



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT PROGRAM ON MANAGING DISASTER TO
SUSTAINING PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN TULUNAN,
NORTH COTABATO PROVINCE**

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Abstract

This study described an overview of the LGU Program on Managing Disaster at the barangay level in sustaining peace and development. The objectives included DRR management and activities that reinforce and strengthen the efforts of the local government to achieve sustainable peace and development in times of disaster with the RA 10121 goals, also known as “*An Act strengthening the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management System,*” as a basis. The study employed a descriptive research design and utilized a questionnaire and observation to survey fifty-four (54) Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (BDRRMCs). The study's findings revealed that natural disasters exacerbate the intensity of disasters, and the most vulnerable people are the most severely affected as natural disasters are now frequent in the country. The Philippine government has intensified its efforts to implement the Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) Program. To prevent and mitigate disaster effectively, it is paramount that the Barangay Local Government Units (BLGUs) perform their functions as prescribed by law.

To achieve the objectives of RA 10121 and encourage community involvement in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), local communities were inspired to actively collaborate and provide support, thereby improving their chances of success. The crucial role played by Barangay Local Government Units (BLGUs) in fulfilling their legal obligations was instrumental in effectively preventing and mitigating disasters. By enhancing the capabilities and dedication of local authorities, the devastating impact of calamities was reduced, leading to a safer and more resilient Filipino community.

Keywords: Local Government Unit, Managing Disaster, Sustaining Peace and Development, North Cotabato Province

INTRODUCTION

It is undeniable that countries in various parts of the world, including countries in Southeast Asia, dealt with natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, floods, tidal floods, hurricanes, landslides, drought, etc. Disasters have always resulted from human interaction with nature, technology, and other living entities. Sometimes unpredictable and sudden, sometimes slow and lingering, various types of disasters continually affect how we live our daily lives. As innovative creatures, humans have sought new ways to control the devastating effects of disasters. However, for years, human conduct regarding disasters has been reactive. Communities, sometimes aware of the risks they face, would wait in anticipation of a disastrous event and then activate plans and procedures. Human social and economic development has further contributed to creating vulnerability and thus weakening the ability of humans to cope with disasters and their effects.

Some natural disasters not only detrimentally affect the environment and ecosystem but also result in hundreds or thousands of deaths and the loss of billions and even trillions of dollars. The Philippines, a Southeast Asian nation, is the most exposed country in the world to disasters and hazards because of its geography and geology. Natural disasters like typhoons and earthquakes are now frequently occurring in the country. The Philippine government has increased its efforts to implement the disaster risk reduction management (DRRM) program to address frequent occurrences. Three significant earthquakes hit North Cotabato in the Philippines on 16, 29, and 31 October 2019 at scales above 6.0 magnitudes. Intensity was felt in Kidapawan City, Tulan, and Makilala in North Cotabato and municipalities in Davao del Sur. The earthquakes caused displacement, loss of lives, and damage to properties. A fourth earthquake occurred on 15 December 2019 with a magnitude of 6.9 in Matanao, Davao del Sur, compounding previous displacement and damage to homes, schools, and infrastructure from the October 2019 earthquakes. The report further showed that North Cotabato's figure taken from Tulan earthquake DROMIC as of 19 February 2020 indicated that 59,405 IDPs took refuge outside the evacuation center, camping outdoors with makeshift tents, and 27,475 inside the evacuation center. Thus, the researcher must determine whether LGU Programs on Managing Risk Reduction support sustaining peace and development.

Statement of the Problem

This study aimed to describe the overall Local Government Unit Program on Managing Disaster to Sustaining Peace and Development in Tulan, North Cotabato Province, during the academic year 2019-2020:

Specifically, this study sought to answer the following queries;

1. What is the demographic profile of the respondents?
2. What are the risk reduction management and activities that reinforce and strengthen the local government's efforts in achieving sustainable peace and development in times of disaster?

3. What is the level of Disaster Preparedness of the six (6) Barangays in Tulunan Municipality in achieving the goals of RA 10121, also known as “*An Act Strengthening the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management System*”?

