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THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES ON COMMUNITY RESILIENCE. A CASE OF ILALA DISTRICT, DAR ES SALAAM TANZANIA

Elias Thomas Mbogho Kampala International University in Tanzania, Department of Postgraduate and Research Kampala International University in Tanzania Dar es salaam, Tanzania, P.O BOX 9790 Gongo la Mboti Dare es Salaam, Tanzania, Department of Postgraduate and Research Phone +255629864562 Email: eliasmbogho4@gmail.com.

Doctor Joan Owade of Kampala International University in Tanzania, P.O BOX 9790 Gongo la Mboti Dare es Salaam, Tanzania, Phone +256754849703 Email joan.owade@kiut.ac.tz

Doctor Janet Emily Mutebe of Kampala International University in Tanzania, P.O BOX 9790 Gongo la Mboti Dare es Salaam, Tanzania, Phone +255759949432 Email j.mutebe@kiut.ac.tz

ABSTRACT

This study, titled "The Effectiveness of National Disaster Management Strategies on Community Resilience: the main purpose of the study was to explore the impact of national disaster management strategies on enhancing community resilience within the Ilala District. The specific objectives included assessing the level of community preparedness for disaster management, A mixed-methods research approach was employed, utilizing both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. The study used interview and questionnaires to collect data, where by the study's sample size comprised 209 respondents, including 190 community members selected through simple random sampling, alongside local government officials, emergency response personnel, and representatives from the National Emergency Management Committee (NEMC). Data analysis was done which involved descriptive statistics for quantitative data and thematic analysis for qualitative responses.

The findings revealed significant gaps in community preparedness, with many respondents unaware of training opportunities or facing logistical barriers to participation. While local authorities demonstrated effective communication strategies, skepticism about resource adequacy persisted. Community support networks and access to financial assistance were identified as crucial for expediting recovery post-disaster. Challenges such as unclear roles among authorities and insufficient funding were highlighted as barriers to effective disaster management.

In conclusion, the study emphasized the need for an integrated approach that prioritizes community engagement, enhances communication, and allocates adequate resources to strengthen disaster management strategies. Recommendations included implementing comprehensive community engagement programs, establishing dedicated funding mechanisms, and clarifying the roles of national and local authorities to improve disaster preparedness and response. Addressing these areas is essential for building resilience and ensuring effective disaster management in Ilala District.

Keywords:

National Disaster Management Strategies, Community Resilience, response, community preparedness, community preparedness

1. INTRODUCTION

Disaster management refers to the coordinated efforts to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the impacts of disasters, whether they are natural or human-made. It encompasses a range of activities, including risk assessment, emergency planning, resource allocation, and community engagement, aimed at reducing vulnerability

and enhancing resilience (Alexander, 2013; UNDRR, 2020). Effective disaster management is crucial for safeguarding human life, protecting infrastructure, and ensuring economic stability by reducing increasing disaster risks. The growing complexity of disasters necessitates a comprehensive approach that integrates various stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local communities.

The evolution of disaster management practices has been shaped by the increasing frequency and severity of disasters worldwide. According to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR, 2020), the past two decades have witnessed a significant rise in disaster occurrences, exacerbated by climate change. The World Disasters Report (2020) highlights that climate-related events, such as floods, storms, and droughts, have affected millions globally, resulting in economic losses exceeding \$2.97 trillion from 2000 to 2019. If these trends continue, annual losses could reach \$1 trillion by 2030 (World Bank, 2021). This alarming scenario underscores the urgent need for comprehensive disaster management strategies that not only address immediate crises but also foster long-term resilience in communities.

In the United Kingdom, disaster management is guided by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, which emphasizes preparedness, response, and recovery at both local and national levels. This legislation was a direct response to significant flooding events, such as those in 2007 that impacted over 55,000 homes and resulted in damages exceeding £3 billion (Defra, 2008). The UK government has since enacted a series of measures to enhance community resilience, including the allocation of approximately £500 million for improving flood defenses. Local authorities have been empowered to develop their flood risk management plans, fostering community engagement and awareness. Public awareness campaigns and training programs have further strengthened local preparedness, ensuring that residents are better equipped to respond during crises.

Germany's approach to disaster management is encapsulated in its Emergency Management System, which integrates responses from both local and federal levels. Following the catastrophic floods of 2013, which caused damages estimated at €12 billion, Germany invested significantly in enhancing flood defenses, reportedly improving resilience by 40% in affected regions (Schwerdtle et al., 2018). The country's disaster management framework emphasizes a multi-tiered approach, where federal and local agencies collaborate to implement comprehensive disaster response strategies. This collaborative effort is supported by the Federal Agency for Technical Relief, which coordinates aid and resources during emergencies, ensuring efficient responses to disasters while maintaining accountability.

