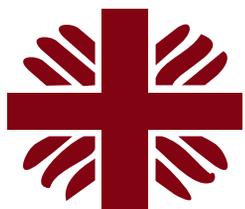




AN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE, AND MITIGATION PLAN



Caritas
Zambia

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Predicated on the national, regional, and international frameworks on disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation and the attendant enabling legal provisions for disaster management and mitigation, this report is based on the study conducted in the Dioceses across the ten (10) provinces to formulate an emergency Preparedness, Response and mitigation Plan, which is a critical tool aimed at guiding the Dioceses in preserving lives, protecting properties and the environment in an emergency.

Recognising the complex intersectionality of societies for which the plan is designed to serve, the study extended its catchment to include children so that the plan will be sensitive and responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable marginalized section of the population especially children, women, and people living with disability. It has been recognised that children and women are the most affected by disasters when they happen. Thus, the plan is envisaged to be a purview for actioning disaster preparedness and response measures for Dioceses in their jurisdictions for levelling up efforts to contribute to reduced vulnerabilities, while enhancing coping capacities and building resilience of exposed and susceptible communities to climatic and disaster risks.

Therefore, this Plan delivers a two-prong disaster management and mitigation strategy to amplify the adverse impacts of disaster and climatic shocks on children and vulnerable groups and provide recommendations on how they can be protected and recover from disaster and climatic shocks and how Dioceses and communities' capacities can be up-scaled in handling complexities and differential impact on communities arising from increased disaster occurrences.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The frequency, intensity and devastating scale of disasters are relentlessly increasing across the world, particularly in developing countries such as Zambia. Therefore, the need to enhance disaster preparedness is imperative considering the well-acknowledged enormous benefits of emergency preparedness. The steady growth of disaster risk, including the increased exposure of people and assets, combined with the lessons learned from past disasters, highlights the need to strengthen disaster preparedness for response, take action in anticipation of events, integrate disaster risk reduction in preparedness¹, and ensure that capacities are in place for effective response and recovery at all levels². Therefore, having an effective Emergency Preparedness, Response and Mitigation Plan is a critical tool/document to guide the Dioceses in preserving lives, and protecting properties and the environment during an emergency.

The Plan should guide Dioceses and communities in implementing disaster preparedness and response measures within their areas of jurisdiction and contribute to reducing vulnerabilities while enhancing coping capacities and building resilience of exposed and susceptible communities to climatic and disaster risks. The Plan to be developed should take cognizance of the disproportionate nature of disasters where marginalized people such as women and particularly children are the most affected by disasters when they happen. There is in general inter-connectedness of social inequalities and disaster vulnerability.

Research from recent decades show that it is generally the poor who suffer the most from disasters. At the community level, socially vulnerable groups such as children, women, the aged, disabled are the most affected due to a range of factors such as poverty. According to the World Disaster Report of 2001, of the 66.5 million people affected by natural and human-induced disasters, 10 million children were affected by conflict.

An Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan therefore should endeavour to determine the adverse impacts of disaster and climatic shocks on children and vulnerable groups and provide measures on how they can be protected and how they can recover from disaster and climatic shocks.

¹ World Health Organization, 2017.

² Sendai Framework (2015 – 2030)

1.1 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND MITIGATION PLAN

Caritas Zambia supports local actors to improve the living conditions of marginalized, excluded and particularly vulnerable populations in society. Most communities where the organisation implements its programmes now face the climate crisis that erodes people's coping capacities. As already stated, the frequency, intensity and scale of extreme weather events such as drought and floods are increasing alongside other disasters including high infestation of pests on crops and prevalence of livestock and human diseases due to changes in the weather pattern. In the last five years alone, the country has experienced several disasters such as COVID-19, cholera, fall armyworms and stock borers, floods, and drought. The ability of affected communities to recover and bounce back to normalcy has been slow due to multiple occurrences of these hazards that occur one after the other.

Additionally, the prevailing economic conditions that entrench inequalities and exacerbate poverty levels coupled with vulnerabilities and risks caused by changing climatic conditions significantly compromise the ability of people to live dignified lives: with the worst effects being experienced by women and children. Hence, for human development endeavours to be sustainable, institutions and communities should be able to prepare for, respond to mitigate, and recover from disasters. Preparedness minimizes the hazards' adverse effects through effective precautionary measures that ensure timely, appropriate, and efficient organisation and delivery of response and humanitarian/relief action. Responding to any disaster, especially a catastrophic event, is guaranteed to be unique, complex, and confusing³.

1.1.1 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

Disaster preparedness entails measures taken to prepare for and reduce the effects of disasters. That is, to predict their occurrence, mitigate their impact on vulnerable populations, and respond to the emergency. The purpose/goal of the Plan is to establish an effective disaster/emergency preparedness and response system with procedures and processes to safeguard lives and prevent or minimise damage to properties and the environment. The above goal aligns with priority number four of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015 – 2030) which seeks to enhance disaster preparedness for effective response.

³ Coppola, 2011:251

1.1.2 GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE PLAN

To provide guidance on risk reduction, emergency preparedness, and response actions and processes for possible hazard mitigation in a coordinated and structured manner.

1.1.3 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives for the Plan are:

- i. To provide a holistic framework to respond effectively to emergencies including vulnerable adults and child protection during emergencies and disasters in all the 11 dioceses;
- ii. To provide clear guidance on timely notification, and activation of response mechanisms;
- iii. Provide clear guidance on procedures for decision-making, command control, and coordination of response; and
- iv. To establish roles and responsibilities of community members and stakeholders tasked with coordinating emergency and disaster response.

1.2 AUDIENCE

The content of this plan will be relevant to the staff, partners, communities, and other stakeholders in disaster mitigation, preparedness, and response that work in close collaboration with the dioceses and communities across the ten (10) provinces in Zambia.

1.3 INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This plan is aligned with the national, regional, and international frameworks that guide holistic disaster/emergency preparedness and response. Zambia is a party to the Paris Agreement of 2015 on climate change under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which seeks to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change. It also recognizes the importance of averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, and focuses on fostering international cooperation on, among others, early warning systems and emergency preparedness⁴.

⁴ Paris Agreement (2015)

Additionally, the country is a party to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015 – 2030), a voluntary and non-binding agreement that recognizes that the state has a primary role in disaster risk reduction. The Sendai Framework however acknowledges that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders. The Agreement advocates for a paradigm shift from disaster management to disaster risk management. The Framework prioritizes the prevention of new risks, reducing existing risks, strengthening resilience, enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction⁵. Continental, regional, and national frameworks for disaster preparedness and response in Africa are based on these international frameworks.

1.3.1 LEGAL INSTRUMENTS FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (DRM), CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION (CCA)

Zambia has a legal framework that guides disaster preparedness and response in the country. The Disaster Management Act No. 13 of 2010 guides effective disaster preparedness, prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery to protect lives, livelihoods, property, the environment, and the economy. The Act tasks disaster preparedness and response at the highest level of coordination under the Office of the Vice President and involves a multi-sectoral and inter-ministerial approach.

Other existing legislation for health-related emergencies include the Public Health Act Cap 295 and the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) Act No. 19 of 2020 which provides for the establishment of ZNPHI to strengthen emergency/disaster preparedness framework and response for public health emergencies and coordination in the country.