4. To what level is the implementation of LGU ensuring that disaster risk reduction supports peace and development?

5. What challenges/ barriers does the local government unit encounter in managing Disaster Risk Reduction and pursuing sustainable peace and development?

METHOD

The researcher used mixed methods, the descriptive method design, and the qualitative method in conducting the study because they believed this was the most appropriate approach. A descriptive method was used to gather data through self-administered questionnaires. The qualitative approach sought to collect data to provide narratives and descriptions of the respondents based on their perceptions and experiences. Through this method, there would be a better understanding of the current condition, which was necessary for the investigation and gathering of data. The study was conducted in the six (6) barangays of Tulunan, North Cotabato: The barangays were Brgy. Daig, Brgy. Paraiso, Brgy. Magbok, and Brgy. New Caridad, Brgy. Bacong and Brgy. Bituan. The town of Tulunan was selected for a reason. This municipality was most heavily affected and stricken by the 6.3-magnitude earthquake. Tulunan, North Cotabato, is geographically located in the southernmost part of Cotabato Province. On the north, it is bounded by M'lang; Datu Paglas, Maguindanao on the south; Liguasan Marsh on the west; Makilala on the northeastern portion; and Magsaysay, Davao del Sur in the eastern part. Tulunan is politically subdivided into 29 barangays. Typhoons seldom form in the area, as Tulunan is located outside the typhoon belt and protected by small mountains. However, on 29 October 2019 (Tuesday), another strong earthquake of Magnitude (M) 6.6 shook the province of Cotabato (also known as North Cotabato) and its vicinity. This earthquake had an epicenter located 25 kilometers southeast of Tulunan, Cotabato, and a depth of 7 kilometers. This earthquake and the recent earthquakes (9 July 2019 M5.6 and 16 October 2019 M6.3) in the area were part of a sequence of events from interrelated faults in the region. Small to strong magnitude earthquakes followed afterward, and as of 29 October 2019, 113 earthquakes following the M6.6 earthquake have been recorded by the DOSTPHIVOLCS.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Participants according to their Sex, Age, Educational Status, and Address

Table 1

| Sex | Category | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| | Male | 34 | 62.96 |
| | Female | 20 | 37.04 |
| Age | | | |
| | 18-25 years old | 7 | 12.97 |
| | 26-35 years old | 9 | 16.67 |
| | 36-50 years old | 26 | 48.15 |
| | 51-65 years old | 8 | 14.81 |
| | 66 years old and above | 4 | 7.40 |
| Educational Status | | | |
| | Elementary Level | 2 | 3.70 |
| | Secondary Level | 10 | 18.51 |
| | College Level | 37 | 68.51 |
| | Masteral | 5 | 9.25 |
| | Doctoral | 0 | - |
| Address | | | |
| | Daig | 9 | 16.66 |
| | Bacong | 9 | 16.66 |
| | Bituan | 9 | 16.66 |
| | New Caridad | 9 | 16.66 |
| | Paraiso | 9 | 16.66 |
| | Magbok | 9 | 16.66 |

Table 1 shows the profile of the study participants in terms of sex, age, address, and educational status. The majority of the respondents belonged to the age group ranging from 36-50 years (n=26), followed by (n=9) 16.67 percent age range 26-35, then 51-65-year-old with (n=8) 14.81 percent, and (n=7) or 12.97 age range 18-25-year-old and (n=4) or 7.40 percent for 66 years and above.

Thirty-four (34), or 62.96 percent of the total respondents, were male, and 20, or 37.04 percent, were female. The number of respondents interviewed per barangay was equally represented. There was 1 Barangay Chairperson and eight council members on the BDRRM Committee. Of all the interviewed respondents who have undergone formal

education, there were 37, or 68.51 percent, were at the College level; 10, or 18.51 percent, were at the Secondary level five or 9.25 with a master's degree, and 2, or 3.70 percent, were at the elementary level.

