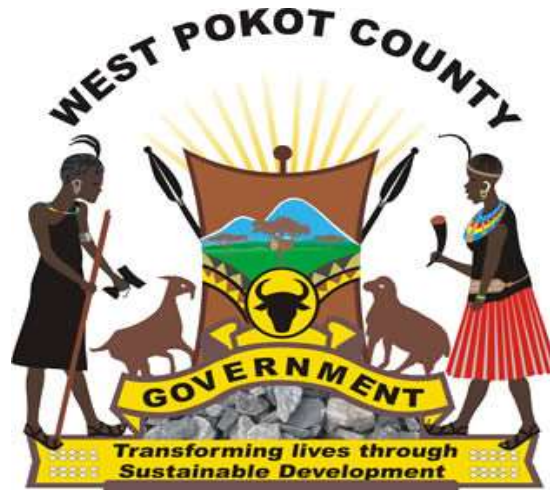


COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF WEST POKOT



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**MINISTRY OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION, PEACE BUILDING
AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

DRAFT WEST POKOT COUNTY DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

2017

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ASAL	-	Arid and Semi Arid Lands
CBOs	-	Community Based Organizations
CC	-	Climate Change Adaptation
CDMC	-	County Disaster Management Committee
CDRM	-	Community Disaster Risk Management
CDRMU	-	County disaster Risk management unit
CEWARN	-	Conflict Early Warning and Response Network
CGoWP	-	County Government of West Pokot
CSOs	-	Civil Society Organizations
DRM	-	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	-	Disaster Risk Reduction
EWS	-	Early Warning System
HIV/AIDS	-	Human Immune Virus/ Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
IGAD	-	Inter-Governmental Authority for Development
INGO	-	International Non-Governmental Organization
ISDR	-	International Strategy for Disaster Response
KFSM	-	Kenya Food Security Meeting
KFSSG	-	Kenya Food Security Steering Group
KRCS	-	Kenya Red Cross Society
M&E	-	Monitoring and Evaluation
NDMA	-	National Drought Management Authority
NDMU	-	National Disaster Management Unity
NDOC	-	National Disaster Operations Centre
NGOs	-	Non-Governmental Organizations
NPS	-	National Police Service
SDGs	-	Sustainable Development Goals
SWOT	-	Strength Weakness Opportunity Threat
UN	-	United Nations

DEFINITIONS OF OPERATIONAL TERMS IN THE DRM POLICY

Act of Parliament/County Assembly: A decision which has been approved by National Assembly (Parliament)/County Assembly and has received the Presidential/Gubernatorial Assent and so becomes law

Disaster Risk Management: The systematic process of using administrative directives, organizations, and operational skills and capacities to implement strategies, policies and improved coping capacities in order to lessen the adverse impacts of hazards and the possibility of disaster.

Disaster Risk Reduction: The concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events.

Disaster Risk: The potential disaster losses, in lives, health status, livelihoods, assets and services, which could occur to a particular community or a society over some specified future time period.

Disaster: A disaster is a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or society causing widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses which exceed the ability of the affected community/society to cope using its own resources.

Geological Hazard: Geological process or phenomenon that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.

Hazard: A hazard is a dangerous phenomenon, substance, human activity or condition that may cause the loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.

Natural Hazard: Natural processes or phenomenon that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.

Policy: The declared objectives that a government seeks to achieve and preserve in the national interest of its community. Consists of set of basic principles and associated guidelines, formulated and enforced by the governing body of an organization, to direct and limit its actions in pursuit of long-term goals.

Risk Assessment: A methodology to determine the nature and extent of risk by analyzing potential hazards and evaluating existing conditions of vulnerability that together could potentially harm exposed people, property, services, livelihoods and the environment on which they depend.

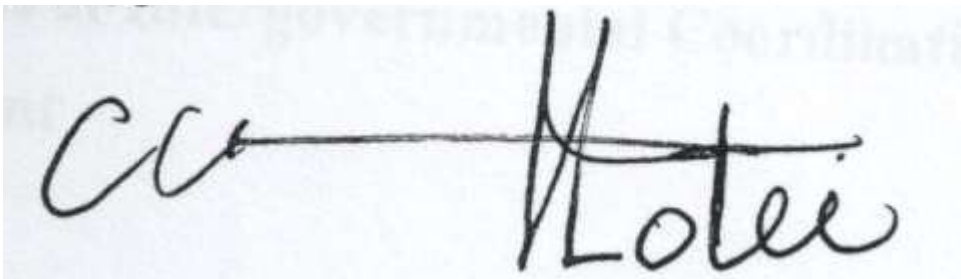
Technological Hazard: A hazard originating from technological or industrial conditions, including accidents, dangerous procedures, infrastructure failures or specific human activities, that may cause loss of life, injury, illness or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.

FOREWORD

West Pokot County disaster profile is dominated by droughts; fire, floods, human wild life conflicts, terrorism, road accidents, livestock, human diseases and cattle rustling that disrupt people's livelihoods, destroy the infrastructure, divert planned use of resources, interrupt economic activities and retard development. In the pursuit of reducing vulnerabilities to risks, the County Government has formulated this County Policy on Disaster Management to institutionalize mechanisms for addressing disasters. The policy emphasizes preparedness on the County Government, communities and other stakeholders in Disaster Risk Reduction activities. In this regard, the policy aims at the establishment and strengthening of the County Disaster Management department, partnerships, networking and mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in the development process so as to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable groups to cope with potential disasters. Department of Intergovernmental Coordination Peace Building and Disaster Management in the Office of the Deputy Governor will coordinate Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives within a unified policy framework in a proactive manner at all levels. Disaster Risk Management encompasses a full continuum from preparedness, prevention, mitigation, Response and Recovery. The Policy aims to increase and sustain resilience of vulnerable communities to hazards through diversification of their livelihoods and coping mechanisms. This entails a shift from the short term relief responses to a sustainable mitigation measures. The Policy will go a long way in saving lives, alleviating human suffering by providing sufficient and timely early warning information on potential hazards that may result to disasters. The process of drafting the policy has benefited from invaluable contribution from experts in various Ministries, organizations and members of the Kenya National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Our development partners also brought on board international disaster management experts who informed the final version of the DRM policy.

I take this opportunity to thank all individuals from various Ministries and Organizations for their contributions towards the development of this policy on Disaster Risk Management for West Pokot County. Its full implementation will contribute to the building of a safe and disaster resilient community in West Pokot County.

H.E Titus Lotee

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature consists of the initials 'CC' followed by a horizontal line that extends across the page, and the name 'Lotee' written in a cursive style below the line.

Deputy Governor West Pokot County &CEC, Intergovernmental Coordination Peace Building and Disaster Management

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

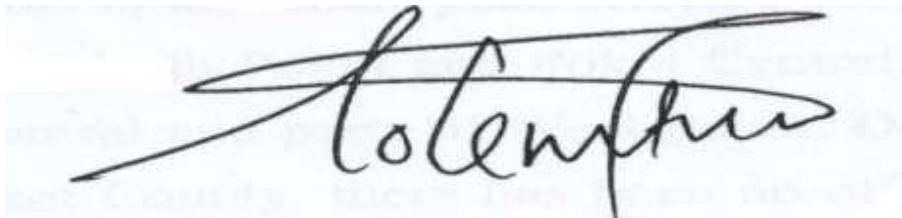
The conceptual need to formulate a comprehensive County Disaster Management Policy came to the fore this year; subsequently, starting January 2016, the process research for formulation of the Disaster Management policy for West Pokot County has been a collaborative, contributory process involving technical persons within the department. In particular, the department of intergovernmental coordination peace building and disaster management is indebted to the consultants, other county departments, stakeholders, and personalities who are in one way or the other is affected by disasters.

The Department, have already established County Disaster Management Act 2016, in place that support the department in county funds. This team, in partnership with various Development Partners and stakeholders, plan to have successive, analytical and technical workshops of various sizes and durations, to facilitate an effective review, from November 2016 to March 2017. The dutiful and committed application of their efforts and that of partners and stakeholders will particularly appreciated by the department, for, this document would not be a reality if views and concerns of the stakeholders and technical person is not considered.

The County disaster Risk Management Policy has been developed through a consultative process involving a cross section of disaster risk management stakeholders at all levels. Inputs and feedback received from experts from various organizations, feedback and comments from our partners have seen this DRM policy aligned to the new Constitution on role of county government in Disaster management.

I wish to appreciate the involvement, technical in-puts and guidance provided at every step of the development and reviews of this document by our partners. Their contribution formed a solid foundation the Policy which will provide a basis for building the much needed institutional capacity for reducing disaster risks and further minimizing disaster losses in the human, economic, environmental and social assets in West Pokot County.

Lolentum Joseph Timu

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lolentum', written over a light blue grid background.

**West County Disaster Management Officer
Department of Intergovernmental Coordination, Peace Building and Disaster
Management**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the decades of years, West Pokot has continued to face a rising degree of vulnerability to disaster risk. This risk is the probability of a hazard turning into a disaster, with households or communities being affected in such a manner that their lives and livelihoods are seriously disrupted beyond their capacity to cope or withstand using their own resources, with the result that affected populations suffer serious widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses. Communities are predisposed to disasters by a combination of factors such as poverty, aridity, perennial drought or areas with poor infrastructure and services such as poor road network. These factors, coupled with naturally occurring hazards such as droughts, floods, lightning strikes HIV and AIDS, landslides and epidemic outbreaks, among others, and currently propelled by climatic change phenomena, pose extremely high and increasing disaster risks to the community. According to the 2009 census, West Pokot population was at 512,690 and it's projected to be 732,416 at the end of 2016. The poverty index is also high and currently stands at 60%. The 2004 and 2011 drought, considered to be one of the worst droughts in the recent past, affected 300,000 people, decimated nearly 20%-40% of livestock in the North Pokot and Pokot Central. It also caused total crop failure in North Pokot, Pokot Central and parts of West Pokot. Despite this level of calamities being witnessed in West Pokot County, there has been no official policy and legal framework to guide disaster management in the county. This policy is therefore a deliberate effort towards ensuring that management of disaster risks in West Pokot County is hinged on legal and policy frameworks.

