



POLICY BRIEF

ON A CONCEPT FOR DEVELOPMENT
OF A HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE
COORDINATION MECHANISM AND
ARCHITECTURE:

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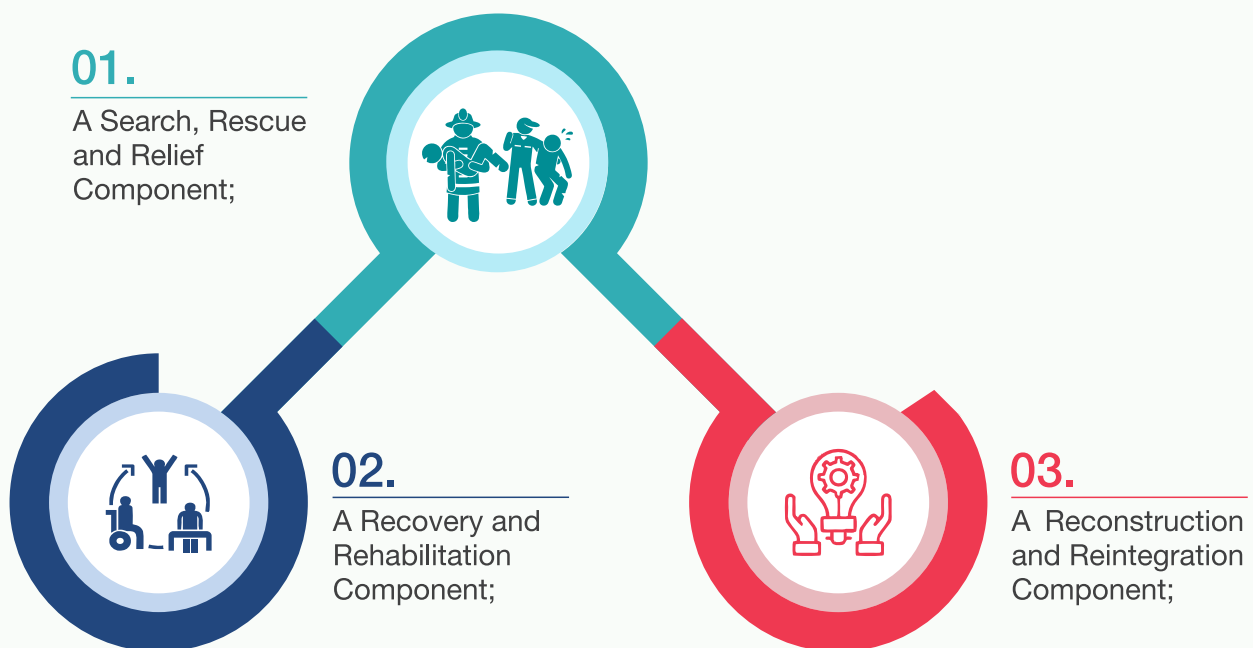
INTRODUCTION

A Humanitarian Response Coordination Mechanism/Architecture [HRM/A] is a framework for ensuring synergy, integration and systematic coordination in undertaking and ensuring effectiveness and efficiency in Humanitarian response design, planning and operations. It is much needed now, especially in a setting as ours, when citizens across the country need protection which need to conform with the best principles and practices and has coherence.

But in other for such a mechanism to be efficient and effective, and to avoid a situation where its optimal potential cannot be realised, it has to be an integral part of an overarching Disaster Management Architecture [DMA], of which it will be one of the three integrated components.

COMPONENTS OF HRCM/A:

The HRCM/A is essentially made up of three interrelated and integrated components:



Cutting across the first two components is the management of displaced persons in camps [camp management], as well as those in and with families, relations, friends, kith and kin in host communities. Implicit in this is also the necessity for mechanisms for management of host community – displaced persons relationships.

Implicit in the component three is the question of rebuilding of affected communities and making them safe for the return of displaced persons, including the providing enabling environment for the revival of community economies and systems of livelihoods, and modes of existence.

