

Disaster Risk Preparedness, Management and Response of the Philippines

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (NDRRMP) fulfills the requirement of RA No. 10121 of 2010, which provides the legal basis for policies, plans and programs to deal with disasters. The NDRRMP covers four thematic areas which correspond to the structure of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC):

- 1) Disaster Prevention and Mitigation;
- 2) Disaster Preparedness;
- 3) Disaster Response; and
- 4) Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery,

By law, the Office of Civil Defense formulates and implements the NDRRMP and ensures that the physical framework, social, economic and environmental plans of communities, cities, municipalities, and provinces are consistent with such plan. It is consistent with the NDRRM Framework (NDRRMF) which serves as “the principal guide to disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) efforts to the country”.

The NDRRMP 2011-2028 sets down the expected outcomes, outputs, key activities, indicators, lead agencies, implementing partners, and timelines under the four distinct yet mutually reinforcing thematic areas. The goals of each thematic area lead to the attainment of the country’s overall DRRM vision, as graphically shown below:



The NDRRMP goals are to be achieved by 2028 through 14 objectives, 24 outcomes, 56 outputs, and 93 activities. The 24 outcomes, with their respective overall responsible agencies, are summarized below.

Thematic Area 1: Disaster Prevention and Mitigation

Disaster Prevention – the outright avoidance of adverse impacts of hazards and related disasters. It expresses the concept and intention to completely avoid potential adverse impacts through action taken in advance such as construction of dams or embankments that eliminate flood risks, land-use regulations that do not permit any settlement in high-risk zones, and seismic engineering designs that ensure the survival and function of a critical building in any likely earthquake.

Disaster Mitigation – the lessening or limitation of the adverse impacts of hazards and related disasters. Mitigation measures encompass techniques and hazard-resilient construction as well as improved environmental policies and public awareness.

Overall responsible agency: Department of Science and Technology (DOST)	
Outcome	Lead Agency/s
1. DRRM and CCA mainstreamed and integrated in national, sectoral, regional and local development policies, plans, and budget.	Office of Civil Defense (OCD)
2. DRRM and CCA-sensitive environmental management.	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
3. Increased resiliency of infrastructure systems.	Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)

4. Enhanced and effective community-based scientific DRRM and CCA assessment, mapping, analysis and monitoring.	Office of Civil Defense (OCD)
5. Communities access to effective and applicable disaster risk financing and insurance.	Department of Finance (DOF)
6. End-to-end monitoring (monitoring and response), forecasting and early warning systems are established and/or improved.	Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

Thematic Area 2: Disaster Preparedness – the knowledge and capacities developed by governments, professional response and recovery organizations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from the impacts of likely, imminent or current hazard events or conditions.

Overall responsible agency: Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)	
Outcome	Lead Agency/s
7. Increased level of awareness and enhanced capacity of the community to the threats and impacts of all hazards.	Philippine Information Agency (PIA)
8. Communities are equipped with necessary skills and capability to cope with the impacts of disasters.	Department of Interior and Local Government (to coordinate) and Office of Civil Defense (OCD) (to implement)
9. Increased DRRM and CCA capacity of Local DRRM Councils, Offices and Operation Centers at all levels	Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)
10. Developed and implemented comprehensive national and local preparedness and response policies, plans, and systems.	Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Office of Civil Defense (OCD)
11. Strengthened partnership and coordination among all key players and stakeholders.	Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)

Thematic Area 3: Disaster Response – the provision of emergency services and public assistance during or immediately after a disaster in order to save lives, reduce negative health impacts, ensure public safety, and meet the basic subsistence needs of people affected. Disaster response is predominantly focused on immediate and short-term needs and is sometimes called “disaster relief”.

