

Disaster Risk Management Coordination Structures in Malawi

Building Community-based Preparedness
for and Responses to Natural Disasters

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Outline

- ✓ Introduction
- ✓ Disaster Risk Management Structures
- ✓ Challenges to effective disaster risk management
- ✓ Recommendations



Introduction

- ✓ Up until 1991, the management of disasters in the country was on an ad-hoc basis.
- ✓ The Phalombe Flash Flood in 1991 exposed the weakness of the ad hoc arrangement.
- ✓ This resulted in passing the Disaster Preparedness and Relief Act in 1991.
- ✓ The Act created the legal and institutional framework for disaster risk management in the country.



Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Structures

- ◆ The Act provides for the establishment of the National Disaster Preparedness and Relief Committee (NDPRC).
 - It is responsible for providing policy directions on the implementation of DRM programmes.
 - It comprises Principal Secretaries of all line ministries & departments and 3 to 5 NGOs.
 - It is chaired by the Chief Secretary in the Office of the President and Cabinet



DRM Structures (Cont/..)

- ◆ During times of disasters other organisations are co-opted into the committee, e.g. during the response to the 2007/08 floods, donors and UN agencies were co-opted.
- ◆ Joint assessment missions involving government, donors, UN agencies and civil society led by government are undertaken during times of disasters



DRM Structures (Cont/..)

- ✓ The Act also provides for the appointment of a head of the department responsible for disaster risk management – Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA).
- ✓ The DoDMA is, therefore, responsible for coordinating and directing disaster risk management programmes in the country.



DRM Structures (Cont/..)

- ✓ This means that all organisations in the country are supposed to inform the DoDMA about DRM activities they are implementing or would like to implement.
Problem area!! (Some organisations do not do this).
- ✓ During times of disaster response, DoDMA calls for frequent coordination meetings with stakeholders.



DRM Structures (Cont/..)

- ✓ The Act, however, is now outdated and needs to be reviewed.
- ✓ The review will be done after a DRM policy has been developed.

