

## The Role of Local Communities in Responding to Health Crises and Disaster Mitigation: A Systematic Literature Review

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### SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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### ABSTRACT

Health crises and natural disasters increasingly threaten communities worldwide, exacerbated by urbanization, climate change, and the vulnerability of populations in high-risk areas. Urban poor communities, in particular, are at heightened risk, making robust frameworks for health impact assessments essential. Local communities, with their deep understanding of social, cultural, and geographic dynamics, play a crucial role in disaster and health crisis management. Their involvement enhances resilience, facilitates timely responses, and supports post-disaster recovery, as demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters like floods and earthquakes. Despite the significant potential of local communities, challenges such as limited resources, poor coordination, and insufficient policy support hinder their effectiveness. This Systematic Literature Review (SLR) explores the roles and contributions of local communities in responding to health crises and disasters, identifying successful strategies, key influencing factors, and gaps in the current research. The review emphasizes the importance of empowering local communities through effective training, resource management, and cross-sector collaboration. The findings provide valuable insights for policymakers and stakeholders, offering guidance on strengthening community involvement as an integral component of health crisis and disaster mitigation strategies. The active engagement of local communities, supported by government policies, education, and strong networks, is essential for building resilient societies capable of managing future health and environmental challenges.

### Key Messages:

- Local communities play a crucial role in disaster mitigation and health crisis management.
- They hold significant potential in responding to crises, even when facing challenges such as limited resources, coordination difficulties, and a lack of policy support from the government.

## GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



## INTRODUCTION

Health crises and natural disasters are increasingly becoming global threats with widespread impacts on communities worldwide. Phenomena such as climate change, urbanization, and the growing number of vulnerable populations in high-risk areas have exacerbated the consequences of natural disasters, including floods, earthquakes, and wildfires, as well as health crises ranging from local outbreaks to global pandemics such as COVID-19 (1). Studies have shown that urbanization and climate change significantly heighten the vulnerability of urban poor communities to natural hazards, thereby weakening urban resilience (Williams et al., 2019). Urbanization often leads to the expansion of informal settlements in hazard-prone areas with inadequate infrastructure, poor sanitation, and limited access to health services, thereby increasing exposure and reducing adaptive capacity. Meanwhile, climate change contributes to the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, floods, and vector-borne diseases, which disproportionately affect marginalized and resource-limited communities (2). Furthermore, climate-related vulnerabilities worsen health disparities among at-risk populations, necessitating robust health impact assessment frameworks to address these inequalities effectively (3).

The effects of climate change on the health of homeless populations further underscore the importance of community-based preventive actions in addressing such complex risks (4). In certain regions, such as southern China, heatwaves and diseases like dengue fever have emerged as major threats, requiring effective public health responses from primary health care professionals (5). In Africa, climate change continues to strain public health systems, highlighting the urgent need for supportive public policies that strengthen the preparedness of vulnerable populations in the face of climate-induced crises (6). Within this context, local community engagement becomes a vital element in delivering timely and effective responses to these emergencies.

Local communities possess advantages over external actors due to their proximity to the environment and deeper understanding of the area's social, cultural, and geographic dynamics. Their involvement has been shown to enhance resilience and adaptive capacity in response to disasters and health crises (7). Moreover, communities often play crucial roles in disseminating information, mobilizing resources, and providing emotional support to affected members. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous local communities around the world actively participated in distributing masks, offering telemedicine services for vulnerable populations, and promoting health education to prevent the virus's spread (8). Similarly, in natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods, local communities often act swiftly before external aid arrives—organizing evacuations, forming rescue teams, and establishing social networks to support post-disaster recovery (9).

Despite the significant potential of local communities in crisis and disaster mitigation, several complex challenges must be addressed to ensure their effective involvement. These challenges include limited resources, restricted access to information, coordination difficulties, and insufficient policy support from authorities (10). Additionally, the social and cultural characteristics of each community influence their capacity to contribute effectively to crisis and disaster management. In some cases, these limitations can hinder mitigation efforts, particularly when there is no structured support from the government or relevant institutions (11).

