REPORT ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN KIBITI AND RUFIJI DISTRICTS

24 JUNE 2024 -23 JULY 2024

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Heavy rains experienced in various parts of the country in the rain reason 2023/24 caused disasters in many parts of the country including Coastal region. Following the impact and damage of that floods in the area, the government decided to prepare short, medium, and long-term plans to prevent or reduce disaster impacts in the future. The government plan included conducting capacity building training to districts disaster management committes and preparing disasters preparedness and response plans. As part of the implementation of the plan, Prime Ministers Office in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized training workshop for Rufiji and Kibiti Districts Disaster Management Committes and coordinated risk assesment and preparation of a Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan and Strategies for Kibiti District.

2.0 PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PLAN

The activities that were planned to be implemented in Costal Region included capacity building to districts disaster management commitees in Rufiji na Kibiti and also conduct risk assessment and prepare Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan and the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for Kibiti District. The team of experts from Prime Minister's Office and DarMaERT arrived at Kibiti on the 19th day of June, 2024 to start the necessary preparations and work arrangements. The preparations included communication with local authorities about tha work plan, find and orient experts from the Kibiti Councl who would participate in risk assessment, identify places that were vulnerable to disasters and prepare a Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan and Strategies for Kibiti District.

2.1 District Disaster Managemnet Committees Capacity Building

Training workshops for the members of districts disasters management steering and technical committee of Rufiji and Kibiti Districts were conducted in order to enhance their skills and competences in disaster prevention, mitigation and response.

Training was organized so as to provide awareness to local government authorities on how to prevent and migitate hazards and also respond when disasters accur. Training conducted focused on the following areas:

(i) Concept of Disasters and Coordination Needs Assessments;
(ii) Disaster Management System;
(iii) Emergency Plan to Address Rainfall-Related Disasters;
(iv) Preventing and Managing Disasters;
(v) Disaster Management Assessment and Responsibilities;

(vi) Establishing an Emergency Operations Center and its Operation During Disasters;
(vii) Incident Management System and Disaster Operations; and
(viii) Theoretical and Practical Exercises on Disaster Management.

2.1.1 Rufiji District

Training in Rufiji District was conducted for five days from 24-28 June, 2024. It was opened on the 24th day of June, 2024 by the District Commissioner, Hon. Major Edward Gowele. A total of 80 members attended where 13 were members of the district disaster management steering committee, 31 were members of the district disaster management technical committee, 20 were councilors, 3 were division officers, 13 were ward executives, and the district disaster coordinator as per government Disaster Management Act No.6 of 2022.



Consultant from DarMAERT, Mr. Amin Mshana, providing practical training during the workshop



Some participants listening to various presentations during the training session.



Consultant from DarMAERT, Dr. Christopher Mnzava, conducting training during the workshop.



Coordinator from the Disaster Management Department, Prime Minister's Office, Policy, Parliament, and Coordination, Mr. Yona Benjamin, giving a presentation during the training session.

2.2 Kibiti District

Training workshop in Kibiti District commenced on the 1st day July, 2024 and was opened by District Commissioner, Hon. Colonel Joseph Kolombo. The workshop was conducted for five days and there were 63 participants. The members in attendance included 13 members of the District Disaster Management steering committee, 31 members of the District Disaster Management Technical Committee, 16 ward executives, and three division officers as per the Disaster Management Act No.6 of 2022.



Assistant Director of Operations and Coordination, Disaster Management Department, Prime Minister's Office, Policy, Parliament, and Coordination, Lieutenant Colonel Selestine Masalamado, explaining a point during the training session.



Pwani Region Meteorological Officer, Ms. Bibie Abdullah, giving a presentation during the training session.



Some members of the Steering Committee listening to presentations during the training session.



Some participants engaged in practical training.

3.0 Preparing the Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan and the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for Kibiti District.

Prior to preparing disaster preparedness and response plan and the disaster risk reduction strategy for Kibiti District**,** a risk assessment was conducted to identify disaster risks, the likelihood of being affected, and the community's capacity to prevent, prepare for, and manage disasters. Collection of data was done through interviews and focus group dicussions with indigenous people, local authorities at village and ward levels, government institutions operating in Kibiti, and experts from Kibiti district Council. Also, data was collected through observation and reading secondary sources such as district risk profile and disater related statistics.

Data collection was conducted for for five days from June 24-28, 2024 and involved a total of 17 experts from Prime Minister's Office, Kibiti District Council, and Coast Regional Commissioner's Office. Data was collected from 116 households in 13 villages, experts from Kibiti district Council as well as the government institutions operating in Kibiti District which include TARURA, RUWASA, the Fire and Rescue Force, Police Force and TANESCO. Furthermore, data collection and risk assessment wa conducted in the villages that have a history the recurrence of floods and strong winds. Such villages were as follows: Mtunda A, Mtunda B, Kikale, Mbuchu, Mbwera

Magharibi, Msafiri, Nyamisati, Mfisini, Kiomboni, Mchinga, Kiasi, and Tuasilie are the villages that participated in assessment.



Officer from the Disaster Management Department, Prime Minister's Office, Policy, Parliament, and Coordination, Ms. Wilfrida Ngowi, conducting interviews with some villagers to identify disaster risks in Kibiti District.