Frequency and Percentage Distribution of DRR Management and Activities that reinforce and strengthen efforts of the BLGU

| DRR Activities | Range of Mean: | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|--|
| | 1-Very Poor; 1.0-1.80 | | 2-Poor: more than 1.81-2.60 | | 3-Fair: more than 2.61-3.40 | | 4-Good: more than 3.41-4.20 | | 5-Excellent: more than 4.20 | |
| Increased level of awareness and enhanced capacity of the community to deal with preparedness, hazards, threats, and impacts Developed and implemented comprehensive national and local preparedness and response policies, plans, and systems Strengthened partnership and coordination among all key players and stakeholders Well-established disaster response operations, emergency arrangement As part of DRR, conduct emergency first aid training and distribute first aid kits, subsidize or provide survival items Community-based scientific DRRM and CCA assessment, mapping, analysis, and monitoring Capacity building for local authorities on preparing Incident Reports on Disaster Enhanced monitoring, forecasting, and hazard warning Adequate and prompt assessment of needs and damages at all levels of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (DRRMCs), such as Integrated and coordinated Search, Rescue, and Retrieval (SRR) capacity Guided target communities and schools to undertake a climate-smart risk assessment and develop disaster risk management plans, as well as organized drills to test their DRR management plans | Bacong | Caridad | Daig | Paraiso | Bituan | Magbok | WM | VI | | |
| | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.89 | 5.00 | 4.98 | Excellent | | |
| | 4.11 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 3.78 | 4.00 | 3.89 | 3.96 | Good | | |
| | 4.33 | 4.56 | 4.44 | 4.44 | 4.33 | 4.33 | 4.41 | Excellent | | |
| | 4.11 | 4.11 | 4.22 | 4.22 | 4.22 | 4.22 | 4.18 | Good | | |
| | 3.22 | 3.33 | 3.22 | 3.22 | 3.22 | 3.22 | 3.24 | Fair | | |
| | 3.56 | 3.67 | 3.56 | 3.33 | 3.55 | 3.22 | 3.48 | Good | | |
| | 4.33 | 4.11 | 4.22 | 4.22 | 4.00 | 4.11 | 4.17 | Good | | |
| | 2.78 | 3.44 | 3.33 | 3.33 | 3.22 | 3.33 | 3.24 | Fair | | |
| | 4.11 | 4.11 | 4.00 | 3.78 | 3.77 | 3.77 | 3.92 | Good | | |
| Over-all Weighted Mean | 4.00 | 4.11 | 4.11 | 3.78 | 3.44 | 4.11 | | | | |

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|--|---|
| | | Good | | 3 |
| | | | | . |
| | | | | 9 |
| | | | | 3 |
| Good | Good | Good | | |
| | Good | Good | | |
| | Good | Good | | |
| | | | | |
| 3.96 | 4.04 | 4.01 | | |
| 3.91 | 3.86 | 3.92 | | |
| 3.95 | Good | | | |

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As shown in Table 2, the following were the identified Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Activities of the Six (six) barangays indicating the highest achievement, which reinforced strengthening local government's efforts in achieving sustainable peace and development in times of disaster. Results revealed that the New Caridad obtained the highest overall weighted mean of 4.04, followed by Daig (4.01), Bacong (3.96), Magbok (3.92), Paraiso (3.91), and Bituan (3.86).

Furthermore, all barangays had an increased level of awareness and enhanced capacity of the community to deal with preparedness, hazards, threats, and impacts, with a weighted mean of 4.98, which was described as excellent. In terms of partnership and coordination, strengthened among all key players and stakeholders also obtained a weighted mean of 4.41, which is described as amazing. A well-established disaster response operation followed it; the emergency response arrangement had a weighted mean of 4.18 and a description of good. While local authorities had capacities to prepare Incident Reports on disasters during the earthquake, the incident garnered a weighted mean of 4.17, which was described as good. Developed and implemented comprehensive national and local preparedness and response policies, plans, and systems and got a weighted mean of 3.96, which was also described as good. Schools that undertake a climate-smart risk assessment and develop disaster risk management plans and organized drills to test their DRR management plans got a weighted mean of 3.93, described as good. Adequate and prompt assessment of needs and damages at all levels. Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (DRRMCs) such as Integrated and coordinated Search, Rescue, and Retrieval