Chapter one outlines the goals and objectives of the policy as well as a number of other guidelines which are deemed crucial for effective implementation. They include principles for effective disaster management and the code of conduct expected of the different stakeholders involved in disaster management in West Pokot. It provides for the enactment of this Policy by the county assembly, accompanied by the appropriate legislative provisions. Innovative ways of mobilizing resources, managing them and accounting for them properly have also been suggested, together with a rigorous monitoring and evaluation framework which not only monitors the progress in the implementation of this policy but also gives provision for regular disaster risk profiling and monitoring for disaster prepared.

Chapter two presents the situational analysis of disaster management in the County. The chapter appraises County DRM SWOT analysis and evaluates its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges. It underscores the importance of mainstreaming DRM and climate change adaptation into development programming, need for strengthening collaborations and partnerships both private and public while enhancing the institutional frameworks citing clear roles and responsibilities of various departments and stakeholders.

Chapter three focuses on disaster risk reduction, research and learning. The chapter highlights features of an effective disaster management system, mainstreaming disaster risk management into sectoral institutions, climate change, decentralized DRM and disaster declaration; multi-hazard DRM, policies, research and learning, key ministries and institutions charged with vital disaster risk management functions.

Chapter four of this document discusses the policy, legal & institutional arrangements and coordination structures: enactment of the county disaster management policy the legal framework, disaster risk administrative structure; functions of the county level institutions and structures, civil society organizations, private sector, international organizations, community and volunteers.

The fifth chapter deals with resource mobilization, management & accountability, key sources of funding. Sources discussed include: exchequer funds, county disaster risk management fund, disaster trust fund, human and non-human resources and partnership funding. The chapter highlights the role of line departments in increasing financial and material resource allocations in order to mainstream disaster risk reduction in their respective line departments. It professes an audit of available equipment, both public and private and inventorying these in an easily accessible database. Similarly, the policy advocates for disaster management training needs assessments, professional training, skills development and public education and disaster management campaigns be strengthened to contribute to improved effectiveness of both policy and practice.

Finally, the sixth chapter covers policy implementation, monitoring and evaluation: policy review, monitoring and evaluation. It is paramount that all of the above policy statements and intends to be monitored and evaluated. Important also will be the monitoring of disaster risk processes and evolutionary trends in order to provide early warning and prediction lead times for more timely and effective intervention measures. It is crucial to note that while this

policy deals with all disaster risks, priority in terms of monitoring and allocation of resources will be given to the more common hazards such as drought, floods, landslides, fire, lightning strikes, cattle rustling, livestock and human diseases. In line with all of the above, the importance of West Pokot honouring, domesticating and implementing the various Intergovernmental, and International Agreements, Conventions, Treaties and Protocols, to which it is a signatory, cannot be gainsaid.

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Over the years, West Pokot County has experienced a variety of disasters broadly categorized into: natural disasters such as droughts, lightning strikes, strong wind/storm, floods, landslides and mudslides among others; human-made disasters such as fires, conflicts among others; and technological disasters such as road accidents, terrorism among others. The County has experienced an increase in the frequency of disasters as illustrated in the table below:

Table 1: Illustration of frequency of Disasters in West Pokot County

Year	Hazard	Magnitude/extent/ area covered	Causalities/impacts
2016	Terrorism	Kapenguria police station	Eight people died
	Violent Conflict	Chesegon –Pokot Central	Seven people died
	Lightning strikes	Kopkwopsis –Pokot South Lokwighi/Ywalateke	Three people died and 30 sheep, Eight cows and eight goats
	Fire out breaks	Makutano town, Chewoyet and Propoi Girls Secondary school	Business shops and school dormitories were totally destroyed
	Landslide and Floods	Keringet/ Chepareria	Displaced 30 people and completely destroy school latrines in keringet
	Human wild life conflicts		One person died at Orwo
2015	Lightning strikes	Tapach/Ielan/Chepareia/	About 8 people died
	Wind/storm	Riwo/Suam /Sook	many building irons sheets were blown off
	Landslides/Mudslide	Kerelwa/Orwo/kambi karaya	Displaced over 100 people and paralyzed transport
	Cattle rustling and	North Pokot and Central	system

	violent conflicts		Many people died and other displaced
2014	Drought	North Pokot/ Pokot Central and Part of West Pokot	Wide spread famine in those sub-counties
	Famine	North Pokot/ Pokot Central and Part of West Pokot	Wide spread famine in those sub-counties
2013	Floods	Pokot South	4 people died
2012	Cattle Rustling and violent conflicts	North Pokot, Pokot Central and West Pokot	Many people died
	Landslide Cholera out breaks	Tapach ward Kanyarkwat	12 cows died Two people died
2011	Drought and Famine	North Pokot, Pokot Central and Part of West Pokot	About five people died and hundreds of animals died
2010	Crops and livestock disease	West Pokot, North Pokot and Pokot Central	Hundreds acres of the farms destroyed and thousands of the livestock died

In many cases, these have resulted in an increase in the number of people affected and property damaged leading to rising economic losses. Disaster impacts have become an impediment to sustainable development in West Pokot County. For example, the 1984, 1991, 1994, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2008, 2011 and 2014 drought phenomena were the most notable in the last 30 years. They affected most parts of the County including some high potential areas. At its peak, in the late 2015; 359,411 people across most parts of the county had lost their livelihood and coping strategies and had to depend entirely on County relief food. It is estimated that the response to this drought cost the County government and other stakeholders over 500 million.

That notwithstanding, the above mentioned disastrous incidents were managed without the County Disaster Risk Management Policy. It is therefore, envisioned that the development of West Pokot County Disaster Risk Management Policy will go a long way in preventing,

mitigating and reducing disaster risks besides preparing the community for adverse events thereby enhancing resilience.

1.2 Vision

To be a safer, resilient and more sustainable West Pokot Community

1.3 Mission

To effectively perform disaster risk management efforts in West Pokot County while embracing multidisciplinary/interagency/community approach and other guiding principles in order to save lives, minimize loss of property; enhance preservation of the environment and safeguard sustainable development gains.

1.4 Objectives

- i. To establish a policy, legal and institutional framework for disaster risk management, including promotion of a culture of disaster awareness and building the capacity for community on disaster risk reduction.
- ii. To ensure that institutions and activities for disaster risk management are coordinated, focused to foster participatory partnerships between the County Government and other stakeholders at all levels including; inter-counties, National, Regional, and International
- iii. To promote linkages between disaster risk management and sustainable development for reduction of vulnerability to hazards and disasters.
- iv. To mobilize resources, including establishment of specific funds for disaster risk reduction strategies.

1.5 Guiding Principles

1.5.1 Multi-Sectoral Approach

Effective disaster preparedness and management depends on multi-sectoral planning. It is based on a rational assessment of disaster risks and the analysis of the vulnerability of the communities. Planning for disaster has to be undertaken at all levels; from the County to the village level. Long term adequate planning enables the county to be prepared for disasters at all times.

1.5.2 Community Participation

Individuals within communities have valuable information and resources to share on the likelihood, causes and consequences of disasters. Given that they have rights and obligations to participate in key decisions that affect their lives, they are called upon to prepare for and respond to disasters. At all levels, the county government will provide appropriate mechanisms and space for participation in all processes of disaster risk management.

1.5.3 Institutional Capacity Building

Effective West Pokot County Disaster Risk Management shall be based on constant reviewing and upgrading of institutional capacity to cope with disasters at county and community levels. Coping capacity shall be judged in terms of the equipment, resources, skills and knowledge required to undertake Disaster Risk Management.

1.5.4 Adequate Expertise and Technology

Disaster Risk Management requires integration of technical expertise, indigenous and modern scientific knowledge on hazards and disasters in order to develop cost effective approaches for mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The County Disaster Risk Management Committee shall engage relevant expertise and appropriate technologies to come up with an effective disaster preparedness and management capability.

1.5.5 Vulnerability Analysis

Disaster Risk Management depends on an accurate analysis and mapping of the vulnerability and susceptibility of communities to risks. It shall involve geo-referencing, mapping and livelihood zoning. Undertaking vulnerability analysis shall be part of the early warning system.

1.5.6 Human Rights Observance

Acknowledging that planning for and responding to disasters is a shared responsibility and partnership between the County Government and the people. The County government will strengthen good governance. The policy will integrate human rights in disaster risk management by way of avoiding all forms of discrimination and dehumanization. Human

rights are likely to be affected not only by the prevalence of disasters, but also by the Disaster Risk Management processes.

1.5.7 Social, Environmental and Economic Costs

The social, economic and environmental costs of disasters shall be considered by the public and private sectors during the planning and development processes. The socio-economic and environment impact assessments shall be undertaken to guide planning and budgeting for Disaster Risk Management. Research on the likelihood of disasters and the assessment of the likely social, economic and environmental impacts will be conducted regularly as an integral aspect of disaster risk management.

1.5.8 Climate Change Adaptation

The problems of climate change are real and the effects of global warming are already evident. Cognizant of the effects of climate change, proactive actions shall be undertaken to reduce the causes and the negative impacts of climate change. The County Disaster Risk Management Committee shall develop climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

1.5.9 Partnership and Co-ordination

Integrated and coordinated Disaster Risk Management is based on partnerships and collaborative ventures between all sectors of the county government, donors, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society organizations, the private sector and communities.

