Bridging Divides for Resilient Futures: A Review of National-Local Coordination in Philippine Crisis Management for SDG 11

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Abstract

The Philippines is particularly susceptible to a variety of natural hazards due to its geographic location, resulting in significant loss of life, displacement, and economic damage. In response, the country's crisis management framework, especially the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 (RA 10121), requires a decentralized, multi-sectoral approach to disaster management that emphasizes the roles of local communities. This systematic review synthesizes lessons learned from post-disaster analyses to evaluate the effectiveness of coordination mechanisms between national and local levels. Utilizing the PCC (Population, Concept, Context) framework, the study examines existing literature, government reports, and evaluations published between 2007 and 2025. The review reveals that, while the Philippines employs a hybrid "top-down-bottom-up" planning framework and utilizes institutionalized multi-stakeholder coordination bodies, such as the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), significant gaps remain. Key challenges include a fragmented institutional framework with overlapping roles, political instability, and communication issues such as reliance on fragile mobile networks and the use of technical jargon. During major disasters, government systems can become overwhelmed, leading international agencies to establish parallel coordination mechanisms that weaken official structures. To address these issues and advance Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11), which aims to make cities and human settlements safe and resilient, the study recommends several improvements. These include strengthening leadership and governance through sustained political commitment, enhancing government capacity to implement programs, and promoting collaboration through a "Whole-of-Government Approach." The review also suggests strengthening the communication infrastructure, developing formal disaster communication plans, and pursuing continuous institutional reforms, such as establishing a dedicated department-level body for disaster risk reduction and management. By highlighting these insights, this review aims to provide evidence-based recommendations to improve multi-level governance and to support a more resilient and sustainable future for the Philippines.

Introduction

The Philippines, an archipelago situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire and within the typhoon belt, faces an increasing vulnerability to numerous natural hazards. These include powerful typhoons, devastating earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and widespread flooding, as well as human-induced threats (Bautista, et al., 2014). Each year, these catastrophic events take a heavy toll, resulting in significant loss of life, widespread displacement, and substantial economic damage that delays national development and undermines the well-being of its communities (World Bank Group, 2020). In light of these persistent challenges, effective crisis management is not just a logistical task but a crucial necessity for survival and recovery.

At the core of an effective and responsive crisis management framework is the intricate coordination of efforts, especially between national government agencies and local government units. The Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 (RA 10121) explicitly mandates a comprehensive, multi-sectoral, and decentralized approach to disaster management, highlighting the crucial role of local communities. However, the practical implementation often uncovers significant divides that hinder smooth operations (PDRRM, 2010). These gaps in communication, resource allocation, and strategic alignment between different levels of governance can exacerbate vulnerabilities and extend suffering in the aftermath of a disaster.

Acknowledging the ongoing challenges, this systematic review, titled "Bridging Divides for a Resilient Future," aims to carefully synthesize the lessons learned from post-disaster analyses within the context of the Philippines. By thoroughly examining existing literature, reports, and evaluations, the researcher intends to assess the effectiveness of national-local coordination mechanisms in managing crises and, importantly, in fostering the resilience that communities need to withstand and recover from future shocks.

This initiative has significant implications for Sustainable Development Goal 11, which aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Achieving SDG 11, especially the targets related to reducing disaster risks and implementing integrated disaster risk management plans, is closely tied to the effectiveness of national and local coordination. The Philippines can only build the resilient urban and rural future envisioned by this global agenda through harmonized and efficient multi-level governance. This review will not only identify key lessons learned but also highlight how these lessons can be utilized to strengthen the nation's journey towards a genuinely sustainable and disaster-resilient society.

The purposes

This systematic review aims to synthesize and critically evaluate the lessons learned from the complex dynamics of national-local coordination in Philippine crisis management. Given the Philippines' vulnerability to various natural hazards and the urgent need for effective disaster response, this study seeks to identify and consolidate recurring successes and ongoing challenges in multi-level governance during different phases of crisis management across various disaster events. Additionally, the review assesses how these coordination lessons have either facilitated or hindered the effective implementation of disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) strategies at the local level. By highlighting these critical insights, this review aims to demonstrate how improved national-local coordination directly contributes to building stronger community resilience. Ultimately, this supports the advancement of Sustainable Development Goal 11, which seeks to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. The study also proposes evidence-based recommendations to inform policy improvements and practical enhancements in multi-level governance for a more resilient future.