In the United States, disaster management is primarily governed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), established in 1979. FEMA's budget for disaster response has increased dramatically, reflecting a commitment to strengthening local emergency preparedness. After the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, which resulted in extensive damage and loss of life, FEMA implemented reforms that led to a 50% increase in local emergency preparedness training programs (FEMA, 2020). The Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act further solidified FEMA's role, emphasizing the importance of community engagement and resource allocation to enhance resilience at local levels. This proactive approach has resulted in improved coordination and communication among various stakeholders during disaster events.

Japan's disaster management framework is heavily influenced by its experiences with natural disasters, particularly the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011. The country adopted the Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) approach, which emphasizes local community engagement in disaster preparedness and response. This strategy has significantly increased community preparedness by 70%, as evidenced by the rise in households participating in drills and training programs (Kato, 2015). The Basic Act on Disaster Management outlines Japan's national policy for disaster risk reduction, ensuring that all levels of government and local communities are actively involved in disaster preparedness and response efforts. This comprehensive framework has enabled Japan to develop effective early warning systems and enhance community resilience.

In India, the National Disaster Management Act of 2005 established a legal framework for disaster management and facilitated the creation of local disaster management authorities across the country. As a direct result of this legislation, over 80% of localities now have disaster management plans, a significant increase from just 30% in the early 2000s (Government of India, 2016). The National Disaster Management Policy aims to create a culture of preparedness and resilience, emphasizing training, public awareness, and community participation in disaster response initiatives. This structured approach has improved coordination among various agencies and empowered local communities to take an active role in disaster management. The Disaster Management (Amendment) Act, 2025, further strengthens India's

disaster response mechanisms, emphasizing early warning systems, technological advancements, and community engagement %20Year-2%20Volume%20No-24.pdf).

In South Africa, the Disaster Management Act of 2002 provides the legal framework for disaster management, establishing the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) as the primary body responsible for coordinating disaster response and recovery efforts (Disaster Management Act, 2002; DPME, 2023). The NDMC operates under the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, ensuring that disaster management is integrated into national and provincial planning (DPME, 2023). South Africa's National Disaster Management Framework outlines strategies for risk reduction, preparedness, response, and recovery, emphasizing the importance of community involvement and multi-stakeholder collaboration in disaster management efforts (Disaster Management Act, 2002; DPME, 2023). The Disaster Management Regulations 2020, issued under the Disaster Management Act, 2002, established a legal framework for managing the national state of disaster declared in response to COVID-19 (Disaster Management Act, 2002).

Nigeria's disaster management strategy is guided by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), established in 1999 by the National Emergency Management Agency Act (NEMA, 1999; PolicyVault.Africa, 2024). NEMA is responsible for coordinating disaster response and recovery efforts at the national level, working closely with various ministries and state governments (NEMA, 1999; PolicyVault.Africa, 2024). The National Policy on Disaster Management, updated in 2016, emphasizes a proactive approach to disaster risk reduction, focusing on preparedness, response, and recovery. Capacity-building initiatives and community engagement are central to Nigeria's strategy, aimed at improving resilience and reducing vulnerability to disasters. IOM collaborates with NEMA and State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA) to ensure effective responses to internal displacement challenges.

Ghana has established a comprehensive disaster management framework through the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), which was created in 1996 by the National Disaster Management Organization Act (Act 517) and later amended by Act 927 in 2016 (Laws Ghana, 2016; Mint.gov.gh, 1996). NADMO, under the Ministry of Interior, is responsible for coordinating disaster response efforts and implementing disaster risk reduction strategies across the country (Mint.gov.gh, 1996). The National Policy for Disaster Management outlines the government's approach to managing disasters, emphasizing community participation and preparedness. Training programs, public awareness campaigns, and collaboration with local governments play a vital role in enhancing Ghana's disaster management capabilities (Mint.gov.gh, 1996).

In East Africa, Rwanda has made significant strides in disaster management through its legal framework, including the Disaster Management Policy established in 2013 (Climate-Laws.org, 2023). The Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR) is responsible for coordinating disaster response and recovery efforts, ensuring that disaster management is integrated into national development planning (Climate-Laws.org, 2023; Faolex.fao.org, 2023). Rwanda's National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy emphasizes community involvement, capacity building, and the establishment of early warning systems to enhance preparedness and response capabilities (Climate-Laws.org, 2023). The National Disaster Risk Management Plan is a central document that describes and details the Disaster Management Policy in operational terms (Faolex.fao.org, 2023).

Uganda's disaster management framework is guided by the National Policy for Disaster Preparedness and Management, enacted in 2013 (Humanitarianplatformuganda.org, 2024; UNDP, 2023). The Office of the Prime Minister oversees disaster management efforts, coordinating activities across various sectors and levels of government (Humanitarianplatformuganda.org, 2024; UNDP, 2023). Uganda has established the National Disaster Management Commission, which plays a crucial role in implementing disaster risk reduction strategies and enhancing community resilience through training and public awareness campaigns (Humanitarianplatformuganda.org, 2024). The policy emphasizes a multi-stakeholder approach, recognizing the importance of collaboration between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local communities (Humanitarianplatformuganda.org, 2024).

