

Mitigation and Community Resilience

Community-based disaster risk reduction and community-based disaster management are the cornerstone for community development and therefore resiliency in mitigating risk. This has been highlighted in numerous ways across communities over the years. The top-down approach of institution-based delivery of services has proven to be often ineffective when compared to the empowering and participatory nature of community development. In the video titled “One Step Back, Two Steps Forward”, the performers show how major companies and countries have not only failed us in preventing risks but often have been the cause of risks; for example, the US and China’s industrial efforts put them at the forefront of pollution which has caused extensive climate disasters (such as hurricanes and floods) impacting everyone globally from major cities to small towns. The video then goes on to provide empowering motivation to the people most affected by these events, to inspire change at even the individual level.¹ The reading further exemplifies this sentiment in the case of the earthquake hitting Central Luzon in the Philippines. The community was mobilized and actively involved at every step from relief to rehabilitation. Community organizers were even diligent and efficient in their assessment of damages in the aftermath. Thus, the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Program (PRRP) understood that much of the success in their overall response was attributed to the fact that the community was organized and employed in all efforts.² This further illustrates that community resiliency is an invaluable tool in mitigation.

Sabaa Alnsour

02/27/2021

References:

1. One step back, two steps forward. (n.d.). Retrieved February 27, 2022, from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8O_69nNjTg&list=PLEB3953287C3B96DD
2. López-Carresi, A., Fordham, M., Wisner, B., Kelman, I., & Gaillard, J. C. (2014). Disaster management. International Lessons in Risk Reduction, Response, and Recovery. London: Earthscan.