Methodology

1. Protocol

This study was conducted in 2025, utilizing a structured assessment of text in conjunction with the PRISMA checklist to enhance the quality of the report. The checklist includes items related to the content of systematic reviews and meta-analyses, as well as the abstract, methods, results, and discussion sections, all aimed at enhancing transparency in article selection (Nikjoo, Partovi and Biparva, 2022). This study will utilize a scoping review methodology, similar to the sample provided. A structured, systematic approach will be adopted, potentially incorporating elements of the PRISMA checklist to enhance transparency in article selection.

2. Search Eligibility Criteria

In this article review, the researcher adapted the PCC (Population, Concept, Context) framework to establish the eligibility criteria and organize the review's structure

3. Search Strategy

To categorize the relevant studies from this scoping review on national-local coordination mechanisms, strategies, challenges, and best practices in crisis management—specifically focusing on disaster risk reduction, emergency protocols, and inter-agency collaboration—the researchers utilized a set of database search keywords. These keywords included "Crisis Management," "National-Local Coordination," "Philippines," "Disaster Response," "SDG 11," "Resilient Futures," and "Sustainable Cities and Communities." Additional keywords, such as "Sustainable Cities and Communities," were also tested but yielded no relevant results.

4. Study Selection

A systematic search was conducted across various academic databases, including Google Scholar, ResearchGate, Scopus, and government websites. We utilized keywords such as "national-local coordination," "crisis management in the Philippines," "disaster risk reduction," and "SDG 11." The selection process followed the PRISMA-Scoping Review guidelines and consisted of three stages. First, we screened titles and abstracts to remove duplicates and exclude studies that did not focus on national-local coordination in the context of crisis management in the Philippines. Next, we conducted a full-text review, applying specific inclusion criteria to confirm the relevance of the studies with respect to population, concept, context, timeframe, and location. Finally, we retained studies that examined coordination mechanisms, challenges, or recommendations that aligned with our research question.

5. Data Extraction

Researchers identified several strategies to ensure the availability, quality, and relevance of their research. The first strategy was identification, which involved conducting a thorough literature review to understand better the dynamics of national-local coordination in crisis management in the Philippines, using Google Scholar. The second strategy was screening; after the initial search, all retrieved studies underwent title and abstract screening against specific eligibility criteria. The final step was the eligibility assessment, during which studies that passed the initial screening underwent a full-text review to confirm they met the research objectives.