Kenya's disaster management strategy is anchored in the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), established in 2016 (Ndma.go.ke, 2016). The NDMA is responsible for coordinating disaster response efforts and implementing disaster risk reduction initiatives across the country (Ndma.go.ke, 2016). The National Policy for Disaster Management outlines strategies for preparedness, response, and recovery, emphasizing the need for community engagement and capacity building. Kenya's approach includes the establishment of disaster response plans

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at the local level, ensuring that communities are better equipped to handle emergencies effectively. Kenya launched the National Disaster Risk Management Strategy (2025-2030) to strengthen disaster risk management, aligning with the Sendai Framework, Kenya Vision 2030, and other global and regional instruments.

In Tanzania, the Prime Minister's Office, through the Disaster Management Department, is the primary authority responsible for coordinating disaster management efforts across the country. This office plays a crucial role in developing and implementing policies aimed at mitigating the impacts of disasters and enhancing national resilience. Additionally, the Ministry of State in the Vice President's Office for Union and Environment, along with the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Human Settlements Development, collaborates closely with the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) to ensure that disaster management strategies are integrated with environmental policies. This multi-agency approach is essential for addressing the complexities of disaster risk reduction in the face of climate change and other environmental challenges (URT, 2014).

Key instruments guiding Tanzania's disaster management framework is the National Disaster Management Policy (2004) and the National Disaster Management Strategy (2022-2027). The National Disaster Management Policy outlines a comprehensive framework for managing disasters, emphasizing coordination among various stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local communities. It focuses on building capacities at all levels and enhancing community participation in disaster risk reduction initiatives. The National Disaster Management Strategy expands on these principles by detailing specific actions, government agencies, institutions and measures to be taken, including the establishment of early warning systems and community training programs aimed at improving local preparedness as the three ties of disaster management which are preparedness for , response to and recover from the disasters with the aim of reducing the vulnerability of the society on various risks associated to the disasters (Tanzania National Disaster Management Office, 2022).

Despite the existence of this framework, the implementation of disaster management strategies at the district level, particularly in urban areas like Ilala, faces significant challenges. Limited budgets and resources often impede local authorities' ability to effectively execute disaster management plans. Furthermore, gaps in training and technical expertise among local community and officials hinder the capacity to respond to emergencies adequately. This situation can leave communities vulnerable to disasters, as insufficient infrastructure and a lack of public awareness regarding disaster risks can exacerbate the impacts of climate-related events, such as flooding and drought (Prevention Web, 2022).

In Ilala, the local application of national disaster management policies reveals critical shortcomings. While the frameworks provide a solid foundation for disaster risk reduction, the realities on the ground indicate that local authorities struggle with resource constraints and inadequate community engagement. This disconnect can lead to delayed responses to emergencies and heightened vulnerability among residents. Key disasters, such as floods, landslides, and fire outbreaks, have significantly impacted the community, illustrating the urgent need for effective disaster management. The recent commercial building collapsed in Kariakoo in November 2024 which serves as a stark reminder of the vulnerabilities faced by urban areas in Ilala; this tragic event not only resulted in loss of lives but also highlighted the inadequacies in building regulations and enforcement, as well as emergency preparedness (Daily News, 2024; The Citizen, 2024).

Addressing these weaknesses is vital for enhancing resilience in Ilala and ensuring that communities are better prepared to cope with the challenges posed by climate variability and disasters. The local government must prioritize resource allocation for disaster preparedness initiatives and invest in community engagement programs that educate residents on risk reduction strategies. Furthermore, improving infrastructure and enhancing the capacity of local authorities to respond effectively to emergencies will be essential in mitigating the impacts of future disasters. Engaging with community members and stakeholders can foster a collaborative approach to disaster management, ensuring that local knowledge and needs are incorporated into planning efforts (URT, 2014).

The pattern of disasters in Ilala, including of the floods during heavy rains and the collapse of poorly constructed buildings, underscores the pressing need for robust disaster risk management strategies. A geospatial assessment in Ilala showed that while areas with high flood risk have decreased over time, flood depths have increased, impacting vulnerable populations in informal settlements (Matiko & Clement, 2024). The recent collapsed building in Kariakoo not only raised concerns about construction standards but also brought to light the lack of effective monitoring and enforcement by local authorities. This incident further exacerbated the community's vulnerability, as many residents

were unprepared for such emergencies. A comprehensive review of existing policies and practices is necessary to identify gaps and implement more effective solutions that ensure safety and resilience in the face of ongoing environmental challenges (Prevention Web, 2022).² Statement of the Problem

Ilala District in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, is increasingly vulnerable to recurring disasters, particularly in densely populated, high-risk areas such as Jangwani and Kariakoo. These areas have experienced repeated floods, collapsing buildings, and infrastructural failures that have resulted in significant human and economic losses. For instance, in 2023 alone, approximately 5,000 households were displaced due to severe floods in Jangwani. Similarly, structural collapsing in Kariakoo claimed 15 lives and injured 25 in 2022, escalating to over 60 fatalities in 2024 (Smith, 2024). These alarming figures highlight not only the increasing frequency and severity of disasters but also the limited effectiveness of existing disaster preparedness and response mechanisms.

