

FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

SAMPLE DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK

Ethiopia

SAMPLE / DEMONSTRATION DOCUMENT

NOT AN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT POLICY

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1. Policy Background

Ethiopia is exposed to multiple natural and human-induced hazards, including drought, flood, extreme weather, disease outbreaks, environmental degradation, conflict-related disruption, and other emergencies. Disaster risk is shaped by the interaction of hazards, exposure, vulnerability, and available coping and response capacities.

This sample policy framework demonstrates how a national or regional disaster risk management policy may organize prevention, mitigation, preparedness, early warning, response, recovery, rehabilitation, and resilience-building. It reflects the principle that disaster risk management should be integrated into development planning and coordinated across federal, regional, zonal, woreda, kebele, sectoral, community, private-sector, academic, civil-society, and partner institutions.

2. Vision

A resilient Ethiopia in which communities, institutions, infrastructure, livelihoods, and development gains are protected from disaster risks through effective prevention, preparedness, early action, coordinated response, and risk-informed recovery.

3. Mission

To establish and strengthen an integrated, decentralized, inclusive, and evidence-based disaster risk management system that anticipates risks, supports timely decisions, protects lives and livelihoods, and builds resilience at all levels.

4. Policy Goal

The overall goal of this sample policy is to reduce disaster risks and disaster-related losses by strengthening risk prevention, preparedness, early warning, response, recovery, and sustainable development.

5. Specific Objectives

- Reduce existing disaster risk and prevent the creation of new risk.
- Strengthen multi-hazard risk assessment, monitoring, forecasting, and early warning.
- Improve preparedness and readiness of institutions and communities.
- Ensure timely, coordinated, accountable, and needs-based emergency response.
- Protect lives, livelihoods, productive assets, essential services, and critical infrastructure.
- Mainstream disaster risk reduction into development plans, budgets, programmes, and investments.

- Strengthen recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction using a build-back-better approach.
- Improve disaster risk information management, knowledge sharing, research, and learning.
- Promote inclusive DRM with attention to women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, displaced populations, pastoralists, and other groups at heightened risk.

6. Guiding Principles

Risk-informed decision-making: Policies and investments should use credible hazard, exposure, vulnerability, and capacity information.

Decentralization: Responsibilities should be implemented at the lowest effective administrative level, with support from higher levels when local capacity is exceeded.

Community participation: Communities should participate in risk identification, preparedness, early warning, response planning, and recovery.

Multi-hazard approach: DRM should address interacting and cascading risks rather than single hazards in isolation.

Prevention first: Priority should be given to reducing vulnerability and preventing avoidable disaster losses.

Inclusion and protection: DRM actions should protect rights, dignity, safety, and equitable access to assistance.

Partnership and coordination: Government, communities, partners, academia, private sector, media, and civil society should work through coordinated arrangements.

Accountability and transparency: Resources, decisions, assessments, and response actions should be documented and subject to oversight.

7. Policy Priority Areas

7.1 Disaster Risk Assessment and Risk Profiling

- Maintain multi-hazard risk assessments at appropriate administrative levels.
- Develop and periodically update regional, zonal, woreda, kebele, and community risk profiles.
- Use geospatial, climate, hydrological, livelihood, health, conflict, market, and infrastructure information where relevant.
- Make risk information accessible to planners, decision-makers, responders, and communities.

7.2 Early Warning and Early Action

- Strengthen monitoring of drought, flood, extreme rainfall, food security, health, conflict, and other priority risks.
- Define thresholds, alert levels, escalation procedures, and responsible institutions.
- Ensure warnings are timely, understandable, actionable, inclusive, and communicated through multiple channels.
- Link forecasts and warnings to pre-agreed early actions and preparedness measures.

7.3 Prevention, Mitigation and Resilience

- Promote risk-sensitive land use, infrastructure planning, water management, environmental protection, and livelihood resilience.
- Support structural and non-structural mitigation measures based on risk assessments.
- Strengthen social protection, livelihood diversification, and community resilience in high-risk areas.

7.4 Preparedness and Contingency Planning

- Prepare and update contingency plans for priority hazards and scenarios.
- Maintain emergency coordination arrangements, contact lists, standard operating procedures, and resource inventories.
- Conduct simulation exercises, drills, training, and after-action reviews.
- Pre-position essential supplies where risk and access conditions justify it.