Results

1. Search and Selection Results

The final search was conducted on August 10, 2025. Initially, 30 records were obtained from the selected databases and government websites. After applying filters based on language, subject area, and publication period, the number of records was reduced to 20. The titles and abstracts were then evaluated for relevance, resulting in the removal of 10 records that did not address the research questions. Full texts were retrieved for the remaining 10 records, and following a detailed assessment of their eligibility, an additional seven were deemed unsuitable. This left a final sample of 9 studies included in the scoping review. The search and selection procedure is illustrated in the PRISMA flow diagram (Figure 1).
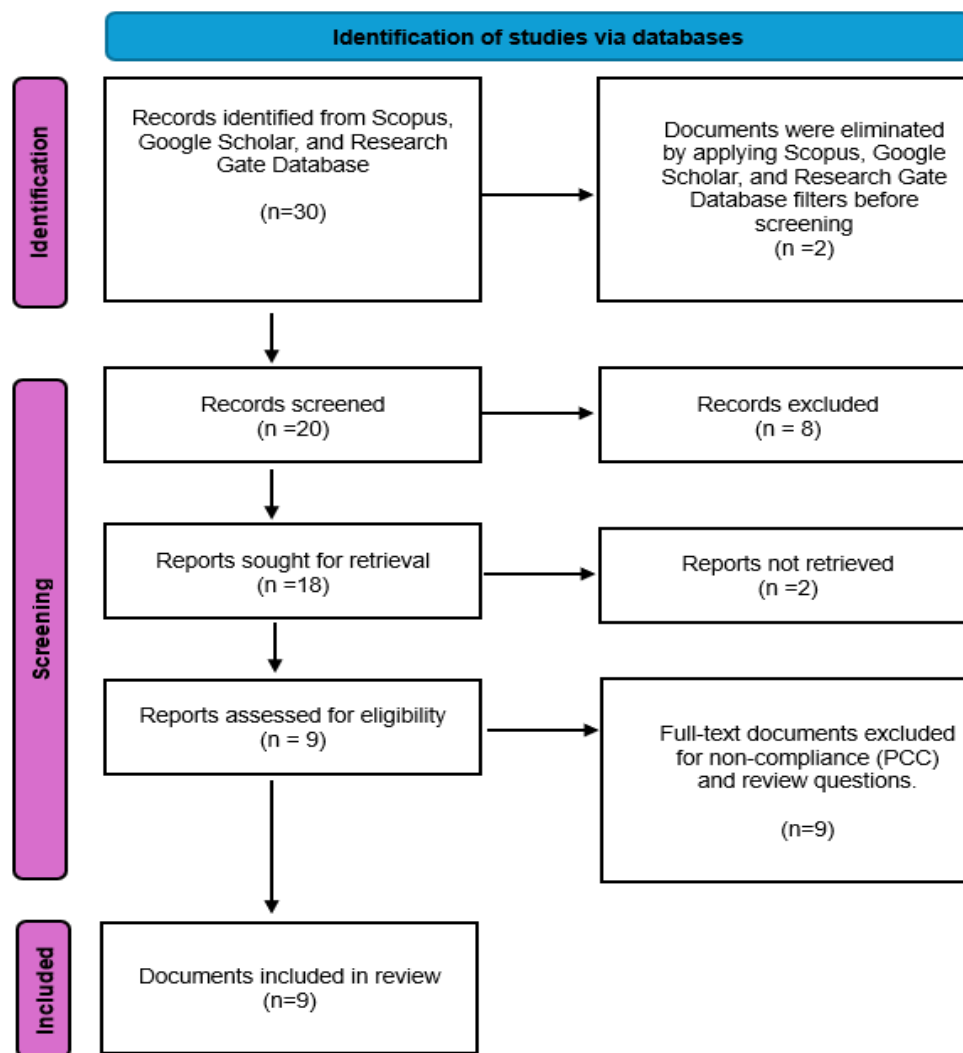
Identification of studies via databases

Identification

Records identified from Scopus, Google Scholar, and Research Gate Database
(n=30)

Documents were eliminated by applying Scopus, Google Scholar, and Research Gate Database filters before screening
(n =2)

Screening

Records screened
(n =20)

Records excluded
(n = 8)

Reports sought for retrieval
(n =18)

Reports not retrieved
(n =2)

Reports assessed for eligibility
(n = 9)

Full-text documents excluded for non-compliance (PCC) and review questions.
(n=9)

Included

Documents included in review
(n=9)

FIGURE 1 SELECTION OF PUBLICATION FOR REVIEW (PRISMA-SCR FLOW CHART)

2. Bibliometric Characteristics of the Research Field

The reviewed studies, published between 2007 and 2025, demonstrate a growing interest in coordinating national and local efforts in crisis management in the Philippines. This trend has been driven by recent large-scale disasters and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 11 initiatives. Most of the studies are peer-reviewed journal articles, supplemented by government reports and policy briefs, which highlight their relevance to both academia and policymaking. Geographically, the studies examine cases across the Philippines, with some also providing comparisons from the Asia-Pacific region that are directly relevant to the Philippine context. The authorship comprises academics, government officials, and disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) practitioners, who often collaborate on projects. These publications appear in reputable

journals focused on public administration, disaster risk management, and social sciences, as well as in official government outputs, underscoring the multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder nature of the field.

3. Hypothetical Thematic Cluster

In the initial stages of the review, we identified recurring themes across the selected studies and refined them to create a structured analytic framework. This process involved grouping related findings based on their relevance to the research questions. The resulting hypothetical thematic clusters provide an organized foundation for synthesizing the literature. This approach enables us to propose recommendations that enhance national-local coordination in crisis management in the Philippines, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 11.

