THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

THE NATIONAL POLICY FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT

DIRECTORATE OF RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES
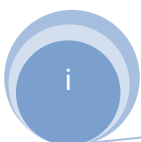
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

OCTOBER 2010

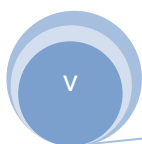## Table of Contents

ACRONYMS

AU	African Union
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
CDPC	City Disaster Policy Committee
CDMTC	City Disaster Management Technical Committee
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DDPMC	District Disaster Preparedness and Management Committee
DDPC	District Disaster Policy Committee
DECOC	District Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IATC	Inter Agency Technical Committee
IGAD	Inter Governmental Authority on Development
IMPC	Inter Ministerial Policy Committee
IATC	Inter- Agency Technical Committee
IPCC	Inter- governmental Panel on Climate Change
LC	Local Council
MLHUD	Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development
MoLG	Ministry of Local Government
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organisation
NDPMC	National Disaster Preparedness Management Committee
NECOC	National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre
NEMA	National Environment Management Organisation
NFA	National Forest Authority
NGO	Non Governmental Organisations
NIC	National Incident Commander
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister

OVC   Orphans and vulnerable children

PEAP   Poverty Eradication Action Plan

SCDMC   Sub County Disaster Preparedness and Management Committee

UCC   Uganda Communication Commission

UN   United Nations

UPDF   Uganda People's Defense Forces

URA   Uganda revenue Authority

UWA   Uganda Wildlife Authority

UNDAF   United Nations Development Assistance Framework

UNOCHA United Nations Office for Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs

UXO's   Unexploded Ordinances

VDPMC   Village Disaster Preparedness and Management Committees

FOREWORD

Famine is one of the most frequent types of disasters our country faces from time to time. Despite having the necessary conditions for food security, namely fertile land and a favourable climate for agriculture, a large population of our people fall victim to famine regularly. Earthquakes, floods and other types of disasters have also afflicted the people of Uganda in the past. The magnitude of the disasters is more a result of our inadequate planning than a result of natural climatic or geological conditions.

The people of Uganda, through the Constituent Assembly in Objective 23 and Article 249 of the resulting Constitution, called for an end to intolerable and persistent loss of life, suffering and disruption of economic activities by disasters resulting from the lack of preparedness and patchy uncoordinated responses. Relief, disaster risk reduction and management in Uganda therefore need to be tackled in a holistic way that requires simultaneous action on different fronts.

As part of my mandate and effort to address this situation, my ministry initiated a comprehensive process to develop a policy that details mechanisms and structures for the effective and practical management of disasters. The policy covers the broad subjects of vulnerability assessment, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, which constitute "comprehensive disaster management". It networks all the lead sectors, local governments, international development and humanitarian partners, the private sector and the NGOs under the principle of a multi-disciplinary and multi-skilled consultative approach. It also presents an institutional framework under which the partners coordinate their operations. It further recognizes the need to place emphasis on the vulnerable groups and persons with special needs such as; unaccompanied minors, the elderly, the mentally and physical disabled, victims of physical abuse or violence and the pregnant, the lactating and persons with HIV/AIDs.

The process of developing this policy involved consultations at all levels from communities in the rural villages through the districts to stakeholders at national level. I wish therefore to extend government's special gratitude to everybody who took time to make a contribution in its development. I also wish to thank all development partners and national institutions who contributed in one way or the other to the preparation of this policy.

We cannot stop natural hazards from occurring. But collectively we can stop them from turning into social and economic disasters. I wish therefore to urge my countrymen and women to take an active role in the implementation of the recommendations contained in this policy in order to achieve the national vision that no one should die or suffer for lack of help during a disaster.

Professor Tarsis Bazana Kabwegyere

MINISTER FOR RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES
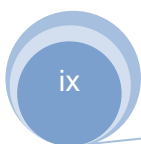
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Disaster loss and damage is on the rise in Uganda with grave consequences for the survival, dignity and livelihood of our citizens, particularly the poor. It also erodes Uganda's and hard-won development gains. Disaster risk is increasingly of global concern and its impact and actions in one region can have an impact on risks in another, and vice versa.

This, compounded by increasing vulnerabilities related to changing demographics, technological and socio-economic conditions, unplanned urbanization, development within high-risk zones, under-development, environmental degradation, climate variability, climate change, geological hazards, competition for scarce resources, and the impact of epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, points to a future where disasters could increasingly threaten Uganda's economy, and its population.

In the past two decades, on average more than 200,000 Ugandans were affected every year by disasters. In 1987, drought affected 600,000 people and epidemic diseases killed 156 people two years later.. In 1990 epidemic diseases killed 197 people and 100 more died of them the following year. The earthquake of 1994 affected 50,000 people and in 1997 floods affected 153,500 people, killing 100. In the same year, epidemic diseases affected 100,000 people and landslides killed 48 others.

The drought of 1998 affected 126,000 people and another drought occurred in 1999 affecting 700,000 people altogether and killing 115. In the same year, epidemic diseases killed 91 people and landslides killed 5 others. In the year 2000, epidemic diseases killed 224 people and two years later (2002) drought affected 655,000 people killing 79. In 2005, drought affected 600,000 people and the following year (2006) epidemic diseases killed 100 more. In the year 2007, floods affected 718,045 people while epidemic diseases killed 67 people and landslides 5 people.

In 2008, drought affected 750,000 people and two years later (2010) landslides killed about 250 others with over 8,500 affected. During the course of the same year (2010) floods affected over 350,000 people. Internal displacement of persons over the period 1998 -2008 stood at an average of 1,800,000 people (Source of data: EM-DAT CRED and government records). The above statistics demonstrate the challenges posed by natural and human-induced hazards to the economic growth of Uganda.

Disaster risk arises when hazards interact with physical, social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. Events of hydro-meteorological origin constitute the large majority of disasters in Uganda. Despite a growing understanding and acceptance of the importance of disaster risk reduction and increased disaster response capacities, disasters and in particular the management and reduction of risk, continue to pose a national challenge.

There is now international acknowledgement that efforts to reduce disaster risks must be systematically integrated into policies, plans and programmes for sustainable development and poverty reduction. These efforts should also be supported through bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including partnerships.

Disaster risk management involves the systematic development and application of policies, strategies and practices to minimize vulnerabilities and disaster risks in order to avoid or limit
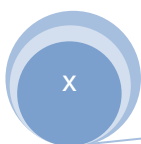
the adverse impacts of hazards on lives, economic and social developments in a country.

Sustainable development, poverty reduction, good governance and disaster risk reduction are mutually supportive objectives, and in order to meet challenges in the implementation of the national development plan, accelerated efforts must be made to build the necessary capacities at community and national levels to manage and reduce risk.

The main objective of disaster preparedness is to ensure that in times of disaster, appropriate administrative, legislative and technical measures including procedures and resources are in place to assist those afflicted by the disaster and enable them to cope. The aim of disaster preparedness are, to minimize the adverse effects of a hazard through effective precautionary measures is to ensure timely, appropriate and efficient organisation and delivery of emergency relief services.

Disasters and emergencies are too often regarded as abnormal events, divorced from "normal life". In reality, however, disasters and emergencies are fundamental reflections of normal life. They are consequences of the ways societies structure themselves economically, interact socially and sustain relationship between the decision makers.

The magnitude of each disaster, measured in deaths, damage, or costs depends on the level of vulnerability of the population. As the population increases, the best land in both rural and urban areas is taken up and those seeking land for farming or housing are forced to accept alternative land that is unsuitable for the purpose. Such land offers less productivity and a lower level of physical or economic safety. Some disasters stem from the fact that certain communities are forced to settle in areas susceptible to the impact of hazards such as those living on steep slopes of the mountains, in flood plains and others who construct weak structures in earthquake prone zones.

For a long time the cause and effect relationship between disasters on the one hand and social and economic development on the other was ignored. Disaster as an element was not taken into account in the planning process. At best, development planners hoped that disasters would not occur and, if they did, they would be handled on an ad hoc basis by the Red Cross movement and other humanitarian relief organizations. Development programmes never used to be assessed in the context of previous disasters or on the effect of potential disasters. The planning process did not take into account disaster preparedness and prevention. The focus was on emergency responses to disasters and when a disaster occurred, the response was directed to the emergency needs of the affected. Communities under disaster distress were not seen as suitable targets for new development initiatives.

Uganda is undergoing rapid change and there are very many existing and potential crises and disasters which threaten to negate many of the development gains made over the last decade. National and international organizations are overwhelmed by the magnitude and number of calamities, while non governmental organizations are equally unable to satisfy demands for assistance. It is worth noting that, in recent disasters, not all planned relief operations could be completed, especially those whose objectives were not sufficiently well defined. In multi-disaster events, for example where armed conflicts and natural disasters occur simultaneously, these weaknesses have become very apparent. The present coping and relief mechanisms have proved insufficient.

The complexity of disaster induced problems requires a comprehensive and coordinated disaster management policy and legislation. These instruments should re-orient national and local efforts to address disaster induced problems in a more comprehensive and integrated manner. This strategy constitutes the fundamental basis for achieving the overall policy goal and promoting sustainable development through the mitigation of disaster occurrence.

This National Policy for Disaster Preparedness and Management, therefore, seeks to:

i.   Set the overall policy goal and objectives for disaster risk management

ii. Provide a broad policy framework for the harmonization of sectoral and cross-sectoral policy objectives, principles and strategies

iii. Establish an integrated and multi sectoral approach to disaster management

iv. Promote positive behavioural and attitudinal change towards disaster management

v.   Provide a basis for the formulation of a comprehensive disaster management legal framework

vi. Establish an institutional framework for disaster preparedness and management

vii. Establish an effective monitoring and evaluation system

viii. Provide for an effective information management system to facilitate collection, storage, analysis and dissemination of disaster management information.

The overall policy goal is to promote national vulnerability assessment, risk mitigation, disaster prevention, preparedness, effective response and recovery in a manner that integrates disaster risk management with development planning and programming. This approach will ensure people of Uganda build capacities that would enable them minimise serious social and economic disruptions as a result of disaster events.

The policy will also create an integrated and multi-sectoral systems approach to planning, preparedness and management of disasters which is fundamental to sustained productivity and socio-economic growth.

This policy is housed in the Department of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Management whose mission is to, 'minimise vulnerability levels of the people of Uganda against natural and human-induced hazards; and to save lives and livelihood assets when disasters occur'.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE POLICY

The primary responsibility for disaster risk management rests with the citizens. Government plays a supportive role. Paragraph XXIII of the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy of the 1995 Constitution obliges the state to institute effective machinery for dealing with any hazard or disaster arising out of natural calamities or any situation resulting in the general displacement of people or general disruption of normal life.

Aware that disasters disrupt the productive capacity of her people, destroy the infrastructure and resources, divert the planned use of meagre resources and so interrupt programmes and retard the pace of development, government is therefore, committed to creating and promoting a disaster preparedness and management system that safeguards the country against disasters and ensures continued productive capacity of her people.

This policy intends to complement the macro and sectoral policies currently being pursued by government. It takes into account the prevailing economic trends. in the country and utilizes a systematic, interdisciplinary approach which will ensure the integrated use of natural and social sciences in planning and decision making.

The main thrust of this policy is to make disaster management an integral part of the development process. It recognizes the profound impact of human activity on the interrelations within the natural environment as well as the influence of population growth, the high density of urbanization, industrial expansion, resource exploitation and technological advances. The policy also emphasizes the critical importance of restoring and maintaining the quality and overall welfare and development of human beings in their environment. In cooperation and partnership with local governments and other concerned public and private organization, it undertakes to use all practicable means and measures including financial and technical assistance to foster and promote the general welfare of the communities, create and maintain conditions under which they can exist in productive harmony with nature and fulfill the social, economic and other requirements of developments.

A further fundamental purpose of the policy is to advocate an approach to disaster management that focuses on reducing risks – the risk of loss of life, economic loss and damage to property. This approach involves a shift from a perception that disasters are rare occurrences managed by emergency rescue and support services. A shared sense of awareness and responsibility needs to be created to reduce risks in our homes, communities, places of work and society in general.

This requires a significantly improved capacity to track, monitor and disseminate information on phenomena and activities that trigger disaster events. It needs the support of institutional emergency preparedness and response capacity at local and national levels. It also implies an increased commitment to strategies to prevent disasters and mitigate their severity. The policy also seeks to integrate risk reduction strategies into existing and future polices and plans.

While in pursuit of this general goal, the main focus is to strengthen the institutional capacity for

the delivery of services that improve management and preparedness. This is to be done though rational restructuring of the current system, awareness, advocacy, training, and equipping the desired participating institution.

The expected outcome of this policy is a minimum state of preparedness for the country so that in every agency that has relevance to disaster preparedness, response, mitigation and recovery, there is ability and readiness to operate together in concert and harmony before, during, and after a disaster event.

1.1.1 THE POLICY MISSION

The policy mission is to create an effective framework through which Disaster Preparedness and Management is entrenched in all aspects of development processes, focusing on saving lives, livelihoods and the country's resources.

1.1.2 THE POLICY GOAL

The goal is to establish institutions and mechanisms that will reduce the vulnerability of people, livestock, plants and wildlife to disasters in Uganda.

1.1.3 POLICY OBJECTIVES

To:

i. Establish Disaster Preparedness and Management institutions at national and local government levels.

ii. Equip Disaster Preparedness and Management institutions and ensure that the country is prepared at all times to cope with and manage disasters.

iii. Integrate Disaster Preparedness and Management into development processes at all levels.

iv. Promote research and technology in disaster risk reduction

v. Generate and disseminate information on early warning for disasters and hazard trend analysis

vi. Promote public, private partnerships in Disaster Preparedness and Management.

vii. Create timely, coordinated and effective emergency responses at national, district and lower level local governments.

1.1.4 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1.1.4.1 Sound Planning Using a Multi-Sectoral Approach

Effective disaster preparedness and management depends on multi-sectoral planning and programming. It is based on a rational assessment of disaster risk and on the analysis of the vulnerability of the communities. Planning for disaster has to be undertaken at all levels; from the national to the village level. Long term adequate planning enables the country to be prepared for disasters at all times.

1.1.4.2 Community Participation

Individuals within communities have valuable information and resources to share on the likelihood, causes and consequences of disasters. Given that they have rights and obligations to participate in key decisions that affect their lives, they are called upon to prepare for and respond to disasters. At all levels, government will provide appropriate mechanisms and space for participation in all processes of disaster preparedness and management. It is acknowledged that disasters transcend district, national and international borders and can affect communities that may not be directly known to be at risk.

1.1.4.3 Public Awareness and Education

Individuals in communities can only participate in disaster planning and management when they have updated knowledge and information on the likelihood of disasters and on the appropriate ways of responding to them. The media, community leaders and stakeholders shall be called upon to create awareness on the relevant aspects of disasters and provides with the necessary guidelines to do so.

1.1.4.4 Institutional Capacity Building

Effective Disaster Preparedness and Management shall be based constant reviewing and upgrading of institutional capacity to cope with disasters at national and community levels. Coping capacity shall be judged in terms of the equipment, resources, skills and knowledge required to undertake Disaster Preparedness and Management.

1.1.4.5 Adequate Expertise and Technology

Disaster Preparedness and Management requires integration of technical expertise, indigenous and modern scientific knowledge on hazards and disasters in order to develop cost effective approaches for mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Government shall engage relevant expertise and appropriate technologies to come up with an effective disaster preparedness and management capability.

1.1.4.6 Vulnerability Analysis

Disaster preparedness and management depends on an accurate analysis and mapping of the vulnerability and susceptibility of communities to risks. It shall involve geo-referencing, mapping and livelihood zoning. Undertaking vulnerability analysis shall be part of the early warning system.

1.1.4.7 Human Rights Observance

Acknowledging that planning for and responding to disasters is a shared responsibility and partnership between the state and the people, government will strengthen good governance. The policy will integrate human rights in disaster preparedness and management by way of avoiding all forms of discrimination and dehumanisation. Human rights are likely to be affected not only by the prevalence of disasters, but also by the processes undertaken to plan for and respond to the disasters

1.1.4.8 Social, Environmental and Economic Costs

The social, economic and environmental costs of disasters shall be considered by the public and private sectors during the planning and development processes. The socio-economic and environment impact assessments shall be undertaken to guide planning and budgeting for Disaster Preparedness and Management. Research on the likelihood of disasters and the assessment of the likely social, economic and environmental impacts will be conducted regularly as an integral aspect of disaster preparedness and management.

1.1.4.9 Climate Change

The problems of climate change are real and the effects of global warming are already evident. Cognizant of the effects of climate change, proactive actions shall be undertaken to reduce the causes and the negative impacts of climate change. Government shall develop climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

1.1.4.10 Partnership and Co-ordination

Integrated and coordinated Disaster Preparedness and Management is based on partnerships and collaborative ventures between all sectors of government, donors, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society organizations, the private sector and communities.

1.1.4.11 Regional and International Partnerships

This policy acknowledges that disasters transcend international borders and on this note, Uganda shall continue to subscribe to regional and international bodies related to disaster risk reduction. This policy shall promote participation in regional and global initiatives for the implementation of disaster risk reduction and response.