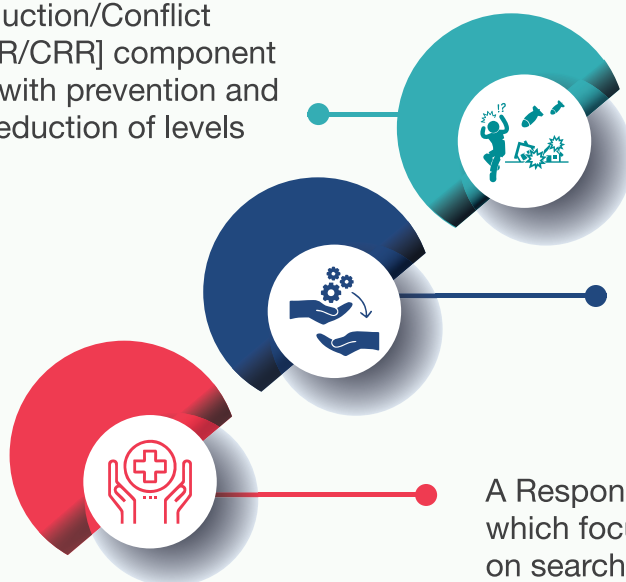
THE ESSENCE OF THE HRCM/A:

Essential to the HRCM/A therefore is a framework for ensuring that each and all of these components are properly coordinated, are not working at cross purposes, are properly supported to enable them function maximally and optimally, and are functioning in synch with the other governance and development priorities, activities and processes of the state.

THE OVERARCHING DISASTER MANAGEMENT ARCHITECTURE [DMA]:

An effective and efficient Disaster Management System [DMS] requires the establishment and operationalization of a ready to go Disaster Management Architecture and structure [DMA]. And for such a structure to be fit for purpose and responsive, it should normally at the minimum consist of at least three integrated basic components:

A Disaster Risk Reduction/Conflict Risk Reduction [DRR/CRR] component which deals mainly with prevention and mitigation and the reduction of levels of vulnerability;



A Preparedness component which focuses mainly on building and developing capacity for mitigation and response; as well as

A Response Component [the HRCM/A] which focuses on capacity for delivering on search and rescue, delivering relief, and supporting recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

The essential relationship and flow between these three components is one that is cyclical in nature as they are mutually inclusive and with each component ensuring the success of the other components.

COORDINATION MECHANISM:

An effective and efficient coordination mechanism requires having in place an organizational framework conducive to and facilitative of the Disaster Management Architecture (DMA), with respect to humanitarian response as well as undertaking implementation of DRR/CRR initiatives. In this sense it is also therefore an organizational development issue pivoted on organizational effectiveness.

Facilitating effective and efficient interventions to build community resilience to disasters, build capacity for preparedness, and ensure impactful response will require a “whole of government” and “all of society approach”.

What this implies is that deliberate efforts in policy making and implementation must be put in ensuring that there is a DMA organisational structure. This also would require having in place system that facilitates the coordination With respect to structure and organisation the relevant government

institutions [primarily NEMA and SEMAs] will need to encourage the formation of Disaster And Security Management Committees [DSMCs] in all the impacted and at risk communities, including in IDP camps and in communities hosting IDPs. These community-based committees will be made up of mandated and acknowledged representatives of the various Community Development Associations and will be representative of all segments of the community and streamlining of all interventions between and among all arms [Executive, Legislative and Judiciary] and all levels [Federal through NEMA, State through the SEMAs and Local Government Councils through the Local area and community disaster management committees] of government on the one hand; and between and within State and Non-state actors on the other hand.

This will not only encourage buy-in of all the community, but it will also ensure that it is integrated into existing community governance structures in a manner that facilitates ownership and social cohesion rather than precipitate friction.

These community committees will then need to be deliberately linked directly with the Local Government Emergencies Management Committees [LEMECs] and the SEMAs as well as to other first [and other] responder organisations and institutions active in such a state – impacted and at risk states.

This community structures will also have to be linked and integrated with the Partner and AAN Disaster Management Structure and system.

There should be within each humanitarian and development partner organisation a disaster management and emergencies response focal and contact person, who will coordinate with the community disaster and security committees, and who will also be linked and integrated with the partner organisations' systems and as well as to other relevant stakeholders particularly within the respective states.

In order for this structure to be effective, efficient and deployable, efforts must also be undertaken to ensure that the basic materiel and equipment necessary to facilitate prompt response as well as DRR and CRR are also put in place.

This will require deliberate coordinated investment by all stakeholders concerned. In particular affected and at-risk states and local governments will require to allocate resources through legislative appropriation as at when due for these purposes.