To optimize the role of local communities in managing health crises and mitigating disasters, it is essential to gain an in-depth understanding of the factors influencing community involvement, as well as the approaches and strategies that have proven effective. Through this Systematic Literature Review (SLR), previous research will be comprehensively analyzed to explore the roles and contributions of local communities in responding to health crises and disasters. This review focuses on identifying effective strategies developed by local communities, analyzing the factors that determine the success of community-based initiatives, and mapping knowledge gaps that require further investigation.

Accordingly, the findings from this review are expected to provide more comprehensive guidance for policymakers and relevant stakeholders in supporting local communities as integral components of health crisis and disaster mitigation strategies. Strengthening the capacity of local communities to cope with health crises and disasters represents a crucial step toward building more resilient societies—prepared to face future challenges and capable of minimizing the adverse impacts of health and environmental emergencies at all levels.

## **METHODS**

The literature search was conducted using a systematic approach to ensure comprehensive coverage of relevant studies. The primary sources of literature for this Systematic Literature Review (SLR) included reputable academic journal databases such as PubMed and Scopus. These databases were selected because they provide access to peer-reviewed articles in the fields of public health, disaster mitigation, and community studies. The main keywords used in the search were: ("community engagement" OR "local response" AND "public health crisis"). Boolean operators (AND, OR) were utilized to optimize search results and ensure that the selected articles were relevant to both public health crisis and disaster mitigation contexts. The search was limited to English-language articles published within the past ten years to ensure alignment with the current context. To maintain the relevance and quality of the included studies, the following inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied:

### **Inclusion Criteria**

Articles discussing the role or involvement of local communities in public health crises (e.g., pandemics) or disaster mitigation. Studies conducted in the context of crises or disasters with a direct impact on local communities. Articles providing empirical data or comprehensive literature reviews on the topic.

### **Exclusion Criteria**

Articles discussing disasters or crises without focusing on the role of local communities. Non-English publications, incomplete PDF documents, or articles published more than ten years ago (unless deemed highly relevant from a historical or conceptual standpoint).