1.1.4.12 International and Regional Instruments

The implementation of this policy shall take into account the international and regional instruments ratified by Uganda Government. These include:

    i.   The UN framework Convention on Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol (1997)

    ii.   The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer of 16 September 1987

    iii.   The IGAD Initiatives on Drought and Desertification.

    iv.   The SPHERE Project, Minimum Standards on Disaster Response.

    v.   The African Charter on Rights and Welfare of the Child

    vi.   United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

    vii.   African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights 1991

    viii.   International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966

    ix.   The 2004 African Union Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction

x.   The African Union Convention on Protection of Returnees, IDPs and Refugees (2009)

xi.   The Hyogo Framework for Action on Disaster Risk Reduction ((HFA 2005).

xii.   The Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region 2006

THE NATIONAL POLICY FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF DISASTERS IN UGANDA

Uganda has witnessed a number of natural and human-induced disasters that have culminated into loss of life and property and displacements. The following have been prevalent: displacement as a result of civil strife; famine as a result of drought; transport accidents, earthquakes; epidemics of disease; flooding, landslides, environmental degradation, technological accidents, crop pest infestation, livestock and wildlife disease epidemics.

Owing to meagre resources, the administrative and technical measures necessary for disaster preparedness and management in the country are scanty and hampered by poor equipment. The country lacks a depository and repository of vital data on the incidence of disasters and their effects on the communities. Enforcement of legislation on risk avoidance is weak such that disruptions arising from disasters have continued to grow without corresponding lessons-learnt measures.

This policy, therefore, is an effort to put in place a systematic disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and management framework for the country. Lead institutions and other responsible institutions have been identified for each of the hazards that affect the country and are listed below. The policy urges the lead institution to coordinate responsible institutions and establish mechanisms for monitoring, assessing and reporting on risk levels and actions being take to minimise adverse effects. The lead institution is urged to hold at least on quarterly basis a consultative meeting of responsible institutions and stakeholders. Quarterly written reports addressed to the Permanent Secretary Office of the Prime Minister shall be submitted by the lead institutions highlighting risk status and actions being undertaken by each of the responsible institutions and other stakeholders. The lead institution in consultation with the responsible Institutions may co-opt other stakeholders not named in this policy.

2.1 NATURAL HAZARDS IN UGANDA

2.1.1 Drought

Drought is the prolonged shortage of water often caused by dry weather conditions. Water, drought and famine are related. Many parts of Uganda are continuously receiving less rainfall than before due to global warming and other deteriorating regional weather conditions. The most drought-prone areas in Uganda are the districts in the cattle corridor stretching from Western and Central to mid Northern and Eastern Uganda. In extreme cases, particularly in Karamoja region, the frequent failure of the seasons leads to starvation. Severe drought results in human and livestock deaths is also exemplified by the reduced water table, diminishing water levels in the major lakes and crop failure,. It is anticipated that the extension of the Sahara Desert further south will make Uganda more prone to drought and water shortages. Water is a major factor in the socio-economic development of Uganda. When disaster strikes, water is the first resource the victims demand for. It is also the first requirement for preventing diseases when many people are assembled together. Inadequate water supply leads to drought and famine whereas a stable water supply, scientific water control and management ensure good health and high productive agriculture. Excess water leads to floods, landslides and poor

sanitation which in turn leads to water borne epidemics such as cholera. The rapid growth in population and increased agricultural and industrial production require adequate and safe water supply. The development of adequate domestic and industrial water supply which can be accessed during disaster is hampered by inadequate financial resources, poor accessibility to safe water supply points, scattered settlements and inadequate education and awareness on hygiene.

2.1.1.1 Policy Actions on Drought

i. Establish proper mechanisms for weather predication, early warning and drought information message dissemination

ii. Enforce implementation and compliance to environmental regulations and laws.

iii. Integrate environmental conservation in national development planning.

iv. Map and zone of drought prone areas and agricultural viable areas.

v. Strengthen of research institutions for development of drought resistant crops and livestock.

vi. Prioritize programmes for small scale irrigation/water for production.

vii. Mechanise agriculture.

viii. Improve land use/management

ix. Establish a National Data Base on drought.

x. Integrate disaster management programmes into the National Water Action Plan with a view to provide water supply to disaster prone areas.

xi. Increase the level of community awareness on the importance of water and the need to conserve it particularly with regard to hygiene and drought.

xii. Promote an integrated approach by concerned government agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) in the implementation of water supply, conservation and protection of relevant catchment areas with a view to ensure availability of water in disaster prone areas.

Responsible Institutions

i. Ministry of Water and Environment (Lead Institution)

ii. Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

iii. Department of Meteorology

iv. National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA)

v. Ministry of Lands and Housing and Urban Development

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vi. Ministry of Local Government

vii. Office of the Prime Minister

viii. National Forest Authority

ix. Local Governments

x. Uganda Wild Life Authority

xi. Research Institutions

xii. Community, Private Sector and Civil Society Groups

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2.1.2 Famine / Food Security

Famine is a severe shortage of food that may lead to malnutrition and death. The areas that are most prone to famine are Karamoja, Acholi, Lango, Teso and parts of West Nile. Some of the factors contributing to famine include drought, crop failure and livestock deaths. Famine could also be a consequence of conflict, displacement and land shortage

The 1993/94 famine affected over 1.8 million people in 16 districts. Drought is the main cause of famine.

Famine and drought situations have compounded poverty among the peasants, incapacitating the communities from participating in economic development and lowering their nutritional status. As a result, the frequency of illness and death, loss of livestock, migration and break up of the communities has increased.

2.1.2.1 Policy Actions

i. The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries and the Local Governments shall take measures including specific programmes, needed to improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food by making full use of available technical and scientific knowledge, disseminating knowledge of principles of nutrition by developing or reforming agrarian systems in such a way as to achieve the most efficient and sustainable development and utilization of natural resources.

ii. Government shall establish and maintain adequate grain stores for famine prone areas and other emergencies. Donors and humanitarian and development agencies are encouraged to assist at the initial stages.

iii. During periods of food shortage, the Department of Relief Disaster Preparedness and Management shall provide relief food stuffs and non-food commodities to persons in need from the time of food shortage up to the next harvest season of the affected people. Government shall endeavor to invite humanitarian and development agencies to provide support with relief for:

iv. Support for food-for-asset programmes aimed at preparing land, rehabilitating social infrastructure and other activities necessary for community stability.

v. Increasing production and productivity for food security using improved production technologies.

vi. Streamlining the land tenure systems in Uganda.

vii. Creating community awareness and adoption of high yielding and drought resistant variety of crops and livestock.

viii. Promoting modern farming methods among the communities.

ix. Establishing measures for household, community, regional and national food reserves and silos.

x. Ensuring the implementation of food security and nutrition policy.

xi. Establishing a National Data Base on famine.

Responsible Institutions

i. Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (Lead Institution)

ii. Office of the Prime Minister

iii. Ministry of Water and Environment

iv. Ministry of Lands and Housing and Urban Development

v. Ministry of Local Government

vi. Ministry Gender, Labour and Social Development

vii. Local Governments

viii. Research Institutions

ix. Community and Private Sector

x. UN Agencies and NGOs

xi. Ministry of Health

xii. Ministry of Education and Sports

2.1.3 Floods

A flood occurs when large amounts of water cover a place that is meant to be dry. Floods build up slowly. They are seasonal and usually occur in periods of intense rainfall and el-Niño phenomena. Besides causing death due to drowning, floods destroy public health facilities such as water sources and sanitation facilities. Floods also trigger outbreaks of water borne diseases and malaria, hence compounding community vulnerability to health hazards. They also cause physical damage by washing away structures, crops, animals and submerging human settlements. The risks of floods can be minimised forecasting, studying seasonal patterns as well

as the construction and maintenance of sufficient drainage systems. Floods could be properly managed through flood plan mapping and surveys by air and land. Uganda experiences both flash and slow onset floods. They are common in some urban areas, low lying areas and areas along river banks and close to swamps. The areas prone to them are Kampala, Northern and Eastern parts of Uganda.

2.1.3.1 Policy Actions

i. Create awareness in the communities on flood risk reduction measures.

ii. Enforce river bank management regulations

iii. Protect and restore wetlands

iv. Ensure proper physical planning of rural and urban settlements.

v. Gazette flood basins

Responsible Institutions

i. Ministry of Water and Environment (Lead Institution)

ii. Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

iii. Ministry of Lands and Housing and Urban Development

iv. Ministry of Local Government

v. Office of the Prime Minister

vi. Local Governments

vii. Community and Private Sector

viii. UN Agencies and NGOs

ix. Ministry of Health

2.1.4 Landslides and Mudslides

Landslides and mudslides are rapid movement of a large mass of mud, rocks, formed from lose soil and water. It usually follows heavy rainfall and high ground water flowing through cracked bed rocks and earth quakes and lead to movement of soils or sediments. Landslides and mudslides are very difficult to predict but their frequency and extent can be estimated by use of information on the area's geology, geomorphology, hydrology, climate and vegetation cover and traditional knowledge. Community settlement on steep slopes and other uncontrolled land use practices increase the likelihood of landslides and mudslides prevalence. The areas mostly affected by Landslides are Mt. Elgon region, Ruwenzori region and Kigezi.

2.1.4.1 Policy Actions

i. Gazette landslide and mudslide prone areas and prohibit settlement in such risk

areas

    ii.   Resettle all persons living in land/mudslide prone areas

   iii.   Undertake to promote afforestation

   iv.   Enforcement of relevant laws and policies

    v.   Apply appropriate farming technologies and land use practices

Responsible Institutions

    i.   National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) (lead Institution)

    ii.   Ministry of Water and Environment

   iii.   Department of Geological and Mine Survey

   iv.   National Forest Authority (NFA)

    v.   Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)

   vi.   Makerere University, Geography Dept.

   vii.   Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

  viii.   Ministry of Lands and Housing and Urban Development

   ix.   Ministry of Local Government

    x.   Ministry of Works and Transport

   xi.   Office of the Prime Minister – Department of Disaster Preparedness and Management

   xii.   District Local Governments

  xiii.   NARO and other Research Institutions

   xiv.   Community and Private Sector

   xv.   Ministry of Defence and other Rescue Agencies

   xvi.   UN Agencies and NGOs

  xvii.   Ministry of Health

2.1.5 Epidemics

This is the prevalence, in a particular community and at a particular period, of a disease whose magnitude goes beyond normal/expected levels. The diseases include; cholera, meningitis, hepatitis E, Marburg, plague, and Ebola, sleeping sickness. Others are diseases such as diarrhea dysentery and typhoid. The massive chemical or/and alcoholic poisoning may also create a

hazardous condition similar to epidemics. Modern epidemics include avian influenza (bird flu), Ebola hemorrhagic fever and malaria. In some parts of Uganda, diseases like meningitis, cholera, HIV/AIDS and Ebola, plague and jiggers constitute hazards. Crop and livestock epidemics also are also common in many parts of the country and cause social and economic loss. Other health related hazards come from radiation, strong tropical winds and the increased threat of global warming. Uncontrollable movements of livestock and plants are some of the chief causes of the associated epidemics. Some diseases are induced by people particularly through laboratory accidents.

Epidemics could be addressed through making contingency plans and structuring emergency health services. It is also important to establish develop early warning systems through routine surveillance and training in emergency operations. Success of this will depend on creation of an inventory of required resources

2.1.6 Human Epidemics

2.1.6.1 Policy Actions

    i.   Improve sanitation and hygiene practices

    ii.   Ensure vaccination, immunisation of the affected population and treatment of the sick

    iii.   Distribute mosquito nets and ensure their proper usage

    iv.   Ensure staffing of all health centres with qualified personnel

    v.   Promote research in to modern emerging diseases

    vi.   Strengthen entomological services and disease surveillance

    vii.   Create public awareness

Responsible Institutions

    i.   Ministry of Health (lead Institution)

    ii.   Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

    iii.   Ministry of Local Government

    iv.   Uganda Virus Research Institute

    v.   Joint Clinical Research Institute

    vi.   Local Governments

    vii.   Office of the Prime Minister – Department of DPM

    viii.   Ministry of Water and Environment

    ix.   UN Agencies, Private Sector and NGOs

2.1.7 Crop and Animal and Epidemics

Animal epidemics include swine fever, foot and mouth, Nangana, bird flue crop diseases epidemics include coffee wilt, banana bacterial wilt, cassava mosaic, brown steak

2.1.7.1 Policy Actions

i. Vaccination and spraying

ii. Strengthen disease surveillance programmes

iii. Enforce regulations on movement of animals (Quarantine)

iv. Adopt new and appropriate technologies

v. Undertake proper case management of the affected animals and plants

vi. Introduce hybrid seeds and animals

vii. Introduce disease resistant plants and animals

Responsible Institutions

I. Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (lead Institution)

II. Ministry of Water and Environment

III. Ministry of Lands and Housing and Urban Development

IV. Ministry of Local Government

V. OPM

VI. Local Governments

VII. Wild Life Authority

VIII. National Environment Authority

IX. Research Institutions

X. Community and Private Sector

XI. UN agencies and NGOs

XII. Ministry of Health

2.1.8 Pandemics

A disease epidemic occurs when there are more cases of that disease than normal. A pandemic is a worldwide epidemic of a disease. An influenza pandemic may occur when a new influenza virus appears against which the human population has no immunity. With the increase in global transport, as well as urbanization and overcrowded conditions in some areas, epidemics due to a new influenza virus are likely to take hold around the world, and become a pandemic faster than

before. Pandemics can be either mild or severe in the illness and death they cause, and the severity of a pandemic can change over the course of that pandemic.

In the past, influenza pandemics have resulted in increased death and disease and great social disruption. In the 20th century, the most severe influenza pandemic occurred in 1918-1919 and caused an estimated 40 to 50 million deaths worldwide. Current epidemiological models project that a pandemic could result in two to 7.4 million deaths globally.

If an influenza pandemic were to occur today, we could expect the virus to spread rapidly due to the interconnected nature of the world and the high level of global travel.

2.1.8.1 Policy Actions

Strengthen entomological, epidemiological and disease surveillance

Develop appropriate preparedness and response plans

Responsible Institutions

    i.   Ministry of health (lead institution)

    ii.   Office of the Prime Minister – Disaster department

    iii.   Ministry of Internal Affairs – Immigration and Policy

    iv.   Ministry of Defence – UPDF

    v.   Ministry of Information and National Guidance

    vi.   Ministry of Local Government

    vii.   District Local Governments

2.1.8 Heavy Storms

Heavy storms in Uganda are often accompanied by hailstorms, thunder storms and violent winds. Hailstorms can cause flooding and related public health hazards. Various parts of Uganda are prone to hailstorms to varying degrees. While in some areas the occurrence and magnitude is low, a number of places are highly susceptible to hailstorms characterised by heavy tropical rains, strong and violent winds. Hailstorms and thunderstorms result in immense destruction of crops, animals, public infrastructure and human settlements often leading to deaths and disruption of social services. Lightning has a serious effect on human life and may be reduced through following standard construction codes (with gadgets against lightening).

2.1.8.1 Policy Actions

    i.   Encourage agro forestation

    ii.   Creation of public awareness on the evacuation in circumstances of heavy storms

    iii.   Enforce adherence to proper building codes and standards

    iv.   Practice proper farming techniques

v. Establishment of weather stations and early warning systems.

Responsible Institutions

viii. Ministry of Water and Environment

ix. Ministry of Education

x. MOLG

xi. Districts

xii. Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

xiii. Ministry of Lands and Housing and Urban Development

xiv. Ministry of Local Government

xv. Ministry of Works and Transport

xvi. OPM

xvii. District Local Government

xviii. Research Institutions like NARO

xix. Community and Private Sector

xx. Ministry of Defence

xxi. UN Agencies and NGOs

xxii. Ministry of Health

2.1.9 Pests Infestation

These are unwanted and destructive insects or any animals that attack food or livestock both during the growing and post harvest seasons. Pest numbers increase due to one or a combination of ecological factors including among others, temperature, monoculture, introduction of new pest species, weak genetic resistance, poor pesticide management, bad weather patterns, and migration. Pests lead to damage of plants and harvested crops, consequently leading to food shortages, famine and economic stress. Common pests in Uganda include weevils, locusts and caterpillar while diseases include coffee wilt, banana wilt and cassava mosaic. Risk can be reduced through pest monitoring and using an integrated pest management approach.

2.1.9.1 Policy Actions

i. Create awareness and early warning in communities

ii. Promote research into pest resistant crops

iii. Surveillance of crop diseases and monitoring of crop production

iv. Ensure spraying of crops

v. Manage and control of vermin

vi. Promote proper post harvest crop husbandry

Responsible Institutions

i. Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (lead Institution)

ii. Ministry of Health

iii. Ministry of Local Government

iv. Local Governments

v. Ministry of Water and Environment

vi. UWA

vii. OPM

viii. Research Institutions

ix. Development partners, Red Cross, and NGOs

2.1.10 Earthquakes

Earthquakes result from sudden violent movements of the earth's surface, sometimes causing tremendous loss of lives and property. Available seismic information indicates that parts of Western and Central Uganda are prone to seismic activity. Whereas the probability of occurrence of an earthquake can be determined by existing technology, its exact timing is not easy to ascertain. This makes it imperative to have adequate preparedness for disasters related to earthquakes. The vulnerability to earthquakes and seismic related hazards increases with the construction of storied structures. Forecasting based on monitoring of seismic activity, and historical incidence and observation need to be carried out. Besides, risk reduction measures such as public awareness and training, reduction of structural vulnerability through construction of resistant shelters based on enforceable building codes, and earthquake warning and preparedness programmes must be carried out.

