



**ASSESSMENT OF DISASTER RESPONSE FOR MAYON VOLCANIC
ERUPTION IN THE 2ND DISTRICT OF ALBAY**

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ABSTRACT

Natural disasters like volcanic eruptions demand highly effective disaster response measures. This study evaluates the Disaster Response Program's implementation in Albay's 2nd District, where frequent eruptions from Mount Mayon challenge emergency preparedness. Focusing on critical intervention areas—health, law enforcement, camp coordination, water and sanitation, psychosocial support, community engagement, and logistical readiness—the study combines qualitative document analysis and quantitative survey methods to assess the program's overall impact and areas for enhancement. Data were collected from 581 participants, including emergency responders, local officials, and affected community members, to capture a broad perspective on the program's effectiveness. Results reveal that while the program is "Implemented" across intervention areas, effectiveness varies. Health, psychosocial, and inter-agency communication efforts performed well, with notable strengths in medical and psychological support within evacuation centers. However, limitations in logistical support, such as shelter availability and transport resources, reduced response efficiency. The findings underscore the need for improved resource allocation, enhanced logistical frameworks, and regular community training exercises. This study offers an Early Response Action Plan to strengthen disaster response capabilities, promoting a more resilient system that better safeguards communities in high-risk volcanic zones.

Keywords: *Disaster response program, implementation, early action plan, volcanic eruption*

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INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, disasters have emerged from the intricate interactions among humans, the environment, technology, and other organisms. These events can manifest suddenly or gradually, impacting daily life in myriad ways. Human innovation has spurred efforts to mitigate disaster effects, yet responses have typically been reactive rather than proactive. Communities, cognizant of potential risks, engage in preparedness measures and enact pre-planned strategies when facing imminent catastrophic events. However, societal progress has also amplified vulnerability, complicating efforts to manage and mitigate disaster impacts.

Disasters pose obstacles to human advancement and are closely intertwined with a community's developmental stage. The level of disaster risk in a community is intimately connected to its developmental decisions. Extensive research has illuminated the interplay between disasters and development, with examples such as floods damaging infrastructure and earthquake-resistant building techniques influencing risk levels. Unfortunately, the Philippines grapples with significant annual losses due to disasters, impeding progress and leaving communities exposed.

Global efforts in monitoring and assessing volcanic eruptions have been extensive, given the presence of approximately 1,500 active volcanoes across 86 nations. Yet, research on responsive measures for communities in volcanic regions remains inadequate. Studies have explored various aspects, including fatalities, community vulnerability, and risk assessment frameworks. However, there remains a critical need to consider community responses within the context of beliefs, cultural disparities, and governance modes.

In the Philippine context, research has focused on disaster readiness, particularly concerning volcanic eruptions like the Taal volcano. However, challenges persist in establishing causal linkages and interpreting findings, necessitating innovative approaches like hybrid modeling techniques. Given the persistent activity of volcanoes like Taal and Mount Bulusan, there's an urgent need for sustainable risk reduction strategies, especially in heavily

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populated areas like Albay's 2nd District. This evaluation aligns with both national legislation and international frameworks aimed at reducing disaster risks and increasing resilience.

This study aims to comprehensively assess disaster response programs in Albay's 2nd District, focusing on sustainable risk reduction strategies for potential Mayon Volcano eruptions. Objectives include evaluating current status, analyzing risks, assessing effectiveness, and proposing solutions to enhance resilience. Ultimately, the goal is to enhance community safety and well-being by implementing effective disaster management measures, considering the significant threat posed by the Mayon Volcano.

OBJECTIVES

This study focuses on evaluating the implementation of the Disaster Response program for Mayon Volcanic eruptions in Albay's 2nd district. Its primary objective is to comprehensively assess the effectiveness and efficiency of disaster response efforts following a volcanic eruption. Specifically, the study aims to achieve several goals: firstly, to identify the status of the Disaster Response Program, including human, financial, and logistical resources, as well as inter-agency collaboration. Secondly, it seeks to assess the level of implementation of the program in various areas such as health, law and order, camp coordination and management, water and sanitation, psycho-social support, community building, food and non-food items, and evacuation facilities. Thirdly, the study aims to determine the consensus among stakeholders regarding the Disaster Response program in the 2nd District of Albay. Lastly, it intends to propose an Early Action Plan to address any identified issues and enhance the effectiveness of disaster response efforts.

FRAMEWORK

The research study on the Assessment of Disaster Response Program for Mayon Volcanic Eruption in the 2nd District of Albay is underpinned by the System Theory of

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Management, Theory of Planned Behavior, and Theory of Emergency Management, along with the Resiliency Theory developed by the researcher. These theories offer a robust framework for understanding and evaluating the objectives of the study. The System Theory of Management provides insights into the interconnectedness of resources and the importance of holistic understanding in disaster response efforts. The Theory of Planned Behavior offers valuable perspectives on promoting disaster response behaviors and understanding the factors influencing performance. The Theory of Emergency Management guides the study in comprehensively addressing various aspects of disasters. Additionally, the Resiliency Theory integrates these theories to focus on changing human behaviors and enhancing disaster risk reduction efforts. The study utilizes the Context, Input, Process, and Product (CIPP) model to systematically evaluate the Disaster Response Program, identify strengths and weaknesses, and propose evidence-based strategies for sustainable risk reduction. Through this comprehensive approach, the research aims to provide valuable insights for enhancing future disaster response initiatives in the 2nd District of Albay, particularly during volcanic eruptions like that of Mayon.