## Study Selection

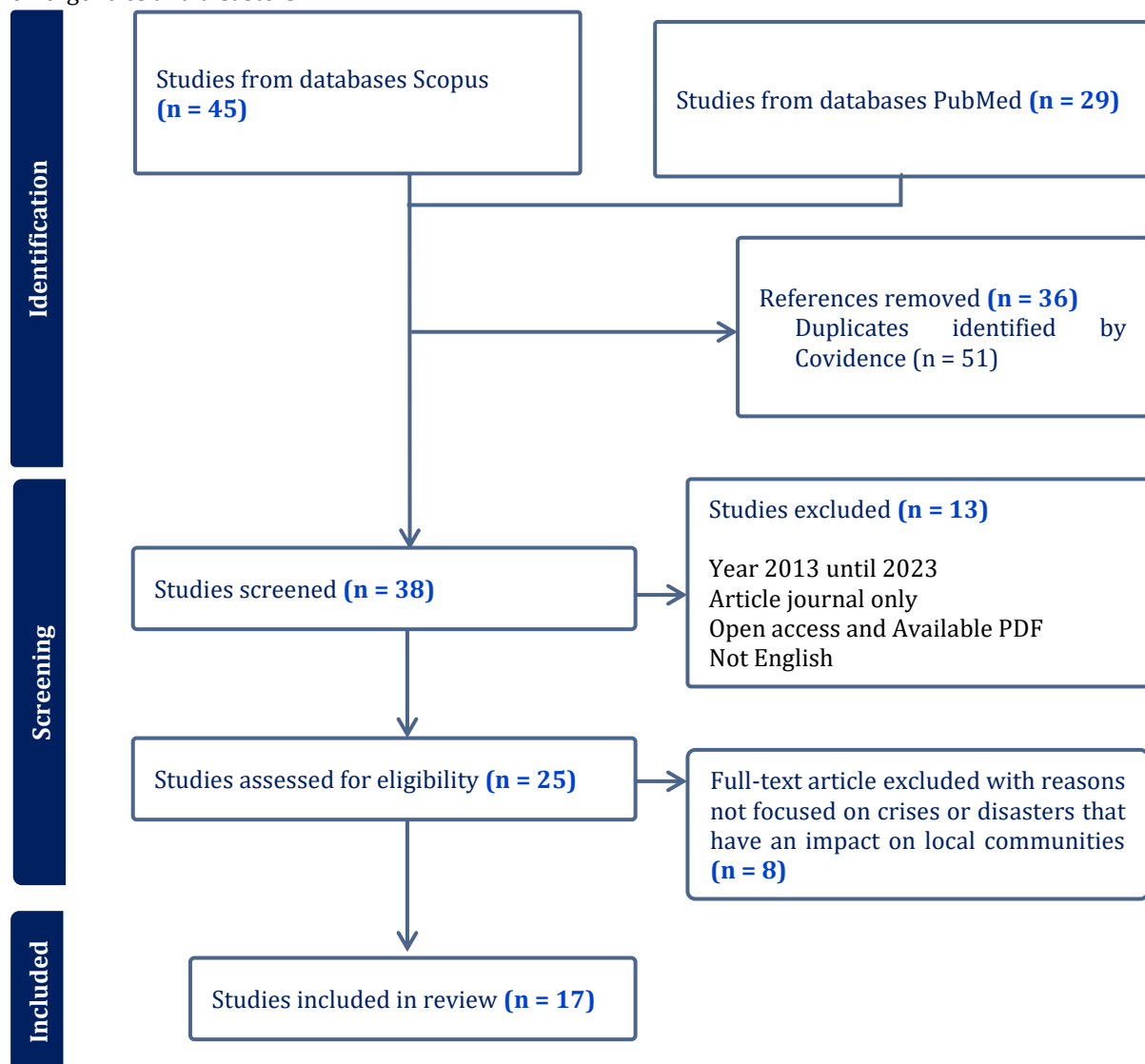
The study selection process was carried out in multiple stages to ensure the quality and relevance of the included articles. The steps included: 1) Title and Abstract Screening: Articles retrieved from the initial search were screened based on their titles and abstracts. Irrelevant articles were excluded at this stage; 2) Full-Text Assessment: Articles that passed the initial screening were reviewed in full to assess the alignment of their content with the study theme; 3) Duplication Check: Duplicated articles found across multiple databases were identified and excluded to avoid redundancy in the analysis.

## Data Extraction

Data from the selected articles were extracted and organized into a matrix to facilitate analysis. The extracted information included: 1) Title and Year of Publication; 2) Authors and Study Location; 3) Type of Crisis or Disaster; 3) Roles or Interventions of Local Communities; 4) Main Outcomes and Key Findings.

## Data Synthesis and Analysis

The extracted data were synthesized qualitatively. Studies meeting the inclusion criteria were grouped based on the characteristics of local communities or populations residing in areas affected by health crises. The analysis focused on identifying patterns, strategies, and outcomes of local community involvement, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of their role in managing public health emergencies and disasters.



**Figure 1. PRISMA Chart of the Literature Review**

The article selection process for this Systematic Literature Review (SLR) was conducted through a systematic series of stages to examine the literature on “The Role of Local Communities in Health Crises

and Disaster Mitigation.” The first stage was identification, in which a literature search was carried out using two major databases: Scopus and PubMed. Relevant keywords were applied, resulting in 45 articles retrieved from Scopus and 29 from PubMed, yielding a total of 74 articles. The next step involved removing duplicate entries, specifically those articles that appeared in both databases. After eliminating 23 duplicates, 51 unique articles remained for screening.

During the screening phase, each article was assessed based on its title and abstract to ensure alignment with the research topic. Articles deemed clearly irrelevant were excluded, resulting in 38 articles advancing to the next phase. Subsequently, an eligibility assessment was conducted based on predefined inclusion criteria. These included: publication year range from 2013 to 2023 (to ensure recency), availability of peer-reviewed journal status, open access in PDF format, and English-language publication. Out of the 38 screened articles, 13 met all inclusion criteria and were selected for further eligibility evaluation through full-text review.