Table 1 Hypothetical Thematic Cluster

Cluster	Description
Cluster one: Types and implementation strategies of National-Local Coordination	Examines the existing types and implementation strategies for national-local coordination in crisis management in the Philippines, including mechanisms, processes, technologies, and organizational structures.
Cluster two: Challenges in implementing effective National-Local Coordination	Explores the current types and strategies for coordinating national-local efforts in crisis management in the Philippines, including mechanisms, processes, technologies, and organizational structures.
Cluster three: Recommendation for strengthening National-Local Coordination (Aligned with SDG 11)	Analyzes the current types and implementation strategies for national-local coordination in crisis management within the Philippines, including various mechanisms, processes, technologies, and organizational structures.

TABLE 2 Mapping the publication to the cluster

SN	Authors and Year	Cluster 1: Types and Implementation Strategies of National-Local Coordination	Cluster 2: Challenges in implementing effective National-Local Coordination	Cluster 3: Recommendation for strengthening National-Local Coordination (Aligned with SDG 11)
1	(Perez, 2008)	✔		
2	(Olsen & Zusman, 2014)	✔	✔	✔
3	(Antonio, 2016)	✔	✔	✔
4	(Abaya, 2017)	✔	✔	
5	(Lasco, et al., 2018)	✔	✔	
6	(UNDP, 2019)	✔	✔	✔
7	(Lapiz, 2024)	✔	✔	✔
8	(Distor, 2025)	✔	✔	
9	((Eleorda, Villete, & Ilustre, 2025)	✔	✔	✔

Examines current types and strategies for coordinating national and local crisis management efforts in the Philippines, focusing on mechanisms, processes, technologies, and organizational structures.

Cluster 1: Types and Implementation Strategies of National-Local Coordination

1. A Hybrid "Top-Down-Bottom-Up" Planning Framework

The Philippine planning process is characterized as "highly coordinative, participatory, and employs a top-down, bottom-up approach" (Antonio, 2016). The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) plays a central role as the "oversight and coordinating ministry-level agency," with offices in 17 out of 18 administrative regions (Antonio, 2016). NEDA is mandated to "formulate development plans and ensure that the implementation of these plans achieves the goals of national development" (Antonio, 2016). The NEDA Board, known as the "country's premier social and economic development planning and policy coordinating body," includes the President, various cabinet secretaries, and the President of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Antonio, 2016). This structure "ensures that there is sufficient coordination and participation in the national planning framework" (Antonio, 2016). The top-down process is enhanced by input from lower levels, as planning at the sector and local levels is consolidated into the national plan (Antonio, 2016). Regional Development Councils (RDCs), which are "permanent and legally organized multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral bodies," replicate the national planning process at the regional level (Antonio, 2016). NEDA's regional offices

(NROs) serve as the Secretariat, drawing "substantive inputs to the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) formulation based on monitoring and evaluation reports on previous regional development plans and inputs from regional sector agencies and local government units (LGUs)" (Antonio, 2016). LGUs are required to "regularly prepare and implement a three-year Comprehensive Development Plan and a ten-year Comprehensive Land-Use Plan," which then "contribute to the Regional PDPs based on these plans" (Antonio, 2016).

2. Institutionalized Inter-Agency and Multi-Stakeholder Coordination

The Philippines has established several high-level bodies and mechanisms to enhance coordination on various issues. One of these is the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), a multi-stakeholder body created in 1992 to address a wide range of concerns and improve coordination (Antonio, 2016). Another significant organization is the Climate Change Commission (CCC), formed in 2009, which serves as the sole policymaker on climate-related matters. The CCC is responsible for coordinating, monitoring, and evaluating programs related to climate change (Lasco et al., 2018). Additionally, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) plays a crucial role in recommending the allocation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (NDRRMF) (Lasco et al., 2018). The "Whole-of-Government Approach" is an overarching strategy designed for effective service delivery, intended to be implemented from the national level down to grassroots communities (Lapiz, 2024). The NDRRM framework emphasizes the integration of all stakeholders, ranging from the national government to community levels, including civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector. This is embodied in a "Whole of Society" and "Whole of Nation" approach (Abaya, 2017; Distor, 2025). Furthermore, partnerships are formalized through Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) between local government units (LGUs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other entities (Abaya, 2017).

