

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROGRAMME FOR THE GAMBIA

Presentation

BACKGROUND

- The Gambia has been experiencing quite a significant number of disastrous events of both natural and man-made origin.
- Recent information on the hazard profile of The Gambia and its vulnerability assessment shows that these disaster are related to climate change, biological, natural and man-made hazards.
- Disasters have caused great losses to live and property and have pushed several people into poverty.

- The negative socio-economic impact of these disasters is far reaching and hampers the achievements of the country's overall development efforts particularly the Vision 2020, the PRSP and the Millennium Development Goals.
- It is therefore increasingly becoming a major developmental issue of urgent concern for the Government, development partners and local communities.
- In view of this situation, The Gambia Government since 2006 with the assistance of the UNDP has taken committed initiative to develop the national capacity of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) by formulating a National Disaster Management policy and enacting the disaster management Act 2008, aimed at building safe and resilient communities by enhancing the use and access to knowledge and information in disaster management at all level of society

- The Policy also establishes the strategic priorities and targets to guide and inform practitioners, and highlights the need to institutionalise and mainstream disaster risk reduction approaches in national development planning strategies.
- A strategic Action Plan was also developed in 2008 and is underpinned by a comprehensive disaster management approach that seeks to achieve the right balance of **prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response.**
- The strategy is based on the realisation of the multidimensional nature of disaster which needs to be mainstreamed into the overall national development process.

- The Government has recently established the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) with the mandate to plan, coordinate the implementation and monitor all activities relating to disaster risk reduction programmes throughout the country both at national and local levels.
- The Government disaster risk management approach is now focusing more on risk reduction and preparedness rather than on relief and rehabilitation in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).
- Other measures taken by Government include the establishment of the Disaster Management Council whose membership comprised mainly Cabinet Ministers and it is chaired by the Vice President of the Republic.

- The Government has also dedicated funds for disaster management by establishing the National Disaster Fund.
- The Gambia has demonstrated several examples of best practices in disaster risk reduction and has demonstrated total commitment at the highest political level.

These commitments include:

- Recognising disaster risk reduction as development driver in national development policy and strategy.
- Building national capacity in disaster management e.g. developing the Gambia National Disaster Management Programme (2008-2011).
- The recognition by the National Planning Commission that DRR is a developmental issue and is to be integrated in the national agenda particularly the PRSP and the MDG as well as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)

- Government has also in recent years recognised the country's vulnerability to climate change effects and the negative impact they have on the country's development.
- It has also recognise the symbiotic relationship between disaster reduction and climate change and the urgent need to integrate the two.

JUSTIFICATION FOR A NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROGRAMME

- The Government of The Gambia's high commitment and leadership to develop a National Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Programme has strong support from the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and other development partners. However there is an urgent need to further develop and strengthen national and local capacity for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation in order to achieve the national objectives.

- The institutional framework that has been developed will however need to be operationalised by developing the capacity of all stakeholders at all levels to effectively execute, manage and coordinate interventions.
- The programme will serve as the road map and building blocks for operationalising and achieving disaster management and climate change adaptation goals and objectives in The Gambia.
- The programme will serve as a critical instrument to capacitate national and local agencies involved in DRR and climate change adaptation.

- The Consultant's Terms of Reference and Scope of Work are detailed out in pages 10 and 11 of the document. The main deliverable/output expected from the Consultant is the development and production of a multi-year national disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation programme, fully costed and propose a framework for a coordinated donor support for the programme.
- The programme is estimated to cost US \$5million over the five year programme period.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The overall objective of the national programme is:

- To operationalise the institutional framework and strengthen coordination mechanisms.
- To build capacity on DRR and CCA.
- To integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation approaches.

These will ensure a proper and effective mechanism for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

Other programme objectives include:

- Mainstreaming DRR and CCA in national development plans and programmes.
- Raise public awareness of DRR and CCA through advocacy, education and sensitisation.
- Consolidate and further strengthen existing/proposed early warning systems.
- Elaborate national rapid response and early recovery mechanisms.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology and approaches adopted for the preparation of the programme were as follows:

a) Literature review.

b) Design of a matrix for information gathering.

c) Consultation with various stakeholders including humanitarian aid actors, national institutions, donor partners and stakeholders at the regional and community level.

- d) Field work focus group discussion with the communities and regional authorities.
- e) Analysis of results of the consultation and data and information collected from the desk review.
- f) Preparation of the programme and submission of a zero draft.
- g) Validation of the proposed programme.

STRUCTURE OF THE STRATEGIC PROGRAMME OF ACTION 2009-2013

The national Disaster and Climate Adaptation Programme is in five chapters and is structured as follows:

- Chapter I is the Executive Summary.
- Chapter II provides background and overview of the national situation on disaster in The Gambia and highlights the justification and objectives of the programme.
- Chapter III presents the hazard and vulnerability profile of The Gambia.

- Chapter IV provides an assessment of DRR & CCA national capacities and review of institutional framework for DRR and CCA in The Gambia.
- Chapter V is presented in a matrix form and deals with the strategic integrated programme of action for 2009-2013.
- It also presents the budget for the implementation of the programme and deals with monitoring evaluation and management of the programme.