

RCC member countries

Philippines



Country Information

Region: Southeast Asia

Population: Approximately 105 million

Capital: Manila

GDP (US\$): \$313.595 billion

Geography: The Philippines is an archipelago comprised of 7,107 islands, of which 2,000 are occupied and 11 islands hold 95% of the country's total land area. Most of the islands are mountainous with alluvial plains and flat lowlands. The island is also part of the Pacific Ring of Fire with many active volcanoes.

General climate: The country has a tropical rainforest climate, with high temperatures and high humidity.

INFORM Risk Rating: 5.5

Risk Summary

- Due to its geographic position in Southeast Asia within the Pacific Ring of Fire and between the Eurasian and Pacific tectonic plates, the Philippines is particularly vulnerable to natural hazards.
- The Philippines is mostly vulnerable to typhoons, but volcanoes, floods, landslides, earthquakes, droughts and tsunamis also pose considerable risk.

- Typhoons are the most common and destructive hazard, making landfall eight or nine times a year. They frequently cause extensive damage and loss of life due to the country's lack of natural barriers.
- Rapid increases in coastal development have caused significant damage to coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass, substantially increasing the country's vulnerability to coastal disasters.
- The country contains 22 active volcanoes, of which 5 are classified as highly active.
- Urban development, impeding traditional drainage systems, has increased flooding hazards in urban areas significantly.
- Earthquakes occur frequently in the Philippines but most of them do not cause any damage. However, strong earthquakes are a serious risk.
- Due to El Niño, the country experiences prolonged instances of drought, impacting the economy and the population.

Disaster Management System

National Level

- **National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC)**

The NDRRMC is the national disaster focal point body responsible for coordinating preparedness, response, prevention and mitigation, and rehabilitation and recovery.

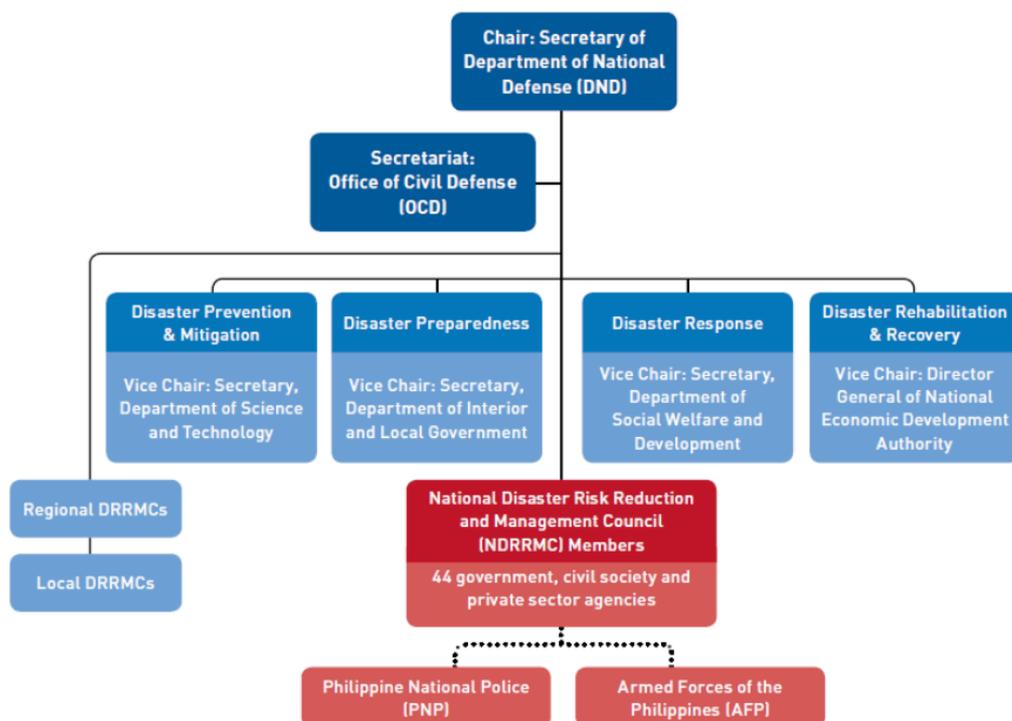
- **The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)**

The DSWD, through the Disaster Response Assistance and Management Bureau, is the lead agency for disaster response. It is mandated to plan, coordinate, lead and monitor disaster relief efforts. It leads the NDRRMC's disaster response pillar; provides technical assistance and resources; implements camp coordination and management activities; and delivers food and non-food items to the affected population.

- **The Office of Civil Defense (OCD)**

The OCD is the executive arm and secretariat of the NDRRMC and it is responsible for administering national civil defense, DRR and disaster management programs. It also provides guidance on strategic approaches and measures for vulnerability and risk reduction.

Figure 1. Philippines Disaster Management Structure



Source: CFE-DM. 2018. *Philippines Disaster Management Reference Handbook*.

Helpful Links and Sources

Philippines country profile:

<https://data.worldbank.org/country/philippines>

INFORM country risk profile:

<http://www.inform-index.org/countries/country-profiles>

Philippines Disaster Management Reference Handbook:

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Philippines_2018-0318.pdf

Philippines National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council website:

<http://ndrrmc.gov.ph>