



The Role of Islamic Philanthropy in Disaster Relief in Indonesia and Japan

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Abstract

This study explores the role of Islamic philanthropic instruments, zakat, waqf, and sadaqah in strengthening disaster management systems in Indonesia and Japan. Employing a library research method through systematic review and comparative analysis, the research draws on scholarly literature, institutional reports, and policy documents to assess potential integration. It finds that in Indonesia, these mechanisms offer vital resources for rapid response and recovery but face challenges related to regulatory coordination and organizational capacity. In Japan, the ethical principles underlying Islamic philanthropy resonate with existing cultural values of solidarity, presenting an opportunity to enhance community resilience models. The study concludes that strategic, context-sensitive collaboration between philanthropic organizations, government agencies, and local communities is essential to leverage these tools effectively. Such partnerships can significantly contribute to building more adaptive, inclusive, and resilient disaster management frameworks in both socio-religious contexts.

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Introduction

The Role of Islamic Philanthropy in Disaster Management has become an increasingly crucial issue, especially in disaster-prone countries like Indonesia and Japan. Islamic philanthropy, through instruments such as zakat, sadaqah, and waqf, has great potential to provide humanitarian aid that can reduce the impact of natural disasters (Azhar et al., 2022). However, despite the active role of many Islamic philanthropic organizations in providing assistance, their contribution is often not visible or well-organized. Coordination between Islamic philanthropic institutions and governments is often limited, which can hinder the effectiveness of disaster response efforts. Additionally, local communities often lack a sufficient understanding of how to utilize Islamic philanthropy in emergency situations (Amar, 2017). In this context, although Islamic philanthropy has significant potential, its management in disaster response still requires serious attention. Therefore, it is crucial for countries like Indonesia and



Japan to optimize the management of Islamic philanthropy so that it can have a more substantial impact in disaster response. This will create a more resilient system for addressing natural disasters and help accelerate post-disaster recovery (Azhar et al., 2022).

Although Islamic philanthropy plays a significant role in disaster management, previous studies have often not explored in-depth how this role can be optimized in specific contexts, such as natural disasters (Nurdin, 2024). Most studies only highlight the theoretical aspects or general implementation of Islamic philanthropy without connecting it to disaster response, which has unique characteristics and needs (Haruming Tyas et al., 2022). Existing research, while acknowledging the role of zakat in disaster management, does not thoroughly examine how Islamic philanthropy collaborates with national or international disaster management systems. Therefore, it is important to address this gap with research focusing on how the mechanisms of Islamic philanthropy can be more effectively applied in natural disaster management. This study aims to provide new insights into the integration of Islamic philanthropy in disaster management, both in the mitigation phase and post-disaster recovery. Thus, this study will enrich the existing literature with a more structured and contextual approach, which ultimately can help enhance the role of Islamic philanthropy in natural disaster contexts, particularly in disaster-prone countries like Indonesia and Japan.

This research aims to fill the gap in existing literature regarding the optimization of Islamic philanthropy's role in disaster management in Indonesia and Japan. The main focus of this study is how Islamic philanthropy can make a more significant contribution to disaster mitigation and post-disaster recovery. Alongside this, the study also aims to explore the challenges faced in utilizing Islamic philanthropic instruments, such as zakat, sadaqah, and waqf, in the context of natural disasters. Additionally, this research will examine how Islamic philanthropy can collaborate with governments and international organizations in responding to disasters. On the other hand, best practices in integrating Islamic philanthropy into disaster management systems will also be explored, with the aim of providing concrete recommendations that can be implemented by various stakeholders. By answering these questions, this research is expected to provide a deeper understanding of how to strengthen the role of Islamic philanthropy in responding to natural disasters and develop more effective collaboration models between Islamic philanthropic institutions, governments, and international organizations. This is crucial to ensure that aid is more organized, targeted, and impactful for disaster victims.

