

MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY



FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

**THE CIVIL PROTECTION UNIT'S PREPAREDNESS AND ITS ROLE IN
DISASTER MANAGEMENT: THE CASE OF NYANGA RURAL DISTRICT.**

BY

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DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this work to my parents Mrs and Mr Gonye.

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I would like to direct my heartfelt gratitude to those who supported and motivated me in the conduct of this study. My countless gratitude goes to the almighty God who helped to this end. Much credit also goes to my research supervisor Ms Mkuhlani who tirelessly helped me to come up with this piece of work. Many thanks to people of Nyanga, their willingness to participate made this work a success. I am grateful for the moral and financial support from my siblings Virginia, Faith, Admire, Obert and Rinashe. I could not have completed this project had it not been for the support and encouragement.

ABSTRACT

The study seeks to establish various disasters occurring in Zimbabwe and how they are managed special reference being given to Nyanga District, and how the Civil Protection Unit in the area is prepared to manage various disasters. Nyanga District suffered major losses in terms of life, property, and infrastructure and ecosystem destruction. The preparedness and overall role of Civil Protection Unit in managing disasters came under spotlight. The main thrust of the research was to investigate the preparedness of Civil Protection Unit in Nyanga District in dealing with disasters as well as highlighting the major challenges faced in pursuit of its goals and objectives and possible solutions that can be engaged to manage the major challenges. Qualitative research design was used to carry out this study and the purposive sampling technique was used to choose respondents. Various techniques namely, interviews, questionnaires and observation were used to generate data from the field. Interviews and questionnaires with same question guide were used to gather data so as to standardize responses from all sample population. The study helps to explain various structural shortcomings and weakness characterizing the Civil Protection Unit in Zimbabwe. Some communities in Nyanga district expressed that they are not aware of Civil Protection Unit. After the analysis of the gathered data from the field recommendations were offered to cover up as solutions to the problems facing the Civil Protection Unit in Zimbabwe, include awareness campaigns, community based disaster management, public-private partnership among others. Nyanga District Civil Protection Coordinating Committee came under spotlight after a number of disasters were reportedly not well prepared for. It was revealed during the course of the research that there have not been awareness campaigns by Civil Protection Unit.

ACRONYMS

DA	District Administrator
DCP	Department of Civil Protection
CPU	Civil Protection Unit
DDF	District Development Fund
DCPCC	District Civil Protection Coordinating Committee
EMA	Environmental Management Agency
FACT	Family Aids Caring Trust
HFA	Hyogo Framework of Action
NCPPC	National Civil Protection Planning Committee
PA	Provincial Administrator
PCPPC	Provincial Civil Protection Planning Committees
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ZIMVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee

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1.0 CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION.

The global scenario in relation to disasters is dismal. World statistics indicate present and future trends of increasing impacts from natural and human made hazards on life and livelihoods(Niekerk,2002; Ojo,2003). During the past four decades, disasters such as earthquakes, drought, floods, storms, fires and volcanic eruptions have caused major loss of human life and livelihoods; destruction of social and economic infrastructure and significant environmental damage. According to Gavidia(2000), natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and hurricanes can wipe out years of development. The 2011 Tsunami in Japan is an example of a disaster characterised by an immense loss of lives and property.

Zimbabwe being also a member of this global village and being in the legion of other third world countries has been and still is affected by disasters, though the occurrence and effects cannot be equated to the global scenario. However disasters which often occur in Zimbabwe in some way negatively affected economic growth, hence this has an effect on the general development of communities. According to Chikoto and Sadiq (2012), Zimbabwe is particularly prone to a number of natural and man-made disasters such as droughts, floods, veld fires, storms, road traffic accidents and HIV/AIDS among other epidemics. Climatic and weather related disasters like floods due to heavy rains and droughts as result of early rainfall cut off, are common problems in Zimbabwe, were they threaten the well-being and food security of Zimbabweans, especially in rural areas Gwimbi (2009). Flooding can be caused by heavy rains or by tropical cyclones, though in Zimbabwe it is not as extreme as it is in south Asia and Latin America, Siamachira(2011). Therefore in an effort to manage and deal with disasters the government of Zimbabwe enacted a legislation for the management of emergencies in this case disasters. It is that legal framework which resulted in the creation and establishment of the Department of Civil Protection.

The department of civil protection has been the main body mandated with the responsibility of setting up emergency plans from the national level. The department is housed and operates under the Ministry of Local Government as the implementing body of national government initiated disaster preparedness and mitigation programmes (Chikoto 2004). The department is responsible for conducting all national response

efforts, based on the Civil Protection Act (2001, chapter 10:06). Its primary mandate include preparing for prevention where possible and mitigating the effects of disasters as they occur. Largely the Department of Civil Protection's mandate is to encompass resource mobilisation in preparation for managing and responding to major events and disasters. In addition, the department is the centre for dissemination of information related to disasters. Furthermore it is decentralised through legislative arrangements, thus it is spearheaded by Civil Protection bodies at national, provincial and district levels all in an effort to ensure effective management of disasters. Thus Nyanga district has a District Civil Protection Committee, which is mandated with the coordination of the CPU activities at district level. Some of those activities include disaster preparedness at district level.

The research is an in-depth study of Nyanga District Civil Protection Committee's preparedness and its role in managing disasters as they emanate in the area under study. Therefore the area under study is a representative sample of a wider community, for it should not be ignored that in recent years Zimbabwe has been dismally affected by disasters of various forms and nature, that is natural and man-made. For example the recent flooding event of the Tokwe Mkosi area in Masvingo province in 2013-2014 rain season, which had dire effects. While there is a department established by the act of parliament, which has the mandate of managing disasters of all forms, that is from the preparedness and mitigation stage, response to rehabilitation and recovery, thus completing the disaster management cycle. Therefore the study seeks to explore gaps within the system and make recommendations so as to strengthen disaster preparedness starting from the grassroots, while disaster preparedness is the fifth priority under Hyogo framework of action 200-2015. Also the study will contribute in the filling up of information gaps in the management of disasters in Zimbabwe. Hence information is very essential in disaster management, and the study in some way will also highlight the levels of preparedness of the district. Thus if there are areas which need improvement may be looked into.

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY.

Due to climate change, as a result of unsustainable management and use of the environment, disasters made unforgettable tragedies in different spheres of the world with grave effects at global scale. According to Arnold and Chen(2010), natural disasters made 2005 an unforgettable year. It began in the aftermath of the December

26,2004, tsunami in the Indian ocean that devastated countries from Indonesia to Somalia, killing an estimated three hundred thousand people (300,000) people and leaving 1.5 million people homeless. In October of 2005, the world witnessed the devastating impacts of another major earthquake in the Kashmir region which claimed more than seventy three thousand (73000) lives in Pakistan, and over one thousand and three hundred (1300) more in India. And these were just a few major catastrophes that grabbed the headlines for brief periods. All told there were three hundred and sixty (360) natural disasters that killed more than ninety thousand (90,000) people and affected more than one hundred and fifty (150) million lives in 2005. Thus given the devastating losses of 2005, it would at least be a small comfort to consider the year an anomaly unlikely to be repeated. Zimbabwe had such similar situations for instance the cyclone Eline floods, the cholera outbreak, drought among others. Hence these disasters caught most people unprepared and unaware, and the most vulnerable suffered the most and others lost their lives.

Africa is not spared, according to Tempelhoff (2010), many populations throughout the continent have suffered under the impact of disasters, which have killed thousands and caused many injuries. For example, the flooding in Algeria in 2001 killed around 900 people and affected about 45000 others. In eastern Africa in 2002, heavy rain brought floods and mudslides that forced people to evacuate their homes in Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Burundi and Rwanda (Huq et al;2007). Moreover, Homan(1996:138) argues that contemporary research shows exposure to such disasters are far from natural, and that power inequities may often explain differences in loss sustained and recovery time.

The eastern part of Africa is recognised as one of the regions which has suffered severe drought for a number of years. Countries well known as being at high risk of drought conditions include Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan. The disaster had a particularly negative impact on the poor because of lack of food. According to CRED(2009) climatological disasters in the form drought have claimed many victims in the eastern part of Africa, with more than a third of the affected population in Eritrea, Djibouti and Somalia.

Zimbabwe is also not spared by disasters neither, it has its own record and had been hit by disasters of various types. However the scenarios in Zimbabwe cannot be

equated to those discussed above, but this does not disqualify the intensity of the effects of disasters to the socio-economic development of Zimbabwe, each time they occur. According to the Department of Civil Protection (2014), Zimbabwe is prone to agricultural and hydrological droughts. With the drought of 1992, which was recorded as the worst in living memory of the Zimbabweans. The whole nation was affected, the national food security was threatened as the drought resulted in no harvest throughout the country. Besides hunger, the national herd was reduced by fifty per cent, the lake Kariba levels dropped by about forty per cent, thus a further decrease in water levels would have made electricity generating impossible. The result was frequent power cuts during 1992, and a challenge to Zimbabwe's Economic Structural Adjustment Programme. Since Zimbabwe is prone to agricultural and hydrological droughts, thus almost after every ten years as has been the norm, the nation is faced by this unpleasant event, as was again experienced in the year 2002 and even in 2012. However their impact cannot be compared to those of 1992, but the issue of preparedness cannot be ignored, since chances of recurring are high.