The choice of a ten-year publication timeframe (2013–2023) was based on the need to ensure the inclusion of up-to-date and contextually relevant findings, particularly given the dynamic nature of global health crises and disaster risks that have been significantly influenced by current phenomena such as climate change and rapid urbanization. To ensure rigor and reduce the risk of reviewer bias during the selection process, several measures were implemented. Firstly, a set of clear and objective inclusion and exclusion criteria was established prior to article screening and eligibility assessment. These criteria were consistently applied to all retrieved articles. Secondly, a double-reviewer system was adopted, whereby two independent reviewers screened titles and abstracts, and any disagreements were resolved through discussion or arbitration by a third reviewer. This approach minimizes subjectivity and enhances inter-rater reliability. Additionally, the full-text eligibility evaluation was conducted with a checklist to guide consistent assessment.

In the full-text review phase, several articles were excluded due to lack of direct relevance to the research focus, namely the role of local communities in health crises or disaster contexts. A total of 8 articles were excluded at this stage, leaving 17 articles deemed suitable for in-depth analysis. These selected articles were then subjected to thematic analysis aimed at identifying the roles of local communities, supporting and inhibiting factors, and effective mitigation strategies. This rigorous selection process was designed to ensure that only high-quality and relevant studies were included in the literature review, thereby enhancing the reliability and significance of the SLR’s findings in advancing the understanding of community roles in health crisis and disaster mitigation at the local level.

## RESULTS

The findings of this systematic review highlight the diverse approaches, roles, and influencing factors related to the involvement of local communities in health crises and disaster mitigation. The reviewed articles demonstrate that communities serve not only as beneficiaries but also as active agents throughout various phases of disaster management, ranging from preparedness and emergency response to recovery. Community engagement was evident in multiple forms, including participation in disaster training, provision of social support, advocacy efforts, and multisectoral collaboration (Table 1). Moreover, the synthesis underscores both supporting and inhibiting factors that affect the effectiveness of community involvement, as well as successful models and approaches that enhance community resilience (Table 2). The key findings from the included studies are presented in the following three tables, providing a structured overview of the contexts, main outcomes, and patterns of community roles across different crisis scenarios (Table 3).

**Table 1. Roles and Functions of Local Communities**

No	Title and Year of Publication	Author's	Study Location	Types of Crisis or Disaster	Key Results and Key Findings	The Role of Communities in Crisis Situations
1	The Community Protection on Disaster Mitigation Perspective of Local Government Law (2021)	Joko Pramono, Dora Kusumastuti (12)	Indonesia	Local government-based disaster mitigation	Strengthening community protection through disaster training and coordination with related institutions	Communities are involved in disaster training, setting up soup kitchens, and providing social assistance during crises.
2	Local actions to health risks of heatwaves and dengue fever under climate change: Strategies and barriers among primary healthcare professionals in southern China (2020)	Yang, L., Liu, C., Bi, P., Vardoulakis, S., & Huang, C. (5)	China	Humanitarian crisis	Faith-based communities provide material and non-material support to communities affected by the crisis.	Material and moral support, organization of local aid, and cooperation with international institutions.
3	Federalism, intergovernmental relationships, and emergency response: A comparison of Australia and the United States (2020)	Downey, D. C., & Myers, W. M. (13)	Australia	Post-flood recovery	Intergovernmental collaboration accelerates policy learning and recovery	Local governments lead recovery with coordination between levels of government for efficient distribution of resources.
4	Forging Community Through Disaster Response: Nepali Canadians and the 2015 Earthquakes (2020)	Ramjee Parajulee, Sara Shneiderman, Ratna Shrestha (14)	Kanada	Earthquake	The Canadian diaspora engages in fundraising and supports humanitarian aid, strengthening the identity of the diaspora community.	The diaspora provides logistical support, disseminates information to the media, and collaborates with aid organizations.
5	Role of social capital in local knowledge evolution and transfer in a network of rural communities coping with landslide disasters in Sri Lanka (2022)	Dasanayaka, U., & Matsuda, Y. (15)	Sri Langka	Forest conservation for disaster mitigation	Community social capital strengthens collective action in forest conservation to reduce the risk of flooding and landslides.	Local communities are involved in forest conservation to reduce the risk of natural disasters in their areas.
6	Conceptualizing Community in Disaster Risk Management (2020)	Aleksi Rasanen, Haakon Lein, Deanne Bird, et al. (16)	Finlandia, Norwegia, Islandia	Disaster risk management	Conceptualizing communities is essential for more effective risk management, with location-based and interaction-based approaches.	Professional communities take a role in risk management through coordination and shared learning.