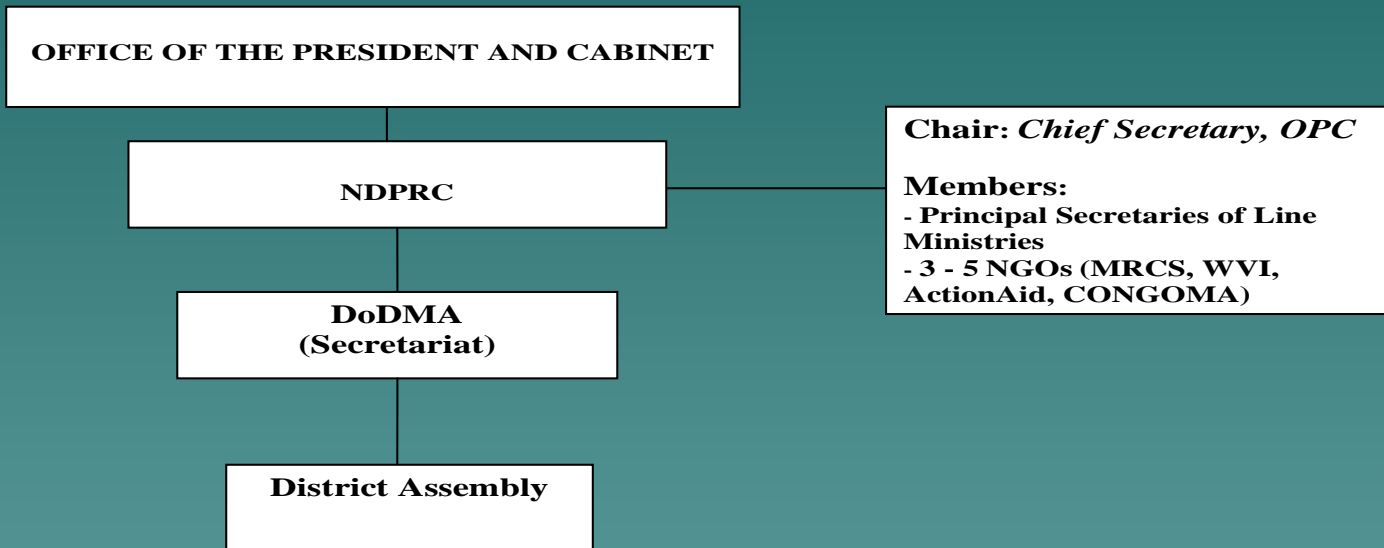


DRM Structures (Cont/..)

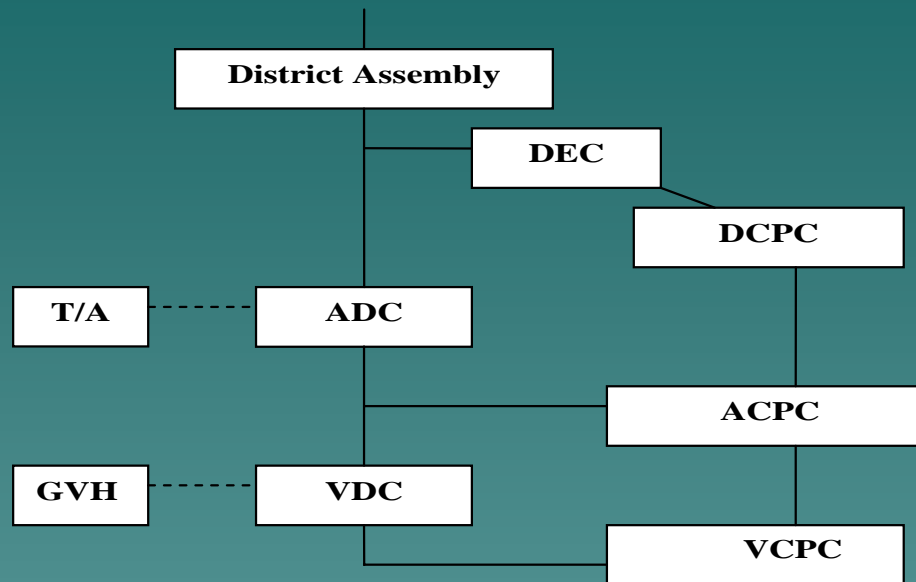
- ◆ At district level, there are:
 - ✓ District Civil Protection Committees;
 - ✓ Area Civil Protection Committees; and
 - ✓ Village Civil Protection Committees.
- ◆ The District Commissioner coordinates implementation of DRM activities at district level through these committees.
- ◆ When the committees were created, their focus was on disaster response.
- ◆ There is, therefore, need to reorient committees' roles to disaster risk reduction.



National Level Structures



District Level Structures



DEC	=	District Executive Committee
DCPC	=	District Civil Protection Committee
ADC	=	Area Development Committee
ACPC	=	Area Civil Protection Committee
VDC	=	Village Development Committee
VCPC	=	Village Civil Protection Committee



Challenges to Effective DRM

- ✓ Inadequate funding for DRM programmes & activities;
- ✓ Some organisations do not inform DoDMA or District Assemblies about their DRM programmes.
- ✓ This results in poor coordination – duplication & wastage of resources;



Challenges to Effective DRM

- ✓ Lack of capacity/training in DRR at national, district and community levels;
- ✓ Lack of a DRM policy;



Recommendations

- ✓ Need for adequate funds for DRM and disaster response;
- ✓ Need to develop a DRM policy;
- ✓ Need for proper coordination;
- ✓ Need to establish a National Platform for DRR – to bring together all stakeholders involved in DRR;
- ✓ Need to build capacity in DRM at all levels through training;



END OF PRESENTATION

Thank You!