One cannot discuss disasters in Zimbabwe, and fails to recall the incident of the year 2000, in February a tropical cyclone was experienced in the eastern and southern parts of the country. It was characterised by strong winds and heavy rains, hence the most affected provinces were Masvingo, Mat south, Manicaland and Midlands. Ninety-one (91) deaths and three hundred and fifty-seven injuries were recorded. This disaster affected directly and indirectly about 2.7million Zimbabweans. Hence about 2million comprised the vulnerable group, mostly the old and the young, whilst others ranged from the death of family members, loss livestock and assets, damage of households, bridges, power lines, dams, water and sanitation infrastructure, (DCP 2014). Again faced with such events, disaster preparedness cannot be ignored, heavy rains and storms continue to be experienced in different parts of the country, leaving a trail of devastating effects.

Furthermore Zimbabwe has experienced man-made disasters, for instance the Wankie mine disaster of 1972. Also road traffic accidents is one of the major disasters affecting Zimbabwe, especially public transport road accidents, with the worst accident in memory being the Nyanga bus disaster.

Floods are becoming a phenomenon in Zimbabwe. Areas which lie in Zambezi basin such as Muzarabani were well known to be prone to flooding. Recently during the 2012/2013 rain season floods were experienced in Tokwe Mkosi basin in Masvingo district, with devastating effects and communities were displaced. Other districts which were affected are Chiredzi, more than seventy homesteads were affected, four people were swept away, when a kombi being toured by a tractor were swept as they were trying to cross flooded Runde river. In Tsholotsho a number of bridges were destroyed. Mount Darwin district was also heavily affected, about one hundred and forty (140) homesteads were destroyed by hailstorm, twenty three people were injured and admitted at Mt Darwin hospital. With the above highlighted disasters, Zimbabwe can be said to be vulnerable to a number of disasters, hence the need to look in disaster preparedness and the role CPU in disaster management at district level.

Nyanga district cannot be spared from the disasters affecting most parts of Zimbabwe, though their effects vary by location. The area is characterised by a mountainous terrain, the climatology is unique, that the five natural agricultural regions which are in Zimbabwe are also present in this district. Thus weather patterns are not hegemony within the district. Hence due to its geographical characteristics the district is prone to disasters. For example road traffic accidents, the Nyanga bus disaster of 1991 which was pronounced a national disaster, the terrain contributed to the accident, for the roads are curve with steep slopes. Up to date almost annually accidents do occur. Early this year a tourist was reported missing after hiking the Mount Nyangani and was not located, though he is not the first one to disappear. As of January 2013 the district was hit by heavy rains, which caused floods which damaged infrastructure like huts, pit toilets, swept away bridges, even crops were affected. This is a recent disaster catastrophe in the district, hence there is need to have an overview of the nature of disasters affecting the district or of which the district is prone to or likely to encounter and the need to assess the levels of preparedness of the district civil protection unit in managing disasters.

At global level although most of the losses occurred in industrially developed parts of the world, developing countries in Africa and Asia suffer greater burden of the relative impact of these disasters. Developing nations in particular, experience pervasive risk of devastation. According to Henderson(2004), this level of risk is attributable to socio-economic stress, aging and inadequate infrastructure, weak education and preparedness for disaster and insufficient fiscal and economic resources to carefully implement the preparedness, response, mitigation and recovery components of integrated disaster management.

Disaster events are being witnessed day and night throughout the world and causing untold suffering. Disasters as referred in this study include both natural and man-made. Natural disasters can include drought, floods, earthquakes, landslides among others. Apart from natural disasters there are also man-made disasters like veld fires, wars, deforestation, and epidemics among others. As disasters occur throughout the world, Zimbabwe in broad and Nyanga in particular the case of this study is not an exception to the phenomena.

As measures of managing disasters and their related after effects, the government of Zimbabwe established a national board known as the civil protection unit, housed under the ministry of local government, with the mandate of foreseeing and coordinating disaster management in the country. The history of the department dates as far as 1980, soon after independence. Though the country continue to use the British laws including those for disaster management in 1982 the civil defence Act was enacted. Since then Zimbabwe's imitative have been within the confines of the act. However the act was amended for a number of times, notably in 1989 to a civil protection act. Which specifies that a Civil Protection Directorate should be in place and run the Department of Civil Protection. The department is housed under the ministry of local governance, and the minister is assisted in administering the civil protection act and its policy by a chain of administrative levels from national to district level, (CPD,2006; Ndlovhu 2008). Focus of the Act according to the director of civil protection unit, MrMadzudzo Pawadyira, now the department of civil protection's main focus is on hazards which are drought, floods, epidemics, transportation accidents, fires and environmental degradation (Southern Africa Development Community 1999; Marjanovic and Nimpuno,2003; Pawadyira 2004).

Nyanga is not an exception CPU's structures which range from national, provincial to district level. The district is vulnerable to a number of disasters, but mostly those which are related to climate and weather, in the form of drought and flooding of rivers. To this background the district civil protection unit is in place, to oversee and coordinate disaster management related activities. Therefore it becomes of paramount importance to identify the various roles of the district civil protection unit in previous disaster events and in preparing for future occurrences of disasters in Nyanga.

In cases of disaster, the CPU initially appeals locally for aid from individuals and the business community and respond to the central point. When local help is inadequate, an appeal is launched regionally, nationally or even internationally that is if the effects are very extreme and unmanageable. Thus in a way the approach to disaster management in Zimbabwe is top-down, that is according to the Civil Protection Act(10:06), the president and the head of government is the one with the authority to pronounce a catastrophic event as a disaster. Posing a challenge that participation of other actors in disaster response may be delayed, hence the conditions of the affected will be worsened. Furthermore due to the top-down approach of the system to disaster management, problems might arise between different government ministries, departments and arms where there is a clash of interest, for example the CPU might need to use some vehicles from the army during disaster response, but the army might feel that they are not obliged to act with the necessary speed without authorization by the army commanders, hence critically delaying response to disaster(Chikoto,2004; UNISDR,2004).

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM.

Disasters of various forms and nature are taking place and their qualitative and quantitative destruction is difficult to ascertain and deal with. As a result most people are vulnerable and live in constant fear their valuables are prone to destruction, yet this can be attributed to lack of preparedness. It is therefore of paramount importance to assist the Civil Protection Unit and affected rural communities to come up with helpful structures to deal with disasters as they emanate, for the situation in Zimbabwe is characterised by a top-down approach. It is these loopholes within the Civil Protection Unit as an institution that the study seeks to indicate and the efforts by the government to fill the gaps in dealing with disasters.

1.3 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES.

1. To examine the nature and effects of disasters occurring in Nyanga Rural District.
2. To assess the successes of the Civil Protection Unit in times of disasters.
3. Shortcomings of Civil Protection Unit in managing disasters, conclusion and recommendations.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS.

1. What is the major disasters Nyanga district is prone to.
2. What are the effects of these disasters?
3. Are there any disaster preparedness mechanisms in the district?
4. How effective is the district civil protection committee in times of disasters.
5. What are the challenges the committee is facing in preparing for disasters.

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY.

The study will be of valuable and essential for creating an effective well prepared civil protection unit structures, with the capacity to deal imminently with disasters. The researcher proffered recommendations which can assist the Civil Protection Unit to revisit the existing disaster preparedness which is characterised by more gaps than strengths in terms of managing disasters. The study will also be of beneficial to Nyanga Civil Protection Unit as it will highlight areas that need attention and improvement in the management of disasters. Furthermore it can be used as a tool to enlighten the Civil Protection Unit to engage communities to actively participate in the management of disasters, thus engaging with the grassroots in disaster preparedness and management initiatives. It will assist Civil Protection Unit and other institutions dealing with disasters the status of Nyanga district in terms of disaster preparedness, thus the findings and recommendations of the study can be used in other communities beyond the boundaries of Nyanga district which are faced with the similar phenomenon of disasters.

Considering the fact that indeed, disasters of whatever magnitude stunt or retards the hard achieved levels of development of affected and other linked communities, by introducing shocks to the national development programmes. Hence the attainment of the priority millennium development goals by 2015 will be a challenge in the absence of a well-structured policy and clarity on issues of disaster management. Again bearing in mind that at a technical level, Zimbabwe is committed to the attainment of the five

priorities of action, under the backing of the United Nations/International Strategy for Disaster Reduction-UN/ISDR 2005-2015 of the Hyogo framework of action. Thus the fifth priority is, strengthening disaster preparedness, again which is the motivation of the researcher to strengthen disaster preparedness in Nyanga district.

1.6 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Hazard. A hazard can be defined as a potentially damaging physical event, phenomenon or human activity which may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation.

Disaster. A serious disruption of the functioning of a society, causing or threatening to cause wide spread human, material or environmental losses which exceed the capacity of the affected community.

Disaster risk reduction. The conceptual framework of elements considered with the possibilities to minimise vulnerabilities and disaster risks throughout a society to avoid or limit the adverse impacts of hazards within the broad context of sustainable development.

Risk. It can be defined as the probability of harmful consequences (ISDR, 2002), or expected losses due to the interaction between humans, hazards and vulnerable conditions.

Vulnerability. The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards (UN/ISDR 2004).

Capacity. A combination of all the strengths and resources available within a community or organization that can reduce the level of risk, or the effects of a disaster. Capacity may include physical, institutional, social and economic means as well as skilled personal or culture attributes such as leadership and management.

Coping strategy. The manner in which people and organisations, use existing resources to achieve various beneficial ends during unusual, abnormal and adverse conditions of a disaster phenomenon or process.

1.7 LIMITATIONS

The study required considerable funds typing, printing and transport costs to visit Nyanga, which is far from Gweru where Midlands State University is located. To my surprise some of the targeted informants, seemed not to be at liberty of sharing some of the information. In order to carry out this research in the face of such challenges the research used a purposive sampling technique for the selection of the respondents from the area under study.