METHODOLOGY

The study employed a multi-method approach, which integrated qualitative and quantitative methods to align with its objectives, aiming to enhance the research's depth and quality. Qualitative methods, such as document analysis, were utilized to determine the status of various resources and collaboration within the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices (MDRRMO) of Camalig and Daraga, Albay. Conversely, quantitative approaches were employed to assess the Disaster Response Program's implementation across eight indicators, using survey questionnaires derived from the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Plan. The research instrument, validated by field experts, comprised eight clusters corresponding to different aspects of disaster response. Data gathering procedures involved seeking permission from relevant government agencies and distributing

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approved questionnaires to selected respondents, including government officials, evacuees, and inter-agency personnel involved in disaster management. However, challenges such as delayed retrieval of questionnaires and difficulty in reaching target populations were encountered during the data collection process. Despite these challenges, the study meticulously selected respondents based on their relevance and functions to assess the Disaster Response Program's implementation effectively. Furthermore, the study focused on the second district of Albay, particularly the municipalities of Daraga and Camalig, due to their direct exposure to the Mayon Volcanic eruption and their inclusion in the Permanent Danger Zone identified by PHIVOLCS. This deliberate selection of study sites underscored the research's geographic specificity and relevance to understanding the impact of volcanic activities on surrounding communities.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section explores the perceived degree to which the Disaster Response Program has been implemented, leveraging insights from various respondent categories. These include personnel from PNP and BFP, members of MDRRMO, MSWDO, MHO, APSEMO, Tourism, and Engineering's Office, as well as barangay officials, school principals, and residents from surveyed barangays in Daraga and Camalig municipalities. Through combined documentary analysis and structured survey questionnaires, the gathered data underwent rigorous statistical analysis, utilizing Likert's scale for interpretation. The researcher diligently organized the data into tabular formats, providing a comprehensive overview of the diverse perspectives collected. A meticulous examination of respondents' feedback was carried out, offering an insightful synopsis of the collective sentiments regarding the execution of the Disaster Response Program concerning the Mayon volcanic eruption scenario.

1. Status of Disaster Response Program

The information gathered from the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) presents crucial details about the present condition of the Disaster Response Program, providing an in-depth comprehension of its situation regarding personnel, finances,

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logistics, and inter-agency cooperation. The data acquired from this office acts as a vital asset for appraising and scrutinizing the program's efficacy and performance, offering insights into the resources at hand, collaborative partnerships, and general preparedness to address disasters, specifically concerning the Mayon volcanic eruption in Albay's 2nd District.

a. Human Resources

Human resources play a vital and diverse role in responding to volcanic eruptions, serving as the foundation for effective intervention and recovery efforts. They are crucial for ensuring efficient communication, coordination, and implementation of response strategies.

The data presented illustrates the distribution of personnel from various offices tasked with disaster response in both municipalities. In Daraga municipality, there are twenty-three (23) personnel from MDRRMO dedicated to immediate disaster response during volcanic eruptions, while Camalig municipality has nineteen (19) MDRRMO personnel. These numbers align with the requirements set by Republic Act 10121, mandating the establishment of Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices (LDRRMOs) with specific staffing compositions. Ideally, each municipality should have a Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer (DRRMO) assisted by three staff members, totaling four personnel. Additionally, each barangay within a municipality should have its own Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee (BDRRMC) tailored to its unique needs and resources. While these staffing levels appear adequate for swift disaster response, it is essential to note that human resources encompass not only the quantity but also the quality of skills, expertise, and knowledge crucial for mitigating volcanic disasters' impacts.

These personnel are responsible for organizing training programs and educational initiatives to equip communities with essential knowledge on volcanic risks, early warnings, evacuation procedures, and disaster preparedness components through workshops, seminars, and public awareness campaigns. Despite sufficient personnel, challenges may arise in meeting the needs of a large population during disasters due to limited resources like food, water, shelter, and medical supplies. This challenge is underscored by de Barros & Knapp's

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study on resource limitations when addressing the needs of a sizable population during disasters. Effective management of a large team necessitates robust communication structures to prevent confusion and duplication of efforts, especially in chaotic disaster scenarios. Coordinating a substantial human resource force also requires efficient logistics encompassing transportation, communication systems, and clear task assignments—a task that can be particularly challenging in extensive disaster scenarios with widespread damage.

b. Financial Resources

This section discusses the financial aspects of the Disaster Response program, which is a key component of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. According to Section 21 of the PDRRM Act of 2010, the funding for every MDRRMO comes from the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRMF), which is allocated based on guidelines mandated by the law. This fund, derived from five percent of the estimated revenue from regular sources of each municipality, supports various disaster risk management activities, including pre-disaster preparedness programs, purchasing necessary equipment, and post-disaster initiatives like community building and evacuation facility construction. A significant portion of the LDRRMF, thirty percent, is allocated to the Quick Response Fund (QRF) for relief and recovery programs, while the remaining seventy percent is designated for disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and response activities, such as personnel training and community awareness programs. The budget allocation for MDRRMOs is directly influenced by a municipality's internal revenue allotment (IRA), impacting the available funding for disaster response and other related activities.

