

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction:

The Role of Philippines' Socioeconomic Planning Agency

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Development is not only about the economy but it also encompasses a whole host of human concerns. Not least of these are social and environmental issues, with which economic development is inextricably intertwined.

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) is the Philippines' highest socioeconomic planning and policy coordinating agency that spearheads the formulation of national and regional plans to spur inclusive growth. Accordingly, environment-related concerns, such as disaster risk reduction (DRR), logically fall under NEDA's mandate.

In pursuit of attaining inclusive and self-sustaining growth, NEDA integrates DRR in its plans, policies and programs for a disaster-resilient country. The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 highlights key strategies and interventions for building the resilience of agriculture, economic and social sectors, and infrastructure to calamities. In addition, the Regional Development Plans, a companion document of the PDP, deals with specific strategies to ensure safety and resilience at the subnational level.

Through a JICA-assisted project, NEDA has initiated a capacity building program for planners and stakeholders to facilitate the completion of DRR-enhanced provincial plans that will increase the adaptive capacity of communities, particularly the vulnerable groups (i.e., women, children and indigenous peoples). This project is deemed critical to mainstreaming DRR in the regional plans and programs. Similarly, NEDA is currently crafting a comprehensive disaster rehabilitation and recovery document that will serve as a guide for increasing the resilience of local communities to future catastrophes and disasters.



With the Department of National Defense as Chair, NEDA is the Vice Chair of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) for Rehabilitation and Recovery. In this vein, NEDA has been actively involved in coordinating various post DRR-related rehabilitation and recovery projects of calamity-stricken or conflict-affected areas, following the strategies spelled out in the PDP. For instance, in the aftermath of Typhoon Yolanda (internationally known as Haiyan), NEDA was responsible for the post-disaster assessment and operations required for the recovery of the affected areas. This task had been transferred by the President from the Presidential Assistant for Rehabilitation and Recovery to NEDA for more integrated and inclusive planning that is consistent with the government's

strategic framework. To that end, NEDA utilized its Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMES) in tracking the status, outputs and outcomes of projects for more judicious and results-oriented interventions. Moreover, NEDA spearheaded the formulation of the Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda: Build Back Better and Implementation of Results which served as the planning and monitoring frameworks, respectively, at the national and regional levels.

In the special case of Marawi, NEDA, together with the Department of Finance and the Department of Budget and Management, is in charge of resource mobilization to rebuild the city. It also leads the Task Force Bangon Marawi's (TFBM's) planning process and integrates inputs of the local governments of Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) in the rehabilitation plan.

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