

Malawi

National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2009-2011)

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Reporting period : 2009-2011

Last updated on : 1 October 2010

Print date : 15 Aug 2011

Reporting language : English

An HFA Monitor update published by PreventionWeb

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/africa/mwi/>

Outcomes for 2007-2009

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Outcomes:

Increased knowledge in disaster risk reduction (DRR) among government, non- governmental organisation personnel and communities. The Department has been conducting capacity building programs for DRR personnel in key line ministries and district assemblies through training sessions and workshops. A number of projects on DRR have been implemented with support from cooperating partners. These include the Post Floods Early Recovery project which aimed at building resilience of affected households; the DRR Mainstreaming project which targeted flood mitigation ; and the DRR Policy project which aims at strengthening capacity for effective coordination and implementation of DRR.

Improved coordination and communication flow among DRR stakeholders including donors and NGOs in the country.

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Outcomes:

Increased capacity through capacity building training sessions at national, district and community levels, 7 new staff at central level and 14 at district level have been recruited by DoDMA. For improved communication and information sharing the Government procured modern equipment (e.g. computer and network equipment, satellite phones, VHF/HF material and vehicles). Early Warning Systems at community level have been put in place in certain flood-prone watersheds.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Outcomes:

Improved harmonisation of DRR implementation by various stakeholders through the development of the following: National DRR Framework; Operational Guidelines; Roadmap for the development of DRR Platform; development of an inventory of DRR stakeholders (Database) and DRM Handbook, (Re)construction Guidelines, developed after the series of Karonga Earthquakes.

Strategic goals

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Strategic Goal Statement:

DRR is mainstreamed into policies, strategies and, programmes at all levels by 2015.

Malawi recognises the importance of effective integration of DRR into national policies, strategies and planning. Such integration should include programmes funded by national budget as well as multilateral and bilateral cooperation; and donor assisted NGO projects. However, integration is not an end in itself rather the effective implementation at all levels require development of capacity of institutions and staff and appropriate resource allocation. Lessons also suggest that effective mainstreaming require active consideration of DRR while individual projects funded by Government's own sources or external resources are formulated and evaluated. This is an important step to ensure that projects' outcomes are disaster resilient, and they reduce vulnerabilities of the population and not increase them.

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Strategic Goal Statement:

Knowledge, education and innovations are used to promote a culture of safety and adoption of interventions that enhance resilience, including strengthened capacity for effective response and recovery from disasters at all levels.

In order to promote strong local culture for DRR, investment and proactive measures are needed to support local development structures such as development committees (VDCs and ADCs) and CPCs at district and city assembly and below levels for a response orientated DRR.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Strategic Goal Statement:

An effective system is in place to identify assess and monitor national and cross border risks, leading to a people-centered early warning system strengthened at national and local levels.

To adopt tools and mechanisms for incorporation of risk reduction preparedness, response and recovery programmes.

Disaster risk reduction is only possible when people and institutions are aware and motivated to participate in activities aimed at reducing risks. It is important to develop essential skills and knowledge to integrate and manage DRR.

Priority for action 1

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 1

National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralised responsibilities and capacities at all levels.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is DRR included in development plans and strategies?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: National development plan

> Malawi Growth and Development Strategy 2006-2011 (2006)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15142_mgdsnovember2006mepd.pdf [PDF 2.88 MB]

* No: Sector strategies and plans

* Yes: Climate change policy and strategy

> Malawi National Adaptation Plan for Action (2006)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15142_malawinapa.pdf [PDF 1.37 MB]

* No: Poverty reduction strategy papers

* Yes: Common Country Assessments (CCA)/ UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)

Description:

National Policy in the process of being developed.

Context & Constraints:

Draft Policy expected in December 2010. Decentralised structures will be included in line with the existing National Policy on Decentralisation. However, authority and especially resources are not consistently being delegated.

Capacity at National/central level and at local/community level has been increased significantly.

Capacitating Districts and linking them to the National and local structures is a core focus. Technical and human capacity has been increased in the last few months with new communication equipment and dedicated DRM Officeres at district level.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 2

Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is there a specific allocation of budget for DRR in the national budget?