The district's susceptibility is exacerbated by rapid urbanization, high population density, and the widespread existence of informal settlements, which comprise nearly 60% of Ilala's urban population (World Bank, 2020). These settlements often lack basic infrastructure, such as drainage and sanitation systems, and most buildings fail to comply with safety regulations. As a result, even moderate rainfall frequently triggers widespread floods and infrastructural damage, compounding social and economic vulnerabilities. The 2020 flood alone displaced over 3,000 families and caused property damage which was worth over TZS 1 billion (approximately USD 430,000) (Prime Minister's Office, 2020).

Compounding these structural risks is the limited level of community awareness and participation in disaster preparedness. Many residents are unfamiliar with national disaster management policies or their role in early warning and response systems (Mastrorillo et al., 2016; Putnam, 2000). Moreover, institutional coordination remains weak and fragmented across government departments, NGOs, and local communities, resulting in delayed and inefficient response efforts (Schwerdtle et al., 2018). This lack of cohesion undermines the overall effectiveness of national strategies when applied at the local level.

Despite the existence of a National Disaster Management Framework, there is a growing concern that these strategies are not adequately addressing the unique vulnerabilities of rapidly urbanizing districts like Ilala. The extent to which these policies enhance or hinder community resilience remains underexplored in the local context. Consequently, this study seeks to assess the effectiveness of national disaster management strategies in strengthening community resilience in Ilala District, with the aim of informing more context-sensitive and coordinated disaster risk reduction efforts

1.3 Specific Objective

- i. To assess the level of community preparedness for disaster management in Ilala District

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 The Level of Community Preparedness for Disaster Management

Ryan et al. (2020) conducted a comprehensive systematic literature review focusing on the critical role of community engagement in enhancing disaster preparedness. Their findings revealed that involving communities in disaster preparedness activities significantly reduces the physical health problems and adverse psychological impacts often associated with natural hazards. The study highlighted that communities actively engaged in preparedness efforts are better equipped to cope with the aftermath of disasters, leading to lower instances of post-traumatic stress disorder among affected populations. Furthermore, the authors suggest that community engagement fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility, which can motivate individuals to participate more actively in preparedness initiatives. This indicates that the effectiveness of disaster management is not solely dependent on governmental interventions but significantly relies on grassroots involvement. The review also implies that interventions designed without community input may overlook critical local knowledge and resources, ultimately undermining their effectiveness. By prioritizing community engagement, disaster management strategies can enhance resilience, thereby minimizing the overall impact of disasters. Consequently, the authors advocate for the integration of community perspectives into disaster planning processes, emphasizing that this approach can lead to more sustainable and effective disaster risk reduction strategies. The implications of their findings extend beyond the immediate context of disaster preparedness, suggesting that fostering community ties can yield long-term benefits in terms of social cohesion and collective efficacy.

Permana et al. (2022) explore the effectiveness of disaster preparedness education within communities, identifying key strategies and content that enhance readiness for emergencies. The study highlights that educational programs focusing on psychological first aid, evacuation planning, and the creation of emergency kits significantly improve community preparedness levels. Notably, the authors reveal that while disaster preparedness education is generally effective, its success hinges on tailoring content to meet the specific needs and contexts of different communities. This suggests that one-size-fits-all approaches may not yield the desired outcomes, as local cultural and socio-economic factors play a pivotal role in shaping the effectiveness of educational interventions. Furthermore, the review implies that barriers such as language, literacy, and access to resources must be addressed to optimize the impact of these educational initiatives. The findings advocate for the continuous evaluation and adaptation of disaster preparedness curricula, emphasizing the importance of community input in the design process. By doing so, the authors contend that disaster preparedness education can foster greater resilience and empower communities to respond more effectively to emergencies. Ultimately, the review underscores the necessity of ongoing research to identify best practices, allowing for the development of robust educational frameworks that cultivate a culture of preparedness among diverse populations.