The data from the Annex reveals that while the municipality of Daraga has allocated over thirty million pesos for disaster-related activities, there are concerns that the budget may not be sufficient to meet the needs of the affected community fully. Conversely, the municipality of Camalig faces a lack of funding for disaster activities and quick recovery efforts, as evidenced by the significant budget spent solely on food items during volcanic eruptions. Despite financial constraints, both MDRRMOs strive to fulfill their responsibilities by finding

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innovative ways to assist vulnerable groups, such as children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Financial resources are crucial for disaster management, including early warning systems, emergency response, and rehabilitation post-disaster, highlighting the importance of well-funded disaster preparedness and relief efforts. The need for adequate funding for disaster response is a global challenge, as seen in regions like the Southern African Development Community (SADC), where financial resources fall short of the requirements for effective disaster risk reduction. Studies emphasize the critical role of social capital in post-disaster recovery, showcasing the importance of fostering social connections to enhance community resilience strategies in the face of disasters.

c. Logistical Resources

Logistical resources are vital components of an effective disaster response, serving as the intricate network that facilitates the transportation of life-saving supplies, personnel, and information to crisis-stricken areas. They act as the unseen hands shaping the aftermath of disasters, bridging the gap between intentions and crucial aid, ensuring the delivery of essentials like food, water, and medical care to those in dire need. From coordinating rescue missions to managing supplies and communication, these resources form the backbone of a successful response effort, preventing disaster zones from descending into chaotic landscapes of suffering and expediting the path to recovery.

In Daraga, the General Service Office (GSO) reported six service vehicles, including rescue vehicles, trucks, and a Mitsubishi L300 unit for transporting personnel, staff, and relief goods. Additionally, Daraga's MDRRMO revealed five ambulances and various other vehicles utilized for transporting materials to evacuation areas, including tents and hygiene kits. Meanwhile, Camalig Municipality's resources included one ambulance, trucks for transporting goods, and thirty-nine tents provided to evacuees, highlighting logistical constraints that may hinder efficient disaster response, especially considering the diverse needs during emergencies.

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Notably, studies by Adiguzel (2019), Kurata et al. (2022), ASEAN (Timperio et al., 2022), and Sudan (2023) underscore the critical role of logistical resources in disaster management, emphasizing the importance of efficient supply chain management, beneficiary-centered policies, and government involvement in enhancing disaster logistics to ensure timely and effective responses. Maghfiroh and Hanaoka's (2020) study further emphasizes the need for governments to assess existing logistics capabilities and develop robust distribution networks to enhance disaster preparedness and response efforts.

d. Inter-Agency Collaboration

This section emphasizes the importance of inter-agency support and cooperation among stakeholders directly involved in disaster response, particularly during volcanic eruptions. Interagency coordination is crucial for efficient crisis management, enabling resource pooling, reducing redundancy, enhancing communication, and preparing for emergency situations involving multiple public safety agencies. It fosters faster reactions, effective teamwork, and transforms individual efforts into coordinated collaborations, ultimately improving efficiency, communication, readiness, and value in disaster management techniques.

In the context of disaster response in the studied municipalities, there is significant interoperability with various agencies and local government units like the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Municipal Social Welfare and Development, Municipal Health Office, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and NGOs. The PDRRM Law mandates a proactive disaster risk reduction and management approach enforced by the NDRRMC. This approach involves all sectors and stakeholders at all levels, emphasizing community participation. The NDRRMC oversees the country's DRRM system, comprising representatives from government departments, local government associations, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

The collaboration among different agencies ensures effective disaster response by assigning specific tasks and roles to achieve the common goal of saving lives, protecting properties, and reducing disaster risks. Agencies like the PNP focus on maintaining peace,

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preventing crimes during disasters, conducting assessments, providing security in evacuation areas, and supporting relief operations. Similarly, the BFP ensures evacuees' safety by monitoring facilities and providing essential services like water supply and psychosocial support.

Furthermore, cooperation among agencies such as the Armed Forces of the Philippines, BJMP, the Philippine Coast Guard, volunteers/civil society organizations, and other local government units strengthens law enforcement efforts during disasters. Effective information exchange and communication are essential during volcanic disasters to provide timely warnings and coordinate evacuations. Collaboration is also crucial for providing mental health and psychosocial support post-disaster.

On a global scale, the UN cluster approach promotes collaboration during humanitarian crises by ensuring preparedness and access to essential resources. The Philippines has adapted this approach to their national context to enhance coordination with international organizations like the UN. Implementing established systems like the cluster approach within national frameworks strengthens local disaster management efforts by promoting ownership and coordination among agencies.

2. Implementation of Disaster Response Program

The subsequent section offers a thorough evaluation of the findings and discourse concerning the execution of the Disaster Response Program in the surveyed localities of Daraga and Camalig. By conducting a detailed analysis of data gathered from diverse sources such as government agencies and survey participants, this section seeks to offer an in-depth comprehension of the present state of disaster response efforts. Furthermore, the discussion explores the implications of the outcomes, taking into account the distinct obstacles and advantages of each municipality. The knowledge obtained from this evaluation adds to a wider dialogue on disaster response tactics and has the potential to guide forthcoming improvements for increased resilience and efficiency in disaster management within the area.

