GENERAL OVERVIEW OF DISASTERS IN MALAWI

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Presentation Overview

• Background
• Major disasters and trends
• Floods
• Drought
• Gaps/ Needs
Malawi is a land locked country in the Sub-Saharan region, Africa.

It has a population size of at least 14 million people, of which, 80% live below poverty line and heavily depend on rain fed agriculture.

Like many other countries in Africa, Malawi is being increasingly affected by climate change-related events.
On average Malawi loses US$9 million or 0.7 percent of GDP each year due to floods in the Shire Basin.

Droughts & dry spells in Malawi cause on average about 1 percent (US$13 million) annual GDP loss.

Since the 1990s, the incidence of disasters has become more frequent and the magnitude far reaching on Malawi’s population, economy and environment.
Common Disasters and Trends

✓ Floods;
✓ Drought;
✓ Accidents;
✓ Earthquakes;
✓ Stormy rains;
✓ Disease epidemics

✓ 2004/05 drought – 5.1 million people affected
✓ 2009/2010 earthquake – 24,000 households affected, 5 deaths, 10,792 houses damaged
✓ 2010/2011 floods – at least 5600 households
✓ 2011/2012 floods – households affected
✓ 2011/2012 drought – at least 1.6 million people
Why such a trend.

- Population pressure
- Environmental degradation
- Climate Change

Of all the major disasters, floods and drought are most frequent and devastating.
Floods

- Mostly occur in low lying areas along the lake shore and Shire valley

- In 2010/2011, 900 households in one district were affected through temporary displacement, destruction of houses, crops and household property
- No deaths and injuries
- In 2011/2012 at least 4808 households in 6 districts were affected through temporary displacement, destruction of crops, houses and household property
- Nsanje district in the south was worst affected
Floods cont’d
PDNA Assessment

✓ A mini-Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) was undertaken with support from the World Bank;

✓ The objectives of the assessment were to:

  – Estimate the overall impact of the 2012 floods on the socio-economic development of the affected area;

  – To formulate a recovery and reconstruction framework; and

  – To provide an opportunity for government officers who were trained in PDNA to put into practice the theory learnt during the training.
PDNA findings – impact of disaster

**Damage**

385.3 Million Kwacha
1.4 million US$

This included:

– Damage to housing;
– Damage to water systems, agriculture infrastructure, inputs and equipment

**Loss**

424.8 Million Kwacha
1.5 million US$

They included:

– Production losses in agriculture; and
– Higher costs of production of goods and services
Drought Assessment

✓ Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC), a government section is mandated to carry out vulnerability assessment as regards to food security

✓ It is a multi-stakeholder committee that comprise government institutions and civil society organisations including UN agencies.

✓ After MVAC report is out, National Humanitarian Response Committee provides guidance as to the type of assistance to be provided
2010/2011 drought

✓ 201,000 people were affected by food shortages in 10 districts of the country;
✓ 4,972 mt of maize was required to distribute to the affected people - Govt. provided the maize;
✓ Food assistance was provided from December 2011 to March 2012
Current food situation

✔ MVAC reported that 1.6 million people have missing food entitlements in 15 districts
✔ Response budgets developed at cluster levels:
✔ Agric. & Food Security Cluster - US $89,362,071.61
MVAC Response Plan

✓ The US $89,362,071.61 response plan is targeting 1.63 million people with missing food entitlements between August 2012 and March 2013 in 15 districts with food and cash interventions;

✓ Assistance in the form of both food and cash transfers

✓ **Food basket:**

✓ Maize: 50kg per household per month

✓ Pulses: 10kg per household per month

✓ Corn Soya Blend: 5kg per household per month
Humanitarian Response

Resourcing Update

✓ 36.9 % or US$18 million of MVAC response requirement (US$48.8 million) has been received.
✓ Contributions to date have come from the Government (25,000mt) estimated at US$5.5 million, USAID/FFP (US$7.8 million) and UKAID-DFID (US$4.7 million).

Needs/Gaps

✓ Capacity building
  - need to train officers on drought risk and disaster risk assessment

✓ satellite imagery
  - need to use satellite data to support decision making processes before, during and after disasters