1.5.10 Public Awareness and Civic Education

Individuals in communities can only participate in disaster planning and management when they have updated knowledge and information on the likelihood of disasters and on the appropriate ways of responding to them. The media, community leaders and other stakeholders shall be called upon to create awareness on the relevant aspects of disasters and provide the necessary guidelines to do so.

1.5.11 Regional, National and International Partnerships

This policy acknowledges that disasters transcend regional, national and international borders. On this note, West Pokot County shall continue to subscribe to regional, national and international bodies related to disaster risk reduction. This policy shall promote participation in regional, national and international initiatives for the implementation of disaster risk management.

The implementation of this policy shall take into account the regional, national and international instruments relevant to disaster risk management. These include:

- i. The Sendai Framework for Action 2015 –2030
- ii. The Hyogo Framework for Action on Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA 2005).
- iii. The Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region 2006
- iv. The 2004 African Union Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction x. The African Union Convention on Protection of Returnees, IDPs and Refugees (2009)
- v. The UN framework Convention on Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol (1997)
- vi. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer of 16 September 1987
- vii. The IGAD Initiatives on Drought and Desertification.
- viii. The SPHERE Project, Minimum Standards on Disaster Response.
- ix. The African Charter on Rights and Welfare of the Child
- x. United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement
- xi. African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights 1991
- xii. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966

CHAPTER TWO

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

2.1 Introduction

This chapter contextualizes disaster management in West Pokot County, discusses the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges in light of the goals and objectives of this Policy.

2.2 The Current Disaster Management System

Currently, there exists both a National Disaster Management Policy and a Disaster Risk Management Act 2016 all at a draft stage. This policy has largely been informed by the two documents to address DRM issues affecting West Pokot County. It has also been informed by the current international initiatives and frameworks such as the Sendai Framework of Action 2015 – 2030; and the recently signed Paris Agreement on Climate Change Adaptation 2016. This policy takes cognizant of the important role played by both state and non-state actors in DRM including: KRCS, St. John Ambulance, UN Agencies, NGOs, INGOs, CSOs, private sector and the community in their various capacities.

2.3 SWOT Analysis of the Current DMR System

2.2.1 Strength

The existence of a County Disaster Management Act 2016 which establishes an efficient management structure for the management of disasters in West Pokot County. The Act enhances the capacity of the county government and other stakeholders to effectively manage the impacts of disasters and emergencies, and to take necessary action to prevent or minimize threats to life, health and the environment from natural and man-made disaster and other emergencies.

Further, it ensures that the county government effectively coordinates with other relevant agencies to mitigate the impacts of disasters and ensure transparency and accountability. The Act vests authority in persons to act during times of disaster and ensures the observance and implementation of directives given and initiatives taken by persons authorized under the

Act. Finally, it the act implements the mechanisms to reduce risks and hazards that may cause, contribute to or exacerbate disaster situations in the county.

2.2.2 Weakness

DRM as a devolved function at the county government level requires supportive legislative frameworks. Currently the policy on disaster management is not in place hence leading to duplication of efforts and wasteful use of resources. It also predisposes communities to greater risks and low levels of resilience. Similarly, in the absence of planned, coordinated action, prevention, preparedness and mitigation have not always been attained.

2.2.3 Opportunities

Devolution and public sector reforms offer opportunities for the County Government of West Pokot to reach out to development partners and likeminded organizations in reducing disaster risks and alleviating human suffering within its confines. Favorable factors that could be harnessed include: availability of donor funds in support for strengthening devolved units; existing policies and international frameworks that provide useful benchmarking grounds; support from established institutions of the national government such Meteorological Services, National Drought Management Authority among others.

2.2.4 Threats

Disasters are naturally transboundary in nature. As such, the county is likely to suffer from these events whose origins might not be necessarily in West Pokot. These include the tribal conflicts from the neighbouring country (Uganda) and counties (Turkana, Elgeyo Marakwet, Trans-Nzoia, Baringo); disease outbreaks (human and livestock); emerging issues such as terrorism and radicalization; landslides; lightening among others. Additionally, there seem to be weak inter-county, national, regional and international linkages. Without joint planning and response most interventions may remain largely ineffective.

CHAPTER THREE

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT, RESEARCH AND LEARNING

3.1 Introduction

This chapter ventilates into the arrangements for effective DRM policy and practice in West Pokot County, outlines the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders at different levels; and the critical role of research and lifelong learning loop in DRM. This policy further proposes the establishment of an autonomous management system and proposes an implementation framework and guiding principles for DRM in the County.

3.2 Constituents of the DRM System in West Pokot County

The DRM system in West Pokot County shall be enhanced in the following manner;

- County Government shall continue to play the lead role in the strategic planning and management of DRR/M, as well as the responsive management of the full disaster cycle within the county.
- It will play a key role in the participatory partnership between itself and development partners, international agencies, academic and research institutions, CSOs, and other bodies in relevant efforts towards DRR and DRM; and, finally,
- It will ensure availability of resources for DRM at all levels, from government sources and from development partners.

3.3 Policies, Research and Learning

This policy document recognizes the existence of other policy documents, which directly or indirectly address the concerns that this policy seeks to address. It is necessary to link with these policies in order to maintain coherence, consistency and harmony in County Government Policy. Therefore, efforts will be made to link with these policies, which include among others, various County integrated Development Plans and various policies, and legislations including Kenya's constitution.

Disaster risk management requires capacity building for undertaking relevant research using appropriate technology. This policy recognizes the need for comprehensive research on disaster and their management in collaboration with local, regional and international learning and research institutions.

The county DRM office will support research on the nature of disaster risks, disaster risk management best practices and climate change adaptation and promote linkages with the relevant learning and research institution and disseminate research findings to stakeholders.

3.4 Sectoral Organizations and Institutions Charged with Various DRM Functions

The day-to-day implementation of disaster preparedness and management activities will, in most cases be carried out by sectoral ministries, departments and other public and private sector institutions in collaboration with the Department of Disaster Risk Management in the Office of the Governor. In disaster risk management, complementary roles are performed by these Sectors and community groups right down to family units. These complementary roles relate to all phases of disaster risk management and not only to disaster response. Ultimately, disaster risk management is the responsibility of all citizens, not just those who have been identified in this policy here below.

(a) The Office of the Governor– Department of Disaster Risk Management

The Directorate of Disaster Risk Management is the lead agency responsible for disaster preparedness and management in CGoWP organizational arrangements. It shall coordinate risk reduction, prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response actions in the county in consultation with other line ministries, humanitarian and development partners and the private sector. The Minister responsible for disaster preparedness and Conflict management shall link the Office of the Governor to the Cabinet. The Minister shall make rules and regulations on the management of likely disasters and will present annual reports relating to Disaster Risk Management to the Cabinet. The Minister shall also link the Office of the Governor to inter-governmental organizations, the donor community, the private sector, regional and international organizations. The functions of the DRR directorate shall include:

- 1) Establish and Operationalize a County Disaster Information Centre
- 2) Carry out vulnerability assessment, hazard and risk mapping of the whole county and update the data continuously.
- 3) Develop a County Preparedness and Contingency Plan and update data regularly
- 4) Prepare Annual County State of Disaster Preparedness Report.
- 5) Develop and conduct disaster simulation exercises to test readiness of the public and staff to respond when a disaster strikes.

- 6) Create and maintain a county cadre of trained and qualified personnel dedicated to, or closely and directly involved with disaster management;
- 7) Arrange in-house and other training for public officers and employees of inter-governmental, nongovernmental and community based organizations who are permanently employed on, or who are directly involved with disaster management;
- 8) Promote general education on disasters, emergency plans and relief measures in county institutions as part of their safety knowledge, development, management, curricular, etc;
- 9) Run public hazard and risk awareness campaigns throughout the county;
- 10) Conduct active public relations and media briefing programmes on hazard and risk management;
- 11) Coordinate and implement government programmes and policies related to disaster preparedness and management.
- 12) Mobilize and coordinate resources to assist disaster victims and ensure restoration of their livelihoods.
- 13) Strengthen county government capacity to plan, implement and monitor disaster preparedness and management programmes.
- 14) Ensure mainstreaming of disaster preparedness and management policies and programs in line ministries, county governments the private sector and the other stakeholders.
- 15) Establish mechanisms and procedures for access and utilization of the contingency funds.
- 16) Develop and enforce implementation of operational procedures and standards for disaster preparedness and management.
- 17) Provide overall coordination of the implementation, review and monitoring of the DRM policy
- 18) Monitor the implementation of the Sendai

(b) *National Drought Management Authority (NDMA)*

The National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) is a public body established by the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) Act, 2016. It previously operated under

the State Corporations Act (Cap 446) of the Laws of Kenya by Legal Notice Number 171 of November 24, 2011. The Act gives the NDMA the mandate to exercise overall coordination over all matters relating to drought management including implementation of policies and programmes relating to drought management as follows;

(i) Drought Resilience

The Government recognizes that the key to effective drought management is to reduce risk and build resilience by investing in sustainable development in drought-prone areas and by mainstreaming risk reduction into processes of development planning and resource allocation. NDMA is currently addressing this through the following approaches:

- ✓ Mainstreaming drought risk reduction and climate adaptation into planning;
- ✓ Implementing social protection programmes with chronically food insecure populations and finally;
- ✓ Implementing strategic projects that reduce risk or strengthen preparedness for drought.

