

A. Sector Analysis

1. Current situation and major challenges of the sector:

Disasters are distinguished in terms of their nature and extent of impacts. Globally, disasters continue to increase in many countries, affect the economy of the affected countries and attack vulnerable areas where it affects those in lower income brackets. The report by Economics of Climate Adaptation Working Group (2009) on '*Economics of Climate Adaptation, Shaping climate-resilient development*', projected that the global average for annual economic losses resulting from natural disaster is expected to increase from US\$340 billion in 2009 to US\$415 billion by 2030 for urban infrastructure alone. These disasters are considered to be caused due to climate change, increasing urbanization and environmental degradation. The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in its 2015 report on "The Future of Disaster Risk Management, Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction" projected that globally, on average, about 218 million people are affected by disasters each year.

Malawi is highly vulnerable to the impacts of disasters given its location along the great African Rift Valley, rapid population growth, unsustainable urbanization, poor settlement patterns, weak buildings/infrastructure, lack of access to information and knowledge, climate variability and environmental degradation. The most common weather-related shocks affecting Malawi include floods, drought, stormy rains and hailstorms. Climate change further exacerbates the frequency and severity of disasters in the country. These disasters cause damage to infrastructure, food insecurity and increase poverty, loss of lives and property, decline in health status, poor environmental conditions and a decline in the quality of education of affected populations.

Although there are many types of disasters, this paper mainly focuses on flood related disasters. The reason is that Malawi has experienced more floods than any other natural disasters. According to the 2019 Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) report, over the past five decades, Malawi has experienced more than 19 major floods and 7 droughts. Furthermore, the report from the National Disaster Risk Management Communication Strategy (NDRMCS) 2020-2023, mentioned that about 15 out of 28 districts (which represent 54% of the districts) in Malawi are considered flood prone.

In early March 2019, according to 2019 PDNA, Malawi experienced one of the worst Tropical Cyclones that resulted in severe flooding in some parts of the country. In total, an estimated 975,000 people were affected with 60 killed, 86,976 displaced and 672 injured. The floods negatively affected people's lives, livelihoods and socio-economic infrastructure, pushing more people into poverty. The 2019 PDNA report indicated that due to the impact of Cyclone Idai, the physical damage to the country's capital stock was about US\$220 million and recovery and reconstruction needs to "build back better" amounted to US\$370 million, representing 5.8% of Malawi's GDP.

The main challenges this sector face include: (i) Insufficient levels of implementation for each planned activity due to inadequate financial resources. (ii) Poor coordination among stakeholders and lack of information sharing, including with respect to risk assessment, monitoring and evaluation, early warning, disaster response and other Disaster Risk Management (DRM) activities.

2. Sector policy, strategic plan, priority areas:

a) National Disaster Risk Management Policy (2014)

The policy was developed in alignment to the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015) to integrate Disaster Risk Management (DRM) into sustainable development and enhance coordination in the implementation of DRM programmes. The policy priority areas are: (a) To mainstream disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning processes at all levels of government. (b) To establish a comprehensive system to identify, assess and monitor disaster risks. (c) To develop and strengthen a people-centred early warning system. (d) To promote a culture of safety and resilience through knowledge, education and innovation at all levels. (e) To reduce the underlying risk factors. (f) To strengthen the preparedness capacity for effective response and recovery at all levels. These priority areas will tend to sustainably reduce disaster losses in lives and the social, economic and environmental assets of individuals, communities and the nation.

b) Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III (MGDS III) 2017-22

The MGDS III recognises the importance of integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. This will assist reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience of the population to disasters and socio-economic shocks. The inclusion of DRM in the MGDS III is expected to result into improved understanding of disaster risk and increase resilience of communities to disasters. Furthermore, this will assist the government to invest in disaster risk reduction, strengthen disaster risk management governance at all levels and enhance disaster preparedness for effective response.