Yes

Means of verification:

* 0.016 % allocated from national budget

* 4000000 USD allocated from overseas development assistance fund

* 0 USD allocated to hazard proofing sectoral development investments (e.g transport, agriculture, infrastructure)

* 500000 USD allocated to stand alone DRR investments (e.g. DRR institutions, risk assessments, early warning systems)

* 1155000 USD allocated to disaster proofing post disaster reconstruction

Description:

Various DRR initiatives have been undertaken/implemented. However due to lack of understanding of DRR, most of these activities are not classified as DRR.

Context & Constraints:

Awareness raising is a long process and has so far been conducted at National technical level and for some Districts for District Commissioners and the district technical personnel. Resources both at National as well as District level is very limited due the lack of advocacy/understanding of the investment returns of DRR.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 3

Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Do local governments have legal responsibility and budget allocations for DRR?

No

Means of verification:

* No: Legislation

* No: Budget allocations for DRR to local government

Description:

There are a number of community based DRR Projects being implemented by various actors in the country and communities actively participate through the structures that are provided for in the Disaster Preparedness and Relief Act.

Context & Constraints:

DRR implementation structures are decentralised in the country. the department works through civil protection committees at district, area and village levels. Recently, the government has recruited permanent Assistant District Disaster Risk Management Officers in fourteen flood disaster prone districts. However, inadequate resources (financial and material) are the major challenge. Community participation is also hindered by the communities' mindset which mainly focuses on disaster response rather than DRR.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 4

A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.

Level of Progress achieved:

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

Are civil society organisations , national planning institutions, key economic and development sector organisations represented in the national platform?

No

Means of verification:

* 0 civil society members (specify absolute number)

* 0 sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)

* 0 women's organisations participating in national platform (specify absolute number)

Description:

The Road map for the development of DRM Policy and the formation of the DRR Platform has been developed.

Context & Constraints:

Funds have been set aside for the development of the DRM policy and formation of the DRR National Platform.

Priority for action 2

Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 1

National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is there a national multi-hazard risk assessment available to inform planning and development decisions?

No

Means of verification:

* No: Multi-hazard risk assessment

* 0 % of schools and hospitals assessed

* 0 schools not safe from disasters (specify absolute number)

* No: Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments

* No: Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments

Description:

Malawi is developing a national geo-spatial database. Various actors are currently working towards a system whereby they will be contributing information for hazard and vulnerability analysis and risk assessments.

Context & Constraints:

Currently the country does not have a multi-hazard risk assessment tool and capacity. It conducts vulnerability assessment with regards to food security via a specialised commission (MVAC). There is a lot of data on hazards and vulnerability scattered within different institutions and organizations which is not easily accessible. Metadata and inventory list need to be standardised, harmonized and centralised.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 2

Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Are disaster losses systematically reported, monitored and analysed?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Disaster loss database

* Yes: Reports generated and used in planning

Description:

All disaster reports are compiled into the national disaster profile which is shared with various stakeholders. The information is disseminated to various actors through regular meetings, workshops and print and electronic media.

Context & Constraints:

A number of studies have been done on key hazards and vulnerabilities by different actors on some key hazards. However, there are various similar databases that need to be linked to enable a comprehensive analysis of vulnerabilities and risk analysis

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 3

Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Do risk prone communities receive timely and understandable warnings of impending hazard events?

No

Means of verification:

- * No: Early warnings acted on effectively
- * Yes: Local level preparedness
- * No: Communication systems and protocols
- * No: Active involvement of media in early warning dissemination

Description:

Some comprehensive early warning systems have been established in the country on major hazards like floods and droughts (prolonged dry spells). These include periodical weather forecasts and food security assessments and outlooks by Fewsnat and MVAC. Some projects are also implementing community based early warning systems on floods.

Context & Constraints:

While early warning systems are in place, outreach to communities need to be strengthened and more effective with adequate lead time and understandable by the communities. The early warning systems need to be strengthened through investment in improved equipment, human and financial resources and further awareness raising. Effective information and communication systems also need to be standardised, developed and/or enhanced.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 4

National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.