This study argues that the role of Islamic philanthropy in disaster management is not yet optimal due to several interrelated factors. One of the key

factors hindering its effectiveness is the lack of coordination between Islamic philanthropic institutions and the government in responding to disasters. Often, despite the significant potential of Islamic philanthropic organizations to help, they are not always able to operate efficiently due to coordination challenges and differing priorities between these organizations and the government. Furthermore, local communities often lack understanding of how to utilize Islamic philanthropy instruments in disaster situations, which in turn impedes the effective distribution of aid. Therefore, there is a need for social engineering that involves educating communities about the mechanisms of Islamic philanthropy in disaster contexts, as well as developing systems that enable better collaboration between Islamic philanthropic institutions, governments, and international communities. Thus, to enhance the effectiveness of Islamic philanthropy in disaster management, more inclusive and coordinated policies are needed. This study suggests that, through careful planning, community education, and transparent management systems, Islamic philanthropy can play a larger role in reducing the impact of disasters and aiding post-disaster recovery.

Research Methodology

This study uses a qualitative approach through a literature review, focusing on analyzing academic documents, articles, books, and publications related to the integration of Islamic philanthropy, particularly zakat, waqf, and sadaqah, in the disaster management systems of Indonesia and Japan. This method was chosen because it is suitable for delving deeply into the social, cultural, and religious phenomena underlying the application of Islamic philanthropy in disaster management. A literature review allows the researcher to examine various academic perspectives on the role of zakat, waqf, and sadaqah in the context of natural disasters, as well as the challenges encountered in their application in both countries (Frost et al., 2016; Khan, 2014). The research will begin by collecting relevant literature from various academic databases such as Google Scholar, Scopus, and Web of Science, with selection criteria including topic relevance, author credibility, and the contribution of the literature to understanding the application of Islamic philanthropy in disaster management (Mogotsi et al., 2022; Taqwiem & Rachmadi, 2022). Various studies on the integration of Islamic philanthropy into disaster management systems in Indonesia and Japan, as well as the socio-cultural challenges arising during disasters, will be thoroughly examined.

Data analysis will be conducted using a thematic approach, where key patterns identified in the literature, such as community acceptance of zakat and sadaqah, implementation challenges, and the role of Islamic philanthropy in building social resilience in both countries, will be critically analyzed (Byrne,

2001; Furlong & Lester, 2023). With this method, this research aims to make a significant theoretical contribution to the field of Islamic philanthropy, particularly in the context of disaster management. It is also expected to provide new insights into how zakat, waqf, and sadaqah can be optimized to strengthen community resilience and accelerate post-disaster recovery. Moreover, this study will demonstrate how the integration of Islamic values within disaster management frameworks can enhance the effectiveness of disaster responses both in Indonesia and Japan (Mogotsi & Saruchera, 2022; Gael et al., 2021).

Optimizing Islamic Philanthropy in Natural Disaster Mitigation: The Potential of Zakat, Sadaqah, and Waqf

The optimization of Islamic philanthropy, particularly through mechanisms such as Zakat, Sadaqah, and Waqf, plays a key role in natural disaster mitigation. These forms of charity are deeply connected to Islamic teachings and offer great potential to strengthen community resilience and post-disaster recovery. Zakat, one of the five pillars of Islam, is a mandatory form of charity designed to redistribute wealth among Muslims. Zakat is intended to assist the poor and needy, and when collected and distributed in an organized manner, it can strengthen community support during times of disaster. Research has shown that Islamic banks are required to allocate a portion of their profits for Zakat, which can be used for social welfare, especially in emergencies (Umar, 2022). This systematic approach to charity ensures that resources are available for rapid response efforts, enhancing the overall effectiveness of disaster relief initiatives. This highlights the significant potential of Zakat in creating a quick and organized response to natural disasters.

On the other hand, the role of Sadaqah (voluntary charity) in disaster relief is equally important. Unlike Zakat, which is obligatory, Sadaqah is voluntary and can be given at any time, offering the flexibility that allows individuals and organizations to respond to emerging needs during disasters. Research indicates that individuals with strong religious beliefs are more likely to engage in charitable giving during crises, as their faith motivates them to help others in need (Chetioui & Lebdaoui, 2022). This intrinsic motivation can be leveraged to create a culture of giving that responds to the specific challenges posed by natural disasters. The availability of Sadaqah enables quick and ongoing donations that align with the evolving nature of disaster situations. Therefore, Sadaqah becomes a vital instrument in disaster management, requiring flexibility and speed in response.