The table below summarises some of the policies, laws, and other legal instruments relevant to emergency preparedness in Zambia, including the needs and risks of other sectors.

⁵ Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030

Table 1: Legal instruments for DRM and CCA

Enabling ACT/Policy	Purpose
Disaster Management Act No.13 of 2010	The Act provides for Disaster preparedness and response
The National Policy on Climate Change of 2016	The Policy provides a framework for coordinating climate change programmes in order to, among others, strengthen coping capacities, reduce vulnerabilities and enhance resilience from disaster and climatic risks.
Public Health Act Cap 295	The Act provides for preparedness and response to public health emergencies
Animal Health Act No.27 of 2010	The Act provides for preparedness and response to zoonotic and animal related diseases
ZNPHI Act No.19 of 2020	The Act provides for the establishment of the ZNPHI, which is mandated to protect the health of the public through surveillance, disease prevention, early warning, containment and arrest of any outbreaks in a multi-sectoral approach
Ionization Radiation Act No.16 of 2005	The Act provides for nuclear emergency preparedness and response
Environmental Management Act No. 12 of 2011	The Act provides for the management of environment and natural resources.
Forest Act No.4 of 2015	The Act provides for the conservation and protection of forests and Trees
Land Act Ca 184	The Act is responsible for the management and Administration of land in Zambia
Agriculture Lands Act Cap 187	The Act provides for sustainable agricultural practices, development, investment and management.
Urban and Regional Planning Act No.3 of 2015	The Act provides for planning for all land in Zambia.

Table 1: Legal instruments for DRM and CCA

Enabling ACT/Policy	Purpose
Water Resource Management Act NO.11 of 2006	The Act provides for the regulation and management of water resources
Fisheries Act No. 13 of 2010	The Act provides for sustainable fisheries and aquacultural development and management.
The Children's Code Act No.12 of 2022	The Act provides for the child's rights to social protection and social services

The Eighth (8th) National Development Plan (2022 – 2026) and the Disaster Risk Management Framework (2015 – 2030) comprehensively provide guidance for disaster risk reduction including preparedness for response. Further, the country has developed the Nationally Determined Contributions which articulates national ambitions to mitigate the effects of climate change and to enhance adaptative capacities against adverse impacts of climatic shocks.

1.3.2 RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN EMERGENCIES

Child protection in disasters and emergencies refers to the prevention and response to abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence against children caused by natural or human-induced disasters, conflicts, or other crises⁶. During emergencies, children may be exposed to forms of physical and psychological abuse, sexual and gender-based violence, and deprivation of basic needs and all these infringe on the rights of children.

Children's rights in emergencies/disasters could be understood in the broader context of the Humanitarian Charter, the child protection principles, and the SPHERE core standards that advocate for a rights-based and people-centred approach to humanitarian response. The

⁶ Adapted from Child Protection Working Group. Minimum standards for child protection in humanitarian action. Child Protection Working Group, 2012.

Humanitarian Charter and SPHERE Minimum Standards in Disaster Response Manual contain comprehensive guidelines and standards, covering disaster assistance concerning water supply and sanitation, nutrition, food aid, shelter and site planning, and health services. SPHERE echoes the rights and duties enshrined in International Law that states and other parties are obliged to respect and implement. In addition, the UN Convention on the Rights of Children (UNCRC) clearly articulates the protection, promotion, respect, and fulfilment of children's rights in relation to its principles which include: (a) the best interest of the child determination, (b) non-discrimination, (c) respect for the children's views, and (d) the survival and development. All these principles are critical and must apply and guide stakeholders during disasters and emergency responses.

To provide assistance and protection to children during emergencies/disasters, the minimum standards for child protection in humanitarian action articulate six principles. These principles include:

- i. Avoid exposing children to further harm as a result of your actions;
- ii. Ensure children's access to impartial assistance. This entails taking deliberate actions which protect marginalised, excluded, or discriminated against children such as orphans, disabled, and those at risk of being unaccompanied in case of migration or displacement. Participation of children in humanitarian action at the community level therefore is imperative;
- iii. Children should be protected from physical and psychological harm arising from violence and coercion;
- iv. Children should be assisted in claiming their rights to have access to available remedies and recover from the effects of abuse;
- v. Strengthening child protection systems through collaboration with key child protection agencies and influencers within the community;
- vi. Strengthen children's resilience in humanitarian action. Boys and girls should be empowered by allowing them to be active agents of their own protection through participation in the entire process of implementation of child protection activities.

The Zambia constitution provides the basis for all the humanitarian laws and bill of rights, which provide the framework for child protection in disasters and emergencies.

Review process and requirements of the plan

The Plan, arising from this research, will have a lifespan of five (5) years. The plan aligns with the scheduled review of most government policies and the global stocktake of most international frameworks on disaster and climatic risks. However, a mid-term review may be required depending on the changing landscape and emerging risks and hazards, that may not have been covered by this plan.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

The study was mainly qualitative, relying on a detailed review of available background documents, policies, legislation, and literature that provided valuable insights into emergency preparedness and response.

Interviews were also conducted with key informants from five (5) purposively selected Dioceses in five (5) provinces prone to adverse impacts and effects of climatic shocks. The provinces included Southern, Western, Lusaka, Central, Eastern, and Copperbelt, which are in ecological zones one (1) and two (2) and are prone to hydro-meteorological hazards specifically drought and floods. Focus group discussions with children were also conducted.

Interviews with Dioceses from various locations in the country provided insights into their preparedness and response capabilities. The Dioceses' disaster preparedness and response are implemented largely using the community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) approach, which essentially puts community participation at the centre of disaster risk management at the local level. The functionality of District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs) and Satellite Disaster Management Committees (SDMCs) in these dioceses was established.

To identify existing gaps and opportunities in disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation, several documents were reviewed including, the Disaster Management Policy and Disaster Management Manual both of 2015, the Disaster Management Act No. 13 of 2010, National Contingency Plans, the Disaster Risk Management Framework (2015 – 2030), and the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans developed to respond to specific hazards/shocks in the country. The Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) manual developed by the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) and other stakeholders, which prescribed tools for hazard analysis, identification, and prioritization, was the main source of literature.

To ensure that the plan was aligned with national, regional, and international frameworks, strategies, policies, and best practices, the documents reviewed included the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the SADC Disaster Preparedness and Response and Fund Strategy, the SADC Resilience Strategy, the African Union, Sendai Framework (2015 – 2023), the National Adaptation Plan, the 8th National Development Plan, the National Climate Change Policy, among others.

Secondary data from vulnerability and capacity analysis provided insights into disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation capabilities. This part focused on identifying characteristics/elements that would either hinder or help the communities to anticipate, prepare for, prevent, cope with and recover from disaster and climatic shocks.

3.0 Context and Background

3.1 GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

Zambia lies between latitudes 8 to 18 degrees and longitudes 22 to 34 degrees. It's a land-linked country situated in the South-Central part of Africa and shares borders with eight (8) countries, namely, Angola, Botswana, Congo DRC, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. The country has a total land area of 752,618 square kilometres.

The country is mainly a plateau located between 910 to 1,370m (3,000 – 4,500 ft.) above sea level. The Muchinga Mountains in the northeast tower about 1,800m (5,900 ft.). The major rivers crisscrossing the country include the Zambezi, Kafue, Luapula, and Luangwa rivers. The major lakes include Lake Tanganyika, Lake Mweru, Lake Bangweulu and Lake Kariba.