(ii) Drought Information

The Authority generates, consolidates and disseminates drought management and climate change adaptation information, and operates an efficient drought early warning system. NDMA manages and operates the drought early warning system and provides timely and credible early warning information on drought risks. They also coordinate and participate in twice-yearly, multi-stakeholder national and county food security assessments. The Authority publishes monthly bulletins that communicate the current drought status (normal, alert, alarm, emergency, recovery). They host the drought vulnerability database and have mapped the livelihood zones for the ASAL counties.

(iii) Drought Response

Under this component, NDMA has operationalized the Drought Contingency Fund within the proposed National Drought Emergency Fund in the event of severe drought. They also facilitate multi-stakeholder contingency planning in each county and provide contingency finance to counties against their plans. They also provide guidance and standards for all drought practitioners in Kenya. As part of response strategy, NDMA supports or carries out research on topics relevant to dry lands livelihoods which are key in giving direction and/or

contributes to policy formulation on issues relevant to the NDMA's mandate. They have developed systems that promote learning and accountability with stakeholders, particularly drought-affected communities. The NDMA regularly carries out public education and awareness campaigns with regard to drought response and resilience.

(iv) Coordination

Drought management is not a single-sector issue. It is a cross-cutting issue that requires collaborative action by a range of public and private sector agencies at different levels (national, county, and community). The Authority is responsible for the establishment, institutionalization and coordination of structures for drought management. Coordinates action across sectors and across agencies at all stages of the drought cycle at both national and county levels squarely falls within their mandate. They from time to time review existing coordination structures to ensure their relevance in Kenya's governance structures and promote networking and learning between stakeholders.

(c) National Disaster Operations Centre (NDOC)

National Disaster Operations Centre (NDOC) is currently based in the Office of the President. Its main functions are search and rescue in the event of a disaster including undertaking rapid assessments, collection and dissemination of data. NDOC also monitors disaster events on a 24-hours, 7-days a week basis. This policy now provides that the NDOC will focus on coordinating rapid-onset disasters and will work under the Response Directorate in the new Disaster Management structure. However, NDOC has limited capacity and, therefore needs strengthening to make it effective.

(d) National Police Service (NPS)

The creation of the National Police Service is provided for by the Constitution, the National Police Service Act 2011 and the National Police Service Commission Act 2011.

In accordance with the provisions, the National Police Service consists of:

- (i) The Kenya Police Service;
- (ii) The Administrative Police Service; and
- (iii) The Directorate of Criminal Investigation.

NPS shall be responsible for search and rescue, maintaining order, and providing support to emergency, recovery, and rehabilitation interventions in times of disasters as required. The

security forces are standby, organized and well equipped institutions located strategically across the county. They can be called upon at short notice to give a full range of support (rescue, transport and recovery) during emergencies. Most of personnel in each battalion are accorded training, knowledge, practices, appropriate logistics and equipment for the common disasters in the surrounding location; in addition to their formal military training.

(e) Kenya Red Cross Society

The Kenya Red Cross Society is a humanitarian relief organization created through an Act of Parliament, Cap 256 of the Laws of Kenya of 21st December 1965 as an auxiliary to both the national and county government of Kenya. As a voluntary organization, the Kenya Red Cross operates through a network of 64 branches and six regional offices throughout Kenya. Kenya Red Cross Society in West Pokot County in its community outreach programmes has been involved in all manner of humanitarian programs in the region.

(f) Lead Sector Agencies

The following are lead institutions/departments in disaster related ,they are

(i) Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries: shall act as a lead institution with respect to agriculture related hazards and associated disasters such as livestock diseases and crop pests and diseases as well as regarding addressing disaster induced shortages of animal feed and crop seed supply.

(ii) Ministry of Health and Sanitation: shall act as a lead institution with respect to food shortage induced malnutrition affecting children and mothers and also other human epidemics associated with disasters.

(iii) Ministry of Water, Environment and Natural Resources: shall act as a lead institution with respect to especially floods and other water supply, and water dams related hazards and associated disasters as well as act as a lead institution with respect to geological hazards and related disasters such as seismic and volcanism (earthquakes and volcanoes), landslides and slope failure and shall act as a lead institution especially with respect to forest and bush fire as well as climate change and environmental pollution related hazards and associated disasters.

(iv) Inter-Governmental, Coordination, Peace Building and Disaster Management: shall act as a lead institution with respect to both natural and man-made disasters.

(v) Ministry of Roads and Public Works: shall act as lead institution with respect to transport service related hazards and associated disasters.

(vi) Ministry of Lands and Housing: shall be a lead institution with respect to urban infrastructure and building and other constructions related hazards and associated disasters and other urban disasters, including fire, urban floods and Building collapse

(vii) Ministry of Education: shall be a lead institution with respect to measures necessary to be taken before, during, and after the disaster period to prevent any hazards and related disasters from interrupting the normal teaching learning process as well as regarding mainstreaming of disaster risk management into school curricula and integrating it into studies and researches conducted by research and higher learning institutions levels.

(viii) Ministry of Finance: shall be a lead institution with respect to provision of financial resources to support disaster risk management cycle informed by the early warning information available at the county

CHAPTER FOUR

RISK REDUCTION AND RESPONSE STRATEGIES

4.1 Introduction

This chapter will look at policy strategies on disaster risk reduction, the approaches in realization of sustainable Risk Reduction initiatives.

Disaster Risk Reduction is a systematic approach aimed at minimizing vulnerabilities and disaster risks throughout a society, to avoid or to limit the adverse impacts of hazards, within the broad context of sustainable development. The disaster risk reduction framework is composed of the following fields of action:

- i. Risk awareness and assessment including hazard analysis and vulnerability/capacity analysis;
- ii. Knowledge development including education, training, capacity building and information;
- iii. Public commitment and institutional frameworks, including organizational, policy, legislation and community action;
- iv. Application of measures including environmental management, land-use and urban planning, protection of critical facilities, application of science and technology, partnership and networking, and financial instruments;
- v. Early warning systems including forecasting, dissemination of warnings, preparedness measures and response capacities.

4.2 Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management System

Reducing disaster risk and effects of disaster can only be possible through building resilience to withstand impacts of hazards and related disasters and by providing timely and appropriate response to disasters. However, when we look into the existing disaster prevention and preparedness system, despite the fact that DRR/resilience strategies and other related programs, which serve as typical instruments to reduce disaster risk and build resilience to withstand impacts of disasters, are being implemented as part of the system, the policy will focusing on local community, while the response operation predominately has been concentrated on saving lives through provision of relief assistances after the occurrence of the disaster. Therefore, to reduce disaster risk and damages caused by disasters by implementing the necessary response interventions throughout disaster phases in a timely

manner and with the involvement of all concerned actors, a comprehensive disaster risk management system that concentrates on multi-hazard and multi-sectoral approaches shall be established by moving away from a disaster management system, which mainly focuses on provision of emergency relief assistance to the local community to building community resilience through DRR,CMDRR and ITK strategies, which is sustainable initiatives in mitigating effects of disasters

4.3 Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management into Sectoral Institutions

Effective Disaster Risk Management System can only be achieved if disaster risk management is mainstreamed into every Sectoral development plan. Disaster risk management is a cross cutting issue and the responsibility of multiple Sectoral institutions and thus concerned departments must implement it by integrating it into their regular development activities. Looking into the current context of the county, however, the policy will ensure that line departments shall mainstream DRR activities into its annual development plan. Unless disaster risk management is considered as integral to development plans of sectoral institutions, it can be difficult to ensure continued achievements in County development. Therefore, disaster risk management shall be mainstreamed into development plans of County and National government institutions and private sector organizations.

- A mechanism shall be established for ensuring the mainstreaming of disaster risk management into government development policies, strategies, plans and programmes.
- A proper structure shall be put in place in every designated lead sector for County government departments to facilitate the implementation of sector specific disaster risk management activities.
- Disaster risk management shall be integrated into County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP).
- It shall be ensured that disaster risk management is mainstreamed into operational plan of the private sector and annual work plan.

4.4 Early Warning and Disaster Assessment Information Informed Response

Providing response on the basis of early warning and disaster assessment information enables resources allocated for response to be properly utilized for the intended purposes

and, in the event of a disaster, to save lives and livelihoods by providing timely and appropriate response by properly identifying areas and people in need of emergency relief assistance.

Therefore, response shall only be provided on the basis of early warning and assessments conducted during the disaster period.

- Based on the disaster risk profile, area specific multihazard and multisectoral early warning system shall be established and strengthened.
- A mechanism that enables sectoral early warning systems to complement each other and exchange information in a uniform and regular manner shall be established.
- Disaster risk profile informed contingency plan development shall be an integral part of the early warning system.
- A mechanism shall be established to integrate the early warning activity into the Emergency Response Coordination Center, which will be supported with information and communication technologies that are linked to concerned sources of information.
- A mechanism for conducting after action review shall be established for ensuring effectiveness of responses provided before, during, and after the disaster period.
- Early warning and disaster assessment based response shall be provided to enable prioritization of the needs of the affected population. Free emergency relief assistance and recovery and rehabilitation support will only be provided to those labour poor elderly, children, pregnant and lactating women, people with disability as well as to those people confirmed unfit for work due to illness.
- To eliminate a dependency syndrome by bringing attitudinal change, up-to-date information regarding disaster response shall be disseminated to the public using educational institution, civil societies, and the mass media.

Executive organs shall be involved in providing up-to-date information to the public regarding disaster response.

4.5 People Centred–Early Warning

Providing early warning information on an impending disaster to population at risk in an appropriate manner helps to reduce the possibility of loss of life, injury, damage to property and environment and loss of livelihoods. A people Centred early warning system will be developed with full participation of local people from both men and women.