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a. Health

As part of the disaster response program for the Mayon volcanic eruption, the Health Cluster initiative aims to enhance readiness and minimize unnecessary illness and death among affected individuals while upholding their rights in communities affected by emergencies. It aims to ensure access to vital healthcare services, particularly reproductive health services, for affected populations. Additionally, it strives to foster effective collaboration with national and local authorities, as well as health-related humanitarian partners. Furthermore, the Health Cluster works to strengthen the capacity and capabilities of the public health system to detect, prevent, and address outbreaks of communicable diseases during emergency responses.

The evaluation of the health cluster's response to the Mayon volcanic eruption reveals a comprehensive approach, with several aspects showing successful implementation, denoted by the adjectival interpretation "Implemented." The average total weighted means for various indicators indicate commendable efforts in addressing immediate health concerns, delivering essential medical services, and coordinating hospital resources. However, there are areas for improvement, such as monitoring potential health issues, ensuring medical supplies availability, and enhancing the accessibility of health facilities. These findings highlight the importance of continuous monitoring and adjustment to strengthen the health response system's resilience. While the response demonstrates proactive measures and effective service provision, ongoing assessment and coordination are crucial for sustaining and enhancing disaster response strategies. This coincides with the findings of Cuthbertson (2020) that health monitoring, particularly of diseases that can actively spread and hygiene in general, is hard for low-income regions such as those near volcanoes. This, therefore, emphasizes the need to enhance the available data and the extent of its monitoring, especially in Albay, which is prone to disasters, to control the health threats of the populations at risk. Notably, the research emphasizes the importance of public health measures during disasters, including volcanic eruptions, and highlights the need for collaboration between military and civilian entities to safeguard public health effectively. This is aligned with extensive studies and

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models that advocate for a system that is well organized and elastically responds to any disturbances to normal operations, including volcanic eruptions. As far back as 2019, the World Health Organization pointed out the need for a strengthening health security system, with examples from Papua New Guinea on how such systems can be made disaster resilient.

The flexibility of the health cluster is illustrated in the ability to render critical research services, as can be seen in the “Implemented” benchmarks for healthcare intervention, resource management, and human resource deployment in health clusters. The importance of the study in providing timely assistance during the volcanic crisis due to resource and human personnel shortages is underlined by Niforatos et al. (2020) and Bujac-Samardzic (2020), who stressed the need for mobilization of medical staff and provision of functional health systems. According to Mashino et al. (2021), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 focuses on safeguarding human health in all related activities, and that coincides with the results of the study. In Albay’s 2nd District, where this research hones in on the healthcare system response, it similarly supports the aim of the framework to strengthen the local and national health emergency systems.

b. Law and Order

In the disaster response program, law enforcement agencies are vital components responsible for upholding law and order. Their role is pivotal in ensuring public safety, preventing criminal activities during and after the disaster, and securing affected communities to guarantee the provision of essential assistance without fear of violence or exploitation. The eruption of the Mayon Volcano resulted in extensive evacuation and displacement of thousands of individuals. In such a crisis, maintaining law and order becomes paramount to safeguarding the safety and welfare of the affected population. Through collaborative efforts between the government and law enforcement agencies, various measures have been implemented to uphold law and order throughout the disaster response. Rapid and decisive action is imperative when disaster strikes to safeguard public safety.

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The response of the Law-and-Order cluster to volcanic eruptions, as indicated by the overall weighted mean of 3.41 for the specified indicators, represents a moderately implemented strategy. The deployment of law enforcement officers, notably the Philippine National Police (PNP), to maintain peace and order in evacuation areas is a recognized and implemented measure, with a total weighted mean of 3.49. This visible presence serves as a deterrent to criminal activity and instills a sense of security among displaced individuals. However, the score for sufficient police personnel suggests potential limitations in staffing levels, indicating a need for additional officers, particularly during peak times, to bolster security and enable more proactive patrolling. While the provision of assistance and social services by deployed law enforcement personnel is acknowledged, there are areas for improvement, particularly in deploying adequate personnel to evacuation centers for safety maintenance and crime detection.

Preventing crime-related incidents, coordinating with different agencies, and monitoring and responding to cases of abuse underscore the complex challenges of maintaining law and order during volcanic eruptions. Strengthening reporting mechanisms and ensuring swift interventions can create a safer environment for all. The engagement of the PNP and barangay tanods for additional security reflects proactive measures, but further coordination, training, and collaboration efforts are needed to enhance the effectiveness of law-and-order measures. Building relationships with evacuees and barangay officials can foster trust, encourage information sharing, and facilitate problem-solving. Future studies could explore specific challenges and best practices in law enforcement collaboration within the broader disaster management context to optimize strategies for maintaining law and order during volcanic eruptions.