In 1994, for example a strong earthquake hit districts in Rwenzori region affecting over 50,000 people. As the level of development in Uganda goes up, people are likely to construct high-rise structures thereby increasing the country's vulnerability to. The year 2007 was characterised by numerous waves of earthquakes. This has caused fear associated with the ill level of prevention and preparedness in the development ventures that have been undertaken. Past occurrences of earthquakes in this region point to a need for preparedness to mitigate their effects.

2.1.10.1 Policy Actions

i. Map out earthquake prone areas

   ii.   Raise public awareness on earthquakes preparedness

   iii.   Develop earthquake resistant building standards

   iv.   Ensure adherence to building codes and regulations

   v.   Undertake geological studies and research into earth movements

   vi.   Promote seismic safety activities

   vii.   Acquire technology to monitor and detect occurrence of earth quakes

Responsible Institutions

   i.   Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (Lead Institution)

   ii.   Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban development

   iii.   Universities and Research institutions

   iv.   Ministry of Water and Environment

   v.   Ministry of Works and Transport

   vi.   Ministry of Education

   vii.   Ministry of Local Government

   viii. Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

   ix.   Ministry of Lands and Housing and Urban Development

   x.   Uganda Seismic Safety Association

   xi.   Office of Prime Minister

   xii.   Local Governments

   xiii. Community and Private Sector

   xiv. Ministry of Defence and Rescue Agencies

2.2 HUMAN INDUCED DISASTERS

2.2.1 Transport Related Accidents

The increasing numbers of accidents that take place during road, air, water and railway transportation are occasionally fatal and hazardous. At the moment, it is the road accidents which are more frequent because road transportation is used more often than air, railway and water transport. In recent years, motorcycle (*bodaboda*) accidents have become notoriously rampart and fatal. Accidents associated with water transportation have also been on the increase in the recent years. The numbers of boats that capsize on a daily basis are many. On some occasions, crocodiles attack people who use small canoes. Given the growing socio-

economic development, aviation accidents may also intensify with increasing air transport. Without proper planning, these accidents are likely to increase following an increase in mobility due to population growth. The country must therefore develop a capacity to handle accident related emergencies.

2.2.1.1 Policy Actions

i. Enforce the Road Traffic Act 1998 as amended

ii. Educate drivers and passengers on safe road usage

iii. Introduce bus transport in urban centres

iv. Create more entry and exit roads for Kampala city and other urban centres

v. Improve road quality

vi. Establish well equipped hospital emergency facilities along major high ways

vii. Promote public/private partnership on road quality and network improvement

viii. Establish water transport safety standards and facilities on Uganda's major lakes

ix. Intensify supervision and monitoring of water transport systems

x. Enforce codes of conduct amongst staff assigned with checking transport systems

Responsible Institutions

i. Uganda Police (Lead Institution)

ii. Ministry of Works, Transport and communication

iii. UCC and Other Communications Agencies

iv. Ministry of Health

v. Ministry of Defence

vi. Ministry of Internal Affairs

vii. Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

viii. UPDF

ix. Civil Aviation Authority

x. URA

xi. Uganda Road National Authority

xii. Ministry of Education

xiii. Ministry of LG

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xiv.   City Councils, Municipalities and Town Councils

xv.   Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

xvi.   Local Governments

xvii.   St. Johns Ambulance

xviii.   Railways Management

xix.   Ministry of Works and Transport

xx.   OPM

xxi.   District Local Government

xxii.   Community and Private Sector

xxiii.   Uganda Red Cross Society

xxiv.   UN- Agencies and other NGOs

2.2.2 Fires

Fire hazards include the unplanned and massive burning which may cause destruction of equipment, settlements, property and life. Among the many factors that cause fire hazards are haphazard electric wiring, poor construction standards, accidents, arson and uncontrolled burning of bush or waste materials bush burning. Fires are common in industries, congested human settlements, institutions of learning and markets places. The risk of fire hazards is likely to be higher with Uganda's increasing exploitation of oil, gas and petroleum resources which are highly inflammable. It calls for preparedness and management of fire hazards calls for intensification of sensitization and public awareness campaigns

2.2.2.1 Policy Actions

i. Institute severe punishment, bye-laws and ordinances to stop bush burning practices

ii. Install fire fighting equipments

iii. Establish building codes specifying fire escape routes, fire resistant materials and fire detection systems

iv. Raise awareness on the causes and preventive actions on fire outbreaks

v. Conduct regular checks of electrical installation

vi. Conduct regular fire drills in public places and institutions of learning

vii. Equip the fire brigade institutions

viii. Establish regional fire facilities to correspond with emerging challenges

ix. Develop partnerships with companies, organisations and Institutions that have relevant

fire fighting equipment and rescue facilities.

Responsible Institutions

    i. Ministry of Internal Affairs (Fire Brigade) (lead Institution)

    ii. Ministry of Works, Transport and communication

    iii. Civil Aviation Authority

    iv. Ministry of Education

    v. Ministry of LG

    vi. Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development

    vii. The ICT Ministry

    viii. Ministry of Trade and Industry

    ix. Community and Private Sector

    x. Uganda Red Cross Society

    xi. Association of Professional Engineers and Architects of Uganda

    xii. Association of Contractors and builders

2.2.3 Internal Armed Conflicts and Internal Displacement of Persons

Since independence, Uganda has been characterised by successive internal armed conflicts which have led to loss of lives and massive displacement of communities. The major conflicts have included the 1979 war that ousted the government of Idi Amin, the 1980-1986 armed struggles that took place mainly in the central parts of Uganda, and the 1986-2007 armed conflicts in Northern and Eastern parts of the country. Other forms of unrest have taken place in form of cattle rustling in Karamoja area.

This type of disaster is complex and difficult to handle because quite often the victims are located in areas where armed conflicts are taking place. Such areas are difficult to access and the delivery of relief requires agreements with some of the parties involved in the conflict.

Furthermore, the mobilization of massive relief is required at short notice. Such assistance includes provision of foodstuffs, household items (clothing, blankets, and cooking utensils), water supply and some form of shelter. Displacement disasters are expensive to the country since it involves feeding and settling persons for unspecified periods. The large population is rendered unproductive and this is detrimental to the economy.

2.2.3.1 Policy Actions

    i. Maintain good governance principles and practices

    ii. Develop mechanisms for peace building and conflict management / resolution

iii. Implement in full the National IDP Policy

iv. Implement the Kampala Convention on IDPs, Refugees and Returnees in Africa (2009)

v. Implement other Conventions and Treaties on forced displacement

vi. Develop conflict early warning systems

vii. Control the movement and proliferation of small arms and light weapons

viii. Conduct disarmament programmes and destruction of illegal ammunitions

ix. Strengthen community policing

x. Integrate and provide vocational skills to veteran warriors

Responsible Institutions

i. Ministry of Internal Affairs (Lead Institution)

ii. Ministry of Defence

iii. Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

iv. Office of the Prime Minister – Department of RDP&M

v. Ministry of Education

vi. Ministry of Local Government

vii. Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

viii. Ministry of Works and Transport

ix. Local Governments

x. Community and Private Sector

xi. Amnesty Commission

xii. Cultural Institutions

xiii. Uganda Red Cross Society

xiv. UN- Agencies and other NGOs

2.2.4 Mines and Un Exploded Ordinances (UXOs)

Mines are ammunitions designed to explode within proximity or in contact with a person or a vehicle. There are also other dangerous devices like explosives, ammunitions, bombs, shells, mortars, grenades landmines, anti tanks and anti personnel. They are commonly used in contemporary wars and cause death and injury to humans and animals. Many of these devices that are fatal to the civilian communities are those that were abandoned unused but remain dangerous. They do explode anytime upon detonation by innocent children or adults who come

in contact with them unconsciously. The most affected areas in Uganda include the Acholi, Lango, Teso and Ruwenzori sub regions. These areas have been affected by insurgency over the past two decades.

2.2.4.1 Policy Actions

   i. Map out mine/ UXO contaminated areas

   ii. De-mine contaminated areas

   iii. Undertake risk education for the affected communities

   iv. Develop and implement victim support systems

   v. Conduct destruction of stock piles of the dangerous arms and ammunitions

   vi. Advocate and maintain the ban on the use, manufacture and transfer of mines

   vii. Develop mine/UXO information and teaching manuals

Responsible Institutions

   i. Office of the Prime Minister-Department of Disaster Preparedness and Management (Lead Institution)

   ii. Ministry of Defence

   iii. Ministry of Internal Affairs

   iv. Ministry of Foreign Affairs

   v. Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

   vi. Ministry of Education and Sports

   vii. Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

   viii. Local Governments

   ix. Amnesty Commission

   x. UN- Agencies and other NGOs

2.2.5 Land Conflicts

Land conflicts continue to be a common disaster across the country. They result into loss of life, landlessness and loss of property. It is characterised by disputes among families, communities' verses individuals and cross border. This leaves the community vulnerable and living in fear.

2.2.5.1 Policy Actions

   i. Undertake awareness creation

   ii. Develop land use policy

iii.   Peace Building and conflict management

iv.   Build the capacity of the land actors

Responsible institutions

i.   Ministry of Local Government (lead Institution)

ii.   Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development

iii.   Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

iv.   Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Welfare

v.   Office of the Prime Minister- Department of DP&M

vi.   Uganda Police Force

vii.   Uganda Land Commission

2.2.6 Terrorism

Terrorism is coordinated crime and brutal aggression against government establishments and communities. Uganda is located in the heart of the Great Lakes Region which has been a centre of armed conflict and large scale terrorist attacks. In the late 1980s and early 2000, Kampala witnessed a wave of urban terrorism which left a couple of people dead and others wounded. The simultaneous attacks on the American Embassies in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam in 1998 are an illustration of Uganda's vulnerability to terrorist attacks. In July 2010, three bombs exploded simultaneously at two locations in Kampala killing 76 people and injuring 14. Many suspected terrorists have lately been arrested in the country.

2.2.6.1 Policy Actions

i.   Create community awareness on the risk of terrorism

ii.   Strengthen community policing

iii.   Inspection and monitoring of borders and entry points into the country

iv.   Develop anti-terrorist media campaigns

v.   Implement national identity card policy

Responsible Institutions

i.   Ministry of Defence (Lead Institution)

ii.   Ministry of Internal Affairs

iii.   Office of the President

iv.   Office of the Prime Minister – Department of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees

2.2.7 Industrial and Technological Hazards

Uganda's long term vision for development and socio-economic transformation focuses on agricultural modernisation and industrialisation. The latter however, increases the risk of industrial hazards such as large scale chemical spillage, pollution and industrial accidents. It is therefore imperative to develop awareness and preparedness for emergencies in areas within or near industrial installations. Preparedness involves building capacity to evacuate people from the associated dangers.

2.2.7.1 Policy Actions

i. Develop elaborate policy and monitoring of the location of industrial parks, Fuel stations, factories, housing hazardous materials, refuse and waste disposal

ii. Enforce proper urban planning standards

iii. Address air polluting emissions

iv. Enforce standards on vehicle/machinery age and numbers

v. Enforce standards on food processing machinery age and quality of materials

vi. Enforce standards on importation, storage of human, animal drugs and medical equipment

vii. Strengthen supervision and monitoring of mechanical facilities

viii. Enforce safety standards and codes in mechanical facilities (factories, construction sites, processing plants)

ix. Enforce laws on inspection, licensing of establishing plants

x. Screen the competence of the engineering firms and personnel involved in engineering industries

Responsible Institutions

i. Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Welfare (Lead Institution)

ii. Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry

iii. Ministry of Works, Transport and communication

iv. Ministry of Internal Affairs Ministry of Defence

v. Ministry of Defence

vi. Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology

vii. Office of the Prime Minister – Department of DP&M

viii. Uganda Police

ix.   Ministry of Education

x.   District Local Government

xi.   Amnesty Commission

xii.   UN- Agencies and other NGOs

2.2.8 Cattle Rustling

A cattle rustling   involves members of one community raiding and taking livestock from another community. It is one of the negative traditions that result into deaths, displacement of persons, loss of property and other adverse socio-economic effects. It is common in the North, North East and Eastern parts of Uganda. This problem also has a cross-border dimension when the Turkana of north western Kenya communities get involved.

2.2.8.1 Policy Actions

i.   Develop mechanisms for peaceful co-existence

ii.   Introduce alternative livelihood sources

iii.   Control the movement and proliferation of small arms and light weapons

iv.   Conduct disarmament programmes and destruction of illegal ammunitions

v.   Strengthen community policing

vi.   Integrate and provide vocational skills to gun-drop-outs and warriors

Responsible Institutions

i.   Ministry of Internal Affairs - Uganda Police Force (Lead Institution)

ii.   Ministry of Defence - UPDF

iii.   Ministry of Internal Affairs

iv.   Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

v.   Ministry of Education

vi.   Ministry of Local Government

vii.   Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

viii.   Ministry of Works and Transport

ix.   Office of the Prime Minister – Department of Karamoja Affairs

x.   District Local Government

xi.   Community and Private Sector

xii.   Uganda Red Cross Society

xiii.   UN- Agencies and other NGOs

2.2.9 Other Retrogressive Cultural Practices

There are a number of cultural practices that are hazardous to humanity. These include; female genital mutilation, child sacrifice, forced early marriages and ritualised defilement. Many of these practices lead to deaths and/or permanent disability and social disorders. It is the duty of government through its organs and in close collaboration with cultural institutions to eradicate these practices. Other cultural practices like male circumcision need to be undertaken under clinical guidance.

2.2.9.1 Policy Actions

i.   Raise awareness on the physical and social consequences of the practices

ii.   Institute legislation, bye-laws and ordinances to stop the practices

iii.   Promote community policing and surveillance to ensure that the practices are eradicated

Responsible Institutions

i.   Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (Lead Institution)

ii.   Ministry of Local Government

iii.   Ministry of Education

iv.   Ministry of Internal Affairs – Uganda Police

v.   Local Governments

2.2.10 Environmental Degradation

This   phenomenon results from poor land use patterns and other practices that lead to waste and destruction of ecological patterns. Environmental degradation is exemplified by overgrazing, destructive tilling practices on sloping landscapes, monoculture, unguided and uncontrolled use of fertilizers and pesticides, bush burning, overfishing, deforestation,

2.2.10.1 Policy Actions

i.   Educate the communities on the nature and causes of environmental degradation

ii.   Involve communities in environment protection

iii.   Formulate strict laws against environmental degradation

iv.   Develop programs for proper management of the environment

v.   Conduct environmental impact assessment

Responsible Institutions

    i.   National Environment Management Authority (Lead Institution)

   ii.   Ministry of Water and Environment

  iii.   Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development

  iv.   Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry

   v.   Ministry of Local Governments

  vi.   National Forest Authority

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 Introduction

The implementation of the National Disaster Preparedness and Management Policy is a multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary process. The process involves all government ministries in collaboration with humanitarian and development partners, the private sector, local governments and the community. The Ministry responsible for Disaster Preparedness and Refugees in the Office of the Prime Minister will be the lead agency in co-coordinating all stakeholders on disaster preparedness and management in the country. Disaster preparedness and management shall be a shared responsibility between the state and all citizens.

3.1.1 Overall goal

The overall goal of the institutional framework is to create and establish efficient institutional mechanisms for integrating disaster preparedness and management into the socio-economic development planning processes at national and local government levels.

3.1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the institutional framework are to:

   i.   Establish a national disaster preparedness and management institutional structure

   ii.   Define the responsibilities of H.E. The President in disaster risk management

   iii.   Outline the functions of Cabinet in disaster risk management

   iv.   Define the composition and functions of the Ministerial Policy Committee (MPC) on disaster risk management

   v.   Define the responsibilities and functions of the Department of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Management in the Office of the Prime Minister

   vi.   Outline the structure, composition and functions of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee

   vii.   Define the structure, composition and functions of the National Disaster Preparedness an Management Commission (NDPMC)

   viii.   Outline the structure, composition and functions of the National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC)

   ix.   Define the structure, composition and functions of the City Disaster Policy Committee

   x.   Define the structures and composition of City Disaster Technical Committee.

   xi.   Define the structure, composition and functions of the District Disaster Policy Committee (DDPC)

   xii.   Define the structure, composition and functions of the District Disaster Technical Management Committee (DDTM)

xiii. Define the structure, composition and functions of the District Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (DECOC)

xiv. Define the structures, composition and functions of the Sub-County Disaster Management Committees (SDMC)

xv. Define the functions of the Village Disaster Management Committee

3.1.3 National Disaster Preparedness and Management Institutional Structure

The President

Cabinet

Office of the Prime Minister-Department of Relief Disaster Preparedness and Management

Development Partners

Inter Ministerial Policy Committee

UN Agencies

National Platform for Disaster Management (Inter-Agency technical committee

URCS

NECOC

District Disaster Policy Committee

District/City /Municipal Local Government

Private sector

CSOs

District/City Disaster Management

DECOC

Sub-County Disaster Management Committee

Sub County Local Government

Community

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3.1.3 1 The President

Article 110 of the 1995 Constitution gives the President the mandate to declare a state of emergency in any part of the country in the event of a disaster. The Minister in charge of disaster preparedness and management shall provide the President with all the relevant details on the cause and effects of the disaster and mitigation and relief measures to be undertaken; in a situation where the disaster is caused by a natural or human-induced hazard. The President in consultation with Cabinet shall declare an area or the nation to be in a state of disaster.

     i.   A state of national disaster shall be declared when most of the basic social services of a community have been seriously disrupted or broken down causing widespread human, material, economic or environmental suffering or losses to a population exceeding 50,000 people

     ii.   A State of National disaster shall be declared when the Local Government level is unable to provide the affected communities with relief services and goods in the immediate short term from the relevant programmes / normal service delivery mechanisms and even the National level finds it difficult.

     iii.   The basic human needs are lacking due to the disaster and   the affected community is unable to cope using its own resources.

     iv.   A state of disaster shall be declared for a specified part of the country or district(s) when the disruption to the basic social services is limited to the specified part of the country or district causing human, material, economic or environmental suffering or losses to at least not less than one third of the population of that specified part of country or district(s)

     v.   The Minister responsible for disaster management shall issue regulations on actions to be undertaken when a state of disaster has been declared.