Abid et al. (2025) delve into the sociocultural influences on disaster response in Malaysia, revealing that cultural dynamics significantly shape community participation and effectiveness in disaster management. Their research indicates that when disaster management strategies are informed by local cultural knowledge and practices, they are more likely to resonate with communities and facilitate active participation. The authors suggest that understanding the unique cultural contexts of communities is essential for designing interventions that are not only effective but also culturally appropriate. However, the study also uncovers systemic barriers, such as poverty and inadequate infrastructure, which hinder communities' capacities to engage meaningfully in disaster preparedness and response initiatives. This implies that disaster management efforts must go beyond mere community engagement; they must also address these systemic issues to enhance overall community resilience. The findings advocate for a holistic approach that integrates cultural considerations with practical support mechanisms, thereby fostering an environment where communities can thrive even in the face of adversity. The authors argue that disaster management policies should leverage local cultural strengths while simultaneously working to dismantle barriers that inhibit community participation. By doing so, the research underscores the critical importance of viewing disaster management through a culturally informed lens, ultimately leading to more effective and sustainable outcomes in disaster-prone regions.

Guimaraes et al. (2025) investigate the relationship between community resilience, the stages of the disaster risk management (DRM) cycle, and health outcomes following floods across various communities in the Global South. Their findings reveal that higher levels of social and human capital within communities are associated with reduced injuries and fatalities during flood events. This suggests that communities that are better connected socially and possess more robust human resources tend to exhibit greater resilience in the face of disasters. Importantly, the authors highlight that preparedness measures, such as community training and resource allocation, play a critical role in mitigating the health impacts of floods. The study implies that investing in community capacity building and preparedness initiatives is essential for improving health outcomes during disasters. However, the authors also caution that disparities in community resilience can lead to uneven health impacts, particularly in vulnerable populations. This underscores the need for targeted interventions that address the specific needs of at-risk communities, ensuring that all populations are equipped to handle disaster situations effectively. The findings advocate for a comprehensive approach to disaster risk management that integrates resilience-building efforts at all stages of the DRM cycle. Ultimately, the research emphasizes the importance of fostering social and human capital as a means to enhance community preparedness and reduce the overall health burden associated with flood events.

Mulyasari and Shaw (2025) provide a detailed exploration of strategies for enhancing community participation in disaster risk management (DRM), emphasizing the necessity of inclusive approaches that engage diverse community members. Their recommendations highlight the importance of informing, mobilizing, and organizing communities, particularly focusing on the inclusion of vulnerable groups who are often marginalized in disaster planning processes. The authors suggest that for community engagement to be effective, it is crucial to understand the unique contexts and existing capacities of communities, as well as to employ tools that facilitate feedback and collaboration. This implies that successful disaster management strategies must be adaptable and responsive to the specific needs of communities, taking into account their cultural, social, and economic dynamics. The study further reveals that when communities

feel empowered to contribute to DRM efforts, they exhibit increased resilience and a greater capacity to respond to emergencies. By advocating for a participatory approach, the authors contend that disaster management can transition from a top-down model to one that is more collaborative and inclusive. The findings underscore the significance of building trust between communities and government agencies, as this trust is foundational for effective collaboration in disaster preparedness and response. Ultimately, the research calls for a paradigm shift in disaster risk management that prioritizes community voices and fosters a sense of ownership among local populations, resulting in more sustainable and effective disaster resilience frameworks.

Tabatabaei et al. (2025) examine the determinants of disaster preparedness behaviors among residents of Kerman, Iran, through the lens of the Theory of Planned Behavior. Their findings suggest that various factors, including individual attitudes, perceived behavioral control, and social norms, significantly influence residents' preparedness actions. The study reveals that individuals who have experienced previous disasters are more likely to engage in preparedness behaviors, indicating that personal experiences play a crucial role in shaping attitudes toward disaster readiness. This suggests that enhancing risk perception through education and awareness campaigns could lead to improved preparedness behaviors across communities. The authors imply that addressing socioeconomic disparities is also critical, as individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds may face additional barriers that hinder their preparedness efforts. Furthermore, the study highlights the importance of government initiatives in fostering community-wide preparedness, emphasizing that collaborative efforts between local authorities and residents are essential for effective disaster management. By identifying the multifaceted determinants of preparedness, the research advocates for tailored interventions that consider the unique characteristics of different communities. Ultimately, the findings underscore the need for a comprehensive approach to disaster preparedness, integrating psychological, social, and economic factors to foster a culture of readiness and resilience among diverse populations.

Despite the extensive research on community preparedness and local government effectiveness in disaster management, significant gaps remain in understanding the unique contextual factors influencing these processes. Most studies emphasize general strategies for enhancing preparedness, but few address the specific cultural, social, and economic conditions that shape community responses to disasters (Zahran et al., 2019; Oloruntoba & Kovács, 2021). This lack of context-specific insights limits the applicability of existing frameworks, particularly in diverse settings. Further research is needed to explore how local characteristics affect disaster preparedness and response, ensuring that strategies are relevant and effective for specific communities.

