

**A PAPER ON PROGRESS IN  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
HYOGO FRAMEWORK FOR  
ACTION BY THE GOVERNMENT  
OF UGANDA**

**TO BE PRESENTED AT THE FIRST  
GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR  
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN  
GENEVA, 5-6 JUNE 2007**

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**MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
RELIEF, DISASTER  
PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES**

Mr. Chairman,  
The Honourable Ministers,  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to express my gratitude and that of my delegation for the invitation to attend this very important meeting.

**Progress on implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action by the Uganda Government.**

Uganda is faced with a number of disasters, which are both natural and man made. They include; drought, floods, wild fires, earthquake, civil strife, landslides, epidemics including HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, etc.

Uganda has put into place a number of measures to combat the hazards/threats which are in line with the Hyogo Framework of Action as follows:

Uganda has prioritised Disaster Risk Reduction through its inclusion into the **National Development Plan** (PEAP). In particular, this action is for:

- Ensuring Government and Development Partners support Disaster Risk Reduction
- Linking DRR with Poverty Reduction and hence increase its visibility and concern
- Ensure DRR mainstreaming in all sectors and promote participation of all in DRR.

Under the National Development Plan, known as the Poverty Eradication Action Plan, a secretariat for Disaster Management has been established to coordinate and facilitate implementation of the Pillar.

A Draft policy for **Disaster Risk Reduction** is in place and it is under review to incorporate emerging issues like climate change, global warming etc.

**Other policies and institutions** that are intended for mitigating disasters are in place under other sectors of government i.e National Environment Management Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Ministry of Health, National Forestry Authority,, Ministry of Water and Environment.

**An Institutional Framework** is already in place to facilitate implementation of the policy on DRR. It runs from the National to Community levels.

At the National level, we have the National Platform for DRR. This is a body that brings together all actors in Disaster Risk Reduction. It is a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary body. It comprises line Government Ministries, the UN Agencies, NGOs, Bilateral and other Development Partners. It promotes coordination, networking, joint planning and information sharing on DRR.

The same arrangement is at the sub-national levels through the decentralised system of governance e.g. the District Disaster Management Committees at the District level and the Sub-County Disaster Management Committees below the district level. This is the institutional mechanism on which DRR is being managed.

### **Early warning**

Government of Uganda carried out vulnerability mapping and livelihood zoning for the entire country. This is intended to establish hazards and threats in each region or district. This is information that is used for planning, preparedness, early warning and response.

In addition, government has put in place various early warning systems under the key sectors like Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and fisheries, Ministry of Water and Environment (Department of Meteorology). The various systems are intended to handle threats and emergencies in their respective mandates. They send out accurate and timely information to the public on an impending disaster, set aside resources for preparedness

and take lead in response in case a disaster or emergency erupts.

Office of the prime Ministry has put into place a resource centre to improve on information flow and management between partners and the end users.

### **Challenges**

While attempts have been made to operationalise the Hyogo Framework within the context of our Disaster Management concerns, there are indeed several challenges that still need to be addressed.

These include:

#### **1. Weak institutional framework**

Disaster Risk Reduction in all its forms pose a big challenge to new institutional mechanisms that have been put in place especially at sub-national levels where the existing capacity both in forms of skill, logistics and equipment are low. It is likely to take some time before commendable level of capacity is built due to budgetary constraints.

#### **2. Regional nature of disasters**

Manmade disasters arising from infiltration of small arms and light weapons, especially among the pastoralist communities, necessitates effective regional collaboration through established platforms dedicated to Disaster Risk Reduction. In other cases, such platforms need to be strengthened such as at the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) as well as East African Community. Support is still necessary in this respect.

3. Need to create an effective Centre for Coordination of various agencies in Disaster Risk Reduction intended to enhance effective flow of information, confidence building, resource mobilisation and response and synergy among relevant institutions.

Thank You.