



REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

NATIONAL DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

2024 -2033

**National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA)
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Abbreviations

ARC	Africa Risk Capacity
BCC	Banjul City Council
CRR	Central River Region
DoA	Department of Agriculture
DLS	Department of Livestock Services
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EWS	Early Warning Strategy
EWEA	Early Warning, Early Action
KMC	Kanifing Municipal Council
MFDT	Multi-Disciplinary Facilitation Team
NaNA	National Nutrition Agency
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute
NBR	North Bank Region
NDMA	National Disaster Management Agency
NDMC	National Disaster Management Council
NDP	National Development Plan
NEA	National Environment Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRA	National Roads Authority
NSPS	National Social Protection Programme
OVP	Office of the Vice President
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
URR	Upper River region
WFP	World Food Program
WR	Western Region

FOREWORD

As the frequency and severity of disasters continue to escalate, disaster management must be prioritized more than ever. In response to the complex challenges associated with transitioning from rescue and relief operations to disaster prevention and preparedness, this policy document outlines practical and achievable development objectives.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) is a critical concern that cannot be addressed by the government alone; it requires the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders to manage various tasks across different stages of the disaster management cycle.

This policy draws upon key recommendations from international frameworks on Disaster Risk Reduction, adapting them to the specific context of the Gambia. It aims to create a coordinated, harmonized disaster management approach that aligns national, regional, and international strategies. The Government of the Gambia acknowledges the importance of this integrated approach, recognising that any national policy not aligned with international standards and best practices will face significant challenges in achieving intended policy goals.

The document outlines a clear vision and strategic focus for disaster risk reduction and management in the Gambia, providing a roadmap for achieving sustainable outcomes for communities. It also sets forth strategic priorities and targets to guide implementation and an investment plan that details out financial resource needs for the first five years of the policy. The policy emphasises the necessity of incorporating disaster risk reduction into national development planning. With the formulation of this policy, we hope that our development partners will use its insights to effectively contribute to disaster risk reduction and management efforts in the Gambia.



His Excellency Mohammed BS Jallow
Vice-President of the Republic of the Gambia and Chairperson of the National Disaster Management Council

Operational Definitions

Climate Change: Refers to a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable periods.

Community: Community represents a network of social interactions that may be exposed to multiple social and/or physical impacts from one or more hazards/threats, often, but not exclusively, related by place (i.e., village, neighbourhood, watershed, etc.)

Degradation: The reduction of the capacity of the environment to meet socio-economic, and ecological objectives and needs. Examples are land degradation; deforestation; desertification; loss of biodiversity; water and air pollution; climate change; sea level rise; bushfires; ozone layer depletion; illegal mining and quarrying; indiscriminate throwing of garbage; and drilling boreholes close to sewer systems.

Disaster: It is an event that is associated with the impact of a human-induced or natural hazard which causes serious disruption in the functioning of a community or society, causing widespread human, material or environmental losses which exceed the ability of the affected community or society to cope with the hazard using its resources.

Disaster Contingency Plan: A means to address a disaster or impending disaster within a fairly finite time, such as from early warning to response and recovery, including mechanisms for the generation of disaster-specific operational plans.

Disaster Management: Refers to a continuous and integrated multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary process of planning and implementation of measures aimed at (a) preventing or reducing the risk of disasters, (b) mitigating the severity or consequences of disasters, (c) emergency preparedness, (d) a rapid and effective response to disasters and (e) post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation.

Disaster Preparedness: Refers to activities and measures taken in advance to ensure effective response to the impact of hazards, including the issuance of timely and effective early warnings and evacuation of people and economic assets from a threatened location.

Disaster Prevention: Refers to measures or actions taken to avoid, eliminate or prevent harmful natural or human adverse phenomena or hazards from causing or resulting in a disaster. This includes the process of informing the general population, increasing levels of consciousness about risks and how people can act to prevent their exposure to risk of hazards.

Disaster Risk Management: This is the systematic process of using administrative directives, organizations and operational skills and capacities to implement strategies, policies and improved coping capacities in order to lessen the adverse impact of hazards and the possibility of disaster.

Drought: This is defined as a period of abnormally dry weather that persists long enough to produce a serious hydrologic imbalance (for example crop damage, water supply shortage, etc). The severity of the drought depends upon the degree of moisture deficiency, the duration and the size of the affected area.

Emergency: An event, actual or imminent, which endangers or threatens to endanger life, property or the environment and which requires a significant and coordinated response.

Epidemic: Refers to an unusually large or unexpected increase in the number of cases of the disease for a given time, place or period.

Early Warning System: An EWS represents the set of capacities needed to generate and disseminate timely and meaningful warning information that enables at-risk individuals, communities and organizations to prepare and act appropriately and in sufficient time to reduce harm or loss. **Early** signifies before the arrival of a hazard or threat – while there is still time to reduce potential harm, loss or prevent a disaster. A **warning** is a message (using signs, words, sounds or images) that announces an imminent danger.

Famine: A crisis induced by the breakdown of the accustomed availability of and accessibility to basic foodstuffs on a scale sufficient to threaten the lives of a significant number of people.

Floods: A flood is a high flow of water, which overtops either the natural or artificial banks of a river. Floods induce disasters when human settlements have an overflow of water beyond the normal confines and humans are unable to cope with the calamity, or when they result in the destruction of crops, social and economic infrastructures. Floods are very common disasters in The Gambia.

Gender: Gender refers to the social and economic differences between men and women that are learned, changeable over time and have wide variation within and between cultures. This is opposed to sex which refers to the biological differences between men and women. Gender is used to analyze roles, responsibilities, constraints and opportunities of men and women in development.

Indigenous Knowledge: This refers to local knowledge of issues and practices that affect or are related to disasters such as knowledge of waterways, weather-related signs and symptoms and migratory patterns of certain species of birds.

Hazard: Refers to a potentially damaging physical event such as an earthquake, a hurricane, flood, drought, fire, epidemic, phenomenon or human activity, which may cause injury or the loss of life, damage to property, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation, and includes latent conditions that may represent future threats and can have different origins, natural and human-induced.

Pandemic: Deadly or virulent disease affecting or threatening serious injury, ill-health, discomfort or death to a large number or proportion of the human, plant or animal life.

Recovery is to help bring about sustainable development by facilitating the necessary adjustments to the changes caused by the disaster and improving on the status quo, where possible.

Refugee: A person who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her country of nationality, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, seriously disturbed public order, gender discriminating practices, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion. Such a person must enjoy the protection of the country of asylum in line with International Humanitarian Law governing the status of refugees. A refugee-induced hazard may arise from cross-border disease outbreaks, security concerns, economic strains, and climate hazards.

Rehabilitation: Refers to measures to help restore the livelihoods, assets and production levels of emergency-affected communities.

Resilience: Refers to the ability of human and natural systems, communities or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate and recover from the effect of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions.

Response: The provision of emergency services and public assistance during or immediately after a disaster to save lives, reduce health impacts, ensure public safety and meet the basic subsistence needs of the people affected.

Risk: Refers to the probability of harmful consequences such as deaths or injuries, expected losses of property or livelihoods, disruption of economic activity or environmental damage, resulting from interaction between natural or human-induced hazards and vulnerable conditions.

Vulnerability: Refers to a set of conditions and processes resulting from physical, social, economic and environmental factors which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The National Disaster Risk Management Policy 2024-2033

The National Disaster Risk Management Policy 2024-2033 is a comprehensive and forward-looking framework that serves as The Gambia's strategic response to the increasing challenges posed by natural disasters and climate-related events. Situated within the context of The Gambia's unique eco-climatic conditions, which include alternating periods of severe droughts and intense storms, this policy aims to address the pressing issue of disaster risk management. This policy seeks to rectify the inadequacies of the previous NDMA policy (2008), which lapsed in 2012. The extreme events of recent years have underscored the necessity of a robust policy framework that can effectively address the dynamics of changing disaster patterns, institutional and technical capacity issues, and the shortfall of financial resources. The methodology for developing this policy was meticulous, incorporating a review of previous policies and their implementation outcomes and consultations with key stakeholders at regional, technical, and national levels. These consultations illuminated the need to expand the conceptual framework of disasters, integrate gender and social inclusion into disaster risk management, and update legislative frameworks.

The National Disaster Risk Management Policy 2024-2033 encompasses a broad spectrum of hazards, including human and animal disease outbreaks, pest infestations, hydroclimatic events, and emerging concerns like COVID-19 and oil spills. The policy covers the entire disaster risk management cycle, from prevention and preparedness to response, recovery, and mitigation. It also outlines guiding principles and enabling factors to facilitate effective implementation. Moreover, the policy document is complemented by a costed strategic plan, detailing the activities for the first five years of its implementation. The plan allows for periodic reviews and adjustments to address emerging challenges and lessons learned, ensuring its adaptability and relevance throughout the policy period. In essence, the National Disaster Risk Management Policy 2024-2033 is a pivotal step towards building resilience and safeguarding The Gambia's population and infrastructure against the increasing threat of natural disasters.

1.2. Rationale for the Policy

The country's only policy on disaster; the NDMA policy (2008) lapsed since 2012. Following the 2022 food event, it was felt that a policy was needed to be in place. The Office of the Vice President organized a retreat of stakeholders of the process, a Review of the National Disaster Management Policy, National Disaster Management Strategy and Action Plan (NDMPFP) in September 2022. However, the retreat concluded that there were many gaps and disconnects within the draft policy and this challenge was also observed in the development of the strategy. As a key recommendation from the Retreat, it was agreed to form a Technical Working Group (TWG) comprised of The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), Office of the Vice President (OVP)

and the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MECCNAR) to support the development of a comprehensive DRM Policy to building on the development of the draft revised policy guided by a review of implementation of the last policy as well as international frameworks and protocols adopted since 2008 such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) and the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The recent oil spills in June 2022 and July 2022 flood disasters have shown that there is a dire need for an updated DRM policy to take on board the dynamics of the changing patterns observed in terms of frequency and types of disasters that The Gambia is facing including the need to address challenges related to weak institutional and technical capacity to prepare and respond to such disasters and the inadequacy of financial resources.

1.3. Coherence with Development Frameworks and Other Sector Policies

Disaster risk management (DRM) has been an integral part of the national development planning process throughout the past decade. In the 2018-2021 National Development Plan, one of the seven cross-cutting themes which were also considered critical enablers for the success of the plan was 'promoting environmental sustainability climate resilience and land use. This aspect of the NDP heavily focused on building resilience as well as mitigating the effects of disasters on affected populations. Strategies and activities undertaken by NDMA to ensure adequate inclusion of disaster risk management in the NDP included advocacy to the highest level as well as the active participation of NDMA staff in national development planning processes.

In the Recovery Focused National Development Plan (RF-NDP: 2023-2027), the first pillar of the current National Development Plan is on building community resilience to shocks and crises whilst pillar 5 is on agriculture, fisheries, natural resources environment and climate change also has components of disaster risk reduction. NDMA actively participated in the sector working groups for the two pillars during the plan formulation.