3. Strategic Frameworks and Plans for Crisis Management

Several key plans and strategies guide the coordination of national and local efforts in addressing climate change and disaster response. The National Framework Strategy on Climate Change (NFSCC) envisions a climate-resilient Philippines with healthy, safe, prosperous, and self-reliant communities, along with thriving and productive ecosystems (Lasco et al., 2018). The National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) for 2011-2028 serves as the government's blueprint for climate change action. It outlines the roles and responsibilities of government agencies and other stakeholders involved in its implementation (Lasco et al., 2018). According to the Climate Change Act, local government units (LGUs) are required to take the lead in formulating and executing their respective Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs), ensuring alignment with the NCCAP and the Local Government Code (Lasco et al., 2018). In terms of disaster response, the National Disaster Response Plan (NDRP) has been established to clarify the roles and responsibilities of various agencies and to enhance both inter-cluster and intra-cluster coordination (Abaya, 2017). The NDRP is described as a living document and serves as a multi-hazard response plan (Abaya, 2017).

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4. Financial and Operational Tools for Coordination

The government utilizes various tools to enhance the coordination and implementation of its programs. One such strategy is the Program Convergence Budgeting (PCB) approach, which focuses on the "coordinated planning, budgeting, and implementation of inter-agency programs" (Lasco et al., 2018). The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) have introduced the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) system. This system aims to monitor climate change expenditures across national government agencies (NGAs) and local government units (LGUs), thereby improving coordination among NGAs and enabling stakeholders to identify areas of need and potential overlap better (Lasco et al., 2018). Additionally, the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRMF) requires LGUs to allocate at least 5% of their estimated revenue from regular sources for disaster risk reduction and management activities (Lasco et al., 2018). The People's Survival Fund (PSF) is a special fund within the National Treasury that finances climate change adaptation (CCA) initiatives at the local level (Lasco et al., 2018). On an operational level, the Provincial Crisis Management Committee (PCMC) and the Incident Command System (ICS) have been implemented across all local levels through their respective contingency plans (Distor, 2025). Furthermore, a co-location strategy is employed at the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) Operations Centre, where local, national, and international agencies are situated together to facilitate "efficient information flow" (Distor, 2025).

Cluster 2: Challenges in Implementing Effective National-Local Coordination

1. Gaps in Implementation and Institutional Fragmentation

A core challenge in governance is that "the problems encountered in the delivery of basic services and facilities stem not from the mandates themselves but from the execution of the Local Government Code and relevant policies" (Lapiz, 2024). The primary issue lies "more in the implementation of basic programs" rather than the laws and policies (Lapiz, 2024). In areas such as water resource management, there exists a "highly fragmented institutional framework" due to a "multiplicity of organizations" with overlapping roles and undefined responsibilities, which "impedes the successful and efficient adoption of any legislative agenda and government plan" (Lasco et al., 2018). The institutional structure for disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) is further complicated by "shared authority and scattered resources among government instrumentalities, making it difficult to operate effectively and efficiently" (Lasco et al., 2018). Members of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) have "their own respective roles and responsibilities aside from DRRM, which complicates leadership and coordination" (Lasco et al., 2018). Prior to the National Disaster Risk Reduction Plan (NDRP), roles and responsibilities were not consolidated into a single document, leading to "disorganization and redundant deployments" (Abaya, 2017).

2. Political and Leadership Discontinuity

A significant challenge is the "lack of political continuity," which can "hamper and interrupt the consistency of national plans and strategies for sustainable development" (Olsen & Zusman, 2014). The document points out that "finding the right leader is always uncertain due to electoral issues" (Antonio, 2016). The influence of overarching strategies such as the Philippine Agenda 21 has experienced a "gradual decline" over time, possibly because the Enhanced Philippine Agenda 21 (EPA21) was never fully endorsed by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) (Olsen & Zusman, 2014). As a result, there are "frequent shifts in terminology but limited traction with action" (Olsen & Zusman, 2014).