A declaration of a state of disaster shall mean the provision of the required relief services and goods to the affected population takes precedence over all other programmes of government, thus calling for immediate re-programming and re-allocation of resources from other sectors until such a time when the President declares the end of the state of disaster in the defined part of the country.

National and international humanitarian agencies, the donor community and the private sector are expected to give special support to government by reviewing their policies and programmes accordingly.

3.1.3.2 Cabinet

The cabinet is the chief policy making body of government and will advise the President on disaster related matters.

Functions

   i.   Receive on quarterly basis a national food security report

  ii.   Issue policy direction on vulnerability management, hazard and risk mapping of the country and disaster risk reduction in general.

 iii.   Review the annual state of disaster report and issue policy direction

 iv.   Review the national preparedness and contingency plan

  v.   Receive from the Ministerial Policy Committee on quarterly basis a national food security report

 vi.   Receive early warning information of potential massive disasters

 vii.   Approve supplementary requests whenever unforeseen massive catastrophes occur

3.1.3.3 The Ministerial Policy Committee (MPC)

This is a standing committee of Cabinet that shall handle cross sectoral matters relating to disaster preparedness and management. The committee shall ensure that disaster preparedness and management is mainstreamed in the governance of Uganda. The committee shall be chaired by the minister responsible for relief, disaster preparedness and refugees. It shall be responsible for policy formulation and overseeing disaster preparedness and management in the country. Membership shall be composed of the following ministers:

   i.   Minister of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees (Chair)

  ii.   Minister of Internal Affairs;

 iii.   Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;

 iv.   Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries;

  v.   Minister of Health;

 vi.   Minister of Water and Environment;

 vii.   Minister of Defence;

viii.   Minister of Education;

 ix.   Minister of Local Government;

  x.   Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development;

 xi.   Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs;

 xii.   Minister of Works, and Communications;

xiii.   Minister of Information and National Guidance.

xiv.   Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development

The MPC may invite other ministers relevant to the obtaining event, the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, heads of relevant International humanitarian and development agencies and representatives of the donors to participate in its deliberations. This committee should meet at least once every two months.

Functions of the Ministerial Policy Committee

The committee will be accountable to Cabinet and its functions will include;

i.   Oversee implementation and enforcement of standards relating to disaster preparedness and management.

ii.   Inform Cabinet on the vulnerability status of the country, hazard and risk trends and disaster risk reduction programmes in place at least twice in a year.

iii.   Present to Cabinet the annual state of disaster report

iv.   Present to cabinet the national preparedness and contingency plan updated annually

v.   Brief Cabinet on quarterly basis a national food security report

vi.   Information cabinet of potential massive disasters foreseen

vii.   Monitor disaster preparedness and management mainstreaming across ministries, Local governments and the private sector.

viii.   Take necessary measures to ensure that ministries identify and allocate resources towards disaster preparedness and management.

ix.   Take measures to promote the effectiveness of the National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC).

3.1.3.4 The Inter-Agency Technical Committee

There shall be an Inter-Agency Technical Committee comprised of focal point technical officers from line ministries, UN agencies, NGOs and relevant stakeholders to be chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister.

Members of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee shall consist of senior officials from the following ministries and organisations:

i.   Office of the Prime Minister (Chair)

ii.   Ministry of Internal Affairs;

iii.   Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;

iv.   Uganda Police;

v.   Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries;

vi.   Ministry of Health;

vii.   Ministry of Lands, Water and Environment;

viii.   Ministry of Defence;

ix.   Ministry of Education;

x.   Ministry of Local Government;

xi.   Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development;

xii.   Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs;

xiii.   Ministry of Works, Housing and Communications;

xiv.   Uganda Bureau of Statistics

xv.   Directorate of Information and National Guidance;

xvi.   Representative of Uganda Human Rights Commission;

xvii.   Representative of the Amnesty Commission;

xviii.   Representatives of United Nations, major national and international organisations especially those lead organisations operating directly within affected communities;

xix.   Representatives from the donor technical groups;

xx.   The Head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The functions of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee will be to;-

i.   Monitor and analyse hazard, risk and disaster trends in the country.
ii.   Receive and analyse monthly incident reports from Districts, Sectoral Institutions and other stakeholders
iii.   Develop common preparedness, contingency and response plans
iv.   Publish The Annual National State of Disaster Report not later than 30th February based on district reports. The Report will highlight vulnerability levels, risks, hazards, disaster events and respective actions taken during the past twelve months. It will also give indicative forecasts of vulnerabilities, risks, hazards, disaster events and planned actions for the next twelve months.

v.   Network and share information, experiences and technical expertise nationally, regionally and internationally

vi.   Advise the Ministerial Policy Committee and District Disaster Policy and Management Committees' on disaster occurrences and the appropriate response

vii.   Monitor implementation of response strategies

THE NATIONAL POLICY FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT

3.1.3.5 National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC)

The NECOC shall deal with sudden-on-set emergencies such as mass casualty transport accidents, massive landslides and floods and collapsed buildings. The NECOC may be called upon to assist when other forms of disasters turn catastrophic.

The NECOC is responsible for the effective coordination and networking of the various emergency response institutions of government such as the fire brigade, Police Rapid Response Units, UPDF Emergency Support Units, Uganda Red Cross Society, hospitals emergency units and the private emergency firms. The NECOC is established under the Office of the Prime Minister-Directorate of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees. It shall be equipped with emergency response facilities and a small number of specialized professionals, because NECOCs functions shall be limited to coordination, support and facilitation; in-order not to duplicate or take-over emergency mandates of existing institutions of government, the private sector, NGOs and Uganda Red Cross Society.

The NECOC shall be headed by a National Incident Commander (NIC) who shall be a seconded senior officer from either the UPDF or Uganda Police Force. The National Incident Commander (NIC) shall operate at the level of Assistant Commissioner and will report to the Commissioner for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Management. The centre shall be directly linked to the Uganda Police Operations Centre and all district police stations (District Emergency Coordination and Operations Centres) on a 24 hours basis. The center shall also be linked to UPDF and other security organs of government. The centre shall have a Principal Disaster Management Officer, Senior Disaster Management Officers and Disaster Management Officers. The centre shall also have seconded junior officers from Uganda Police and UPDF to operate communication links the Uganda Police Force and the UPDF systems. The seconded communications officers are required for purposes of managing and keeping separate the confidentiality of information on the Military and Police Communications Systems.

The NECOC will carry out the following functions;-

   i. Gather, receive and analyse information on emergencies and disasters from across the country.

   ii. Inform all those involved in handling a given emergency/disaster on how best to respond.

   iii. Provide guidance in the management of a given disaster/s

   iv. Disseminate early warning information to responsible ministries, Local Governments, communities and other stake holders.

   v. Coordinate disaster response, search, rescue and evacuation operations.

   vi. Provide the public with evacuation guidelines.

   vii. Establish and coordinate emergency rapid disaster response teams.

viii. Develop and monitor implementation of standard operating procedures for managing emergencies.

ix. Link district emergency operations centres to provide coordinated response.

x. Systematise and coordinate existing emergency operations centres throughout the country.

xi. Develop and conduct disaster simulation exercises for enhanced preparedness.

xii. Train and equip at least 20% of UPDF soldiers in every battalion and 20% of Police Officers in every district on rescue and emergency operations skills.

xiii. Equip and facilitate District Emergency Coordination and Operations Centres (DECOC)

xiv. Stock pile at strategic locations essential emergency response equipment and logistics

NATIONAL EMERGENCY COORDINATION AND OPERATIONS CENTRE (NECOC)

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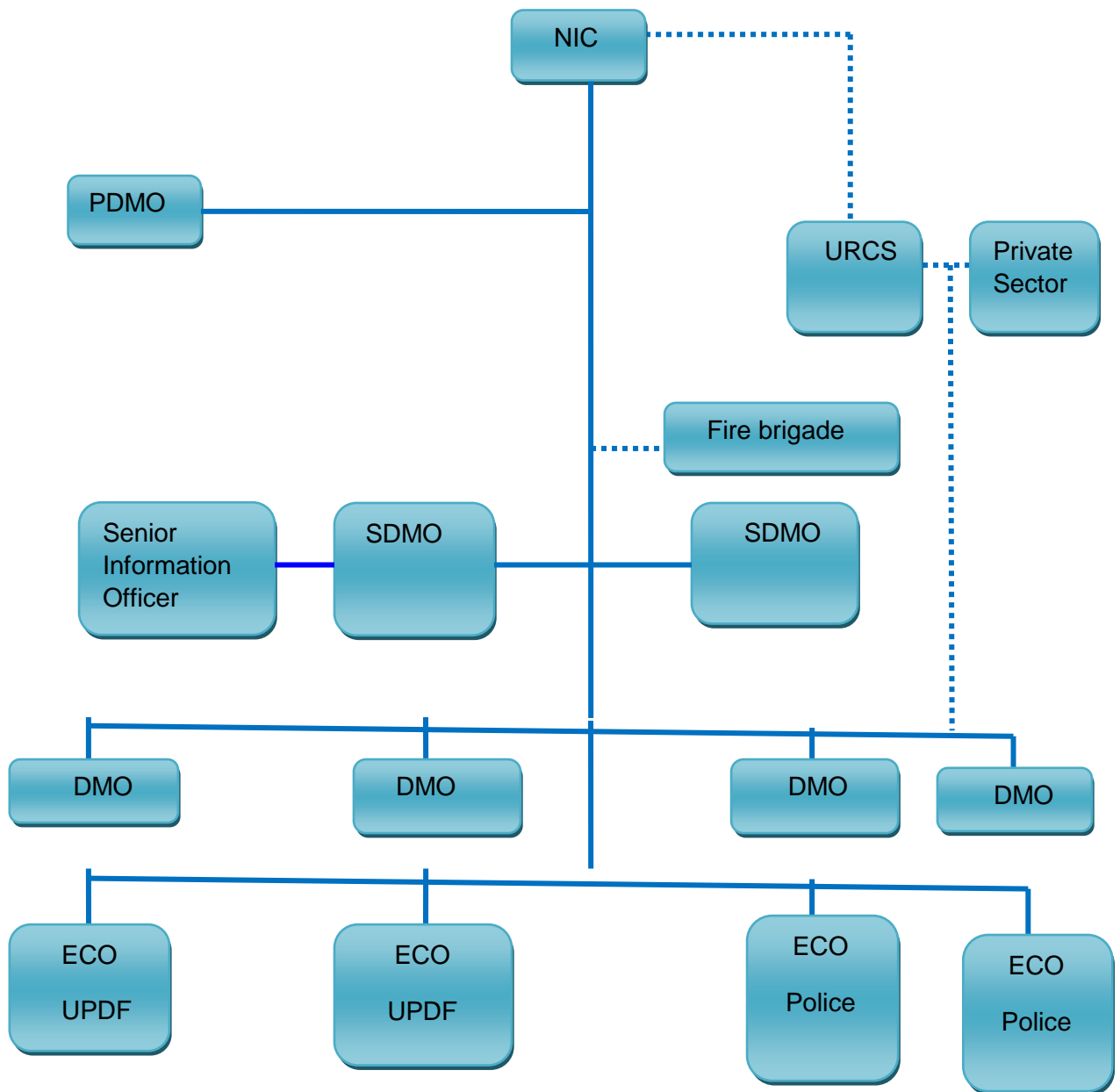
NIC   = National Incident Commander

PDMO = Principal Disaster Management Officer

SDMO = Senior Disaster Management Officer

DMO   = Disaster Management Officer

ECO   =   Emergency Communications Officer

3.1.3.6 City Disaster Policy Committee (CDPC).

There shall be a City Disaster Policy Committee in every city of the country. The CDPC shall be chaired by the City Mayor, while the Town Clerk shall be its secretary. It will be composed of members of the City Executive Committee, RDC, DPC(s), DISO(s), a representative of the army and L.C3 Urban Chairpersons of City Divisions.

The functions of the City Disaster Policy Committee:

i.   Give policy direction to the City Disaster Preparedness and Management Technical Committee.

ii.   Inform council about the nature and effects of disasters in the district

iii.   Provide a link between national Disaster Preparedness and Management Committee and the city structures responsible for disaster preparedness and management

iv.   Identify city priorities for disaster preparedness

v.   Monitor the implement disaster response activities in the city.

vi.   Ensure and authorise expenditure for disaster related activities in the city

3.1.3.7 City Disaster Management Technical Committee (CDMTC)

There shall be a City Disaster Preparedness and Management Technical Committee (CDP&TC) in each City. The committee shall be chaired by the City Town Clerk and will comprise of city heads of department, Division Assistant Town Clerks, the Police, an army representative and other relevant government agencies, representative of the business community, representative of the transport bodies and development partners within the city.

The functions of the committee will be to;-

i.   Carry out vulnerability assessment, hazard and risk mapping of the whole city and update the data annually.

ii.   Develop a city preparedness and contingency plan and update data annually

iii.   Publish an annual city state of disaster report not later than 30th January. The Report will highlight vulnerability levels, risks, hazards, disaster events and respective actions taken during the past twelve months. It will also give indicative forecasts of vulnerabilities, risks, hazards, and   disaster events and planned actions for the next

twelve months.

iv. Ensure mainstreaming of Disaster Preparedness and Management activities into the city development plans

v. Implement the national policy on disaster preparedness in the city.

vi. Coordinate and implement disaster preparedness and management interventions in the city

vii. Initiate the formulation and enforcement of ordinances on disaster preparedness and Management in the city.

viii. Submit assessment reports on disaster preparedness and management to the Office of the Prime Minister and other relevant organs quarterly.

ix. Develop city calibrated contingency and disaster preparedness plans.

x. Establish and maintain an updated data base on hazards, risks and disasters in the city.

3.1.3.8 District Disaster Policy Committee (DDPC)

The DDPC shall be chaired by the District Chairman while the Chief Administrative Officer shall be its secretary. It will be composed of the District Executive Committee, RDC, RPC, DMC, DPC, DISO, a representative of the army and the Mayors / L.C3 Urban Chairpersons of town councils.

