

TITLE: MALAWI'S MAJOR LOSS AND DAMAGE OVER 5 TO 10 YEARS DUE TO CYCLONES AND CLIMATE CHANGE FACTORS.

Abstract:

Malawi is a country that is sandwiched by Tanzania to the north, north east, Zambia to its west and Mozambique to the east, south and south west. It roughly has a population of about 18 million and has two seasons, hot season and rainy season. It normally receives an annual rainfall of around 300 to 600 millimetres. Of late, she has started getting a fair share of rough weather patterns which in most cases is combined with very rough cyclones which originate from the Indian Ocean which is to the east of Malawi and Mozambique.

Of late, these cyclones have wreaked havoc resulting in incurring heavy losses and damage to human life and property. This has been the trend now for three to four if not even five years and beyond these years back.

Now the case study at hand which based on Malawi's major Losses and Damage for Over 5 to 10 years due to cyclones and climate change factors will try to unearth some major Loss and Damage which the country has witnessed over this said period. Firstly, Loss and Damage can roughly be defined as efforts that are made by governments, organizations and institutions as well as individuals to mitigate, avert and/or completely bring to an end any possible loss and damage to life and property as a result of the effects of climate change. In most cases, Loss and Damage make people fail to appropriately adapt or control these losses and damage as they come in an abrupt way that no can assume or dream of their impact of human life and property. Unfortunately, their impact is in most cases permanent and cripple human beings means of survival. This is what Malawi has witnessed in the 2022/2023 rainy season. Many people have suffered and witnessed massive loss and damage to life and property due to the first ever harshest cyclone Freddy that swept through Malawi during this year's rainy season. Other countries that have equally been badly affected by the cyclone are Mozambique, Zambia and north eastern part of Zimbabwe.

Climate Change factors coupled with other harsh weather conditions in waves of cyclones have pulverized or done more than the anticipated damage to Malawi this year alone. Other factors that contributed to all this are the quite-new weather phenomena like El Nino, La Nina and other but mild weather patterns now being received in this part of south eastern part of Africa. Loss and Damage have conspicuously been noticed in erasing to the ground capital infrastructure like health facilities such as one, the Nkhulambe Health Centre in Phalombe district and many more in almost all the 12 districts that have badly been affected by this notorious cyclone then roads and bridges in almost all the three regions of Malawi.

As if this is not enough, these cyclones and adverse weather conditions have also badly affected the Malawian community by erasing houses and other human-made infrastructure such as houses, stalls etc to the ground. Also equally affected is the standing infrastructure such as village natural forest areas, community farmfields etc to a great extent, have had crops like maize, sorghum, cassava, rice and livestock all swept away into rivers and streams leaving members of the affected families in total destitute and abject poverty. It can roughly be said that the affected 12 districts have suffered loss and damage close to and beyond 70% to 95%. The cyclone has left a very sad legacy that will go down the history of Malawi's cyclones witnessed in the 21st century.

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Malawi has three administrative regions and these are the southern, central and northern regions and going by each, out of the 13 southern region districts, 9 of them have badly been affected by Cyclone Freddy. It has witnessed the heaviest loss and damage to human life and property.

The second heaviest recipient of massive damage and loss due to Cyclone Freddy is the northern region which out of its 6 district three lakeshore districts of Karonga, Rumphi and Nkhata Bay. These have witnessed great damage and loss as a result of receiving unexpected heavier rainfall intensity that has been above normal. Some of the effects of this damage and loss as a result of the Lake Malawi's bursting of its lakeshore limits are beaches. These have really been affected as most resorts' chalets have submerged. Most of the beaches like Chikale Beach, Kukuwirwi, Kande Beach and other resorts in Kafuzira area north of Nkhota Kota district have also witnessed the loss and damages too. Then there's the central region which has received abit normal rains but with a very powerful whirlwind that has, though, caused minimal damage to property and human life as well as to to crops.