Level of Progress achieved:

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

Does your country participate in regional or sub-regional DRR programmes or projects?

Yes

Means of verification:

- * No: Programmes and projects addressing trans-boundary issues
- * Yes: Regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks
- * Yes: Regional or sub-regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms
- * No: Action plans addressing trans-boundary issues

Description:

In various hazard prone areas risk assessments have been conducted through the community based projects that are being implemented in the respective areas. Recently, some regional and sub-regional initiatives on regional and transboundary risks have been developed and are being implemented. These include; the Shire-Zambezi River Basin Project; and the Songwe River Basin Project.

Context & Constraints:

Participatory risk and vulnerability assessments are part of the various DRR project implementation process. However, these assessments have not been carried out on a larger scale (e.g. whole district)

and are not linked nor well coordinated to form a standard and comprehensive national hazard and vulnerability database. Malawi does receive a lot of water through rivers crossing boundaries.

Priority for action 3

Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 1

Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc)

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is there a national disaster information system publicly available?

No

Means of verification:

* No: Web page of national disaster information system

* No: Established mechanisms for accessing DRR information

Description:

Relevant information on disasters has been collected to some extent. A database has been developed recently but already Malawi Government is looking into linking it to similar information databases. There is a project proposal to publish disaster related data on the web.

Context & Constraints:

There has been limited compiling and sharing of information. There is also need to strengthen cooperation and networking among scientific community, academics, disaster planners at both public and private sector. Exchange of scientific and operational information among and across the professionals is important for effective decision making in DRR. Advocacy and use of scientific information, effective technology and standard communication is being promoted. the procurement of communication equipment including computers and satellite phones has increased access to data and information sharing possibilities .

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 2

School curricula , education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Is DRR included in the national educational curriculum?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Primary school curriculum

* No: Secondary school curriculum

* No: University curriculum

* No: Professional DRR education programmes

Description:

There is an inclusion of DRR aspects in the primary school curriculum under different subjects namely social studies, agriculture and geography. Advocacy for inclusion of DRR in Secondary, University and professional curricula is being undertaken. Although DRR has is yet to be included in the professional curricula, government in partnership with NGOs and support from donors is developing information, education and communication materials (training manuals) on DRR which will be used to train various officials involved in DRR.

Context & Constraints:

Currently, DRR stakeholders are strongly lobbying for the inclusion of DRR into education curricula at all levels. This is an advocacy issue which calls for adequate resources. Resources also need to be made available for the actual development of the course materials. Although some training materials are being developed, the lack of financial resources still remains a big challenge.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 3

Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.

Level of Progress achieved:

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

Is DRR included in the national scientific applied-research agenda/budget?

No

* No: Research outputs, products or studies

* No: Research programmes and projects

* No: Studies on the economic costs and benefits of DRR

Description:

A flood assessment tool has been developed for flood assessments by stakeholders at national, district and local levels. The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee also undertakes detailed assessments on vulnerability to food insecurity. Other stakeholders like FEWSNET also compliment with assessments on famine and food security.

Context & Constraints:

So far, there has been limited investment in research methods and tools for a multi-risk assessments has been done. Studies on cost-benefit analysis especially on floods and drought (prolonged dry spells) have been done to inform decision making. However, lack of adequate resources is a challenge in the development of research methods and tools for a multi-risk assessments. However, a detailed pilot project proposal has been developed.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 4

Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Do public education campaigns on DRR reach risk-prone communities?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Public education campaigns.

* Yes: Training of local government

* Yes: Availability of information on DRR practices at the community level

Description:

Although a countrywide public awareness strategy does not exist, government and other stakeholders are continuing to conduct awareness campaigns to the general public and officials at local level through workshops, trainings and public awareness campaigns in targeted vulnerable districts.

Context & Constraints:

Most of the awareness campaigns and training has been limited to only a few targeted rural districts and central level officials due to lack of adequate resources (financial, human and material). Many NGO's have been active in this field and a database on their activities and capacities has been developed at central level for better coordination and as a stepping stone towards a National Platform.

