

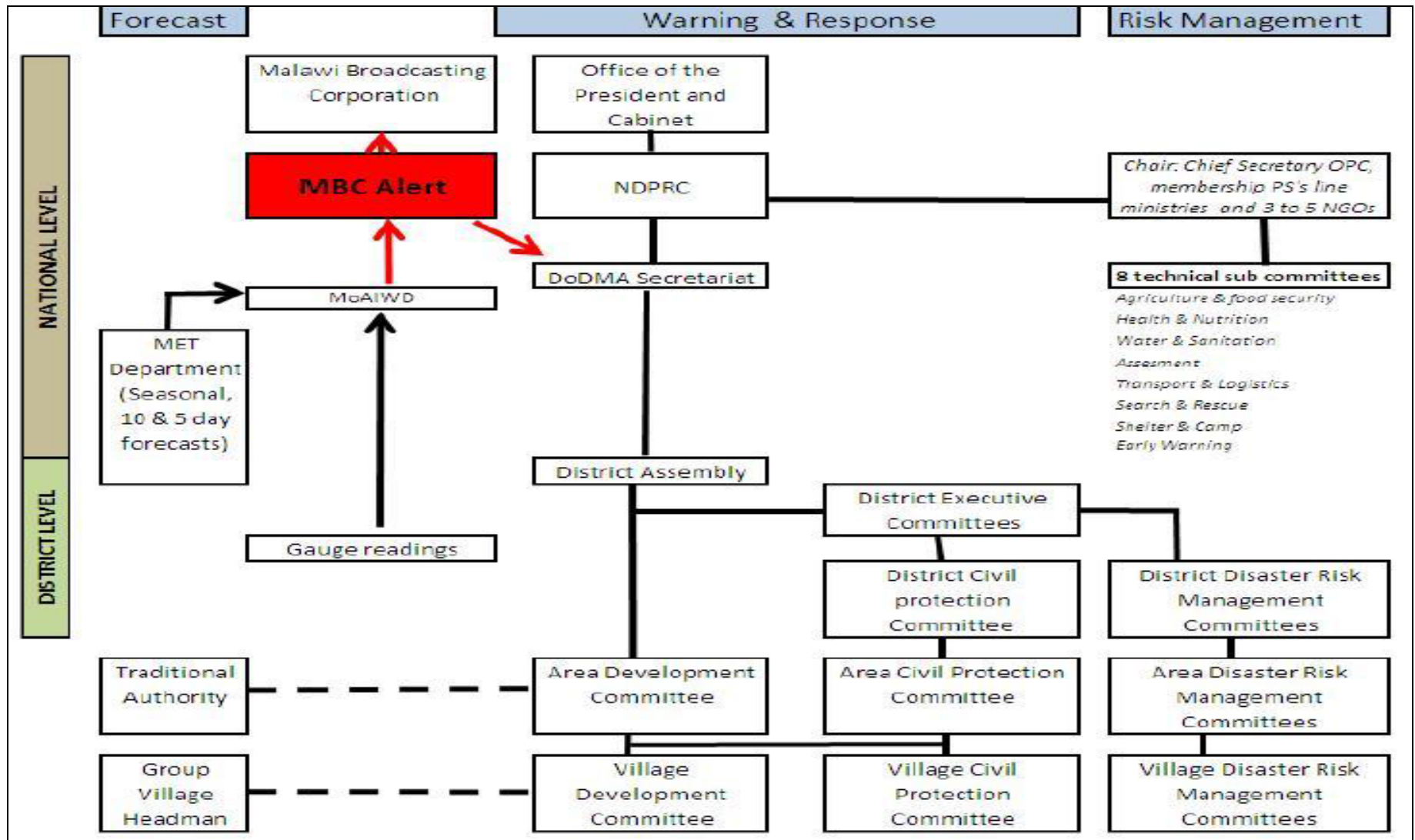
**MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION FLASH FLOOD
GUIDANCE SYSTEM (SARFFGS)**

