

LOCAL GOVERNANCE FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Angeles Arenas,
UNDP-BCPR



Local Governance for Disaster Risk Reduction

- **What does “(Good) Governance” mean for the local level?**
- **Why is Local Good Governance important for effective and sustainable disaster risk management?**
- **What are the consequences for the local actors (responsibilities, opportunities)?**
- **What are the main factors that impede effective DRM in the context of Local Good Governance?**

Local Governance for Disaster Risk Reduction



- **Local governance:**
a set of values institutions, mechanisms and processes through which citizens and their groups can articulate their interests and needs, mediate their differences and exercise their rights and obligations at the local level.



Local Governance for Disaster Risk Reduction

- **Local Governance and disaster risk management:**
 - Economic governance** includes the decision-making process that affects local economy and disbursement of resources. It clearly has a major implication for equity, poverty and quality of life.
 - Political governance** is the process of decision-making to formulate policies, including disaster reduction policies and planning and assignation of responsibilities in risk generation processes.
 - Administrative governance** is the system of policy implementation and requires the existence of well-functioning organisations at local level and a good articulation with the national levels. DRR: land-use planning, building codes, environmental risk and human vulnerability monitoring and safety standards.
 - Social capital** refers to those stocks of social trust, norms and networks between people and their groups among them and with the institutions. It is related with transparency, accountability, and participation in the decision-making process.



Roles and responsibilities

- Promoters and organisers of local policy and administrative matters
- Arbitrators between local social actors and population
- Legal responsibility for promoting local development, land use planning, development and enforcement of norms, incentives and controls for sectoral and territorial development projects
- Democratically elected legal representative of different sectors, stakeholders and social forces, conciliatory role in the resolution of differences and conflicts
- Mediates between the local, regional and national spheres and may create spaces for negotiation and understanding between these different levels
- Basis for administrative, political and economic decentralisation



How to reduce/control risk at local level

- Controlling or reverting exposure through land planning and other measures

Avoiding that natural resources turn into threats as a result of environmental degradation

Limiting societies' exposure to physical phenomena through retentive structures (barriers, terracing, canals, walls)

Increasing the resilience of productive systems to physical phenomena or the adaptation to environmental

Reducing social vulnerability in its different dimensions

Preventing future risks by factoring risk reduction into development interventions and through normative control



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Challenges/constraints

- Difficulties in transcending the local level to generate required changes in policy and development programming which affects results at the local level
- Articulation between local and national levels and assignation of responsibilities without resources and capacity building.
- When risk reduction is not perceived as an intrinsic part of local development planning, municipalities may seem reluctant to absorb 'additional tasks'
- Proliferation of small-scale, scattered and uncoordinated initiatives
- Required long-term engagement hampered by political/elections cycles and changes in priorities and approaches