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Inter-Organisational Networks for Post-Disaster Recovery. An Integrative Review.

This paper examines the characteristics of inter-organisational networks in post-disaster recovery, focusing on their ability to adapt and remain effective over time. While extensive research has explored such networks during the preparedness and response phases, their role in long-term recovery has received less attention. Unlike the response phase, recovery is a multi-year process involving the sustainable restoration of the physical, economic, social and psychological well-being of affected communities. To provide a more systematic basis for studying the sustainability of inter-organisational networks, this study conducts an integrative review, synthesising knowledge across research traditions to identify common themes. In line with the PRISMA framework, a keyword search was conducted in major academic databases, including Scopus, EBSCOhost and Web of Science. The selection process involved screening of titles and abstracts, followed by a full-text review based on pre-defined inclusion criteria, resulting in 17 papers using a network approach. Inductive coding was combined with deductive coding based on the collaborative resilience framework, covering diversity of actors and resources, trust and reciprocity, leadership, community buy-in and structure. The findings show that recovery networks often start out with centralised coordination models, but tend to evolve into more decentralised forms over time. However, even if decentralisation is desirable, this does not always result in a more effective recovery. In fact, it can lead to fragmentation, unclear roles and asymmetries between national and local actors. Recovery networks evolve within hybrid governance systems, where effectiveness depends on balancing authority, resources, and local agency over time.

Keywords/Topics

Post-disaster recovery, inter-organisational network, sustainable cooperation, integrative review

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