

MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION FLASH FLOOD GUIDANCE SYSTEM (SARFFGS)



**Country Presentation for Malawi
28TH OCTOBER, 2015.**

Outline

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- Introduction
- DRM Institutional Structure
- Disasters and development in Malawi
- Prioritising DRM in Malawi
- Challenges
- Conclusion

Introduction

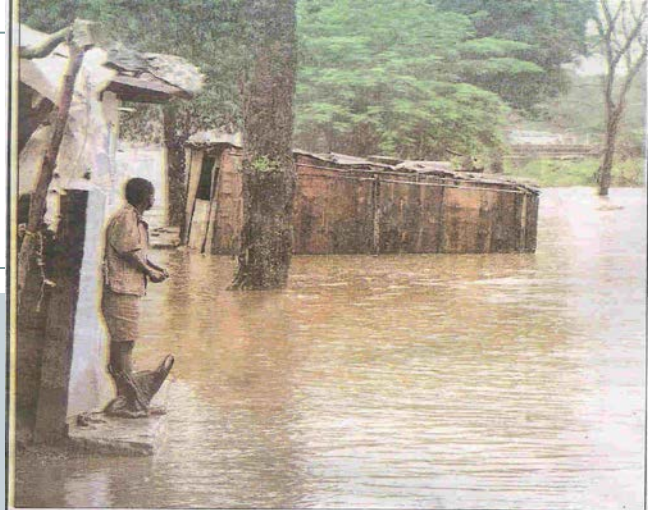
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- Malawi is prone to different types of hazards
- Frequency & magnitude of disasters has increased since the 1990s.
- More people affected
- The increased trend is attributed to **climate change, population growth and urbanization.**
- Disasters have a direct negative impact on poverty and food security in the country.
- These disasters undermine Government's efforts in achieving the MDGs through the MGDS

Introduction

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- Common hazards include:
 - ✓ **Floods;**
 - ✓ Heavy storms;
 - ✓ **Drought;**
 - ✓ Landslides;
 - ✓ Pest infestations;
 - ✓ Accidents;
 - ✓ **Disease epidemics;**
 - ✓ HIV/AIDS pandemic; and
 - ✓ Earthquakes.



Floods besiege flea market



EW information flow

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- The DCCMS – under the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Management – is responsible for establishing and maintaining the weather and climate observation network in Malawi. This includes:
 - data collection, analysis and exchange as well as the production of weather and climate information and products (including warnings) to support social and economic development
- . The National Meteorological Centre is responsible for issuing weather forecasts and warnings of severe weather to the general public and other specialized users
- Specific sectors that the DCCMS aims to support include transport (mainly aviation), marine, agriculture, water resources, energy, building and construction, retail, legal, insurance, environmental, fisheries, sport and recreation, health, disaster preparedness and banking.

EW information flow.....