- i. Early warning information will be reviewed, collected and analyzed in collaboration with respective institutions responsible for hazard analysis and disseminated to the users.
- ii. The policy requires the establishment of a County Early Warning System that will involve all stakeholders with regard to information provision, analysis and decision-making.
- iii. Early warning information will be linked to risk identification, monitoring and analysis, dissemination and communication of risk information and disaster response capabilities.
- iv. A dissemination and communication strategy on early warning system will be developed to ensure information on impending threats reach and serve people at community level to minimise losses from disaster impacts.

4.6 Disaster training institute

The County DRM office shall support establishment of a disaster training institute as a long time measure to provide comprehensive disaster management knowledge and skills to enhance the capabilities of disaster management executives and professionals. However as a medium term measure, an appropriate institution to conduct the training on disaster risk management will be selected by DRM office.

4.7 Mitigation through development

Hazards such as floods, pest’s disease and droughts do not make a disaster on their own. It is inability of a population to cope with hazards that transforms them into a disaster. Mitigation measures will aim at increasing the coping ability to the risks of greater probable impacts. The Policy will ensure that disaster risk reduction activities are mainstreamed in the county plans and policies with appropriate budgetary allocation including but not limited to Vision 2030, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, SDGs, Ending Drought Emergency by 2022 (EDE), among others.

The County Disaster Risk Management Policy will give priority to factoring DRR into development planning in order to enhance the societal capacity to withstand the adverse effects of disasters. Disasters risk management includes a development-based set of

activities aimed at reducing vulnerability within populations that are at risk to particular hazards.

This policy will therefore ensure that adequate measures are put in place to prevent the onset of a disaster and to respond to disasters when they occur, thus minimizing their negative effects and threats to development.

4.8 Community coping mechanisms

Coping mechanisms are proactive measures as well as responses of an individual, group or society to challenging situations. These mechanisms include revival and application of indigenous knowledge and technologies into disaster management coping strategies. This policy will recognize that conflict prevention and natural resource management can go a long way in enhancing the symbiotic relationship and exchange of information between different areas.

4.9 Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR)

The policy will utilize CMDRR) approach that will empower local community with knowledge and skills on disaster risk reduction for sustainable and self-ownership of DRR strategies. The policy shall integrate CMDRR activities into its annual work plan and CIDP. The policy shall establish committee at grass root level that can strengthen Community disaster risk reduction strategies. The CMDRR activities shall be designed to reduce poor communities' risk and vulnerability to disasters and enable them to prepare for future disasters by strengthening traditional coping mechanisms through capacity building. Community in West Pokot being solely dependent on livestock as the main source of livelihood, which is always threatened by natural and Man-made disasters. The policy shall provide communities with capacity to develop their own assessments, make their own plans and organize their resilience by strengthened in a way they perceive as needed. Not only through efforts within their own community (for example raising money among community members for rescue or protection items) but also through raising their voice as one united community with other stakeholders (for instance the government) claiming assistance in reducing the risk they live in. Only together disaster risk can be reduced and resilient communities can be created if community is empowered with knowledge and skill on DRR.

The policy shall help Community action plans to fill the identified capacity gaps, including contingency, development plans, establishment of CMDRR structures, designed and implemented by community members. By this, means disaster risk will be reduced tremendously. The intervening NGO or government takes a facilitating role in this, but it is not the main actor, this is the community itself.

CHAPTER FIVE
POLICY, LEGAL & INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, ORGANIZATIONAL
STRUCTURES

5.1 Introduction

This chapter provides the policy, legislative and institutional arrangements for Disaster Management in West Pokot County. These arrangements seek to bridge the inadequacies in the present disaster management system. The proposed institutional framework includes the establishment of County Disaster Management Unit, its roles and responsibilities and its relationship with other institutions and their structures down to the community level. The framework should facilitate coordination and collaborative relationships among stakeholders.

5.2 Enactment of the County Disaster Risk Management Policy

The enactment of this policy will provide the basis for the Institutional and Legal Framework for Disaster Risk Management in West Pokot County.

5.2.1 The Legal Framework

A legal framework has been already established through an Act of County Assembly (*The West Pokot County Disaster Management Act, 2016*) which has provisions for the following:-

- The establishment of the County Disaster Management Unit and all other disaster management structures and committees.
- The powers, functions and funding of the Unit.
- The activation of Disaster Management Plans to provide immediate assistance to disaster victims even in the absence of a disaster declaration.

5.2.2 West Pokot County Disaster Risk Management Administrative Structure

The organizational structure for Disaster Management in West Pokot County is presented as in the Chart below. The functions of the county level committees within the system are also succinctly described.

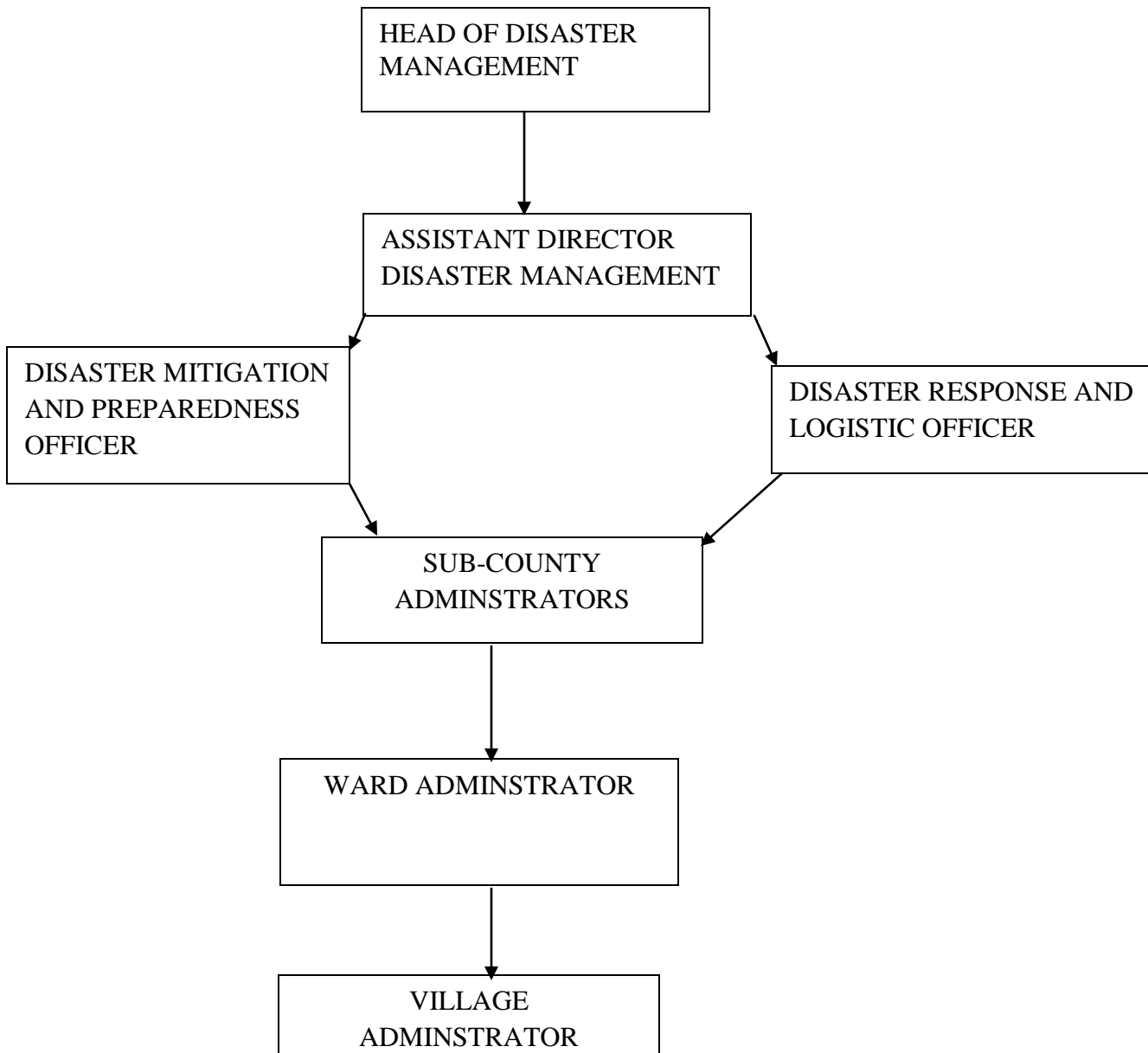


Figure 5.1: Proposed Administrative Structure for CGoWP

5.3 County Level Institutions and Structures

5.3.1 County Disaster Risk Management Committees (CDRMC)

The County Disaster Risk Management Committee (CDRMC) shall be established in the West Pokot County. The CDRMC will comprise of Heads of County Government departments/ministries, UN/NGO agencies, CSOs, the private sector, Faith Based Organization and the media operating in the county.

- The CDRMC shall be chaired by the County Governor with the County Disaster Management chief officer disaster management is the Secretariat.
- The responsibility for declaring a county level disaster will rest with the CDRMC

5.3.2 Functions of the CDRMC

- i. Advice the County Government on matters relating to DRM;
- ii. Formulate the County DRM Plans and Policy in line with the National Plans and Policies;
- iii. Promote civic education, public awareness, training and capacity building on DRM in the county including in schools;
- iv. Advice the County Government on all financial matters in relation to DRM;
- v. Promote an integrated and coordinated approach to DRM in the county with special emphasis to prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery by other role players involved in DRM in the county;
- vi. Collaborate with the national government and relevant agencies on matters relating to DRM;
- vii. Act as a repository and conduit for information concerning:
 - a) Damage and loss arising from disasters;
 - b) Impending disasters; and
 - c) DRM in the county.
- viii. Act as an advisory and consultative body on issues concerning DRM in the county
- ix. Initiate and facilitate efforts to mobilize funds of DRM in the county
- x. Promote research and innovation on DRM in the county

CHAPTER SIX
COORDINATION STRUCTURES

6.1 County Disaster Risk Management Coordination (CDRMCO)

There shall be a CDRMCO office in West Pokot County. A County Disaster Risk Management Coordinator will be recruited to manage the CDRMCO. The Coordination office will comprise of three units: Disaster Risk Mitigation; Response, Recovery and Rehabilitation; and Finance and Administration. Each of the units will be staffed with qualified and competent officers. This shall form the county disaster management office.