Overall responsible agency: Department of Social and Welfare and Development (DSWD)	
Outcome	Lead Agency/s
12. Well-established disaster response operations.	Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
13. Adequate and prompt assessment of needs and damages at all levels.	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (DRRMCs), Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
14. Integrated and coordinated Search, Rescue and Retrieval (SRR) capacity.	Department of National Defense (DND), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Health (DOH)
15. Safe and timely evacuation of affected communities.	Local government units (LGUs)
16. Temporary shelter needs adequately addressed.	Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
17. Basic social services provided to affected population (whether inside or outside evacuation centers).	Department of Health (DOH)

18. Psychosocial needs of directly and indirectly affected population addressed.	Department of Health (DOH)
19. Coordinated, integrated system for early recovery implemented.	Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

Thematic Area 4: Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery

Rehabilitation – measures that ensure the ability of affected communities and/or areas to restore their normal level of functioning by rebuilding livelihood and damaged infrastructure and increasing the communities' organizational capacity.

Post Disaster Recovery – the restoration and improvement where appropriate, of facilities, livelihood and living conditions of disaster-affected communities, including efforts to reduce disaster risk factors, in accordance with the principle of “build back better”.

Overall responsible agency: National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)	
Outcome	Lead Agency/s
20. Damages, losses, and needs assessed.	Office of Civil Defense (OCD)
21. Economic activities restored, and if possible strengthened or expanded.	Agency to be determined based on the affected sectors
22. Houses rebuilt or repaired to be more resilient to hazard events; safer sites for housing.	National Housing Authority (NHA)
23. Disaster and climate change-resilient infrastructure constructed/reconstructed.	Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)
24. A psychologically sound, safe, and secure citizenry that is protected from the effects of disasters is able to restore to normal functioning after each disaster.	Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

- Because of the country's susceptibility to natural and human-induced disasters, efforts have been made for the past several years to build people's capacities and resilience to disasters. This is in line with the country's commitment to achieve the targets set by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and its commitment to build resilient communities as expressed by its adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in 2005.
- HFA aims to have effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels – disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and vulnerability reduction; (b) development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels; and (c) systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programs in the reconstruction of affected communities.
- These three (3) strategic goals are to be achieved through the five (5) priorities of action, namely:
 1. Make Disaster Risk Reduction a Priority – ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.
 2. Know the Risks and Take Action – identify, assess, and monitor disaster risks – and enhance early warnings.
 3. Build Understanding and Awareness – use knowledge, innovation, and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.
 4. Reduce Risk – reduce underlying risk factors.
 5. Be Prepared and Ready to Act – strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.
- On June 21, 2010, through Executive Order Number 888, the Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP) on DRR 2009-2019 was adopted by then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. The SNAP is a road map indicating the vision and strategic objectives on disaster risk reduction of the country for the next 10 years and was based on (a) an assessment of the disaster risks, vulnerability, and capacity; (b) gap analysis that identifies and maps out significant on-going initiatives; and (c) DRR activities based on the HFA that are considered by stakeholders as achievable priorities for country, with adequate relevant resources and capacity for implementation over the next three to ten years.
It aims to build the resilience of communities to disasters in order to “reduce disaster losses in lives, in the social, economic, and environmental assets of communities and countries.” The SNAP has five strategic

objectives and 18 priority programs, with identified target for implementation of either short term (2009-2010); medium term (2011-2015); and long term (2016-2019).

The five strategic objectives are:

1. Enabling Environment
2. Financial and Economic Soundness
3. Supportive-Decision Making for an Enlightened Citizenry
4. Safety and Well-Being Enhancement
5. Implementation and Evaluation of Disaster Risk Reduction.

REFERENCE:

- Department of the Interior and Local Government. (n.d). *The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (2011-2028)*. Retrieved from: http://www.dilg.gov.ph/PDF_File/reports_resources/DILG-Resources-2012116-420ac59e31.pdf
- National Disaster Risk Reduction Council. (n.d). *National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (NDDRMP) 2011-2028*. Retrieved from: http://www.ndrrmc.gov.ph/attachments/article/41/NDRRM_Plan_2011-2028.pdf