Second Africa Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction Consultative Meeting

May 5 – 7, 2009

Theme 3
Knowledge, Education & Innovation

Francis Dube
Community Resilience Manager-Africa Region
Introduction

• World Vision adopted the HFA as a “Blue Print” to building resilient communities and nations.

• Working with a select few countries in piloting projects covering mainly themes 2, 3, 4 and 5.

• Working through the existing structures
Gaps/Challenges

• Capacity
  – Personnel, systems, technical skills to support those who lives and livelihoods are at risk.
    • Limits effectiveness of early warnings.
    • Limits our ability to reach out to at risk community through trainings.
    • Limits institutional preparedness to deal with the hazards.

FOCUS = Institutional Capacity Building
Database/Information Sources

• Central Information/data bank close to point of action to assist decision making
  – Shared Risk Assessment Reports (National and localized assessments)
  – Shared evaluation
  – Targeting strategies
  – Common agreement on local level priorities

FANRPAN Model for Household Vulnerability Index (HVI)
Awareness at all levels

- DRR awareness across all structures and stakeholders remain limited.
  - Awareness level at lower institutional structures is still not at desired levels.
  - Re-orientation of these structures is necessary to drive desired changes as these are evolving from a response modes
Learning & Adaptation

- Learning and adaptation are key attributes to building resilience.
- Adaptation entails change in some cases – but at times they appear to be limited learning in some levels.
  - Communities continue to do the same things.
  - Support packages given to community post disasters not different from pre-disaster packages.
Communication Bottle-necks

• Institutional Framework to support DRR
  – Excellent regional and national institutions charged with developing policies frameworks and higher level programs but weak local level institution (districts, community)
  • As a result good policies, programs, products etc failure to benefit the target beneficiaries

How do we revamp/reconstitute delivery structures to link national programs with communities?
Poverty & vulnerability

• Livelihoods diversification is increasingly being seen as one of the key DRR strategies for communities across Africa.

• Poverty however limits diversification due to narrow asset base and limited marketing opportunities to support emerging livelihoods strategies.

FOCUS – How to efforts on development of local economies?
Conclusion

- More information and guidelines for frontline staff.
- Capacity building
- More vertical integration is needed to ensure communication flow.
- Need to re-orient systems and policies to give meaning to DRR.
Thank you!!