1.8 DELIMITATIONS

The research was limited to Nyanga, a district in Manicaland province with a population of approximately one hundred and nineteen thousand, three hundred and seventy (119 370) people. The district is made up of thirty-one wards. The area is mountainous thus the roads are characterised with slopes and sharp curves. There are thirty-one wards, each located in one of the five agro-ecological regions of Zimbabwe which are all present in the district. Thus the district has different climatology characteristics, for instance areas around Tangwena receive high rainfalls annually as compared to areas in the north of the district like Fombe and Chimusasa in ward one. Furthermore Nyanga is tourist destination with tourist frequenting mount Nyangani, Trout buck resort, and the Nyangani national park. There is a number of commercial farming plots and forestry plantations. There are twenty-one clinics, four mission hospitals and one government district hospital. All government departments are represented. In terms of animal health management facilities, there are thirty-one dip tanks and only three animal health centres.

1.9 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The concept of disaster risk management framework is to reduce the underlying factors of risk and to prepare for and initiate an immediate response should disaster hit. The disaster risk management framework distinguishes, conceptually, the different phases of the disaster risk management cycle: pre-disaster, response and post-disaster. Thus actions in the pre-disaster phase are aimed at strengthening the capacities and resilience of households and communities to protect their lives and livelihoods, through measures to prevent or limit hostile effects of disasters and to provide timely and reliable disaster forecasts. In the response phase, institutions, communities and relief

agencies focus on saving lives and property. In the post-disaster phase, the focus is on recovery and rehabilitation (Baas, 2008).

Furthermore, the framework provides the basis to address public commitment and institutional systems, including organizational capacities, policy, legislation and community action, as well as environmental management, land use, partnership and networking, and financial instruments. The framework also provides the space to positively value and constructively include communities and households' traditional coping strategies, recognizing the importance of their ownership of the disaster risk management process, thus diminishing the dependency typically generated by relief offered by outsiders.

The key elements of the DRM framework are reflected in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters (HFA) which elaborates the five priorities for action adopted by the world conference on disaster reduction to achieve its strategic goals by 2015. Thus one of the HFA priorities for action are to: strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels (Baas et al, 2008)

2.0 CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW.

In this section the researcher will look at what different scholarly views on aspects of civil protection unit, that is government and disaster management. According to Colson(2001), literature review is a process of finding information on what other researchers have written about, in this case the researcher will be focusing on civil protection unit preparedness in disaster management. In this research disaster is defined as tragedy of natural or man-made kind that affects or causes human torment to communities(Baffon,2003). Disaster management is the discipline of dealing with and avoiding or reducing risks. It is a field that embrace preparing a disaster before it occur, disaster response and recovery of communities after a disaster have occurred(Wisner, Ben and Blarke 2004)

2.1Disasters and Their Nature

A disaster is a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society resulting in human, economic, material and environmental damages or losses which exceed the ability of the affected people to cope using their own local resources (south Africa,2002). Disasters can be sudden for instance flash floods, or they can be progressive for example drought, though both can be caused due to the interaction of humans with the environment. Thus a disaster is a function of the risk process, which results from the combination of hazards, conditions of vulnerability and insufficient capacity or measures to reduce the potential negative consequences of risk (ISDR,2002). Therefore a disaster becomes the result of a hazard's impact on society, thus the effects of a disaster are determined by the extent of a community's vulnerability to the hazard.

Barton(1969), disasters are uncalled for, and they occur during times when people are not expecting, therefore resulting inmyriaddistress for human and animals. With this background it calls for special consideration being paid to disaster preparedness, responsiveness and coping strategies. The research intends to find out Nyanga District's preparedness to deal eminently with disasters. The study will then be confined to assessing whether the district civil protection coordinating committee has

adequate means or the capacity required to manage disasters. For disaster management efforts need substantial amount of resources.

According to Alexander (2002), disasters occurs by surprise, especially raid disasters, although in some cases were early warning systems are in place. Governments, disaster management institutions and communities have to be well resourced, for them to adequately prepare and respond to disasters as they erupt. However in most cases it is a challenge to recover loses, hence it is probable to reduce disaster risk by developing a culture of disaster preparedness, early warnings and responses.

According to Tempelhoff(2010), disasters create serious disruption and economic loss which impair the ability of communities, particularly the poor of the poor to recover. Government assistance in such situations isoften limited due tothe already grave financial burdens they face. According to the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)(2004:149), the African continent is exposed to disaster risk from various natural causes, especially those rising from hydro meteorological hazards. One reason for this increase in disaster risk is the vulnerability of many communities; the risk to the livelihoods on which they depend, remains high. Again this vulnerability is also influenced by endemic poverty in many African countries, such as Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Another problem is recovery planning because not every national government is able to assist all poor communities.

The research intends to find out the nature of disasters occurring in Nyanga district assess the effects of those disasters and measures put by the Civil Protection Unit in terms of preparedness and responses and the challenges encountered in efforts to reduce impacts or risks.

2.1.1 Classification of Disasters.

Disasters are classified as either natural or man-made. Natural disasters are a consequence, when natural hazards such as landslides, typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods and drought effects, human vulnerability caused by lack of proper preparedness, thus according to Waller(1991). Therefore the emphasis of this research would be to show if Nyanga District has been affected by disasters and the responses of the Civil Protection Unit.

The world at one time had experiences, it had aimpartial share of man-made disasters such as the first and second world wars and the over exploitation and

mismanagement of the environment thus resulting in massive land degradation. Thus global warming and climate change are considered to be man - made disasters whose effects are spreading and are being felt globally, and it is the poor who are the most affected. Therefore it is of greater importance or significance to explore the disasters including man-made disasters which occurred or likely to reoccur in Nyanga , and how the Civil Protection Unit intervene to reduce the damage and the preparedness measures put in place if such scenario prevails again in future.

2.2 Community Based Disaster Management.

Lunga (2009), community in the context of disaster risk management, a community can be defined as people living in one geographical area who are exposed to common hazards due to their location. They have common experiences in responding to disasters, though they may have different perceptions of exposure to risk. Community is a term which has a wide range of usage which include for example a cluster of households, a small village, or it can be defined by sector for instance farming or business sector.

The community has a central role in long term and short term disaster management. The focus of attention in disaster management must be the local community. Furthermore disaster risk or vulnerability reduction is the foundation of CBDM, of which disaster risk reduction encompass disaster preparedness. Thus the primary context of disaster management activities revolves around reducing vulnerable conditions and the root causes of vulnerability. The primary strategies of vulnerability is by increasing a community's capacities, their resources and coping strategies. Another characteristic of CBDM, is the linkage of the community to the development process. Disasters are viewed as unmanaged development risks and unresolved problems of development process. Thus CBDM should lead to a general improvement of the quality of life of the vast majority of the majority of the poor of the poorest and the environment. Hence it contributes to people's empowerment to possess physical safety, to increase more access and control of resources, to participate in decision making which affect their lives. Also the local community links up with the intermediate and national and even up to the international level.

Whether a disaster is a major or minor, of national or local proportion, it is the people at the community or village level who suffer most of its effects. Therefore they use coping and survival strategies to face and respond to the situation, before the interventions from outsiders. The communities are eager to protect themselves from risks through community based disaster preparedness and mitigation (UN Habitat, 2002). The research seeks to show if there is an active Civil Protection Unit Committee in Nyanga district, as well as exposing local people's expertise in the process of managing disasters.

Lunga (2009), frequently disasters adversely affect the livelihoods of poor people by damaging their means of earning and tools. Hence mainstream disaster management responses frequently do not focus on rehabilitation of people's means of livelihood. Communities which lose their means of livelihood during a disaster have increased. It is also assumed that if people have better sources of livelihoods and higher incomes, they will spend more on disaster risk management in order to save their property, due to high incomes they will they have savings to spend for this purpose. But if they do not have any savings then, spending on disaster management becomes the least priority in comparison to the crossing issues of survival. Therefore diversifying in the sources of livelihoods is very important for increasing people's capacity to cope and recover from the effects of disasters. Hence the study seeks to explore the position of this framework in the case of Nyanga, and focus will be on the effects of disasters on the community or household's livelihoods.

Members of the community are the keyplayers and propellers while sustaining the community based disaster management process, and they share the benefits of disaster preparedness, mitigation and development precedence, Bankoff (2003). Since the community is the key actor and the main primary beneficiary of disaster risk reduction, therefore within the community priority attention is given to the most vulnerable. Hence the most vulnerable sectors are generally the poor and the majority of them are sectors in rural areas, these are mainly subsistence farmers. Also the more vulnerable are the elderly, the handicapped, children and women. Thus the study will reveal the most vulnerable groups in Nyanga and how are they affected and the measures set aside by the Civil Protection Unit in Nyanga District.

It is also argued by ISDR (2008) that government should develop a coordinated national mechanism. This should be implemented by calling an interdepartmental and national consultation forum with those involved in disaster risk reduction and climate change. What is required here is a government policy to be applied at different levels of government when disaster strikes. For example, in Tanzania according to Robert et al (2009), in order to minimise hazards in both formal and informal settlements, disaster risk reduction measures should be an integral part of the policies, law and planning procedures. Once institutionalised, these policies should be consistently enforced and ensure community participation, since it is essential in terms of intervention.