The NDP also demonstrates the continued commitment The Gambia has toward addressing gender disparities and improving gender equality outcomes in the country as a means to achieving equitable outcomes that benefit all sectors, and overall country development. For example, the 2010 Gender and Women Empowerment Policy. Additionally, The Gambia's commitment is aligned with the World Bank Group's Gender Strategy.¹

¹ Specifically, Pillar 2. Removing Constraints for More and Better Jobs; Pillar 3. Removing Barriers to Women's Ownership of and Control over Assets; and Pillar 4. Enhancing Voice and Agency, including addressing GBV.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. Disaster and Vulnerability Context

The Gambia lies within the tropical sub-humid eco-climatic zone characterized by a long dry season from October to early June and a short rainy season from mid-June to early October. Average annual rainfall ranges from 850 mm to 1,200 mm. During the dry season, the climate is dominated by dry and dust-laden winds blowing from the Sahara Desert to the northeast. During the rainy season, south-westerly monsoon winds, combined with heat on the continent, give rise to the formation of thunderstorms, usually accompanied by strong winds, heavy rain, and severe lightning. Usually, the majority of rainfall occurs between June and October. August is the rainiest month. Higher rainfall is in the southwest of the country. The lowest annual rainfall is in the northeast of the country. Annual rainfall in The Gambia, like the rest of the Sahel region, has considerable spatial and temporal variation.

In the last few decades, the country has registered a decrease in annual rainfall. It has been subjected to a greater climatic fluctuation alternating periods of severe droughts (2011, 2014) and heavier storms more spatial-temporally concentrated, resulting in serious flooding events (1948, 1988, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2010, 2020, 2021, 2022). Due to these geophysical conditions, accelerating climate change, and high degrees of vulnerability, The Gambia is at high risk for natural disasters.

A range of hazards including floods and windstorms, droughts, fire outbreaks, and epidemics pose risks to the Gambian society and have impacted the lives, properties, and livelihoods of people across the country. The impact of disasters is more serious for the most vulnerable members of the population including, women, children, the disabled and the elderly. The number of people affected by these hazards from January to August 2021, was **111,361** people from **6,720** households. Compared to the previous years, The Gambia has never recorded a disaster of this magnitude within a year; thus, this has led the Government, through the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) to launch an appeal in support of the victims of disasters. (NDMA SITREP August 2022).

“The extreme rainfall on July, 30 and 31 2022 registered the highest precipitation recorded in The Gambia in more than 30 years with parts of the West Coast Region receiving 276 mm within the 20hr rainfall period. An estimated 80,000 people were affected by this single extreme event in the Greater Banjul Area (GBA) resulting in a total estimated economic damage and loss of US\$124.2 million [5]. (Ref. World Bank, “The Gambia: Greater Banjul Areas Flood Risk Remote Assessment,” 2022

The 2022 flood is the most severe disaster the country has recorded in decades, affecting the entire country and causing damages to critical infrastructures such as health facilities, homes and schools as well as the obstruction of traffic. Windstorm surge in 2021 significantly affected the entire country with North Bank Region (NBR) and West Coast Region (WCR) being the hardest hit.

The current state of infrastructure is insufficient to cope with these stresses and is further compounded by other issues such as settlements in flood-prone areas and indiscriminate waste dumping leading to the clogging of waterways. Addressing the impact of disasters requires huge investments to strengthen and maintain infrastructure as well as formulation, implementation, and enforcement of relevant regulations, policies and programmes.

2.2. Hazard trends; nature, scope & frequency of Disasters in the Gambia

The Gambia is a disaster-prone country due to its geophysical conditions, climatic extremes, and high degrees of exposure and vulnerability. The range of potential hazards in the country includes windstorms, droughts, floods, coastal oil spills, ferry disasters, extensive bushfires and urban fires especially common in urban markets, building collapses, industrial explosions, and road accidents. Others include disease outbreaks (both human and animal, pest infestation, contamination of water supplies and of late, due to the insecurity situation in the subregion, there has been a major influx of refugees. All these make the Gambia disaster-prone.

Though these potential hazards pose threats to lives and sustainable and transformative livelihoods, the most common threats and highest impact on populations between 2018 and 2020 have been climate-related threats such as floods and windstorms. As a result, in 2021, the country identified and designated 16 areas as disaster hot spots due to the high risk of flooding that these areas face.

2.3. Impact of Hazards and Key Challenges

The Gambia is highly prone to disasters, particularly floods due to the relatively flat topography of the land. Climate change driven by global warming is increasing sea and river levels. Desertification and drought in peripheral regions are driving displacement towards the low-lying urban areas of the country. As a result, unregulated settlement is taking place in flood-prone areas and encroachment on main waterways, canals, and drainage systems, thus increasing the size of the urban populations in vulnerable areas.

Insufficient stormwater drainage structures render both urban and rural populations vulnerable to floods when intensive downpours of rain occur. The situation is aggravated by poor waste management practices as people dump household waste into the drains which eventually causes blockages to drainage systems and waterways. Insufficient maintenance results in sedimentation, vegetation growth, and piling of waste thus reducing the capacity of the system to allow flood waters to flow.

Most of the drainage infrastructure is unable to cope with the rise in urban flooding due to inadequate and inappropriate maintenance as most of the drains are completely clogged with debris. During the rainy season from June to October, the roads get flooded with surface water causing havoc to traffic and serious

interruptions to commercial and management services. The inadequate sewage systems also result in contamination of water.

Flooding in populated areas leads to loss of household property and agricultural produce, injuries, disease outbreaks, and sometimes deaths. Water from roads and sewage may seep and back up into buildings, making them uninhabitable. Contaminated runoff water pollutes parks and surrounding areas, causing substantial interruptions to economic activity and can be fatal, especially among children and pregnant women.

Flooding, windstorms, and coastal erosion compromise the natural capital on which local livelihoods depend in The Gambia. Economic activities such as such as agriculture and tourism are now threatened by seasonal flooding as considerable areas of agricultural land get inundated with surface water for long periods, preventing farmers from cultivating their crops, rearing livestock, and poultry, as well as accessing the urban areas to sell their agricultural products due to disruptions to the transport service.

Deforestation due mainly to bushfires as well as clandestine human activity and mangrove degradation leading to loss of flora and fauna negatively affects ecotourism as well as livelihoods for communities living within forest areas. Wind storms are increasingly becoming a huge disaster risk factor, especially in the northern part of the country where the forest cover is constantly declining. The 2021 windstorm led to huge property damage as well as loss of lives in URR and NBR.

It is therefore imperative that disaster management policies ensure that the population measures are in place to mitigate the effects of disasters on their ability to access economic opportunities that strengthen their resilience by diversifying their livelihoods.

3. GAMBIA DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK

3.1. Vision

The vision of the policy is that the Gambia becomes resilient to shocks resulting from disasters

3.2. Mission

The mission of the policy is to have in place systems and structures that ensure the nation's resilience to disasters

3.3. Objectives of the Policy

The overarching goal of the policy is to build a resilient nation capable of minimizing the negative effects of disasters.

The Specific Objectives of the Policy are to:

1. To establish adequate, efficient and effective mechanisms to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster.
2. To establish integrated and socially inclusive mitigation measures that reduce the negative impact of disasters on lives and livelihoods, with a particular emphasis on vulnerable groups such as women, children, and the disabled.

3.4 Policy Guiding Principles

Policy implementation shall be guided by the following principles that all stakeholders shall subscribe to and be guided by:

3.4.1 Synergy and Complementarity

Disaster risk management shall be an integral part of the national development planning process and effectively mainstreamed and integrated into sector policies and regulations, especially for key sectors such as environment, agriculture, forestry, land and infrastructure.

Where such sector policies and regulations conflict with disaster management policies and principles, they shall be revised and aligned with the principles and practices for effective disaster risk reduction

3.4.2 Adaptability and Inclusivity

Disaster risk reduction shall be broadened beyond the existing framework; mainly climate-related, to include a much broader range of potential hazards including disease outbreaks (both human and animal), sanitation including waste management, transportation, and infrastructure, especially river transport and other potential hazards such as oil spill and dumping of toxic waste.

Provisions will be made through the formulation and implementation of appropriate strategies and regulations to adapt and respond to emerging and re-emerging risk factors such as COVID-19, AKI, and any other potential hazard that the country may be faced with in the future.

3.4.3 Innovation

Disaster risk reduction activities shall make use of innovative approaches and emerging digital technologies such as drone usage, aerial mapping, modern weather forecasting technologies etc. Disaster preparedness can be greatly enhanced by accurate weather forecasts on timing, scale and scope of potential risks. Response and recovery will benefit from the use of drone technologies and aerial mapping especially where disasters result in affected areas being difficult and or hard to reach. The capacity of key institutions such as NDMA, NEA, DWR, DoA, MECCNAR and DoF to make use of such technologies shall be enhanced through training and provision of the appropriate equipment needed.

3.4.4 Targeting

a. Disaster Hot Spots:

Disaster risk management shall focus attention on all areas of the country, but specific attention will be given to areas designated as disaster-prone. These disaster hotspots though may change over time thus assessments are continuously being done; in collaboration with NRA to determine new and emerging areas that require attention.

A database of disaster-prone areas shall be kept, and the risk assessments will be the basis to update the database twice annually; lean season i.e. during the dry season, and rainy season.

Land areas designated as disaster risk or hotspots shall be marked for easy physical identification and shall not be allocated for either housing or commercial purposes.

b. Social Development, Inclusion, and Protection:

Particular attention shall be paid to the social inclusion and protection of the most vulnerable population, including women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities during and after disasters.

Support to the most affected shall involve the following:

- i. Assessments and identification of vulnerable populations including managing data at a decentralized level to fasten response including post-data collection engagement and verification.
- ii. Review and revision of disaster assessment tools in corroboration with the Gambia social registry data (GamSR) and involve community members in the assessments to ensure that the most vulnerable are not left out.
- iii. Training and preparation of volunteer teams in advance as well as recognition and or compensation of the volunteers afterwards
- iv. Harmonised methods of determining the level and type of support to be provided based on a calibration of disasters and prioritizing the most vulnerable (targeting)
- v. Provision of health care, Law Enforcement Mechanisms, Legal Aid, Judicial Proceedings, and Social Support Services, including psycho-social and Temporary Shelter/Safe Homes
- vi. Support in the short-, medium- and long-term: livelihood support which includes access to emergency cash transfers, green jobs, and access to skills, training for employment in solid waste management (SWM), tree planting, mangrove restoration, urban farming, including horticulture production
- vii. Support market linkages and access to market information and finance, education
- viii. Provision of healthy and safe sanitation including toilets with a special focus on the needs of women, children, the elderly, and persons living with disabilities.
- ix. Ensuring the security of the environment where displaced persons are relocated. Places evacuated need to be sealed off to ensure that properties that are left behind are safe.

3.5 Scope and Structure of the Policy Document

The policy covers all forms of hazards that occurred in the country in the recent past and thus widens the conceptual framework and definitions of disasters; which was mainly limited to damages caused by environment-related issues such as floods and windstorms and also fire disasters, to include other such as disease outbreaks of humans and animal, pest infestation, hydroclimatic events and emerging and re-emerging issues such as COVID-19, oil spills, Emissions, air & industrial pollution.

The policy focus is on the entire phase of the disaster risk management cycle including disaster preparedness and prevention, mitigation, disaster response and recovery. In addition, the policy also sets out a framework; detailing the guiding principles and enabling factors that will enhance policy implementation.

4. POLICY PRIORITY AREAS

The overarching priority of the policy will be to build the climate resilience of the country to disasters. This shall be done through the development of effective and efficient national disaster management systems; not only responding in time to minimize the damages caused but also to adequately prepare for it. Therefore, the priorities for this policy will be to have in place an effective disaster preparedness system including disaster prevention, to ensure adequate preparedness, as well as an effective response and recovery system that ensures that the effects of disasters on lives and livelihoods are effectively mitigated.