**Table 2. Supporting and Inhibiting Factors**

No	Title and Year of Publication	Author's	Study Location	Types of Crisis or Disaster	Key Results and Key Findings	The Role of Communities in Crisis Situations
1	Supporting and Inhibiting Factors in the Post-Disaster Recovery Policy Based on Local Community Empowerment (2021)	Rifai et al. (17)	Lombok, Indonesia	Post-disaster recovery	Empowering local communities effectively improves economic and infrastructure recovery	Strong government support strengthens, but conflicts of interest and lack of resources weaken
2	Mental Health and Psychosocial Effects of natural disaster on HIV Patients (2024)	Obeagu, E. I., & Obeagu, G. U. (18)	Global	Cascading disasters	Strengthening culture-based psychosocial capacity helps reduce trauma and increase community resilience.	Social inequality and lack of resources are debilitating, while respect for local culture strengthens effectiveness.
3	Psychological Outcomes in Disaster Responders: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis on the Effect of Social Support (2018)	Johnrev Guilaran et al. (19)	Berbagai negara	Disaster response	Social support has been shown to reduce psychological distress in disaster responders and improve well-being.	Consistent support from social networks strengthens, while lack of coordination can weaken.

**Table 3. Effective Models or Approaches**

No	Title and Year of Publication	Author's	Study Location	Types of Crisis or Disaster	Key Results and Key Findings	The Role of Communities in Crisis Situations
1	Community-Based Disaster Health Management Approaches: A Systematic Literature Review (2022)	Moghaddam, P. S., Sohrabizadeh, S., Jahangiri, K., & Nazari, S. S. H. (20)	-	Community-based disaster management	Reducing vulnerability and increasing community capacity during the recovery phase through active community participation	Integrating universities and communities to strengthen social networks and empower local groups during the disaster recovery phase
2	Community-Based Crisis Management Model Focusing on the Process of Relief and Rescue in Natural Disasters (2021)	Ebrahim Babaei Rayeni, Mohammad Mehdi Poursaeed, et al. (21)	Iran	Natural disasters	Increasing community resilience, reducing the impact of disasters, and accelerating response processes through better resource management.	Community-based models involve training, strategic planning, and interagency coordination to strengthen local response capacity.
3	A Health Promotion Approach to Emergency Management: Effective Community	J. Hope Corbin, Ukam Ebe Oyene, et al. (22)	AS, Singapura, Afrika	Public health crisis (COVID-19)	Increasing public trust through community involvement in health education and communication	Empowering community leaders to engage communities in planning, implementing, and

