National Disaster Management, Malawi: Gaps and Challenges

Workshop on Climate Resilient Investment in Reconstruction and Development in SADC
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Outline

• Challenges
• Needs
• Opportunities
Challenges in DRM

- Inadequate funding mechanisms for DRM
  - Inadequate investment in resilience building
  - Inadequate investment in disaster preparedness
  - Inadequate and delayed funding for disaster response

- Limited EWS capacity, including CBEWS

- Limited devolution of DRM functions to districts – mainly in terms of personnel

- Challenges in shifting mind-set from response to risk reduction/management

- No national-level risk assessments conducted, including limited capacity to conduct and monitor national and cross-border risk assessments
Challenges...

• Overwhelmed with mainstreaming
  • Too many cross-cutting issues to focus on (HIV, gender, environment, human rights, corruption, disability, etc.), hence setting priorities can be a challenge

• Limited appreciation for the costs and benefits of risk reduction leading to inadequate public investment for disaster reduction

• Failure to enforce regulations, standards, such as in physical planning and building, prevention of encroachment

• Limited information management capacity

• Limited capacity (personnel, training, equipment) for search and rescue
Needs

• Comprehensive multi-hazard/risk assessments
• Resilience building, with floods and food insecurity risk reduction being priorities
  • Malawi already has a National Resilience Strategy, that requires resources for implementation
• Support towards urban resilience
• Strengthening of information management, including use of geospatial technology and UAVs
• Post disaster recovery support, including support to food insecure households, in part resulting from Cyclone Idai effects
  • NDRF, US$668 million, US$95 million available, financial gap of US$574 million
  • 6 priority sectors require US$294 million, while for priority 1 interventions within priority sectors US$244 is required for recovery
 Needs

- Strengthening of early warning systems at national, district and community levels
- Comprehensive public awareness programmes – implementation of the National DRM Communication Strategy
- Dissemination of Safer House Construction Guidelines to communities
- Strengthening monitoring, evaluation and reporting system on DRM
  - Resilience indicators and dashboard
  - Localised indicators for DRM aligned to MGDS III
  - 4Ws, linked to DRM IMS
- Implementation of the Disaster Risk Financing Strategy, including multi-hazard insurance mechanisms
- More regional collaboration and experience sharing
Opportunities

- Review of Disaster Preparedness and Relief Act, 1991
- Coherence agenda: disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation
- Role of academia in DRM
- Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III
- National Resilience Strategy
- Financial devolution to local authorities
- Process to develop national guidelines on risk assessment
- Evidence of mainstreaming in some key sectors: education, health, roads, housing...
Thank You!