

20/5/99

Information on Provider

Name: LUCIUS M.H.T. CHIKUNI
 Position: COMMISSIONER FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RELIEF & REHABILITATION
 Organisation: DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RELIEF AND REHABILITATION
 Address: PRIVATE BAG 336, LILONGWE
 State/Province: ~~MALAWI~~
 Zip/Post Code:
 Country: MALAWI
 Phone Number: (265) 784 188, (265) 782 697
 Fax Number: (265) 784 894
 Email:
 webpage:

Experience and Recent Disasters

1.1 Please provide a list of major disasters your country has experienced during the past five (5) years.

March 1991 PHALOMBE FLASH FLOODS in which 500 people died, 8041 left homeless and 128,000 affected. 1991-92 DROUGHT which caused 6.1 million out of 9 million MALAWIANS TO REQUIRE FOOD AID and the 1997 Lower Shire floods which affected 78,000 households.

1.2. What was the impact of the above listed disasters?

There was a major slump in the economy and some washed away bridges remain unreconstructed due to lack of funding.

1.3. Which measures were taken to reduce the impact of the disaster?

The village most affected by the PHALOMBE flash floods was evacuated expeditiously. A geological study was undertaken over the whole massif. The village was relocated and now the entire PHALOMBE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS IS to be moved. Households in very low lying areas in the Lower Shire have moved to higher ground.

1.4. Do you believe there can be improvements in preparing for natural hazards in your country and in preventing negative impacts of such hazards? What sort of improvements?

The funding mechanism by GOVERNMENT of the NATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF FUND should be changed to allow funding to be provided in advance, NOT having to wait until a disaster strikes. This way we could be pro-active.

1.5. Do you believe the IDNDR helped your country to give greater attention to disaster reduction?

☒ Yes ☐ No Explain

1.6. Please provide an example(s) an achievement (s) incorporating successful preventive approaches which you consider a "success story".

THE EXPEDITIOUS drafting and passing of the NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RELIEF ACT No. 24 by December 17, 1991. The preparation of the national disaster MANAGEMENT PLAN funded with assistance from the then UN/DHA (now OCHA).

Progress made, since the inception of IDNDR, in the field of disaster reduction as a component of development planning and risk management

2.1. Please provide a brief statement of national accomplishment and/or describe current activities related to the achievement of the IDNDR Programme Targets:

(a) Comprehensive national assessment of risks. If an assessment exists, is it published or codified?

VAM, Famine Early Warning Systems (FEWS) published
FOOD SECURITY MEASURES - not yet published

(b) Structured mitigation plans. Do documented comprehensive national disaster management plans exist?

YES

(c) Ready access to global, regional, national and local early warning systems. Can you provide examples of early warning practices and demonstrated successes?

REGIONAL, the drought early MONITORING CENTRE, HARARE, provided accurate forecast of the weather vis-a-vis the El Niño/La Niña of 1997/98

2.2. What obstacles do you face which prevent the accomplishment of the Decade targets? What are your recommendations to best overcome these obstacles?

LACK OF ADEQUATE FUNDING, MISCONCEPTION OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT BY OTHER PLAYERS IN GOVERNMENT, WHO THINK DISASTER MGMT = EMERGENCY RESPONSE; there fore not appreciating the importance of MITIGATION

2.3. To what extent have you established and implemented educational and information programmes aimed at generating public awareness? What methods of information dissemination have been utilized?

RADIO BROADCASTS, SEMINARS FOR LOCAL LEADERSHIP i.e. political and traditional, but the extent remains inadequate. The hindering factor remains lack of funding.

2.4. Have you liaised with policy makers and major groups, such as local authorities, NGOs, and the media, in order to ensure support for and effectiveness of disaster reduction programmes? Please describe your activities.

YES. WORKSHOPS were held for people at all levels i.e. local authorities, NGOs, the media as well as members of parliament as part of the (bottom-up) CONSULTATIVE PROCESS from 1997-98 in the compilation of the NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN.