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

Outline

- Introduction
- Sectors contributions to EWS and Social-economy
- Challenges

Roles and responsibilities of institutions and stakeholders



Some key institutions/Agencies that contribute to the EWS

- Office of the Vice President- Department of Disaster Management Affairs
- Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining- Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services
- Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation – Department of Water Resources
- Famine Early Warning System Network
- The Enhancing Community Resilience Programme (ECRP) - Christian Aid led Consortium
- DISCOVER Programme Consortium led by Concern Universal
- Farm Radio in Malawi
- Civil Society Network on Climate Change -Participatory Scenario Planning

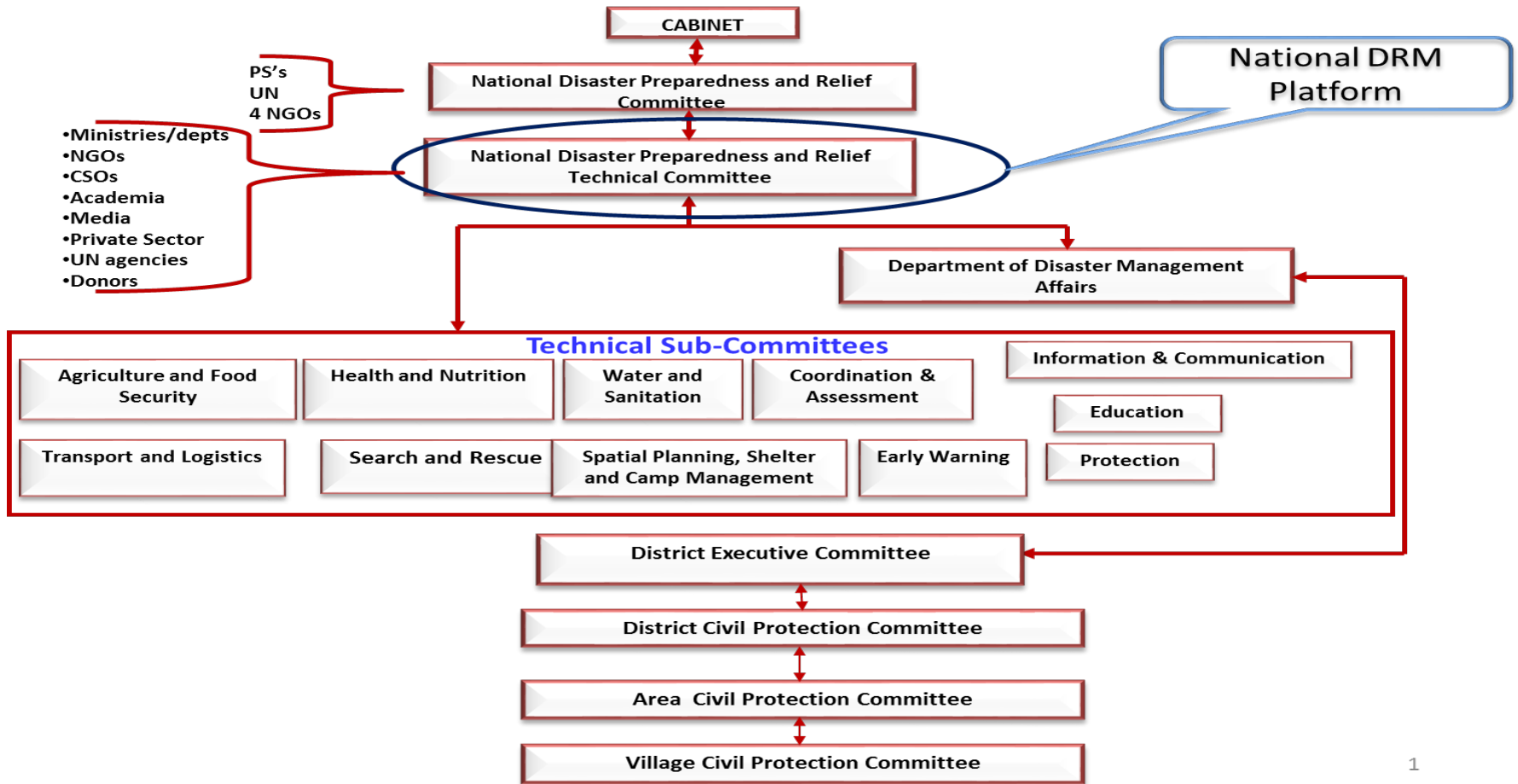
Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA)