Priority for action 4

Reduce the underlying risk factors

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 1

Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is there a mechanism in place to protect and restore regulatory ecosystem services? (associated with wet lands, mangroves, forests etc)

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Protected areas legislation

* No: Payment for ecosystem services (PES)

* No: Integrated planning (for example coastal zone management)

* Yes: Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)

* Yes: Climate change adaptation projects and programmes

Description:

Currently, DRR is not an integral part of development planning although social protection and disaster risk management have been recognised under theme 2 of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (2006-2011). Progress has been made to strengthen the link between climate change, DRR and the environment at policy and planning levels. It is now being recognised that development projects have to be formulated, monitored and evaluated with regards to DRR considerations. A climate change adaptation programme has been developed and is being implemented and DRR stakeholders are part of this process.

Context & Constraints:

Government has developed sectoral policies and strategies including the MGDS and the NAPA. A number of sectoral strategies also exist. But disaster risk considerations are not adequately addressed in those policies and plans. This has resulted in limited investment in DRR in the national budget. This also affects capacity to fulfill its core mandate and hindering longer-term progress towards enhanced disaster resilience .

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 2

Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Do social safety nets exist to increase the resilience of risk prone households and communities?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Crop and property insurance

* Yes: Employment guarantee schemes

* Yes: Conditional cash transfers

* No: DRR aligned poverty reduction, welfare policy and programmes

* Yes: Microfinance

* Yes: Micro insurance

Description:

Most social development policies being implemented are contributing towards reducing vulnerability of populations at risk. The Social Support (Social Protection) policy which is about to be approved has clearly indicated the link between social support and DRR. A pilot cash transfer project that is currently being implemented in a number of districts in the country has positively contributed to reducing the

vulnerability of households that are being targeted most of whom are elderly and/or with orphans. The food and nutrition security policy continues to advocate for increased production of food for self sufficiency.

Context & Constraints:

Lack of adequate financial resources for implementation of planned activities. Although the social development policies and plans may have activities which can contribute to reducing vulnerability, lack of funds, sometimes, makes it difficult or impossible to implement such activities. Increased support for DRR is anticipated when there is clear ownership and commitment through formulation of policies. Lack thereof can result in the communities at risk not being assisted. For example, the social cash support programme (i.e. cash transfers) has not yet rolled out to all districts in the country.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 3

Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Are the costs and benefits of DRR incorporated into the planning of public investment?

No

Means of verification:

* No: National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.

* No: Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals

Description:

The Malawi Growth and Development Strategy has a number of key priority areas which will contribute towards the economic development of the country. These include agriculture and food security; irrigation and water development; transport infrastructure development; integrated rural development and energy generation and supply. A lot of development projects under these priority areas are being implemented in the country and they are contributing to reducing vulnerability of economic activities. There are also insurance, trade and finance regulations to protect economic investments. Most of these activities are not classified however, as DRR initiatives.

Context & Constraints:

Malawians are generally poor, there is need for more investment opportunities in order for more development, a larger middle class and more options for affordable small scale loans or other credit and insurance facilities. Only then can we expect to have a bigger impact of reducing the vulnerability and increase the resilience of communities.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 4

Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is there investment to reduce the risk of vulnerable urban settlements?

Yes

Means of verification:

- * No: Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas
- * No: Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas
- * Yes: Training of masons on safe construction technology
- * No: Provision of safe land for low income households and communities

Description:

Currently, there is no policy framework for human settlements especially for the rural setting. While building codes exist (in draft form) for buildings in towns, they don't exist for houses in the villages where most of the disasters occur. Development of a settlement policy framework is one of the activities to be undertaken under the UNDAF cluster work plan for 2009. The development of the policy framework will increase the likelihood that DRR will be incorporated in designing human settlements.

Context & Constraints:

Poverty of most people in the rural areas results in their constructing weak houses which are usually damaged when affected by disasters. There is need for these people to be empowered economically.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 5

Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Do post-disaster recovery programmes explicitly incorporate and budget for DRR?