Under the National Disaster Response Plan, the Law-and-Order cluster, led by the Philippine National Police (PNP), swiftly establishes communication channels through the Emergency Telecommunication Cluster to connect with territorial forces near potential impact zones. This network facilitates rapid deployment of advanced command posts, serving as central hubs for coordinating security operations and ensuring swift and effective responses

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to stabilize the situation and protect civilians. Collaboration with agencies possessing relevant law enforcement capabilities enhances the overall response effort, emphasizing the importance of establishing communication and command structures to minimize chaos and ensure a coordinated response during crises. Security and law enforcement measures are put in place in advance of disaster responses so as to maintain the safety of the affected areas. Khan and Salman (2021) (Weber, 2024) endorse the notion that safety from disasters is impossible without law enforcement. The crime prevention capability of the emergency response can also be enlarged by intensifying the law enforcement presence in areas where evacuees have been moved.

c. Camp Coordination and Management

Camp coordination and management in response to the Mayon volcanic eruption involves the systematic planning, organization, and oversight of camps established to accommodate and support affected communities during and after the eruption. This process entails collaboration with various stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community members, to ensure the smooth operation of camps and the provision of essential services to impacted individuals. The overall weighted mean of 3.36 for the specified indicators indicates an effective and implemented strategy. Measures such as monitoring activities within evacuation centers and regular garbage collection to maintain cleanliness align with established literature emphasizing the importance of a well-coordinated response to prevent disease outbreaks, with weighted means of 3.33 and 3.30 respectively.

The provision of tents and temporary shelter facilities, along with adherence to minimum standards, highlights a comprehensive approach to addressing the immediate needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs), although the lowest mean score among indicators suggests potential shortcomings in meeting quality standards for shelters. This gap could significantly impact IDPs' safety and well-being, underscoring the urgent need to strengthen shelter provision and ensure compliance with minimum standards.

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Research highlights the importance of utilizing natural resources and traditional construction methods in shelter solutions to promote sustainability, address gender variances, and prevent temporary shelters from becoming permanent dwellings post-disaster. Effective camp coordination and management ensure that all IDPs receive basic humanitarian needs, maintain efficient registration and tracking systems, and facilitate access to essential services, contributing to proactive disaster response efforts. Continuous monitoring and evaluation are essential to adapt strategies and maintain effectiveness.

Additionally, research emphasizes the crucial role of adequate environmental health services, infrastructure, and psychological support in displacement settings, highlighting the need for sustainable shelter design and management that incorporates survivors' input. Camp coordination and management play a crucial role in providing safe, secure, and dignified living conditions for displaced individuals, with a focus on meeting fundamental needs and empowering affected communities in their recovery and resilience. The CCCM Cluster supports local authorities in establishing safe evacuation centers, ensuring access to basic services, and promoting community participation in camp management, thereby prioritizing the well-being of affected families during emergencies. According to Pomponi (2019), housing solutions cannot overlook sustainability. He advocates for the use of natural and locally available construction materials together with indigenous practices for durable construction. The study proposes that the first strategy should be to avoid temporally constructed shelters evolving into low-quality permanent houses. In this regard, designing shelters with sustainable strategies and local involvement mitigates the risk and enhances positive results on the social and environmental aspects of the displaced populations.

d. Water and Sanitation

According to this disaster response cluster, water and hygiene problems pose the greatest challenges to the affected population, which is within reach and uses clean water and sanitary facilities. With an average total weighted mean of 3.14, indicating an "Implemented" strategy, the cluster demonstrates a meticulously planned and comprehensive

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approach. Attention to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities in evacuation centers, including their availability, accessibility, orderly use, and maintenance, aligns with research emphasizing the critical role of such facilities in preventing waterborne diseases during disasters. The proactive maintenance of environmental health, such as proper solid waste disposal systems and water quality evaluation, contributes to infection prevention. However, despite the "Implemented" interpretation of indicators, there is room for improvement, particularly in ensuring sufficient sanitation infrastructure, to enhance the effectiveness of disaster response during volcanic eruptions.

The study highlights several implications for disaster response within the water and sanitation cluster. While there's commendable implementation of WASH facilities in evacuation centers, there's a need to enhance their availability, accessibility, and maintenance to safeguard evacuee health. Additionally, while solid waste disposal systems are adequately provided, effective waste management practices must be maintained to prevent environmental contamination and disease outbreaks. Continuous assessment of water quality and prompt infrastructure repairs are crucial to prevent health hazards associated with contaminated water sources. Promoting safe hygiene practices like handwashing among evacuees is essential for disease prevention, but there's a notable gap in the availability of sufficient toilets and comfort utilities that requires immediate attention. Addressing these concerns will significantly enhance the resilience and effectiveness of disaster response efforts, ensuring the health and dignity of affected populations.

The lack of clean water and adequate sanitation facilities poses significant health risks during disasters like volcanic eruptions. To mitigate these risks, organizations are distributing emergency water supplies and setting up temporary sanitation facilities in affected areas. Research in Nigeria underscores disparities in water, sanitation, and hygiene services in informal settlements, emphasizing the need for improvements in service availability and governance. Similar challenges exist in Ghana's basic schools, where inadequate WASH facilities hinder efforts to promote hygiene and prevent disease transmission, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The link between unclean water and poor health outcomes among

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evacuees is further highlighted in studies examining outbreaks following natural disasters, emphasizing the importance of promoting health awareness and ensuring a safe water supply in relief centers.