(SRR) capacity garnered a weighted mean of 3.92 with a description of good. Community-based scientific DRRM and CCA assessment, mapping, analysis, and monitoring got a weighted mean of 3.48, which is good. The activities that need more focus and got the lowest weighted mean of 3.24 described as fair were as part of DRR, conducting emergency first aid training and distributing first aid kits, subsidizing or providing survival items, and the Enhanced monitoring, forecasting, and hazard warning especially the Earthquake as identified hazard which remained impossible into determining the level of barangay capacities. Under this category, the result had an overall weighted mean of 3.04 and a verbal interpretation of Good.

The effectiveness of the activities can be measured after calamity strikes. The study showed that the respondents were involved in all activities throughout the report preparation, monitoring the community's vulnerability to hazards, the impacts of disasters, and the prompt response to any threatening situation. It must be related to mass education and population training to be effective.

Table 3 Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Disaster Preparedness in terms of achieving the goals of RA 10121, also known as “An act

strengthening the Philippine disaster risk reduction and management system”

| Level of Disaster Preparedness | Bacong | New Caridad | Daig | Paraiso | Bituan | Magbok | WM | VI |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------|--------------------|
| Presence of functional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Structure | 4.78 | 4.33 | 4.33 | 4.33 | 4.33 | 4.33 | | |
| Manual of operations of disaster operations centers/ Incident command and Manual of operations of disaster operations centers/ Incident command | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | 4.41 | Extremely High |
| IEC and advocacy materials on RA 10121, DRRM, and Climate Change Adaptation | 4.67 | 4.78 | 4.67 | 4.56 | 4.67 | 4.67 | | |
| Capacity Assessment | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | 4.67 | Extremely High |
| Hazard Profile/Geohazard Risk Assessment in the most high-risk areas (e.g., communitybased DRRM and CCA risk mapping) | 4.78 | 4.11 | 4.33 | 4.67 | 3.78 | 4.56 | | |
| Established DRRM Office | Extremely High | Highly Prepare | Extremely High | Extremely High | Highly Prepare | Extremely High | 4.37 | Extremely High |
| Capacity Development Training and Preparedness of the Council | 3.22 | 3.11 | 2.89 | 2.89 | 2.89 | 2.89 | | |
| Fund Utilization Guidelines of BDRRM | Moderately Prepare | Moderately Prepare | Moderately Prepare | Moderately Prepare | Moderately Prepare | Moderately Prepare | 2.98 | Moderately Prepare |
| Local DRRM plans Disaster Response Plan (to include a system for Search, Rescue, and Retrieval SRR; scenario-based preparedness and response plans) | 4.22 | 4.33 | 4.22 | 4.11 | 4.22 | 4.56 | | |
| Partnership Mechanisms | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | 4.28 | Extremely High |
| Over-all Weighted Mean | 4.33 | 4.44 | 4.33 | 4.33 | 4.33 | 4.56 | | |
| | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | 4.39 | Extremely High |
| | 4.11 | 4.11 | 4.11 | 4 | 4.11 | 3.67 | | |
| | Highly Prepare | Highly Prepare | Highly Prepare | Highly prepare | Highly prepare | Highly prepare | 4.02 | Highly Prepare |
| | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | | |
| | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | 5 | Extremely High |
| | 4.33 | 4.33 | 4.78 | 4.78 | 4.33 | 4.44 | | |
| | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | 4.5 | Extremely High |
| | 4.22 | 4.11 | 4.11 | 4 | 4 | 4.11 | | |
| | Extremely High | Highly Prepare | Highly Prepare | Highly prepare | Highly Prepare | Highly prepare | 4.09 | Extremely High |
| | 4.37 | 4.27 | 4.28 | 4.27 | 4.17 | 4.28 | 4.27 | Extremely High |
| | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | Extremely High | Highly Prepare | Extremely High | | Highly Prepare |