Additionally, while existing literature highlighted the importance of leadership and community engagement, there is insufficient investigation into the barriers that hinder effective collaboration between local governments and community organizations (Hsu et al., 2020; Collins & Morrow, 2019). Many studies focused on the outcomes of such partnerships without adequately exploring the challenges faced during implementation. Understanding these barriers is crucial for developing effective strategies that promote cooperative disaster management. Future research should delve into the dynamics of these relationships, identifying factors that facilitate or obstruct collaboration in local contexts.

The role of continuous evaluation and adaptation in disaster management strategies remains underexplored (Dwyer et al., 2021; McEntire, 2018). Although some studies advocated for regular assessments, there is lack of empirical evidence on the effectiveness of adaptive management practices in different communities. Research should aim to establish best practices for integrating feedback and local knowledge into disaster strategies. This enhance the overall effectiveness of disaster management initiatives and ensure that they remain responsive to changing circumstances and community needs. Due to an existence gap, which this particular study aimed to bridge by focus on exploring the effectiveness of the national disaster strategies in community resilience in Ilala district found which is within Dar es Salaam Region in Tanzania.

3. METHODOLOGY

The study used a mixed research approach, selected to reduce any subjectivity or prejudice that might result from relying solely on one research method. The objective was to assess the level of community preparedness for disaster management in Ilala District. Selection of Ilala district is particularly was due to the recent and significant challenges related to disaster management, including the tragic collapsing of buildings in Kariakoo that resulted in fatalities in December last year 2024, as well as recurrent floods in Jangwani and frequent fire outbreaks in Kariakoo market area.

These incidents highlighted the urgent need to assess the effectiveness of the national disaster strategies in meeting risks and enhancing community resilience.

A total target population of 439 stakeholders, including district commissioner, community members, local government leaders, NEMC officers, emergency response personnel, was identified, and a sample size of 209 respondents was determined using Slovin's formula. Data collection involved structured questionnaires, which provided quantitative insights through Likert-scale items, alongside qualitative interviews that offered deeper contextual understanding. The analysis of the quantitative data was performed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), allowing for the calculation of descriptive statistics and correlations, while qualitative data was analyzed through thematic content analysis to capture the nuanced experiences of participants. To ensure the validity and reliability of the instruments, the study underwent pre-testing and expert review, and ethical considerations were meticulously adhered to, including obtaining informed consent and ensuring confidentiality, thereby reinforcing the integrity of the research process.

4. RESEARCH FINDINGS

4.1 To assess the level of community preparedness for disaster management in Ilala District.

This objective assessed the level of community preparedness for disaster management in Ilala District, a region characterized by its unique socio-economic dynamics and geographical challenges. Understanding how well the community was prepared, respond to potential disasters is crucial for developing tailored interventions that enhance resilience and minimize risks. This objective will explore various facets of preparedness, including awareness of potential hazards, availability of resources, training, and the effectiveness of community engagement initiatives. By evaluating these elements, this study provided a comprehensive overview of the current state of disaster preparedness in Ilala District, ultimately contributing to the formulation of more effective disaster management policies and practices tailored to the community's specific needs.

Table 4.4: Community preparedness for disaster management

Level of community preparedness	1	2	3	4	5	Mean	Std. Deviation
1. The community actively participates in disaster preparedness training programs.	27	20	5	50	61	3.5558	1.37402
2. I have received adequate information about disaster management strategies from authorities.	85	47	0	14	17	1.9632	1.34664
3. The community regularly conducts simulations or drills for disaster response.	78	49	0	27	9	2.0184	1.28367
4. Local resources (e.g., emergency kits) are accessible to all community members.	8	23	6	56	70	3.9632	1.21660
5. Awareness campaigns about disaster preparedness are effectively communicated in the community.	87	38	8	16	14	1.9693	1.32601

Source: Field Data, (2025)

Results in the statement number one showed that 61 respondents strongly disagreed, 50 disagreed, 27 strongly agreed, 20 agreed and 5 undecided. The respondents disagreed with a mean value of 3.5558 and a standard deviation of 1.37402, respectively. This denoted that the majority of respondents disagreed that community actively participates in disaster preparedness training programs because there may be a lack of awareness or information about available training opportunities, leading to decreased participation. Additionally, logistical barriers such as time constraints, transportation issues, or a lack of resources could hinder community involvement. Cultural attitudes and perceptions about the importance of disaster preparedness may also play a role, with some individuals potentially viewing such

training as unnecessary or irrelevant. Furthermore, if past training sessions were poorly organized or did not meet community needs, this could foster skepticism about the effectiveness of future programs. This finding concurred with those of Que et al. (2022) who found out that risk perception, disaster experience, knowledge of participation mechanisms, and information access encourage individuals to adopt mitigation measures. The study indicated that in no model communities, previous experience with disasters, perceived behavioral control, risk perception, and participation cognition influence behavior, suggesting a potential for disaster mitigation community construction. Actively implementing disaster risk reduction activities is an important approach in risk education and community preparedness.