No	Title and Year of Publication	Author's	Study Location	Types of Crisis or Disaster	Key Results and Key Findings	The Role of Communities in Crisis Situations
	Engagement Strategies from Five Cases (2021)					evaluating health responses
4	Exploring Partnership Functioning Within a Community-Based Participatory Intervention to Improve Disaster Resilience (2016)	Elizabeth Gagnon, Tracey O'Sullivan, et al. (23)	Quebec City, Canada	Disaster resilience for vulnerable groups	Increasing community capacity in responding to disasters through multi-segment collaboration and asset mapping	Using a CBPR approach to identify local needs and strengthen academy-community partnerships to improve emergency preparedness
5	Improving Access to Community-Based Mental Health Care and Psychosocial Support within a Disaster Context (2014)	Boris Budosan, Katherine P. O'Hanlon, Sabah Aziz (24)	Haiti	Mental health and psychosocial support	Community-based interventions strengthen mental health supports, reduce trauma, and build strong social networks.	Training and empowerment of community social workers to provide community-based mental health services
6	Disaster Management: Mental Health Perspective (2015)	Suresh Bada Math, Maria Christine Nirmala, et al. (25)	India	Disaster management from a mental health perspective	A multidimensional approach reduces the psychological impact of disasters and increases community preparedness.	Integration of mental health principles into disaster management through education, training, and community-based approaches
7	A Socio-Health Approach to Improve Local Disaster Resilience and Contain Secondary Crises (2023)	Joseph Cuthbertson, Frank Archer, et al. (26)	Australia	Forest fire crisis	Community social capital strengthens disaster preparedness and reduces secondary risks.	A social health-based approach involving local communities in planning, training and risk communication
8	Kampala Manifesto: Building Community-Based One Health Approaches to Disease Surveillance and Response (2018)	Petra Dickmann, Andrew Kitua, et al. (27)	Afrika Barat	Ebola outbreak	Community involvement as key actors in disaster response increases long-term resilience	Community training based on the "One Health" principle that includes risk communication and strengthening local capacity.

## DISCUSSION

### The Role and Function of Local Communities

The table above outlines the roles and functions of local communities during crisis situations across various regions, demonstrating that local communities play a crucial role in different types of disasters, both nationally and internationally. The first study, conducted by Joko Pramono and Dora



Kusumastuti in 2021 in Indonesia, highlights the contribution of local communities in disaster mitigation based on local government policies. In this study, local communities actively participated in disaster preparedness training, the organization of public kitchens, and the provision of social assistance to disaster-affected populations. Moreover, these communities were also involved in coordinating with various relevant agencies to strengthen public protection. Through training and direct involvement, local communities significantly enhanced disaster preparedness and community resilience against potential future threats (12).

At the international level, the role of faith-based communities in responding to humanitarian crises is also significant, as seen in the second study in this table. This research, conducted in multiple countries, shows that faith-based communities provide essential material and moral support to crisis-affected populations (5). These communities not only supply basic needs but also offer moral support to help individuals cope with the emotional impacts of crises (28). Furthermore, these communities possess strong networks with international organizations, facilitating broader and more efficient aid distribution. The support from these faith-based groups affirms that spirituality and social solidarity can be powerful sources of strength during crises (29).

The contrast between government-led and faith-based community responses highlights the importance of institutional context and social structures. In regions with strong religious affiliations, faith-based groups may take the lead where governmental systems are either weak or distrusted. Meanwhile, in more centralized governance contexts, local administrative structures are more engaged in organizing formal responses. This variation underlines the necessity to tailor disaster management strategies according to the sociocultural landscape of each community.

The third study, conducted in Australia, illustrates that collaboration between state and local governments plays a key role in post-flood recovery. Local governments took the lead in recovery efforts by coordinating with various government levels to accelerate policy learning and infrastructure restoration. This collaboration enabled efficient resource distribution and the expedited recovery of essential services for affected communities (13). In this context, local governments serve as the primary liaison between national authorities and communities, ensuring that aid is appropriately targeted and aligned with local needs. This intergovernmental coordination highlights that effective disaster recovery requires synergy across all levels of governance (30).

Compared to community-initiated models, this example from Australia emphasizes a top-down approach. The involvement of institutionalized governance layers fosters long-term infrastructure and policy improvements but may lack the immediacy and cultural nuance of grassroots community responses. Such a structural distinction reflects how varying levels of institutional maturity influence local response strategies.

In the fourth study conducted in Canada by Ramjee Parajulee, Sara Shneiderman, and Ratna Shrestha in 2020, the Nepali diaspora community played a significant role in responding to the Nepal earthquake. This community organized fundraising initiatives and provided humanitarian aid to earthquake victims. They also actively engaged with media outlets to raise global awareness of the situation in Nepal and collaborated with relief organizations to ensure accurate and targeted aid delivery. The diaspora's involvement not only alleviated the burden on the affected communities but also strengthened their identity as a cohesive and compassionate group, despite being far from their homeland (14).