Waqf, another mechanism of Islamic philanthropy, offers significant potential for disaster recovery and long-term support. Waqf involves the donation of assets for charitable purposes, and the income generated from these

assets can be used for post-disaster recovery. Waqf can provide sustainable funding for recovery efforts, as proper management of Waqf ensures the availability of resources for rebuilding and community support initiatives. Establishing Waqf funds specifically for disaster relief can ensure that resources are available not only for immediate response but also for long-term recovery and resilience-building (Ab Shatar et al., 2021). One relevant example is how Waqf can be invested in infrastructure or public services that help disaster victims rebuild their lives. Additionally, integrating Waqf into disaster management frameworks can enhance community involvement and strengthen solidarity and shared responsibility. Therefore, Waqf plays a crucial role in ensuring the continuity of aid and systematic long-term recovery.

The effectiveness of Islamic philanthropy in disaster response is further strengthened by the role of faith-based organizations (FBOs) in disaster-affected areas. Research shows that Islamic FBOs are often at the forefront of providing aid in disaster-stricken regions, utilizing their extensive networks to deliver assistance effectively (Nurdin, 2024). These organizations hold a unique position in mobilizing community support and coordinating relief efforts, leveraging their strong relationships within the communities they serve. Collaboration between Islamic FBOs and local governments can accelerate resource allocation and design more efficient disaster response strategies. Furthermore, with the advancement of technology, particularly artificial intelligence (AI) and information technology, the distribution process for Zakat and Sadaqah can be streamlined. AI-based solutions can help address issues of transparency, accountability, and identifying eligible recipients, thus optimizing resource allocation during disaster situations (Laylo, 2023). The use of technology can also simplify the donation process and improve the efficiency of the overall philanthropic efforts, ensuring that aid reaches those most in need in a timely manner. This integration of technology can further enhance the effectiveness of Islamic philanthropy in natural disaster mitigation.

Challenges and Barriers in Utilizing Islamic Philanthropy for Disaster Management in Indonesia and Japan

The utilization of Islamic philanthropy in disaster management presents both challenges and opportunities in Indonesia and Japan. The differing socio-cultural contexts in these two countries significantly influence how Islamic charitable practices are integrated into disaster response frameworks. In Indonesia, where Islamic teachings strongly emphasize community support and mutual aid, organizations such as Santri Tanggap Bencana (Santana) have emerged as key actors in disaster management efforts. Santana, consisting of students from Islamic educational institutions, exemplifies how religiously motivated groups

can effectively mobilize resources and volunteers during times of crisis (Rokib, 2012). This grassroots approach not only strengthens community resilience but also aligns with Islamic principles of *zakat* (obligatory charity) and *sadaqah* (voluntary charity), both of which are crucial for social welfare (Umar, 2022). However, despite the significant potential of Islamic philanthropy in enhancing disaster management, several obstacles hinder its effectiveness. One major challenge is the lack of a coherent regulatory framework that integrates Islamic charitable contributions into national disaster management policies. In Indonesia, disaster management regulations are often criticized for poor implementation and lack of coherence, which reduces the impact of philanthropic efforts (Lestari et al., 2024).

Additionally, the fragmentation of charitable organizations can lead to inefficiencies and duplication of efforts, making it difficult to coordinate disaster responses effectively (Haruming Tyas et al., 2022). This issue is compounded by the fact that many Islamic organizations operate independently, which may result in a lack of synergy with government disaster management strategies (Chandra et al., 2020). In Japan, the integration of Islamic philanthropy into disaster management is less visible due to a predominantly secular society. However, lessons learned from Japan's experience in disaster management, particularly after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, highlight the importance of community resilience and mutual aid (Fukuma et al., 2017; Nishiyama, 2014). The Japanese community has shown remarkable capacity for collective action in the face of disasters, which could serve as a model for Islamic philanthropic organizations to enhance their disaster response capabilities. The emphasis on community cohesion and preparedness in Japan could provide insights to Islamic organizations on how to structure their disaster response initiatives more effectively (Husna et al., 2021).