Zambia has a tropical climate with two main seasons. The wet season is from November to April which corresponds to summer (rainy season), and the dry season which is from May to October/November and corresponds to winter. But as the globe reels with increasing temperatures, Zambia has not been spared from the effects of climate change. Climate change has resulted in dry spells and flash floods that cause crop failure and food and energy insecurity.

The impact of climate change on human systems poses a challenge to sustainable human development. The effects of climate change and variability impacts, among others, on the ecosystem, agriculture and food security, human settlements and shelter, water and sanitation, and health are too apparent to be ignored. The country is already recording economic and non-economic losses due to adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events.

The 6th IPCC, 2022⁷ predicts increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and the likelihood of exceeding adaptation limits. Losses and damages from climate change will happen when efforts to reduce emissions are not ambitious enough and when adaptation efforts are unsuccessful or impossible to implement.

3.2 Historical Emergency/Disasters In Zambia

Globally, the number of people affected by disasters and associated deaths has been increasing. From 2005 – 2015, for example, more than 700 thousand people worldwide have lost their lives from disasters while affecting over 1.5 billion people. Said disasters disproportionately affected women, children, and people in vulnerable situations⁸. In Zambia, minimal deaths have been recorded from natural disasters. Most deaths have mainly been due to technological, industrial, and road traffic accidents. Table 2 shows the statistics for the country.

EVENTS	NO OF PEOPLE AFFECTED/DEATHS	COMMENTS
Natural Disasters – 1978-2013	5,158,258	Affected
Technological Disasters – 2008 - 2015	1,051	Affected
Natural Disasters – 1978 - 2012	411	Deaths
Total No. of Deaths (Epidemics only)	272	Deaths
Total economic damage (US\$):	200,000 (1978- Lusaka) 20,200,000 (1998- Nothern)	Damage only from floods

Source: EM-DAT, CRED, University of Louvain, Belgium

The country experienced prolonged dry spells during the 2018/2019 rainfall season due to the El Niño climate phenomenon. Around 2.3 million people were affected by drought in the Southern and Western Provinces who needed humanitarian assistance. During the 2022/2023 rainfall season, 373,581 people were affected by floods mainly in the Southern, Western, Central, Eastern, and Lusaka Provinces. More than 1.5 million livestock were affected with 2,881 cattle dying. During the same period, 94 critical infrastructures such as roads, crossing points, and bridges were damaged or destroyed by floods across the country. When the In-depth vulnerability assessment was conducted for 2023, the country had a caseload of 1.95 million people affected by floods and prolonged dry spells who needed humanitarian assistance.

⁷ IPCC Report, 2022

⁸ Zambia Disaster Risk Profile, 2015

During the 2023/24 rainfall season, the country experienced an outbreak of cholera with 23,243 cases recorded and 740 deaths. During the same period, the country also experienced both drought and floods which affected 9.8 million people and 1,311 households respectively¹⁰.

3.2.1 Child Protection In Disasters And Emergencies

The protection of children in emergencies and disasters in Zambia has generally been embedded within the broader framework of protecting people's lives, their property, and the environment. Thus, it has not been visibly pronounced in policies and interventions targeted at mitigating the adverse impacts of climate and disaster shocks. However, one of the guiding principles of the disaster risk management policy is the recognition that disaster effects are selective, affecting mostly children, women, the physically challenged, and the elderly. Hence specific consideration of these groups in disaster risk management shall be prominent at all levels.

Over the years, Zambia has been conducting in-depth vulnerability assessments and the opportunity for action in protecting children amid the climate crisis has been in the areas of education; nutrition; Water and Sanitation, hygiene, and health. Generally, climate and environmental threats pose severe risks to the population, especially to children, with impacts on; education, child protection, food security, health, water and sanitation services, contaminated water sources, soil, and air¹¹:

In the education sector, the focus has been to strengthen food and nutrition provision to children from affected households to ensure continuity of learning and improve learning outcomes. During the drought episode of the 2023/2024 rainfall season, the school feeding programme was expanded to cover 84 affected districts.

Climate change leads to many health emergencies and disasters increasing risks that threaten the well-being of populations. The implications of the current drought, for example, are intense. It ushered in epidemics such as diarrheal diseases, exacerbating food shortages and nutritional deficits, and amplified vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, chickenpox, and vector-borne diseases, notably malaria, trypanosomiasis, and plague. These effects extend to maternal and child health, due to poor maternal nutrition leading to underweight mothers, increased premature births, and low birth weight among babies, including but not limited to increased malnutrition in children leading to increased underweight children and stunting¹².

¹⁰ Zambia Food Security Drought Response Plan, 2024

¹¹ Adapted from the Children and Climate Resilience in Lao PDR: Risk assessments and social services strategies synthesis Report, 2024

¹² Zambia Food Security Drought Response Plan, 2024

The health sector's focus in emergencies, among others, is to strengthen access to quality healthcare services for children, including primary healthcare. Zambia has an already deteriorating nutrition situation where the national average for Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate is 4.2 per cent (2.2 to 8.2 per cent) among under-five children, posing more risks to the health and well-being of children. The 2023 Integrated Phase Classification report indicated that 2,887,397 children aged 0 – 59 months were affected. Severe acute malnutrition was also reported to be among the top ten causes of reported deaths at 2.9 per cent¹³. Children are often most vulnerable during droughts due to increased nutritional needs and susceptibility to diseases. Approximately 1,320,000 children under five are targeted in 84 districts for child health interventions. The 2024 Drought Response Plan estimates that 102,089 children will need treatment for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and those needing treatment for Moderate Acute Malnutrition are 275,027.

Children are often seen as passive beneficiaries of assistance and basic right to survival, development, and protection, they can however be useful actors capable of providing knowledge of communities and can contribute to disaster relief and recovery efforts. As an example, consultations with more than 300 children aged 7 to 17 by Plan International in countries affected by the 2004 Tsunami that hit India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand revealed that children played a critical role in disaster response and search and rescue. Children assisted in rescuing the young and older people, applying first aid, taking injured people to hospitals, and searching for family members¹⁴.

3.2.2 RISK/HAZARD PROFILES

Zambia is exposed to a wide range of hazards including human-induced, natural and those associated with complex humanitarian emergencies. According to the Disaster Management Policy (2015)¹⁴ and the Disaster Management Manual (2015)¹⁶, human-induced disasters include epidemics (e.g., cholera, dysentery and HIV/AIDS); natural hazards include floods, drought, lightning, geological hazards, among others; while complex humanitarian emergencies include an influx of refugees, religious conflicts; and internally displaced persons. When these hazards interact with the fragile environment and are exacerbated by high levels of our population, a recipe for disaster is created.

The Disaster Management Operations Manual (2015) identifies the following as some of the common hazards across the 10 Provinces in the country:

¹³ Adapted from the Recent conducted SMART Survey, 2024 under the Nutrition Cluster.

