

# Evaluating the Effectiveness of the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Programs of Dagupan City

Christopher Forayo<sup>1</sup>, Albert Valerio<sup>2</sup>, Princess Lirios<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Professor, University of Pangasinan

<sup>2</sup>Professor, Urdaneta City University

<sup>3</sup>Professor, Leyte University

## Abstract

Disaster is inevitable, unpredictable and out of human control. There is no tried and tested single solution to totally prevent it. However, human acts may reduce the negative results. It is along this lines that this research is anchored. To ensure a minimized disaster loss in Dagupan City, this research evaluated the level of preparedness, level of effectiveness and the problems encountered by the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (CDRRMC). This is done through a descriptive-evaluative method where explanations about the existing conditions were taken from the collective perceptions of the respondents. The perception of the respondents was collected using a validated survey questionnaire prepared by the researchers. To analyze the data collected from the sixty-one (61) barangay officials and eighty-six (86) residents of the nine (9) barangays that are usually flooded, weighted mean was use. The data shows that the CDRRMC of Dagupan City is moderately prepared and likewise moderately effective. Despite this however, the CDRRMC is facing some moderately serious problems such as limited number of personnel, lack of training of personnel resulting to the difficulty in the performance of some functions and difficulty in involving the community in the design and management of projects. This goes to show that the CDRRMC lacks sufficient preparations on some programs and such programs were inadequately implemented since some residents were unaware on the existence of such programs.

**Keywords:** Disaster, Disaster Management, Risk reduction, City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council

## I. INTRODUCTION

Safety and security are a human necessity. It is something that cannot be set aside but rather one that is prioritized. While threat to security and safety may be caused by man, it may also be caused by nature. To counter those that are naturally caused, there is truth in the saying no man is an island. There must be the cooperation of several individuals and institutions. However, the collaborative actions of all those involved will be put to waste without evaluation of how the actions were done in order to introduce necessary improvement.

Philippines being disaster risk as it is in the ring of fire and identified exporter of typhoons should be prepared about the possibilities of disaster occurrence. The disruptive effect of disaster is the main area

of concern as it can result to lost or destruction of lives and properties. Thus, identifying measures to address disasters of any type is a must. Through this research, the existing measures of the Dagupan City CDRRMC will be assessed in order to determine how effective it is and what are the areas to be improved. In this way, the disastrous effect of disaster will be minimized which in turn protects many lives and properties. The research is grounded on the fact that flood is Dagupan City's perennial problem. Many possible solutions were already implemented but the problem did not cease to exist. Through this research, new and a more adaptive solution may be had in order to lessen the disastrous effects or probably to put an end to the problem.

## II. METHODOLOGY

The researchers made use of the descriptive-evaluative method of research. Where survey-questionnaire is utilized in order to gather opinions, insights and perceptions from the subjects-respondents. The respondents shall be residents of the barangays in Dagupan City that is usually flooded. Each identified barangay will be represented by their barangay officials and some community members. The responses will then be tabulated and analyzed using a weighted mean.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the results of the analyses and interpretation of data gathered relative to the specific problems of the study. Discussion in this research is focused on the level of preparedness of the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council of Dagupan City and the level of effectiveness of the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council of Dagupan City. Likewise, this research dealt on the degree of seriousness of the problems encountered in the implementation of the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Programs.

### **Level of Preparedness of the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council**

Phases of Disaster		
Pre-Disaster Phase	2.93	MP
Disaster Phase	2.99	MP
Post Disaster	2.86	MP
<b>General Weighted Mean</b>	<b>2.92</b>	<b>MP</b>

As depicted on the table, the level of effectiveness of CDRRMC on different phases of disasters as perceived by the respondents obtained a general weighted mean of 2.92 equated as moderately prepared. This implies that the CDRRMC are reasonably anticipating the occurrence of disaster. Likewise, programs of the CDRRMC to some extent are creating awareness and knowledge among the populace as to their roles, duties and responsibilities before, during and after disasters thus enhancing their preparations. This is done through the conduct of disaster preparedness sessions in schools and business establishment through seminars, lectures, and drills, the distribution of leaflets, brochures, handouts and the like. This is corroborated in the study conducted by Florano (2013) which states that the distribution of IEC materials in the form of calendars and bookmarkers increases awareness and preparedness. Further, the programs of the CDRRMC resulted to the pro-active behavior of the people which gave rise to their own initiative to prepare to any forms of disaster. However, the non-attainment of highly prepared result in terms of the phases of disaster can be attributed to the fact that some of the programs of the CDRRMC are not

consistently implemented in some barangays. Also, some of the respondents or community members may not have been informed about the programs of the CDRRMC. Correspondingly, some of the community members or respondents are not aware that some of the programs are being implemented.