The dispensing of drinking water and the provision of sanitation facilities help in controlling disease outbreaks during disastrous situations. Potential changes will occur with water and sanitation in emergency situations due to climate change. Hence, Howard et al. (2020) notes the need for flexible WASH systems. Corburn (2022) evaluates the performance of WASH health intervention in response to disasters. Short-term WASH interventions are useful, as Kushal and Sultana (2021) suggest, but these should be integrated with the long-term development of high-level objectives. Molina (2021) also reviews various sanitation interventions and proposes improvements for humanitarian aid missions. Unsafe water leads to frequent cholera and typhoid outbreaks. On the other hand, the absence of clean toilets and poor personal hygiene cause the transmission of watery diseases such as diarrhea and dysentery. Following the activities related to the Mayon Volcanic Eruption, these groups have also made available water tanks and water purification tablets in addition to mobile toilets and water wash areas in an effort to control disease spread. The findings made in the research indicate that it is not only important to increase health literacy among evacuees but also to educate them on outbreaks in order to enhance their preparedness on disaster-related infections. Most of the findings state that the key areas of protection are safe water and hygiene conditions within the relief centers.

e. Psycho- social support

Psychosocial intervention involves providing emotional, social, and practical assistance to individuals and communities affected by disasters. Amidst the Mayon volcano eruption in the Philippines in 2018, psychosocial support has become crucial in the overall disaster response efforts. While physical health measures are vital for evacuees, addressing their mental and psychosocial well-being is equally important. The "Implemented" rating, with an average total weighted mean of 3.43 for psychosocial support in the Mayon eruption response,

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indicates progress in meeting mental health needs. However, there are areas for improvement. Prioritizing immediate psychological first aid and basic needs is essential, but specialized interventions may be necessary for deeper trauma. Activities for children's support are provided, but focusing on outward dispositions may overlook underlying anxieties. Individual counseling and play therapy could be beneficial for them. Additionally, the effectiveness of psychosocial support should be evaluated to ensure sustained well-being. While referral systems exist, monitoring their accessibility and effectiveness for high-risk cases is essential.

In the context of the Mayon volcano eruption, which displaced thousands and caused widespread destruction, the psychological impact on individuals can be severe and long-lasting. Psychosocial support aims to address these psychological needs by offering emotional and practical aid. This includes counseling services to help individuals cope with trauma and practical assistance such as shelter. Various institutions, including government agencies and humanitarian organizations, have provided psychosocial support, focusing on emotional and material assistance, as well as promoting social cohesion and resilience in the aftermath of the disaster.

While the response to immediate needs appears adequate, deeper interventions and stronger support systems for long-term well-being, especially for children and vulnerable groups, are necessary. A study by Zahlawi et al. (2019) and Andrestuti (2019) explored the experiences of evacuees following disasters, focusing on the psychosocial support they received. The research identified four categories of support: healthcare professionals, traditional/community sources, no available support, and unwanted support. Women were found to be particularly susceptible to distress during evacuations, and those lacking access to psychosocial support were at a higher risk of experiencing emotional difficulties. The study underscores the significant role of healthcare professionals and traditional support networks in helping evacuees manage distress symptoms. Management of the health consequences of disasters has to incorporate mechanisms for psychosocial support, as most disasters tend to cause psychological peril in a wide geopolitical region. In the individual and societal affected

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communities, Miller and Rivera (2020) pointed out the importance of psychological resilience. The therapeutic merits of carrying out community-based mental health treatments loomed large for Khan and Salman (2021). Champine (2019) has also focused on the benefits of applying trauma-informed practices to mitigate the psychological impact of natural disasters. Wu and Cheung (2021) outlined the most suitable provision of mental health support in the wake of a disaster.

f. Community Building

Community development in disaster response involves empowering local communities to plan for, respond to, and recover from disasters, including volcanic eruptions. This proactive approach includes tasks like risk assessment, emergency preparation, and resource mobilization, aiming to enhance community resilience. The average total weighted mean of 3.01 for the community building cluster, interpreted as "Implemented," underscores the importance of comprehensive approaches. Collaborative efforts among stakeholders and prioritizing vulnerable populations are crucial for sustainable development and resilience. Community building also involves collaboration among local governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders for an efficient response. Psychosocial support and crisis communication plans integrate local customs, promoting community readiness. Research on past volcanic eruptions highlights the significance of culture in community response and long-term recovery, emphasizing the need to tailor programs accordingly. Overall, community development in disaster response ensures tailored, efficient disaster management strategies, as seen in the case of the Mayon Volcanic Eruption.

Community-based programs and collaboration with local agencies can ease and quicken the process of rehabilitation. The provision of improved financial and housing assistance, cash-for-work, and alternative livelihood employment opportunities will enhance the recovery of the affected communities. For disaster response to be effective and coordinated, local governments, NGOs, and other actors need to foster a community approach to disaster management. This approach is premised on the fact that disasters and the

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economic and social processes that exist alongside them can be tackled only from intersectoral angles. For effective disaster recovery, community resilience has to be built from the onset. Boon (2021) explores the theme of rural and regional resilience with an emphasis on the implication of social inwardness and local administration (The National Academies Press, 2021). In Olurotimi's (2023) view, it is not possible to rebuild a locality after a disaster without local recovery activities, as local leadership is the one that can help the society get the much-needed resilience. Apart from his work on community participation, Behera (2021) and Paton & Johnston (2020) consider the role of social capital in recovering from disasters. Proper management of the evacuation facility should ensure the safety of the evacuees. The case of temporary housing after earthquakes by Akaishi et al. (2021) could also assist in planning for eruptions like that of Mayon. Infection control in times of evacuation also applies in the case of evacuation centers (Victoria Haldane, 2021). The design of the evacuation facilities is discussed by Yi Wang (2021), whereas the inclusion of the elderly and the disabled is highlighted by Kako (2020).