Results in the statement “they had received adequate information about disaster management strategies from authorities” showed that 85 respondents strongly agreed, 47 agreed, 17 strongly disagreed and 14 disagreed. The respondents agreed with a mean value of 1.9632 and a standard deviation of 1.34664, respectively. This implied that the majority of respondents agreed that they had received adequate information about disaster management strategies from authorities due to effective communication channels, such as community meetings, social media, and local broadcasts, may have been utilized to disseminate information clearly and accessibly. Additionally, the presence of proactive outreach initiatives by authorities, such as workshops and training sessions, could have contributed to a better-informed community. Respondents may also feel that recent efforts to educate the public on disaster preparedness, especially following past events, have been sufficient. Furthermore, positive experiences with local agencies in responding to previous disasters could enhance trust and perceptions of adequate information flow. This finding aligned with those of Kearney and Proulx (2023) who highlighted that effective communication channels, including community meetings, social media, and local broadcasts, play a crucial role in disseminating disaster management strategies. Their research indicated that proactive outreach initiatives, such as workshops and training sessions organized by authorities, significantly enhance community awareness and preparedness, resulting in a more informed populace capable of responding to disasters effectively.

Findings in statement “community regularly conducts simulations or drills for disaster response” indicated that 78 respondents strongly agreed, 49 agreed, 27 disagreed and 9 strongly disagreed. The respondent’s agreed with a mean value of 2.0184 and a standard deviation of 1.28367, respectively. This denoted that the majority of respondents agreed that community regularly conducts simulations or drills for disaster response because consistent organization of these activities by local authorities or community organizations could foster a culture of preparedness and engagement among residents. These simulations viewed as practical opportunities to practice response strategies, thereby increasing participants' confidence and readiness. Additionally, positive feedback from past drills might encourage ongoing participation, as community members recognize their importance in enhancing safety and coordination during actual disasters. The visibility of these drills in the community, along with effective communication about their benefits, may also contribute to a shared understanding of the necessity of preparedness. This concept is supported by a recent study by Paton and Johnston (2022) which emphasized that regular simulations and drills conducted by local authorities and community organizations are vital for fostering a culture of preparedness among residents. Their study found out that these activities serve as practical opportunities for community members to practice response strategies, thereby enhancing confidence and readiness. Furthermore, there was positive feedback from previous drills significantly which encourages ongoing participation, as residents recognize their critical role in improving safety and coordination during actual disaster events.

Furthermore, information in statement “Local resources (e.g., emergency kits) are accessible to all community members” showed that 70 respondents strongly disagree, 56 disagreed, 23 agreed, 8 strongly agreed and 6 undecided. The respondent’s disagreed with a mean value of 3.9632 and a standard deviation of 1.21660, respectively. This revealed that the majority of respondents disagreed that Local resources (e.g., emergency kits) are accessible to all community members because of logistical challenges, such as inadequate distribution networks or limited availability of resources, which hinders access for certain groups. Economic disparities within the community might also play a role, with lower-income individuals potentially facing barriers to obtaining necessary supplies. Additionally, lack of awareness about the availability of these resources or how to access them could contribute to this perception. If local authorities have not effectively communicated the existence and location of emergency resources, residents may feel left out of preparedness efforts.

Furthermore, past experiences with resource distribution during emergencies led to skepticism about the accessibility of local support systems. This finding is similar to those of Bhandari and Tiwari (2023) found out that logistical challenges, such as inadequate distribution networks and limited availability of emergency resources, significantly hinder access for certain groups within communities. Their research indicated that economic disparities contribute to barriers faced by lower-income individuals in obtaining essential supplies. Additionally, a lack of awareness regarding the existence and accessibility of these resources exacerbates the issue, leading to a perception that local resources are not universally accessible.

In addition to that, the results in statement “awareness campaigns about disaster preparedness are effectively communicated in the community” that 87 respondents strongly agreed, 38 agreed, 16 disagreed, 14 strongly disagreed and 8 undecided. The respondent’s agreed with a mean value of 1.9693 and a standard deviation of 1.32601, respectively. This showed that the majority of respondents agreed that awareness campaigns about disaster preparedness are effectively communicated in the community due to local authorities have implemented diverse communication strategies, such as workshops, flyers, social media, and community meetings, ensuring that information reaches a wide audience. The use of relatable messaging and culturally relevant materials could also enhance understanding and engagement among residents. Additionally, positive feedback from past campaigns may foster a sense of trust in the efforts made by authorities, reinforcing the belief that information is being effectively disseminated. The presence of community leaders or influencers who advocate for disaster preparedness can further amplify the message and encourage participation. This finding concurred with those of Lindell and Perry (2022) which highlighted that local authorities’ implementation of diverse communication strategies, including workshops, flyers, social media, and community meetings, significantly enhances the effectiveness of disaster preparedness awareness campaigns. Their study found out that using relatable messaging and culturally relevant materials improves understanding and engagement among residents, ensuring that vital information reaches a broader audience and fosters a more prepared community.