In the context of damage and loss, anthropogenic factors which are activities influenced or conducted by human beings. Their activities have been in such areas of deforestation and customary agricultural practices which have strongly contributed to the vast devastation of most areas in the flood prone areas. In terms of damage and loss, this has largely been experienced in the southern region where most communal homes otherwise referred to as villages, have been erased to the ground with sand and other debris burying people, livestock, trees and infrastructure of every dimension all but swept to the ground and buried with sand and mud.

Loss and Damage are in many forms but are directly linked to issues of adaptation and mitigation. However, any possible mitigation or adaptation measures do not get any effect mainly if there is no appetite for it because of the benefits from that damage and loss effect. This is true with effects of climate change which have over the past decade have been attributed to rich countries which pleaded with them to change on greenhouses, have shown utter reluctance because of the benefits which they realize from such damaging malpractice. Damage and Loss are a result of anthropogenic factors that are orchestrated by human activity. This has been noted in many ways forcing nature to fiercely now start fighting back as what has been observed in many districts in Malawi where Cyclone Freddy has shown its weight on damages and losses.

WHAT ARE THE FUNDING NEEDS IN RELATION TO ADDRESSING LOSS AND DAMAGE AND HOW ARE THEY DETERMINED (Amount and for what and for whom?)

Malawi funding needs are just so massive. These could in form of financial resources to help in

- the rebuilding of many government infrastructure such as roads, bridges, health and other public facilities.
- in relocation of communities or people who have to be moved to much higher grounds from lowlands which have now been known to be quite prone to flooding.
- bringing back potable water which should not have much turbidity to help in improving their health status
- providing them with soft loans and grants that they can start engaging themselves in smallscale businesses.

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- Cyclone Freddy has affected a total of 202,095 hectares in all the districts so far affected. So giving them agriculture incentives such as seeds, farm inputs such as fertilizers and implements such as hoes, etc can bring about a big chance in their livelihoods. These can definitely bring a formidable uplifting in their socioeconomic livelihood as they will start being food sufficient thereby weaning themselves off from reliance on perpetual food and incentives hand-outs, a kind of life which is associated with that of being in camps for unnecessarily too long.
- Emergency health kits to or for women
- Provision of health services
- Water storage containers accompanied by regular testing exercise

According to consolidated Report released in March, 2023 on Loss and Damage as issued by Malawi's Department of Disaster Management Affairs in the Office of the President and Cabinet, a total of 2 having the highest number of camps a, 267,458 (1,110,639 male, 1,156,819 female) people, translating to 523,564 households lost their crops and livestock.

The seconded recorded highest impacts was food security with 901,466 households being food insecure. In terms of shelter, 882,989 households had their houses either partially or completely damaged. From the population, a total of 659,278 people were rendered homeless and sought refuge in 747 camps with Zomba at 219 camps whereas other districts

Owing to all this loss and damage due to Cyclone Freddy, Malawi alone needs well over US\$800 million to be brought to her feet. This heavy loss and damage however continue taking place in many districts as torrential rain continue in some parts of the northern region.

WHAT ARE THE FUNDING SOURCES, INSTRUMENTS, CHANNELS AND ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET THESE NEEDS? WHAT ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE SOURCES /INSTRUMENTS?

Funding sources: Grants, Crowdfunding, loans,

Instruments: bank loans and international and local donors grants

Channels: grants, subsidies, business incubators-venture capital after training entrepreneurs

Arrangements to meet these needs: An arrangement will be made possible donors and how this very organization shall exit the donor-funded spirit as part of weaning itself off.

The most elective sources/instruments: fundraising methods such as holding Big Walks, Run For Support exercises, Raffle Draws etc.

WHAT ARE TRIGGERS FOR DELIVERY OF SUPPORT AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF RESPONSE?

Emergencies such as flashfloods, disease outbreaks such as cholera, covid19, Marburg diseases. All these in addition to other occurrences will trigger delivery of support at different stages of the response.

WHAT ARE THE DELIVERY MECHANISMS THROUGH WHICH SUPPORT IS REACHING BENEFICIARIES DIRECTLY (Such as at the local level).

