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Project Title: Strengthening Multi-sectoral Coordination Mechanisms for the implementation of the National Emergency Drought Response in Swaziland

Country: Swaziland

Responsible parties: Government of Swaziland - National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA); UN Country Team and NGOs.

Sustainable Development Goals: SDG2: End Hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, and SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Programme Period: 1st March 2016 to 28th February 2017

Project Title: Strengthening Multi-sectoral Coordination Mechanisms for the implementation of the National Emergency Drought Response in Swaziland

Project Component:

1. Strengthened multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms for national emergency response to the drought.
2. Enhanced capacity for execution and operationalizing of the early recovery strategic plan including mitigation plans.

Project ID: tbc

Project Duration: 12 Months


Management Arrangement: Direct Implementation Modalities (DIM)

Total Budget: USD100,000.00

Allocated resources:

- Government:
 - Regular: USD 10,000.00
 - Other:
 - Donor _____
- In kind contributions: Technical Advisor, Field Coordinators & IT Facilitators, technical experts

Unfunded budget: USD 100,000

Agreed by (UNDP): 



24.03.2016

2. SITUATION ANALYSIS:

Project Context

Swaziland is one of the countries in southern Africa that is experiencing the severe impacts of the most powerful El Niño, further impacting to the number of hazards both natural and man-made the country experiences which include floods, hailstorms, disease outbreaks and others. According to the Swaziland Meteorological Services (MET), the country has received below normal rainfall during the cropping season October 2014 and Feb 2015 (1st Quarter focus, 2015), building on the impacts of recurrent droughts over the last decade which have significantly impacted communities. The El Niño has been prolonged by the concurrent impacts of climate change (CC) resulting in austere drought, prolonged dry spells, poor records of rainfall and very high temperatures resulting in a poor agricultural harvest especially for the staple crop, maize. Additionally, key sectors have been affected namely agriculture and food security, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), education, health and energy as well as coordination capacity to enable efficiencies.

In the agriculture and food security sector, maize production has reduced by 31% from 2014 production levels. The number of households classified as moderately food insecure has increased from 5% to 18.2% as many subsistence farmers failed to plant during the 2015/2016 season due to unpredictable weather conditions and poor rainfall. About 19.7% (200,897) of the total population of 1.018 Million are estimated to be food insecure during the 2015/2016 lean season (FAO/WFP Assessment, 2015). This is however projected to increase to 300,000 people (VAC Report, 2015). Over 38,000 cattle have been reported dead due to lack of water and grazing vegetation, in the last six (6) months. Conditions are predicted to worsen as the dry winter season approaches. The majority of these cattle die around water sources, increasing the possibility of further contaminating water resources.

The sugar industry which is the main cash crop for Swaziland accounting for 21% of GDP has been affected as most of the water (over 90%) is used for irrigation purposes and serious rationing of supply cuts has been instituted, calling for the development of an Irrigation Policy. The impact of El Niño within the sugar industry has resulted in the private sector restructuring, threatening job security for over 7000 employees. While Swaziland's poverty rates remains high (63%) the country has maintained a low inflation rate (4.9%). Maize prices have reportedly increased by 66% (National Maize Corporation, 2016) which would impact on accessibility (buying ability) for the larger population, in particular for the rural communities in the Shiselweni and Lubombo Regions (NERMAP, 2016).

The decreased amount of rainfall has affected the water sector limiting its ability to support development in the country. The Department of Water Affairs (DWA) indicated that all the reservoir capacities are below 20% which compromises water supply to urban and industrial areas. The capital city, Mbabane has been most affected as the supplying dam (Hawane Dam) remains at 17% with a notification of 20 days to 8 weeks water supply as at January 15th, 2016. For the first time in history, 48 hours water rationing has been instituted in Mbabane over the last 6 weeks. Ground water has been depleted with most rivers dried up, while others are at a critically low levels, together with major dams in the country threatening irrigation of commercial crops, consequently economic stagnation.

The shortage of water affects the normal functioning of institutions in the delivery of basic services especially hospitals and health centres as well as schools which exposes the most vulnerable groups of the population to water-borne diseases and other health-related problems, particularly for those people living with HIV and

AIDS. The impact of water scarcity has resulted in the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) postponing the opening of schools especially those based in Mbabane urban area dependant on flushing toilet systems. The inconsistency in the supply of water especially in urban areas has resulted in ad hoc interruptions of the learning process. Schools in rural areas that use boreholes have also been affected as they have run dry. Over 25,000 pupils have been reported affected with learning disrupted and students occasionally sent back home in urban schools. The Ministry of Health (MOH) is on alert given the high national ARV case load of 167,615 (UNAIDS, 2015), as 4 typhoid cases were reported in neighbouring South Africa.