**Level of Effectiveness of the Dagupan City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council**

<b>Phases of Disasters</b>		
Pre-Disaster Phase	2.95	ME
Disaster Phase	2.96	ME
Post Disaster	2.96	ME
<b>General Weighted Mean</b>	<b>2.96</b>	<b>ME</b>

The table shows the level of effectiveness of the CDRRMC. The general weighted mean of 2.96 with a descriptive equivalent of moderately effective connotes that CDRRMC as perceived by the respondents on the different phases of disaster are reasonably equipped and capable in dealing with disasters. Also, it shows that CDRRMC are convincingly competent of promoting a zero-casualty during the period of disaster. Likewise, this also manifests the well-designed programs of the CDRRMC in attending to the needs and concerns of the community. Further, the activities of the CDRRMC are directly responding to the problems experienced by the people during disaster/s. In addition, with the constant help from the people, the CDRRMC are becoming more effective in enforcing their programs thus promoting more safety of the populace. However, the non-attainment of highly effective as regards the implementation of CDRRMC programs can be attributed to the low weighted mean on the area of housing assistance for relocated families who were living in hazard and high risk areas and the conduct of studies or research to identify other high risk areas and formulate plans in relocating families. This gives rise to the importance of conducted this research as it can serve as a basis in formulating future plans. The conduct of research to identify other risk areas is however encouraged.

**Degree of the Seriousness of the Problems Encountered in the Implementation of the CDRRMC Programs of Dagupan City**

This area concentrates on the problems perceived by the respondents that hinder the implementation of the CDRRMC programs in Dagupan City. These are factors in one way or another could attribute to the failure of the CDRRMC to effectively enforce their preparedness and mitigation programs against disaster, thus preventing them from attaining their goal of zero-casualty in case of disaster. This segment was designed purposely only for the barangay officials of the selected community of Dagupan City. The researcher opted to choose the barangay officials since they are the one who are directly involved and in-charge in the implementation of the CDRRMC programs. Thus, at the same time directly experiencing and identifying the problems encountered in the enforcement of such programs.

As shown in the table, the problems perceived by the respondents relates to lack of awareness on the allocated budget for provided under R.A. 10121 intended for calamity fund, lack of community support in the implementation of the disaster plan, indifferent behavior of some personnel in the implementation of the disaster plan, self-initiative was lacking among the local people, even among the members of the Barangay Council who were highly dependent upon the assistance of the city, government was always viewed by the people as the remedy to all their problems, difficulties in involving the community in the design and management of projects, difficulties in building up mutual trust between agencies and

communities, reduction of community involvement to sweat equity instead of active involvement in decision making, difficulty in the performance of some functions, limited number of personnel.

Though problems in the implementation of the CDRRMC programs exists, still it is within the scope and boundary of the local government to answer and response constantly to mitigate or if not to prevent the effect and life-taking consequence of disasters.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

Despite the fact that the CDRRMC is facing some moderately serious problems such as limited number of personnel, lack of training of personnel resulting to the difficulty in the performance of some functions and difficulty in involving the community in the design and management of projects, they are ready and are able to perform the mandate of their office specially in times of disaster.

#### V. REFERENCE

1. Babbie E.R. and Maxfield M.G. (2014). *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology*. Cengage Learning. United States.
2. United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR). (2005). *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disaster*. Extract from the final report of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction retrieved from <http://www.unisdr.org/wcdr/intergover/official-doc/L-docs/Hyogo-framework-for-action-english>. February 17, 2023
3. Dagupan-PreventionWeb. Retrieved from <https://www.preventionweb.net>. February 18, 2023
4. Jeggle, T. (2010). *“The evolution of disaster reduction as an international strategy: Policy implications for the future.”* Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas.
5. Orallo, A.D. (2011). *Research report, study on earthquake risk vulnerability management*. A research report.