Yes

Means of verification:

- * 0 % of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR
- * Yes: Measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery

Description:

Effective 2008, the country has an Early Recovery Framework which has provided for the integration of DRR in post disaster recovery and rehabilitation. The framework was developed during the implementation of a post flood early recovery programme in 2008 which was being implemented for the first time in Malawi.

Context & Constraints:

Lack of adequate mandate and subsequent lack funds. Effective integration of DRR in post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes will depend on availability of a coordinating team and adequate funds for implementation of planned activities.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 6

Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Are the impacts of major development projects on disaster risk assessed?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Assessments of impact of projects such as dams, irrigation schemes, highways, mining, tourist developments etc on disaster risk

* No: Impacts of disaster risk taken account in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

Description:

There is a requirement that EIAs be undertaken for all major development projects. This requirement ensures that there is an assessment of the disaster risk impacts of such major projects.

Context & Constraints:

Lack of adherence to findings of the EIAs. This could result in a development project contributing to disasters although the risks were identified in the EIA. The vulnerability of communities could, therefore, be increased. There is, therefore, need to strictly enforce findings of EIAs to avoid increasing vulnerability of communities.

Priority for action 5

Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 1

Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Are there national programmes or policies to make schools and health facilities safe in emergencies?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety

* No: Training and mock drills in school and hospitals for emergency preparedness

Description:

The policy formulation is expected to be in draft by Decemebr 2010, at which time the review of the Disaster Preparedness and Relief Act 1991 will commence. Government has indicated strong

commitment by engaging Disaster Management Desk Officers in 14 Districts.

Context & Constraints:

A DRR Framework, Operational Guidelines, Flood Risk Management Strategy have been developed to guide the policy formulation process. Links between central, district and local level are to be developed to ensure better two-way communication.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 2

Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Are the contingency plans, procedures and resources in place to deal with a major disaster?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Contingency plans with gender sensitivities

* No: Operations and communications centre

* Yes: Search and rescue teams

* Yes: Stockpiles of relief supplies

* Yes: Shelters

* Yes: Secure medical facilities

* Yes: Dedicated provision for women in relief, shelter and emergency medical facilities

Description:

Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are developed at National level and in some Districts.

Context & Constraints:

Drills and exercises not being carried out as often as it ought to be, and not used to enhance disaster response programmes. Multi-hazard contingency plans for all districts is a priority but needs guidance from central level.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 3

Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Are financial arrangements in place to deal with major disaster?

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Yes: National contingency funds
- * Yes: Catastrophe insurance facilities
- * No: Catastrophe bonds

Description:

There is a funding mechanism to receive relief funding from government from Unforeseen Expenditure Vote. A procedure for accessing the Fund can be activated once an emergency has occurred.

Context & Constraints:

There are considerable delays in securing funds requested from the Unforeseen Expenditure Vote, hampering the DoDMA's capacity to provide timely relief assistance. There is not a dedicated Disaster Relief oriented Fund within Government. However, Government has strong links with the Donor and Development community to help when in need. The DoDMA's annual ORT allocation is insufficient. Consequently, the DoDMA has been forced to focus primarily on post-disaster response activities whilst falling back on the international community to undertake preparedness and risk reduction activities.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 4

Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Has an agreed method and procedure been adopted to assess damage, loss and needs when disasters occur?

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Yes: Damage and loss assessment methodologies and capacities available
- * No: Post disaster need assessment methodologies
- * No: Post disaster needs assessment methodologies include guidance on gender aspects
- * Yes: Identified and trained human resources

Description:

Some procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event recording of infrastructural and agricultural damage and losses.

Context & Constraints:

Some procedures and protocols in place but significant testing and further development will be required.

Also combining these valuable bits of data will increase the information at central level.