Mandate : Coordinating and directing disaster risk management programmes in the country in order to improve and safeguard the quality of life of Malawians, especially those vulnerable to and affected by disasters

Key contributions:

- Developed a National DRM communication strategy which highlights high quality and timely weather and climate information that is comprehensive, reliable, accessible and in a form that end users can understand and apply.
- Completion of an assessment of existing centralized and decentralized EWS which will be used to inform development of communication protocols among stakeholders esp. gov.
- Developed NDRM policy. The policy is advocating for the establishing comprehensive, effective and people centred EWS.
- Enhanced coordination of DRM stakeholders at all levels through DRM platform

National DRM institutional structure



DoDMA Social Economic Contribution

- Provision of data on social and economic losses through post disaster assessments e.g. recent Post Disaster Needs Assessment. Report launched, which reflects the damage and losses in monetary terms which has been factored in the national budget for recovery and reconstruction
- In process of developing a national database for disaster Information management and sharing. It will also be linked to other portals.
- Just launched hazards and vulnerability atlas and geo-data base that is providing information on areas that are affected by various hazards and also on vulnerable communities that are affected by the hazards

2. Department of Water Resources (DWR) contribution to CIRDA

Mandate :

- Achieve sustainable and integrated water resources management and development that make water readily available and equitably accessible to and used by all Malawians in pursuit of their human development and socio-economic advancement of the country's natural ecosystems.

DWR social economic impacts

- Provide accurate and reliable information to the general public on water resources in general and specifically issue flood warnings with good lead time hence reducing the impacts the flood may cause on the inhabitants of the flood prone areas.
- Provides hydrological data to Government, non Government institutions and water utilities that use the data for social and economic uses such as irrigation, hydropower generation etc
- In liaison with the DCCMS provide information to the Agriculture sector on the impact of the water resources trend if has on farmers prior, during and after the rainy season.
- Provide hydrological trends to water resources developers in the public infrastructure such dams, roads network, irrigation schemes
- Back bone for water resources monitoring as a key element in monitoring of climate change impacts in Malawi

Mandate:

Conserve, protect and manage the environment, climate, forests and other natural resources for sustainable socio-economic development of Malawi

Key Contributions

- Linked community radios to the NMC and PWS as sources of weather information
- Weather and climate early warning information disseminated through district climate information centres and CSOs (Red-cross, Christian Aid)
- Incorporated weather and climate early warning in the national DRM communication strategy
- Produced information, communication and education materials on weather related disasters such as leaflets, posters, pamphlets and documentaries targeting the general public and schools
- Raised awareness through training of ACPC/DCPC / VCPC, District media staff and community radio stations on interpretation and utilization of weather forecasts and warnings