2.3 Local Authority and Disaster Management

More text in disaster management literature, focuses the most on the role of central government. In the whole practice, however local governments are progressively playing an important part in mitigating the effects of disasters. Due to their closeness to communities and residents local governments are required to prepare and respond to disasters. Hence the central government, due to its seclusion from communities at the grassroots it cannot sufficiently respond to disaster tragedies, thus according to Jaffin (1998). Thus in this study, the interaction that exists between various central government departments and Nyanga, shall be examined to show whether or not, that the association is that of reciprocal cooperation and teamwork.

Richardson(2005), classifies three mechanisms of disaster management by local authorities, First and foremost he acknowledged disaster planning, preparedness, monitoring and relief management capacity. After having a visibly laid out and elaborate plan is important in managing disaster tragedies. Hence there is no substitute for proper and well - co-ordinated planning. Secondly it is prediction and early warning systems. Therefore meaning there should be a continuous observation of places, that are prone to hazards such that if they are any developments pro-active measures can be taken to reduce the effects. Thirdly, it is damage assessment and relief management. Thus damage assessment confirms the existing destruction that disasters can ruin on a given area. Aid efforts also have to be well-organized and correctly carried out, in order that all affected victims can be accommodated.

According to Jaffin (1998), less developed countries suffer the most. Damages due to natural disasters are times greater in less developed countries. This understanding is penetrating in the construction, when hazards meet vulnerability. A natural hazard will never result into a disaster if the event does not clash, damage or affect the life of living species in a negative way, or when it occurs in an inhabited area. The research aims to uncover the measures that civil protection units have adopted to minimise the effects of disasters and the fatalities suffered due to disasters. The vulnerability and defencelessness of communities to disasters, will also come under the spotlight in this research.

2.4 History of the civil protection in Zimbabwe.

During the colonial era before independence of Zimbabwe in 1980 from its colonial master, the then white colonial government referred to disaster management as civil defence. The notion had a military meaning, for it was adopted during the period of the war of liberation, so as to protect the minority white population. After independence, this status quo was adopted and eventually administered the civil defence and administered the civil defence Act of 1982, Chikoto (2004). Furthermore according to Chikoto and Sadiq (2012), after independence, the government of Zimbabwe approved a supportive legislation framework to create a cultured national emergency system. The civil protection act of 1989 articulates that during an emergency, the system would activate all available resources towards civil protection, such as the setting up of national civil protection fund, which will be used deal with emergencies. Thus this study is going to highlight if the released funds by the civil protection unit at national level is enough to deal with disasters at district level.

Due to disasters which occur continuously or are likely to afflict the country, the civil protection Act of 2001 (chapter 10:06) refers to disaster as consisting of any natural disasters, major accidents or other incidents howsoever caused, or destruction, pollution or scarcity of essential supplies, or influx of refugees or plagues or epidemic or disease, that threatens the life or well-being of the community (the civil protection Act 2001: part 1, s2), Chikoto and Sadiq (2012). It is this legislation, which ensued the establishment of the department of civil protection. Which its primary tasks include preparing for, preventing where possible, and mitigating the effects of disasters as they occur.

2.5 Emergency Preparedness and Disaster management Bill.

The civil protection act was noted to have some gaps which need attention. First and foremost it is considered to be a war related act and therefore, cannot be understood by people especially those who do not have a military background and are not in security forces thus according to Pawadyira (2004). Thus if the act is said to be mostly related to war, therefore it means during the time of peace it is dysfunctional, thus failing to deliver, hence disasters need serious preparedness and urgent response in order to reduce or minimise the effects. Hence this highlights the need to revisit the war related to accommodate all disasters as they occur in different parts of the country.

The civil protection act was to be repealed in 2003/4 and pave way for the Emergency Preparedness and disaster management Act. A new bill, Emergency preparedness and disaster management was thus drafted in 2003 and considered in parliament in 2004. The bill has not yet been passed into an act mainly due to the databases and agreements in the highly polarized Zimbabwean legislature.

According to Madamombe (2004), president Mugabe's speech on the opening of the fourth session in the fifth parliament of Zimbabwe in July 2003, stated that the Civil Protection Act was to be renamed for better understanding of civil protection issues. The new act would allow the formation of an Emergency Preparedness and Disaster management Authority, which would be mandated with key activities which include forecasting and planning for emergencies at different levels. That is from the grassroots namely, local authority, district, provincial and national level. Thus the above stated authorities would be required to produce operational disaster emergency preparedness and response plans, and they would be activated when a disaster hits. Again these plans including those from the grassroots have to merge with national plans.

2.6 Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management.

According to the department of Civil Protection final policy draft of 2007. The general objective of the emergency preparedness and disaster management policy for

Zimbabwe is to ensure an adequate policy framework for effective and efficient disaster management in the country. To integrate disaster management into all sector all sector plans in order to facilitate sustainable development. Furthermore it creates and strengthen links between institutions such as NGOs, the private sector, government departments and other stakeholders in disaster management. Community participation is ensured, hence a culture of safety and resilience, through the promotion of community safety nets, that is disaster coping mechanisms. More so the need to advocate for public and private sector financing for the disaster management fund.

Strengthening disaster preparedness for effective response through improved knowledge, innovation and education. It is the general view that legislation on disaster risk management should emphasise risk reduction, rather than response. However when these measures fail and disaster strikes, the communities and other stakeholders are forced to respond. Therefore strategies should be put in place that ensure that response is effective, supportive of sustainable development, that recovery and rehabilitation are inbuilt components of disaster response. Thus the strengthening of regional, sub-regional, national and local capacities for disaster preparedness for effective and efficient response preparation and periodic update of disaster response plans and regular disaster preparedness exercises should be promoted. Since disasters know no boundaries, the impact and levels of a disaster can be significantly reduced if the level of preparedness of the authorities, communities and individuals are high. Hence the study also seeks to understand the level of disaster preparedness of the mentioned sectors.

2.7 Disaster preparedness.

The core topics of hazard and disaster research include; hazards research, which focuses on post-disaster emergency response and recovery. Preparedness intersects with both these two areas, serving as a temporal, connector between the pre-impact and post impact phases of a disaster event. Preparedness is typically understood as consisting of measures that enable different units of analysis- individuals, households, organisations, communities and societies to respond effectively and recover more quickly when disaster strikes. Preparedness efforts also aim at ensuring that the resources necessary

for responding effectively in the event of a disaster are in place, and that those faced with having to respond know how to use those resources (Kent.R 1994).

The concept of disaster preparedness encompasses measures aimed at enhancing life safety when a disaster occurs. It includes actions designed to enhance the ability to undertake emergency actions in order to protect property and contain disaster damage and disruption, as well as the ability to engage in post-disaster restoration and early recovery activities. Thus preparedness is commonly viewed as consisting of activities aimed at improving response activities and coping capabilities. However, emphasis is increasingly being placed on recovery preparedness- that is on planning not only in order to respond effectively during and immediately after disasters but also in order to successfully navigate challenges associated with short- and longer-term recovery.

All preparedness activities must be based on knowledge about hazards, the likelihood of different types of disaster events, and likely impacts on the natural and built environment, households, organisations, community institutions and communities. Types of information that provide a focus for preparedness activities include the potential for detrimental impacts of the hazard on health and safety, continuity of operations and government, critical facilities and infrastructure, delivery of services, the environment, economic and financial conditions. While community based disaster scenarios also provide a solid basis for preparedness efforts.

3.0 CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.

The study employed a qualitative research approach, since the study is empirical it seeks to explore an in-depth understanding of the experiences of Nyanga District Civil Protection Unit's preparedness and its role in managing disasters as they occur. Again the study seeks to have an in-depth understanding of the attitude of the residents of Nyanga district, in relation to the effectiveness of the district civil protection unit in the management of disasters.

The researcher employed qualitative approach, so as to seek answers to the research questions in an effort to achieve the objectives of this research. Thus answers or the findings were gathered systematically through a set of procedures and data collection techniques. To that end it is the understanding of the researcher that the findings of the study can be applicable beyond the immediate boundaries of Nyanga Rural District.

Furthermore the approach is more flexible. Thus it made the research more interesting since the interactions between the researcher and the respondents was less formal. Hence the researcher had the opportunity of probing of issues which needed some clarification, whilst on the other side the participants were free to respond more elaborately in more detail, expressing their experiences, belief and attitude, within the natural setting of the research area.

Babbie and Mouton (2001), Mason 2002 in Leonard (2005), describes qualitative research as a paradigm that allows the researcher to get an insider perspective on social action. Henning (2004), further describe the primary goal of this research approach as describing and then understanding as opposed to merely examining social action. Hence Denzin and Lincoln (1994), summarises the characteristics of this approach as enabling the researcher to study phenomena in their natural setting, thus this study was done in Nyanga district which is the setting of institution and disasters under study. while attempting to interpret those phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them.

3.1 Data Collection Instruments.

3.1.1 Interviews.

Interviews are similar to very day life conversations or interactions between people, however in this case were focused on the needs of the researcher so as to get answers to the research questions. According to Bailey (2007), there are three types of interviews, most often used by field researchers. These are unstructured or in-depth, structured and semi-structured. Thus the researcher employed in-depth interviews and semi structured interviewing techniques.

Interviews allow the researcher to take into note non-verbal communication, which can be of importance in gaining a better appreciation and understanding of the emotions and outlook of the respondents. In addition interviews are flexible. The researcher managed to probe more interesting issues, that rose during the course of interviews. Due to face to face discussions, gives the inquiry was modified, for the participants were free express themselves and elaborate more on issues to do with the preparedness of the civil protection unit and its effectiveness in delivering its mandate of protecting the civilians in times of need when hit with a disaster. Thus during interviews detailed information was retrieved , which respondents may not have preferred to put in writing. Furthermore, the response rate was high. Lastly but obviously not the least, interviews enable the researcher to have control of the data collection environment.

In-depth interviews are similar to conversations. One distinction of in-depth interviews is that during an interaction between the participant and the researcher targets primarily the interest of the researcher, though this is not necessarily the case during conversation. During in-depth interviews, the interviewees were given fairly free range to talk about any aspect of the broad interests of the researcher, as long as they did not stray too long or too far from what the researcher thought was important. According to Neuman (1991), in-depth interviews are not about structure and hierarchy but about talking and mutual discovery. Furthermore Bailey (2007), agrees with Fontana and Frey (1994) that these interviews are shaped more by “give and take” and “empathic understanding”, than a series of rules that should be followed. They argue that this approach to interviewing is more honest, morally sound, and reliable,

because it treats the respondent as an equal, allows one to express personal feelings, and therefore presents a more realistic picture than can be uncovered using traditional interview methods, thus according to Bailey (2007).

In conducting these interviews, the researcher did not overlook the limitations of interviews. Thus interviewees tend to give information that impress and cover certain poor disaster management by the civil protection unit in Nyanga district, which the researcher is seeking to expose in the study. Again interviewees have a tendency of giving a good impression of their organisations which is actually the opposite of what their organization look and operate on the ground. There is also the fear of asking sensitive questions, which might affect the privacy of the organization on the part of the interviewer, thus leaving out otherwise vital information which would be very useful to the study.

In the face of the above mentioned shortcomings that are linked to interviews, the researcher used an intellectual approach to avoid bias by creating an enabling or conducive environment, in which the respondents could feel free and comfortable to express themselves. The respondents were assured that their contributions were to be kept safe and that they were only being used for academic purpose.

3.1.2 Observations.

The researcher employed an observation method. It involves the assessment of the situation on the nature of disasters in the study area. The method was used for the following reasons, the researcher got to study for himself the situation on the ground. Warfield (2008), the observation method entitles the researcher to first-hand information, data and practices for the study.

According to Bailey (2007), observing functions as a major form of data collection for field research. Whereas obtaining members accounts about activities within a setting research, so too is seeing with one's own eyes. However sometimes a researcher cannot always see everything in a setting, determine what is important to notice. In this study the researcher was participating in the activities of the District Civil Protection Committee, while making some observations, thus the observations were covert, for it is more difficult to inform people and in this case the CPU and communities, that they are being observed. Hence the researcher was a participant observer, and a participant observer takes part in daily events while observing. Again

this was managed during the time when the researcher was on work related learning, attached in Nyanga Rural District.

The researcher was a participant observer, it is more flexible. For example, researchers make sure that they observe at different times. Furthermore participant observations do not preclude focused attention on particular facets of a setting. However the researcher is less likely to have an observation guide, concentrating instead on what is deemed relevant as events unfold.

Focus of observations was mainly on actors, that is the people involved in disaster preparedness planning such as officials from the District civil protection unit and heads of government departments and non-governmental organisations who are part of the district civil protection committee. Another focus of my observations was on actions or activities that people do, in this case communities in-terms of disaster preparedness. Also the emotions felt and expressed were observed during interactions and discussions on disasters occurring in the district which are affecting them.

3.1.3 Desk-top review.

Rodgers (1989), defines desktop review as shelf information gathered at some time earlier for other purposes, but which can shed more light on the subject under study. Thus the researcher gathered secondary data which relates to the subject from textbooks, newspapers and the internet.

3.2 Respondents.

The research was conducted in Nyanga rural district, the respondents were drawn from the inhabitants of Nyanga District. The researcher managed to interact with respondents from four sub group of the district's population, these comprised of:

- I. Government representatives- department of civil protection
- II. Key informants- people knowledgeable in the field under study
- III. Civic society- non-governmental organisations
- IV. Community members- ordinary people.

3.3 Sampling.

From each group mentioned above ten respondents were the targeted population, as a sample representative population. Thus making the targeted population sample of forty participants. Hence purposive sampling technique was employed.

3.3.1 Purposive Sampling.

The technique is synonymous with qualitative research, since the study had an endeavour to seek an in-depth understanding of the preparedness and the role of the civil protection department at district level in managing disasters in Nyanga. The motivation of employing this technique was due to limited resources and time to manage a bigger sample. Therefore the selection of participants, as key informants was purposively selected based on their special knowledge of the research area, ability and willingness to participate in the study. Thus the population was sampled with a purpose in mind, which is the need for answers to the research questions on the preparedness and the role of Nyanga District Civil Protection Committee in managing disasters emanating in the area under study.

3.4 Ethical Considerations.

Nachmias and Nachmias (1992), when conducting research involving human participants one is usually required to pay particular attention to some considerations. For example the value of the research should outweigh any human costs involved, privacy and confidentiality must be respected at all times and risks should be minimized. Thus the researcher recognised the rights of participants both as individuals and collectivises, hence the information they gave cannot be used for non-research purposes. Thus names of respondents are not given in this document. Furthermore respondents participated on voluntary basis and no financial hand outs to the respondents.

4.0 CHAPTER 4: DATA PRESENTATION.

4.1 Introduction.

Chapter four is on data presentation, thus it presents the major findings of the research from the case under study, in this case which is Nyanga district. The findings are based on the narrations and views of the targeted respondents, hence the findings are generated from the responses shared during interviews and observations.

Interviews were conducted to get more information from the targeted informants. From the interviews held, all were responded to by the targeted respondents from the representative sample of selected key informants, civil protection unit, community resident and the civil society organisations operating in the district. Thus interviews were 100% successful which is presented below, with the aid of diagram.

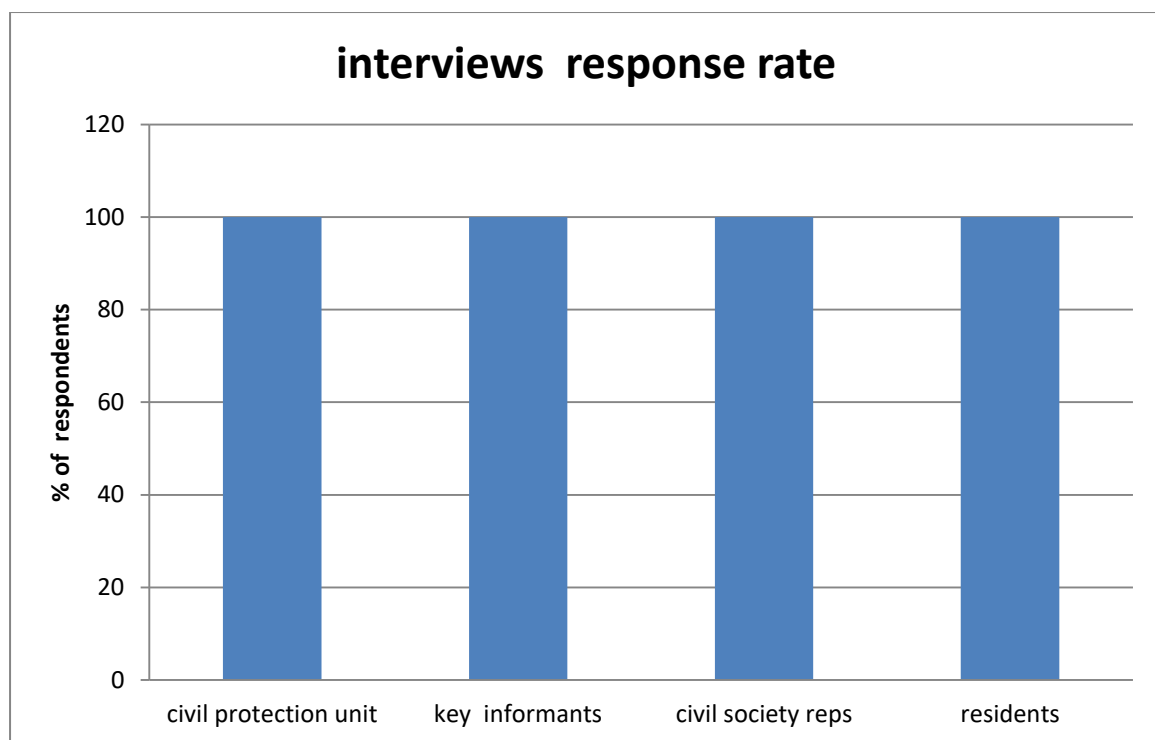


Figure.1: Interview response rate.

4.2 Common disasters in Nyanga.

The research findings presents detailed information about the disasters which occurred in Nyanga district and their related effects, which are also likely to reoccur in the

future. The respondents identified the following as common major disaster to have occurred and which continue to reoccur in the district, drought, floods, epidemics, veld fires, road traffic accidents and disappearing of tourists on mount Nyangani. Important to note is that these disasters affect the district differently and in different parts or locations of the district, though they will have an impact on the whole district. Hence it is the poor of the poorest who are the most vulnerable. From the responses, the disasters are ranked as follows: droughts, epidemics, floods, veld fires and road traffic accidents. The information of common disasters in Nyanga district is expressed in the pie chat bellow.

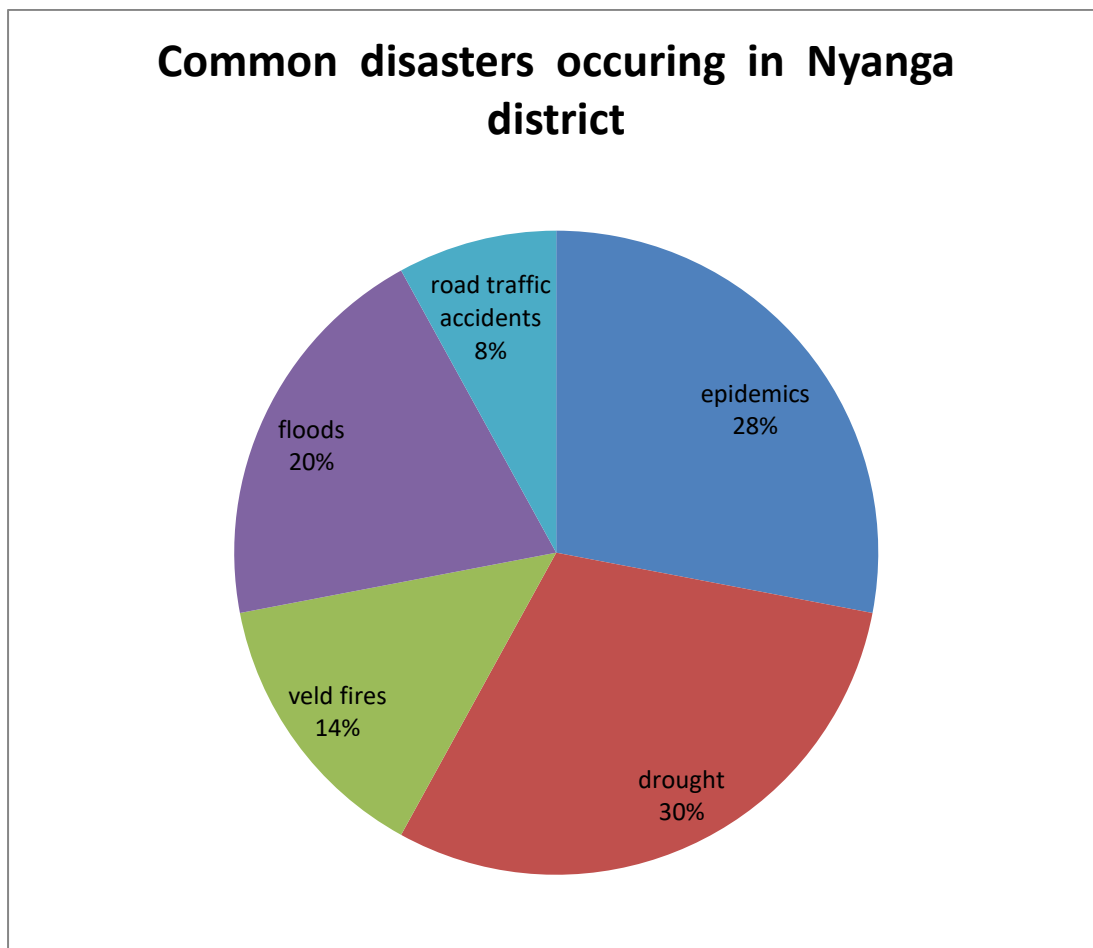


Figure. 2. Common disasters in Nyanga district.

4.3 Frequency and nature of disasters in Nyanga.

The respondents expressed that the district has a history of occasional floods, for instance in 1981, 1998 and the recent occurrences in 2013. Hence these floods usually occur in January at the peak of the rain season, yet this is attributed to the weather patterns of Nyanga, with areas located in weather conditions which characterise agro-ecological region one that experience high rainfalls annually. During the 2012- 2013 rainfall season excessive rainfalls were experienced, nearly a week of continuous rainfall in January 2013 was experienced. Due to heavy rains and the over saturation of the ground pit latrines and houses made of dagga were severely damaged in some communities and the rivers were flooded. Some of the worst affected areas were Mangondoza, Gonde, Ruchera and communities settled along the Gairezi, Nyamombe and Rwenya rivers, which are prone to flooding.

The floods had wide range of negative effects, especially the damaging of infrastructure, loss of property, disruption of access to basic services. There was destruction of pole and dagga huts especially in Mangondoza, Ruchera and Gonde being some of the worst affected communities. Bridges were swept away and others damaged to the extent that they were not accessible. The major bridges which damaged include Nyamombe bridge which is on a road that link Nyanga with Makoni district, the other is Rwenya bridge on the road that links Nyanga district with Mutoko district. Thus some communities were delinked, for example Ruchera was delinked from the service provision after the destruction of nyamombe bridge. The heavy rains resulted massive damage and destruction of the road infrastructure,. Furthermore other small bridges across the district were damaged, for instance in ward six, in Nyamahumba.

Hence communities were affected in various ways, like transport challenges and disruption to access of critical services deliveries. The researcher was informed that Ruchera ward was severely affected, due to the destruction of the bridge on nyamombe river the ward was delinked since members of the community could not access services from the surrounding service providers like Nyatate clinic, access to Mapako secondary school, thus school children and patients especially those on ARVs were the most affected group. Fuel for grinding mills ran out, food stocks in shops were running out. Again informants revealed that a District Development Fund tractor and grader which were stationed at the DDF camp close to Nyamombe river were reported to have been swept away by the flooded river, and are yet to be recovered. About four

people are said to have drowned in the major rivers, some bodies were retrieved but others were not. As one respondent stated through an interview, (‘...*zvinonzi dread akaenda naNyamombe, wanhu wakamuona achiieredzwa vakakundika kumubatsira, asi zvinonzi mutumbi wake wakazoonekwa kuMozambique.*’) the respondent was narrating the case of a gold-panner who drowned in Nyamombe river.

Veld fires experienced annually throughout the district. From the findings Nyanga experience some massive veld fires, but some of the worst were witnessed in 2012. The worst were experienced in the trout-buck area where some newly resettled farmers were affected. One of the informants who owns a plot in the area narrated his ordeal on how the fires gutted down his storeroom destroying all the farming inputs like fertilisers, potato seed and chemicals. Again the pine plantations were affected. That same year it was reported that a resort cottage belonging to Old Mutual was also gutted by the inferno of veld fires. Furthermore veld fires were reported to be affecting the Nyangani national park, with other informants stating that veld fires were responsible for the extinction of wild life species from the wild life resort, migrating to Mozambique, thus affecting the tourism industry. Hence these veld fires are said to be caused by poachers, farmers clearing land, and others reported they were a result of mere negligence. Furthermore impacts vary from destruction of grazing lands, the beautiful scenic views.

Drought is another disaster which was noted by the respondents, and they raised concern on the continuous changes in rainfall patterns. They noted that rainfall seasons were becoming short year after year. Yet this is due to climatic variability, due to climate change. Thus most parts, especially in Nyanga are the most affected, since they are prone to short rainfall seasons and dry spells. Though the key informants attributed the causes of this phenomenon to climate, other respondents admitted that climate change was a factor. However some did not rule out local traditional beliefs, such as what are known as *mahwanda uswa* in local dialect. This refers to sexual intercourse in the bushes or under a tree, it is believed it angers the spirits, so drought will be a form of punishment to the community. Another respondent informed the researcher that women are prohibited from bathing in rivers while they are standing, thus failure to observe may be a cause of droughts.

Road traffic accidents in Nyanga have a record, basing on the feedback of the respondents and the review of secondary data sources. One of Zimbabwe's worst road disaster was experienced in Nyanga in 1991, when at least eighty (80) school children and seven adults from Regina Coeli Mission school perished in a bus accident. Again in 2012 fifteen(15) people died and twenty eight (28) were injured, in another Nyanga bus crush, which was driving from Nyanga to Nyamaropa. Surprisingly the incident happened at the same spot of the 1991 bus disaster. Again some time when the researcher was working in the district, the researcher observed some road accidents, for instance in 2013, a haulage truck which was loaded with earth moving machines, crushed, killing the driver and a vendor. Hence most of the accidents are attributed to the trick terrain, that is roads are slope and have sharp curves, thus making driving risky.

Epidemics, were also highlighted by the respondents as one of the common disasters. In 2008 the district was not spared from the cholera outbreak. Though there are no reports of cholera, but the respondents showed some concern over the frequency of reported cases of diarrhoea. Hence these are linked to shortage of safe drinking water. Again some of the causes of these epidemics were linked to conditions like drought, which lead to lack of access to clean water for human use, especially in the most dry areas of the district which receive erratic rainfall.

The informants informed this researcher that, Nyanga was on record of people who disappeared and were never had of or recovered again, on mount Nyangani, which is a favourite for tourist who like mountain hiking. Recently early 2014 in January, a tourist disappeared and is still to be recovered. From the interviews carried out it was revealed that the recent incident was not the first one. Rather there is a history of such incidences, like the disappearance of two children in 1981, they were children of a former member of parliament of the area, their whereabouts are not known upto date. Again the mountain is said to be asacred place.

4.4 Coping strategies

In the face of these adverse of impacts and effects of disasters from the respondents. This researcher discovered that, the affected communities in times of disasters they do not fold their hands, they take some action in an effort to minimise or reduce the impacts of the disasters which affect them in various ways. Affected communities

devised some mechanisms to cope with the eminent effects floods, for instance in Ruchera risk methods were employed so as to cross the river after the bridge was swept away. One of the respondents narrated how children were carried on a floating pressure tube, so that children could cross to school in Mapako.(“...*wakunda ngewakorore wedu waibira zambuko wachishandise matube kuenda kusukuru kwaMapako..*”)

Some communities in attempt to deal with the effects of floods, for instance the case in Nyamahumba small bridges were swept away, forcing members of the community to mobilise resources and put a foot bridge made of poles, across Pururu river. At the peak of the rain season in January 2013, when flash floods were experienced, the makeshift footbridge was unfortunately washed away. This affected school children, since they could not manage to cross flooded rivers.