Risk assessment conducted in Kibiti found that the district is affected by three major disasters which are: floods, strong winds and marine accidents. Other mentioned but less frequent hazards include wild animals, drought, road accident, epidemics and land conflict between farmers and pastoralists. The details about major risks facing Kibiti and the villages mostly impacted by them are as follows:

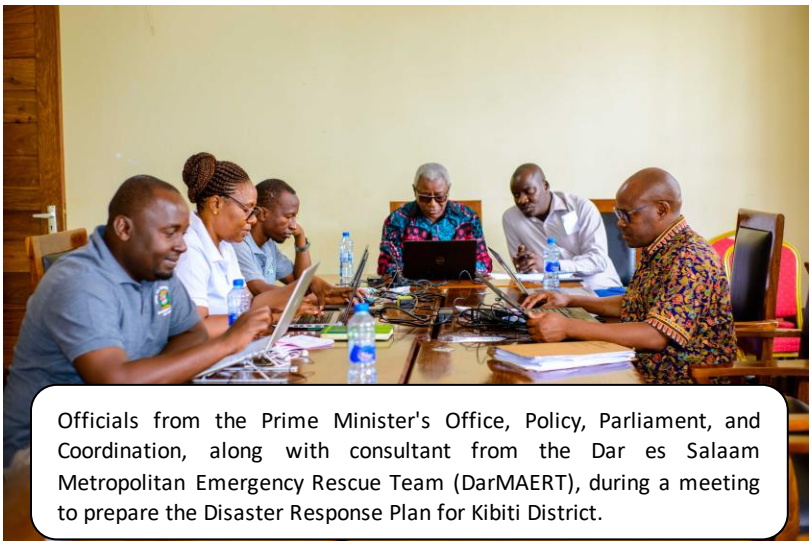
Floods: Kibiti District is at risk of flooding from the Rufiji River, affecting villages in the Rufiji River delta, such as Kiomboni, Nyamisati, Mchinga, Mfisini, Kiechuru, Maparoni, Mbuchi, Mbwera Magharibi, Mbwera Mashariki, Kiongoroni, Jaja, Pombwe, Ruma, Msala, Twasalie, and Kiasi. Villages like Mtunda A, Mtunda B, and Muyuyu are also affected, although they are not in the delta area.

Strong Winds: Kibiti District, bordering the Indian Ocean to the east, is at risk of cyclones and strong winds. The most affected villages include Msale, Kiongoroni, Mchinga, Mfisini, Nyamisati, Jaja, Kiomboni, Ruma, Pombwe, Mbwera Mashariki, and Mbwera Magharibi.

Marine Accidents: Kibiti District is at risk of water accidents due to fishing, transportation, and travel activities in the Rufiji River and the Indian Ocean, and some residents do not adhere to marine safety regulations. The most affected villages include Jaja, Pongwe, Mchungu, Mbwera, Nyamisati, and Msala.

2.1.2 Preparing the Kibiti District Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan:

Kibiti District Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan was developed to provide guidelines on how to coordinate and manage disasters in Kibiti District. It outlines the roles of all stakeholders involved in disaster issues in Kibiti District before, during, and after disasters occur.



Officials from the Prime Minister's Office, Policy, Parliament, and Coordination, along with consultant from the Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Emergency Rescue Team (DarMAERT), during a meeting to prepare the Disaster Response Plan for Kibiti District.

2.1.3 Developing the Kibiti District Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy

Kibiti District Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy was developed to provide guidelines on coordinating and managing disaster risk reduction in Kibiti District over the next five years (2024/2025 - 2028/2029). It outlines specific inteventions to be taken by the Disaster Management Committees (Steering and Technical Committees), various stakeholders, including government institutions, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, in preparing for and managing disasters.

3.0 Validation of Kibiti Disaster Managament Documents

After the risk assement was successfully conducted and the drafts of District Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan and District Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for Kibiti were prepared, a meeting was called that involved experts from Prime Minister's Office, project consultant, and Kibiti District Disaster Management Committees (Steering and Technical Committees) to validate the documents. The validation meeting was held on the 15th day of July 2024 at Kibiti District Meeting Hall and was chaired by the Kibiti District Comissioner Hon. Colonel Joseph Kolombo. All the recommendations that were presented by the members of the meeting have been included in the documents.

4.0 Luanching of Kibiti Disaster Managament Documents



Deputy Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), Hon. Ummy Ndarienanga was invited as the guest of honour to the launching ceremony of the Kibiti District Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan and the Kibiti District Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy. The ceremony was held on the 23rd day of July, 2023 at Kibiti District Council Conference Hall. Also in attendance was the Kibiti District Commissioner, Hon. Colonel Joseph Kolombo, the National Disaster Management Director, Brigedia General Hosea, Regional Administratrative Director representative Ms Edina Kataraiya, Mr Abbas Kitoga a respresentative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Kibiti District CCM Secretary, Kibiti District Member of Parliament representative, Ms Mariam Francis Katemana, Kibiti District Administrative Secretary, Mr Hemedi Magaro, Kibiti District Council Director, members of Kibiti District Disaster Management Steering and Technical Committees, Expert Facilitators from PMO-DMD and DarMAERT. Media groups were also involved in the launching.



The Guest of honor insisted on the proper use of the documents for mitigation, prevention and preparedness activities so as to make Kibiti District resilient from disasters. The document was then handled over to the Steering and Technical Committees Chairpersons, the Technical Committee Coordinator, Regional Technical Committee representative, Member of Parliament and CCM Secretary.



Earlier, the UNDP representative promised to continue supporting the governnent in Disaster Risk Reduction activities for Tanzania districts.





Addressing the vote of thanks to the Guest of Honor, the Kibiti Disaster Management Technical Committee chairman, promised to immediately make use of the documents by allocating budgets to the development plans yearly and scale down the plans to the ward and village levels respectively.

5.0 Conclusion

Preparedness and Response Plan and the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for Kibiti District and training to the Disaster Management Committees is a significant step towards building a resilient community against disasters. The training and the prepared documents (Preparedness and Response Plan and the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy) will enhance community and stakeholder participation, increase community awareness on disaster management.