7.5 Emergency Response

- Activate emergency coordination mechanisms based on verified needs and defined triggers.
- Prioritize life-saving assistance, protection, health, water, food, shelter, logistics, and continuity of essential services.
- Use transparent needs assessments and avoid duplication through coordinated response planning.
- Ensure response operations respect humanitarian principles and national laws.

7.6 Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

- Begin recovery planning early during emergency response.
- Restore livelihoods, essential services, infrastructure, and community systems.
- Apply build-back-better principles to reduce future risk.
- Integrate psychosocial, social, economic, environmental, and infrastructure recovery.

8. Institutional Arrangements

Disaster risk management requires coordinated responsibilities across administrative and sectoral levels. For demonstration purposes, this policy assumes a decentralized structure with defined roles from federal to community level.

Level / Actor	Illustrative Responsibilities
Federal	National policy direction, standards, coordination, major capacity support, national-level risk and emergency management.
Regional	Regional planning, coordination, early warning, preparedness, response support, monitoring, resource mobilization, and technical assistance.
Zone	Coordination and technical support to Woredas; consolidation and communication of risk and response information.
Woreda	Local risk profiling, data collection, early warning, preparedness, community coordination, first-line response, and reporting.
Kebele / Community	Local observations, risk communication, preparedness actions, community response, and feedback.
Sector Institutions	Hazard- and sector-specific DRM actions, standards, data, planning, technical response, and mainstreaming.
Partners and Civil Society	Complementary technical, financial, humanitarian, development, and capacity-building support.

9. Information and Knowledge Management

- Establish interoperable systems for collecting, validating, analyzing, storing, and sharing DRM information.
- Define data ownership, quality standards, reporting frequency, and approval workflows.
- Use Woreda and community-level information to support regional and national analysis.
- Publish appropriate public alerts, bulletins, reports, policies, guidelines, manuals, and learning products.
- Protect sensitive information and respect applicable privacy, security, and access controls.
- Promote research, lessons learned, good practices, and institutional memory.

10. DRM Mainstreaming in Development

All relevant institutions should integrate disaster risk considerations into sector plans, public investment, infrastructure design, service delivery, natural resource management, social protection, health, education, agriculture, livestock, water, urban development, and other development programmes.

11. Capacity Development

- Build technical capacity in risk assessment, GIS, remote sensing, forecasting, early warning, emergency coordination, logistics, and recovery.
- Strengthen leadership, planning, communication, monitoring, and accountability capacities.
- Provide regular training for government staff, communities, volunteers, media, and other stakeholders.
- Promote professional development and partnerships with universities, research institutions, and technical agencies.

12. Financing and Resource Mobilization

- Integrate DRM financing into regular government planning and budgeting processes.
- Maintain contingency and emergency financing arrangements appropriate to the level of government.
- Promote transparent use of resources and regular financial reporting.
- Mobilize complementary support from development partners, humanitarian partners, private sector, and other lawful sources.
- Prioritize investment in prevention and preparedness where it reduces future disaster losses.

13. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Implementation should be monitored using measurable indicators covering risk reduction, preparedness, early warning, response performance, recovery, capacity development, mainstreaming, inclusion, and resource use.

- Establish baseline and target indicators.
- Conduct periodic performance reviews at all relevant levels.
- Document lessons from emergencies, simulations, and recovery operations.
- Update plans, procedures, and institutional arrangements based on evidence and lessons learned.
- Publish appropriate performance and learning reports for accountability and knowledge sharing.

14. Review and Updating

A DRM policy should be reviewed periodically and whenever major institutional, legal, hazard, climate, technological, or development changes require revision. Updated policies should be supported by implementation strategies, guidelines, standard operating procedures, plans, budgets, and monitoring arrangements.

15. Sample Implementation Priorities

1. Complete or update Woreda Disaster Risk Profiles for high-risk areas.
2. Strengthen multi-hazard early warning and last-mile dissemination.
3. Develop hazard-specific contingency plans and operational triggers.
4. Improve regional and Woreda DRM information systems and data quality.
5. Conduct regular preparedness simulations and emergency coordination exercises.
6. Establish DRM mainstreaming checklists for sector plans and public investments.
7. Strengthen community-based preparedness and inclusive risk communication.
8. Develop annual DRM performance and learning reports.

Reference Context

This demonstration document is informed by publicly available DRM policy themes used in Ethiopia, including the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's National Policy and Strategy on Disaster Risk Management (2013), as well as internationally recognized disaster risk reduction principles. It is not a reproduction or replacement of any official policy.