¹⁴ Adapted from Takaki and others, Children's Rights in Emergencies and Disasters, 2006

¹⁵ National Disaster Management Policy, 2015

¹⁶ National Disaster Management Operations Manual, 2015

- Drought;
- Floods;
- Epidemics;
- Pests;
- Environmental degradation;
- Refugees;
- Internally displaced Persons;
- Accidents; and
- Human/ Animal Conflict

The Country conducted a country risk profile with the help of UNDRR in 2015. The country risk profile, which provides projections and scenarios for the period 2050 to 2100, offers a comprehensive view of hazards, risks and uncertainties for floods and drought in lieu of the changing climate. The risk assessment considered a large number of possible scenarios, their likelihood, and associated impacts across the 10 Provinces in the country¹⁷. The process of generating the risk profile, particularly hydro-meteorological hazards, used a significant amount of scientific information on hazard, exposure, and vulnerabilities to simulate disaster risk.

The vulnerability and risk analysis conducted by the Ministry of Health prioritised hazards which had occurred in the last 5 years or those that posed a risk to the country. These included anthrax, cholera, Ebola, measles and rubella, rabies, typhoid, plague, influx of refugees and road traffic accidents. Other threats identified during the threats and hazards identification and risk assessment included polio, yellow fever, droughts, floods and radiation exposure¹⁸.

3.3. Current Disaster Preparedness, Response and Mitigation Mechanisms

3.3.1 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

A comprehensive disaster preparedness strategy comprises nine elements namely: hazard, risk and vulnerability assessment, response mechanism and strategy, preparedness plans, coordination, information management, early warning systems, resource mobilisation, public education, training and rehearsals, and community-based disaster preparedness. The table below examines the status and gaps of the above elements.

¹⁷ Zambia Disaster Risk Profile, 2015

¹⁸ Zambia all Hazards Preparedness and Response Plan, ZNPHI, 2022

Table 3: A Comprehensive Disaster Preparedness Strategy

N/B	Element	Current National Status	Gap
01	<p>Hazard, risk and Vulnerability Assessments - All planning and implementation of disaster preparedness measures should be based on an assessment and prioritisation of the hazards and risks that people face, as well their ability or inability to cope with and withstand the effects of those hazards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rapid and In-depth Vulnerability assessments are conducted as and when necessary and informs disasters Response - Contingency Plans are also developed based on risk analysis using various models to inform disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness for response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rapid and In-depth Vulnerability assessments are conducted as and when necessary and informs disasters Response - Contingency Plans are also developed based on risk analysis using various models to inform disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness for response
02	<p>Response mechanisms and strategies- preparedness mechanisms and strategies strengthens and increase the effectiveness of an emergency response. These include, among others, evacuation procedures; search and rescue teams; assessment teams; procedures for activating distribution systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparedness mechanisms and strategies including procedures do exist in the Disaster Management Manual 	<p>Implementation of the disaster management manual is not optimal</p>
03	<p>Preparedness Plan – Though the details of a disaster remain uncertain, preparedness planning improves the quality, timing and effectiveness of response to a disaster.</p>	<p>Various Disaster Management Plans are developed to guide ex-ante and ex-post disaster interventions</p>	<p>A comprehensive Multi-hazard National Disaster Preparedness Plan is yet to be finalised</p>

Table 3: A Comprehensive Disaster Preparedness Strategy

04	Coordination -Effective disaster response requires coordination of efforts and resources among the many agencies and people involved in emergency response.	- Robust coordination mechanism is in existence from the National to Local levels NDMC; NDMTC; NDMCF; PDMC; DDMC; and SDMC	Nil
05	Information Management – Disaster preparedness and response depend on gathering, analysing and acting on timely and accurate information before, during and after a disaster.	The Country has an information management system at DMMU including the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) for incident management	Information management in the country needs strengthening
06	Early Warning Systems – The purpose of early warning systems is to detect, forecast, and when necessary, issue alerts related to impending hazard events.	-The country has early warning systems for hydro-meteorological hazards, food security, health emergencies	- Existing early warning systems are disjointed and needs integration – multi-hazard early warning systems - Existing early warning systems are also inadequate and very limited in scope and coverage -Inadequate modern Early warning systems which are accurate and provide timely early warning information for early action.
07	Resource Mobilisation – Strategies and procedures need to be developed for mobilising and acquiring emergency funds, supplies and equipment in the event of a disaster.	- The Disaster Management Act does provide the guide for mobilising resources (both financial and material) before and during a disaster Appeal documents are usually prepared in the aftermath of a disaster as a tool for resource mobilisation	There is no specific financial strategy to finance disaster risk management in the country.

Table 3: A Comprehensive Disaster Preparedness Strategy

08	Public education, training and Rehearsal – Disaster preparedness must be accompanied by public education campaigns, training of response teams and drills of emergency response scenarios.	There is inadequate advocacy, public education campaigns and training of response teams. Very few institutions conduct simulation exercise of their plans	training of cadres in disaster response
09	Community-Based Disaster Preparedness – Disaster preparedness requires collaboration with all stakeholders particularly community organisations and networks since these are primary responders to shocks.	The government through DMMU prepared the Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Manual	Lack of functional Satellite Disaster Management Committees in most Communities across the country

3.3.2 NATIONAL RESPONSE AND COORDINATION MECHANISM

Response to emergencies/disasters depends on the severity and magnitude of an incident. The response happens at local (community), district, provincial, sector and national levels. The country has yet to develop grading and classification criteria for different hazards. However, suffice it to mention that the grading criteria are comprehensive mainly for public health emergencies. Sectors will normally respond to emergencies. But when capacity is overwhelmed, the response is upgraded and coordination is then taken to the Office of the Vice President and Cabinet Office.

Protocols for activating response mechanisms have been developed for hazards such as epidemics, floods and drought. The Zambia Red Cross, for example, working in collaboration with DMMU, WARMA and Zambia Meteorological Department developed protocols for floods which inform activation of anticipatory actions. Once the government does the activation, stakeholders are expected to follow and coordination platforms for state and non-state actors are activated.

For every incident, Response Plans are developed and then clusters are activated. The government developed the response plans through the DMMU, with support from the United Nations System, Faith Based Organisations, Civil Society and other non-state humanitarian actors. The plans are normally vetted through the disaster management structure which includes the National Disaster Management Technical Committee (NDMTC), and the National Disaster Management Council (NDMC). The NDMC is the highest decision-making body in the disaster risk management system of the country and is co-chaired by the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the DMMU National Coordinator. Faith-based organisations such as Caritas Zambia, have the opportunity to participate in the National Disaster Management Committee, while the Dioceses have the opportunity to participate in provincial disaster management committees.

3.3.2.1 COORDINATION DURING EMERGENCIES

Coordination is a vital and immediate component of international disaster response because of the number of agencies that quickly descend upon the impacted area. Coordination facilitates speedy implementation; generates economies of scale; avoids fragmentation of interventions; creates synergies; and catalyses processes. Coordinated responses, timely inter-agency assessments and information sharing reduce the burden of affected communities who may be subjected to demands for the same information from the different stakeholders¹⁹.

¹⁹ National Disaster Management Policy, 2015

In 2005, the UN agencies and Partners in the humanitarian sphere conducted a review of global humanitarian response efforts and established the cluster system of coordination. The review found that effectiveness efforts could be enhanced through better coordination. Through the cluster system, the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) established nine clusters along thematic areas including Protection, Camp Coordination and Management, Water Sanitation and Hygiene, Health, Emergency Telecommunication, Logistics, Early Recovery, Education, Agriculture and Food Security ²⁰. Each of these clusters is led by the government and co-lead by the specialised agency of the UN for the sector. The cluster system, among others, promotes a more standardized professional response and meaningful participation of the affected population (including children) and inclusion of gender, HIV/AIDS, mental health and psycho-social issues into sectoral response.