Furthermore, cultural differences between Indonesia and Japan present additional challenges for Islamic philanthropy in disaster management. In Indonesia, strong communal ties and religious motivation can drive faster and more emotional responses to disasters, while in Japan, the approach tends to be more structured and systematic (Naura Lulu Farhanrika et al., 2023). These cultural differences in disaster response attitudes require tailored strategies that respect and integrate local values and practices. For example, while Islamic organizations in Indonesia may focus more on immediate relief efforts, organizations in Japan often emphasize long-term recovery and resilience building (Soebandrija & Meilani, 2022). Another critical challenge is the perception of Islamic philanthropy in disaster management. In Indonesia, although Islamic charitable organizations are generally well-accepted, there is skepticism regarding their effectiveness and transparency (Husna et al., 2021).

This skepticism can hinder the mobilization of resources and volunteers, as potential donors may hesitate to contribute to organizations that lack clear accountability mechanisms.

In contrast, in Japan, where a secular framework dominates, Islamic philanthropy may face additional barriers related to cultural acceptance and understanding of Islamic practices (Alomi et al., 2023). Bridging this gap requires significant efforts to educate the public about the role of Islamic philanthropy in disaster response and to demonstrate its alignment with broader humanitarian goals. Additionally, the operational capacity of Islamic organizations in both countries can vary significantly. In Indonesia, many Islamic charitable organizations are grassroots-level entities with limited resources and a lack of expertise in disaster management (Rokib, 2012). These limitations can restrict their ability to respond to large-scale disasters, where coordination with government and international agencies is crucial. On the other hand, in Japan, the presence of a well-established disaster management system and trained personnel may overshadow the contributions of Islamic organizations, which may struggle to gain recognition and support (Nishiyama, 2014).

Strengthening the operational capacity of Islamic charitable organizations through training and partnerships with established disaster management agencies can enhance their effectiveness in both countries. The role of technology in disaster management is another area where Islamic philanthropy may face challenges. In Japan, the integration of advanced technology in disaster response, such as artificial intelligence and data analytics, has significantly improved the efficiency and effectiveness of disaster management efforts (Naura Lulu Farhanrika et al., 2023). However, many Islamic organizations in Indonesia may lack access to such technologies or the expertise to use them effectively (Tyas et al., 2022). Bridging this technological gap is crucial to enhancing the disaster response capabilities of Islamic charitable organizations, enabling them to leverage data-driven approaches for better resource allocation and impact assessment.

Moreover, the psychological and social dimensions of disaster response should not be overlooked. In both Indonesia and Japan, disasters can pose significant mental health challenges among affected populations (Fukuma et al., 2017; Shultz et al., 2013). Islamic organizations have a unique opportunity to address these challenges by integrating psychosocial support into their disaster response efforts, drawing on Islamic teachings that emphasize compassion and community support (Husna et al., 2021). However, the integration of mental health services in disaster response remains underexplored within Islamic philanthropy, requiring further research and development in this area.

Aligning Islamic philanthropy with international disaster management frameworks, such as the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, presents another avenue for enhancing its effectiveness. By aligning their objectives with global standards, Islamic organizations can enhance their credibility and increase their chances of receiving support from international donors and agencies (Egawa, 2021). This alignment also facilitates knowledge exchange and collaboration with other humanitarian organizations, fostering a more integrated approach to disaster management.

In conclusion, while Islamic philanthropy holds great potential to improve disaster management in Indonesia and Japan, several challenges must be addressed to maximize its impact. These challenges include regulatory fragmentation, cultural differences, limitations in operational capacity, technological gaps, and the need for mental health integration. By fostering collaboration between Islamic organizations and government agencies, enhancing operational capacity through training and technology, and aligning with international frameworks, the effectiveness of Islamic philanthropy in disaster management can be significantly improved. Ultimately, collective efforts to bridge these gaps will not only enhance disaster response capabilities but also contribute to building more resilient communities in both Indonesia and Japan

Collaboration Between Islamic Philanthropic Institutions, Government, and International Organizations: Building a More Effective Disaster Response

The collaboration between Islamic philanthropic institutions, governments, and international organizations is crucial for building a more effective disaster response framework. This collaboration is not only beneficial but also necessary, considering the increasing complexity and frequency of disasters worldwide. Integrating Islamic philanthropy into disaster response mechanisms can enhance the effectiveness of relief efforts, especially in areas where Islamic values and community ties play a significant role in social cohesion and support systems. Islamic philanthropy, often manifested through Zakat (obligatory charity), Infaq (voluntary donations), and Sadaqah (charitable giving), has been recognized as a powerful tool for community empowerment and economic resilience during crises. Taqwiem and Rachmadi emphasize that collaboration among stakeholders—including central and local governments, the private sector, and community organizations—is essential to optimize these philanthropic resources to address the economic challenges during disasters (Taqwiem & Rachmadi, 2022). This collaborative approach can result in a more structured and efficient response, ensuring that resources are allocated where they are most needed.