Drivers of Progress

a) Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region?:

No

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

A number of studies / reports have been done on some of the hazards in the country. However, the study/ report findings have not been widely shared and discussed. DoDMA is coordinating DRR studies that are brought to its attention so that information is properly coordinated and stored in a proper data bank. DoDMA has recently revamped its database and procured communication equipment in order to improve the data collection and storage as well as dissemination of information. This will strengthen knowledge management of DRR mainstreaming programming.

b) Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Gender issues continue to be actively advocated in the country and there are some gender disaggregated data available and in some cases is being applied for decision making purposes. Gender concerns continue to inform policy and program conceptualization and implementation in a meaningful and appropriate way especially effective 2006. Gender is taken into account during relief efforts.

c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

A number of projects have been implemented with a capacity building components at national, district and local levels. Capacity building for stakeholders at different levels still ongoing. This will ensure that local institutions, area and village civil protection committees, communities, volunteers have the required knowledge and skills in DRR and DM.

More importantly, a National Framework on DRR was developed in consultation with various stakeholders and cooperating partners. Capacity building has been identified as a result area in the framework as well as other relevant documents like the UNDAF and CPAP.

d) Human security and social equity approaches integrated into disaster risk reduction and recovery activities

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Currently, DRR programs do take into the account the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups. Alignment and commitment to the SPHERE standards is being made.

e) Engagement and partnerships with non-governmental actors; civil society, private sector, amongst others, have been fostered at all levels

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

DoDMA implements DRR programmes and activities in collaboration with NGOs. A project on mainstreaming DRR mitigation and preparedness programming in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts, for example, involved three NGOs namely Goal Malawi, Action Aid International Malawi and Evangelical Association of Malawi. There is, however, not much involvement of the private sector and politicians. There is need to engage them so that they can participate in DRR implementation and mainstreaming.

f) Contextual Drivers of Progress

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Operational Guidelines for DRM have been developed. These apportion roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders. sensitization of various stakeholders on the same will be extensively conducted.

A roadmap on the development of the policy and national platform on DRR is being developed to accelerate the mainstreaming of DRR.

Future outlook

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Overall Challenges:

Lack of human and financial resources for use in:

a. Policy formulation to provide national guidance in implementation of DRR activities by all stakeholders

in the country.

b. Building capacity to have skilled manpower to be engaged in issues of DRR since it is a new phenomenon and it is being confused a lot with issues of climate change. Skilled personnel is also required at all levels to ensure that proper approaches are used in DRR i.e. right based, participatory and technically sound.

Future Outlook Statement:

Government with its partners intend to conduct an integration of DRR into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction to increase resilience.

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Overall Challenges:

Lack of adequate funds is the major challenge that is hindering the effective mainstreaming and implementation of DRR in the country. As 80% of the people live in rural areas, communicating with these communities is time consuming and costly.

Lack of a policy framework also contributed to difficulties in coordinating activities by different stakeholders in DRR.

Future Outlook Statement:

Government with cooperating partners have made great progress in implementing projects aimed at strengthening institutions and building resilience of the affected households. A project on mainstreaming DRR was implemented in two pilot district to raise awareness on DRR and strengthen national and local coordination institutions. Therefore, government is developing a policy and a national DRR platform to improve coordination, implementation of DRR activities and therefore create resilience in the country. When the policy is adopted issues of budget lines for DRR can be addressed therein.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Overall Challenges:

Inadequate funds for use in conducting DRR activities still remains a big challenge. Causes are:

- 1) No clear DRR mandate for DoDMA, and therefore a non-existent budget lines and
- 2) Donor community hesitant to allocate part of the relief funds towards longer-term DRR projects/programmes.

Future Outlook Statement:

Looking forward to having a country that has in place all the legal instruments, and guidelines including an early recovery and policy framework to provide guidance on the implementation of DRR activities in order to achieve a consistent and systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes. This would also pave way for a steady flow of resources towards DRR.

Stakeholders

Departments/organizations that have contributed to the report

- * Department of Disaster Management Affairs (Gov) - Mrs G.T. Mafuleka, Deputy Coordinator
- * COOPI (NGO) - Mr A. Castellano, Country Director
- * Catholic Development Commission (NGO) - Mr L. Kawenda, National Coordinator
- * UNDP (UN & Intl) - Mr AG Leenders, DRR Advisor
- * Evangelical Association of Malawi (NGO) - Mr B. Mlowoka
- * OXFAM GB (NGO) - Mr. C. Kalonga, DRR Coordinator