Protection should not be viewed as solely the concern of the protection cluster; it should be integrated into all aspects of humanitarian response. All humanitarian actors share a responsibility for ensuring that their activities do not lead to or perpetuate discrimination, abuse, violence, neglect or exploitation; they should promote and respect human rights and enhance the protection even of children ²¹.

The ongoing response to the drought is anchored on the cluster system of coordination. All stakeholders (state and non-state) coordinate under this framework. The number and coverage of the clusters may vary depending on the scale and type of emergency/disaster. Each cluster comprises government, national and international non-governmental organisations, the private sector, and other organisations operating within that theme.

The Clusters are technical working groups and report to the National Disaster Management Technical Committee (NDMTC). The NDMTC meanwhile reports to the National Disaster Management Council (NDMC); and then the NDMC reports to Cabinet.

The Dioceses will leverage existing national, provincial, and district structures for coordination during emergencies. For intra and inter – coordination, it will use its existing communication systems including:

- Teleconferencing facilities
- Video conferencing facilities
- Telephones
- High-frequency radio
- Television and radio
- Email and SMS

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Child Protection Working Group, 2010

4.0 Caritas Zambia

Caritas Zambia is a department of the Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB) organization given the Mandate of supporting the Conference of Bishops to promote integral human development in Zambia. It is one of the seven (7) departments of the Catholic Secretariat established to be at the service of two episcopal Commissions, namely the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) and the Catholic Commission for Development (CCD).

It is a Faith-Based Organization with a mandate of supporting the Conference to promote integral human development in Zambia. The vision of Caritas Zambia is to “create a Zambian society where every person attains integral human development”. Its mission is inspired by the word of God and catholic social teachings. Caritas Zambia is dedicated to promoting integral human development through witnessing, animation, conscientization, and institutional strengthening. The institutional strengthening aims at supporting local actors to improve the living conditions of marginalized, excluded and particularly vulnerable populations in society.

To achieve its vision and mission, Caritas Zambia does its work through four (4) core programmes through which various interventions are implemented. These are as follows: the Economical Social and Accountability Programme, the Democracy and Governance Programme, the Livelihoods and Climate Change Programme and the Child Protection and Peace Building Programme.

To reduce vulnerabilities, enhance coping capacities and strengthen the resilience of local communities at risk of disaster and climatic shocks, the Disaster Preparedness, Response and Mitigation Plan aim to help the 11 dioceses across all the 10 Provinces to effectively implement mitigation, preparedness and response, and anticipatory humanitarian actions. This will help local communities to anticipate/prepare for, respond to, and bounce back/recover from disasters and climatic shocks. This section focuses on the interviews held with Dioceses to gauge their level of preparedness and response capacity.

4.1 DISASTER RISK KNOWLEDGE WITHIN DIOCESES

In order to gauge the level of disaster risk knowledge, Caritas Zambia under this process sampled a total of 5 Dioceses in line with the DMMU parameters on the identification of provinces prone to hazards such as drought and floods. The 5 selected Dioceses included Ndola, Chipata, Lusaka, Monze and Kabwe.

The interviews conducted with these purposively selected Dioceses revealed that all the Dioceses across the country were aware of the risks/hazards which were prevalent within their areas of jurisdiction. The hazards are consistent with the ones identified in the National Disaster Management Manual of 2015 and these included flash floods, fires, human-animal conflicts, droughts, and epidemics (both human and animal) such as cholera and anthrax. Most of the Dioceses also have unique insights into the geography and climatic conditions of their areas such as the valleys and plateaus and can relate hazards associated with each area.

Almost all the Dioceses except for Ndola did not have an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan. However, Dioceses were aware of the existence of such plans at provincial and district levels under the Disaster

Management and Mitigation Unit. Furthermore, they were fully aware of the disaster management structures at the district and community levels. However, Chipata Diocese noted that Satellite Disaster Management Committees existed only on paper and were non-functional or inactive. A case in point was Vubwi District where organizations were distributing relief as Project Implementing Partners (PIPs) of the DMMU. This observation is congruent with what others have observed with regard to SDMCs including DMMU. SDMCs across the country are generally reactive and in most areas are non-existent. This undermines disaster risk management at the local level. It was generally acknowledged that disaster management structures are very active and strong at the national level.

Further engagement and interviews with Dioceses established that Ndola Diocese had a disaster management committee composed of 20 members drawn from all 10 districts (two from each district) in the Copperbelt Province. The Committee was constituted following the declaration of drought as a national disaster and emergency by the Republican President on 29th February, 2024. Subsequently, the Ndola Diocese committee prepared an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan which is still in draft form. The committee has regularly scheduled meetings but encounters challenges convening the meetings due to resource constraints.

4.2 CLIMATE RESILIENT PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS

Almost all the Dioceses had at least one climate-resilient-related project. Monze Diocese for example, has two projects, the Medicine for Humanities project which was drilling boreholes in water-stressed areas for early recovery for farmers affected by drought; and the Hilton Foundation which was providing immediate life-saving humanitarian needs such as water, food, and child protection.

The Chipata Diocese had two projects namely, the Climate Smart Economic Empowerment project which promotes cheap irrigation to ensure food security at the household level; and the Promoting Enhanced Seed Access project which had demonstration plots for drought-resistant crops.

Ndola Diocese on the other hand had just completed a Tree planting project which saw 2500 pines planted between December to March 2024. The Diocese is currently engaged as a PIP by DMMU Copperbelt to distribute relief maize in Masaiti, Mpongwe and Lufwanyama. The distribution of relief maize was being done by respective Church Mission in Parishes in these areas involving Caritas members. Similar to others, the Diocese is an ardent participant in disaster mitigation, preparedness and response at the Provincial level through the Provincial Disaster Management Committee (PDMC).

4.3 EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

All the Dioceses relied on the conventional early warning systems which is provided by the government. The Zambia Meteorological Department under the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment is the main source of early warning information particularly climate-related information. There is, however, an acknowledgement and recognition of area-specific indigenous early warning systems which communities rely upon.

4.4 DIOCESES' CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO DISASTERS/EMERGENCIES

The study revealed that the capacity of Dioceses to respond to emergencies was very weak. Capacity entails all the strengths, attributes and resources available within a community, society or organization that can be used to achieve agreed objectives. Capacity encompasses physical, natural, human, social and financial capital that is available in the organization to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, cope with, withstand the adverse effects and bounce back from the negative impact of a shock/disaster.

While some Dioceses indicated that they had human resources trained in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA), the majority of them however are not trained. Monze had five (5) officers trained in DRR and CCA, while Chipata had two. For the latter, officers were working on specific climate-resilient projects/programmes, while for the former, officers only attended short training workshops. The Diocese rely on a cadre of Catholic professionals who could help in times of emergencies.

Further, Dioceses did not have a comprehensive map of emergency equipment from within and without. However, available equipment and resources from Parishes within the Dioceses are readily available for deployment during an emergency.

Dioceses did not have dedicated funds for emergencies and disasters and depended on Lenten funds. Lenten funds are funds collected in tins from church members for charity and usually, the amounts are insignificant.