DCCMS social economic contributions

- 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

Some key institutions/Agencies that contribute to the EWS in Malawi

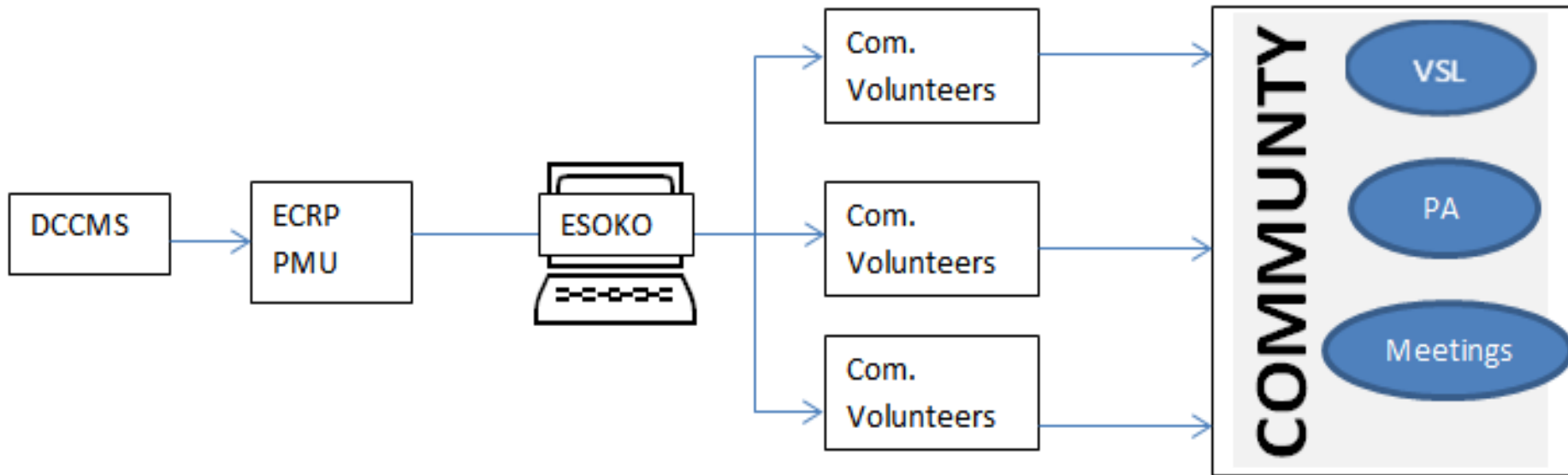
5. **DISCOVER Programme Consortium(led by Concern Universal)**

- Collaborated with DCCMS and ESOKO to provide district specific weather messages to farmers in 5 districts of Malawi (Karonga, Salima, Dedza, Balaka and Nsanje)
- Capacity building of VCPCs in the establishment and monitoring of community based Early Warning Systems(involving satellite mapping, mobile phone technology, river gauges, radio etc).
- VCPCs in upland and lowland areas are a part of communication network linked by cell phones that communicate alert status of river levels during the rainy season. For example, orange alert status activates VCPC evacuation plans mobilising vulnerable populations to designated evacuation points.

Key institutions/Agencies...continued

6. The Enhancing Community Resilience Project (ECRP) Christian Aid led Consortium

- Collaborated with DCCMS and ESOKO to provide district specific weather messages to farmers in 7 districts of Malawi (Kasungu, Machinga, Mwanza, Thyolo, Mulanje, Chikwawa and Kasungu)



Key institutions/Agencies...continued

6. **Civil Society Network on Climate Change (CISONECC)**

- In partnership with EAM, TLC and CARD provides a platform that enables sharing, understanding, interpreting and communicating climate information, by giving space for dialogue on local adaptation issues and options. Target group is the local farmer
- Through PSP, enables the communities and local governments to use seasonal forecasts to develop climate resilient plans and advisories for improved livelihoods

Key institutions/Agencies...continued

7. **Famine Early Warning System Network-**

- a leading provider of early warning and analysis on acute food insecurity
- support and conduct training and capacity-building for national early warning systems, weather services, and other agencies.

8. **Farm Radio in Malawi**

- Timely dissemination of early warning information to communities around lake Chirwa, Zomba districts
- Dissemination of information on weather forecast released by DCCMS to the local farmers in Zomba district

Challenges and Constraints in undertaking EWS projects in Malawi

- Vandalism of installed EWS
- Generic weather forecast ; making it difficult to communicate better to the communities
- Coordination among projects promoting similar initiatives within the same catchment areas
- Illiteracy levels as evidenced by targeted communities not utilizing the forecasted information
- Frequent black outs, hence failure of the automated EW equipment's to provide timely and reliable information
- Inadequate budget allocations to sectors, making it difficult to issue timely warnings
- Most of the EWS projects being undertaken are pilots, hence failure to address underlying factors

THANK YOU