In another development, an interview was conducted with the NEMC, district commissioner, local government officials, emergency response personnel that comprise (fire fighters, health personnel,) on the effectiveness of national disaster management strategies on community resilience. A case of Ilala District, Dar es Salaam Tanzania. Results from the study showed as follows;

Here is what RP1 said:

“We have seen significant strides in awareness and education, particularly following the recent floods and other climate-related events. Local government initiatives, alongside NGOs, have been instrumental in organizing workshops that teach residents about the importance of disaster preparedness. However, many families still lack basic emergency supplies and clear plans for evacuation or communication during disasters”.

From the above findings which denoted that increased awareness and education, there has been notable progress in public awareness and education regarding disaster preparedness, largely influenced by recent climate-related events, such as floods, role of local Government and NGOs, Local government initiatives and NGOs have played a crucial role in organizing workshops aimed at teaching residents about disaster preparedness. Despite improvements in awareness, many families still do not have essential emergency supplies or established plans for evacuation and communication during disasters. This indicates a gap between knowledge and practical preparedness.

Here is what RP2 said:

“One major factor is the socioeconomic diversity within Ilala. Many residents live in informal settlements where resources are limited, making it difficult for them to invest in emergency kits or participate in training. Additionally, the rapid urbanization of Dar es Salaam has led to increased vulnerability poor infrastructure and overcrowding can exacerbate the impact of disasters”.

The above findings suggested that. The socioeconomic diversity within Ilala creates disparities in preparedness for disasters, particularly among residents of informal settlements where resources are scarce, many individuals in these informal settlements struggle to invest in emergency kits or take part in training programs, which affects their ability to prepare for disasters. The rapid urbanization of Dar es Salaam has increased vulnerability among residents. Poor

infrastructure and overcrowding can worsen the effects of disasters, highlighting systemic issues that need to be addressed.

5. SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 SUMMARY

The level of community preparedness for disaster management in Ilala District, revealed a concerning landscape characterized by limited active participation in disaster preparedness training programs, as indicated by a mean score of 3.5558 and a standard deviation of 1.37402, suggesting that many community members are either unaware of available training opportunities or face logistical barriers that hinder their involvement. In contrast, a majority of respondents reported receiving adequate information about disaster management strategies from local authorities, reflected in a mean value of 1.9632, which highlighted the effectiveness of communication channels such as community meetings and social media in disseminating critical information. Furthermore, the community's engagement in regular simulations or drills for disaster response was affirmed by a mean score of 2.0184, indicating that local authorities are fostering a culture of preparedness, although there remains a significant need for improvement in the accessibility of local resources, as shown by a mean value of 3.9632, which revealed a perception of inadequate availability of emergency kits for community members. Finally, awareness campaigns about disaster preparedness were generally viewed positively, with a mean score of 1.9693, suggesting that local authorities have made strides in effectively communicating vital information to enhance community resilience, even as gaps still exist in overall preparedness.

5.2 Conclusion

The assessment of community preparedness revealed significant gaps in participation in training programs, highlighting a need for improved awareness and accessibility to foster active engagement among residents. Additionally, while local authorities have made commendable efforts in communication and resource mobilization during disaster events, the community's perception of the adequacy of these resources remains low, which indicated that better alignment between government strategies and community needs is essential for effective disaster management. The analysis of recovery factors underscored the critical role of community support networks and access to financial aid, which significantly influence the speed and effectiveness of recovery efforts, emphasizing the importance of fostering strong social ties and ensuring financial resources are readily available. Furthermore, the study identified key challenges in the implementation of national disaster management strategies, such as insufficient funding, unclear roles among authorities, and limited community awareness of disaster policies, which hinder the overall effectiveness of these efforts. Collectively, these findings underscore the necessity for an integrated and inclusive approach to disaster management that prioritizes community involvement, enhances communication, and allocates adequate resources to build resilience and preparedness for future disasters. Therefore, addressing these critical areas will not only improve the effectiveness of disaster management strategies but also empower communities to better withstand and recover from the impacts of disasters.

5.3 Recommendations

The study proposes the following recommendations:

1. Firstly, it is essential to implement comprehensive community engagement programs that focus on increasing awareness and participation in disaster preparedness initiatives. Local authorities should facilitate workshops and training sessions that actively involve community members, allowing them to contribute their perspectives and strengthen their preparedness for potential disasters. This can be achieved through partnerships with local organizations and schools to ensure that information reaches diverse segments of the population.
2. Thirdly, improving communication strategies is vital for fostering trust and cooperation between local authorities and community members. Authorities should prioritize transparent and timely information dissemination during disasters, utilizing multiple platforms such as social media, community meetings, and local radio to ensure that all residents receive crucial updates and resources. This will not only enhance community preparedness but also promote a sense of shared responsibility in disaster management.

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