This case highlights how transnational communities contribute uniquely to disaster response, driven by emotional ties and collective identity. Unlike locally situated communities, diaspora groups often possess financial resources and global advocacy capacity but face challenges in logistical coordination. Their effectiveness underscores the potential of integrating global-local partnerships in disaster frameworks.

Another study by Dasanayaka, U., and Matsuda, Y., in 2023 in Sri Lanka, reveals that social capital within local communities plays a vital role in forest conservation for disaster mitigation. Local communities engaged in collective efforts to protect forests, aiming to prevent disaster risks such as floods and landslides. Their active participation in environmental preservation represents a preventive approach to disaster risk. Through cooperation and collective action, these communities demonstrate that local roles in

environmental conservation can form a key element of sustainable disaster mitigation strategies (15).

This preventive approach differs fundamentally from reactive disaster responses observed in other cases. The Sri Lankan model showcases how embedded ecological knowledge and community stewardship serve as primary defense mechanisms. These variations suggest that geography and type of hazard (e.g., slow-onset vs. sudden disasters) shape the community's orientation—whether toward anticipation or recovery.

An article titled "Conceptualizing Community in Disaster Risk Management," published in 2020 by Aleksi Rasanen, Haakon Lein, Deanne Bird, and colleagues, discusses the importance of community roles in disaster risk management. Conducted in Finland, Norway, and Iceland—regions with specific disaster risks such as extreme climates and volcanic activity—this study emphasizes the importance of community-based approaches to enhance the effectiveness of risk management. The authors argue that conceptualizing community is essential to understand how communities can effectively participate in risk mitigation. Additionally, the study highlights the role of professional communities in risk management through effective coordination and collective learning (16).

This European context introduces the concept of professionalized communities, which differs from informal or volunteer-based structures. These roles are often occupied by trained individuals within institutions or organized networks, enabling a systematic and knowledge-driven response. The professionalization of community functions reveals a pathway for formal integration of local actors into national preparedness systems, particularly in high-income settings.

### **Supporting and Inhibiting Factors**

Various studies have explored the supporting and inhibiting factors that influence local community recovery efforts following disasters in different contexts. The first study, conducted by Rifai et al. (2021) in Lombok, Indonesia, demonstrated that effective community empowerment can significantly accelerate both economic and infrastructural recovery. This empowerment becomes more impactful when it is strongly supported by the government. However, it also faces challenges such as conflicting interests and limited resources (17). Government support emerged as a key enabler, while conflicts of interest and resource constraints were identified as major barriers that undermine the effectiveness of community recovery efforts (31).

The second study by Obeagu, E. I., & Obeagu, G. U. (2024) focused on the development of psychosocial capacity in response to cascading disasters at a global scale. This research emphasized the importance of culturally grounded approaches in reducing trauma and enhancing community resilience (18). Respect for local cultural values was found to be a strengthening factor in community resilience, whereas social inequality and a lack of resources were significant obstacles to building psychosocial capacity (9).

The third study by Johnery Guilaran et al. (2018) examined psychological outcomes among disaster responders through a systematic review and meta-analysis. The study found that consistent social support from existing social networks can reduce psychological distress and improve the overall well-being of disaster-affected individuals. Support from family or community members emerged as a critical factor in facilitating recovery, while poor coordination among stakeholders weakened the effectiveness of such support systems (19).

Collectively, these three studies underscore that successful post-disaster recovery is highly dependent on social support, cultural sensitivity, and community empowerment. Key enabling factors include strong government backing, respect for cultural values, and consistent social networking. In contrast, challenges such as conflicting interests, limited resources, and social inequality must be addressed to optimize community resilience and recovery (32).

