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I S D R Secretariat
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DISASTER RISK REDUCTION EFFORTS : ZIMBABWE

1. Zimbabwe has engaged in a process to review its legislation since 1995 in an effort to strengthen disaster risk reduction. The process has culminated in a bill for consideration by parliament this year, 2004.

- 1.1. The major provisions of the Bill include

- (a) Repeal of the current Civil Protection Act and to be replaced by the Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management Act.
- (b) Establishment of an Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management Authority whose major functions include
 - developing a risk reduction strategy in order to minimize vulnerability to both natural and man made or technological hazards.
 - establishment of an integrated early warning system for emergencies and disasters.
 - promotion of training and research in matters relating to disasters.
 - integration of disaster risk reduction into all developmental initiatives.
- (c) standardised training for emergency services
- (d) establishment of a funding mechanism for disaster risk reduction at both the local and national levels.
- (e) capacitating of local authorities to manage emergencies and disasters at the local level.

2. **Lessons Learnt From Disasters:-**

Zimbabwe has made attempts to integrate lessons learnt from past major emergencies and disasters, the following being the most significant.

2.1. **Cyclone Eline Induced Flooding:-**

Cyclone Eline induced flooding in 2000 resulted in significant infrastructural damage, injury and loss of human life and environmental damage. Lessons learnt included.

- (a) Development of a flooding emergency plan.
- (b) A community based training on early warning and risk reduction awareness on hazards related to the rainfall season. The training targeted flood prone areas of the country.
- (c) Increased attention to detail on siting, development and maintenance of infrastructure in view of the devastating effects of flooding due to cyclone Eline.

3. **Strategy to Integrate Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness into the education system of Zimbabwe.** The strategy was developed in an effort to promote a culture of prevention. Its purpose being to contribute to greater awareness of disaster risks and readiness for emergencies in the country. It has three major areas of focus namely;

- production of a comprehensive guidelines on emergency procedures for schools and other educational institutions.
- integration of disaster risk reduction into the schools curriculum.
- improve guidelines on the setting up/construction and maintenance of schools infrastructure.

The strategy was initiated in July 2003 and is one of the current major activities in the country.

4. **Other risk reduction measures:-**

There has been increased sectoral focus on disaster risk reduction particularly in the following areas:-

- **health** - disease control particularly HIV and AIDS.
- **environment** - strengthening of environmental impact assessment requirements and subsequent monitoring.
- **transport** - a greater awareness and focus on prevention of transportation accidents.
- **water** - general increased risk reduction efforts through water harvesting and an improved early warning system for floods and droughts.
- **food security** - greater awareness for sustainable food security measures.

5. There has been heightened awareness on hazards and their impacts by the general public. The media has also demonstrated a keen interest. A quarterly newsletter is produced by the Directorate on disaster management issues.

Department of Civil Protection Zimbabwe