Range of Mean

1-Not at all; 1.0-1.8

2-Slightly prepare: more than 1.81-2.60

3-Moderately Prepare: more than 2.61-3.40

4-Highly Prepare: more than 3.41-4.20

5-Extremely High: more than 4.21

As indicated in Table 3, the results of the Barangay Local Government Unit disaster preparedness level in terms of achieving the goals of RA 10121, also known as “An act strengthening the Philippine disaster risk reduction and management system. The result showed that Brgy Bacong has the highest mean of 4.37, with the verbal interpretation of Extremely High. Barangay Daig and Magbok follow it with (4.28-Extrememy High) and Bituan (4.17-Highly Prepare). Based on the tabulated data, this table showed that all the listed disaster preparedness had a weighted mean of 4.27 and verbal interpretation as Extremely High.

Given the existing law, the barangay has allocation and can disburse it according to Fund Utilization Guidelines of BDRRM with a weighted mean of 5.00 followed by Manual operations of disaster operations centers/ Incident command got a mean of 4.67; Local DRRM plans Disaster Response Plan (to include a system for Search, Rescue, and Retrieval SRR; scenario-based preparedness and response plans garnered a mean of 4.5; Presence of functional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Structure with a mean of 4.41; Established DRRM Office; IEC and advocacy materials on RA 10121, DRRM and Climate Change Adaptation got a mean of 4.39; Hazard Profile/Geo-hazard Risk Assessment in the most high-risk areas (e.g., community-based DRRM and CCA risk mapping) with a mean of 4.28. All of them were described as extremely high. Partnership Mechanisms got a weighted mean of 4.09; Capacity Development Training and Preparedness of the Council had a mean of 4.02. These two were described as highly prepared. The lowest rating was the Capacity Assessment, with a mean of 2.98, defined as moderately prepared.

Our country has always been vulnerable to disaster risk and natural hazards. One of nature's most frightening and destructive phenomena is an earthquake and its terrible effects. That is why the BLGU's appropriation of funds has the chance to mitigate and reduce risks. Enhancing disaster preparedness, especially in capacitating the communities, is crucial to achieve long-term cooperation at the local level to contribute to a typical local development agenda. With the expanding social safety nets for the victims of natural disasters, everyone can live safe and productive lives free from worries. Significantly, all disaster programming is addressed to SDG Goal 11B.

Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Program Implementation level of BLGU in terms of ensuring DRR in support of sustaining peace and development