### **Effective Models and Approaches in Community-Based Disaster Management**

Various effective community-based models and approaches to disaster management have been implemented across several countries. Each approach has yielded positive outcomes in enhancing community resilience and capacity to face and recover from disasters (33). The first study by Moghaddam, P. S., Sohrabzadeh, S., Jahangiri, K., & Nazari, S. S. H. (2022) focuses on community-based disaster management aimed at improving the health of populations affected by disasters. The results of the study

indicate that the integration of universities with local communities can reduce vulnerabilities and increase community capacity during the recovery phase through active community participation. This approach emphasizes the importance of empowering local groups and building social networks as a primary strategy to strengthen community resilience in the face of disasters (20).

The second study, conducted by Ebrahim Babaei Rayeni and Mohammad Mehdi Pourasood et al. (2021) in Iran, highlights a community-based crisis management model focusing on disaster response and rescue operations. This model enhances community resilience by reducing disaster impacts and accelerating the response process through more effective resource management. The community-based approach involves training, strategic planning, and inter-agency coordination to strengthen local response capacities, enabling communities to respond more independently and effectively when a disaster occurs (34).

The third study by J. Hope Corbin, Ukan Ebe Oyene, and their colleagues (2021) across several countries, including the United States, Singapore, and Africa, focuses on health promotion during emergencies, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study demonstrates that community involvement in health education and communication can enhance trust and engagement in health crisis management processes (21). This approach empowers community leaders to involve the population in planning and implementing health interventions, aiming to strengthen the community's capacity to handle health crises independently (35).

A study by Elizabeth Gagnon and Tracey O'Sullivan et al. (2016) in Quebec, Canada, examines community-based partnerships in enhancing disaster resilience for vulnerable groups. This approach uses Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) methods to identify local needs and strengthen academic-community partnerships to improve emergency preparedness. The study emphasizes the importance of multi-sector collaboration and asset mapping to maximize the resilience of vulnerable groups in the face of disasters (23).

The importance of access to community-based mental health services in the context of disasters is critically important. These interventions are designed to strengthen mental and psychosocial support through the establishment of strong social networks within communities. Through training and empowering local social workers, communities can provide sustainable mental health services that help reduce trauma and improve the psychological well-being of affected populations (24). Moreover, disaster management from a mental health perspective requires a multidimensional approach (25). This is achieved by integrating mental health principles into all stages of disaster management, from education and training to the provision of community-based health services (36). The main objective of this approach is to reduce the psychological impact of disasters and enhance community preparedness in crisis situations (25).

Additionally, a social capital-based approach to enhancing community preparedness for wildfires and reducing secondary crisis risks has shown promising results (26). This approach utilizes social capital to strengthen community networks that play a role in planning, executing, and evaluating disaster responses (37). This social health-based approach encourages communities to actively participate in planning, training, and risk communication, thus increasing overall community engagement and readiness (38). Another approach involves the implementation of the One Health framework, which integrates human, animal, and environmental health (27). This approach prioritizes community involvement as a key actor in disaster response to improve long-term resilience (39). Through One Health-based training, communities are equipped with skills in risk communication and strengthening local capacities to manage health crises involving multiple sectors (40).

## CONCLUSION

Local communities play a crucial role in disaster management across various regions and situations. They are actively involved in mitigation, response, and post-disaster recovery through activities such as training, coordination, providing social assistance, and environmental conservation. At the international level, faith-based and diaspora communities make significant contributions through material, moral, and fundraising support, which strengthens social solidarity and collective identity. The success of post-disaster recovery is heavily influenced by supporting factors such as government assistance, respect

for local cultures, and the consistency of social networks. However, challenges such as conflicts of interest, social inequalities, and resource limitations can serve as significant barriers.

Various community-based approaches have proven effective in enhancing community resilience to disasters. These approaches involve the integration of communities, governments, universities, and international institutions in strategic planning, training, and resource management. Global studies highlight the importance of community empowerment in improving mental health, health promotion, and disaster preparedness, including in the context of global health crises.

Cross-sector collaboration and multidimensional approaches based on social, health, and environmental capital strengthen the capacity of communities to respond to disasters independently and efficiently. In conclusion, the active engagement of local communities, supported by policies, education, and strong networks, is key to creating sustainable resilience against various disaster threats.

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## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest

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