The policy has four main components or priority areas that it will address. These priority areas are subdivided into eight policy areas with detailed policy measures. The first policy priority will ensure the existence of a proper early warning system that provides up-to-date and timely information on potential hazards, formulation and implementation of disaster contingency plans at local, regional, and national levels and enhancing preparedness capacity. The second policy priority will ensure timely and effective disaster response mechanisms and strategies to support recovery efforts and build back better for affected populations, including a strategic effort to have planning instruments in place that support gender-responsive implementation strategies and women's decision-making roles and leadership in disaster risk response management. The response mechanisms will entail the use of rapid assessment systems that provide real-time information on populations affected and the nature and scope of response needed, prepositioning of supplies to enhance swift response and effective coordination of response efforts. Detailed assessments will identify medium to long-term recovery needs which shall be consolidated into a national recovery programme.

Component 1a: Prevent and Reduce Risk Exposure and Vulnerability to Disaster

4.1 Strengthen the Early Warning Systems

There shall be in place an effective people-centred multi-hazards Early Warning System for disaster risk reduction which will mainly consist of a review, expansion and update of the existing national Early Warning Strategy and action plan to cater for the new and emerging risk factors.

Policy Actions

Risk knowledge

- 4.1.1 Knowledge of potential disaster risks shall be enhanced for everyone residing in the country.
- 4.1.2 Knowledge enhancement will include mass community sensitization to create awareness, risk communication/information sharing among stakeholders, use of print, electronic & social media, traditional communication channels, e-alerts, etc.
- 4.1.3 Community sensitization and awareness creation in DRM will be rolled out in school/madrassas & tertiary education curricula as part of integrated studies, and targeting faith-based organizations with risk knowledge to reduce controversies.

Monitoring & Warning Services

- 4.1.4 Monitoring and warning services including the provision of modern equipment for accurate science-based warning services as well as use of indigenous knowledge as appropriate especially weather signs shall be instituted.

Information Dissemination & Communication

- 4.1.5 Information on pending and or potential risks shall include periodic updates and reports on Emergencies, preparation of monthly Disaster Situational Reports throughout the year and use of print, electronic & social media, traditional communication channels, and e-alerts.
- 4.1.6 Partnerships shall be established with the scientific and technological community, academia, communities and the private sector to disseminate information.

Response Capability

- 4.1.7 The capacity of the country to effectively respond to disasters and promptly will be developed.
- 4.1.8 Capacity development will include a strategic shift from preparing and responding to building resilience by reducing risks and vulnerabilities.
- 4.1.9 Capacity development shall include the provision of funds at the regional level, Area Council making allocation for disasters in their budgets, cooperating social responsibility of business entities, and establishment of permanent regional evacuation centres and temporary shelters based on need.
- 4.1.10 The response capacities of communities; especially vulnerable households will be further enhanced to enable better preparation for, response to and recovery from shocks; some aspects of adaptative social protection mechanisms.

4.2 Component 1b: Strengthening Disaster Preparedness Capacity including Contingency Planning

This policy action will strengthen the nation's disaster preparedness capacity including having in place an up-to-date early warning system. Strengthening preparedness capacity will ensure that the capacity of the country to adequately prepare for disasters and reduce risks is strengthened at all levels.

Policy Actions

4.2.1 The existing multi-hazard contingency plan which mainly includes flash floods and windstorms shall be revised and updated to include established disaster risk factors that affect the roles responsibilities, interests, and capacities of communities, especially vulnerable populations.

4.2.2 The Contingency plan will be tested and updated on a two-year basis.

4.2.3 The new areas to be included in the revised contingency plan will be the following:

- a. Disease outbreaks (human & animal)
- b. Domestic/Bush fires
- c. Migration
- d. Oil Spills
- e. Drought/Erratic Rainfall
- f. Pest Infestation/invasion
- g. Road Traffic Accidents
- h. Contamination of water supplies

4.2.4 The following policy measures shall be used to enhance national disaster preparedness capacity:

- Training & capacity building for all staff at the regional level especially Regional Disaster management committees including a gender quota (RDMC)
- Establishment and support for the operations of DDMC/VDMC
- Pre-positioning of stock in all regions for implementation of rescue and relief activities in real-time
- Establishment of disaster school ambassadors
- Resources availability in the Emergency Fund at all levels
- Carrying out risk and vulnerability assessments on an ongoing basis
- Community mobilization on disaster prevention; including tree planting, nurturing, and creation of fire belts as well as strengthening and supporting community-based forests.
- Dissemination of information on Safety Guidelines
- There shall be fire extinguishers, bi-annual fire drills and identification of assembly points for all public buildings

4.3 Component 2: Strengthening Disaster Mitigation

The policy will strengthen the implementation and maintenance of mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate vulnerabilities in communities, improve practices that will increase resistance to future disasters and finally reduce unacceptable disaster risk to an acceptable level.

Policy Actions

4.3.1 The mitigation measures will include

- a. half-yearly country-wide vulnerability and risk assessment
- b. Quarterly action planning and identification of mitigation interventions
- c. Create temporary waterways to ease the flow of runoff water
- d. Coordinate the implementation of mitigation intervention
- e. Chlorination of water sources to reduce risks of diseases

4.4 Component 3: Responding to Disasters

In the pursuit of safeguarding the well-being of our nation and its people, the National Disaster Management Policy 2024-2033 introduces a set of proactive and comprehensive policy measures that underscore our unwavering commitment to swift and efficient disaster response. The foremost objective is to ensure the safety and resilience of our society in the face of adversity.

Policy Actions

4.4.1. An Emergency Management Response Mechanism shall be put in place for swift and early response to disasters when they occur.

4.4.2 This mechanism shall include defined strategies as well as roles and responsibilities for search and rescue, initial treatment and transportation of casualties, communication on site and while moving to hospitals, health facilities and relocation places., creation and or establishment of evacuation and relocation centres, and psycho-social support.

4.4.3 For disasters that affect agriculture and livestock, the early response mechanisms will include vaccination of livestock, spraying of pest-affected areas and quarantine services. Relevant sectors will take the lead in such situations.

4.4.4. Disaster response shall be based on information provided through the nationally compiled database on victims or people affected by disasters which shall be compiled and made available to all stakeholders within 72 hours of the onset of the disaster.

4.4.5 Financial resources mobilized for disaster response shall be managed by existing government financial management systems.

4.5 Component 4: Recovery from Disasters

In the aftermath of adversity, the National Disaster Management Policy 2024-2033 affirms its commitment to building resilience through a comprehensive set of measures dedicated to the recovery phase of disasters. We recognize that recovery is not just about rebuilding what was lost but presents an opportunity to build back better, more resilient, and sustainable communities including management of residual risks. With a focus on inclusivity and collaboration, the following policy measures underscore the Government's dedication to a swift and holistic recovery process.

Policy Actions

Post-Disaster Needs Assessment

4.5.1. A post-disaster needs assessment or a similar assessment shall be undertaken jointly by a diverse group of stakeholders within a month of the official declaration of the end of the disaster.

4.5.2. The outcomes of the post-disaster assessment along with other relevant data shall form the basis of a disaster recovery plan which shall be formulated and validated with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

Disaster Recovery and Building Back Better

4.4.1 4.5.12. Following the incidence or occurrence of a disaster, a disaster response programme to mitigate the medium and long term of the disaster; national and or sub-national as the case may be, shall be formulated and presented to the Disaster Management Council for approval.

4.5.3. The National Disaster Management Agency shall coordinate the formulation of disaster response programme(s)

5. IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

Policy implementation will require an environment that is both conducive and supportive to disaster risk management. Therefore, the following enablers are needed for effective implementation:

- Review and revision of the Disaster management and accompanying regulations to ensure that the challenges to livelihoods posed by the new and emerging disaster risks
- Legal frameworks and mechanisms including regulations and policy guidelines on evictions, demolitions, resettlements, compensations, and liabilities of government for people living in disaster-prone areas.
- Effective Governance framework and oversight arrangements for policy implementation
- Robust institutional framework where various stakeholder institutions understand and fulfil their roles in policy implementation.
- Development and implementation of strategic and action plans to operationalize the policy.
- Regular monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation.
- Availability of funding and effective communication of the policy.

In addition, the development and implementation of robust land allocation policies, as well as a clear definition of roles and responsibilities of local authorities, and activities and actions of Real Estate agencies as it relates to disaster-prone areas is an important enabler for policy implementation. The development of road and building construction policies and guidelines to ensure disaster risk reduction as well as improvements in road security, population health and sanitation are also important enablers in the implementation of the DRM Policy.

5.1 Legal and Regulatory Framework

The National Disaster Management Act 2008 is the main legal instrument regulating disaster management in the Gambia. The Act addresses the lack of preparedness in disaster response by requiring the government and key stakeholders to develop and implement disaster management plans. The Act also establishes the National Disaster Management Agency and provides a comprehensive disaster management framework under the coordination of the Agency. The Act provides for the allocation of funds for disaster management, including preparedness, response, recovery, and risk reduction activities. However, inadequate funding and capacity at the institutional level have limited the effective implementation of the Act. The success of national disaster management will to a large extent depend on the existence and effective implementation of legal frameworks that address issues related to and in certain instances are contributing factors to the occurrences of disasters. These include unresolved legal issues regarding evictions, relocations and compensations for people residing in areas prone to flooding and other forms of disaster. There are

also legal gaps in the sustainable management of fresh water which is a finite and vulnerable resource arising from the lack of enabling legal frameworks for water management. The lack of a modern legal framework on road safety is also an issue and this comprises major deficiencies identified in speeding and drunk driving legislation which impede effective road safety enforcement.

Policy Actions

Policies

5.1.1. Review and revision of the of the 2008 NDMA Act

5.1.2. Development of regulations for the NDMA Act

5.2 Governance Framework

The establishment of effective governance arrangements, coordination mechanisms, and oversight frameworks is paramount. These structures serve as the backbone of the Disaster Risk Management Policy, ensuring its strategic implementation, effective coordination, and oversight. A robust governance framework provides the necessary structure for decision-making, guiding the myriads of stakeholders involved in disaster response and recovery. Coordinated efforts, facilitated by clear mechanisms, are essential to achieving a harmonized and efficient response to the multifaceted challenges posed by disasters. Oversight arrangements not only ensure accountability but also act as a safeguard, assuring that the policy's objectives are met, and resources are allocated judiciously. In essence, the importance of these governance, coordination, and oversight mechanisms cannot be overstated, as they lay the foundation for a resilient and adaptive approach to disaster risk management.

Policy Actions

5.2.1. The National Disaster Management Council shall:

- a) approve disaster management programmes
- b) monitor and evaluate policy implementation
- c) undertake resource mobilization of disaster risk management

5.2.2 The National Disaster Management Agency will be the central coordinating agency at the national level for all disasters that happen in the country.

5.2.3 The National Disaster Management Agency shall be responsible for the overall coordination of formulation and implementation of disaster response programs and disaster recovery plans.

5.2.4 At the regional and lower levels, the staff of NDMA shall lead coordination efforts in close collaboration with members of the Regional Disaster Management Committees.

5.3 Institutional Framework

The policy will be implemented by key stakeholder institutions involved in disaster risk management. The development of strong institutional capacity is key to successful disaster mitigation, management and response. This will entail strengthening the capacity within key government agencies such as the National Disaster Management Agency, The National Environment Agency, the Department of Water Resources and the Ministry of Environment to strengthen climate resilience and social inclusion in their development plans with concrete strategies and interventions for women, men, and children to prepare and respond to emergency disasters.