| | Bacong | New Caridad | Daig | Paraiso | Bituan | Magbok | WM | VI |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Level of Implementation | | | | | | | | |
| Develop and implement disaster risk reduction policies, laws, regulations, directives and standards; | 2.56 Highly Implemented | 2.44 Highly Implemented | 2.67 Highly Implemented | 2.44 Highly Implemented | 2.33 Implemented | 2.44 Highly Implemented | 2.48 | Highly Implemented |
| Establish adequate structures to govern disaster risk reduction, such as: | 2.67 | 2.22 | 2.11 | 2.44 | 2.78 | 2.44 | | |
| -disaster risk management centers/offices | Highly Implemented | Implemented | Implemented | Highly Implemented | Highly Implemented | Highly Implemented | 2.44 | Highly Implemented |
| - political decision-making structures and engagement with the private sector | | | | | | | | |
| Integrate disaster risk reduction measures into development planning | 2.78 Highly Implemented | 2.56 Highly Implemented | 2.56 Highly Implemented | 2.67 Highly Implemented | 2.56 Highly Implemented | 2.78 Highly Implemented | 2.65 | Highly Implemented |
| Conduct of barangay disaster risk assessments | 2.89 Highly Implemented | 2.78 Highly Implemented | 2.67 Highly Implemented | 2.66 Highly Implemented | 2.66 Highly Implemented | 2.66 Highly Implemented | 2.72 | Highly Implemented |
| Encourage research, training, education, and public awareness of disaster risk issues | Highly Implemented | Highly Implemented | Highly Implemented | Highly Implemented | Highly Implemented | Highly Implemented | 2.44 | Highly Implemented |
| Ensure adequate emergency and contingency measures are in place for possible disasters | 2.78 Highly Implemented | 2.00 Implemented | 2.56 Highly Implemented | 2.67 Highly Implemented | 2.00 Implemented | 2.67 Highly Implemented | 2.45 | Highly Implemented |
| Provide adequate funding to sustain disaster risk reduction efforts. | 2.56 Highly Implemented | 2.67 Highly Implemented | 2.55 Highly Implemented | 2.44 Highly Implemented | 2.44 Highly Implemented | 2.55 Highly Implemented | 2.53 | Highly Implemented |
| Generate political commitment, which translates into promoting disaster risk management as a multi-sectoral responsibility | 2.44 Highly Implemented | 2.44 Highly Implemented | 2.00 Implemented | 2.00 Implemented | 2.00 Implemented | 2.00 Implemented | 2.15 | Implemented |
| Allocate necessary resources for disaster risk reduction | 2.78 Highly Implemented | 2.67 Highly Implemented | 2.77 Highly Implemented | 2.67 Highly Implemented | 2.67 Highly Implemented | 2.78 Highly Implemented | 2.72 | Highly Implemented |
| Multi-stakeholder involvement, increasing gender sensitivity, and facilitating participation by civil society and the private sector | 2.44 Highly Implemented | 2.44 Highly Implemented | 2.22 Implemented | 2.44 Highly Implemented | 2.22 Implemented | 2.33 Implemented | 2.35 | Highly Implemented |
| Over-all Weighted Mean | 2.64 | 2.46 | 2.44 | 2.48 | 2.41 | 2.51 | 2.49 | Highly Implemented |

Range of Mean

0.67-1.67 = Not Implemented

1.68-2.35 = Implemented

2.34-3.0 = Highly Implemented

Table 4 shows the respondents' point of view on the description level of the implementation of LGU in terms of ensuring that disaster risk reduction supports peace and development. Overall, the level of LGU implementation among study participants was Highly Implemented, with a mean of 2.49. As shown in the table, Barangay Bacong, Tulunan, had the highest mean of 2.64 with the verbal interpretation of High Implemented), followed by Magbok with a mean of 2.51, Paraiso got a mean of 2.48, New Bituan had a mean of 2.46, Daig with a mean of 2.44 and with the least score Bituan also garnered 2.41. All of them were verbally interpreted with “highly implemented.”

Moreover, the data showed that the listed implementation level was almost Highly Implemented across the sectors in most areas in the six (6) barangays. They were as follows: Conduct of barangay disaster risk assessments got a mean of 2.72; Allocate necessary resources for disaster risk reduction had a mean of 2.72; Integrate disaster risk reduction measures into development planning obtained a mean of 2.65; Provide adequate funding to sustain disaster risk reduction efforts garnered 2.53; Develop and implement disaster risk reduction policies, laws, regulations, directives and standards with a mean of 2.48; Ensure adequate emergency and contingency measures are in place for possible disasters with also mean of 2.45; Establish adequate structures to govern disaster risk reduction such as disaster risk management centers/offices, political decisionmaking structures and engagement with the private sector had a mean of 2.44. Encourage research, training, education, and public awareness of Highly Implemented across disaster risk issues with a mean of 2.44; multi-stakeholder involvement, increasing gender sensitivity, and facilitating participation by civil society and the private sector got a mean of 2.35. these were all described as highly implemented. The lowest rating was taken by the statement to generate political commitment, which translates into promoting disaster risk management as a multi-sectoral responsibility. It got a mean of 2.15, which was described as implemented.

This study aimed to present the situation and inform strategies on DRR. It notes that activities were disseminated in all necessary forms and acknowledged as applicable by the respondents. It then confirms that activities led to better implementation and supported peace and development.