The functions of the committees will be to:

i. Give policy direction to the District Disaster Preparedness and Management Technical Committee.

ii. Inform council about the nature and effects of disasters in the district

iii. Provide a link between national Disaster Preparedness and Management Committee and the Local government structures responsible for disaster preparedness and management

iv. Identify district priorities for disaster preparedness

v. Monitor the implementation of disaster response activities in the district.

vi. Ensure and authorise expenditure for disaster related activities in the district

3.1.3.9 District Disaster Preparedness and Management Institutional Structure
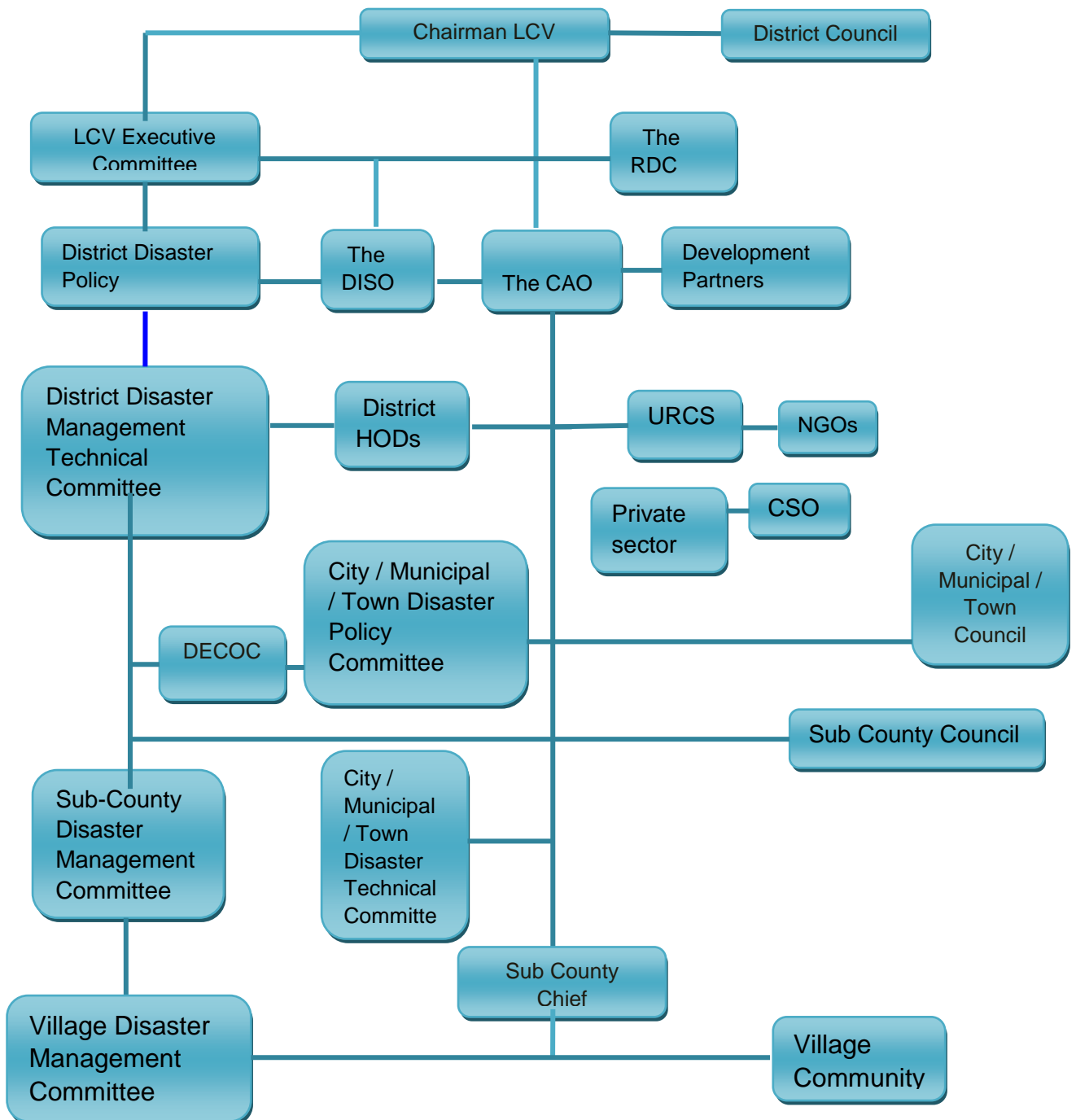
3.1.3.10 District Disaster Management Technical Committee

There shall be a District Disaster Management Technical Committee (DDMTC) in the district. The committee shall be chaired by the CAO and will comprise of district heads of department, the DPC, the army representative and representatives of other relevant government agencies and Partners within the district including Uganda Red Cross Society and relevant NGOs.

The functions of the committee will be to;-

i. Carry out vulnerability assessment, hazard and risk mapping of the whole district and update the data annually.

ii. Develop a district preparedness and contingency plan and update data annually

iii. Publish an annual district state of disaster report not later than 30th January. The Report will highlight vulnerability levels, risks, hazards, disaster events and respective actions taken during the past twelve months. It will also give indicative forecasts of vulnerabilities, risks, hazards, and disaster events and planned actions for the next twelve months In the event of a disaster-induced emergency, to coordinate and monitor multi-sectoral disaster relief and later post-disaster recovery measures;

iv. Receive departmental and sub-county vulnerability, risk and preparedness reports;

v. Ensure the mainstreaming of Disaster Preparedness and Management activities into the district plan

vi. Implement the national policy on disaster preparedness.

vii. Coordinate and implement disaster preparedness and management interventions

viii. Initiate the formulation and enforcement of ordinances on disaster preparedness and Management in the district.

ix. Submit assessment reports on disaster preparedness and management to the Office of the Prime Minister and other relevant organs.

x. Develop District calibrated contingency and disaster preparedness plans.

xi. Establish and maintain an updated data base on hazards, risks and disasters that affect the district.

xii. Hold on monthly basis a review, monitoring and reporting meeting of the DDMTC

xiii. Develop and present to council district budget proposals for annual vulnerability assessment, risk mapping and updates, preparedness and relief plans

xiv. Ensure that the key institutions in the District develop its own Disaster Preparedness Plans and stock emergency logistics and equipment such as fire extinguishers and smoke detectors. The Institutions should include the following:

    a. Educational institutions (Primary, Secondary and Tertiary);

b. Hotels or recreational facilities;

c. Hospitals

d. Factories and industries.

Responsibilities of the Chief Administrative Officer in Disaster Management

i. Coordinate all disaster related activities underway in the district, and to chair the District Disaster Management Technical Committee ;

ii. Provide district input to national plans for disaster relief and post-disaster recovery;

iii. Ensure that training and readiness for managing disasters are effective within the district, as far as key staff and local government authorities are concerned;

iv. Act as the District Disaster Relief Coordinator upon the declaration of a state of disaster-induced emergency, and, in that capacity, preparing and implementing the District Disaster Relief Plan;

v. Cause to be done for each town in the district and village vulnerability assessment, risk mapping and development of town and village preparedness and response plans;

vi. Keep the public informed of disaster situations and relief measures,

vii. Facilitate the DPC in maintaining a permanently functioning 24 hour district emergency coordination and operations centre (DECOC), ready to rapidly respond and deal with sudden, localized emergency events such as massive road accidents.

viii. Ensure the district statistician and district economist collect and keep record of all disaster events and record of available equipment, maps, and other essential faculties;

3.1.3.11 District Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre

The District Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre shall be headed by the District Police Commander and shall operate from the district police station. It shall report to the National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC) and to the CAO. When activated, the DECOC will be composed of the; DPC, DISO, a UPDF Representative, District Director of Health Services (DDHS), the Medical Superintendent of the District Hospital, URCS and ACAO in charge of disaster management. The DPC shall assign four police officers at operational level to manage the district emergency centre on 24 hour rotation basis during normal times.

The DECOC shall perform the following functions;-

i. Receive and analyse reports of emergencies and disasters within the district on a 24 hour basis.

THE NATIONAL POLICY FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT

ii. Mobilise other emergency institutions whenever a disaster is reported.

iii. Keep on standby an ambulance and other relevant emergency logistics and equipment

iv. Maintain network with neighbouring districts for quick support in case the need arises

v. Provide guidance in the management of a given disaster/s

vi. Disseminate early warning information to communities at risk, lower local Governments, and other stake holders.

vii. Coordinate disaster response, search, rescue and evacuation operations.

viii. Provide the public with evacuation guidelines.

ix. Establish and coordinate emergency rapid disaster response teams.

x. Ensure standard operating procedures for managing emergencies are followed.

DISTRICT EMERGENCY COORDINATION AND OPERATIONS CENTRE (DECOC)

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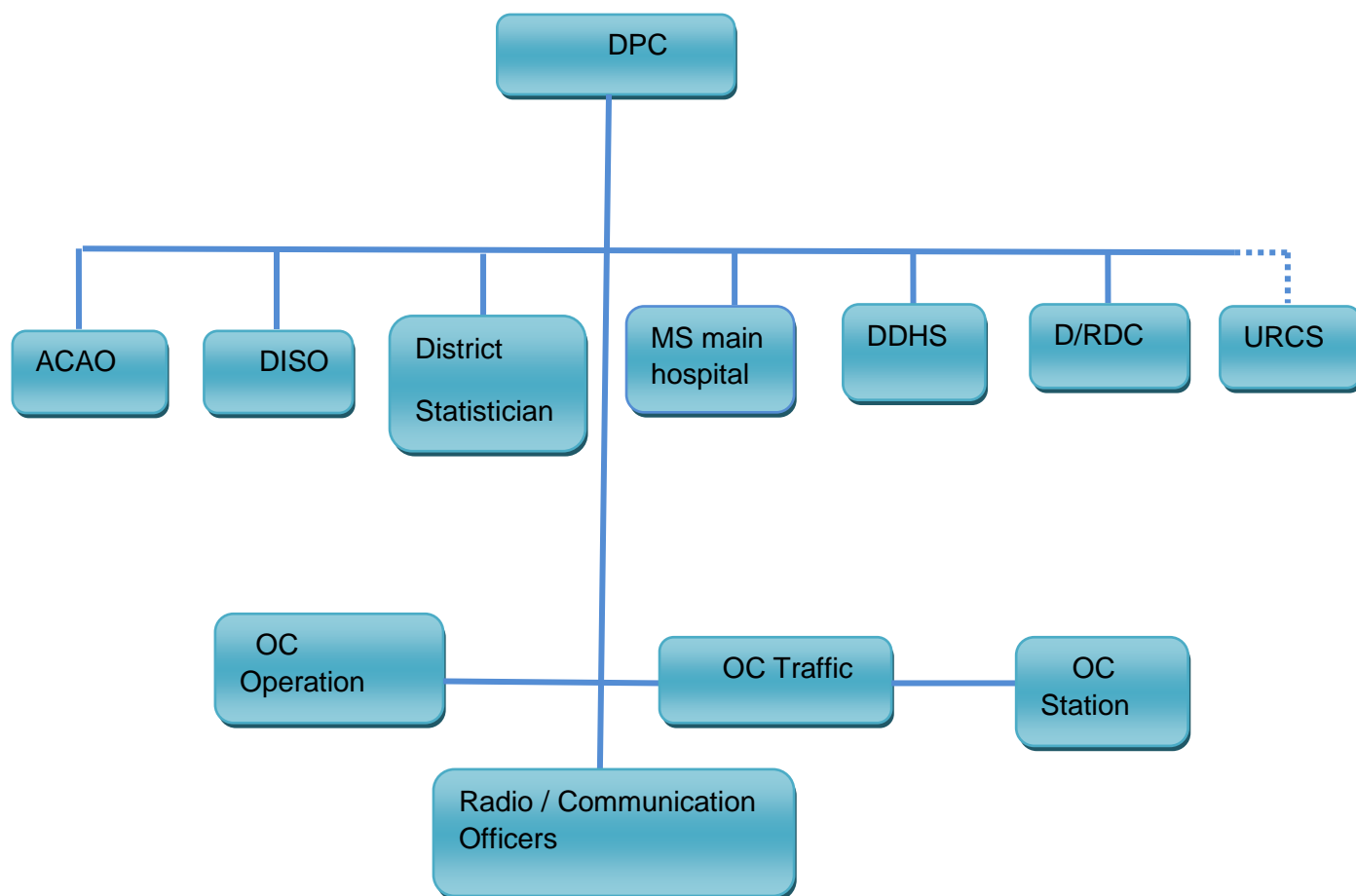
3.1.3.12 Municipal / Town Disaster Policy Committee.

There shall be a Municipal Disaster Policy Committee in every municipality of the country. There shall also be a Town Disaster Policy Committee in every Town Council in the country. The Municipal Disaster Policy Committee shall be chaired by the City Mayor and the Municipal Town Clerk shall be its secretary. The Town Disaster Policy Committee shall be chaired by the LC 3 Urban Chairperson and the Town Clerk shall be its secretary. The Municipal Policy Committee shall be composed of members of the Municipal Executive Committee, RDC, DPC, DISO, a representative of the army and L.C3 Urban Chairpersons of the divisions. The Town Council Policy Committee shall be composed of members of the Town Council Executive Committee, RDC, DPC, DISO, a representative of the army and chairpersons of the divisions.

The functions of the Municipal / Town Disaster Policy Committee:

i. Give policy direction to the Municipal / Town Disaster Preparedness and Management Technical Committee.

ii. Inform council about the nature and effects of disasters in the Municipality / Town

iii. Provide a link between national Disaster Preparedness and Management Committee and

the Municipal / Town structures responsible for disaster preparedness and management

    iv. Identify Municipal / Town priorities for disaster preparedness

    v. Monitor the implement disaster response activities in the municipality / town.

    vi. Ensure and authorise expenditure for disaster related activities in the municipality / town

3.1.3.12 Municipal / Town Disaster Management Technical Committee

There shall be a Municipal / Town Disaster Preparedness and Management Technical Committee in each Municipality / Town Council. The committee shall be chaired by the respective Town Clerk and will comprise of heads of department, Division Assistant Town Clerks, the Police, an army representative and other relevant government agencies, one representative of the business community, one representative of the transport bodies and representatives of Development Partners within the Municipality or Town Council. The Town Clerk shall establish the committee.

The functions of the committee

    i. Carry out vulnerability assessment, hazard and risk mapping of the whole Municipality / Town and update the data annually.

    ii. Develop a Municipal / Town preparedness and contingency plan and update data annually

    iii. Publish an annual Municipal / Town state of disaster report not later than 30th January. The Report will highlight current and future vulnerability levels, risks, hazards, disaster events and respective actions taken during the past twelve months. Ensure mainstreaming of Disaster Preparedness and Management activities into the Municipality / Town development plans

    iv. Implement the national policy on disaster preparedness in the municipality / town.

    v. Coordinate and implement disaster preparedness and management interventions in the municipality / town

    vi. Initiate the formulation and enforcement of ordinances on disaster preparedness and Management in the Municipality / Town.

    vii. Submit assessment reports on disaster preparedness and management to the CAO and other relevant organs of government on quarterly basis.

    viii. Develop Municipal / Town calibrated contingency and disaster preparedness plans.

    ix. Establish and maintain an updated data base on hazards, risks and disasters in the municipality / town.

3.1.3.13 Sub-County Disaster Management Committees (SDMC)

The Sub-county Disaster Management Committee shall be headed by the Chairperson of the Local Council 3. The Sub county chief shall be the secretary to the committee. The Sub-County executives, GISO, S/County Police, Technical Staff and Partners, in the sub county shall be members of the committee. The committee shall perform the following functions;-

    i. Participate in preparedness and management of disasters in the sub-county.

    ii. Participate in vulnerability assessment and mapping in the sub-county.

    iii. Document and transmit information to the district Disaster Preparedness and Management Committees on disasters in the sub-county

    iv. Conduct community mobilisation and sensitization before, during and after disasters

    v. Monitor the teaching of the disaster management curriculum in schools

    vi. Keep records of disasters in the sub county

3.1.3.14 Village Disaster Management Committee

The Local council 1 executive shall be the lowest unit of Disaster Preparedness and Management. The chairperson of the Local Council 1 shall be the chair of the committee. All the adult member of the village shall be members of the village disaster preparedness and management committee. They will perform the following functions;-

    i. Assist in reconstructing the history of hazards and disasters in the area.

    ii. Collect early warning information and transmit it to sub-county and district level.

    iii. Use the early warning information to educate community members on risks and hazards that may potentially cause disaster.

    iv. Participate in the implementation of interventions to address effects of disasters including rescue operations.

    v. Engage in assessment of risk and develop village contingency plans.

    vi. Mobilize the community for collective survival.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 KEY MINISTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS CHARGED WITH VITAL DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS

4.1 Roles and Responsibilities

The day-to-day implementation of disaster preparedness and management activities will, in many cases be carried out by sectoral ministries, departments and other public and private sector institutions in collaboration with the Department of Disaster Preparedness and Management in the Office of the Prime Minister and the Disaster Commission. In disaster risk management, complementary roles are performed by these Sectors and community groups right down to family units. These complementary roles relate to all phases of disaster risk management and not only to disaster response. Ultimately, disaster risk management is the responsibility of all citizens, not just those who have been identified in this policy.

4.1.1 The Office of the Prime Minister – Department of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Management

The Directorate of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees in OPM is the lead agency responsible for disaster preparedness and management. It shall coordinate risk reduction, prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response actions in the country in consultation with other line ministries, humanitarian and development partners, Local Governments and the Private sector. The Minister responsible for disaster preparedness and refugees shall link the Office of the Prime Minister to Cabinet. The Minister shall make rules and regulations on the management of likely disasters and will present annual reports relating to Disaster Preparedness and Management to cabinet. The Minister shall also link the Office of the Prime Minister to inter-governmental organizations, the donor community, the private sector, regional and international frameworks.

The roles and functions of the Office of the Prime Minister Directorate of Disaster Management and the Disaster Preparedness and Management Commission are separate but complementary.