Delivery mechanism of support always prove a challenge during an emergency. However, boats, canoes and any other water moving vessel is used to cross from one point to the other.

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Aerial moving vehicles like drones, helicopters and at times ropes tied between points acting as a line-reel rail are used to reach the hard to reach and marooned victims.

WHAT ARE THE MECHANISMS IN TRACKING SUPPORT PROVIDED AND WHAT ARE GAPS IN CURRENT SUPPORT ?

Tracking support to victims normally becomes an issue however proper and strict mechanisms can be put in place and these mechanisms are:

- Involve security agents to accompany every vessel and vehicle carrying support to the victims
- Use logging system which has to be ticked upon completion of offloading by the recipients clerk to counter-check
- Use drones which could be sending laser information back on distance, breakdowns etc to the final destination
- Deliberate policy on support tracking has to be put in place that any abrogation, much stiffer punitive measures are taken into action on the suspects.

EXISTING GAPS IN TRACKING SUPPORT

- Lack of policy of such activity
- Lack of mode delivery of support between place within which space pilferage could happen
- Lack of communication gap between two distant places

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF GAPS SUCH AS IN RELATION TO SPEED, ELIGIBILITY, ACCESS, ADEQUACY, ETC.

Speed gaps: This refers to delays or non existence of time expediency in the timely provision of support to the concerned parties to a situation. Bureaucratic tendencies are the major culprits in Speed gaps. Expediency matters most here but is not there. Removing stumbling blocks on Speed gaps helps in many areas of managing an activity.

Eligibility gaps: These are challenges that are normally met by management teams as those who do not qualify for a service do present themselves much quicker or frequent than those who unquestionably qualify for support. This is a challenge that has to be rectified.

Access gaps: This refers to lack of certain opportunities that are not yet there or are non-existent at all to people such as to access or acquire certain services in life. These also hinge on Rights of individuals who should have an access to health services, food, clean and water potable water, etc but this does not happen due to certain suppressive conduct of certain individuals in authority

Adequacy gaps: These refer to existing challenges that are not yet there but are supposed to be. These could refer to any subject matter that otherwise is supposed to be Adequate all the time but is not due to certain factors which might range from lack of enough financial muscle, inadequate availability of the items or materials from source etc.

HOW COULD COORDINATION, COHERENCE, AND SYNERGIES BE ENHANCED THROUGH THE EXISTING LANDSCAPE OF INSTITUTIONS TO ADDRESS GAPS/NEEDS AND WHERE NEW FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS ARE DEEMED TO BE A PRIORITY.

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There are a number of factors that can be put into play on strengthening coordination, coherence and synergies and some of those factors are:

- Ensuring that policies of various institutions on similar issues talk to each other which is not the case in many government institutions. Such coordination, coherence and synergy helps in not duplicating issues such as development projects in the same area
- Secondly, different institutions will have to run a different role which can be a way of addressing a would-be gap or challenge or need in a particular activity such as provision of health services. It could be a good policy in addressing health service delivery gap to only have one of three operating institutions. For example, in a mixture of three institutions of Water, Health and Lands, it could be better to leave health delivery roles to the mainstream institution, the ministry of health, water to the ministry of water and land allocation to the ministry of lands. It is such coherence, coordination and putting synergies on a single activity of supporting the vulnerable such as where displaced people are that help to achieve more without service delivery and is cost effective in many areas of such an operation.

WHAT ARE EXPERIENCES, BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNT IN THE MOBILIZATION AND DELIVERY OF RESOURCES TO ADDRESS LOSS AND DAMAGE IN PARTICULAR WHAT KIND OF CHALLENGES ARE COUNTRIES FACING WHEN IT COMES TO ADDRESSING LOSS AND DAMAGE-THESE CAN BE RELATED TO SPEED, ELIGIBILITY, ACCESS, ADEQUACY.