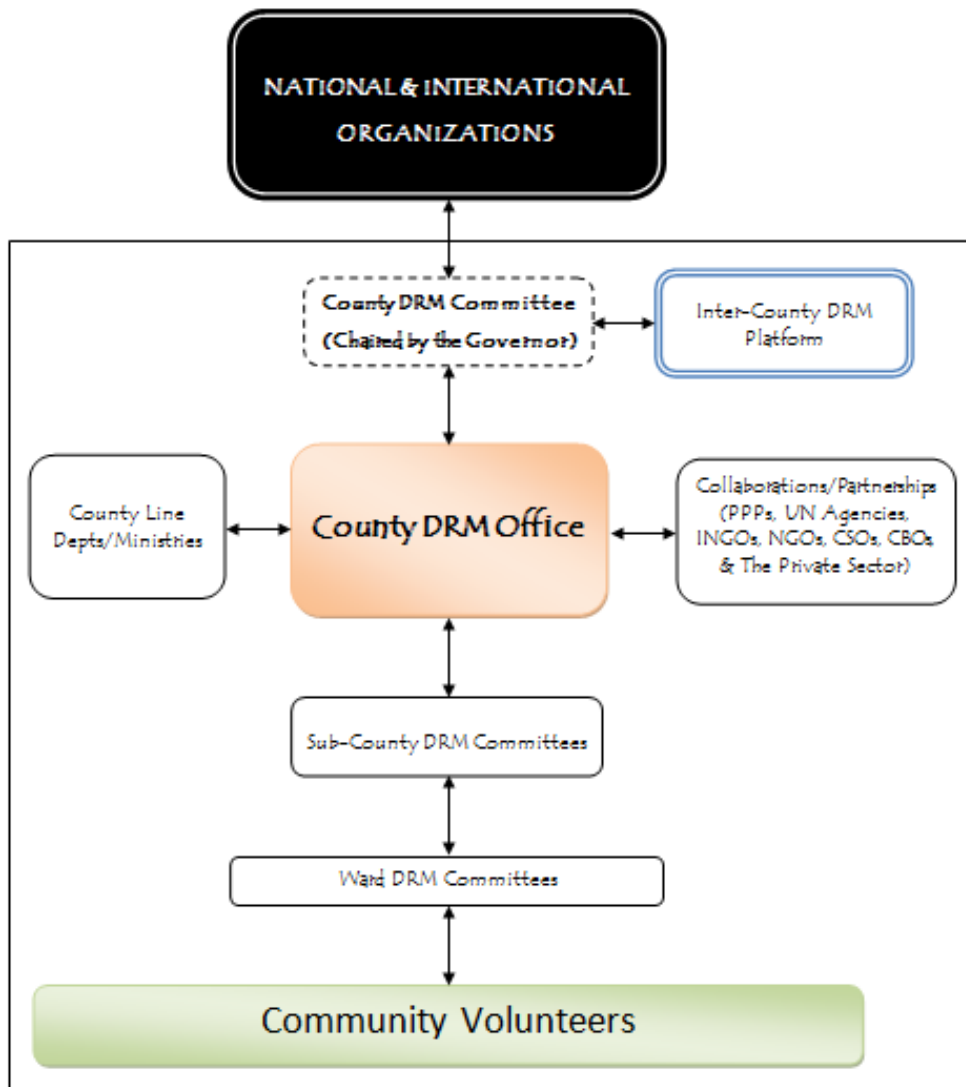


Figure 6.1: Proposed DRM Coordination Structure for CGoWP

6.2 County Disaster Risk Management Committees (CDRMC)

A County Disaster Management Committee (CDRMC) shall be established in West Pokot County. The CDRMC will comprise of Head of Government Departments/Ministries, UN Agencies, NGOs, CSOs, Private Sector, FBOs and the Media operating in the county.

The CDRMC shall be chaired by the County Governor with the County Disaster Management Chief officer who shall be the Secretary.

The responsibility for declaring a county level disaster will rest with the Governor

The responsibilities of the CDRMC will include:

- i. Ensuring that DRR is mainstreamed in all county strategies, policies and plans across all sectors and agencies.
- ii. Coordinating emergency response in the County in partnership with local and international partners.
- iii. Operating the county/sub-county early warning communication system.
- iv. Coordinating compilation of county/sub county disaster contingency plans
- v. Administering and accounting for disaster funds.
- vi. Appointing lead and partner agencies through memoranda of understanding, to be responsible for coordinating emergency responses in their areas of jurisdiction.
- vii. Conducting inventory on the response capacity of the emergency services and disaster experts including volunteers.
- viii. Working with other committees to support community in DRM.
- ix. Organizing and participating in DRM education and training needs assessment in conjunction with local experts, volunteers and trained personnel.
- x. Monitoring and evaluating DRM activities in the provinces.
- xi. Coordinating training and public awareness activities.
- xii. Coordinating DRR activities and main streaming them in development plans.
- xiii. Cross border cooperation and coordination between County Governments on issues pertaining to disaster management and risk reduction.

- xiv. Ensure that coordination structures for DRM is established at sub-county and village level
- xv. Provide policy guidance and set County priorities for DRR
- xvi. Undertake the review of the DRM policies, laws and strategies
- xvii. Ensure that there is adequate capacity and resources to undertake DRR interventions
- xviii. Approve allocation of County resources and supplementary request for disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery
- xix. Review the status of the County disaster situation and provide guidance to reduce risk and vulnerabilities
- xx. Declare County disasters, through the governor.

6.3 Functions of the County Disaster Risk Reduction platform

There shall be a County Disaster Risk Reduction platform. The Platform will be chaired by County Disaster Management Coordinator.

There shall be a County Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (CPDRR) comprising of focal point technical officers from line ministries, UN agencies, NGOs and relevant stakeholders to be chaired by the county Coordinator NDMA.

Members of the CPDRR shall consist of Directors from all the line Ministries as well as Head of UN agencies, NGOs, Private Sector Organisations, Civil Society Organisation, Academia and Research Institutions, Media Houses, KRCS, SJA among others. The Coordinator shall co-opt other relevant organizations and institutions as well as established voluntary organizations or associations to the CPDRR. The Chair of the CPDRR can create sub-committees to the County Platform as may be deemed necessary.

The CPDRR shall have the following functions:

- i. Coordinate, map out and keep track of the interventions being carried out by various stakeholders.

- ii. Develop standard operating procedures and guidelines for all DRR actors at the national level
- iii. Develop national preparedness, contingency and response plans
- iv. Design joint strategies and work plans for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national DRR policies, plans, and strategies
- v. Mainstream DRR in all their operations, plans and strategies
- vi. Receive regular updates from DRR stakeholders
- vii. Organize annual events to celebrate and create Disaster Risk Reduction awareness
- viii. Compile on annual basis national disaster status report as well as prepare progress reports on the implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action
- ix. Network and share information, experiences and technical expertise nationally, regionally and internationally
- x. Mobilize human, financial and material resources to undertake DRR interventions. The human resources will include both international and national experts and volunteers
- xi. All members of the CPDRR shall on annual and quarterly basis submit to CDRMC complete details of their plans, implementation performance as well as their financial and material contributions to DRM
- xii. Meet at least six times in a year. The intervals of the meetings shall be determined by the county Disaster Risk management coordinator CDRMC and agreed by all members of the CPDRR.

6.4 Functions of the Sector Working Groups at the County Level

The DRM Policy recognizes the important roles that line ministries play before, during and after disasters have occurred. This policy further mandates all the line Ministries to establish DRM units (DRMUs) and to appoint DRM focal points (DRMFP) within their Ministries who will play the lead role in mainstreaming DRR in their respective ministries. The Line ministries shall make provisions within their budgets or mobilize such resources to undertake DRR work within their own ministries. The following Line Ministries are given specific responsibilities as follows:

- i. Ministry of intergovernmental coordination peace building and Disaster management: Responsible for the County Disaster Risk Management (CDRMC).
- ii. Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries: Responsible for mitigating hazards that affects crops, livestock, fisheries and food security
- iii. Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources: Responsible for climate change mitigation and adaptation, floods, water supply and natural resource management.
- iv. Ministry of Health: Responsible for disaster induced human health problems such as epidemics and malnutrition as well as disasters that affects hospitals and health centres
- v. Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure: Responsible for all transport related disasters on road, water and air as well as infrastructure collapse and damages
- vi. Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development: Responsible for hazards related to urban infrastructure development and fire
- vii. Ministry of Education : Responsible for mitigating against disasters that affects the schools and schooling
- viii. Ministry of Tourism and culture: Educating the community on harmful cultures e.g. FGM, Cattle rustling,
- ix. Ministry of trade and industry-Ensuring the safety of the products
- x. Ministry of public works: Building disaster resilient infrastructure and enforcing the building codes

6.5 Sub-County & Ward Disaster Risk Management Committee (SC/WDRMC)

Each Sub-County and Ward will establish a Disaster Management Committee to manage disasters that occur within the Sub-County/Ward. The Committees will bring together resources from ministries, civil society organizations, the private sector, development partners, volunteers and other stakeholders operating in the Sub County/Ward.