2.5. To what extent have you worked with other sectors in incorporating disaster reduction activities into their planning (i.e. insurance, banking, private sector and development agencies)?

HAVE NOT YET ATTAINED THIS LEVEL.

2.6. The Decade provides an international arena for information exchange as well as an extensive international network of partners, how have these inputs contributed to achieving the goals of the

Decade?

TECHNOLOGICAL INADEQUACIES
AT NATIONAL LEVEL (MALAWI) HAVE
HINDERED POSSIBLE PROGRESS.

Structures in Place

3.1. Is there a designated government authority for disaster reduction activities? If yes, is this authority's commitment to prevention embodied in the government structure, priorities, budget and legislation?

YES

3.2. Have budget lines for disaster reduction and preventive activities been made available in your government's budget?

YES, BUT THE BUDGETARY
LEVEL IS TOO LOW.

3.3. Have legislative authorities (national, state or local level) established legal frameworks for the implementation of disaster mitigation measures (ie. land-use planning, water and forest management, building codes)?

YES THE 1991 ACT NO. 24
OF PARLIAMENT IS EXTENSIVE. FOREST
MANAGEMENT WAS LEGISLATION WAS ENACTED IN
1998. LAND USE AND BUILDING CODES ARE NOT
YET IN PLACE. BUT A LAND USE COMMISSION IS ABOUT TO CONCLUDE
ITS WORK.

3.4. Have academic institutions and professional schools in disciplines such as engineering, agriculture, architecture, urban planning, business or public administration incorporated in their curricula applicable disaster-reduction concepts and measures? Please provide examples.

NOT YET BUT DISCUSSIONS ARE
UNDER WAY BETWEEN MY OFFICE AND THE
UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI FOR THIS TO TAKE ROOT.

3.5. Have networks been build in order to aid in the transfer and application of existing knowledge and technology, information dissemination and international collaboration? Please briefly describe.

NO.

3.6. Who are your principal working partners? Do they represent an interdisciplinary approach to disaster reduction?

ALL LINE MINISTRIES OF GOVERNMENT,
NGOS, LOCAL ADMINISTRATORS. THE
INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH HAS YET
TO BE ACHIEVED.

Future Requirements

4.1. Given your experience since the inception of the Decade and the new challenges of disasters in the 21st century, please provide comments as to what you believe are the necessary future requirements needed to successfully carry disaster reduction activities into the 21st century. Listed below are some criteria for your consideration:

- international mechanism for coordination
- budgetary commitments
- policy commitment
- network building
- information dissemination
- communication tools
- local authorities
- links to economic and social development programmes, environmental protection and sustainable development

- IMPROVE INTERNAL MECHANISM FOR COORDINATION WITH ALL PLAYERS RECOGNISING FULLY THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RELIEF AND REHABILITATION IN PROVIDING DIRECTION AND PLAYING THE CENTRAL (NATIONAL) COORDINATING ROLE
- GOVERNMENT (OF MALAWI) SHOULD INCREASE THE LEVEL OF THE CURRENT BUDGETARY COMMITMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR SHOULD BE DRAWN IN.
- POLICY COMMITMENT IS ADEQUATE
- NETWORK BUILDING REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT
- INFORMATION DISSEMINATION NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
- COMMUNICATION TOOL: WIRELESS COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT IS A MUST. ACCESS TO SPACE TECHNOLOGY SHOULD BE (I.E. APPLICATIONS) IS REQUIRED
- LOCAL AUTHORITIES NEED ENCOURAGEMENT AND TRAINING TO ENSURE FULL UNDERSTANDING
- A LOT NEEDS TO BE DONE VIS-A-VIS WHOLISTIC SUSTAINABLE

4.2. What sort of national or international measures would you like to be put in place in the 21st century?

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING AND ENABLING MECHANISM FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE USE OF REGIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL ASSETS; BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY FOR EFFECTIVE EMERGENCY RESPONSE,

DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION.