

ADVOCATING FOR THE ENACTMENT OF THE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION BILL IN UGANDA.



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Introduction

- Over 200,000 people have been affected by flooding, drought and landslide for the past decade. 72 million USD in economic losses and more than 35,000 people have been displaced from 2005-2013.



Introduction Con't...

- In spite of the international legal requirements and Uganda's vulnerability to disasters, Uganda does not have a national law governing disaster risk reduction and management and its alignment with new international thinking. The only main relevant policy framework is the National Policy for Disaster Preparedness and Management.
- Furthermore, Uganda does have a number of sectorial laws and policies in place which addresses cross-cutting disaster risk reduction and management issues, although, Disaster Risk Reduction as a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectorial function and activity of government naturally finds its embodiment in a number of existing statutory and policy documents.
- Hence, the need for urgent development of Uganda's Disaster Risk Management BILL in the country.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Disaster prone communities
- Civil Society organisations
- Uganda Parliamentary Forum for DRR
- The Office of the Prime Minister
- Members of the 10th parliament.
- Participating Organizations at the Frontline and national networks
- Coalition of Climate Change and Environment Network.
- International NGOs
- Local organization and Ministry for DRR.
- Commissioner for DRR



Implementation Strategy.

- The disaster prone communities developed an issues paper.
- Six preparation meetings on the DRR Bill draft were held at the parliament of Uganda
- Consultative meetings were held.
- The community views and voices were represented by community members



Implementation Strategy Con't...

- The multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary, multi-sectorial and participatory process of developing the DRR Bill ensured it is comprehensive, relevant and inclusive.
- DENIVA became the National Coordinating organizations that was to oversee/ spearhead the entire Advocacy process on behalf of the DRR Coalition in Uganda and the risk community members.

Results /Outcome of the Advocacy

- Holding a consultative meeting by a cross section of stake holders
- Enriching the draft DRR BILL out line
- A commitment from the key actors especially the ministry of DRR and parliament was secured for the finalization and tabling of the DRM Bill.
- A draft DRR Bill has been formulated, ready to be presented to parliament for debate
- Creating awareness and buy in by Members of Parliament.
- Establishment of a working Group to fast track the formulation and development of the Bill.
- A special induction and orientation workshop on the key concepts of Disasters

Short term consequences of the advocacy.

- The DRR Bill took long to reach the floor of parliament for debate
- An appreciation of the Sendai spirit to invest more in reducing disasters.



Success factors during implementation

- Evidence of the frontline findings that built a case for the structures intervention of disasters through the law.
- Availability of funding.
- Technical trainings of the Uganda advocacy team.
- The existence of the Uganda members of parliament
- Existence of the active DRR-U members
- Involvement of strategic actors
- Beginning with a smaller Passionate task team to take forward and popularise risk reduction led to persistence.
- The involvement of the DRR Minister.
- Partnerships

Limiting factors during implementation

- Unpredictability of the law formulation process in Uganda
- Pressing priorities on government priorities where DRR has been left behind and areas like Climate change given attention
- Missing and skipping steps and processes in the Bill enactment
- No sensitisation given on DRR by government to the communities in disaster prone areas
- Less operational budgets

Improvement and sustainability

- Things that did not go so well act as a learning ground to foster improvement through organising more engagement meetings to fasten the process of the Bill.
- Increased collaboration between Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Association (DENIVA) and other key partners
- Passing the DRR Bill into a law.

THANK YOU