Water scarcity has further impacted on energy generation. Domestic hydropower generation which accounts for 20% of the supply, has been completely stopped. Swaziland now imports all its energy from South Africa (SA) and Mozambique. Reports received from SA indicate the possibility of supply cuts due to increased needs in the country as well as the pending electricity tariff increase to be effected in April 2016.

3. Government Efforts and Response

To strengthen coordination of the national response to disasters the Government of Swaziland (GOS) established the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), in 2008. The NDMA is expected to coordinate the national emergency preparedness response and facilitate disaster risk management (DRM) through work of all the stakeholders in the country including the civil society organisations (CSO), private sector, UN Agencies and international organisations, however such capacities are fragmented given the recent NDMA restructuring exercise in October-December 2015. The NDMA is in a process of strengthening its operational and systems for procurement, performance monitoring of the response, communication and developing innovative approaches to share information and get real time data on humanitarian needs, however the capacity needs strengthening.

The short-term response measures focusses on life saving interventions such as the provision of food supplements and potable water has been undertaken by the office of the Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) to several communities in dire need for food assistance in the Hhohho, Lubombo and Shiselweni regions where the El Niño impacts are severe. The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) is on advocacy campaign encouraging farmers in vulnerable communities to sell their cattle which is a household asset and auction stalls have been setup in rural areas; 43/141 tanks (10,000L each) have been distributed and resources are sought for the remaining 98 required tanks. The Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) is also facilitating construction of pit latrines in schools.

The Government of Swaziland (GOS) declared the drought as a national emergency situation on the 18th February 2016 to respond to the needs of the 300 000 people at high risk due to the effects of El Niño drought and require immediate food and water assistance. Through the facilitation by NDMA responsible for emergency and disaster issues, a National Emergency Response Mitigation and Adaptation plan (NERMAP 2016-2022) has been developed. The NERMAP prioritizes food and water security through intensified local maize production and rehabilitation, crop diversification and expansion of water systems to increase access to potable water. It also challenges the nation to embrace adaptation measures to better confront the situation now and in the future. The NERMAP will requires a total of SZL1.2 Billion (US\$80 Mil) to respond to the short-, mid- and long-term needs of the affected population over the next five (7) years. NERMAP was presented to the International Community by the His Excellency Prime Minister of Swaziland. To respond to short-term measures the government hopes to reach 75,877 people on food relief and plans to reach

100,000 people by end of March 2016. Fifteen (15) boreholes are being drilled across urban areas especially in Mbabane to address the water scarcity threatening basic service delivery (health and education).

4. UNCT Response to the Impacts of El Niño

The UNCT has supported initiatives aimed at strengthening the countries preparedness, mitigation, responses and establish recovery measures towards the national response. The UNCT commissioned several national level assessments to establish the likelihood effects of El Niño. In February 2015, UNCT commissioned the Rapid Assessment facilitated by FAO and WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and the NDMA. This was followed by the Crop and Food Security Assessment mission conducted in May 2015, coordinated by WFP and FAO with the other UN Agencies like UNDP providing coordination support. The UNCT also supported the National Vulnerability Assessment (VAC) conducted simultaneously with the other assessment between May and June 2015. All these assessment pointed out that Swaziland will face an acute food insecurity due to the evident impacts of El Niño drought.

As the impacts of the drought became severe late 2015, the UNCT engaged a high level round table donor meeting with the Government of Swaziland to discuss on the drought impacts and future projections. A UNCT decision was reached to engage UNOCHA regional office to provide technical assistance on the UN collective response. The UNOCHA technical assistance has resulted on a rapid multi-sectoral assessment being conducted and the development of CERF proposal. Further support from UN System/UNDP resulted in the review of the 2015 Multi Hazard Cluster Plan (MHCP) which was operationalised leading to the establishment of multi-sectoral coordination structures at national level. While the devolution of capacities has commenced in the four regions¹ of the country, operational coordination for effective planning, management of process, including monitoring and documentation of lessons remains a gap. The MHCP has informed further the National Emergency Response, Mitigation and Adaptation Plan 2016-2022 (NERMAP, 2016) which maps out the multi-sectoral approach to address the immediate relief needs, as well as the mid-to long-term capacities with an overall budget of over USD80 Mil and relief/immediate need projected at USD23 024 Mil.