Furthermore in dealing with drought, which is due to climate change which results seasonal changes, hence in the case of most parts of the district especially in the, short reasons are being experienced. Hence food insecurity in some households is a threat. Therefore some communities like, Kazozo in ward3, are practicing conservative farming (*makomba*), in effort to improve crop yields. In communities like Renzva, the respondents confirmed that some were growing small grains which can struggle under harsh conditions. On the issue of water shortage, for household use, in communities where there are functional boreholes, since the water tables would have lowered to critical levels, communities are forced to ration water to forty litres per household.

Through interviews the researcher discovered that some households do nutrition gardens, for instance some communities in ward 3 like Mukunza, they migrate to the Gairezi river to do gardening so as coping measure to the dry conditions they experience annually in their area.

4.5 The role of CPU in managing disasters in Nyanga.

The District Civil Protection Coordinating Committee which is chaired by the district administrator and consist of members from various government departments, like the police and health among others, as articulated in the Civil Protection Act (10:06). In disaster situations, the civil protection unit in Nyanga has to source for resources to rescue the affected people. For instance after the district was hit by heavy rains and flash floods which affected a number of households in different communities. The

DCPCC, managed to source resources especially from the local business community and the NGOs operating in the area, so as to assist the victims. Organisations like the red cross managed to provide tents, and FACT assisted with food stuffs. However due to the magnitude of the damage and impact resources were not sufficient to meet the basic needs of the victims.

At the district level the unit has challenges when it comes to issue of disaster preparedness, preparedness to respond to emergencies, hence the unit usually depend on the aid of other actors, who also concentrate on managing disasters like the Red cross. Therefore one can argue that the unit is failing to properly manage disasters, due to lack of preparedness hence this has an impact on the whole cycle of disaster management.

The following diagram is an analysis of rescue material, the civil protection unit can afford to provide. The presentation on rescue material, clearly shows that the unit is far below the expected standards of managing disasters. The resources are insufficient for effective and proper response to disasters during times of need.

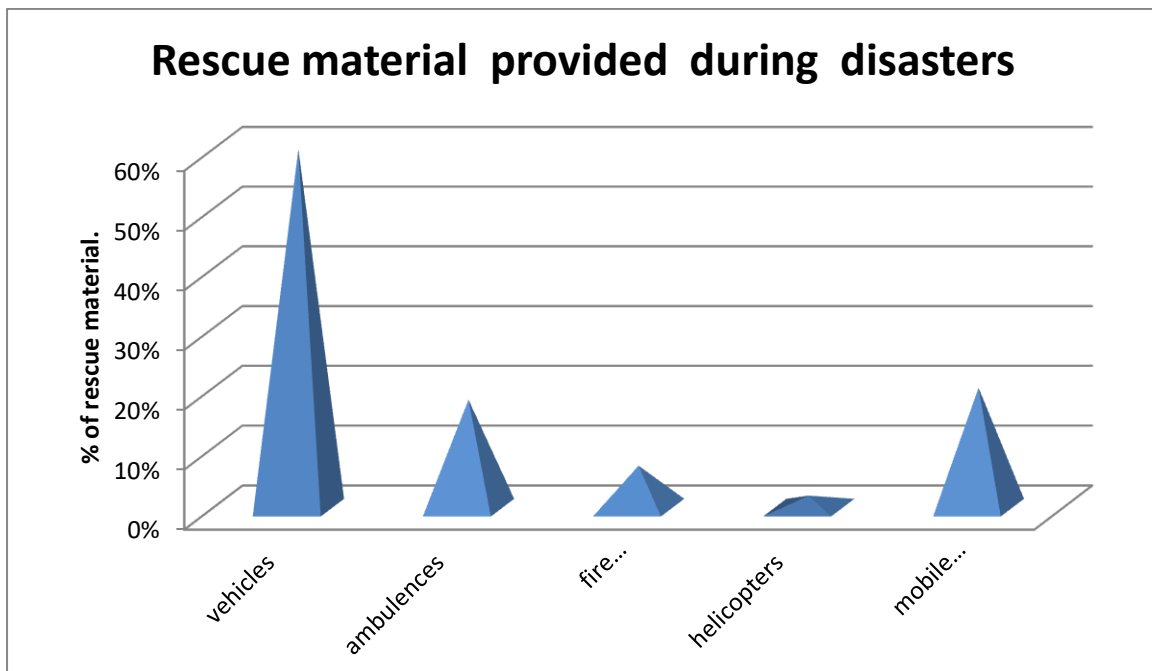


Figure.4 Source: CPUD (2010).

The information gathered from respondents, give an image that the civil protection unit is not popular at the grassroots, it is only seen in times of need. Yet some

residents admitted that they were not aware of the civil protection unit and its activities. Thus giving the impression that the unit is not that active at the grass roots, that is at community level.

4.6 Preparedness mechanisms of the CPU

According to the Civil Protection Act, the district civil protection is required to meet at least twice a month. However the findings on the ground revealed that Nyanga district civil protection rarely meet, when there are no reported disasters. Secondly mock exercises/ drills are supposed to be carried out, but to lack of equipment mock drills are a none event under the management of the civil protection due to a number of factors, like financial constraints and lack of equipment as stated above. Furthermore, surveys in the form of vulnerability and capacity assessments of households in terms of food security, is common preparedness mechanism, that the civil protection unit, participate under the Zimbabwe Vulnerability And Capacity (ZIMVAC) surveys. Hence these reports can be utilised can be used when planning for food distribution in times of food insecurity.

Furthermore a rope in all strategy is being made use of, so as to reach out to communities at the grassroots, in awareness campaigns and mock exercises, which are some of the key factors in disaster preparedness. This is when members of the district civil protection committee, like the department of health, do some awareness campaigns on gatherings such as the independence celebrations or field day functions.

Table 2. Responsiveness rate of the Civil Protection Unit.

Disasters	one day: very good	two days: good	Threedays and more: poor
Road accidents	X		
Floods			X
Veld fires			X
Epidemics			X
Drought			X

4.7 Effectiveness of the CPU in Managing Disasters in Nyanga.

Forty per cent of the respondents who were representing members of the community under study expressed that the Civil Protection Unit was not effective. Thirty per cent confirmed that they did not know of the activities or functions of the civil protection unit. Thus giving the researcher the impression that the unit is not popular with the masses at the grassroots level, except in times of disasters. According to some key informants within the District Civil Protection Coordinating Committee, the structure is too bureaucratic. When it comes to disaster response, the DCPCC, has to first consult with the provincial unit, who will also consult with the national level, up to the president of state, hence the process compromise effectiveness. Furthermore the findings revealed that due lack of resources and funds, the Nyanga District Civil Protection Unit could not respond to disasters on time. This worsen the conditions of the affected people, hence is due to lack of adequate disaster preparedness mechanisms, yet the impact of that lack of preparedness further worsen the conditions of the affected.

4.8 Challenges encountered by the CPU in managing disasters.

At district level the Civil Protection Unit is chaired by the district administrator. The researcher managed to interview some key informants working in the DA's office and members of the District Civil Protection Coordinating Committee, confirmed to the researcher that the department has a number of challenges, thus comprising its disaster preparedness and the whole disaster management cycle. The respondents concurred that the district is ill equipped in terms of materials and equipment needed to prepare and respond to disasters, for instance vehicles for evacuations, ambulances for carrying the injured.

Funds are very minimal or close to none at district level. Again financial constraints affect disaster preparedness activities like carrying out awareness campaigns, workshops and mock exercises or drills. Hence of lack of practice has adverse impacts when a disaster actually occurs, since some communities do not know who to call for help, though under the Civil Protection Act, it is the responsibility of every person to assist in times of disaster, but in some cases people with the expertise are

required. In a nutshell it was expressed that the departments has financial challenges, also contributing to ill preparedness at district level.

Sixty per cent of the respondents representing the residents or members of the community, expressed lack of knowledge on how the Civil Protection Unit functions. Thus meaning to say the unit is not in touch with the grassroots in times of peace, only becoming visible in times of disasters. Furthermore the CPU in Nyanga district do not have equipment of their own, which is dedicated to disaster management. Therefore in times of disasters they rely on equipment and materials like vehicles, ambulances, helicopters, fire fighting equipment from other departments. Sometimes some of these departments are not accessible for instance helicopters from the air force. Again these are some of the challenges that hinders the effectiveness of the Nyanga district civil protection unit, in disaster preparedness and management of disasters.

The pie chart below presents the challenges the department faces during disaster management.

