Paving a risk-informed pathway towards prosperity

Namibia’s National Disaster Risk Management Framework
The overarching goal of the National Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Framework is to provide a transparent and pragmatic implementation mechanism of the DRM system in Namibia, based on clear objectives and a set of prioritized, integrated and multi-sectorial actions at all levels and in all sectors, and monitored through a set of indicators.

Namibia’s National Disaster Risk Management Framework and Action Plan (2017-2021)

Although Namibia is an upper middle-income developing country with a solid economic and human capital, it is not immune to climate and disaster risk. Namibia is struggling with water shortage due to drought and limited water reserves. The country is exposed to various natural and man-made hazards that make it vulnerable to shocks that can jeopardize its development gains.

The El Niño-induced drought of 2015-2016 affected 30% of Namibia’s population, weakening the coping capacity of local communities and affecting the country’s economic performance. In 2017, Namibia has received rains associated with the La Niña phenomenon, curbing the impact of the drought in certain areas, but also threatening the livelihoods of people who were affected by floods. These recent severe drought and flood events are a stark reminder of Namibia’s vulnerability to climate and disaster risk.

Namibia’s Disaster Risk Challenge

Rising to the Challenge:
Factoring in Resilience-building

Namibia’s national development vision is geared towards improving the living conditions of every Namibian. The 5th National Development Plan (2017-2022) puts emphasis on value addition in the minerals and agricultural sectors as key drivers for growth, employment and poverty reduction. Even though agriculture contributes only 3% to GDP, it remains a strategic sector as it supports above 70% of the Namibian population and employs about a third of the labour force.

The 5th National Development Plan foresees that by 2022, 88% of Namibians will have access to adequate food all year round, and that agricultural production will be increased by advancing the use of conservation agriculture by at least 50% of farmers. Reducing risks and building resilience in key sectors such as agriculture is therefore paramount in reaching the national development targets.

Cognizant of its climate and disaster risk to national development, the Government of the Republic of Namibia has established institutional structures, developed legal and policy instruments, and implemented measures to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. Over the years, the Government’s approach has evolved from disaster management towards holistic and integrated disaster risk management (DRM), which supports the country’s development ambition.

The National Disaster Risk Management Framework and Action Plan (2017-2021) aims to ensure that implementation of development activities, including at sectoral level, is well coordinated, efficient and risk-informed so that Namibia’s development vision is achieved.
The National DRM Framework and Action Plan
2017-2021

**Strategic Objective 1**
**Understanding disaster risk**

The expected results of the implementation of prioritized actions under SO1 include the establishment and proper use of a harmonized information and knowledge management system. This system will support the sharing of data and information on disaster impact and disaster risk across various institutions that produce data in their own thematic area. The system will be useful for performing risk assessment, as well as damage and loss assessment. It will be used to promote research and development, awareness, education and training. Ultimately, an effective information and knowledge management system will inform risk-informed decision-making for development.

**Strategic Objective 2**
**Strengthening disaster risk governance**

The expected result of the implementation of prioritized actions under SO2 is a disaster risk management governance system that is inclusive, coordinated and efficient at all levels of governance, from national to sub-national levels. A well-functioning DRM system in Namibia will guarantee that prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities are effectively implemented by all institutions and stakeholders in line with their roles and responsibilities. This Objective provides for Namibia’s existing legislative and policy framework to be resourced and fully implemented.

**Strategic Objective 3**
**Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience**

Prioritized actions under SO3 target public and private investment in structural and non-structural risk reduction measures. These measures will contribute to strengthening the economic, social and cultural resilience of the Namibian people and their assets, in line with the 5th National Development Plan. Investment in DRM requires making budget allocations for DRM activities as provided by the law, setting up financing schemes for risk reduction and risk transfer targeting priority development sectors such as agriculture and industry, and establishing public – private partnerships.

**Strategic Objective 4**
**Enhancing disaster preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction**

The expected results of the implementation of prioritized actions under SO4 are adequate human, technical and financial capacities for disaster preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction. This Objective provides for contingency planning to be undertaken at all levels; response plans to be developed, tested and updated regularly; an integrated multi-hazard early warning system to be functional across all levels, from national to sub-national; and for emergency services to be fully functional to ensure effective response in the event of a disaster.
The National DRM Framework and Action Plan (2017-2021) represents the implementation instrument of the regulatory and policy provisions in Namibian line with the global guidance provided by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

A strong legal framework creating the conducive environment
Legal and regulatory provisions provide the official mandate upon which national DRR policies, strategies and action plans can be developed and implemented. In Namibia, the legal framework for DRR comprises the Disaster Risk Management Act (2012) and Regulations (2013). Namibian legislation promotes greater integration of DRR issues across sectors, including through provisions for budgetary allocations for DRR activities at sectoral level.

Developed in 2009, the National Disaster Risk Management Policy has been revised in 2017 in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Namibia has also taken steps to integrate the DRR agenda with the climate change adaptation priorities through the National Strategy for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (2017-2021).

An inclusive and coordinated consultative process
The Framework has been developed through a consultative process with the stakeholders involved in DRR activities in Namibia spanning a period of one year starting in mid-2016. The design of the Framework was facilitated through a robust governance architecture composed of coordination mechanisms present at all levels of administration through the DRM Committees composed of representatives of line ministries and other institutions, a dedicated coordination unit at central level through the Directorate DRM under the Office of the Prime Minister and dedicated DRM focal points in line ministries, local administration and partner organizations.

An assessment of capacities and a prioritization process
The framework draws upon the findings and recommendations of a national capacity assessment facilitated by the United Nations System through the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) and the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC). The recommendations of the assessment were endorsed by the National DRM Committee in February 2017. Following the endorsement, a stakeholder consultation process has been rolled out at national and sub-national levels. Its objective was to prioritize actions, assign responsibilities, and agree on budgetary and timeline requirements across institutions, sectors, and governance levels. These are reflected in the Framework Action Plan.