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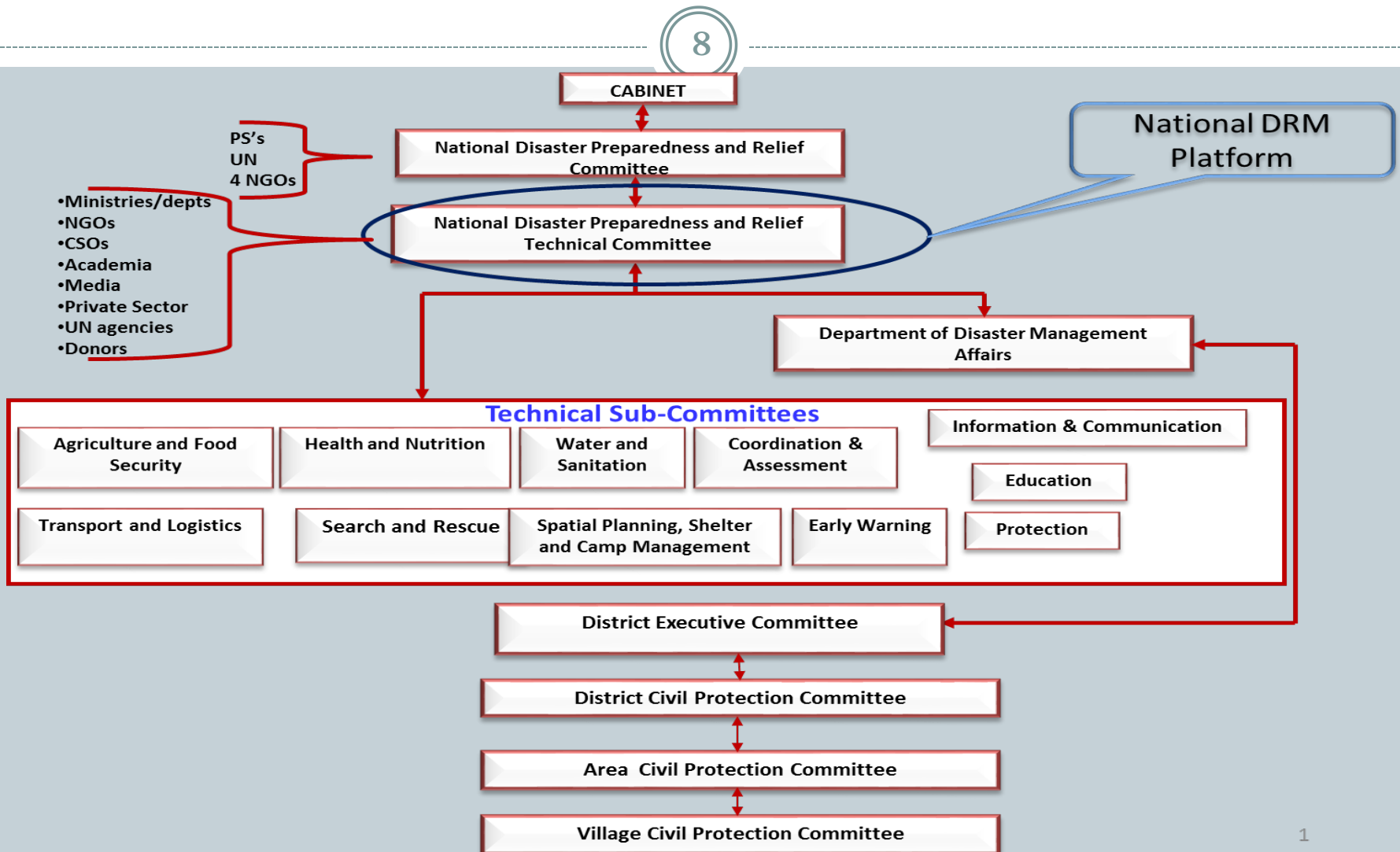
- DCCMS currently provides the following weather and climate information to user agencies, including the MoIAWD, and in particular the Department of Water Resources and the general public:
- flood information and relevant forecasts such as: i) seasonal, seven day and daily rainfall forecasts; ii) severe weather warnings for strong winds/storms and cyclones; and iii) 50 mm threshold warnings; and
- drought information and relevant forecasts such as: i) seasonal forecasts; and ii) 10-day agro-meteorological bulletins