Crisis communication plans must not only account for the social and cultural context but also involve the community leaders in the education on disaster issues. It is important that local practices and traditions are used at all stages of disaster response efforts for maximum preparedness. The emphasis on the role of community engagement in disaster risk reduction and the significance of community and government working in harmony is demonstrated by the volcanic eruptions of Sinabung and Kelud. Building on the previous work of Mori et al. (2019) on the eruption of Mount Sinabung, this study throws light on how culture is pivotal in enabling communities to cope with volcanic eruptions and recover in the long term. The results indicate that the ability to understand their culture allows aid agencies to design activities that enhance the targeted programs and reduce reliance on external assistance. The study also offers practical examples of disaster management before a volcanic eruption, aside from the theoretical aspect of the research. The objective of this method is to incorporate local traditions and practices into disaster management, create a sense of community, and enhance the capacity to withstand countless eruptions.

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Community development is an important aspect in relation to disaster management. It gives the communities the ability to own their safety and resilience, hence the need and approach their response to the disaster. Collective action in disaster risk reduction helped to minimize loss of lives and damage of property during the eruption of Mount Mayon, proving the effectiveness of integrated and comprehensive disaster management.

g. Food and Non – Food Items

During a significant eruption, disaster response activities must provide both food and non-food goods to meet affected communities' needs. The Food and Non-Food Items Cluster (FNI Cluster) prioritizes operations to ensure families receive essential sustenance and other necessities for health and hygiene. While achieving an average total weighted mean of 3.18, indicating "Implemented," areas for improvement include transparent donation tracking, accurate need monitoring, and robust volunteer management. Equitable distribution and nutritional adequacy of goods require attention. A comprehensive response involves providing non-perishable food items, hygiene packs, shelter materials, medical supplies, and communication gear. The FNI Cluster aims to restore pre-disaster food security and monitors nutritional status through collaboration with the Nutrition Cluster. During emergencies, it serves as a central hub for supply distribution, coordinating efforts with local authorities and learning from past responses to enhance future efforts. Research underscores the disruption of food supply and consumption during disasters, emphasizing the need for diverse diets and community resilience in overcoming food insecurity challenges.

As Liu (2023) established, the government, in this regard, is the main relief actor and, therefore, must coordinate with a number of response organizations in the provision of relief, especially in the distribution of both food and non-food items. When it comes to addressing a single organization's disaster response capacity, the government has established certain criteria through which it assesses suitable organizations with which to partner. They work in tandem with these organizations to leverage available resources, be it physical or otherwise. The physical resources include relief materials, funds, ambulances, and other equipment,

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while the knowledge and experience on how to execute a humanitarian action plan would fit into the non-physical resources category. Optimum efficiency of the undertaking efforts would also expect the other partner organizations to agree on the extent of their cooperation. This will go hand in hand with the provision of soap, toothpaste tubes, and toothbrush packs for personal hygiene, which will be required throughout this time.

One important component of social and economic activities affected by natural calamities is food security. Ginting et al. (2018) studied the economic impacts of volcanic eruptions on food crops in the case of Sinabung, an active volcano in Indonesia, which suggested that policymakers should educate farmers on other job alternatives like farm labor. Better access to food would translate into families being able to eat more, even during volcanic eruptions. There is a need for food and nonfood items among the affected populations. UNHCR places emphasis on strong networks in the distribution of relief items (2023). Emergency food and provision systems are the major concerns of Peretti and Ciscar (2019) in their relief product delivery optimization geared toward the most vulnerable populations. Maghoudi (2020) explores supply chain strategies implemented during crises (Tomy Perdana, 2022).

h. Evacuation Facilities

In the event of a significant volcanic eruption from Mount Mayon in the Philippines, evacuation facilities become vital for ensuring the safety of affected communities by offering temporary shelter, basic necessities, and medical assistance to displaced individuals during and after the disaster. Despite achieving an average total mean of 2.51, indicating implementation, the evacuation facilities cluster shows areas for improvement, particularly in providing child-friendly spaces and enhancing resource allocation and privacy. Effective guidance strategies during evacuations, highlighted in researches such as the extended evacuation field model, are crucial for managing crowd emotions and ensuring safe evacuations.

The Philippine government, alongside international organizations and local communities, has established multiple evacuation centers equipped with essential supplies

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and conducted awareness campaigns to educate vulnerable communities on evacuation procedures. However, challenges like resource shortages and overcrowding persist, emphasizing the need for sustained investment in evacuation infrastructure and collaborative disaster planning efforts among stakeholders. This analysis underscores the complexity of disaster response, highlighting the importance of community building, psychosocial support, and public health measures in crisis management.