Table 5 Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Challenges/ Barriers Encountered by the LGU in Managing Disaster Risk Reduction in Sustaining Peace and Development

| Challenges/ Barriers | Rank |
|---|-------------|
| Training and orientation of designated officials/ personnel | 1 |
| Lack of financial resources/ Budget allocated for DRRM is too tiny/ insufficient assistance | 2 |
| Delayed implementation of the project | 3 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Mapping of vulnerable households/ residents | 4 |
| Emergency equipment, emergency supplies availability | 5 |
| Level of awareness through education and information | 6 |
| Information Sharing (exchange of information, plans, response, and know who is doing what) | 7 |
| Lack of available technical staff/ technical experts/trained personnel for community activities | 8 |
| Evacuation shelter | 9 |
| Political will and motivation (Leadership of Officials) | 10 |

The challenges encountered by the local government unit in managing disaster risk reduction as identified as barriers were the following: Training and orientation of designated officials/ personnel and the Lack of financial resources. The budget allocated for DRRM is too tiny/has insufficient assistance, often leading to delayed project implementation. In the experience of the recent earthquake, it is also noted that the essential mapping of vulnerable households/ residents and provision of Emergency equipment/ emergency supplies were needed. The last barriers the respondents identified that could be addressed were the available technical staff/experts/ personnel for community activities for managing an evacuation shelter and political will and motivation among officials.

Determining challenges and barriers to disaster was common across sectors. In contrast, despite all the effort, strong-willed and demonstrated leadership was demonstrated in implementing and establishing disaster policies that identified precise and delineated tasks for each sector.

Summary of the Findings

The study yielded the following significant findings:

1. The demographic profile results revealed that males outnumbered females; most respondents were 36-50 at the college level. The respondents interviewed per barangay were equally represented.
2. Results revealed in identified Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Activities of the six barangays obtained the overall weighted mean of "good."
3. The results in Barangay Local Government Unit disaster preparedness level in achieving the goals of RA 10121, also known as "An act strengthening the Philippine disaster risk reduction and management system, garnered an overall weighted mean of 4.27 with a verbal interpretation of Extremely High.
4. The respondents' point of view on the program implementation of LGU in terms of ensuring disaster risk reduction to support peace and development obtained an overall weighted mean of 2.49, which was verbally interpreted as "highly implemented."
5. The study determined the challenges and barriers the local government unit encountered in managing Disaster Risk Reduction and pursuing sustainable peace and development. Training and orientation of designated officials/ personnel was the highest barrier, or rank 1, and the most minor barrier was political will and motivation, rank 10.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it is concluded that the risk reduction committee is tremendously effective in managing and sustaining peace and development in the six (6) Barangays at Tulunan, North Cotabato. It is also concluded that the collaborative efforts of the LGUs and the local community leaders ensure the strengthening and achievement of sustainable peace and development.

Recommendation

Based on the findings and conclusion of the study, the following are at this moment recommended:

1. Comprehensive training programs in all aspects of disaster preparedness should be developed to reduce the impact of disasters. Such measures should receive special attention in development and training. Orientation on the environmental hazards and detrimental effects of disasters could change attitudes about the environment regarding hazards and risks.
2. Advocate with the Government to increase funding for response preparedness efforts to strengthen local authorities' capacity to respond to emergencies.
3. The national government should revisit R.A. 10121 and make its Implementing Rules and Regulations more detailed, specific, and inclusive so that the LGUs can readily appreciate and implement it.
4. The BDRRMCS should help improve its capacity to conduct immediate needs assessments after a disaster. Using simple methods, they should identify the local hazards and vulnerabilities, and areas that may be potentially affected should be avoided.
5. There should be an information, education, and communication campaign for the affected constituents. They should collaborate with government organizations and all sectors with specific DRRM plans and guidelines programs to carry out these activities.
6. The barangay should also encourage people's participation in implementing the policies on DRRM and putting into practice the knowledge, attitude, and practices that must be sustained and passed on from generation to generation to prevent loss of life and property.
7. Future researchers might investigate the input, system, or process for measuring the effectiveness of Checklist Disaster Preparedness and BDRRMCS.

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