The Ministry for Gender, Children and Social Welfare as well as the National Social Protection Secretariat will be key partners in this endeavour to ensure that relevant aspects of their mandates and functions are integrated and mainstreamed into disaster risk management.

Policy Actions

5.3.1 Sectors and stakeholders with relevant mandates and responsibilities will take the lead in the implementation of respective components of the disaster response and recovery programme as it relates to their sectors.

5.3.2 The role of the security services in disaster response is crucial and therefore relevant regulations that clearly define their roles and responsibilities during disasters will be activated as and when necessary.

5.3.3 Civil-military relations during disasters shall be clearly defined and adhered to during emergency response.

5.4 Implementation Plan

The overarching goal of the policy is to build a resilient nation capable of minimizing the negative effects of disasters realized through the transformation of measures in the priority areas of the policy into operational plans and strategies to guide implementation.

Policy Actions

5.4.1 The policy document shall be accompanied by a strategic plan and a 5-year medium-term plan that details out implementation of activities for the first five years of the policy period.

5.4.2 At the end of the medium term, a review of the policy and strategic plan will be undertaken, and a revised strategic plan developed for the remaining half of the policy period based on success, challenges and lessons learnt during the first half of the policy implementation period.

5.4.3 The revised strategic plan will address new and emerging issues that were adequately not taken care of in the original plan.

5.5 Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation within the context of the DRM Policy will play a pivotal role in bolstering policy outcomes by offering a structured and data-driven framework for disaster resilience. M&E ensures accountability among policymakers and implementing agencies, fostering efficient resource allocation and data-driven decision-making while identifying challenges and gaps in disaster management. This proactive approach allows for adaptive policy implementation, optimizing strategies to address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of The Gambia. By engaging stakeholders, promoting transparency, and sharing knowledge, M&E aligns policies with changing environmental conditions and ultimately results in more effective, responsive, and resilient disaster management outcomes, safeguarding lives, infrastructure, and livelihoods from the ever-evolving challenges posed by natural disasters.

Policy Actions

5.5.1 A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework will be developed to monitor the implementation of the Policy regularly.

5.5.2 The National Disaster Management Council shall commission an evaluation of the Policy midway during implementation.

5.5.3 Monitoring and Evaluation Plans shall be developed for all disaster response programmes.

5.5.4 Monitoring and reporting on the progress of implementation of disaster response programmes as well as evaluations will be undertaken as per the guidelines in the M & E component of the strategy plan.

5.5.5 The National Disaster Management Agency will be the lead institution for monitoring the policy and shall provide periodic reports to the Disaster Management Council.

5.5.6 An evaluation of the policy to be undertaken by an independent body, will be commissioned after the first five years of implementation and at the end of the implementation period.

5.6 Financing Framework

The provision of clear and comprehensive information on financial resource management stands as a cornerstone for success. The National Disaster Management Policy recognizes the paramount importance of transparency in articulating how financial resources will be obtained, allocated, and managed for policy

implementation. This transparency not only cultivates trust among stakeholders but also provides a clear direction for the mobilization and utilization of resources in support of policy execution. A well-defined financial framework serves as a roadmap, guiding decision-makers in acquiring necessary funds, allocating them strategically, and fostering accountability throughout the policy's lifecycle.

Policy Actions

5.6.1 The Disaster Management Council will take the lead in resource mobilization and management of financial resources designated for disaster response.

5.6.1 The primary funding source for disaster risk management in the Gambia is the Emergency Fund

5.6.3 Funds shall be provided at the regional level and by Area Councils through budgetary allocation for disasters to enhance response capacity

5.6.4. Provision of financial resources shall mainly be for disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness programmes but will also include disaster response and recovery

5.6.5 Schemes such as the Africa Risk Capacity (ARC), National Social Protection programmes and others will complement the financing of disasters.

5.7 Communication

It is important and relevant to articulate a comprehensive communication strategy for disseminating information about policy implementation to relevant parties, including stakeholders and the public. Clear and effective communication serves as the lifeblood of policy success, fostering transparency, understanding, and engagement among diverse stakeholders. It is through a well-crafted communication strategy that the broader public becomes informed, stakeholders are engaged, and a collective understanding of the policy's goals and progress is cultivated.

Policy Actions

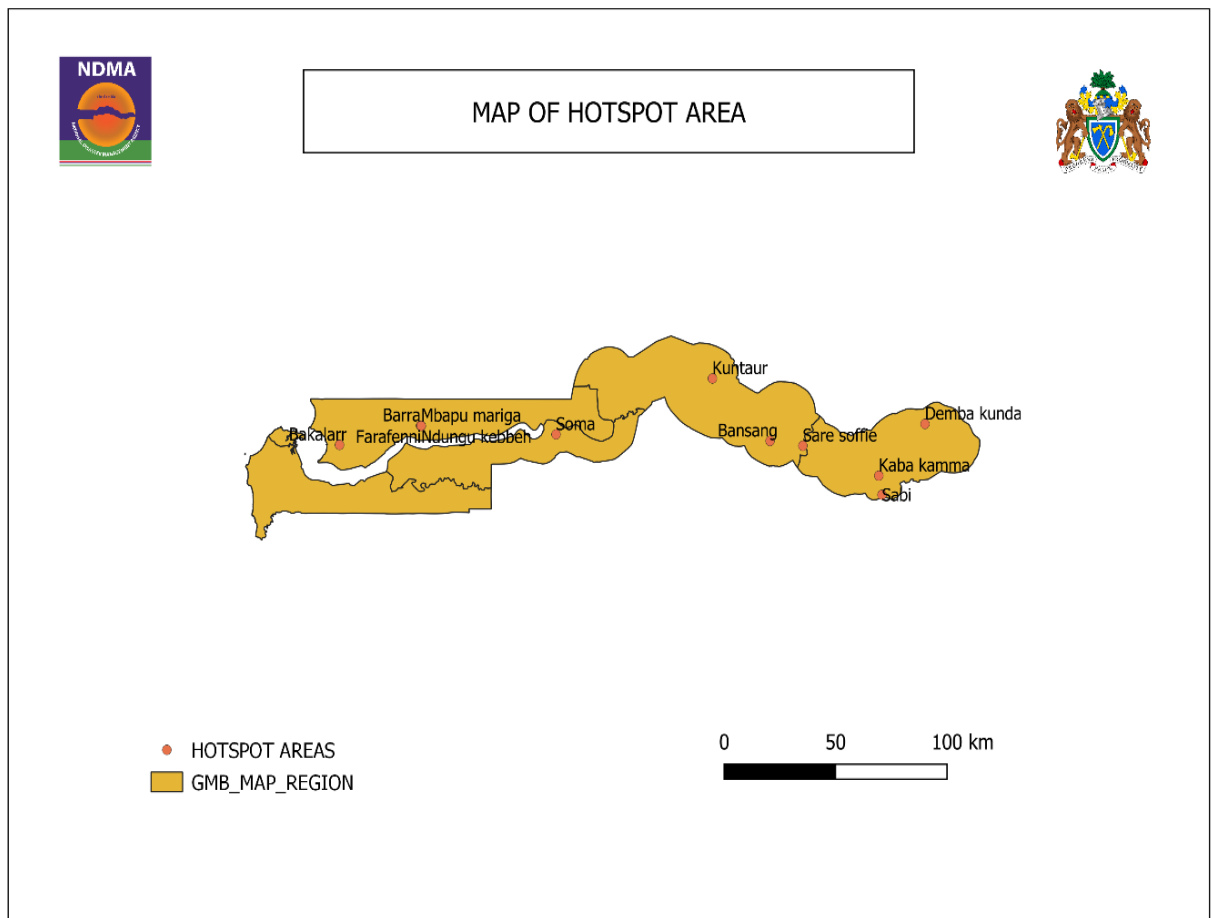
5.7.1. A communications strategy shall be developed during implementation and shall be managed by a communications unit to be established at NDMA

5.7.2. An emergency can only be declared by the President upon receipt of advise from the National Disaster Management Council

5.7.3 All communication products and messages on disasters must be approved by the National Disaster Management Council beforehand

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Disaster Hotspots in The Gambia



Annex 2: Methodology and process for the development of the policy

The policy formulation process started with a review of the implementation and outcomes of the 2003-2008 NDMA Policy but as this policy elapsed some 10 years ago, this review was not limited to the time frame of the policy but extended to cover the period until the end of 2022. This review was mainly a desk review of reports of implementation of Disaster Risk management (DRM) related activities, interviews with key staff of NDMA and 13 institutions with mandates that have a bearing on disasters, as well as a review of institutional policies and frameworks that have a relevant to disasters. Institutions covered in this exercise included the following

- NDMA including its decentralized entities
- Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Natural Resources
- National Roads Authority
- Department of Water Resources
- Department of Community Development
- National Water and Electricity Company
- Fire and Rescue Services
- Ministry of Works and Infrastructure
- National Petroleum Company (GNPC)
- Area Councils (8)

The policy development process was a comprehensive and elaborate process that included consultations in July 2023 with relevant stakeholders at Regional, technical and national levels. Stakeholder consultations were held in Banjul/Kanifing Municipal Council (KMC) combined, Brikama, Mansakonko, Basse, Janjangbureh and Kerewan. In addition, consultations were held with a technical committee comprising NDMA, MECCNAR, NEA, NRA, Community Development, Department of Lands and Surveys and the Ministry of Local Governments, Lands, and Religious Affairs. These consultations provided insights into issues such as the need to review and align legislative frameworks such as housing and road policies, the need to expand the conceptual definition and understanding of disasters and widen the scope for contingency planning and well as the crucial need for gender and social inclusion in disaster risk management. A national consultation to validate the draft was conducted and feedback from it was incorporated into the final draft.

Annex 3: Synopsis of the Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Strategy 2008

The Gambia established a National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) in 2008; the agency became operational in November 2009 and the country developed its first-ever National DRR policy and Strategy in 2008. Before the establishment of the NDMA, DRR was managed by the National Environment Agency (NEA) under the National Environment Act of 1994 (part 8 section 40).

The overall objective of the policy was to build safe and resilient communities by enhancing the use of and access to knowledge and information in disaster prevention and management at all levels of society. To this end, the Policy sought to:

- i. Promote the incorporation of disaster prevention and management education in both the formal and non-formal educational systems. This entailed a two-pronged approach that stressed, on the one hand, broad opportunities for knowledge and information that enhance public awareness of disaster risk reduction, and on the other hand, sound disaster risk reduction judgment at all levels.
- ii. Pay particular attention to the gender dimension of disaster management as there was great preventive value in initiatives that focus on women, not only are they the main victims of disasters, but also contribute immensely to community stability and vitality in all aspects of disaster risk management.
- iii. Make a case for a culture of prevention or disaster risk reduction to be taught in schools, emphasized by the media and vigorously pursued by disaster management agencies.
- iv. Promote the incorporation of indigenous knowledge into early warning systems and disaster response initiatives.

Progress in DRM implementation since the adoption of the NDMA Policy

As highlighted earlier, the policy period elapsed about 10 years ago and so the review was not restricted to the policy period but instead extended the review period to include implementation of DRM-related activities until the end of last year; i.e. up to 2022

Synthesis of outcomes

The establishment of the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) in 2008 is a clear demonstration of the government's political will and commitment to disaster risk reduction. Furthermore, the mainstreaming of DRR into the national blueprints is evidence of the country's drive to mainstream disaster risk management into development and achieve the priorities and targets agreed in internationally agreed development agendas such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030).

