Disaster Response, also developed a training film on how to conduct drill: 7 Steps to Effective Disaster Simulation Exercise.

- ***Disaster reporting: Training for media professionals***

In collaboration with the Kapisanan ng mga Brodakaster sa Pilipinas (KBP) and the Emergency Management Institute of the Philippines (EMIP), the NDCC trained a core of media practitioners in effective and reliable disaster reporting.

- ***The Broadcasters Manual on Emergency Preparedness***

This has allowed the media to serve as effective partners in public information and education.

- ***Stop DEATH***

Stop DEATH is an integrated health emergency preparedness and response program that addresses in a comprehensive manner the problem of disasters, epidemics, accidents and trauma. Began in 1994, the program succeeded in human resource development through collaboration between the Department of Health, the Philippine College of Surgeons, the Philippine Hospital Association, the Philippine National Red Cross, and the University of the Philippines College of Public Health, Boston University School of Public Health, and the World Health Organization.

- ***SAGIP 2000***

SAGIP 2000 exemplified broadened collaboration and cooperation among fourteen countries in disaster response and humanitarian assistance. The forum facilitated the sharing of information and country experience on early warning systems, decision and planning processes, mitigation and response mechanisms.

Disaster relief and recovery

- ***Psychosocial services for disaster victims and responders***

The mental health program for disaster victims and response workers has been established formally in the health sector and in the AFP. Active providers of this service are the Department of Health, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

- ***Tabang Mindanaw, Bangun Mindanaw and Oplan Tulong Kapatid***

Tabang Mindanaw, Bangun Mindanaw and Oplan Tulong Kapatid exemplified multisectoral collaboration and cooperation in disaster relief and recovery. They facilitated the prompt provision of relief assistance and recovery projects by the private and government sectors to southern communities affected by humanitarian complex emergencies (1998–2000). They included relief assistance and recovery packages such livelihood generation and skills training.

- ***International humanitarian mission to Taiwan***

The mission, comprising 22 structural engineers and health professionals, extended technical expertise to local architects and engineers in conducting a rapid assessment of the structural damage and vulnerability of public infrastructures and lifelines resulting from the destructive earthquake of September 1999. The results of the assessment facilitated the return of victims to safe homes and the decongestion of evacuation centers.

Disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation

- ***Rebuilding lifelines and infrastructures in Mindanao***

Rebuilding lifelines and infrastructures in Mindanao required the collaboration and cooperation of government agencies, local government units concerned and community leaders.

- ***Mobilizing military support***

The AFP has played an important support role in building damaged lifelines and infrastructures, including schools and places of worship.

Conclusion

The Chinese characters for crisis convey both threat and opportunity. Truly, the challenge in any disaster is to recognize, beyond its detrimental consequences, the opportunities it presents for development.

- **Background**

Due to its geographical, topographical and meteorological conditions, the Philippines is prone to and has often suffered huge damage from natural disasters such as typhoons, floods, high tides, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

- **Objective**

To reduce vulnerabilities and to prevent and mitigate disasters more effectively

- **Contact Details**

Orland S. Mercado

President, Philippine Institute for Investor Relations

Former Secretary of National Defense and Chairman of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, Philippines