4.4.1 PROTOCOLS FOR ACTIVATION OF RESPONSE MECHANISMS

The Dioceses had internal structures, policies and procedures for handling internal emergencies. For example, the Dioceses had protocols in place for targeting the vulnerable and the education desk on how to identify vulnerable children, among other internal mechanisms. The Parish Development Committees, for example, would link with the Dioceses and activate internal mechanisms after a thorough assessment of an incident. However, for large-scale incidents, the Dioceses relied on government processes and protocols such as the declaration of disasters for them to trigger their processes and commence resource mobilization for response.

4.4.2 COLLABORATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The Dioceses are familiar with the National Disaster Management structure and are working in close collaboration with the DMMU at the provincial level. Other stakeholders working closely with the Dioceses include the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security; the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock; the Ministry of Education; the Zambia National Red Cross; Care International; World Vision; and the Catholic Relief Services. These are some of the partners working with the Dioceses on various programmes based on their specialization.

4.4.3 PROPOSED MEASURES FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

The Dioceses proposed the following measures for disaster preparedness and response:

- Enhance staff capacity in all Dioceses in DRR and CCA;
- Strengthen engagement and linkages with stakeholders in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation;
- Lobby for resources in strengthening preparedness, anticipatory actions and response capacities; and
- Lobby for the creation of a disaster risk management budget line for each coordinator in the Dioceses.

4.5 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION WITH CHILDREN IN AREAS WHERE CARITAS IS IMPLEMENTING ITS PROGRAMMES

This part discusses responses from purposively selected children that formed part of the focus group discussion on Disaster Preparedness, Responses and Mitigation Plans. The focus group discussion consisted of nine participants aged 13 who were in Grade 7 and aged 16 years old. In terms of gender variability, FGD participants consisted of five girls and four boys.

As part of ethical considerations, the study adhered to research protocol involving children's participation. For confidentiality, and to ensure their rights were protected, the focus group discussion was conducted in the presence of stewards of the children. The interview was at Shekinah Tabernacle Assembly School in Misisi Compound from 15:00hrs to 16:45hrs on Monday, 24th June, 2024.

The locus of the focus group discussion was to gain children's insights into the following aspects related to disaster preparedness, response and mitigation:

- Children's knowledge about disasters;
- Disasters that have taken place in their locality where they have been affected;
- How they are affected by such disasters;
- The kind of help children received during the disaster;
- What has been done to the children before, during and after the disaster;
- Children's knowledge of interest groups that provide help to them during disasters, and;
- What they think should be done for them before, during and after a disaster.

What follows below is the discussion of these themes based on the responses children provided during the Focus Group discussion.

4.5.1 CHILDREN'S UNDERSTANDING OF DISASTER

Apart from one participant who needed more explanation on what was meant by a disaster, the rest of the children showed a measured knowledge of what is a disaster and demonstrated an in-depth appreciation of the effects of the disasters on communities, including their own homes and environment. One of the participants defined disaster as "things that affect us as humans and mess us up... we have no ability to stop them from happening". Another remarked: "These are unforeseen events...things we don't expect and harm the environment". Another participant also added the aspect of human-induced disasters, citing drought and cholera.

These responses demonstrate that children are aware of the dynamic nature of disasters both naturally occurring and human-induced disasters.

4.5.2 KIND OF DISASTERS IN THEIR LOCALITY

This question sought to establish the kind of disasters which the participants have experienced in their communities. All participating children indicated they have previously experienced and are currently experiencing a disaster in their locality. The following were mentioned and are arranged according to the frequency children mentioned these during the focus group discussion:

- Drought
- Floods
- Cholera
- COVID-19

It is worth noting that children, despite their age and limited experience, the Focus Group discussions revealed that they are familiar with disasters and have had first-hand experience with specific disasters at individual, domestic and community levels. The above indicates that children are aware of the disasters wreaking havoc in their immediate environment and that they should also be key drivers of DRM and CCA.

4.5.3 IMPACTS/EFFECTS OF DISASTERS ON CHILDREN IN THEIR LOCALITY

When asked about the impact/effect of disasters in their locality, the children unanimously answered, as if in a chorus, “load-shedding” as they referred to the 2023/2024 drought. Some of the responses were particularly fascinating as highlighted below:

P1 = “Load-shedding is affecting us. Going to school, and studying is not easy”.

P3 = “At school, we sometimes knock off early because there is no water in the toilets because of load shedding. This is affecting the level of academic excellence”.

P6 = “Bathing cold water going to school. it is hard, it is cold these days, sometimes I just stay home”.

P9 = “Mealie meal is expensive. There is hunger, sometimes eating only one meal, and this is affecting our school”.

These responses demonstrate that children are aware of the dynamic nature of disasters both naturally occurring and human-induced disasters.

P2 = "Personally, drought has affected me. Hunger, everything is expensive. I carry a ka K10 - I just buy a samosa".

P2 = "We are not enjoying our full rights because of drought. Our parents are not able to meet basic needs: food, proper good health, and can't move at night because it's very dark especially here in Misisi".

In explaining how they have been affected by floods, participants provided the following responses:

P9 = "Too much water in Misisi when it rains. We walk in dirty water. You can't wear shoes. I got sick walking in water to school".

In discussing how they were affected by cholera, one participant describes how he came down with cholera while at school:

P8 = "I had cholera. I just went to school. I love school. This area was flooded with water, this place is flooded with dirty water. I think after two weeks I got sick and infected with cholera. I didn't know I had cholera. I was fortunate I was taken to UTH from school when I started vomiting. I become okay after some days. It was bad".

5.0 INTERVENTIONS WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

When asked if anything was done for them when disasters happened, children's initial response was "no". Stating that interventions were not specifically aimed at addressing their plight as children during the disaster.

They reported that interventions were generic, targeting the community without children in mind. For example, they reported how during the cholera outbreak, messaging about hygiene was on radio and TV but immediately after the epidemic ended, the sensitization also stopped. They also reported how measures to prevent flooding in future by building drainages prematurely stopped before the entire area of Misisi could have a proper drainage system.

Concerning the drought-induced food insecurity and hunger situation, participants acknowledged how the school feeding programme was a child-centred intervention during the current drought disaster. Participants reported how the school feeding

programme helped them concentrate at school despite a lack of food at home. Further, participants generally mentioned that free education was also an intervention that saved some income from their parents to mitigate the hunger situation.

However, as pointed out earlier, participants said that nearly all initiatives instituted during the disaster were abandoned after the emergency period. They reported how initiatives such as weekly cleaning of markets immediately after the disaster are no longer being done today. On this account, they also fear that the current initiative embedded in the Children's Parliament on Climate Change would also be abandoned once the effects of climate change are eased.

Thus, participants feel post-disaster interventions, strategies and initiatives, especially ones targeted at children, are not sustained beyond the emergency period of the disaster.

5.1 KNOWLEDGE OF RESPONDERS OR PROVIDERS OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (IF ANY) DURING DISASTERS

Participants mentioned in the following order Caritas Zambia, Save the Children, and Jesus Cares Ministries as organizations that have provided them with books, school bags, pens and tuition fees. They reported that the help from Caritas Zambia in particular was helpful, especially because these were provided before the free education policy of government was started. The participants noted the school feeding programme of the Government as helpful.