Mobilizing resources and delivery of the same makes one face a series of experiences both hard and smooth ones. This makes one to be:-

- engaging with workers or fellow workers regularly
- you become vulnerable to criticism, accusations and commendations
- have a need for holding meetings regularly
- Stay committed and focussed on the job
- reward efforts as no one likes his or her work unnoticed
- Seek and know or appreciate for having clarity on anything that is work-related
- holding Team responsible for any failure or success

LESSONS LEARNT: These are many lessons which one goes through on mobilization and delivery of resources. Some of the major lessons are theft, eligibility gaps alongside access, adequacy, speed and all those other gaps which you have to surmount by coming up with specific Rules and Regulations. You also learn as to how you can coordinate your staff to effectively deliver and see the recipients receive their earmarked goods. You also learn how to relate with donors and government officials on certain issues in order to form a strong and seamless synergy that cements a strong and smooth working relationship. There is a mixture of cultures and traditions which puts you on a much better position when dealing with people of different nationalities and cultures. The other but very important Lesson is in identifying existing and non conspicuous gaps that a quick solution is immediately found with speed to arrest such gaps in time. The other crucial element is Speed. Identifying such gaps saves many vulnerable people's challenges.

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HOW DO THESE CHALLENGES VARY BY ISSUE e.g. CLIMATE RELATED EMERGENCIES, SLR, DISPLACEMENT, RELOCATION, MIGRATION, CLIMATE DATA, CLIMATE RESILIENT RECONSTRUCTION AND RECOVERY.

There is a very big difference in level of impact on the underlisted issues and that difference is as follows:

Climate related emergencies: Climate related emergencies are those which give rise to heavy loss and damage to people's and animal life as well as to property. Malawi has just witnessed one, Cyclone Freddy which left behind a sorrowful trail after its attack on almost 12 to 13 of her districts. Rescue operations have been on the ground salvaging what they can be but in most cases such emergency rescue operations come much later after an emergency attack and in most cases cannot be averted. It is a catastrophe which knows no prior preparedness of one.

Displacement: This is a catastrophe that dislocates people from their usual homes as a result of a catastrophe. It effects massive loss and damage to people's property.

These usually happen in flood prone areas like in lowlying areas which have rivers and streams which when they receive heavy rainfall intensity bursts their banks and affect homesteads.

This has happened in Phaloni-Chiringa area in Phalombe, Mulanje etc.

Sea Level Rise : This is another big water overflow challenge which Malawi has suffered from due to Cyclone Freddy. Lakes Malawi, Chilwa and Chiuta as well as Malombe have had their shores ripped off to overflow because of the heavy rainfall intensity. Most resorts and other structures constructed close to these water bodies have been submerged. More of a great concern is the loss and damage in millions of hospitality structures in resorts. There has been a **Lake Level Rise-(LLR)** in Malawi like never witnessed before.

Relocation: Loss and Damage is a placement process of people who have been engulfed in a spiral of unexpected hardships such as floods, fire outbreaks, sea or lake water rise that they be on a higher and safer ground.

Migration: This actually affects the movement of people from one area to the other based on varying reasons. Some are economic asylum seekers like those risking their lives through the Mediterranean Sea, others migrating from Oromia region and other places of Ethiopia and Somalia trekking to South Africa through many other African countries.

Climate Data: A compilation of measured parameter of information that helps to give that information or a specified location or region such as on precipitation, temperature, wind speed and humidity.

Climate Resilient: This is a way of successfully coping with climate change factors while trying not to letting them get worse or unbearable towards man's survival. These factors include threshold capacity, coping capacity, recovery capacity, adaptive capacity, and transformative capacity.

Reconstruction: On climate changes related translation, Reconstruction refers to the process of bringing the damaged and lost property due to some climate change related catastrophe like cyclones. This concerns houses, roads, health facilities etc, economic losses that were affected by some weather related catastrophe.

Recovery: This is a process of salvaging some lost and damaged property due to some climate change factors. This is the most known activity practised by governments and institutions to

raise back to life lost and damaged property through reclamatory process. It is a good process as it gives relief to those affected. It leads to the recovery of damaged hospitals, roads, etc.





Samsung Quad Camera
Shot with my Galaxy M12