The first pillar of the current National Development Plan is on building community resilience to shocks and crises whilst pillar five on agriculture, fisheries, natural

resources environment and climate change also has components of disaster risk reduction. NDMA actively participated in the sector working groups for the two pillars.

Under Pillar 6 ('Leaving No One Behind') of the NDP, the NDP has an outcome-oriented theory of change specifically on women's economic empowerment, coupled with women's social and political empowerment.

In addition to mainstreaming DRR into the national development planning process, structures were established at national, regional and community levels to enhance active participation in DRR activities.

- Regional Disaster Management Committees were established in all 8 regions of the country, District Disaster Management Committees were also established in the 56 districts but are only partially functional and Community Disaster Management Committees remain a challenge.
- District structures – established but are only partially functional.
- Community structures – remains a challenge.

Disaster Risk Management activities were decentralized, training and technical support provided, local disaster management structures established, and community elders, youths and women were involved in disaster risk management activities. All these structures were engaged in DRM-related activities.

The national coordination mechanism was strengthened through the establishment of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction which is a stakeholder committee comprised of government institutions, civil society organizations, I/NGOs, women and youth groups, vulnerable groups, and the differently able persons to look into the operations of DRM in the country. This stakeholder platform is part of the ECOWAS recommendation to Member States for an effective and efficient DRR²

Several achievements have been realized by NDMA and its partners in implementing disaster risk reduction activities during the strategy period. These include the successful integration of disaster management within the development planning processes, the decentralization of disaster management to the local level, capacity building, and awareness creation at the local and community level, and coordination of disaster response—beginning with joint assessments which ensure that even though different stakeholders are involved in response and recovery support, they all have and utilize a common database to assist.

Disaster management committees at the regional level ensure that disaster preparedness and response efforts are effectively coordinated by NDMA at that level and that all stakeholders are aware of their roles and responsibilities and perform them effectively.

² Report on the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030; (October 2022).

Compliance with policy guidelines

There was generally compliance with the guidelines of the 2008 policy, the guidelines on implementation including the setting up of implementation structures such as the National Disaster Management Council, the National Disaster Management Agency and the Technical Advisory groups were all implemented. In addition, coordination structures were set up at regional, district and community levels. However, these implementation structures were not as effective as they should be due to a variety of reasons. The National Disaster Management Council had not met during the last 5 years but the Technical advisory groups had been meeting regularly. The Regional coordination structures also could not be met as regularly as planned due to financial constraints.

Institutional performances in recent disaster events

Over the years, NDMA coordinated DRM in the country, both at the national and regional levels. With the support of partners, it developed and instituted an Information management system and constituted a working group which ensured that all stakeholders used the same database for interventions. This to a large extent helped minimize duplications.

However, NDMA faced numerous challenges in its work; the main challenge being funding limitations. As a result, the coordination structures; especially at the regional level did not function effectively as they could not meet as required and had to piggyback on TAC meetings most of the time. The other challenge faced by the institution is inadequate response capacity; both in terms of mobility as well as storage capacity at the regional level. Supplies cannot be pre-positioned due to funding constraints as well as a lack of adequate storage space at that level.

Another capacity challenge faced by the institution is inadequate human capacity; both technical capacity as well as quantity of people available; there are limited staff at the decentralized level; two people in almost all cases.

Though a national database ensures that all stakeholders use the same information as the basis for their intervention, there remains the challenge of harmonizing the interventions, especially cash transfers. Different institutions give out different amounts of cash to beneficiaries and this tends to create tension and at times suspicion especially when different institutions intervene in the same community with different cash transfer values. There is therefore the need to have a policy that harmonises cash transfers.

Enabling conditions and stakeholders' constraints

Gaps/ Challenges

There were quite several challenges faced in policy implementation. In implementing DRM-related activities, the country continues to encounter challenges such as inadequate human, material, and financial resources. This is further compounded by the inadequate mainstreaming of DRM into sectoral plans and strategies.

Many stakeholders are not directly participating in DRM activities due to a lack of DRM capacity, inadequate funding, and a lack of strategic focus on the gender dimension of Disaster Management as emphasized in the National Disaster Management Policy. The specific needs of women for displaced populations continue to be a challenge as well as issues of discrimination and gender-based violence. Additionally, the Policy implementation did not adequately leverage the use of indigenous knowledge promoted in the policy. The concept and understanding of disasters were limited to flooding, fires, and windstorms whilst others such as disease outbreaks, drought were not part of the plan.

Regarding gender mainstreaming, national development policies including the disaster management policy and local development plans do not have planning instruments in place that support women's decision-making roles and leadership in disaster risk response management. Local disaster management committees are limited in effective planning and gender-responsive implementation strategies due to a lack of capacity. Also, data is generally adequately gender-disaggregated to allow interventions to adequately address gender issues. Other gender-related challenges include inadequate skills training for women; women's limited access to land, capital and market opportunities; and gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual abuse.

On operational aspects, inadequate capacity to implement the strategic plan, weak staffing capacity, inadequate funding to translate the strategy into concrete and tangible actions, and the lack of functionality of the National Disaster Management Council posed challenges.

Emerging issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and the economic crisis brought about by the war in Russia and Ukraine which can erode the gains registered over the years posed challenges as the policy had no provision to deal with new and emerging challenges.

Annex 4:

Synopsis of Analysis of Relevant Policies and Regulations relevant to DRM

Disaster Risk Factors addressed	Alignment, Synergy & Complementarity with NDMA Policy	Existing Gaps & Recommendations
<p>National Disaster Management Act, 2008</p>		
<p>Lack of preparedness: The Act requires the government and other stakeholders to develop and implement disaster management plans, including measures for preparedness, response, recovery, and risk reduction.</p> <p>Inadequate response capabilities: The Act establishes a National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) to coordinate the response to disasters, and provides for the mobilization of resources and personnel in the event of a disaster.</p> <p>Fragmented disaster management system: The Act establishes a comprehensive disaster management framework, which brings together various government agencies, non-government organizations, and community-based organizations to work together in a coordinated manner to respond to disasters.</p> <p>Lack of community involvement: The Act recognizes the importance of community engagement in disaster management and provides for the involvement of communities in the disaster management process, including preparedness, response, and recovery activities.</p> <p>Inadequate funding: The Act provides for the allocation of funds for disaster management, including preparedness, response, recovery, and risk reduction activities.</p>	<p>The Act provides the legal framework for disaster management in The Gambia, while the NDMA Policy provides the operational guidance for implementing the Act.</p> <p>The NDMA Policy builds on the provisions of the Act and provides more detail on the roles and responsibilities of the NDMA and other stakeholders, as well as the operational procedures for disaster management activities.</p> <p>By providing a clear legal framework and operational guidance, these two documents help to ensure that disaster management activities in The Gambia are well-aligned and working towards common goals.</p>	<p>The existing gaps of the Act include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of enforcement 2. Inadequate funding 3. Limited community involvement 4. Inadequate risk assessment 5. Limited integration with other sectoral policies 6. Lack of capacity 7. Limited technology and infrastructure <p>Recommendation to improve the Act:</p> <p>Strengthen enforcement mechanisms: There should be mechanisms in place to ensure that the provisions of the Act are effectively enforced.</p> <p>Increase funding: Adequate funding should be allocated for disaster management activities to ensure that the disaster management system is well-funded.</p> <p>Enhance community involvement: There should be increased community involvement in disaster management activities to ensure that communities are better prepared and resilient to disasters.</p> <p>Improve risk assessment: The quality and scope of risk assessments should be improved to ensure that disaster risks are better understood and managed.</p> <p>Integrate with other sectoral policies: Disaster management activities should be integrated with other sectoral policies, such as health, education, and environment, to ensure a</p>

Disaster Risk Factors addressed	Alignment, Synergy & Complementarity with NDMA Policy	Existing Gaps & Recommendations
		<p>comprehensive and integrated approach to disaster management.</p> <p>Build capacity: The capacity of the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and other stakeholders should be strengthened to ensure that they are able to implement the provisions of the Act effectively.</p> <p>Upgrade technology and infrastructure: The technology and infrastructure used for disaster management activities should be upgraded to ensure that they are effective and efficient.</p>
National Disaster Management Programme- Strategic Action Plan, 2008-2011		
<p>Lack of Coordination: The Plan involves the establishment of a National Office and related technical committees at national, regional and local levels, and the strengthening of capacities of all actors:</p> <p>Lack of Awareness: The plan outlines measures to increase awareness of disaster risks and disaster management activities among communities and stakeholders.</p> <p>Disease Outbreaks: The plan outlines measures to reduce the impact of disease outbreaks on communities, such as improving surveillance and response systems and increasing access to healthcare.</p>	<p>The plan and the policy share a common goal of reducing the impact of disasters on communities and improving the effectiveness of disaster management activities in The Gambia.</p> <p>The plan is designed to complement the NDMA Policy by providing a more detailed and action-oriented approach to disaster management.</p> <p>The plan and the NDMA Policy also promote synergy by ensuring that disaster management activities are integrated with other sectoral policies, such as health, education, and environment.</p>	<p>The Plan did not pursue the gender dimension to Disaster Management as emphasized in the Disaster Management Policy.</p> <p>The Plan did not adequately leverage the use of indigenous knowledge promoted in the policy.</p> <p>The plan's focus to specific disaster risk factors was limited to disease outbreaks, these include the development of national programmes to prevent diseases such as Avian Influenza. The development of programmes to prevent other disaster risk factors such as flooding, fires and drought were not part of the plan.</p> <p>Inadequate capacity to implement the strategic plan owing to the weak agency staffing.</p> <p>Inadequate funding to translate the strategy into concrete actions.</p> <p>Lack of familiarity of National Authorities with the Plan.</p>
Environmental Action Plan (GEAP)- 2008-2018		
<p>Coastal erosion: The GEAP aimed to reduce the risk of coastal erosion by promoting the conservation and management of coastal</p>	<p>The GEAP provides a useful framework for implementing the strategies and actions outlined in the NDMA Policy, as it addresses a number of environmental issues that can</p>	<p>The GEAP addressed various environmental risk factors, including those related to natural disasters however, it is not a comprehensive disaster risk management plan.</p>