c) National Resilience Strategy (NRS) 2018-2030

The strategy was developed to provide guidelines for breaking the cycle of food insecurity in Malawi. The NRS promotes linkages between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to improve national resilience to climate change. The priorities for NRS are as follows (a) Mainstreaming DRM across sectors and administrative levels, (b) Flood Prevention and Control, (c) Effective Early Warning Systems and (d) Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery. The NRS will facilitate construction of flood control infrastructure and enhance rainwater harvesting at national, district and community levels.

d) National Disaster Risk Management Communication Strategy (NDRMCS) 2020-2023

In Malawi, there are a number of stakeholders that are involved in development and implementation of DRM initiatives. However, coordination/dissemination of information on climate, weather, early warning systems and implementation of DRM initiatives among the stakeholders is a challenge. This Strategy will provide a framework that seeks to deliver key messages and raise awareness on DRM with the aim of contributing to resilience building in Malawi. The objectives of NDRMCS are (i) To create awareness among stakeholders in disaster risk management. (ii.) To promote the adoption of positive DRM behaviours among stakeholders. (iii) To strengthen capacity of stakeholders in the development and communication of DRM information. (iv) To improve coordination, collaboration and networking of DRM stakeholders in communication interventions.

3. Donor activities and commitments:

The notable development partners that are involved in DRM initiatives include:

- **UNDP:** UNDP received a project grant of about US\$12.3 million from Green Climate Fund for the project on ‘Modernized Climate Information and Early warning Systems’ 2017-23. This project is working with communities in food-insecure districts to co-develop tailored weather- and climate-based agricultural advisories to disseminate through various channels.
- **World Bank:** World Bank is committed to assist the Government of Malawi (GoM) with about US\$70 million for two projects namely Disaster Risk Management Development Policy Financing and Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option 2019-22 with finding of US\$40 million and US\$30 million respectively. These Programmes are structured around three pillars namely: (i) Strengthening the institutional framework and coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the national disaster and climate resilience agenda; (ii) Increasing climate and disaster resilience in physical developments and infrastructure; and (iii) Strengthening adaptive social protection mechanisms and government financial capacity to respond to disasters. These pillars will assist to strengthen the institutional and financial capacity of the GoM for multi-sectoral disaster and climate risk management.
- **FAO:** FAO received support from the African Solidarity Trust Fund (US\$2 million), the European Union (US\$75 million), the Government of Flanders (US\$900,000), the Global Environment Facility (US\$5.5 million) and the UK Department for International Development (US\$9 million). FAO has been supporting a project on Building Capacity for Resilience and Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security. This project is designed to strengthen community resilience to natural disasters and other shocks.
- **COVID-19 Donor response and commitments:** According to Development Partner support of June 2020, the following donors donated to the government in response to the National Response Plan related to COVID-19 response. These donations went to various disaster clusters namely; Agriculture and Food Security, Health, Social Protection, WASH, Industry and Trade and Education.

Development Partner	Amount (US\$)
Embassy of Ireland	1,116,381.20
European Union	48,516,682.50
Embassy of Norway	10,000,000.00
World Bank	80,580,000.00
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)	16,660,000.00
USAID	7,800,000.00
Flanders Government	7,800,000.00

UNDP	5,780,307.00
Germany Embassy	2,565,000.00
IFAD	3,942,000.00
FAO	108,000.00
Agriculture Transformation Initiative (ATI)	210,000.00
UN Women	35,000.00

(Source: 25 June 2020 Trade, Industry and Private Sector Development Partners (TIPDeP)-Database COVID-19).

4. Budget situation:

According to the 2020-21 annual national budget, the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) was allocated about K3.2 billion (US\$4 million). This is an increase of about 100% from the 2019-2020 budget allocation. The increase in the budget allocation reflects the government commitment to deal with disasters.