The SC/WDRMC will be chaired by the Sub County Administrator and supported by Sub county disaster management staff, private sector, civil society, CBOs and frontiers. In circumstances where non-governmental partners maintain greater capacity than the County in a given Sub county, then the chair of the committee may delegate incident command, preparedness planning and recovery responsibilities to such organizations.

For purposes of disaster management, the SC/WDRMC will be responsible for:

- i. Coordinating emergency disaster preparedness and response in the sub counties under the guidance of the SC/WDRMC.
- ii. Establish and operate the ward/sub county early warning system.
- iii. Coordinating compilation of sub county disaster contingency plans including transport and logistics.
- iv. Resource mobilization and administering disaster funds.
- v. Conducting inventory on the response capacity of the emergency services providers and disaster experts including qualified volunteers.
- vi. Organizing and participating in DRM education and training needs assessment in conjunction with local experts, qualified volunteers and trained personnel.
- vii. Monitoring and evaluating DRM activities in the counties and sub counties.
- viii. Coordinating disaster reduction training and public awareness activities.
- ix. Coordinating the mainstreaming of DRR activities in development plans.
- x. Support mobilization of resources for disaster management functions

6.6 Civil Society Organizations

CSOs in West Pokot County have significant levels of capacities and resources to apply to all phases of the disaster management cycle. Many of these CSOs have decentralized structures, building capacity across the county. The county government shall work closely with well-established organizations with mandate for DRM through Acts of parliament such as the KRCS, NEMA and NDMA which under this mandate are auxiliary to the county government in disaster management related issues.

6.7 Private Sector

The private sector including the local media, Business community, private health providers, academic institutions and other professional bodies will be expected to assist with available human and material resources before, during and after disaster in addition to playing a significant role in the process of advocacy, public education, scientific and technical knowledge sharing and expertise and awareness. The sector is responsible for prevention of disasters by upholding human, industrial and environmental safety within their jurisdiction. NDMA will work closely with this sector to incorporate it in risk reduction programmes, contingency planning, and relief and recovery operations.

6.8 International Organizations

West Pokot County is a host of a number of international organizations which play a critical role in disaster management and risk reduction. The Government of West Pokot County will play the leading role through setting standards and the regulatory framework for effective and efficient implementation of risk reduction programmes but appreciates the support of international organizations.

The International organizations shall play the following roles

- i. Contribute to county DRM strategy.
- ii. To be part and support coordination of manpower and technical knowhow structure through the team.
- iii. To be part of the implementation team by supporting the projects under DRR.
- iv. To contribute knowledge, education, information and build the DRR body of knowledge in the county.
- v. Support resource mobilization.
- vi. Provision of technical support.
- vii. Monitoring and supporting Early Warning, DRR and Response Operations.

6.9 Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction

- i. Identification of hazards and vulnerability conditions of their community
- ii. Participate in developing community disaster preparedness plans

- iii. Informing ward or sub-county DRM officers in case of any threats from hazards
- iv. Participate in disaster relief activities
- v. Monitoring the accountability of the DRR resources in the community
- vi. Use indigenous knowledge to support DRM activities in their commun

7.2.2 County Disaster Risk Management Annual Allocation Fund

The Office of the Governor, Department of Intergovernmental Coordination Peace Building and Disaster Management shall be responsible for the administration of the fund. The funds shall constitute two percent (2-5%) of the County Annual Allocation.

Annual budgets for County DRM Office and its Departments/Divisions shall be provided for in the County Government Integration Plan (CIDP). The county level disaster management activities shall be funded through devolved funds. Laws governing such funds shall be reviewed in order to provide for allocation of funds from devolved kitties for County Disaster Risk Management every financial year.

The policy further proposes that The County DRM Committee be tasked with resource mobilization from external development partners and stakeholders who can also be incorporated as members of the County DRR Platform. Such players include: UN agencies, CSOs, NGOs, FBOs, academia, and the private sector.

7.2.3 Disaster Trust Fund

The National DRM policy proposes the establishment of the Disaster Trust Fund in the CDRMO which shall provide sufficient resources (financial, human, technology, equipment and material) to address all phases of disasters including: preparedness, management, prevention, mitigation, response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction for disasters that have been declared as ‘national disaster’ and other disasters that are beyond the funding of the normal annual disaster budgets at the county level. This shall ensure comprehensive, visionary and proactive planning for disasters. The fund will also be able to manage other emerging disasters. Contributions to the Fund will be from the exchequer, private sector, individuals, CSOs, development partners and stakeholders. The National Treasury shall ensure that there are sufficient funds in the Trust Fund each Financial Year. The Fund shall be managed by the NADIMA and made available to the county through the County Disaster Management Committee.

7.2.4 Partnership Funding

The policy proposes to diversify the sources of funds by introducing other avenues. It is envisaged that more funds shall be raised through partnership funding by way of Public-Private-Partnerships and Public-Public Partnership (intergovernmental/intercounty) proposal and Concept notes, and development Partners. Under this arrangement the policy proposes the establishment of privately owned and managed storages such as silos and warehouses with adequate contingent stocks.

7.3 Human and Non-Human Resources

In order to increase the capacity to respond quickly to disasters, inventories of both human and non-human resources shall be kept and maintained at the county, sub-county, ward and village levels. Specialized training of personnel and volunteers in disaster response to provide back up during response shall also be supported. The Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMCs) will be supported in conducting community vulnerability, capacity and risk assessments. The non-human inventory will establish the existing equipment and where it is located this will inform decision-making on measures to be taken to address these gaps. The information will also ensure ease of movement whenever the equipment is needed.

CHAPTER EIGHT

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

8.1 Introduction

The West Pokot County Disaster Management Act 2016 which is already in place is a key instrument in the implementation of this policy. The policy will be presented to the County Assembly and/or Cabinet for adoption and subsequent enactment by the County Assembly.

A detailed annual work plan and budget shall be developed which identifies priority areas of focus which include: training assessment needs, capacity building of Community on Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR), Early Warning For Early Response, Educate the community on appropriate framing practices, like embracing drought tolerant crops and early maturing varieties that aim at building community resilience to impact of drought, develop preparedness plan and contingency plan, support post-disaster recovery, and milestones to establish the administrative structure laid out in this Policy.

In particular, funding will need to be identified to establish the County Disaster Risk Management Unit and to begin work towards developing and revising plans and planning frameworks for concerned ministry, coordination mechanisms and tools to implement this Policy. Disaster management shall coordinate all emergencies in county that will affect line ministries in West Pokot County. The policy shall streamline all disaster/Emergencies to all line departments in the county, but DRM office will play coordination role.

8.2 Policy Implementation Principles

This Policy is a framework that enables to set up a disaster risk management system, which help transform the current disaster management and create conducive environment in order for all actors of the system to be able to implement in a coordinated manner to those identified strategies that are believed to be essential to put this policy's directions into practice and thus reduce multi-hazard disaster risks and damages caused by disasters in West Pokot County in a sustainable fashion.

Creating a decentralized and that clearly identify and delineate roles and responsibilities at all levels, accountable, integrated and coordinated, and effective disaster risk management

procedure and structure; implementing disaster risk profile information informed disaster risk reduction activities in the context of development programmes and plans to withstand impacts of hazards and related disasters and reduce and eventually prevent vulnerability as well as to reduce damages caused by disasters through enhancing preparedness and taking early warning and disaster assessment information based on emergency, recovery, and rehabilitation measures and those activities that the policy will concentrate on.

The policy implementation shall be based on those principles that enable the County to set up an effective disaster risk management system and ensure its implementation.

The following are the main principles of the policy:

- a) **Government leadership** – County Government shall lead activities geared towards the establishment and implementation of the disaster risk management system.
- b) **Self-reliant response system:** Responses provided pre-, during, and post- disaster period shall mainly use preparedness capacity built using Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction Approach.
- c) **Mainstreaming into development programmes:** Disaster risk management activities shall be implemented as integral to development plan frameworks. To that end, it shall be ensured that disaster risk management is mainstreamed into development programmes across all sectors in the County.
- d) **Decentralized and community-Centered:** Disaster risk management shall be decentralized and community Centered.
- e) **Participatory, accountability and responsibility:** Disaster risk management system shall ensure the participation of all concerned actors at all levels and allow them to know clearly what their accountability and responsibility are.

8.3 Policy Review

This Policy shall be reviewed annually and its implementation monitored systematically due to the dynamism of disasters and unpredictable climate change scenarios in the county. Without timely review of the implementation process, it would be difficult to trace if the measures identified to achieve policy objectives have been appropriately taken.

8.4 Common Disaster and their Mitigation Measures in West Pokot County

The policy acknowledge that west Pokot County experience various disaster that threaten the lives, livelihoods, environment and property, therefore this policy will put measure in place that aim at reducing effect of common disaster in the county through various disaster mitigation measures.

8.4.1 Drought

Drought is one of the chronic disasters in the county. It can have a substantial impact on the ecosystem and agriculture of the affected livelihoods. Severe drought results in human and livestock deaths, as is also exemplified by the reduced water table, diminishing water levels in the major rivers in West Pokot County and crop failure. Some of the most affected areas in the county during drought include Pokot North, Pokot Central, lower West Pokot, (Riwo, Endoug and Sook Wards and lower Pokot South in Chepareia Ward .