3. Communication and Capacity-Related Problems

Communication infrastructure and accessibility present significant challenges during a crisis. For instance, reliance on mobile phones can be problematic due to their susceptibility to power outages and signal loss (Eleorda et al., 2025). Additionally, the use of technical jargon in communication materials can hinder understanding among stakeholders (Eleorda et al., 2025). There is also a scarcity of formal communication and coordination training programs specifically designed for disaster response (Eleorda et al., 2025). Furthermore, inflexible communication systems often struggle to adapt to sudden changes that arise during disasters (Eleorda et al., 2025). At the local level, the effectiveness of implementation depends on the capacity to implement, monitor, and report back to national levels, which can pose a challenge if local capacity is insufficient (Olsen & Zusman, 2014).

4. External and Local-level Complications

The geography of the Philippines, characterized by more than 7,000 islands and extensive mountainous areas, presents significant development challenges (Antonio, 2016). During major disasters such as Typhoon Haiyan, government systems can become strained, and agencies may feel overwhelmed. This can result in UN co-leads taking on leadership roles, creating tensions (Abaya, 2017). Additionally, international agencies sometimes establish coordination structures outside of government authority, leading to the creation of parallel mechanisms that can affect the quality of coordination (Abaya, 2017). At the local level, the initial response may be hindered by unclear decision-making and politicization, leading to divergent strategies (Abaya, 2017).

Cluster 3: Recommendations for Strengthening National-Local Coordination (Aligned with SDG 11)

1. Strengthening Leadership and Governance

The most important recommendation is that "leadership and governance are key to overcoming all challenges mentioned above" (Antonio, 2016). It is essential to have "political will" (Antonio, 2016). Future government leaders must "sustain the commitment of the current government administration to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" (Antonio, 2016). They should also "ensure the integration of the SDGs into successor plans at all levels" (Antonio, 2016). Strengthening current multi-stakeholder support and coordinating

mechanisms "could help future leaders remain focused on improving the quality of life for the Filipino people" (Antonio, 2016). Additionally, it is recommended to "maintain high-level leadership and political commitment" while empowering central planning agencies, such as the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), to assist in integrating various agendas (Olsen & Zusman, 2014).

2. Increasing Capacity and Fostering Collaboration

To address implementation gaps, the government needs to enhance its capacity beyond usual targets, focusing on outcomes and outputs that will translate into actual services for the public (Lapiz, 2024). This requires "harmonized, concerted, and unified coordinating efforts of both national and local governments, along with stakeholders, to achieve effective and efficient governance in public service" (Lapiz, 2024). A consistent recommendation is to adopt a "Whole-of-Government Approach" to ensure that all committees and levels of government collaborate effectively (Lapiz, 2024). Additionally, the document suggests "innovating platforms, programs, projects, initiatives, activities, and undertakings at the regional and local levels of governance," with the involvement of all stakeholders to address service delivery gaps (Lapiz, 2024).

3. Improving Communication and Training

To enhance disaster preparedness and response, it is recommended that the communication infrastructure be strengthened. This includes increasing the number of disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) staff and developing a communication hub for both synchronous and asynchronous communication (Eleorda et al., 2025). It is also proposed to use a variety of communication channels, balancing traditional and new media, to address potential communication gaps during disasters (Eleorda et al., 2025). Additionally, a formal disaster communication plan should be approved by the governing body of higher education institutions (HEIs) and implemented by a dedicated team (Eleorda et al., 2025). The review highlights the importance of investing in formal training programs, robust communication systems, and collaborative approaches to enhance disaster preparedness and response capabilities (Eleorda et al., 2025).

4. Continuous Evaluation and Institutional Reform

The document highlights the importance of evaluation and monitoring in enhancing crisis management efforts. It encourages the government to "review and revise" operational manuals and guidelines based on evaluation results (United Nations Development Programme, 2019). The growing recognition of evaluation's value within government offers "opportunities for strengthening the country's social protection system for Filipino migrants" (United Nations Development Programme, 2019). A legislative priority has been identified to establish a "department-level Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) body" to address shared authority and fragmented resources among government agencies (Lasco et al., 2018). The enactment of Republic Act No. 11299, which solidified the role of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

in safeguarding overseas Filipinos, serves as a successful example of implementing such recommendations (United Nations Development Programme, 2019).