5. Humanitarian Response

The current drought situation will have humanitarian consequences as the majority of citizens will have negative coping strategies including sale of household assets, reduced expenditure for health care and education, already the selling of cattle which is an asset to most rural folks has had a social impact to many households; increased vulnerability to persons living with HIV and AIDS the effects are yet to be seen as the Ministry of Health (MOH) is making efforts to mitigate and sustain most citizens on ART; migration of the population in search of alternative livelihood and water is yet to be experienced; reduced crop yield in the successive cropping season as people will spend most of their resources in sourcing the scarce food; likely increase in number of school drop outs as performance and completion of school curriculum will be challenged as schools are forced to close due to water scarcity; increase in crime, gender based violence and abuse (sexual abuse and trafficking); increased prevalence of diseases like diarrhoea, acute respiratory tract infection combined with severe malnutrition; increased malnutrition and consequently an increase in admission of children into therapeutic feeding; and negative changes in food consumption patterns, e.g. reducing meal frequency which might have dire effects to pregnant and lactating women, and further reducing productivity.

¹ Hhohho, Manzini, Shiselweni and Lubombo

Humanitarian response has therefore been activated in the drought affected regions of the country complementing to the government's initiatives. The private sector response and support to NDMA has been ad hoc and not coordinated through water harvesting tanks, as well as food parcels. The UN technical working group (TWG) meets frequently to share and update on the situation and undertakings of action plans. The completion of the UN assessment supported by United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) will provide information and recommendations on the scale and scope of the collective humanitarian response plan to support the GOS in addressing the 2016 drought emergency needs.

6. Justification

The drought condition of 2015/16 has surpassed the drought experienced over the past 35 years. The high temperatures, water and food scarcity, poor crop production and livelihoods in both the rural and urban population have been severely affected. The erratic rainfall pattern and dry spells experienced in 2015 has had a negative impact on agricultural production and food security coupled with the already eroded productive capacity of vulnerable farming households. Furthermore, the country is experiencing negative to minimal economic growth, coupled with the loss of SACU receipts pursuant to the change in formula for countries in the region, high unemployment levels and pending job losses as the private sector retrenches due to lack of productivity. The drought will no doubt exert more pressure on the Government of Swaziland in taking into consideration the projected reduced SACU receipts in the coming years. Furthermore the country currently faces two national disasters which would require the limited competing resources of the Government. The national disaster on HIV declared in 1999 continues to be a threat and requires the government to sustain all the gains made in the provision of ART, PMTCT and other services such as VCT as well as prevention interventions.

The newly restructured NDMA requires organisational development support to strengthen its coordination mechanisms, organisational systems, information management, effective and innovative communication strategies to enhance information flow to vulnerable communities and performance monitoring and reporting systems. The GOS leads the response and recovery initiatives in collaboration with development partners and donor agencies through different sectoral interventions, this will require effective coordination to avoid duplication of resources and maximise on technical support. NDMA in support to the Government has the overall coordination responsibility for the implementation of the NERMAP. There is however a strong need to have an effective and regular coordination mechanisms for both the public and private sectors including civil society organisations (CSO) to ensure an effective, coordinated and timely response, and end-to-end information sharing which will enable all stakeholders to undertake various humanitarian activities in a coordinated manner. Such an approach will further enhance timely and effective information sharing and establishment of an information management system that will enable government and development partners to generate real-time data and information to inform national response. The NMDA's capacity for provision of procurement services and establishment of appropriate systems would need to be put in place. The response is also multi-sectoral in nature and all affected sectors will need to mainstream drought responsive strategies that will respond to the short- intermediate- and long-term effects of the drought.

The country also needs to simultaneously strengthen communities and citizens capacity for resilience and adaptation to climate change including establishment of long-term recovery programmes and reinforcing through development interventions. Following the declaration of drought as a National disaster the Government of Swaziland through the Prime Minister has requested the UN support in annexing Swaziland

as part of the countries that would need external support due to the impacts of El Niño.

The Government of Swaziland (GOS) has re-deployed its resources to focus on the drought however the majority of the support is directed towards procurement of food supplement as opposed to supporting coordination issues. The NDMA has limited capacities due to the recent restructuring exercise, lacking adequate coordination mechanisms, it is facing an enormous task of coordinating the multisector response plan. The support from the RCO and UNCT is building upon the UNDP JICA-supported DRM project (2013-2015) which was focusing on the building and strengthening of NDMA capacity to respond to emergency situations such as the current one. The NERMAP tasks RCO/UNDP to Co-Chair the Coordination of Drought Mitigation and Adaptation Cluster which has a budget of USD328 202 (SZL 4 923 025). The RCO/UNDP support is inadequate to support the coordination fully hence the request for Track 1.1.3 resources.

In view of the need to build resilience, strengthen coordination, information management, communication, creation of awareness including developing organisational systems for NDMA, an allocation of US\$100 000 under TRAC 1.1.3 (category II) facility is hereby requested to respond to the above mentioned immediate needs of the Government of Swaziland. The allocation will facilitate the UNCT to provide support to strengthening NDMA humanitarian, resilience building and implementation of early recovering interventions and improving coordination in the management of the overall response. This proposal aims at supporting effective coordination, establishment of performance monitoring system, information management and implementation of the NERMAP across respective sectors to ensure coordinated and holistic drought response and recovery planning across the regions.