Moreover, the role of philanthropy in disaster response is not limited to emergency aid but also includes long-term recovery and resilience building. Research by Azhar et al. highlights that philanthropic efforts can significantly reduce the negative economic impacts of disasters in the ASEAN-9 region by narrowing income gaps and reducing poverty levels (Azhar et al., 2022). These findings underscore the importance of integrating philanthropic strategies into government policies to strengthen disaster preparedness and response frameworks. By harnessing the power of Islamic philanthropic institutions, governments can create a more robust safety net for affected communities. The globalization of risk and humanitarian aid has further emphasized the role of faith-based philanthropy in disaster response. Cornelio discusses how this resurgence is not merely a trend but a necessary evolution in humanitarian efforts that acknowledges the significance of faith-based organizations in delivering aid (Cornelio & Teehankee, 2024). These organizations often have established networks and trust within communities, enabling a faster and more effective response during crises. Therefore, fostering partnerships between Islamic philanthropic institutions and international organizations can enhance the overall effectiveness of disaster response initiatives.

In addition to the direct benefits of collaboration, there are also strategic advantages to integrating Islamic philanthropy into disaster governance. Song et al. argue that crowdsourcing and community engagement are critical to effective disaster governance, as they leverage the collective knowledge and skills of various groups (Song et al., 2020). By involving Islamic philanthropic organizations in this process, governments can tap into local knowledge and resources, ensuring that responses are culturally relevant and contextually appropriate. Furthermore, the role of government in optimizing structural relationships among stakeholders is crucial. Kong and Sun stress the need for clear delineation of responsibilities among government entities, businesses, and philanthropic organizations in disaster management (Kong & Sun, 2021). Such clarity can prevent overlap and gaps in response efforts, ensuring that all parties work towards the common goal of providing effective disaster relief.

The integration of a disaster governance framework that includes philanthropic institutions can also enhance resilience at the community level. Wilkinson's study on secular approaches to disaster response highlights the importance of incorporating diverse values and practices into governance structures (Wilkinson, 2018). By recognizing the contributions of Islamic philanthropic organizations, governments can create more inclusive and effective disaster response strategies that resonate with the values of the communities they serve. Additionally, the importance of training and capacity-building for local government officials cannot be overlooked. Shin notes that

equipping civil servants with the necessary skills and knowledge to manage disasters effectively is critical to successful governance (Shin, 2017). Collaborative training programs involving Islamic philanthropic institutions can enhance the overall capacity of local governments to respond to disasters, ensuring they are prepared to act swiftly and effectively.

The relationship between philanthropy and government continues to evolve, with increasing recognition of the complementary roles both play in addressing social issues. Farley discusses how philanthropy now focuses not only on financial contributions but also on influencing public policy and driving social change (Webb Farley, 2018). This shift offers opportunities for Islamic philanthropic institutions to engage more actively with governments and international organizations in shaping disaster response policies. In conclusion, the collaboration between Islamic philanthropic institutions, governments, and international organizations is essential for building a more effective disaster response framework. By leveraging the strengths of each stakeholder, a more resilient and responsive system can be created to address the multifaceted challenges posed by disasters. This collaborative approach not only strengthens immediate relief efforts but also contributes to long-term recovery and resilience building in affected communities.

Best Practices in Integrating Islamic Philanthropy into Natural Disaster Management Systems: Case Studies in Indonesia and Japan

Integrating Islamic philanthropy into natural disaster management systems is an effort that involves multiple dimensions and requires careful consideration of cultural, social, and operational frameworks. This integration is highly relevant in countries such as Indonesia and Japan, which have experienced major natural disasters and have developed various disaster management systems. The role of Islamic philanthropy, marked by principles of community support and mutual assistance, can enhance these systems by providing additional resources and frameworks for effective response and recovery. In Indonesia, its vulnerability to disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions necessitates strong disaster management strategies that integrate various sectors of society, including religious organizations. Islamic philanthropy, through zakat (charitable giving), waqf (endowment), and sadaqah (voluntary donations), can mobilize significant resources for disaster relief efforts. Mogotsi et al. highlight the importance of a lean mindset in disaster response, suggesting that philanthropic organizations can enhance operational efficiency by adopting collaborative practices and feedback mechanisms from the community (Mogotsi et al., 2022; Mogotsi & Saruchera, 2023). This approach aligns well with Islamic principles that advocate for community involvement and support during crises.