Functions of Office of the Prime Minister- Department of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Management:

    i.   Carry out vulnerability assessment, hazard and risk mapping of the whole country and update the data annually.

    ii.   Develop a national preparedness and contingency plan and update data annually

    iii.   Produce a national state of disaster report once a year not later than 30th February.

    iv.   Serve as a repository and conduit of information on issues relating to disaster management.

    v.   In liaison with other relevant early monitoring and forecast institutions, provide early warning of approaching disasters and predictions of their effects on the country, its population and people's livelihood;

vi.   Establish and maintain a data collection and dissemination system and strategic reserves of essential commodities and equipment with which to mount initial, immediate disaster relief measures until further national and international assistance comes;

vii.   Formulate a national and district standard operating procedures for disaster mitigation, preparedness and response to be observed by all responsible personnel and institutions;

viii. Develop and conduct disaster simulation exercises to test readiness of the public and staff to respond when a disaster strikes.

ix.   Create and maintain a national cadre of trained and qualified personnel dedicated to, or closely and directly involved with disaster management;

x.   Arrange in-house and other training for public officers and members of the armed forces, and employees of inter-governmental, nongovernmental and community based organisations who are permanently employed on, or who are directly involved with disaster management;

xi.   Promote general education on disasters, emergency plans and relief measures in national institutions as part of their safety knowledge, development, management, curricular, etc;

xii.   Run public hazard and risk awareness campaigns throughout the country;

xiii. Conduct active public relations and media briefing programmes on hazard and risk management;

xiv.   Coordinate and implement government programmes and policies related to disaster preparedness and management.

xv.   Mobilize and coordinate resources to assist disaster victims and ensure restoration of their livelihoods.

xvi.   Strengthen local government capacity to plan, implement and monitor disaster preparedness and management programmes.

xvii. Coordinate the establishment and operation of early warning systems and mitigation measures for rapid response to disasters

xviii. Provide leadership and co-ordination for the resettlement, rehabilitation and provisions of psychosocial services to those displaced by disasters.

xix.   Ensure mainstreaming of disaster preparedness and management policies and programs in line ministries, local governments the private sector and the other stakeholders.

xx.   Establish task forces responsible for management of specific disasters as and when the need arises.

xxi. Establish mechanisms and procedures for access and utilisation of the contingency funds.

xxii. Develop and enforce implementation of operational procedures and standards for disaster preparedness and management.

xxiii. Develop, coordinate and implement contingence plans on disaster preparedness and management

xxiv. Disseminate disaster preparedness and management information

xxv. Provide overall coordination of the implementation, review and monitoring of the policy

xxvi. Monitor the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action

4.2 The National Disaster Preparedness and Management Commission (NDPMC)

Implementation of Article 249 of the 1995 of the Constitution requires the minister responsible for disaster preparedness and management to present a proposal to Parliament for establishment of structures, composition, functions and procedures for operations of a National Disaster Preparedness and Management Commission. Parliament will be made to note that this constitutional provision was promulgated before government decided to establish the Directorate for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees in 1998. There will therefore be a very thin difference between the functions of the Commission and the Directorate.

4.2.3 Members of the Commission

The Minister responsible for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees will appoint a five member commission comprising a chairperson, deputy chairperson and three members.

The members of the commission will be distinguished Ugandan citizens of high integrity with sufficient technical background in areas relevant to disaster management.

4.2.3.1 Terms of Service

The chairperson, deputy chairperson and members will serve on a four-year contract term, renewable once on full time basis.

4.2.3.2 Responsibilities and Functions of the Commission

The National Disaster Commission will amongst other functions be responsible for monitoring, supervising and evaluating activities of sectoral lead institutions, national and international humanitarian agencies.

It shall ensure that the SPHERE minimum standards in disaster response is adhered to by all humanitarian actors

i. Receive and analyse quarterly and other risk status reports from lead institutions responsible for monitoring various hazards named in this policy and discuss with the

relevant action institutions.

ii. Evaluate the credibility, technical and financial capacities of international and national humanitarian agencies and make recommendations to the responsible minister.

iii. Recommend to the Ministry of Internal affairs organisations wishing to provide humanitarian services in Uganda.

iv. Discuss and clear work plans and geographical locations of planned activities of international and national humanitarian agencies

v. Receive and analyse humanitarian activity reports from humanitarian agencies and advise the relevant minister

vi. Recommend sanctions to humanitarian agencies failing to fulfil their work plans.

vii. Support research, on disaster preparedness mitigation and management measures;

viii. Ensure the integration of disaster management in overall national planning;

ix. Support the promotion of public awareness through formal and non-formal education about disaster management issues;

x. Develop curriculum for Primary, secondary, tertiary and post secondary education in disaster management

xi. Mobilise, expedite and monitor resources for disaster management.

xii. Establish and administer a disaster preparedness and management fund.

xiii. Establish and maintain a disaster data bank

xiv. Make inventory of vital disaster response equipment and logistics available in the Country.

xv. Ensure effective coordination and integration of disaster management considerations in the socio-economic development of the country;

4.2.3.3 The Secretariat of the Commission

The Commission will have a secretary and other technical / professional staff to carry out the day-to-day technical and administrative functions and to implement its decisions.

The secretariat shall have support staff as the commission may deem necessary for the effective discharge of its functions.

Functions of the Secretary

The main functions and duties of the Secretary are to:

i. Be the Chief Executive and accounting officer of the Commission;

ii. Implement policy decisions and programmes of the Commission;

iii. Carry out the day to day administration and management of the affairs of the Commission;

iv. Administers, organise, supervise and generally control the staff of the Commission;

v. Keep the Commissioners informed of the activities of the Secretariat; and,

vi. Record and keep minutes of the Commission at all meetings

vii. Link the Commission with the OPM Directorate of disaster preparedness and management and other institutions of government and national and international development partners, NGOs and the private sector.

4.2 The Ministry Responsible for Agriculture, Animal industry and Fisheries

Agriculture is the back-bone of the national economy and domestic food supply. However, the drought prone areas of Uganda have been hit repeatedly by drought leading to famine. Further more, when people are displaced or struck by any disaster the provision of food depends on the stress on agricultural production. High population growth rate, poor agricultural practices, low quality seeds, poor soils, land fragmentation and past economic and social instability have been some of the causes of stress on the agricultural sector. While tackling these, it is a crucial requirement to integrate disaster preparedness and management into agricultural production.

4.2.1 Objective

To ensure that adequate food is produced for all areas of Uganda by promoting appropriate production and post production systems and good animal husbandry and fisheries practices with a view to prevent famine.

4.2.2 Guiding Principles

- Effective disaster risk management can only be achieved when there is good food production, storage and supply.

- Disaster risk management programmes should be integrated into the national agricultural policy and its action plan.

- Disaster risk management programmes should be integrated into the national food and nutrition policy and its action plan.

Actions:

i. Encourage the construction of appropriate food storage facilities at local and house hold level.

ii. Improve traditional farming systems which conserve the soil and increase productivity.

iii.   Make a deliberate effort to improve and develop adequate food security systems.

iv.   Monitor the development in science creating drought resistant seeds species, and whenever possible, make them available to farmers. Also, develop methods for the eradication of pest infestations on crops and during post harvest.

v.   Encourage the construction of labour intensive earth dams whenever possible.

vi.   Promote public awareness and education on the use of irrigation and provide technical assistance as an incentive.

vii.   Encourage and support the study of the optimum use of all the major rivers and streams in Uganda for the purposes of irrigated agriculture.

viii.   Develop inter institutional preparedness plans and which should include drought and famine early warning systems.

ix.   Provide water, grazing facilities and subsidized fodder and licks to farmers to assist them in saving their livestock from death. At the same time, encourage farmers to destock, as a good animal husbandry practice.

x.   The Ministry will appoint a senior officer to serve as the sectoral disaster risk management focal point whose responsibilities will include mainstreaming disaster risk management in the Ministries annual work plan and budget and the promotion and coordination of disaster risk management amongst stakeholders of the sector.

4.3 The Ministry Responsible for Health

Uganda has experienced health related disaster such as epidemics of cerebrospinal meningitis and cholera. Other disasters such as a displacement of large numbers of persons which have repeatedly occurred require immediate health services to prevent outbreaks of disease in congested camps. Earthquakes also cause injuries requiring specific attention. Terrorist attacks may cause collapsing of building and burying of persons, a different scale of health care is then required.   The past experience in this area has shown inadequacies such as lack of drugs, personnel and equipment. This situation calls for specific programmes for medical mass causality preparedness and management which should be deliberately derived and implemented as an integral part of disaster preparedness and management.

4.3.1 Objective

Provide at both national and district levels adequate and timely health services which prevent unnecessary loss of life when a disaster strikes and restore them productive capacity.

4.3.2 Guiding Principles

i.   The Ministry responsible for health should develop an integrated approach for managing health related disasters.

ii.   Public education and awareness is of paramount important if health related disasters are to be effectively managed and controlled.

   iii.   Early warning systems in the health sector should be strengthened as a preventive measure.

Actions:

   i.   Institute well equipped response Medical Centres in strategically selected areas and ensure that the public especially the local communities are aware of environmental health concerns and the administration of first aid services in case a disaster strikes.

   ii.   Carry out public awareness campaigns in all parts of the country for preparedness and emergency response to ensure that this knowledge is imparted on average to every Ugandan.

   iii.   Utilize all locally available health and medical resources to the extent possible to meet the needs identified by the Commission.

   iv.   Develop inter institutional preparedness and emergency plans for the provision of health related services in the event of a disaster, and through this, develop early warning systems through routine health surveillance. Furthermore, prepare a contingency plan with an inventory or required resources.

   v.   Train national and district medical staff in emergency operations.

   vi.   Direct the activation and deployment of health and medical personnel, supplies, and equipment, as necessary to support the emergency response operations.

   vii.   Coordinate the evacuation of patients from the disaster area when evacuation is deemed appropriate by the Commission, and provide ambulance services.

   viii.   The Ministry will appoint a senior officer to serve as the sectoral disaster risk management focal point whose responsibilities will include mainstreaming disaster risk management in the Ministries annual work plan and budget and the promotion and coordination of disaster risk management amongst stakeholders of the sector.

4.4 The Ministry Responsible for Water and Environment

Many disasters directly affect environment besides the communities. It is therefore necessary to prevent these effects. The Ministry responsible for environment is mandated to ensure environmental quality. Through the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) as the coordinating body, the Ministry can enhance the health and quality of life of all the people of Uganda and promote long term sustainable socioeconomic development through sound of environmental and natural resource management and use. NEMA can also ensure the integration of environmental concerns in all development policies, planning and activities at national, district and local levels, with the full participation of the individual and community. NEMA can encourage optimised resource use and the achievement of a sustainable level of resource consumption by raising public awareness to understand and appreciate the linkages between the environment and development.

4.4.1 Objective

Ensure that disaster events do not damage the environment

4.4.2 Guiding Principles

- The maintenance of environmental quality should be a priority.

- An integrated approach should be enhanced and encouraged for the successful management of environmental resources.

- Effective linkages with the of environment related lead agencies.

- Public awareness should be seen as a mechanism for reducing environmental degradation.

Actions:

i. Develop a plan for public preparedness for emergencies at local level and assist decision makers and technical personnel to improve community awareness of hazardous installations.

ii. Encourage land use planning for settlement especially in flood plains, river banks, lake shores, and wetlands, mountainous and hilly areas. To this end, develop land use control or zoning mechanisms, protective structural measures, and building codes for these areas.

iii. Encourage the development of early warning systems for drought, floods, and other environmental disasters and ensure the development of hazard mapping mechanisms for the sector.

iv. Enhance the development of environmental quality standards.

v. Promote environmental impact assessment and other pro-active management approaches.

vi. The Ministry will appoint a senior officer to serve as the sectoral disaster risk management focal point whose responsibilities will include mainstreaming disaster risk management in the Ministries annual work plan and budget and the promotion and coordination of disaster risk management amongst stakeholders of the sector.

4.5 The Ministry Responsible for Works and Transport

Many bridges and roads get washed away in different parts of the country whenever a heavy rain down pour occurs. Poorly maintained and narrow roads exacerbate road traffic accidents. The ministry has equipment and expertise for emergency repair of bridges and roads. In addition the ministry has equipment that can be called upon for rescue purposes in case of collapsed building etc.

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4.5.1 Objective

Designed and construct roads and bridges with adequate capacities to withstand hazardous situations.

4.5.1 Guiding principle

Ensure that risk and hazard analysis is done before commissioning of any infrastructure design and project.

Actions:

i. Develop quality standards and construction codes to be used and followed in any infrastructure development especially road infrastructure.
ii. Stockpile emergency road and bridge repair equipment

4.6 The Ministry responsible for Housing and Urban Development.

Haphazard settlements, poor urban physical planning, lack of quality assurance and building standards, and lack of risk analysis in infrastructure development are among the several factors that increase people's vulnerability to disasters in Uganda. Several buildings have collapsed in the country causing death and injuries of recent.

4.6.1 Objective

To ensure that infrastructure development in particular, housing, are designed and constructed with adequate capacities to withstand hazardous situations.

4.6.2 Guiding Principle

Ensure that risk and hazard analysis is done before commissioning of any major housing project.

Actions:

i. Develop quality standards and building codes to be used and followed in any infrastructure development especially commercial buildings.
ii. Ensure that all investors and projects adhere to the building codes and enforce standards for quality assurance.
iii. Ensure that all city councils and other responsible institutions have in place mechanisms and procedures of approving physical plans and inspecting infrastructure development to enforce quality standards.
iv. Guide the nation on appropriate physical planning to avoid haphazard development of infrastructure.

4.7 The Ministry responsible for Energy and Mineral Development.

The on-going developments in the energy and mining sector in Uganda, especially oil exploration, requires the country to put in place strict and effective mechanisms to avert disasters related to oil exploration, transportation and use, including environmental degradation.

4.7.1 Objective

To ensure that the oil and other mineral exploration activities are well coordinated, regulated and monitored to ensure adherence to risk reduction strategies.

4.7.2 Guiding Principles

Disaster risk reduction is an integral component of sustainable development. Oil and other mineral exploration activities should be done in a manner that does not comprise the livelihoods of the surrounding communities as well as the environment.

Actions:

- Ensure oil and other mineral exploration companies carry out environmental Impact assessment before commencing exploration.
- Ensure livelihoods of local communities are protected.
- Monitor and supervise operations of the exploration companies to ensure adherence.
- Develop a policy on oil and gas exploration.
- Due to the flammable nature of oil and gas, ensure all companies put in place and maintain fire prevention and fighting equipment.

4.8 The Ministry Responsible for Defense (UPDF and Other Security Agencies)

The security forces are standby organized and well equipped institutions located strategically across the country. They can be called upon at short notice to give a full range of support (rescue, transport and recovery) during emergencies.   The security agencies are a major source of equipment, well organized personnel and other logistics for emergency management. The security forces, however, are not well placed for vulnerability assessments, risk mapping, public awareness sensitization and education, mitigation, preparedness and contingency planning which are better performed by the civilian technical institutions. At least 20% of the UPDF soldiers in each battalion are accorded training, knowledge, practices, appropriate logistics and equipment for the common disasters in the surrounding location; in addition to their formal military training. The selected UPDF officers and men will be provided with standard emergency body wares and gears appropriate for managing the hazard or disaster at hand.

4.8.1 Objective

Ensure timely provision of support in numbers of human resources, equipment and logistics whenever massive disasters occur, that is beyond the capacities of the regular emergency institutions.

4.8.2 Guiding Principles

i.   The armed forces shall not take over leadership from the civilian authority when called upon to give support.

ii.   Military equipment and logistics will be availed to civilian use during the emergency period.

Actions:

i. Provide engineering, transport and logistics support and emergency communications.

ii. Assist with the evacuation of threatened populations.

iii. Ensure the security of public and private property.

iv. Provide technical assistance, equipment and supplies through the Commission.

v. Provide other available emergency support services.

vi. Carry out search and rescue operations in a disaster situation.

vii. The Ministry will appoint a senior officer to serve as the sectoral disaster risk management focal point whose responsibilities will include mainstreaming disaster risk management in the Ministries annual work plan and budget and the promotion and coordination of disaster risk management amongst stakeholders of the sector.

4.9 The Ministry Responsible for Internal Affairs (Uganda Police Force)

The Police are usually amongst the first institutions informed of any emergency event in the country. They have the communications and institutional organisation to deal with such events. Consequently the police and other emergency services have specific roles particularly in preparedness and response.

4.9.1 Objectives

Preserve public order and safety and communication when a disaster strikes.

4.9.2 Guiding Principles

i. The expertise in search and rescue, investigations, and in the keeping of law and order should

ii. Available resources within the police force should be accessible and utilized in times of disaster emergency.

Actions:

i. Manage the 24 hr District Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre

ii. Carry out search and rescue in a disaster situation.

iii. Develop evacuation planning and management measures.

iv. Develop measures for crowd control, fire fighting and security.

v. Liaise with the ministry responsible for health and the commission in the provision of emergency medical support.

vi. Provide technical assistance and communications equipment.

vii. Oversee and facilitate any criminal investigations.

viii. The Ministry will appoint a senior officer to serve as the sectoral disaster risk management focal point whose responsibilities will include mainstreaming disaster

risk management in the Ministries annual work plan and budget and the promotion and coordination of disaster risk management amongst stakeholders of the sector.

4.10 Ministry Responsible for Information

The most important aspect of successful management of a disaster is the capacity to properly communicate with all relevant personnel. Without the technical capacity to disseminate and to receive information, disaster cannot be effectively managed. The press, radio and television have an important role to play in national disaster management.

4.10.1 Objectives

Integrate disaster management programmes into the ministry's policy and plan action.

4.10.2 Guiding Principles

   i.   Communication is vital for the successful management of an emergency situation.

   ii. Coverage of the disaster situation gives an insight of the magnitude of the disaster problem.

   iii. The use of the media in public awareness ensures wide coverage of the country.

Actions:

   i.   Provide dedicated telephone numbers which are easy to remember to key disaster managers

   ii. Provide the media with disaster information in time and keep updating them.

   iii. Prioritise public awareness disaster risk education programmes.

   iv. Train the media on vulnerability assessment, risk identification and reporting and communication during disaster events

   v.   Provide liaison and long distance high frequency radio support to districts and lead agencies to facilitate direct communication between the commissions and district.

   vi. The Ministry will appoint a senior officer to serve as the sectoral disaster risk management focal point whose responsibilities will include mainstreaming disaster risk management in the Ministries annual work plan and budget and the promotion and coordination of disaster risk management amongst stakeholders of the sector.