Disaster Risk Factors addressed	Alignment, Synergy & Complementarity with NDMA Policy	Existing Gaps & Recommendations
<p>ecosystems, such as mangroves and sand dunes.</p> <p>Floods: The GEAP aimed to reduce the risk of flooding by promoting sustainable land use practices, such as improving drainage systems, and by protecting floodplain areas from development.</p> <p>Drought: The GEAP aimed to reduce the risk of drought by promoting water conservation and management, including the development of new water sources and the protection of existing ones.</p>	<p>contribute to the development of disaster risk.</p> <p>By addressing both the environmental factors that contribute to the development of disaster risk and the actions needed to reduce that risk, the two documents work together to provide a comprehensive approach to disaster risk management in the country.</p> <p>The GEAP's focus on environmental protection and management can help to reduce the risk of environmental disasters, such as flooding, that are addressed by the NDMA Policy.</p> <p>The NDMA Policy's focus on disaster risk reduction can help to ensure that the GEAP's environmental protection efforts are resilient to the impacts of natural disasters.</p>	<p>The GEAP's focus was primarily on environmental protection and management, rather than disaster risk reduction specifically.</p>
National Climate Change Policy, 2016		
<p>The policy aims to reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts and build the resilience of communities, which are important steps in reducing disaster risk.</p> <p>The policy also calls for mainstreaming climate risks and opportunities into national and sectoral frameworks, and integrating community-based adaptation with ecosystem-based approaches. These actions can help address disaster risk by ensuring that communities and ecosystems are better equipped to withstand the impacts of extreme weather events and other climate-related hazards.</p> <p>The policy calls for the mobilization of financial resources to address climate change, which can help support</p>	<p>The NDMA Policy and the Climate Change Policy are complementary in their objectives as both aim to enhance the resilience and preparedness of communities and the country in the face of natural and climate-related hazards.</p> <p>The NDMA Policy focuses on disaster risk reduction and management, while the Climate Change Policy focuses on mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Both policies emphasize the importance of information dissemination, monitoring, and contingency planning, as well as the integration of gender and youth perspectives.</p> <p>Additionally, both policies aim to enhance institutional</p>	<p>The policy does not explicitly elaborate on strategies on:</p> <p>Setting targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and limiting global temperature increase</p> <p>Developing and implementing adaptation strategies for sea level rise, extreme weather events, and other impacts of climate change</p> <p>Ensuring adequate funding and resources for climate change efforts</p>

Disaster Risk Factors addressed	Alignment, Synergy & Complementarity with NDMA Policy	Existing Gaps & Recommendations
the implementation of measures that reduce disaster risk and promote greater resilience in the country	capacity, community resilience, and financial resource mobilization, thereby working together to address the risks and vulnerabilities posed by natural and climate-related hazards in The Gambia.	
The Gambia National Community Development Policy 2021 - 2030		
<p>Vulnerability of rural communities: The policy aims to empower decentralized structures and systems in rural communities to develop alternative livelihood means and build their institutional human capabilities to reduce their vulnerabilities.</p> <p>Deprivations: The policy will focus on efforts to fight all forms of deprivations and provide strategic support to achieve an equitable society free from these vices.</p> <p>Ecological degradation: The policy emphasizes the preservation of degraded ecological systems and promotes sustainable use and management of natural resources.</p> <p>Food and nutritional security: The policy aims to promote increased food and nutritional security and household incomes, especially for vulnerable households.</p> <p>Environmental goods and services: The policy prioritizes community access to environmental goods and services and promoting the Green Economy agenda.</p> <p>Natural resource utilization: The policy focuses on ensuring that community access to natural resources is environmentally sound, socially acceptable, economically viable, and development-friendly.</p>	<p>The two policies have a shared goal of improving community resilience to disasters and reducing disaster risk in the country.</p> <p>The community development policy aims to empower communities and enhance their capacity to participate in development initiatives, while the NDMA policy focuses on incorporating disaster risk reduction principles into development programs and strengthening disaster risk reduction institutions and capacities.</p> <p>By working together, these policies can help ensure that community development initiatives take into account potential disaster risks, and that disaster risk reduction efforts are informed by and benefit communities.</p> <p>The NDMA policy also aims to mainstream gender and youth policies and integrate disaster risk reduction into poverty reduction strategies, which align with the community development policy's goal of promoting inclusive and sustainable development.</p>	<p>Lack of clear specific objectives and outcomes</p> <p>Insufficient resources</p> <p>The policy does not provide clear guidelines on the roles, mandates and limitations of VDCs and Alkalos.</p> <p>Limited capacity to implement the policy</p> <p>Component of the policy implementation strategy are not costed to facilitate resource mobilization.</p>

Disaster Risk Factors addressed	Alignment, Synergy & Complementarity with NDMA Policy	Existing Gaps & Recommendations
Electricity Act 2005		
<p>Enforcement of regulations and standards set by the Electricity Act 2005 can help address disaster risk factors in the Gambia's electricity sector by promoting safe and reliable electricity generation, transmission, and distribution.</p> <p>By requiring licensing, setting guidelines for tariff principles and service conditions, and providing dispute resolution mechanisms, the act can encourage responsible practices that minimize potential risks such as fire hazards and electrical infrastructure failures.</p> <p>Additionally, the regulations and standards set by the act can help ensure the safety and quality of electricity equipment and systems, reducing the likelihood of accidents or malfunctions that could lead to disaster.</p>	<p>The NDMA policy outlines the strategies and measures for disaster risk reduction and management in The Gambia, and the Electricity Act, 2005 aims to regulate the electricity sub-sector and ensure the development of a competitive and market-oriented economy in the country.</p> <p>To address disaster risk factors, the NDMA policy could complement the Electricity Act, 2005 by highlighting the importance of electrical safety regulations and emergency response plans in the event of power outages or electrical malfunctions.</p> <p>The act could also reinforce the NDMA policy by requiring licensees to comply with all relevant electrical safety regulations and emergency response plans as a condition for the issuance and maintenance of their licenses.</p>	<p>The Electricity Act, 2005 does not mention any provisions specifically related to renewable energy. With renewable energy and private sector participation being a key component in the electricity roadmap. It is important to have provisions for promoting renewable energy sources, reducing carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency.</p> <p>With more private sector participation in the provision of mini-grids, distributions, etc. it is important to have provisions for addressing the risk factors in the sector, such as safety, security and reliability of the electricity supply.</p> <p>Provisions for safeguarding the rights of consumers, such as access to electricity services, protection from exploitation and improved customer service are also important.</p>
PURA Act, 2001		
<p>The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) Act, 2001 in The Gambia does not specifically address disaster risk factors. However, PURA's role as a regulatory body for the electricity, water, and telecommunications sectors in the country may indirectly contribute to reducing disaster risk by ensuring the provision of reliable and sustainable utility services.</p> <p>By regulating tariffs, quality of service, and industry practices, PURA aims to ensure that these essential services are available to the public, even during emergencies or disasters.</p> <p>Additionally, PURA may also play a role in facilitating the</p>	<p>Coordination of emergency response: PURA Act requires public utilities to have emergency response plans in place and to coordinate with relevant agencies, including the NDMA, in case of emergencies. The NDMA Policy sets out the responsibilities of various agencies and stakeholders in emergency response and disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>Ensuring reliability of public utilities: PURA Act empowers PURA to enforce standards of performance and service quality for public utilities, and to ensure their reliability in the provision of services to the public. The NDMA Policy recognizes the importance of</p>	<p>Low enforcement of the Act</p> <p>Inadequate capacity to regulate public utility companies as per the provisions of the Act.</p>

Disaster Risk Factors addressed	Alignment, Synergy & Complementarity with NDMA Policy	Existing Gaps & Recommendations
<p>development of disaster risk management plans and strategies within the regulated sectors, which could help mitigate the impacts of future disasters.</p>	<p>ensuring the continuity of essential services, such as water and electricity, during and after disasters.</p> <p>Protecting public health and safety: PURA Act requires public utilities to ensure the health and safety of the public, and to provide safe and clean water and electricity. The NDMA Policy recognizes the importance of protecting public health and safety in disaster risk reduction and emergency response.</p>	
National Water Policy		
<p>The Gambia National Water Policy addresses several disaster risk factors related to water management. These include:</p> <p>The policy recognizes that fresh water is a finite and vulnerable resource that must be sustainably managed.</p> <p>The policy places environmental protection and the preservation of the country's ecological heritage at the forefront of development.</p> <p>The policy promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources to maximize socio-economic welfare in an equitable manner without compromising ecosystems.</p> <p>The policy seeks to negotiate and discharge international responsibilities in a spirit of good will and cooperation.</p> <p>The policy subscribes to the principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM) and aims to provide secure water resources in a sustainable manner.</p>	<p>The complementarities between the Water Policy and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) Policy in the Gambia can be found in their shared goals and objectives of promoting sustainable water management and reducing the risks posed by water-related disasters.</p> <p>The Water Policy aims to ensure the sustainable and equitable use of water resources for economic and social development, while the NDMA Policy aims to promote a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated approach to disaster risk management in the country.</p> <p>Together, these policies complement each other by addressing different aspects of water management and disaster risk reduction. For example, the Water Policy may focus on improving water resource management and access to safe water, while the NDMA Policy focuses on improving preparedness and response mechanisms in the event of a water-related disaster.</p>	<p>Although considerable efforts are being made by the Government and other entities, there are still major gaps and challenges in the context of climate change and population growth. These include:</p> <p>Significant challenges remain in providing adequate water supply and sanitation in the Gambia. Reportedly, access to potable water is a little over 86.1% (NDP, 2018).</p> <p>There is lack of supportive enabling legal frameworks and sector institutions are not structured and organized to implement the policy.</p> <p>The implementation of the policy also requires tools and human resource capacities with integration of adaptation considerations.</p> <p>The policy also fails to provide adequate guidelines and implementation strategies on water resource management in the Gambia such as the establishment of a dedicated body to unify water management under one umbrella as opposed to the current fragmented approach.</p>
National Water Resources Management Strategy		

Disaster Risk Factors addressed	Alignment, Synergy & Complementarity with NDMA Policy	Existing Gaps & Recommendations
<p>Flooding: Sustainable water resources management can help regulate the flow of water, reducing the risk of flooding in certain areas. Additionally, the strategy includes provisions for the construction and maintenance of water infrastructure, which can help protect against flood damage.</p> <p>Drought: The strategy includes provisions for the development of groundwater resources, which can help mitigate the impacts of drought by providing a reliable source of water.</p> <p>Poor infrastructure: The strategy includes provisions for the construction and maintenance of water infrastructure, which can help improve access to basic services such as water supply and sanitation. This can improve the ability of communities to respond to disasters and recover afterwards.</p> <p>Climate change: Sustainable water resources management can help reduce the impacts of climate change by promoting water conservation, efficient use of water resources, and the development of renewable energy sources.</p>	<p>Incorporating disaster risk principles in the development agenda and other country programmes: The Gambia Water Resources Management Strategy acknowledges the need to improve the management of water resources to build resilience to climate change and reduce the risk of water-related disasters. This aligns with the NDMA Policy's objective of incorporating disaster risk principles in the development agenda and other country programmes.</p> <p>Developing national platforms for disaster risk reduction: The Strategy recognizes the need for institutional coordination and collaboration to manage water resources effectively. This is in line with the NDMA Policy's objective of developing national platforms for disaster risk reduction, which will enhance institutional capacity in disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>Monitoring continuously the hazard and vulnerability threats: The Strategy emphasizes the importance of monitoring water resources to identify potential hazards and vulnerabilities. This is consistent with the NDMA Policy's objective of monitoring continuously the hazard and vulnerability threats.</p> <p>Addressing sources of vulnerability especially outbreak of diseases and pests: The Strategy recognizes the need to address sources of vulnerability, such as waterborne diseases. This aligns with the NDMA Policy's objective of addressing sources of</p>	<p>Limited focus on adaptation and resilience-building measures: While the strategy acknowledges the need to build resilience to climate change, it is not clear if the strategy includes specific measures to adapt to changing conditions or to build resilience in the face of potential water-related disasters.</p> <p>The Gambia's water resource sector still is fragmented with several institutions having overlapping responsibilities for monitoring quality and quantity and that there is a need for improved collaboration between water sector governing bodies.</p> <p>Lack of an integrated water resources management (IWRM) policy.</p> <p>Limited public awareness of the on the IWRM approach.</p>