7. PROJECT OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

Output 1: Strengthened multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms for Drought National Emergency Response and Information knowledge management.

Proposed Activities:

- 1.1: Conduct a rapid assessment of current information and data management systems at all levels (NDMA, National, Regional and Constituency level) and develop appropriate strategies/systems for the national response;
- 1.2: Technical assistance provided for the development of emergency multi-sectoral coordination framework for NDMA (National, Regional and Constituency based framework) which will outline and delineate functions of each structure at each level of coordination;
- 1.3: Develop and finalize communication strategy and guidelines on national disasters including operationalization;
- 1.4: Develop innovative mechanisms for information sharing and knowledge management for documenting best practices;
- 1.5: Training of coordination committees at all levels for effective coordination of national response.

Output 2: Enhanced capacity for execution and operationalizing of the early recovery strategic plan including mitigation plans.

Proposed Activities:

- 2.1 Support response to early recovery planning processes and the development of multi-sectorial early recovery plan for transition from relief and early recovery;
- 2.2 Provide technical assistance to develop a National Drought Early Recovery/Resilience Framework;
- 2.3 Provide technical support to the UNCT to develop a Drought Recovery and Resilience programme and guide resource mobilization

8. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS:

The project will be implemented over a period of 12 months (1st March 2016, 28th February 2017). The project will be managed by UNDP in support of the UNRC's office. As the project is a Direct Implementation Modality (DIM), UNDP will assume overall management responsibility and accountability for project implementation. The CO will receive and manage these funds to support the UN Country Team (UNCT) and UNDP to strengthen the multi-sectoral coordination framework for the drought response, which includes interventions related to early recovery. UNDP will be responsible for the project coordination and management, ensure achievements of the project outputs, monitoring and reporting, as well as adherence to the work plan which forms the basis of the execution. The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), the UNCT and NGOs as responsible partners will collaborate in the implementation of the agreed interventions and account to the UNDP for the delivery of outputs as well use of the resources. The Regional Service Center (RSC) and UNOCHA will be occasionally requested to provide support including identification of best practices that could be shared with the local counterparts especially where organizational and systems development is concerned. The UN Technical Working Group (UNTWG) will also provide project assurance and review all strategic information documents to be produced under this project.

9. PROJECT BUDGET

EXPECTED OUTPUTS and indicators including annual targets	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List all activities including M&E to be undertaken during the year towards stated CP outputs</i>	TIMEFRAME				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4		Source of Funds	Budget Description	Amount
<p>Output 1: Strengthened multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms for Drought National Emergency Response and Information knowledge management.</p> <p>Baseline: 1 Coordination Committee: No communication strategy</p> <p>Indicators: Number of Coordination meetings held; Communication Strategy; National/Regional; % of Constituencies utilizing the Multi-sectoral coordination framework</p> <p>Target: 2/8/40%</p>	<p>1.1: Technical assistance provided for the development multi-sectoral coordination framework for NDMA (National, regional and constituency based framework) which will outline and delineate functions of each structure at each level of coordination</p> <p>1.2: Develop and finalize communication strategy and guidelines on national disasters including operationalization.</p> <p>1.3: Develop innovative mechanisms for information sharing and knowledge management for documenting best practices.</p> <p>1.4: Assessment of current information and data management systems at all levels NDMA, national, regional and Constituency level and develop appropriate strategies/systems for the national response.</p> <p>1.5: Training of coordination committees at all levels for effective coordination of national response.</p>	X	X			NDMA CANGO- Food Security Consortium MHCP Clusters Regional Development Teams Constituency Development Teams VAC Committee UNCT TWG MTN	TRAC 1.1.3	Technical support Conferences- Stationary Meetings	65 000
<p>Output 2: Enhanced capacity for execution and operationalizing of the early recovery strategic plan including mitigation plans.</p> <p>Baseline: 2015 MHCP, 2016 NERMAP</p> <p>Indicators: Early recovery plans for all sectors are developed and completed; National Resilience Strategy and M&E Framework</p> <p>Target: At least 4/1</p>	<p>2.1 Support response to early recovery planning processes and the development of multi-sectorial early recovery plan for transition from relief and early recovery</p> <p>2.2: Provide technical assistance to develop a National Drought Early Recovery/Resilience Framework</p> <p>2.3: Provide technical support to the UNCT to develop a Drought Recovery and Resilience programme and guide resource mobilization</p>	X	X	X		NDMA CANGO- Food Security Consortium MHCP Clusters Regional Development Teams Municipalities SWSC DWA WASH Forum SPPRA UNCT TWG	TRAC 1.1.3	Technical support Conferences Stationary Meetings	35 000
Total									100 000