5.2 CHILDREN'S PERSPECTIVE ON WHAT SHOULD BE DONE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER A DISASTER

The question sought to establish what participants think should be done before, during and after a disaster. Their views are presented below under three sub-themes: before the disaster, during the disaster and after the disaster.

5.2.1 BEFORE THE DISASTER

Framing their response on the old mantra - prevention is better than cure - one participant remarked: "Teach children ways of preventing climate change so we can stop cutting trees". The response serves as a call and anchorage in disaster preparedness, response and mitigation for all known disasters. Sensitization in disaster preparedness, response and mitigation cannot be over-emphasized. One participant said that to prevent cholera, sensitization should be done all the time. In her own words, she admonished providers to "sensitize us about cholera every time. Three times every week. Not just when we find ourselves affected during a disaster." In building resilience, participants called for the creation of the Children's Council on Climate Change which should be a platform for continuous discussion of climate-related issues. Through the council, the effects of climate change expressed in prolonged dry spells and flash floods would be significantly minimized especially on children.

5.2.2 DURING THE DISASTER

Participants mentioned many interventions which should be put in place during the disaster to address their plight and vulnerable conditions. Concerning the drought and the hunger situation, they generally agreed that the provision of feeding opportunities to children was the most effective way to abate severe acute malnutrition among children, especially school-going children. During floods, especially when there is a pre-warning announcement of an impending flash flood, participants said that classes in at-risk areas should be cancelled so that children are protected from being washed away by the flood water. Participants also mentioned that there should be deliberate evacuation strategies or assisted passage for children during flooding during school days so that they do not walk in flood water.

5.2.3 AFTER THE DISASTER

Participants said that after a disaster, the government or organizations which were involved in providing intervention during the disaster should provide feedback to a specific cluster of people they served during the disaster. This should include telling the children what has been done to prevent future occurrences or minimize the effects thereof. As has been mentioned before, participants lamented the abrupt abandonment of interventions put in place during the disaster. It is their considered view that if all measures put in place during the disaster were followed through post-disaster, such disasters would never recur.

6.0 GRADING OF EMERGENCIES TO DETERMINE SCALE OF RESPONSE

The grading system of emergencies is largely dependent on the risk assessment associated with the event which takes into consideration the severity of the event and its impact on the population, location, and the economy. The grading helps in the development of a shared understanding and standard approach to determining the activation, response levels, scope, capacity and capabilities required by the country and all responders and stakeholders. Classifications matter because preparedness, response and disaster risk reduction measures as well as the specialists and agencies to be mobilized and involvement depend on the above classification and type of disaster.

6.1 GRADING CRITERIA

Grading criteria depend on the following elements:

I. The scale of the event

This entails the spatial distribution or spread, number of people affected and level of destruction of infrastructure and social services.

II. The urgency of the response

This depends on the speed of onset of the event, whether the incident is rapid or slow onset. This also depends on the perception of the community and the practitioner's insight.

I. Complexity of the context

This takes into account physical security, internally displaced populations, refugees, accessibility of the affected area and risk of transboundary transmissions.

II. Response Capacity

This comprises equipment and human resources that may be available for mounting effective responses such as skilled human resources, equipment and supplies (logistics), water, sanitation and power supply.

III. Capability

This refers to the capacity of the systems within the Dioceses to effectively respond to emergencies.

IV. Reputational risk

This includes political, institutional and social risk.

6.2 USE OF INITIAL RAPID RISK ASSESSMENT

The basic stages of a disaster risk assessment consist of mainly four stages. These include identifying the specific disaster risks; analyzing the disaster risks; Evaluating the disaster risks; monitoring disaster risk reduction initiatives and updating and disseminating disaster risk information²². This process is usually undertaken by the government with stakeholders as it guides in grading of disasters. The Dioceses will be/are part of the national structures such as the Zambia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZVAC) which is mandated to undertake vulnerability assessments in the country. The grading is primarily spearheaded by DMMU for non-health emergencies/disasters, while the Ministry of Health, through the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) and stakeholders undertakes the grading of public health emergencies.

As already mentioned, rapid assessment is key in informing response interventions. Currently, the data generated from such assessment is only credible when it is spearheaded by the government in collaboration with stakeholders. The Dioceses will have to work within the framework for conducting rapid and in-depth assessments as provided by the government. Humanitarian actors in the country use data generated through the ZVAC processes.

6.3 EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS IN PLACE

Effective early warning systems not only save lives but also help protect livelihoods and national developmental gains. To be effective, early warning systems must be people-centred and must integrate four elements:

- Knowledge of the risks people are exposed to;
- Technical monitoring and warning services;
- Dissemination of meaningful warnings to those at risk; and
- Response capacity (public awareness and preparedness to act).

The objective of a people-centred early warning system is to empower individuals and communities threatened by hazards to act in sufficient time and an appropriate manner to reduce the possibility of personal injury, loss of life, damage to property and the environment and loss of livelihoods²³.

²² South African Disaster Management Framework, 2012

²³ United Nations, 2006

7.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Dioceses and partners are expected to leverage the existing disaster risk management framework within the country which guides all stakeholders in disaster preparedness and response. The DMMU with stakeholders prepares National Multi-hazard National Contingency Plans every year and provides the national framework for actions to anticipate and respond to hazards that would characterize the season. The Dioceses should take the opportunity and enhance their preparedness capacities as the process of preparing these documents takes into consideration all stakeholders in the disaster management regime and humanitarian space. The cluster system particularly the protection theme also provides an opportunity for the Dioceses and partners to amplify child protection targeted interventions during response to emergencies/disasters. Child protection principles should be also advocated throughout the whole value chain of the disaster risk management continuum (ex-ante and ex-post). Arising from the study, this last section focuses on mitigation, preparedness and response measures and strategies which the Dioceses and partners can consider undertaking to help local communities anticipate/prepare for, respond to, and bounce back/recover when affected by disasters and climatic shocks.

7.1 MITIGATION MEASURES AND STRATEGIES

The mitigation measures that the Caritas through the Dioceses and lower structures, or their partners can implement shall include activities aimed at lessening the destructive and disruptive effects of hazards. These measures can be structural and non-structural and may vary depending on the disaster or hazard involved. These interventions shall likewise address the underlying causes of vulnerability and ensure that mitigation is part of developmental activities for resilience building. These may include but are not limited to the following:

- Lobby for the construction of dykes, weirs, dams and other flood barriers in flood-prone areas;
- Promote safe building designs and physical planning for resilient human settlements and shelters;
- Promote economic independence through livelihood diversification in hazard-prone areas;
- Advocate for sound environmental resource management strategies;
- Advocate and promote good water resources management strategies including water harvesting techniques in flood and drought-prone areas;
- Conduct awareness campaigns and public information dissemination and the establishment of community-based information centres and networks;
- Supporting/advocating for the enforcement of regulatory measures concerning physical and urban planning, public works and developmental programmes to strengthen resilience;
- Facilitate training of traditional and community leaders in disaster risk management and climate change particularly on child-centred interventions during emergencies;
- Supporting the capacity building of PDMCs and DDMCs, and other stakeholders at the local level who are involved in disaster relief work;
- Promote capacity building of Satellite Disaster Management Committees (SDMCs); and

- Participate in government/UN-led vulnerability and needs assessments.