Disaster Risk Factors addressed	Alignment, Synergy & Complementarity with NDMA Policy	Existing Gaps & Recommendations
	<p>vulnerability, especially outbreak of diseases and pests.</p> <p>Ensuring alignment of national, local, and district disaster management plans: The Strategy emphasizes the need for integrated water resources management at all levels of government, including national, local, and district. This is in line with the NDMA Policy's objective of promoting contingency planning in all government departments and all other sectors to ensure alignment of national, local, and district disaster management plans.</p>	
Water Resources Council Act, 1979		
<p>By establishing a water resources council, the Water Resources Council Act addresses the disaster risk of inadequate water supply to some extent. The council can play a role in managing water resources and ensuring their availability, especially during times of drought or other water-related disasters. The council can also develop plans and policies to address water shortages and promote water conservation, which can help to mitigate the risk of water scarcity during times of crisis.</p>	<p>Promoting Water Efficiency and Conservation: The Water Resources Council Act aims to promote water efficiency and conservation to ensure that water resources are used in an equitable and sustainable manner. The NDMA Policy also recognizes the importance of water conservation and efficiency in reducing the risk of water-related disasters.</p> <p>Emergency Preparedness: The NDMA Policy recognizes the importance of emergency preparedness in reducing the risk of water-related disasters, while the Water Resources Council Act provides the framework for effective emergency preparedness and response in the event of water-related emergencies.</p> <p>Integrated Water Management: Both the Water Resources Council Act and the NDMA Policy promote integrated water management that considers the needs of all stakeholders, including communities, the environment, and the</p>	<p>Drought is a major aspect of disasters in the country but its occurrence is less than other forms of disaster such as flooding.</p> <p>However, inadequate water or scarcity of water for human consumption is not really an important issue. The existing issues considered as causes or triggers of disaster. Availability of water is often looked at in terms of fire rescue efforts where access is also important. This is an issue that the next policy needs to look into.</p>

Disaster Risk Factors addressed	Alignment, Synergy & Complementarity with NDMA Policy	Existing Gaps & Recommendations
	economy. This helps to reduce the risk of water-related disasters by ensuring that water resources are managed in a way that is sustainable and equitable.	
The Gambia Roads and Technical Services Act, 2003		
The Act establishing “The Gambia Roads and Technical Services Authority and the Roads Fund shall, among other things, be responsible for the administration, control and maintenance of all roads in The Gambia and for financing the operations of the Authority, and for matters connected therewith”. The Authority established is presently known as the National Roads Authority and chairs the Road Reserve Committee which NAWEC is represented to avoid disturbance to road clearance by service facilities	The Act makes in mandatory for roads within residential to have gutters or water ways for easy passage of rain water and other waste water. This complements the efforts of NDMA is ensuring that water ways for free flow of water exists	Maintenance of clean drainage systems is a huge challenge especially in densely populated areas where community members use gutters for waste dumping. The new policy needs to address the following: Adequate design of water ways to prevent this as well as constant cleaning is needed to avoid clogging of drains, community sensitization, and ensuring adherence to existing policies and guidelines on waste dumping (enforcement mechanisms)
National Transport Policy 2018 - 2027		
<p>The Gambia Transport Policy addresses several disaster risk factors related to transportation infrastructure and services. Some of these are:</p> <p>Maintaining road infrastructure network to prevent damage during natural disasters.</p> <p>Strengthening road safety measures to reduce road traffic fatalities and injuries.</p> <p>Regulating urban transport services to ensure safe and efficient transportation.</p> <p>Improving facilities for non-motorized transport to promote sustainable transportation options.</p> <p>Ensuring safety of life and property at sea and preventing marine pollution.</p> <p>Developing cruise ship facilities to support tourism and economic growth.</p> <p>Revitalizing river and inland water transport to complement road and coastal shipping.</p>	<p>Both policies prioritize the development of a well-planned, efficient and safe transportation system to promote economic growth, reduce poverty, and enhance social services.</p> <p>The transport policy emphasizes the importance of road safety measures and management systems, while the NDMA Policy addresses disaster risk reduction through preparedness, mitigation, and response. This alignment of objectives can be leveraged to ensure that transport infrastructure is designed and maintained with disaster risk considerations in mind.</p> <p>Both policies highlight the need for private sector participation and capacity building for local contractors and service providers. This can enhance the sustainability</p>	<p>Lack of a modern legal framework for road safety. This includes institutional issues such as its financing but extends through to major deficiencies identified in speeding and drink driving legislation which impede effective road safety enforcement.</p> <p>Systematic upgrades in regulatory frameworks and systems are needed and would produce significant benefits in driver licensing, transport operator safety, and vehicle safety. The new policy should include road safety as an integral component of disaster prevention</p> <p>Limited capacity of the MOTWI and other identified institutions, including the private sector and civil society, to effectively implement their identified roles.</p> <p>Inadequate funding and lack of resource mobilization strategy to finance policy implementation.</p>

Disaster Risk Factors addressed	Alignment, Synergy & Complementarity with NDMA Policy	Existing Gaps & Recommendations
<p>Encouraging air transport links and maintaining minimum infrastructure and equipment standards.</p> <p>Regulating the civil aviation sector within a well-defined regulatory framework.</p>	<p>and resilience of the transportation system in the face of potential disasters.</p> <p>The transport policy mentions the importance of international cooperation and standards for maritime and air transport, while the NDMA Policy emphasizes the need for regional coordination in disaster risk management. These complementary objectives can help ensure that transportation systems are not only efficient and safe but also resilient in the face of regional and global disaster risks.</p> <p>The transport policy aims to provide adequate rural roads and support for non-motorized transport, which can improve access to essential services and reduce vulnerability to disaster risks in rural areas. The NDMA Policy addresses the need for inclusive and equitable disaster risk reduction, which aligns with this objective of the transport policy.</p>	
NDMA-EWS, “National Early Warning Strategy for The Gambia (2021 to 2026),” 2020		
<p>The purpose of the Early Warning Strategy is primarily to prompt and guide preparedness and capacity to respond to hazards and vulnerability.</p> <p>It is intended to be generic, qualitative and relevant giving enough detail and easily adapted to any disaster event at different scales in the country.</p> <p>It sets out operational guidance for various categories of early warning. The strategy is developed on a multi hazards basis and maps the roles and responsibilities for all actors</p> <p>Focuses on 4 main aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Risk Knowledge -Monitoring & Warning services 	<p>NDMA is the coordinator of the Early Warning Strategy for The Gambia based on the Agency’s Act 2008 which provides it the legal basis for disaster coordination. A Disaster Management Framework exists within the setup of the Agency and the Agency has suitable facilities such facilities as Drones, Telemetric Equipment, Call Center, Situation Room and a GIS Laboratory, to enhance the coordination role.</p>	<p>The strategy identifies a number of weaknesses in the early warning system and there is no evidence that these have been addressed therefore the new policy needs to address them. Also, the establishment of a National Early Warning Centre for Coordination and Response Mechanism (NCCRM) pose the risk of duplication and this needs to be addressed</p> <p>Weaknesses identified include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No national EWS but standalones operated independently of each other. - No systematic way of sharing data and information and experience related to disaster. Overall benefits are low.

Disaster Risk Factors addressed	Alignment, Synergy & Complementarity with NDMA Policy	Existing Gaps & Recommendations
<p>-Dissemination & communication -Building response capability</p>		<p>-Limited specialized personnel in DRR making EWS trial and error increasing unreliability and unacceptability. -No outline to the strategic direction to guide the development of disaster management policies, governance and accountability -No mechanism to monitor and know if achievements of disaster management priorities are made -No disaster risk reduction process turned into sustainable development policies and planning. -No systematic incorporation of national, regional, and local disaster risk reduction strategies and approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery. -No multi-stakeholder participatory approach including community participation & no ownership of the process None existence of a developed database and information exchange system at national and other levels -There is no continuous monitoring of hazard parameters and precursors to generate accurate warnings on time. -No system to monitor warning services for different hazards & timely institutional sharing. No systematic way of getting timely warnings to those at risk -No national, regional, and community-level communication systems to ensure those at risk are warned on time</p>
<p>"The Gambia National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS-GAM) And Implementation Action plan (2020-2024)," 2020</p>		
<p>Limited availability of climate information: aims to improve the availability of climate information by strengthening the production and dissemination of hydro-meteorological data and climate services.</p>	<p>Incorporation of disaster risk principles: aims to incorporate climate risk considerations in development agendas and programs. Enhancing institutional capacity: focuses on strengthening institutional capacity for</p>	<p>The implementation plan in NFCS action plan does not clearly define the responsible institutions or stakeholder that are to implement the actions identified. While the NFCS recognizes the importance of monitoring and evaluation, it may benefit from more explicit guidelines on</p>

Disaster Risk Factors addressed	Alignment, Synergy & Complementarity with NDMA Policy	Existing Gaps & Recommendations
<p>Weak coordination and communication: focuses on improving institutional coordination & communication among service provider institutions.</p> <p>Inadequate weather & climate monitoring infrastructure: activities include enhancing the infrastructure for weather and climate monitoring.</p> <p>Low capacity and skills: aims to address the low levels of capacity, skills, and human resources for the provision of climate services.</p> <p>Limited public awareness and participation: emphasizes the importance of public awareness and participation in climate services.</p>	<p>climate services similar to the NDMA Policy.</p> <p>Both frameworks focus on the development of national platforms for risk reduction</p> <p>Both frameworks also aim to improve monitoring of hazard and vulnerability threats.</p> <p>Emphasizes the development of standard risk assessment and monitoring instruments. This will complement NDMA policy objective of hazard mapping.</p> <p>Both policies recognize the importance of disseminating climate information and promoting public awareness.</p> <p>Both frameworks emphasize community resilience and contingency planning</p>	<p>how to measure the effectiveness and impact of climate services. Establishing clear indicators, data collection methodologies, and evaluation mechanisms would help assess the progress and identify areas for improvement.</p> <p>Gender has not been significantly main-streamed into the framework. These would include strategies to ensure equal access to information, participation, and decision-making processes for women, marginalized groups, and vulnerable communities.</p> <p>The strengthening of the linkages between climate information, adaptation planning, and risk reduction strategies could enhance the framework's effectiveness in building resilience to climate change impacts.</p> <p>There are many areas of complementarity between the NFCS and the NDMA policy and these need to be strengthened in the new policy</p>
"The Gambia Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience, 2017		
<p>Inadequate coordination of climate change planning and responses.</p> <p>Designed to help secure catalytic financing from international and national climate financing sources to reduce vulnerabilities to climate change. By helping to make funds available, the Programme is expected to contribute to the reduction of most disaster risk factors in the Gambia.</p> <p>Also designed to address incomplete and/or outdated enabling environment for climate resilience.</p>	<p>Integrated Risk Management: The NDMA Policy and the SPCR both emphasize the importance of integrated risk management approaches.</p> <p>Comprehensive Approach to Disaster Risk Reduction: the SPCR provide a more holistic approach to disaster risk reduction for both climate-related risks and other hazards.</p> <p>Coordinated Implementation: The SPCR's implementation arrangements, such as the establishment of</p>	<p>Both Policies outline the need for collection and analysis of relevant data and information to inform decision-making. By collaborating and sharing knowledge, stakeholders can enhance their understanding of disaster risks and climate change impacts.</p> <p>Both policies require adequate financial resources for their implementation. Aligning their financing strategies, can leverage funding opportunities by jointly mobilizing resources more effectively, and avoid duplication.</p> <p>The SPCR lacks comprehensive cost-benefit analyses for each</p>

