ELCS 0045- DISASTER MANAGEMENT

LECTURE 3

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Tanzania Disaster Management

Establishment of national framework Tanzania

- **National Disaster Management Policy 2004**
- **Disaster Management Act 2015**
- **National Disaster Management Strategy (2022–2027)**

Main Aims of the Disaster Policy (2004)

- **Protect human life and property**

  Reduce deaths, injuries, and destruction caused by disasters such as floods, droughts, earthquakes, epidemics, and fires.

- **Strengthen disaster preparedness**
  - Ensure communities and government institutions are ready before disasters occur through planning, training, and early warning systems.

- Coordinate disaster management

Improve cooperation among the government, local authorities, NGOs, communities, and international organizations during disasters.

- Reduce disaster risks

Promote prevention and mitigation measures to minimize the impact of natural and man-made disasters.

- Provide effective disaster response

Ensure quick rescue, relief, and rehabilitation services for affected people.

- Promote public awareness and education

Educate citizens about disaster risks and safety measures.Support sustainable developmentIntegrate disaster management into national development planning to reduce vulnerability

Objectives / Aims of the Disaster Management Act, 2015

- To protect people, property, and the environment

Reduce loss of life, injuries, and damage caused by disasters.

- To establish an organized disaster management system

Create clear structures and responsibilities at national, regional, district, and local levels.

- To strengthen disaster preparedness and response

Ensure quick action before, during, and after disasters.

- To improve coordination among institutions

Promote cooperation between government agencies, NGOs, communities, and international partners.

Main Aims of the Disaster Management Strategy (2022–2027)

- **Reduce disaster risks and impacts**

  Minimize loss of life, property damage, environmental destruction, and economic disruption caused by disasters.

- **Strengthen preparedness and early warning systems**
  - Improve forecasting, communication, and community readiness before disasters occur.
- **Improve disaster response and recovery**
  - Ensure fast, coordinated, and effective emergency assistance, rescue, relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

- Enhance coordination among stakeholders

Promote cooperation between government institutions, local authorities, NGOs, private sectors, communities, and international partners.

- Build community resilience

Help communities become more capable of coping with disasters and adapting to climate-related risks.

Apart form establishment of national framework such as

National Disaster Management Policy 2004, the **Disaster Management Act 2015**,

and the **National Disaster Management Strategy (2022–2027)**.

Tanzania faces significant challenges in disaster management

- **Limited institutional capacity and coordination**

Many **Emergency Operations Centers** at regional and district levels are not yet functional.

Coordination among agencies is often weak, leading to **slow response** and duplication of efforts.

Disaster Management Committees exist at various administrative levels but lack resources and training to operate effectively.

- **. Inadequate early warning and risk information systems**

The country still lacks a **comprehensive multi-hazard early warning system** that integrates meteorological, geological, and health data.

Hazard mapping and risk assessments are incomplete or outdated, and information is not well-disseminated to sectors or communities.

Advanced technologies like **GIS, remote sensing, and ICT** are underused for disaster risk management.

- **Financial and resource constraints**

The **Disaster Management Department (DMD)** reportedly met only **35% of its funding needs in 2023**, limiting proactive measures and local preparedness.

Heavy reliance on **external donors** reduces sustainability, and internal DRR budgets are insufficiently integrated across ministries.

- **Focus on reactive rather than proactive measures**

Disaster response often takes precedence over **risk reduction and prevention.**

There are limited investments in long-term mitigation such as resilient infrastructure, land-use planning, or community training

- **Urban vulnerability and weak enforcement**

Rapid **urbanization** and **informal settlements** make cities like Dar es Salaam highly exposed to floods and structural collapses.

- **Building code enforcement**

Is weak; unsafe construction practices are common due to corruption or cost-cutting.

- **Data, planning, and integration gaps**

Disaster risk considerations are not consistently integrated into sectoral policies, budgets, or development plans.

Post-disaster assessments, damage recording, and recovery planning remain irregular and poorly coordinated.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIFFERENT ACTORS

Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) MDAs should have a unit or desk officer(s) appointed specifically for disaster risks management issues related to the NDMS. The Disaster Focal Points from each respective MDAs will take a leading role in coordinating all sectors related disaster risk management efforts. Sector DRM measures include hazard identification, risk assessment and monitoring, follow up, advice on mitigation and prevention measures through planning and budgeting and preparedness for response and recovery.

- Disaster Response Teams

Disaster response teams and volunteers established at all levels are responsible to counter react disasters and emergencies.

Their reports are crucial for assessment reports which can be used to design prevention and mitigation measures and preparedness plan for effective response in similar events in the future.