7.2 PREPAREDNESS MEASURES AND STRATEGIES

Disaster preparedness is a critical component for the Dioceses to have a coordinated approach and organized effort in responding to emergencies. It is, therefore, essential that appropriate measures are undertaken before a disaster. The main disaster preparedness activities shall, among others include:

- Advocate for the development of child protection-sensitive preparedness, and contingency plans at community, district, and provincial levels;
- Promote the development of effective and efficient information systems at all levels;
- Identifying and maintaining stocks of relief materials in strategic locations;
- Developing evacuation and rescue plans, manuals and simulation exercises;
- Promoting community-based disaster risk management through self-help and reliance on local initiatives and Indigenous knowledge;
- Building preparedness capabilities of public and private facilities such as schools, hospitals, offices and homes;
- Take appropriate strategies to mobilize resources to facilitate the implementation of preparedness activities;
- Developing and updating information databases about areas, stakeholders, resources and other issues related to disasters; and
- Compelling line Ministries to give priority to the enhancement of emergency capabilities

7.3 RESPONSE MEASURES AND STRATEGIES

Strategies during response focus primarily on ensuring quick, timely and effective response to emergencies by activating and operationalizing the response capacity to save lives and property during any disaster situation. These will include, among others:

- Mobilizing resources for disaster preparedness and response including recovery for the Dioceses;
- Promoting child protection interventions during response to emergencies including displacements;
- Advocating for accountability in the provision of humanitarian assistance and ensuring that children and other vulnerable groups are well targeted during the response by all stakeholders;
- Participating in rapid risk analysis and vulnerability assessments;
- Participating in search and rescue training;
- Advocating for an inclusive response that takes into account gender, and the special needs of the vulnerable (children and disabled);
- Participate in the preparation of emergency preparedness and response plans at all levels; and
- Encouraging strategic positioning of warehouses in locations where relief goods can easily reach the affected communities within the shortest possible time.

Annex 1: INTERVIEW GUIDE WITH THE DIOCESES



PREPARATION OF THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND MITIGATION PLAN

QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT (INTERVIEW GUIDE TOOL WITH DIOCESES)

INSTRUCTIONS TO FACILITATORS: After a round of introductions from both yourself and the participants. Explain the purpose of the interview using the background below. Remember, this is a qualitative assessment and it is important that you capture key quotes and examples as well as case studies as the guided interview is in progress. Follow-up any interesting points that may come from the discussion to further enrich the information you will gather.

BACKGROUND

ü In order to reduce vulnerabilities, enhance coping capacities and strengthen resilience of local communities at risk of disaster and climatic shocks, the Disaster Preparedness, Response and Mitigation Plan will help the 11 dioceses across all the 10 Provinces to effectively implement mitigation, preparedness and response, and anticipatory humanitarian actions;

ü The to be developed Plan will look at capacities that exist within Dioceses to prepare, mitigate and respond to emergencies/disasters, gaps and also opportunities for enhancing disaster preparedness and response;

ü The plan will also focus on those who are disproportionately affected by disasters particularly children; and

ü The Plan will help Dioceses to enhance capacities of local communities within their jurisdictions to anticipate/prepare for, respond to, and bounce back/recover when affected by disasters and climatic shocks.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- 1) Does the Diocese have an Emergency Preparedness, Response and Mitigation Plan?
- 2) Are you aware of the existence of such a Plan at Provincial or District levels?
- 3) Do you have functional Satellite Disaster Management Committees (SDMCs)?
- 4) If SDMCs do exist, what is their composition disaggregated by gender)?
- 5) Are you aware of the hazards or most frequent disasters in your Province/District? (Risk/hazard profiles)
- 6) Are there some climate resilient projects or disaster risk reduction programmes which are specifically being implemented by the Diocese?
- 7) Are you aware of early warning systems which are available within your area of jurisdiction?
- 8) Does the Diocese have staff trained in disaster risk management, or climate change adaptation?
- 9) If the answer to question 8 is yes, how many are trained?
- 10) Does the Diocese have a dedicated officer/ or officers responsible for disaster preparedness, mitigation and response?
- 11) Do the Diocese existing protocols for activation of response mechanism including grading or criteria to guide their response to disasters?
- 12) If the answer to question 11 is no, how do the Diocese respond to emergencies?
- 13) When responding to a disaster, how does the Diocese take care of the interest of the socially vulnerable groups particularly children?

14. Dioceses' capacity to respond to hazards

Please tell us about the capacity that exists within the Diocese to respond to the relevant hazards that you have identified, and the possible actions/measures required to address the hazard. Capacities include human resource (e.g., the skills and qualifications of the people).

14.1 Human Resource

Profession	Name	Specialized

14.2 Material Resources

The materials that help Dioceses to respond to disasters which are readily available in the community would be held communally or by individuals such as tractors, boats etc.

Profession	Name	Specialized

14.3 Capacity to address hazard

This part focuses on actions and measures that could be taken to transform vulnerabilities into capacities, based on the resources available in the community.

Hazard	Vulnerability identified	Capacity/resources	Possible actions/measures

15. What measures/strategies should the Diocese put in place to strengthen its capacity to anticipate/prepare, mitigate, and respond to disasters?

Hazard	Proposed Mitigation Measures/strategies	Proposed Preparedness Measures/strategies	Proposed Response/Recovery measures



QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT (PARTICIPATORY TOOL) CHILDREN



Caritas
Zambia

INSTRUCTIONS TO FACILITATORS: After a round of introductions from both yourself and the participants (children) explain the purpose of the visit using the background below. Remember, this is a qualitative assessment and it is important that you capture key quotes and examples as well as case studies as the focus group discussion is in progress. Follow-up any interesting points that may come from the discussion to further enrich the information you will gather. Each focus group discussion should have at 8-10 participants of children who are purposively selected in areas where CARITAS is implementing its programmes.

Furthermore, you are encouraged to look out for the unexpected from your direct observations as well as what the participants say and adequately follow these leads to enrich the information you will collect.

BACKGROUND

In order to reduce vulnerabilities, enhance coping capacities and strengthen resilience of local communities at risk of disaster and climatic shocks, the Disaster Preparedness, Response and Mitigation Plan will help the 11 dioceses across all the 10 Provinces to effectively implement

mitigation, preparedness and response, and anticipatory humanitarian actions;

The to be developed Plan will look at capacities that exist within Dioceses to prepare, mitigate and respond to emergencies/disasters, gaps and also opportunities for enhancing disaster preparedness and response;

The plan will also focus on those who are disproportionately affected by disasters particularly children; and

The Plan will help Dioceses to enhance capacities of local communities within their jurisdictions to anticipate/prepare for, respond to, and bounce back/recover when affected by disasters and climatic shocks.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

Instructions to facilitator: It is important that these guiding questions for discussion are presented to the children during focus group discussion in a language that they are comfortable with and are able to engage. meaningfully.

- 1) Explain to the Children if at all they know what a disaster is? The use of local language will be appropriate.
- 2) Has there been a disaster in their locality which has affected them?
- 3) How were they affected?
- 4) Is there anything done for them when a disaster strikes?
- 5) Provide examples of what has been done specifically for children before, during and after a disaster?
- 6) Do you know (if any) who helps you during disasters?
- 7) What do you think should be done for you before, during and after a disaster?