4.11 Ministry Responsible for Education

Children are amongst the most prone to risks, hazards and disasters in any area because of their age, limited experience and knowledge of the dynamics of nature and human activity. Hazards and disasters can affect children while at school or on their way to or from school. The Ministry of Education must ensure school buildings are build strong enough to withstand all hazards that affect the location. School buildings are often used as refuge centres by communities neighbouring the school. The buildings should therefore not become death traps for the children and the neighbouring communities.

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The Ministry is urged to mainstream disaster risk management in the education curriculum at all levels. This will enable the children grow up knowing the risks and hazards in their society and how to avoid or manage them. Children and students are also good educators of the communities where they come from. They therefore contribute to community education on risk and hazards management once equipped with the knowledge at school.

4.11.1 Objectives

To minimize risks and impact of hazards and disasters on school going children. To improve safety of school buildings and introduce disaster risk education into school's curriculum at all levels.

4.11.2 Guiding Principles

i. Disaster management education should become an integral part of education (formal and non formal) at all levels, not a separate or additional subject;

ii. Disaster education and public awareness programs should be targeted at all those in public and private sectors whose wellbeing and activities can be significantly affected by disasters and whose activities are likely to lead to the occurrence of a disaster;

iii. Traditional knowledge, attitudes, and practices which result in improved disaster management should be strengthened while, the negative cultural practices should be discouraged;

iv. Prioritise research programs are critical for disaster management,

v. Training programs in disaster management should be promoted and strengthened.

Actions:

i. The Ministry of Education and Sports together with the National Curriculum Development Centre will develop disaster risk management curriculum for all levels of education in the country.

ii. The Ministry of Education and Sports will promote and support research into ways of mitigating hazards that affect the country.

iii. Develop teaching materials initially for primary schools and eventually for all training institutions, and to ensure that disaster risk management concerns are integrated into these materials.

iv. Install disaster mitigation equipment in schools such as fire extinguishers and lightening conductors.

v. Train trainers in the use of tools for disaster management.

vi. Urge schools to carry out drills and rehearsals on safety from fire, floods etc.

4.12 Ministry Responsible for Local Governments

The Ministry responsible for Local Governments is the link between the districts and the central

government. The Ministry oversees Local Governments in the implementation of Government policies and programmes. The Ministry of Local Government will therefore ensure relevant sections of this policy are effectively implemented by the district and sub county local governments.

4.12.1 Objective

To ensure that disaster management is an integral part of the local government system.

4.12.2 Guiding Principles

Local Governments prone to natural and human-induced hazards should take disaster risk management into consideration when developing their annual work plans and budgets.

Actions:

  i. The Ministry will ensure every district establishes a district disaster policy committee and district disaster management technical committee.

  ii. It will ensure that every district captures the major natural and human-induced risks and hazards that regularly affect the district in its annual work plan and budget.

  iii. The Ministry will ensure that local councils at all levels develop disaster preparedness plans for their area.

  iv. It will promote public awareness and education on management of disaster relevant to their different areas of operation.

  v. The Ministry will appoint a senior officer to serve as the sectoral disaster risk management focal point whose responsibilities will include mainstreaming disaster risk management in the Ministries annual work plan and budget and the promotion and coordination of disaster risk management amongst stakeholders of the sector.

4.13 Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

When disasters strike it is mainly women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities who bear the brunt of the tragedy. The ministry will play a crucial role in promoting attention to the various peculiar needs of women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities when designing disaster preparedness and response plans. The ministry will ensure these concerns and needs of women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities are integrated in all other ministries and institutions of government risk reduction strategies.

4.13.1 Objectives

To integrate gender concerns into disaster preparedness, emergency planning, decision making and implementation at all levels.

4.13.2 Guiding Principles

  i. Gender analysis should indicate how the impacts of a proposed program or policy

would affect women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities;

ii. Public education should consider location, daily chores and access to women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities;

iii. Basic training in disaster management should include methodologies and tools for gender analysis;

iv. Basic research on gender roles with regard to disaster risk management should be carried out throughout the country;

v. Deliberate efforts should be made to involve women, the youth and persons with disability in disaster preparedness and management decision-making.

Actions

i. The Ministry will ensure the national and district disaster plans have adequate consideration for the peculiar needs of women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

ii. During recovery after a disaster, the Ministry will ensure special assistance for the elderly and persons with disabilities

iii. Facilitate participation of both men and women in formal and informal education, training, public awareness campaigns and decision making in disaster management;

iv. Ensure persons with disabilities such as the blind and deaf are provided with relevant knowledge of the risks in their surrounding them.

v. Design programs that involve and benefit the most disadvantaged groups, particularly women, children and persons with disabilities.

vi. The Ministry will appoint a senior officer to serve as the sectoral disaster risk management focal point whose responsibilities will include mainstreaming disaster risk management in the Ministries annual work plan and budget and the promotion and coordination of disaster risk management amongst stakeholders of the sector.

4.14 Local Communities and Individual Families

Communities are responsible for taking measures within their own capacities, to protect their own livelihoods and property. However, it is expected that measures taken by individual families and communities will for part of an integrated approach which will include the development of family management capacities and a reduction in their vulnerability over time. The national disaster management programme is aimed principally at the reinforcement of community capacity to withstand disaster threats therefore, communities and families have a responsibility to ensure that their attitudes to and understanding of those threats, their perceptions and normal ways of countering the risk are known to those whose role is to convert local information into national programming.

4.14.1 Objective

Develop an integrated approach for community capacity building leading to reduction of their vulnerability to disasters.

4.14.2 Guiding Principles

i.   A more informed community has the capacity to protect their own lives and livelihoods.

ii. Communities should be socially and economically empowered as a means of reducing their vulnerability to disasters.

Actions:

i.   Encourage public participation in disaster management programmes.

ii. Develop capacity building measures to empower the communities in disaster management.

iii. Encourage public awareness and education for communities right from grass root level

iv. Develop and use traditional knowledge and practices in disaster management.

4.15 Parastatals and the Private Sector

These are responsible for taking measures to ensure, as far as possible the safety of their plant operations against threat of possible natural disaster events. They must also ensure that their industrial, transport and other activities do not pose risks either to their workers, the general public or the environment and that they are capable of taking precautionary measures in the event of any emergency or accident. They are responsible for observing any regulations enacted through government or a relevant government agency. This is particularly relevant to multinational companies whose operations must observe their parent companies standards of practice and provide examples of good practice for Uganda.

4.15.1 Objective

Ensure the integration of disaster preparedness and management into their action plans.

4.15.2 Guiding Principles

i.   The industrial sector should oblige to the existing rules and regulations governing their operations. Occupational safety should be made part and parcel of the day to day operations of the industrial sector.

ii. There is need to ensure that the private sector integrates disaster management programmes into their action plans.

Actions:

i.   Educate workers on safety measures and emergency response measures. This

role should be carried out by the owner of the installation.

ii.   Ensure occupational safety.

iii. Provide channels of access to resources and skills that the government may need under the disaster management programme.

iv.   Develop inter institutional disaster response and emergency plans.

4.16 The Uganda Red Cross and National and International Humanitarian Agencies

The Uganda Red Cross, National and International Humanitarian Agencies, other voluntary organisations and professional bodies are able to make valuable contributions to all aspects of disaster reduction through management of prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery.

Their activities are in most cases effective at the district and local (community) levels through the promotion of public awareness of the threat and its effects, and through training aimed at developing self help and self reliance.

The Uganda Red Cross has a special role to play in disaster management as an auxiliary to Governmental capability. Unlike other nongovernmental organizations, the Uganda Red Cross is a creation by an Act of Parliament (The Red Cross Act No. 23 of 1964). Therefore, its roles and responsibilities are defined by law, making it a more reliable institution in disaster management,

4.16.1 Objectives

Provide emergency support services to the local communities.

4.16.2 Guiding Principles

i.   Cooperation between states is pivotal in disaster management.

ii.   The need for technical as well as financial assistance is vital if disaster management programmes are to be effectively run.

iii. NGOs are a vital force in public education and awareness, especially at the grassroots level.

iv.   NGOs have organised and well trained personnel with the ability to carry out emergency operations.

Actions:

i.   Support the management and coordination of sheltering, feeding, supplemental disaster health services, emergency first aid services, bulk distribution of emergency relief items and supportive counselling to the victims and their families;

ii.   Establish and operate mass care shelters and feeding facilities for victims requiring these services;

iii.   Provide casualty and illness information to the Commission and the appropriate lead agency;

iv.   Within its agreement, coordinate the provision of relief efforts by any and all volunteer organizations actively engaged in providing assistance to disaster victims.

4.17 Inter-Governmental Organisations and Development Partners

Inter-governmental agencies such as the African Union, Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and Development Partners provide technical and financial support to disaster risk reduction programmes in the country. International assistance as much as possible should be channeled through the relevant institutions of government who in-turn should engage national and international NGOs and humanitarian agencies. Such arrangements will promote coordination and development of local capacities and expertise. It will also minimize creation of some forms of parallel 'governments' or the tendency to take over some functions of the responsible institution of government.

4.17.1 Objective

Promotion of Inter-State cooperation and sharing of international expertise and experiences.

4.17.2 Guiding Principles

i.   Cooperation between states is pivotal in disaster management.

ii.   The need for technical as well as financial assistance is vital in the promotion of disaster risk management in developing economies.

Actions:

Provide both resources and technical assistance for specific aspects of the national disaster management programme.

4.18 The Role of National and International Humanitarian Organizations and NGOs

National and International Humanitarian Organizations and Non-Governmental organizations provide pivotal role in mobilizing and sensitizing the masses about risks, hazards and disasters that affect their communities and how to manage them. They therefore supplement the efforts of the public sector and help in ensuring that the concerns of the underprivileged are incorporated in the national development processes. National and International Humanitarian organizations and NGO involvement in disaster risk management should therefore be promoted since they are capable of assisting in grass-root's implementation of the National Disaster Management Policy. Particular attention should be directed to those National and International Humanitarian organizations and NGOs which provide support and opportunities to the more disadvantaged groups, such as children, women, persons-with-disability, the old and the youth.

Training opportunities should be provided for National and International Humanitarian organizations and NGO field staff in relevant areas such as rescue operations, provision of first aid services and discussions between district disaster management committees, local disaster

management committees and NGOs should be encouraged. This can be achieved through workshops, seminars and field demonstration activities to further support and strengthen the village-level programs of local NGOs; and consider, where appropriate, local NGOs as partners in disaster management generally, or in the management of specific areas of disaster management.

4.18.1 Regional and International Cooperation

A disaster can overwhelm national capacity to handle and so international help becomes necessary. Furthermore, owing to the trans-boundary nature of many disasters; regional and global approaches to disaster risk management are gaining increased importance. Unfortunately, few regional and international conventions and protocols exist with provisions for cross-border disaster risks management.

4.18.1.1 Objective

To actively participate in the development and implementation of regional and global initiatives/efforts for enhancement of cross-border disaster risk management.

4.18.1.2 Guiding Principles:

i. Disasters do not respect national or regional boundaries.

ii. Regional and global approaches give support to national efforts in disaster preparedness and management.

Actions:

i. Participate actively in regional and international forums and efforts towards sound management and conservation of environmental resources especially in the areas of water quality, biodiversity conservation, control of movement of hazardous materials, climate change, etc;

ii. Ratify appropriate and relevant regional and international conventions and protocols with an implication of disaster management;

iii. Initiate treaties and protocols with neighbouring countries on cross-border disaster risk management

iv. Promote public awareness about regional and global disaster management issues and concerns to the policy makers and the general public.

4.19 Monitoring and Evaluation

In order to know and assess the impact of the above policies and strategies on disaster management, constant and progressive monitoring and evaluation will have to be done. These policies and strategies will require fine turning or modifications for them to respond to changing circumstances in the future. Furthermore, it is important that measures of progress and effectiveness of the proposed strategies are evaluated. .

4.19.1 Objectives

To determine the impact of the proposed policies and strategies, ascertain their progress and effectiveness.

4.19.2 Guiding Principles

i. To be effective, a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system, including an internal (M&E) system for the Office of the Prime Minister Disaster Department and Commission, should be able to track the progress and evaluation the effectiveness of the institutions to carry out their functions and assess the impact of those functions on disaster management, the economy and the population;

ii. The effectiveness of the Office of the Prime Minister Disaster Department and commission as an advisory and coordinating institution should largely hinge on their ability to access, co-ordinate the use of information;

iii. The focal points within ministries and lead agencies should play an important role of ensuring co-operation by managing the flow of information to and from line ministries.

iv. Most changes in disaster management should be produced by activities undertaken at the district level and below.

v. Monitoring programs and impact levels should be closely related to annual targets on a multi-year operational plan.

Actions:

i. Ensure that all programs and activities related to disaster preparedness and management have well defined information.

ii. Establish progress indicators for all programs and activities, and where possible, set targets on annual multi-year plans.

iii. Require that all disaster management investment programs spell out the methodology for monitoring and evaluation; select certain minimum indicators for this purpose to show improvements or deterioration in disaster management after a given time.

iv. Develop disaster management monitoring guidelines and a standardized reporting system to assist districts in monitoring and data collection and reporting.

v. Strengthen district and community monitoring and evaluation capabilities.

vi. Undertake continuous and periodic evaluation of all aspects of disaster management programmes including production of district environmental profiles;

vii. Produce and publish periodically national and district state of disaster preparedness reports.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 STRATEGIES AND MECHANISMS

5.1 STRATEGIES

In the process of planning and providing a dynamic response to disasters, the following strategies will be adopted:

5.1.1 Risk Assessment

Effective disaster preparedness and management depend on accurate information, projections and forecasts that are conducted with scientific precision. Government will procure relevant equipment both for effective monitoring and response. The equipment will include weather and tectonic forecasting equipment, ambulances and evacuation vans, firefighting equipment and safe water transport tanks, floaters, boats etc. Government will also establish a national disaster fund which will be replenished annually in accordance with the results of the risk assessments and research centres.

5.1.2 Effective Use of Media and Communication Mechanisms

Effective communication is a key pillar in successful disaster preparedness and management operations. The media plays a crucial role in linking forecast centres to the public. It provides information that builds and reinforces the state of preparedness and capability. The media provide information upon which the public can make life saving decisions. Under this policy, media personnel will be trained on relevant aspects and techniques of reporting in situations of disasters.

The Inter Agency Technical Committee will liaise with the ministry responsible for information and the private media to ensure accurate, consistent and coordinated information and education flow. The media will also disseminate government disaster preparedness and management plans in the event of an imminent disaster.

Other key actors are the telecommunication companies. Given that information and modes of communication are critical in disaster preparedness and management, government will reach out to telephone companies, internet providers and other communication channels to ensure effective delivery of information to the people who have access to these services.

5.1.3 Integration of Disaster Preparedness and Management in Schools

Education is a critical factor in disaster preparedness and management. In order to increase awareness, appreciation and commitment to save human lives and livelihoods, disaster preparedness and management issues will be integrated in the primary and secondary school curriculum. At higher education levels modules and courses on disaster preparedness and management will be developed. The focus will be put on dangers associated with disasters and the appropriate responses.

5.1.4 Mine Risk Education

This is one of the areas of special focus. The Policy recognises that the issue of mines and explosive remnants of war is largely not understood by the communities and this situation undermines efforts in Disaster Preparedness and Management. Community sensitisation programs will thus be promoted in the country especially in conflict and post conflict districts of Uganda.

5.1.5 International Partnership and Co-operation

Some disasters have a cross border dimension. The existing and ongoing initiatives under the African Union, IGAD and East African Community are recognised by this policy. Therefore, the Government of Uganda shall form partnerships and collaboration mechanisms with regional forecast centres to enhance exchange of relevant information and national disaster preparedness capacities. The government of Uganda is already a signatory of various international conventions, protocols, and should sign memoranda of understanding and agreements with various regional and international bodies.

5.1.6 Research and Documentation

Uganda has been experiencing numerous man-made and natural disasters. However, there has not been enough effort to document and integrate research into subsequent disaster related responses. Through this policy, government will partner with civil society, research and academic institutions to undertake research and documentation. Learning from past experience will enable the country to attain a high level of Disaster Preparedness and Management. The documentation of past experiences and indigenous knowledge will enable the agencies to make adequate preparations to manage disasters. The documentation will be instrumental in developing disaster mapping and early warning and prediction systems.

The government is obligated to procure adequate equipment for disaster detection and tracking, communication, vulnerability assessment, rescue and evacuation. The government shall procure the relevant equipment and update it regularly to ensure that it is commensurate with the requirements of the National Disaster Preparedness and Management plan. Where government is unable to procure such equipment, it will enter into memoranda of understanding with the private sector for use of such equipment on terms agreeable to both parties.

5.1.7 Early Warning

Early warning is a prerequisite for a successful Disaster Preparedness and Management interventions and it is the foundation upon which other efforts can be undertaken. The government and all other stakeholders will ensure that relevant, reliable, up-to-date and timely information is provided to the community.