Furthermore, the integration of Islamic philanthropy in disaster management can be facilitated by leveraging local wisdom and community networks. Atmojo et al. emphasize the importance of thematic learning integrated with local knowledge to rebuild disaster preparedness and response strategies (Atmojo et al., 2018). This is particularly relevant in Indonesia, where local customs and religious practices play a significant role in community resilience. By integrating Islamic values and community engagement into disaster education and training programs, organizations can foster a culture of preparedness that resonates with local populations (Partini & Hidayat, 2024). In Japan, the experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake demonstrates the critical role of community resilience and mutual assistance in disaster recovery. Japan's disaster management system emphasizes the importance of local networks and community engagement, which can be further strengthened by the principles of Islamic philanthropy. For example, the concept of mutual assistance, as discussed by Chandra et al., is crucial in strengthening disaster risk reduction capacities at the community level (Chandra et al., 2020). By integrating Islamic philanthropic initiatives into the existing disaster management framework, Japan can benefit from additional resources and support systems that align with the community solidarity values already present.

Moreover, the use of technology and information and communication systems (ICT) in disaster management can be significantly enhanced through the involvement of Islamic philanthropic organizations. Gael et al. discuss the need for collaboration among various stakeholders to enable effective disaster responses (Gael et al., 2021). Islamic organizations can play an essential role in this collaboration by utilizing their networks to disseminate information and mobilize resources during emergencies. The application of mobile apps and digital platforms for disaster preparedness, as suggested by Ghazali, can increase community engagement and facilitate timely responses to disasters (Ghazali et al., 2023). Training and capacity-building are also key components in integrating Islamic philanthropy into disaster management systems. In Indonesia, training for public health workers and other medical personnel in disaster management is crucial for effective response strategies (Martono et al., 2019; Putra et al., 2021). By integrating Islamic values into these training programs, healthcare workers can be better prepared to address the specific needs of disaster-affected communities, especially in areas where Islamic philanthropy plays a significant role in providing aid and support.

The role of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in disaster management should not be overlooked. Johnson et al. highlight the importance of CSR initiatives in both domestic and international disaster contexts, suggesting that corporations can make significant contributions to disaster relief efforts (Johnson

et al., 2011). Islamic philanthropic organizations can collaborate with companies to enhance their CSR strategies, ensuring that disaster relief efforts are aligned with the needs and values of the communities. This collaboration can lead to more effective resource allocation and a stronger community response to disasters. In conclusion, the integration of Islamic philanthropy into natural disaster management systems in Indonesia and Japan provides a unique opportunity to enhance community resilience and improve disaster response strategies. By leveraging local wisdom, encouraging community engagement, and utilizing technology, Islamic philanthropic organizations can play a critical role in supporting disaster management efforts. A collaborative approach that emphasizes mutual assistance and community involvement is closely aligned with Islamic principles and the existing frameworks in both countries, ultimately leading to more effective disaster preparedness and recovery.

Conclusion

The integration of Islamic philanthropy into disaster management presents a significant opportunity to enhance resilience and recovery in both Indonesia and Japan. While Indonesia's high disaster vulnerability makes philanthropic mechanisms like zakat, waqf, and sadaqah vital for mobilizing resources and community support, challenges in regulatory coordination and technological access limit their full potential. Conversely, Japan's advanced, structured disaster systems could be enriched by the ethical and community-centric principles of Islamic philanthropy, fostering greater social solidarity. A critical gap exists in technological capacity, with Indonesia requiring substantial investment in training and infrastructure for philanthropic organizations. Ultimately, fostering cross-national learning—where Japan shares technological and systemic expertise, and Indonesia offers a model for faith-based community mobilization—can create more adaptive, inclusive, and effective disaster management frameworks in both contexts.

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