

KEY MESSAGE 11: The Philippine Red Cross is a permanent member of the national and local DRRM councils, and it is always ready to help local communities in meeting emergency needs caused by disasters and strengthen their resilience.

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The **Philippine Red Cross Act of 2009 (RA 10072)** recognizes the PRC as a voluntary, independent and autonomous nongovernmental society auxiliary to the government authorities in the humanitarian field. It exists primarily to assist the Philippine government in discharging the obligations provided in the Geneva Conventions and the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

One of PRC's purposes is the establishment and maintenance of a system of national and international relief in time of peace and in time of armed conflict and apply the same in meeting emergency needs caused by typhoons, floods, fires, earthquakes, and other natural or man-made disasters, and to devise and carry on measures for alleviating the suffering caused by such disasters. That is why the PRC is always ready to help local communities in meeting emergency needs caused by disasters and provide support to communities in strengthening their resilience.

PRC is a permanent member of both the NDRRMC and LDRRMCs as provided in the Philippine DRRM Act of 2010 and, through its various chapters, maintains widespread presence in different parts of the country. It is **Always First, Always Ready, Always There.**



The **Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act** recognizes the important role that local communities and vulnerable groups have in ensuring effective DRRM. It is an important piece of legislation, as it provides the rights and duties of local governments and communities in DRRM. There are also other important pieces of legislation that provide additional sources of rights and responsibilities, such as the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons (RA 9244), as amended, and the Philippine Red Cross Act (RA 10072).

1. It is important to build the resilience of local communities to disasters and promote their participation in DRRM planning and implementation.
2. Climate change adaptation measures should be integrated into local DRRM planning and implementation.
3. Localized risk assessments and local risk patterns should guide DRRM measures.
4. DRRM measures must be respectful of human rights of all peoples, including the rights of vulnerable groups that are crucial for their protection from disasters.
5. Gender responsiveness must be integrated in DRRM measures at the local and national level.
6. The differentiated needs of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups must have formal representation at the local level.
7. The government encourages volunteerism for DRRM through community disaster volunteers.
8. There are mechanisms for both proactive and reactive local DRRM funding for the benefit of the community. Community members are encouraged to participate in DRRM planning to influence the use of these local DRRM funds.
9. The local government is responsible for ensuring the safety of its community from risk through preemptive evacuation, and the community has the right to be consulted on plans for preemptive evacuation.
10. The local government is the community's "first responder". It has the primary duty to prevent and alleviate human suffering of its constituents due to disasters, making sure that the differentiated needs of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups are immediately addressed.
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DISASTER LAW

Key Messages for Inclusive
Community Participation