The Department of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees will establish an forum for coordination of the various early warning systems and in liaison with the department of information; generate and disseminate early warning bulletins. In addition, the department of relief, disaster preparedness and management in liaison with Ugandan Broadcasting Council and Uganda Telecommunications Commission will establish Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with FM Radio Stations and Mobile Phone Telecommunications Companies to enable the

use of their facilities to send out early warning messages whenever the need arises.

5.1.8 Human Resource Training and Development

The Inter-Agency Technical Committee (IATC) will ensure that all government ministries, private sector bodies and local governments have stand-by disaster management teams available and adequately equipped for disaster preparedness and response. The IATC will ensure that these teams are trained regularly and that at all times they are ready to get into action for disaster related interventions.

5.1.9 Physical Planning

Poor urban planning increases vulnerability of the population and other resources to disasters such as fires, diseases and accidents. Urban authorities are obliged to ensure that urban planning is responsive to Disaster Preparedness and Management standards. Such standards include provision of road access to all housing units, ensuring that constructions adhere to standards and mainstream disaster risk reduction in their architectural plans. For instance, high storeyed buildings should be compliant with seismic movement requirements. Traffic jams are a threat to public peace and should be avoided.

5.1.10 Gazetting Disaster Prone Areas

Government will come up with national risk, hazard and disaster profiles and maps of the country depicting each of the known natural and human-induced disasters. The profiles and maps will be updated at least once every 3 years. The national risk, hazard and disaster profiles and maps shall be produced and re-produced in sufficient quantities for distribution to reach all disaster prone Local Governments and village communities. Electronic copies of the profiles and maps shall be made available the public through relevant websites and other electronic mechanisms. People living in very risky areas will be informed of planned gazettement. After gazettement, persons affected will be assisted to resettle elsewhere under a voluntarily arrangement. Government will make appropriate arrangements to ensure safety and continuity of cultural practices and traditions of all communities being resettled.

5.1.11 Defining and Enforcement of Standards

Sub-standard goods and services increase vulnerability to disasters. For example substandard electrical works increase vulnerability to fire. The government organs responsible for setting and enforcement of standards will define and enforce standards for relevant goods and services and guarantee occupational health. District and other local authorities will ensure that hospitals, churches, schools, and houses are retrofitted and made resistant to known hazards such as fire, earthquakes, storms, and floods and lightening.

5.1.12 Resource Mobilization

The ministry responsible for disasters and all ministries shall secure adequate resources to implement disaster preparedness and management activities. Line ministries shall also plan and budget for disaster risk reduction activities within their respective ministerial mandates. Districts shall also integrate disaster preparedness and management into their development plans and budgets. Public-private partnership shall also be encouraged at all levels.

5.1.13 Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E)

M & E will ensure that the activities of all stakeholders and players conform to acceptable standards of disaster management practice, the Disaster Policy and Act. In order to know and assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the policy and strategies in disaster preparedness and management, there will be constant and progressive monitoring and evaluation. The Office of the Prime Minister through the National Platform for Disaster Preparedness and Management will be responsible for the overall monitoring, supervising and evaluating of disaster preparedness and management at all levels. It will also build capacity for local authorities to monitor and evaluate disaster preparedness and management at lower levels. Monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken with the full participation of government ministries, development partners, private sector and NGOs.

5.1.14 Gender Integration

Uganda's population structure and the current poverty trends indicate that women and children are most vulnerable to the effects of disaster. When disasters strike, it is mainly the women and children who bear the brunt of the tragedy. It is therefore necessary to analyze and understand the relevancy and implications of gender roles in disaster preparedness and management. Besides, the gender roles played by males and females epitomises their roles in disaster preparedness and management.

5.1.15 Public Awareness, Sensitization, Education and Training

When disasters strike, there is no room or time for trials. Education and public awareness are essential supportive components of community participation and are, therefore, vital in Disaster Preparedness and Management. To ensure that the population is fully involved in disaster preparedness and management, there is need to draw up and implement a comprehensive education and public awareness program. Individuals have not only the rights but also the duty to prepare to participate in disaster preparedness and management. Individuals are most prone to disasters and therefore have detailed information concerning the effects of disasters. In view of this, individuals in the communities will participate in the important decisions in Disaster Preparedness and Management.

CHAPTER SIX

6.0 THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

6.1 The Disaster Preparedness and Management Act

This policy urges the Office of the Prime Minister – Department of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Management to develop through a consultative process and present to Cabinet and Parliament a National Disaster Preparedness and Management bill. The Proposed National Disaster Preparedness and Management Act will enforce key provisions of this policy. Critical to the proposed legal framework will be:

i.   The Institutional Structures presented in this policy.

ii.   Memorandums of Understanding with Private sector on arrangements for short notice and emergency use of their equipment and facilities.

6.1.1 Incentives and Punitive Measures

The legislation shall provide for incentives to encourage government agencies, the public and all other stakeholders to comply with the provisions relating to the preparation, reviewing and implementation of Disaster Preparedness and Management plans. The legislation shall also provide for incentives to encourage government and non-governmental agencies to comply with requests by the centre for information. Provision shall also be made for appropriate penalties in the case of non-compliance and for deliberate failure or omissions to undertake appropriate actions.

6.1.2 Financial Provisions

Parliament shall ensure that adequate resources and facilities are provided to the Office of the Prime Minister – Directorate of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees to enable it perform its functions effectively.

6.1.3 The Disaster Preparedness and Management Fund

This policy urges the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development in liaison with the Office of the Prime Minister to develop and present to cabinet and Parliament; a National Disaster Preparedness and Management Fund Bill. The bill should amongst others provide for annual allocation of a minimum of 1.5 % of the annual approved budget to the National Disaster Preparedness and Management Fund. The fund will be used for Disaster Preparedness and Management in the country. International and other National Development partners should be encouraged to contribute to the fund. A transparent mechanism of accessing resources from the fund should be worked out.

6.1.4 Administration of the Fund

The Office of the Prime Minister - Department of Disaster Preparedness, Relief and Refugees shall be responsible for the administration of the fund. The operation of this fund will be undertaken through the relevant ministry according to the existing financial regulations.

6.1.5 Making Regulations

The minister shall make regulations to implement the provisions of this policy. Local governments shall develop by-laws to operationalize the implementation of the policy.

Appendices

DEFINITION OF TERMS

"Act" means the Disaster Preparedness and Management Act.

'Climate Change' refers to any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity (IPCC, 2001)

'Climate Variability' refers to variations in the mean state and other statistics of the climate on all temporal and special scales beyond that of the individual weather events. Variability may be due to natural or internal processes within the climate system.

"developer" means a person carrying out any activity subject to an impact assessment;

"disaster" means the occurrence of a sudden or major misfortune which disrupts the basic fabric and normal functioning of a society or community. An event or series of events which gives rise to casualties or damage or loss of property, infrastructure, essential services or means of livelihood on a scale which is beyond the normal capacity of the affected communities to cope with unaided. Disaster is sometimes also used to describe a catastrophic situation in which the normal patterns of life or eco-systems have been disrupted and extraordinary, emergency interventions are required to save and preserve human lives or the environment. Disasters are frequently categorized according to their perceived causes and speed of impact. In the context of community disaster education, not every event arising out of a hazard is a disaster. A disaster occurs when a disruption reaches such proportions that there are injuries, deaths or property damage, and when the disruption affects many or all of the community's essential functions such as water supply, electricity power, roads and hospitals. Also, people affected by a disaster may need assistance to alleviate their suffering.

"disaster risk management" means continuous and dynamic multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary process of planning and management which seeks by systematic study and analysis of disasters, to improve measures relating to the prevention, mitigation, preparedness, emergency response and post disaster recovery;

"district emergency coordination and response centre (DECOC)" means the 24 hour district disaster working base where emergency incident reports are received, maps, data and equipment are displayed or placed on standby to assist in emergency response co-coordination and communication.

"Early Warning System" means a program establish to monitor and warn of the threat disasters ahead of time, to trigger timely, appropriate, preventive measures. Such a program involves monitoring at household, community, district and national levels;

"emergency" means a condition of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property caused by such conditions as air pollution, fire, flood, hazardous material incident, storm, epidemic, riot, drought, sudden and severe energy shortage, plant or animal infestations other than conditions resulting from a labour controversy.

"**emergency phase**" means the period during which extraordinary measures have to be taken. Special emergency procedures and authorities may be applied to support human needs, sustain livelihoods, and protect property to avoid the onset of a disaster. This phase can encompass pre-disaster, disaster alert, disaster relief and recovery periods. An emergency phase may be quite extensive, as in a slow onset disaster such as a famine. It can also be relatively short-lived, as after an earthquake;

"**environment**" has the meaning assigned to it under the National Environment Statute, 1995;

"**environmental health**" means the wellbeing of man in relation to those factors in his or her environment which may be responsible for harmful effects on his health;

"**epidemics**" means exposure to a toxin resulting in pronounced rise in a number of cases of parasitic or infectious origin;

"**food**" means any article used for food or drink other than drugs or water, but includes ice, and any articles which ordinarily enters into or is used in the composition or preparation of human food, and includes flavouring matters and condiments;

"**fund**" means the Disaster Preparedness and Management Fund;

"**hazard**" means a rare or extreme event in the natural or man-made environment that adversely affects human life, property or activity to the extent of causing disaster. A hazard is a natural or man-made phenomenon which may cause physical damage, economic losses, or threaten human life and well-being if it occurs in an area of human settlement, agricultural, or industrial activity. Note, however, that in engineering, the term is used in a more specific, mathematical sense to mean the probability of the occurrence, within a specified period of time and a given area, of a particular, potential damaging phenomenon of a given severity or intensity;

"**human-made disasters**" means disasters or emergency situations where the principal, direct causes are identifiable human actions, deliberate or otherwise. Apart from "technological" and "ecological" disasters, this mainly involves situations in which civilian populations suffer casualties, losses of property, basic services and means of livelihood as a result of war or civil strife, for example. Human-made disasters or emergencies can be of the rapid or slow onset types, and in the case of internal conflict, can lead to "complex emergencies" as well. Human-made disaster acknowledges that all disasters are caused by humans because they have chosen, for whatever reason, to be where natural phenomena occurs that result in adverse impacts on people. This mainly involves situations in which civilian populations suffer casualties, losses of property, basic services and means of livelihood as a result of war, civil strife, or other conflict;

"**human settlement**" means any building or tent together with the land on which it is situated and the adjoining land used in connection with it, and includes any vehicle, conveyance or vessel;

"**infectious disease**" means any disease which can be communicated directly or indirectly by any person or livestock suffering from it to any other person;

"**lead agency**" means any ministry, department, parastatal agency, public officer in which or whom any law vests functions of control or management of any segment of disaster management;

"**local disaster**" management committee" consists of persons elected at sub-county level;

"**local government**" has the same meaning assigned to it by the Local Government Act, 1997and its subsequent amendments;

"**Minister**" means the minister responsible for disaster preparedness and management;

"**mitigation**" means measures which lessen the impact of a disaster phenomenon by improving a society's ability to absorb the impact with minimum damage or disruptive effect. It is a collective term used to encompass all activities undertaken in anticipation of the occurrence of a potentially disastrous event, including preparedness and long-term risk reduction measures. The process of planning and implementing measures to reduce the risks associated with known natural and man-made hazards and to deal with disasters, which do occur. Strategies and specific measures designed on the basis of risk assessments and political decisions concerning the levels of risk which are considered to be acceptable and the resources to be allocated (by the national and sub-national authorities and external donors. The measures include both preparedness and protection of physical infrastructure and economic assets. In practice mitigation involves actions such as:

- promoting sound land use planning based on known hazards;

- relocating or elevating structures out of flood plains;

- developing, adopting, and enforcing effective building codes and standards;

- engineering roads and bridges to withstand earthquakes;

"**national disaster coordination and response centre (NECOC)**" means the 24 hour national disaster emergency centre where emergency incident reports are received, maps, data and emergency equipment are displayed or placed on standby mode for rapid response and coordination of emergency actions.

"**natural disaster**" means a disaster originating from a natural mishap;

"**natural phenomena**" means extreme climatological, hydrological or geological process that do not pose any threat to persons or property;

"**occupational health**" means the state or process of achieving the health of workers in all work places, situations and occupations;

"**pollution**" has the same meaning as assigned to it by the National Environment Statute, 1995;

"**population displacements**" are usually associated with crisis-induced mass migration in which large numbers of people are forced to leave their homes to seek alternative means of survival. Such mass movements normally result from the effects of conflict, severe food shortages and collapse of economic support systems;

"preparedness" involves the development and regular testing of warning systems)linked to forecasting systems) and plans for evacuation or other measures to be taken during a disaster alert period to minimize potential loss of life and physical damage; the education and training of officials and the population at risk; the establishment of policies, standards, organizational arrangements and operational plans to be applied following a disaster impact; the securing of resources (possibly including the stockpiling of supplies and the earmarking of funds); and the training of intervention teams. It must be supported by enabling legislation;

"preparedness activities" means a set of activities which enhance the abilities of individuals, communities, and businesses to respond to a disaster. Disaster exercises, disaster-preparedness training, and public education are examples of preparedness activities;

"prevention" means those measures which are aimed at stopping a disaster from occurring or preventing such occurrence having harmful effects on communities or groups of individuals;

"reconstruction" means the actions taken to establish a community after a period of rehabilitation subsequent to a disaster. Actions would include reconstruction/rehabilitation of houses, restoration of all services to enable the affected community resume its pre-disaster state;

"recovery" means the process by which the nation, communities or groups of individuals are assisted to return to their proper level of functioning and livelihood following a disaster;

"rehabilitation" means the operation and decision taken after a disaster with a view to restoring a stricken community to its former living conditions, while encouraging and facilitating the necessary adjustments to the changes caused by the disaster;

"**relief phase**" means the period immediately following the occurrence of a sudden disaster or the late discovery of a neglected or deteriorated slow on-set situation when exceptional measures have to be taken to search and find the survivors as well as meet their basic needs for shelter, water, food and medical care;

"**response**" means activities to address the immediate and short-term effects of an emergency or disaster. Response includes immediate actions to save lives, protect property, and meet basic human needs. Based on the requirements of the situation, response assistance will be provided to an affected area under the National Response Plan using a partial activation of selected primary agencies or the full activation of all the primary agencies to meet the needs of the situation. Response activities, during the immediate aftermath of a disaster, deal with emergency needs and restore community services. For example, mass care, spontaneous and professional search and rescue, damage assessment, and provision of communications are ways that people and organizations respond;

"risk" is the probability that a hazard will occur and means expected losses due to the particular hazard. It is the product of a hazard and vulnerability;

"**sanitation**" encompasses the isolation of excreta from the environment, maintenance of personal hygiene, safe disposal of solid waste, the safe drinking water chain and vector control;

"**slow-on-set disasters**" Sometimes creeping disasters or situations in which the ability of people to acquire food and other necessities of life slowly declines to a point where survival is ultimately jeopardized. Such situations are typically brought on or precipitated by drought, crop failure, pest diseases, or other forms of "ecological disaster, or neglect. If detected early enough, remedial action can be taken to prevent excessive human distress or suffering occurring. However, if neglected, the result can be widespread destitution and suffering, and a need for emergency humanitarianism assistance as in the aftermath of sudden disasters;

"**sudden-on-set disasters**" means sudden calamities caused by natural phenomena such as earthquakes, floods, tropical storms, or volcanic eruptions. They strike with little or no warning and have an immediate adverse impact on human populations, activities and economic systems;

"**technological disaster**" means a disaster originating from a technical mishap. Invariably, this is a situation in which a large number of people, property, infrastructure, or economic activity is directly and adversely affected by a major industrial accident, severe pollution incident, nuclear accident, air crashes (in populated areas), major fire, or explosion;

"**vulnerability Analysis**" means the process of estimating the vulnerability to potential disaster hazards. For more general socio-economic purposes, it involves consideration of all significant elements in society, including physical, social and economic considerations (both short and long-term) and the extent to which essential services (and traditional and local coping mechanisms) are able to continue functioning;

"**vulnerability**" means the extent to which a community, structure, service, or geographic area is likely to be damaged or disrupted by the impact of a particular disaster hazard, on account off their nature, construction and proximity to hazardous terrain or a disaster-prone area. For engineering purposes, vulnerability is a mathematical function defined as the degree of loss to a given element at risk, or set of such elements, expected to result from the impact of a disaster hazard of a given magnitude. It is specific to a particular type of structure, and expressed on a scale of 0 (no damage) to 1 (total damage). For more general socio-economic purposes and macro-level analyses, vulnerability is a less-strictly-defined concept.   It incorporates considerations of both the intrinsic value of the elements concerned and their functional value in contributing to communal well-being in general and to emergency response and post-disaster recovery in particular. In many cases, it is necessary (and sufficient) to settle for a qualitative classification in terms of "high", "medium" and "low"; or explicit statements concerning the disruption likely to be suffered;

"**vulnerable groups**" means categories persons likely to be affected when a disaster strikes or persons with special needs, invariably defined to include: unaccompanied minors, the elderly, the mentally and physically disable, victims of physical abuse or violence and pregnant, lactating or single women whose precarious status needs special attention.