- The Private Sector

The Private Sector is capable with expertise, equipment and funds to supplement Government efforts. The sector has a role to protect their business through various measures including disaster risk prevention and mitigation; and transfer as indicated in the NDMS. All investments undertaken should be based on disaster risk assessment for effective mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction for sustainability in all sectors.

- Fire and Rescue Force The Fire and Rescue

Force has the central role of fire inspection, prevention, mitigation, protection, preparedness and response in fire fighting and rescue operations in case of fire and other calamities. The Fire and Rescue Force has technical knowhow on fire hazards and other emergency search and rescue related issues.

- Police Force

The Police Force has specific roles in mitigation, preparedness and response in the areas of security, evacuation, crowd management, emergency medical support, communication and causality bureau services. They shall have to conduct relevant disaster risk assessment for planning, training and exercises to keep abreast with the new techniques under this field.

- Tanzania Red Cross Society and Tanzania Scout Association

The society and association have mandated to play specific voluntary humanitarian roles in disasters and emergencies as an auxiliary to public authorities. They have international and national-wide networks, which provide valuable source of skilled manpower and funding.

- Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority Among other responsibilities, TCRA oversees the development of communication infrastructure and services in Tanzania that considers issues such as disaster risk assessment and EWS for sustainable economic and social development. TCRA shall ensure the use of information and communications technology (ICT) in disaster prevention, mitigation, response and recovery. Furthermore, it shall ensure ICTs are used as a conduit for disseminating and exchanging of information among different users such as public and private institutions, professionals and general public on an impending disaster risk.

- NGOs, CBOs and FBOs

NGOs, CBOs and FBOs have ability to mobilise additional resources, which are useful in supplementing government efforts in the implementation of NDMS.

They have an advantage of being effective at community levels. Therefore, they shall identify hazards, conduct disaster risk assessment, develop proposal and plans for implementation of community-based disaster risk management measures for resilience. These might involve economic empowerment programs, livelihood resilience capacity building, promoting public awareness, training, provide assistance and fund self-help activities.

- International Agencies and Development Partners

United Nations, Regional and International Agencies are crucial stakeholders in implementation of NDMS because they complement government efforts by providing financial, material and technical support. Cooperation should be strengthened to enhance partnership for more resources and expertise requirements for disaster risk reduction and humanitarian services measures.

- United Nations
- World Health Organization
- International Federation of Red Cross
- UNICEF
- World Meteorological Organization

- Government Chemist Laboratory

Agency The agency is mandated with among other responsibilities for laboratory analysis of various types of samples which are important in various DRR and humanitarian measures. These include samples related to disaster victim identification, the quality of products for various social and economic uses, societal issues

- Local Community and Individual Family

Communities and individuals have a role of using their own capacities to safeguard their lives and property against disasters. Their actions form an integral part in disaster risk reduction initiatives for implementation of this strategy. It should be clear that they are the first ones to identify, face the disaster risk and have great role during initial response. Community groups for mitigation and livelihood protection, early warning, communication, first aid and social network are key in all society

- Ministry responsible for finance and planning and financial institutions

The ministry responsible for finance and planning and financial institutions will be responsible for provision of accessibility of funds for disaster risk management; oversee mainstreaming of DRR into national development policies, plans, programmes and projects; mobilize resources

National Set-Up of Disaster Management in Tanzania

- **Prime Minister’s Office (PMO)**

The **Prime Minister’s Office** is the main authority responsible for disaster management in the country. It coordinates all disaster-related activities at the national level.

- **Disaster Management Department (DMD)**

Located under the Prime Minister's Office.

Responsible for:

- Disaster preparedness
- Coordination of emergency response
- Early warning systems
- Relief and recovery operations
- Policy implementation

- **National Disaster Management Committee**

Made up of ministers, government officials, and experts.

Advises the government on disaster management issues.

Coordinates national response during emergencies.

- **Sector Ministries**

Different ministries handle disasters related to their sectors, for example:

Health → epidemics and disease outbreaks

Agriculture → drought and food security

Water → floods and water shortages

Environment → climate and environmental hazards

- **Regional Disaster Management Committees**

Operate at regional level under Regional Commissioners.

Coordinate disaster preparedness and response within regions.

- **District Disaster Management Committees**

Operate under District Commissioners.

Responsible for local disaster planning, rescue, relief, and community awareness.

- **Local Government Authorities (LGAs)**

Villages, wards, streets, and municipalities help in:

  - Community awareness
  - Early warning communication
  - Evacuation and local response activities

Security Forces and Emergency Services

These assist during disasters:

- Police Force
- Fire and Rescue Force
- Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF)
- Health emergency teams

- **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and International Partners**

- Organizations such as:
- Tanzania Red Cross Society
- United Nations agencies
- Community-based organizations

They provide:

- Relief aid
- Training
- Emergency support
- Rehabilitation services

END