5. Dialogue structure of the sector:

DoDMA is the secretariat and coordinates all the activities and dissemination of information of disasters in the country. The disaster sector has the following groupings:

- The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) comprises of Heads of UN Agencies, international and local NGOs and Government. The chair for the team is the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC).
- The National Disaster Preparedness and Relief Committee (NDPRC). The Secretary to President and Cabinet chairs this grouping. The NDPRC is responsible for matters of policy and resource mobilization on DRM issues in general. There is also the National Disaster Preparedness and Relief Technical Committee.
- Disaster Clusters: The clusters operate according to their thematic area of response assistance. These clusters are Food Security, Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, Education, Protection, Water and Sanitation and Hygiene, Transport and Logistics, Shelter and Camp Management. They are responsible for developing and implementation of disaster response plans.

B. JICA's Position

1) History of JICA's Cooperation:

The Government of Japan, through JICA has been responding to appeals by the government of Malawi for emergency relief assistance. During the floods of 2015 and 2019, the Government of Japan through JICA donated the following items to the flood victims; family tents, Blankets (Normal Season), Blankets (Fleece), Plastic Sheets and Sleeping Pads. In distribution of those items, JICA worked closely with UNICEF and Malawi Red Cross Society in 2015 and 2019 respectively.

JICA assisted the GoM through Technical Cooperation on the projects for Promoting Catchment Management Activities in the Middle Shire (COVAMS I and II) 2007-18. Interventions of these projects continue to assist in reducing the degradation of the environment and natural resources thereby reducing the vulnerability of the target areas to flood disasters.

JICA has been supporting DoDMA in improving human capacity of its staff through short and long Knowledge Co-creation Training Programme (KCCP).

2) Major outcomes:

- Donations of humanitarian relief items during flood disasters
- The Director of Disaster Risk Management in 2019 attended a meeting in Mauritius where Malawi was elected as vice chair country for Disaster Risk Reduction Management Platform.
- DoDMA officer obtained a Master's Degree in Japan on Flood Disaster Risk Reduction through the KCCP long term training programme from 2016 to 2017.

3) Lessons learned:

- During the 2019 Cyclone Idai, there was lack of coordination and information sharing among stakeholders in distribution of relief items as well as implementation of DRM initiatives. In addition, insufficiency of capacity at the Chileka Airport was observed in terms of being a hub for not only receiving disaster relief goods but also securing mobility of air traffic that may have been worked more efficiently.

4) Cooperation assets:

The Government of Japan through JICA assisted the government of Malawi in the following areas:

- Donated a water treatment vehicle to government of Malawi for water purifications during flood disasters.
- Grant aid infrastructure projects that are resilient to disasters and these include the expansion of Tedzani Electricity Hydro Power Station, Replacement of Mangochi and South Rukuru bridges.
- Since 2016 to 2019, over 10 DoDMA officials have attended various short and long-term trainings in DRM in Japan.

5) Comparative advantage of JICA:

Japan has long history in Disaster Risk Reduction due to her experience in disasters. The notable type of disasters that Japan has experienced are floods and typhoons. Furthermore, Japan took a leading role in drafting the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Between 1991 and 2010, Japan was the top bilateral donor in DRR in the world. The provision of short courses based on Japan's expertise and experience under KCCP is of paramount importance for Malawi as it imparts knowledge and skills in DRR.

6) TICAD process:

The TICAD 7 Yokohama 2019, pillar 2, promotes '*Deepening sustainable and resilient society*' and one of the actions is "augment disaster risk reduction and management efforts". Through this action, Japan would like to support the formulation and revision of planning for disaster risk reduction, and human resources development.

7) Possible areas of future cooperation:

Japan's Country Development Cooperation Policy for Malawi, priority area 2, highlights Japan's development cooperation that focuses among others on human resource development to foster

self-reliant development. This is also in line with the Sendai Frame Work 2015-30, priority areas of action 2 and 3 where the emphasise are on strengthening disaster risk governance and investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.

At the workshop that was held in Mauritius in 2019, it was announced that Disaster Risk Reduction Management Platform will be launched and Malawi was nominated as vice-chair country for this Platform. It is through this platform that JICA decided to support third-country training and it is expected that the regional cooperation will be strengthened. Therefore, JICA's position is to support the government of Malawi staff on capacity building with short term, long term and third country training programmes.