Disaster Risk Factors addressed	Alignment, Synergy & Complementarity with NDMA Policy	Existing Gaps & Recommendations
<p>Addresses the outdated land use planning, and inadequate mapping and information systems to support national and coastal climate resilient land use planning and management.</p> <p>Also address the lack of climate resilient infrastructure, and solid waste management.</p> <p>Specific disaster risk factors address in the SPCR are captured in the investment Programme concept notes.</p>	<p>institutional mechanisms, can be aligned with the existing structures and processes outlined in the NDMA Policy.</p>	<p>project, which could hinder the program's ability to assess economic viability and prioritize interventions effectively.</p> <p>The SPCR could benefit from a stronger emphasis on explicit measures for reducing and managing disaster risks to complement its focus on climate resilience.</p> <p>Further integration of the SPCR with recent national policies, such as the Recovery Focused National Development Plan, could enhance its impact and sustainability by mainstream climate resilience and disaster risk reduction efforts across sectors.</p>
Gambia Forestry Policy, 2010		
<p>Degradation of forest resources: The policy acknowledges the alarming rate of degradation of forest resources and emphasizes the need for measures to sustain a sound forest resource base.</p> <p>Increasing population pressure on land resources: The policy identifies increasing population pressure as a critical constraint to forest resource management.</p> <p>Inadequate institutional framework: The policy acknowledges the inadequacy of the institutional framework to advance the forestry sector.</p> <p>Inadequate private sector response to investment possibilities in forestry: The policy identifies the limited private sector participation in harvesting and marketing of forest products.</p>	<p>Environmental Protection: Both policies share a common goal of protecting the environment.</p> <p>Hazard and Vulnerability Mapping: The NDMA policy mentions the need for continuous monitoring of hazard and vulnerability threats, as well as risk and hazard mapping. This information can be valuable for the forestry policy as it will help identify areas prone to specific disasters or vulnerabilities.</p> <p>Community Resilience: Both policies emphasize enhancing community resilience.</p> <p>Ecosystem Services: The forestry policy can contribute to disaster risk reduction by recognizing and preserving the</p>	<p>The Policy is outdated.</p> <p>A monitoring and results framework as well as institutional framework for the implementation of the policy is non-existent in the policy document.</p> <p>The policy does not explicitly address the issues of climate change and biodiversity conservation, which are critical considerations for sustainable forest management.</p> <p>The regional perspective in the NDMA policy can be extended to the forestry policy, where cooperation between countries can support transboundary conservation efforts and harmonize strategies for sustainable forest management, including disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>While the policy mentions the involvement of local communities in forest resource management, it does not provide specific strategies or</p>

Disaster Risk Factors addressed	Alignment, Synergy & Complementarity with NDMA Policy	Existing Gaps & Recommendations
	ecosystem provided by forests	<p>mechanisms to empower and engage indigenous and local communities effectively.</p> <p>The policy does not provide a comprehensive funding strategy or outline mechanisms for resource mobilization for natural resource management programming.</p>
National Forest Action Plan (NFAP) 2019 – 2028		
<p>Flooding and drought: The plan addresses the risk of drought and seasonal flooding through the implementation of agroforestry practices such as windbreaks and forest buffers.</p> <p>Coastal erosion: The National Forestry Action Plan can address coastal erosion by promoting the establishment of forests in degraded coastal areas.</p> <p>Climate change: Successful implementation of the plan will contribute to climate change adaptation efforts by promoting sustainable forest management practices.</p>	<p>Incorporation of disaster risk principles: Both aim to incorporate disaster risk reduction principles into the development agenda and other country programs.</p> <p>Information flow and data sharing: The NDMA Policy aims to improve the flow of information and data on risk among government departments and key partners. The NFAP can contribute to this by providing relevant data and information related to forestry and its role in disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>Community resilience and contingency planning: Both the NDMA Policy and the NFAP recognize the importance of enhancing community resilience and promoting contingency planning.</p>	<p>The National Forestry Action Plan could benefit from a more explicit integration of gender and social inclusion</p> <p>While the plan mentions the importance of partnerships and cooperation, there is room for further community participation and stakeholder engagement in the implementation process.</p>

Annex 5:

DRM Policy 2024-2033 Outcome of Stakeholder Consultations- August 2023

Goal: Build a resilient nation capable of minimizing the negative effects of disasters

Policy Objective: *The country shall have in place adequate, efficient and effective mechanisms to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks through the implementation of integrated and inclusive measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster*

1. Prevent and Reduce Risk Exposure and Vulnerability to Disaster

- Build an effective Early Warning System
 - **Risk knowledge**
 - Mass community sensitization to create awareness
 - Risk communication/information sharing among stakeholders
 - Use of print, electronic & social media, traditional communication channels, e-alerts
 - Include DRM in the school/madrassas curriculum as part of integrated studies
 - Include DRR in the curriculum of tertiary education
 - Target faith-based organisations
 - **Monitoring & warning Services**
 - Modern equipment for accurate warning services
 - Use of Indigenous knowledge
 - Information Dissemination & Communication
 - Periodic updates and report on Emergencies
 - Situational Report
 - *Use of print, electronic & social media, traditional communication channels, e-alerts*
 - Response capability
 - Availability of funds at the regional level
 - Area Council allocation for disasters
 - Cooperate Social responsibility of business entities
 - Establishment of regional evacuation centres
 - Establish temporary shelters based on need
- Contingency Planning
 - Flash floods
 - Windstorms
 - Disease outbreaks (human & animal)
 - Domestic/Bush fires
 - Poor planning (urban & rural)
 - Migration
 - Oil Spills
 - Drought/Erratic Rainfall
 - Pest Infestation/invasion
 - Road traffic Accidents
 - Contamination of water supplies

- Strengthening preparedness capacity
 - Training & capacity building for regional staff & RDMC
 - Establish and support DDMC/VDMC
 - Resource mobilization
 - Pre-positioning of stock
 - Establishment of disaster school ambassadors
 - Operationalise Emergency Fund at all level
 - Risk & vulnerability Assessments
 - Community mobilization on prevention; tree planting, creation of fire belt etc.
 - Strengthen and support community-based forest.
 - Dissemination of information on Safety Guidelines

Setting up of national early warning secretariat

National DRR platform

2. Disaster Response and Recovery

- Responding to disasters
 - Emergency Management
 - Response
 - Search & Rescue
 - Initial treatment and transportation of casualties
 - Communication on site and while moving to relevant stakeholders
 - Create/establish Evacuation & Relocation centers
 - Psycho-social support
 - Vaccination of livestock
 - Spraying of pest-affected areas
 - Quarantine services
 - Security services (Civil-Military Relations)
 - Resource mobilization
 - Response monitoring & Information Sharing
 - Coordination of activities
 - Policy Guidance
- Recovery from Disasters
 - Post-disaster Needs Assessments
 - Programme formulation-recovery framework
 - Resource mobilization
 - Activity implementation
 - Material/equipment required in place
 - Monitoring, Evaluation and reporting

Policy Framework: Key Issues for the Policy

1. Disaster Management

- a. Coordination of DRM at all levels
 - i. Half-yearly meetings of all sectors with a mandate related to Disasters-national level
 - ii. Quarterly meetings of RDMCs/DDMCs/VDMCs
 - iii. Ad-hoc emergency meetings of RDMC as and when the need arises
 - iv. Provide Decentralised committees with resources (human, material & financial) to implement activities identified

- b. DRM information management and sharing
 - i. Innovative ways to disseminate weather information media channels & community radios, TV, traditional communication channels, Opinion leaders etc.
 - 1. Data storage & management systems- update and strengthen database at the regional and national level
 - 2. One-stop call centre for information on emergencies
 - 3. Strengthen early warning listening groups
 - ii. Use of relevant databases on social protection
 - c. DRM resource mobilization and management
 - i. Resource allocation from GLF
 - ii. Strengthen government financial management and accountability of disaster funds
 - iii. Operationalize a national Disaster management fund (Basket Fund)
 - iv. Mobilise resources through project proposals
2. Mainstreaming & integration of DRM
 - a. National planning processes-NDP
 - b. Sector policies and strategies
 - i. Define DRM roles and responsibilities of all sectors
 3. Housing: settlements/residencies on waterways/ within disaster hotspots
 - a. Mapping/identification of disaster hotspots
 - b. Relocation of people and structures within disaster-prone areas
 - c. Awareness creation/community sensitization
 - d. Mechanisms and enforcement strategies to prevent settlements or re-settlements in disaster-prone areas.
 4. Legal Instruments & frameworks for disaster-prone areas:
 - a. Evictions
 - b. Demolitions
 - c. Resettlements
 - d. Compensations
 - e. Legal actions and liabilities of government
 5. Land allocation policies and practices
 - a. Land in disaster-prone areas shall not be allocated for housing and commercial purposes
 - b. Clear demarcation and visible identification of such areas
 - c. Database of disaster-prone areas and compensations made
 - d. Land use planning
 6. Local Authorities and Real Estate agents- roles & responsibilities
 - a. Review and harmonize of Land tenure and ownership system
 - b. Mainstream disaster management in Council bye-laws
 7. Road Infrastructure development
 - a. Mapping of waterways in consultation with communities
 - b. Identification, and location of public utilities and services nationwide
 - c. Involvement of communities & other stakeholders (use of local knowledge)
 - d. Enforcement of regulations on household waste (Solid and Liquid management)
 - e. Stiff penalties for offences
 - f. Proper road usage to minimize accidents

- g. Road engineering and auditing
- 8. Support for people affected by disasters;
 - a. Assessments and identification,
 - i. Manage data at a decentralized level to fasten response including post-data collection engagement and verification
 - ii. Review and revise tools for rapid assessment
 - iii. Involvement of community members in response activities
 - iv. Train and prepare volunteers in advance
 - v. Recognition and or compensation for volunteers
 - b. Level and type of support
 - i. Calibration of disasters
 - ii. Prioritise the most vulnerable (targeting)
 - iii. Diversify resource mobilization
 - iv. Psycho-social support
 - v. Provision of minimum initial service packages
 - vi. Security of the environment
 - c. Duration of support etc.
 - i. Immediate, medium and long term
 - d. Social protection
 - i. Cash transfers
 - ii. Shelter
 - iii. Training
 - iv. Protection against Gender-based violence
 - v. Support for recovery
- 9. Health and Sanitation issues
 - a. waste management,
 - b. clogging of waterways,
 - c. cleaning of drains/waterways,
 - d. community sensitization & capacity building
 - e. Provision of mobile toilets (Sanitation)
 - f. Provision of water supply
- 10. DRM Decentralisation in the context of the Local Government Act 2002
 - a. Empower regional disaster management structures; provide funding and other resources
 - b. Regions to have power and authority to develop and embark on innovative financing mechanisms for DRM programmes specific to their needs
- 11. New and re-emerging issues:
 - a. covid-19,
 - b. oil spills,
 - c. AKI,
 - d. Climate change
 - e. Others
- 12. Other issues
 - a. Poor location of petrol station
 - b. Poor electrical infrastructure
 - c. Emerging urban industries (fish milling factories, discharge of toxic waste etc.)
 - d. River transportation-Boats and ferry services
 - e. Road transportation/usage

- f. Illegal sand mining
- g. Deforestation including illegal logging
- h. Emissions, air pollution & industrial pollution