Conclusion and Discussion

The Philippines, due to its geographical location, is highly vulnerable to various natural disasters. In response, the country has established a crisis management framework that emphasizes coordination between national government agencies and local government units. The Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 (RA 10121) mandates a decentralized, multi-sectoral approach to disaster risk reduction and management. The planning process adopts a hybrid approach that combines top-down and bottom-up methods, utilizing national development plans from the Department of Economy, Planning and Development (DepDev) while incorporating input from local-level plans. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) plays a key role by recommending the allocation of the national disaster fund. Additionally, the government employs a whole-of-government and whole-of-nation approach, involving not only government agencies but also civil society organizations and the private sector.

Challenges

Despite the existence of various frameworks, a significant challenge remains: the gap between policy and implementation. The institutional framework is highly fragmented, with overlapping roles and scattered resources across multiple organizations, complicating coordination efforts. Additionally, members of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) often have other responsibilities, which can complicate leadership roles. Political instability also poses a problem, as frequent leadership changes can disrupt the continuity of national plans and strategies. Communication acts as another significant barrier. Challenges include a growing reliance on mobile devices, susceptibility to power outages and signal loss, the use of technical jargon, and a lack of formal communication training programs. Moreover, the country's geography, characterized by isolated islands, presents a considerable development challenge. During major disasters, government systems can become overwhelmed, leading international agencies to establish parallel coordination mechanisms.

Discoveries or New Knowledge

The Philippines is highly vulnerable to natural hazards, which calls for a strong, decentralized, and multi-sectoral crisis management framework as stipulated by RA 10121. This framework aims to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11). This systematic review, using the PCC framework, synthesizes post-disaster analyses from 2007 to 2025 to evaluate the coordination mechanisms between national and local levels. The review reveals that, despite employing a hybrid "top-down-bottom-up" planning structure and establishing

bodies such as the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), a significant policy implementation gap remains a major obstacle. Key challenges include a fragmented institutional framework with overlapping roles and scattered resources, which complicate efficient operations.

Additionally, political instability and leadership changes disrupt the consistency of national strategies. Critical communication barriers, such as reliance on fragile mobile networks and the use of technical jargon, hinder effective responses. During major disasters, the strain on government systems can lead international agencies to establish parallel coordination mechanisms, further weakening official structures. To address these challenges and work towards a resilient future aligned with SDG 11, the study recommends strengthening leadership and governance through sustained political commitment. It advocates for a "Whole-of-Government Approach" to foster collaboration and continuous institutional reforms. This includes establishing a dedicated department-level body for disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) to centralize authority. Furthermore, improving communication requires investment in infrastructure, the development of formal disaster communication plans, and training. These evidence-based recommendations aim to enhance multi-level governance for a more sustainable and resilient Philippines.

Suggestions

To effectively address systemic challenges in national-local coordination and advance the goals of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, the Philippines needs to implement a series of integrated, actionable policy reforms. Firstly, a critical step is to strengthen leadership and governance. Future leaders must maintain a sustained political commitment to the SDGs, ensuring their integration into all planning documents from the national Philippine Development Plan (PDP) to local Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs). Additionally, the government should enhance its capacity and collaboration by formally adopting a Whole-of-Government Approach. This approach will ensure that all levels and committees work together harmoniously to translate policy into tangible public services. Secondly, institutional reforms are necessary. Legislative action must prioritize the establishment of a department-level Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) body. This new structure will centralize authority and resources, addressing the existing issues of shared authority and fragmented resources among multiple agencies. Finally, it is essential to address critical communication barriers by investing in and strengthening the communication infrastructure. This includes developing a resilient hub and creating a formal disaster communication plan that is approved by governing bodies. Alongside this, investments should be made in formal training programs for DRRM staff to eliminate the use of technical jargon and improve overall preparedness. Continuous evaluation and the revision of operational manuals based on post-disaster reviews are also vital for maintaining relevance and efficiency.

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