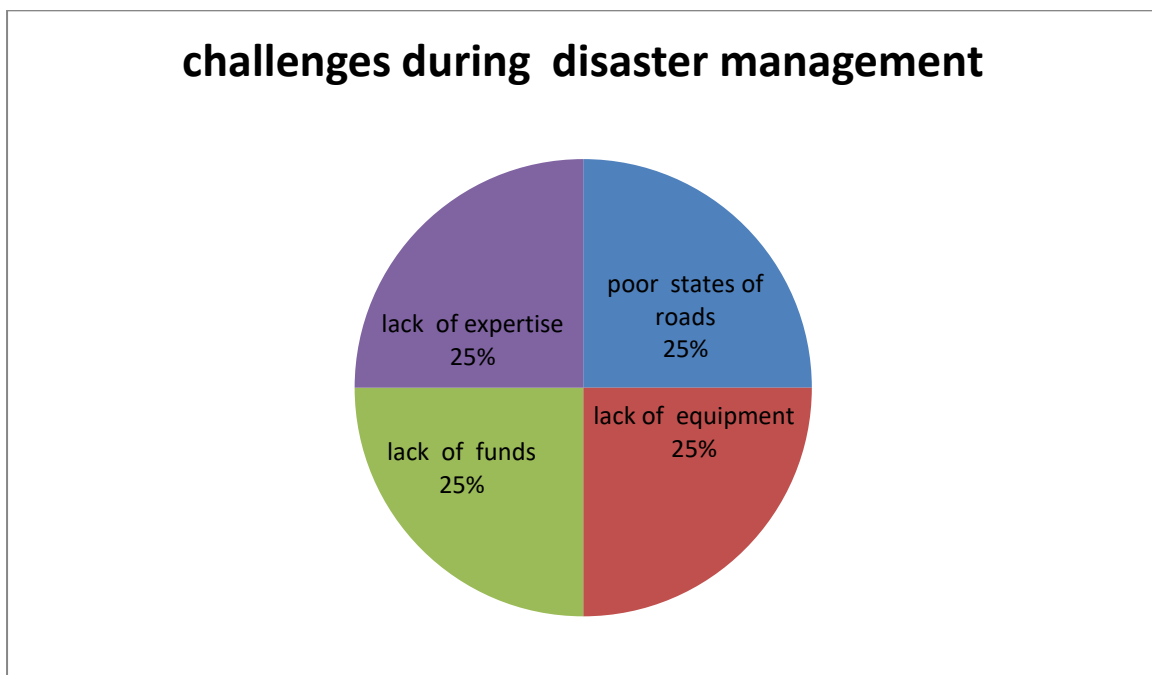


Figure. 5. Challenges facing the CPU during disasters in Nyanga.

4.9 Weaknesses.

From the findings sixty per cent of the respondents, characterised the Nyanga District Civil Protection as weak and not well prepared manage disasters as they occur. Structural weaknesses were noted, as articulated in the Civil Protection Act (chapter 10:06), the district civil protection coordinating committee is supposed to meet regularly, but this is different from the findings on the ground, the committee rarely meet, there is a tendency to meet when there is a disaster or when donors comes, hence the level of commitment compromise disaster preparedness and the whole management of disasters. Furthermore another weakness is the lack of disaster management teams at community level or at the grass roots. Bureaucracy is a factor which weakens the structure of the structure in times of disasters the district consult the provincial, who will further liaise with the national up to the executive and president and head of state, thus the whole process in some cases takes much time to react to disasters, especially by other actors like the donor community. Also over dependency on the central government is another weaknesses.

5.0 CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1 Conclusion

In most third world countries, disasters have hindered and retarded the levels of development of countries, thus disasters are contributing to the underdevelopment of most third world countries which are more vulnerable. Zimbabwe is not spared from disaster, thus the area under study, is also susceptible to disasters. From the research findings, heavy rains and floods, annual droughts, veld fires, epidemics and road traffic accidents were identified as the priority disasters and the common ones in the district. Though the nature, type and impacts of these may differ with other cases in the developing world, the government of Zimbabwe established an institutional structure with the mandate of managing disasters which is the civil protection unit. However the institution is facing challenges to effectively manage disasters as they occur, for example in the Nyanga district. Hence this is attributed to a number of factors. On the other hand success or achievements in preparedness and managing of disasters in the district cannot be ignored.

From the research findings, the researcher concluded that the District Civil Protection Coordinating Committee in Nyanga is ill prepared in terms of managing disasters as they emanate. This can be attributed to a number of factors and challenges that the district is facing. To start with, because of the economic constraints facing the country, the institution also faces financial constraints. Therefore CPU has no funds to carry out disaster awareness campaigns at the grass roots across all the thirty-one wards in the district. Again the unit is failing to do mock exercises or drills as preparedness mechanisms, which is all about the sharing and impartation of knowledge and skills to be done in the event of a disaster event. Furthermore lack of equipment and materials also affect the preparedness of the CPU and the managing of disasters in the district. For example the department does not vehicles, ambulances or fire fighting equipment of its own. Rather they make use of equipment from other departments, of which in moments of disasters, some of these equipment cannot be easily accessed, for example helicopters from the air force. Yet this can prolong the time to response to disasters, hence the affected people will continue to suffer waiting for rescue or relief. Therefore lack of equipment makes the CPU at district level, ill prepared.

Bureaucracy is another challenge facing the CPU at district level, hence the process of pronouncing an event to be disastrous is belated due to consultations with the higher offices. For disasters are pronounced by the central government, hence this may slow the process of giving aid to affected communities, since other actors will be waiting for a green light from the central government.

Also from the feedback from the respondents the researcher concluded that the CPU was very unpopular with the common people at the grass roots level. This can be attributed to factors that the CPU has no offices of its own, its activities are housed under the District Administrator's office, who is the chair of the District Civil Protection Coordinating Committee. Therefore people are not familiar with the office and in most cases do not know which office to call when a disaster hits.

However on the other hand successes of the department cannot be ignored. For instance the department has actively participated in the annual Zimbabwe Vulnerability And Capacity (ZIMVAC) assessments, surveys at household level in each and every ward in the district. The CPU has been commended for assisting the burial of the victims of Nyanga- Nyamaropa bus disaster who died because of the accident. Furthermore the District Civil Protection Committee played a pivotal role, in the rehabilitation and servicing of the Nyanga to Nyamaropa and Ruwangwe road. Grids were put in place on all areas which are dark spots so as to force motorists to reduce speed on approaching these areas, also road markings in the form of reflectors on tar marks so that in the evening motorists can easily see the road markings.

In the adverse of the effects of disasters and the levels of disaster preparedness here are some recommendations to the Civil Protection Unit at district level, in the case of Nyanga, is provision of functional early warning system to the local communities. This will enable the communities to be more disaster prepared and alert. Unlike the current situation as the findings have discovered that some locals lack knowledge on the common disasters affecting their communities. Yet local knowledge is important for effective disaster preparedness and management. Therefore the district civil protection should ensure provision of early warning systems in the district, for common disasters which are likely to reoccur. This will be of great importance because when the locals are knowledgeable, in the event of a disaster they will not fold their hands, but will respond even before they get rescue or relief from outsiders. Meaning from other

people who are not part of the affected area. Thus this will help in covering up some of the weaknesses and challenges being faced by the CPU at district level.

Secondly there is a need for active awareness campaigns all over the district, for all communities in the district are faced with various hazards. The communities should be aware of the common hazards in their area, which if not addressed or attended to will become disasters. From effective campaigns the communities will appreciate their conditions and will share their views and feelings towards disaster preparedness and disaster management in general. Again the feedback from the communities will also help the civil protection unit to be well informed and to familiarize with communities at the grassroots and appreciate their conditions.

Furthermore there is a need for partnerships with the private sector in the management of disasters. Since the private sector or business are also affected in the in times of disasters. Therefore by engaging with the private sector will add members to the current District Civil Protection Coordinating Committee, apart from those stated in the Civil Protection Act. This will beef up the DCPCC, and may improve its capacity in managing disasters and disaster preparedness.

Another critical recommendation, is the need to critically consider community based disaster management. The civil protection unit should make it a priority to engage and allow communities to fully participate in the management of disasters. Community based disaster management will be of great significance in covering up the current shortcomings of the DCPCC. Hence the concept of community based disaster management is more sustainable, when it comes to disaster management.

In the long run, it is recommended that the Civil Protection Unit, should establish its own offices at provincial and district level. This will work towards familiarizing the structure with the communities, and they will have a one stop centre where they can report on issues related to disasters. Besides reporting disaster cases these offices will be vital, as information centres concerning the general management of disasters. Currently there is no office of the civil protection unit, it is housed under the district administrator's office. Again the establishment of offices at will make the department be more familiar with the people which the institution intend to serve.

Secondly the DCPCC, should be granted the authority to declare disasters. Under the Civil Protection Act, it is the president who has the powers and authority to declare

disasters, so as to give the green light for other actors like donors and international agencies to help. The process to help the affected will be prolonged. Yet if those who are on the ground are given that authority to declare state emergencies, responses will be rapid.

Furthermore the DCPCC should be allowed to source funds even in times were there are no disasters, from various sources so as to compliment government efforts. It is the view of the researcher that this will go a long way in capacitating the department to well - equipped in terms of disaster preparedness and in the overall management of disasters. In addition the DCPCC should own its own equipment and materials. This will help in improved preparedness mechanisms as precious time will not be wasted people looking for equipment to reach out to the victims, like the current situation in Nyanga district, were the unit use equipment from other government departments, sometimes they are not available, due to various reasons.

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APPENDIX 1

INTEVIEW GUIDE FOR KEY INFORMANTS FROM NYANGA.

1. Which disasters the district is prone to or which occur frequently?
2. What were the effects of previous disaster experiences?
3. Who are the key actors in managing disasters in the district?
4. What is the role of the District Civil Protection Committee in managing disasters?
5. Are there any disaster preparedness mechanisms in the district?
6. Is the CPU effective in responding to disaster events?

APPENDIX 2

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR MEMBERS OF CPU NYANGA

1. What are the common type's disasters in Nyanga District?
2. What are the disaster preparedness mechanisms in the district?
3. Is the information concerning preparedness available?
4. Do you think the CPU is doing enough in terms of managing disasters in the district?
5. What has the NGOs in the district done in terms of disaster preparedness and management?
6. What are some of the challenges facing the CPU?
7. Any comments or suggestions on the CPU's preparedness and its role in disaster management?