Information to DoDMA

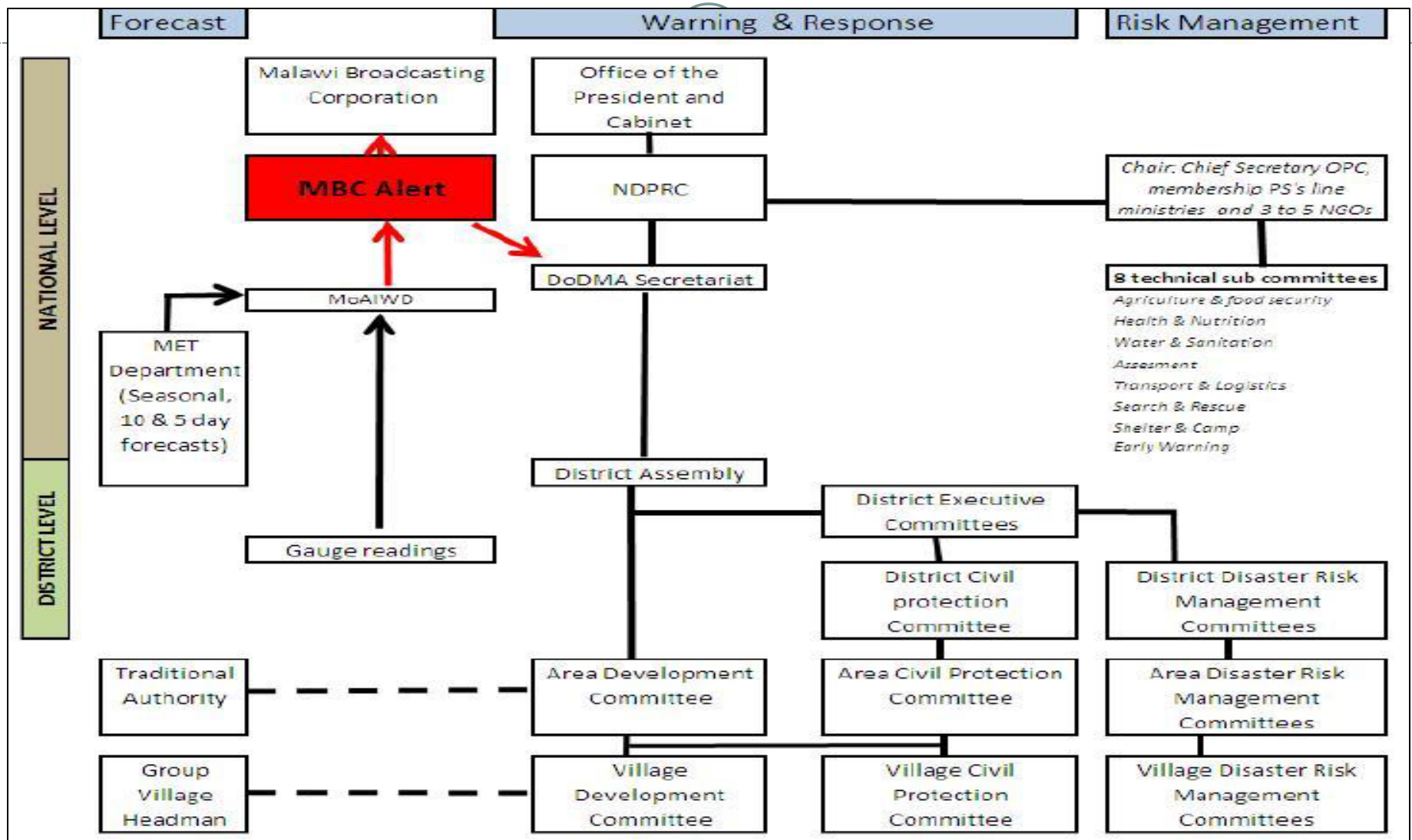
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- The MoIAWD makes an announcement in form of a Press Release through different media channels such as radio, television and newspapers, and also sends the warning to the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA).
- A warning message is then sent from the MoIAWD to both the Technical Committee of the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA TC) and the DoDMA district commissioner in the respective district(s)
- The district commissioner forwards the message to the local media (i.e. primarily radio stations) and the chairmen of the Civil Protection Committees (CPCs) in flood-prone communities
- Early warning messages are then broadcasted via radio and by the CPC members using whistles and megaphones.

National DRM Institutional Structure



Summary of information flow



Use of the information



The information from DCCMS is used to inform:

- I. Risk Reduction**
- II. Preparedness**
- III. Response and**
- IV. Recovery**

Risk Reduction



- **Assess the relevance, appropriateness and effectiveness of disaster prevention and mitigation measures being undertaken by government ministries/departments, CSOs and communities**
- **Facilitate the review of district multi-hazard contingency and disaster risk management plans**

Preparedness



- Facilitate the periodical review of disaster and hazard assessment and communication tools
- Facilitate capacity building exercises for stakeholders at the national, district and community level on DRM and risk assessments
- Mobilize financial and material resources in preparation for disasters
- Facilitate regular coordination meetings
- Ensure that district level disaster risk management structures have the capacity to respond effectively and efficiently to the disaster

Response



- **Coordinate disaster assessments, ensuring that all sectors are represented during an assessment mission**
- **Consolidate disaster assessment reports from different clusters and sub committees and present to DEC/ DCPC**
- **Conduct an assessment of disaster response interventions being carried out by different clusters/stakeholders**

Recovery



- **Conduct a post-disaster needs assessment to inform the recovery process**
- **coordinate implementation of recovery activities**
- **Assist in the production of the consolidated post disaster report by the district and/or city councils**

Generally.....

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- **Information from DCCMS serves the following functions:**
- Reduction of loss of life and property due to early warnings of natural hazards helps to minimize recovery costs hence resources can be redirected to other areas of development
- Information provided to the Agricultural and Natural Resources sectors helps the sectors to prepare in advance as well as improve productivity
- The public is made aware of impending hazards and they are advised to take appropriate action to ascertain their well being
- Provide data and information for planning and implementation of various programmes

Conclusion

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- Illiteracy levels as evidenced by targeted communities not utilizing the forecasted information
- **The data/ information format requires technical interpretation, making it difficult for the targeted audience to capture the meaning**
- **Motivation of political will to support project which if lacked could pose potential to limit sustainability**
- **Lack of coordination among government stakeholders may cause delay in implementation**

THANK YOU!!

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