



# National Disaster Management, Malawi: Gaps and Challenges

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

**Rainbow Towers, Harare, Zimbabwe**

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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!