The authorities have even conducted evacuation drills and awareness programs in at-risk communities to warn them of the consequences of volcanic eruption and what steps to take. This has effectively aided in the rapid and safe evacuation of the people. The need to protect the evacuated populations brings the issue of control over the relevant evacuation management assets. Akaishi et al. (2021) discuss temporary shelters for disasters such as earthquakes and how effective these lessons would be for managing volcanic disasters, such as the one in Mayon. In addition, Haldane (2021) explains the importance of public health measures in compilation camps so that health risks may be reduced. Yi Wang (2021) makes focus on how to improve the design of the evacuation facilities. However, the focus is also on the aspects of increasing accessibility for the elderly and the disabled, according to Kako (2020). Nevertheless, limited resources, congestion in most of the evacuation centers, and recurrent disasters such as landslides and flash floods prevent successful evacuation. All the stakeholders involved in disaster response have to work together and, more importantly, have to commit resources for the development of the evacuation approach and its preparation. Certain aid and accountability in emergencies demand an efficient form of tracking and registering systems (Gazi, 2020). More reliance can also be put on tracking technologies such as biometrics that would facilitate the process more efficiently and effectively.

3. Significant Agreement of Disaster Response Program

The study utilized Kendall's Coefficient of Correlation to evaluate the agreement among ranks of the Disaster Response program based on stakeholder perspectives. With a Kendall's coefficient value (W) of 0.70 and a computed chi-square value significantly exceeding the

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tabulated value at a 5% margin of error, there is a robust agreement among the ranks assigned to various program elements, suggesting a meaningful correlation. The evacuation facilities and water and sanitation clusters exhibited the highest significant agreement, indicating challenges such as low access to safe drinking water for residents affected by volcanic eruptions, posing health risks and public health concerns. Ensuring access to clean water and proper sanitation post-disaster is crucial, as evidenced by research from Odisha, India, and the aftermath of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, where compromised access correlated with increased infections among evacuees. The study emphasizes the importance of health education and awareness to mitigate risks and safeguard public health in disaster scenarios, highlighting the essential role of healthcare professionals in implementing sanitation practices to protect communities.

4. Early Action Plan Effective for Enhanced Disaster Response

Amidst the escalating frequency of disasters, there is a pressing need for proactive measures to mitigate their impact. The introduction of the Early Action Plan for Enhanced Disaster Response serves as a strategic blueprint advocating a shift from reactive aid to anticipatory readiness. This forward-looking strategy stresses real-time risk assessment, proactive resource allocation, and community-driven solutions to minimize losses, expedite recovery, and empower communities to face future threats with resilience. By prioritizing prevention and mitigation, this proactive approach revolutionizes disaster response strategies, emphasizing early intervention, risk reduction, and timely action to reduce casualties, damages, and recovery costs significantly. The plan's focus on vulnerability mitigation through securing infrastructure, pre-positioning supplies, and enhancing community preparedness ensures effective resource deployment, evacuation procedures, and targeted mitigation efforts. Rooted in meticulous data analysis and tailored for volcanic eruptions, the plan's structured framework aims to enhance disaster response effectiveness by addressing specific objectives in risk assessment, evacuation planning, resource mobilization, post-eruption recovery, and contingency planning.

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The early action plan for disaster response to volcanic eruptions encompasses a multifaceted approach aimed at addressing various critical areas of concern. Emergency management is the focal point of the Early Action Plan, along with community readiness, early response mechanisms, the readiness of the evacuation centers, and training of responders and other aspects such as health, economic recovery, mental health, and inter-agency collaboration. Evacuation plans are integral to the early action strategy, encompassing the strategic deployment of emergency response teams and the establishment of evacuation facilities to ensure the safe relocation of affected populations in a timely manner. Resource mobilization efforts focus on securing essential supplies, including food and water, along with early recovery measures and the allocation of necessary funding to support response operations. Post-eruption recovery activities are crucial in restoring affected communities, involving initiatives such as livelihood support, infrastructure rebuilding, and psychosocial interventions to address the mental and emotional well-being of survivors. Lastly, the contingency plan plays a pivotal role in ensuring preparedness for unforeseen circumstances, emphasizing the continuous updating and revision of disaster management plans to adapt to evolving conditions and enhance response effectiveness. This comprehensive early action plan is designed to mitigate the impact of volcanic eruptions, facilitate swift and coordinated responses, and foster long-term resilience in vulnerable communities.

Conclusions

The assessment of the Disaster Response program highlights a significant gap between the available human resources and the inadequate financial resources allocated, resulting in shortages of essential supplies and hindering collaboration among personnel and agencies involved in disaster response. This financial shortfall not only poses challenges during response efforts but also threatens to impede recovery and reconstruction endeavors, diminish preparedness for future disasters, and exacerbate disparities in access to support across affected communities. Primary respondents in the study affirm that the Disaster Response program has been fully executed, indicating diligent enforcement and implementation by

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designated agencies and offices, facilitated by committed efforts and cooperation among stakeholders, resulting in the achievement of shared objectives. The study findings further reveal a remarkable level of consensus among respondents regarding the various aspects of the disaster response program, rejecting the null hypothesis and demonstrating a strong agreement on how different elements of the program are ranked. This consensus underscores a reliable and meaningful shared perspective on the evaluation of various components within disaster response, reflecting consistent evaluations indicative of a clear understanding of strengths and weaknesses. Implementing early response actions presents a promising strategy to address challenges encountered in executing the disaster response program, offering a proactive approach to enhance overall effectiveness. This proactive stance aims to achieve tangible outcomes and foster stronger community partnerships focused on reducing casualties, as well as mitigating and preventing risks, thereby enhancing community resilience in the face of disasters.

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