



**MAINSTREAMING OF
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
INTO NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
INSTRUMENTS: THE CASE OF
MALAWI**

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Introduction

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- ✦ Malawi has been affected by different types of natural and man-made disasters from time immemorial.
 - ✦ The common disasters are floods, hailstorms, landslides, drought, pest infestations, accidents, disease epidemics and the HIV and AIDS pandemic.
 - ✦ This presentation highlights progress made in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action focussing on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction



Change of approach

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- ✦ The Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs (DoPDMA) is responsible for coordinating disaster risk management programmes in Malawi.
 - ✦ DoPDMA is in OPC.
 - ✦ Until last year, the GoM was focussing more on disaster response.

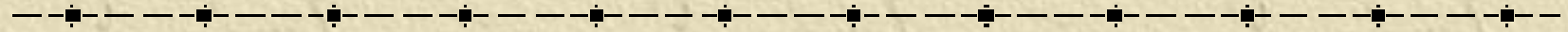


Change of approach

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- ✦ In 2006, Government decided to change approach by focussing more on disaster risk reduction (DRR).
 - ✦ This was a way of implementing the first priority of the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA).
 - ✦ There is a realisation that the impact of disasters can be reduced only if all sectors focus on and mainstream DRR.



Mainstreaming DRR



- ✦ DRR has gained recognition by Government.
- ✦ DRR and Social Protection is theme 2 in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) for 2006-2011.
- ✦ There are 5 themes in the MGDS: Sustainable Economic Growth, Social Protection and Disaster Risk Management, Social Development, Infrastructure Development and Improved Governance.



Mainstreaming DRR

- ✦ MGDS is the Government's overarching development strategy whose main thrust is to create wealth through sustainable economic growth as a means of reducing poverty.
- ✦ MGDS is a successor to the Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy for 2002-2005.
- ✦ MGDS integrated DRR by placing it as theme 2 together with social protection.



Mainstreaming DRR

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- ✦ Apart from the MGDS, DRR has not yet been integrated or mainstreamed into other government ministries' policies, strategies and programmes.
 - ✦ DoPDMA would like to spearhead the need for all sectors at national level to mainstream DRR into their development programmes and plans.
 - ✦ A national workshop on mainstreaming DRR is being planned as a starting point.



Mainstreaming DRR

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- ✦ Participants would be from government, NGOs, civil society, UN agencies and donors.
 - ✦ After this, similar workshops would take place at lower levels such as the district and community levels.

DRR Mainstreaming Activities



✦ Although DRR has not yet been mainstreamed into sectoral policies and strategies, there are DRR mainstreaming activities being implemented at department and district levels.

✦ Some of the activities are as follows:

DRR Mainstreaming Activities



1. Orientation of district officials in DRR

- ✦ DoPDMA held regional Disaster Risk Management workshops for District Executive Committee (DEC) members in 2006.
- ✦ The DEC is responsible for planning and monitoring implementation of development projects at district level.
- ✦ Participants were sensitised on the need to mainstream DRR into district development plans and to involve NGOs in their districts to plan and implement DRR activities together.



DRR Mainstreaming Activities

2. Development of District Disaster Risk Management Plans (DDRMP)

- ✦ District Assemblies have been requested to develop DDRMP together with NGOs and communities.
- ✦ DDRMP are supposed to assist in coordination of DRR activities including provision of emergency relief assistance.



DRR Mainstreaming Activities

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- ✦ Three District Assemblies developed DDRMP last year (2006).
 - ✦ NGOs have been involved in this process.
 - ✦ The intention is that all 28 districts in the country should develop the plans.



DRR Mainstreaming Activities

3. Sensitising of people living in flood prone areas

- ✦ Some parts of Malawi experience floods every year.

- ✦ This results in a lot of people being affected and damage to property and infrastructure.



DRR Mainstreaming Activities

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- ✦ In September and October last year, DoPDMA held sensitisation meetings with Chiefs, Members of Parliament and people in flood prone areas.
 - ✦ The purpose was to warn the people to relocate from the flood prone areas before the rains.
 - ✦ The Department of Meteorological Services had indicated that most parts of Malawi would receive normal to above normal rains.



DRR Mainstreaming Activities

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- ✦ The forecast was an indication that low lying areas would experience floods.
 - ✦ Following the meetings, some people relocated and were not affected by floods.
 - ✦ Others did not relocate and were affected.
 - ✦ We feel that there is need to intensify such sensitisation meetings and develop effective early warning systems.



DRR Mainstreaming Activities

4. Orientation of Civil Protection Committees

- ✦ Malawi has a National Disaster Preparedness and Relief Committee at national level which comprise sectors dealing with disasters but does not include UN and donors.
- ✦ The committee provides policy directions to DoPDMA.
- ✦ At district and area level, there are District and Area Civil Protection Committees.



DRR Mainstreaming Activities

- ✦ Most of the area committees have not been functional since they lack motivation as the members are volunteers.
- ✦ There is, therefore, need to reorient the committees on their roles and responsibilities.
- ✦ This has become more necessary because of the new focus on DRR.
- ✦ This activity has started being implemented in some districts in collaboration with NGOs.



Achievements

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- ✦ Change of approach from disaster response to DRR has enabled government to start dealing with disasters in a holistic way.
 - ✦ Sensitisation meetings with communities in flood prone areas resulted in some people not being affected by floods.
 - ✦ Involvement of other stakeholders such as NGOs in the districts has resulted in working and implementing disaster plans together and assisting in mobilising resources.



Challenges

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- ✦ Lack of adequate funds for DRR.

It is hoped that the change in approach will result in Government allocating more funds for DRR.

- ✦ Lack of a disaster risk reduction policy.

- ✦ Lack of capacity and skills in DRR at national, district and community levels.



Lessons Learnt

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- ✦ Need to sensitise and orient all stakeholders on mainstreaming DRR into development programmes and plans.
 - ✦ Need to strengthen the good working relationship between Government and other stakeholders, especially NGOs.
 - ✦ Need to involve the media in DRR for the dissemination of information.



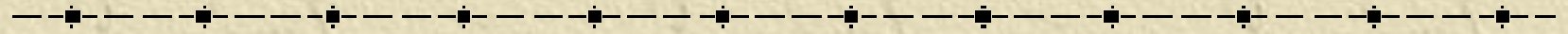
Planned Activities

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- ✦ Hold a national workshop on mainstreaming of DRR into development programmes and plans.
 - ✦ Establish a DRR national platform.
 - ✦ Build capacity in DRR at national, district and community levels.



Planned Activities

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- ✦ Develop a disaster risk reduction policy.
 - ✦ Develop an effective early warning system for disasters.
 - ✦ Involve the media in DRR.



I thank you all for your attention!!