(a). Policy Actions plan on drought mitigation

- i. Activate drought contingency plans
- ii. Formation of Community Disaster Management Committee
- iii. Promote Livestock off take and restocking
- iv. Enforce implementation and compliance to environmental regulations and laws – including the customary laws, e.g. deferred grazing areas
- v. Capacity building of communities and committee on Drought risk reduction
- vi. Mainstreaming of DRR in all sectors of development priorities
- vii. Livelihoods diversifications and improvement of livestock production system
- viii. Educate community on planting drought tolerant and early maturing varieties
- ix. Educate the community on livestock improvement especially embracing drought resistance animals like Somalia-breed camel Gala goats and Dorpers
- x. Pasture establishments and promoting DRR strategies on livelihoods
- xi. Promoting expansion of irrigation schemes in drought prone area
- xii. Educating community on water harvesting technology
- xiii. Intensify water tracking during drought emergency
- xiv. Construction, rehabilitation of boreholes in water stressed areas
- xv. Adoption of organic farming methods

8.4.2 Floods

Flooding is an overflow of water that submerges land, producing measurable property damage or forcing evacuation of people and vital resources. Floods are caused due to heavy rainfall and the inadequate capacity of rivers to carry the high flood discharge. Floods develop slowly as rivers swell during an extended period of rain. A flood occurs when water overflows or inundates land that is normally dry. Mostly it happens when rivers or streams overflow their banks. West Pokot County has frequently suffered from failures of the annual rains. The flash flooding is common phenomenon in Sigor, Ortum, Kongelai and Alale.

(b). Policy Actions plan floods mitigation

- i. Establish early warning systems in the county to support regular assessments of floods and floods risk reduction
- ii. Enforce river bank management regulations
- iii. Evacuations/ resettlement programmes
- iv. Ensure proper physical planning of rural and urban settlements.
- v. Health hygiene promotions on sanitation and hygiene and creation of awareness on secondary threats e.g. water born disease
- vi. Practice appropriate farming methodologies
- vii. Increase vegetation cover/ trees planting on floods prone areas.

8.4.3 Lightening strikes

West Pokot County has recently experienced rampant cases of lightening strike that caused many losses of lives and property. Some of the common areas affected lightening strikes are Pokot South, West Pokot, part of North Pokot and Pokot Central sub-counties.

(c).Policy Actions plans on lightening strikes mitigation

- i. Educate community on precaution of not taking shelter under a tree or walking bare-footed during rain
- ii. Increasing vegetation cover through tree planting lightening prone areas
- iii. Installation of mass lightening arrestors

8.4.4 Landslides/Mudslides

Landslides - are rapid movement of a large mass of mud, rocks, formed from loose soil and water. It usually follows heavy rainfall and high ground water flowing through cracked bed rocks and earth quakes that lead to movement of soils or sediments. Landslides are very difficult to predict but their frequency and extent can be estimated by use of information on the area's geology, geomorphology, hydrology, climate and vegetation cover and traditional knowledge. Community settlement on steep slopes and other uncontrolled land use practices increase the likelihood of landslides and mudslides prevalence. The regions mostly affected during landslides in West Pokot County are Pokot South, Highland part of Pokot Central and Sook Ward in West Pokot Sub-county

(d).Policy Actions plan on landslides/mudslide mitigation measures

- i. Mapping out landslide prone areas and restrict human settlement in such risk areas
- ii. Landslides awareness raising and campaign
- iii. Increasing vegetation cover/ trees planting in landslide prone areas
- iv. Evacuation/Resettle all persons living in land prone areas
- v. Enforcement of relevant laws and policies
- vi. Support the application of appropriate and sustainable land use practices

8.4.5 Violent Conflicts

Raids and violent conflicts continue to be a common Man- Made Disaster across the county, especially along the borders. Most of these conflicts result into loss of life, displacement and loss of property and Livestocks. Some of the conflicts prone areas is the boarder of Pokot-Turkana, Pokot-Markwet, Pokot-Lughya and Pokot-Uganda.

(e). Policy Actions plan on conflicts mitigation and transformation

- i. Promote livelihood diversification activities
- ii. Promote drought resilience programmes to reduce resource –base conflicts during dry season.
- iii. Strengthen community policing, through county policing Authority
- iv. Integrate and provide vocational skills to gun-drop-outs and warriors

- v. Support establishment of Sub-counties and inter-counties/state peace Committees
- vi. Enhance peace building and conflict management mechanisms and early warning for early response

8.4.6 Human Diseases Epidemics

Human diseases epidemics are the prevalence of a disease, in a particular community and at a particular period of the year with magnitude beyond normal coping mechanism of the local community and systems. West Pokot County is at risk to human diseases outbreaks. The periodic or seasonal outbreak of endemic diseases include; cholera, typhoid, malaria, Respiratory Tract Infections, HIV/AIDs, meningitis and hepatitis. Others are diseases such as diarrhea dysentery and typhoid. Malaria tops the list of common human diseases in the county because the environment favors the breeding of mosquitoes, which are the vector for malaria. The common affected areas are Pokot North, Pokot Central, and West Pokot and lower Pokot South. Prevention of and early response to outbreaks are critical to saving lives and reducing the economic to all these disasters take.

(f). Policy Actions plan on human diseases mitigation

- i. Strengthen the health outreach and existence of community health workers
- ii. Mapping of outbreak hotspots
- iii. Establish and strengthen disease surveillance systems -
- iv. Health education and promotions
- v. Coordination of health stakeholders
- vi. Campaigns for Behavior Change Communication(BCC)
- vii. Strengthen emergency preparedness and response system
- viii. Capacity building of health disaster committee at the health facility level.

8.4.7 Livestock Diseases

Livestock diseases, the livestock sector face major challenges such as livestock epidemics, which affect the county every time and again. Prevalence of livestock diseases which include trans-boundary diseases and predators. The most common diseases include Helminthosis, *Peste Petis Ruminants* (PPR), Contagious Bovine

Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), FMD and CCPP in goats, Trypanosomiasis, and Mange. Of these diseases PPR is still the biggest threat to small stock followed by Helminthosis. The technical government staffs in the county together with support from Community Animal Health Workers, implements programme to mitigate the effects of diseases. Prevalence of livestock diseases outbreaks is common in North Pokot, Pokot Central, West Pokot and Lower Pokot South Sub-county.

(g) .Policy Actions on livestock diseases

- i. Livestock vaccinations against epidemics diseases
- ii. Increasing veterinary drug access services
- iii. Increasing livestock disease surveillance
- iv. Strengthen extension services
- v. To control epidemics livestock diseases, pests, parasites and disease transmission vectors, through increasing cattle dips and crush

8.4.8 Fire-Outbreaks

Fire hazards include the unplanned burning which may cause destruction of settlements, property and life. Fire disasters arise mainly from; natural causes, negligence, civil disorder, accident and enemy action. Among the many factors that cause fire hazards in West Pokot are poor construction standards, accidents, arson and uncontrolled burning of shrub lands, pastureland or waste materials bush burning. Fires are common in congested human settlements, such as institutions of learning and markets places. Some of the most affected areas in the County are Schools, market/Towns, pastoral areas and drought prone areas and forests.

(h). Policy Actions plan on fire-outbreak preparedness, response and mitigation

- i. Coordinate fire safety activities such as training of fire fighters, rapid response volunteers, fire safety education and drills;
- ii. Ensure there is effective fire safety management
- iii. Install fire-fighting equipment and machines
- iv. Establish building codes, specifying fire escape routes, fire resistant materials and fire detection systems
- v. Raise awareness on the causes and preventive actions on fire outbreaks
- vi. Conduct regular fire drills in public places and institutions of learning

- vii. Establish regional fire facilities to correspond with emerging challenges
- viii. Stock-piling of Fire Supplies

8.4.9 Environmental Degradation

West Pokot County has a fragile ecosystem which is prone to degradation. The soils are loose and are easily washed away by flash rains and heavy winds. Charcoal burning activities, deforestation, overstocking and the effects of increasing aridity due to climate change can contribute to environmental degradation. Charcoal burning is a major contributor to environmental degradation in the county. The effects of environmental degradation include; soil degradation and soil erosion, air pollution, garbage pollution, waste disposal, deforestation, desertification, climate change, wild fires, sand and dust storms and losses due to strong winds like blown roofs which is very widespread in the county. Most affected areas are, North Pokot, Pokot Central, Lower West Pokot and Lower Pokot South sub-county

(j).Policy Actions on environmental degradation

- i. Educating community on effect of de-forestation and charcoal burning
- ii. Organize campaign on the importance of environmental conservation.
- iii. Educate the communities on the nature and causes of environmental degradation
- iv. Involve communities in environment protection and conservations
- v. Formulate strict laws against environmental degradation such as charcoal burning and wood fuel harvesting
- vi. Promote environmental impact assessment and audit.

8.4 Dissemination Methodologies

- Public barasa
- Radio talks shows
- Focus groups discussion
- Posters
- Dramatization
- E-cases

8.6 Monitoring and Evaluation

With regard to monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the West Pokot Disaster Risk Management Policy and Strategy, structures to be established at all levels for the implementation of the policy and strategy shall take and implement it as their main duty.

The Department/Unit responsible for disaster risk management shall be responsible for monitoring and evaluation at all levels to measure progress towards planned objectives and implementation of strategies and to allow for adjustments and additions to plans as well as production of expected outputs within a given time frame. The monitoring and evaluation system adopted for this DRM policy shall be designed to provide feedback to stakeholders to ensure accountability and transparency, facilitate appropriate decisions on future implementation and review of the policy.

Monitoring and Evaluation activities of the Ministry/unit concerned shall include:

- Regular review and update of Early Warning Systems for preparedness.
- Regular review and assessment of the goals and strategic interventions for DRR/M at all levels in the county.
- Assessing of the efficiency, effectiveness and overall outcomes of DRR/M interventions with respect to the vulnerable groups and their life and livelihoods, socio-economic systems and the environment.

This policy recognizes the need for periodic policy review to ensure it remains relevant to changing needs of the county and people of West Pokot. Individual sectors and partners, in collaboration with and the support of the Ministry/Unit shall be encouraged to develop, monitor and evaluate their policies to reflect sector specific disaster needs.