It is important for example that basic logistics and communications needs are provided for; that sites for possible storage of relief materials are identified and prepared in the communities, and that potential alternative shelter options including temporary camp sites are also identified to ease evacuation and search and rescue.

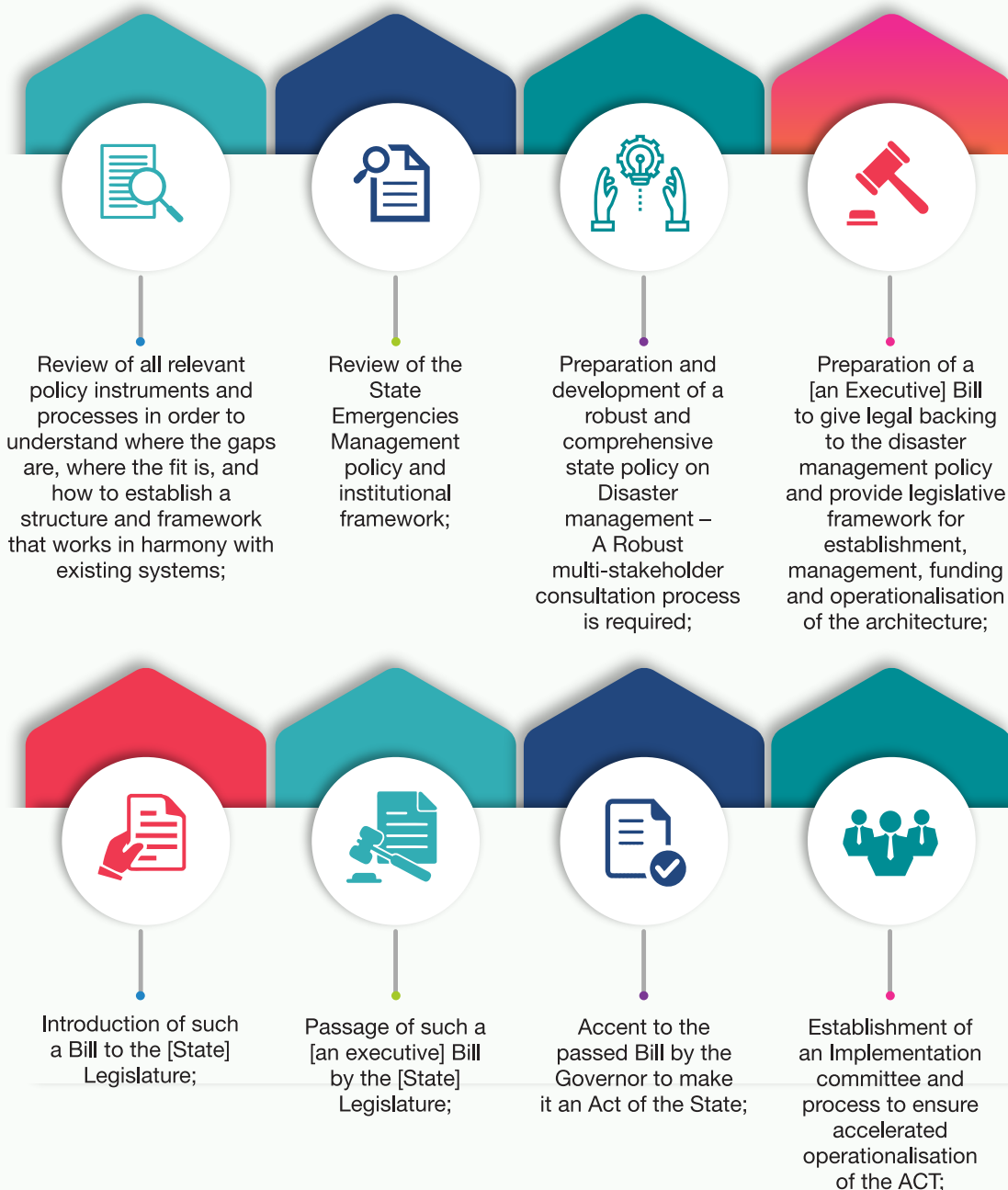
Additionally, community committees, government [at federal, state and local council levels] and humanitarian and development partner focal personnel also need to have their capacities built and constantly developed and improved for DRR, Preparedness and Response capabilities.

A decisive part of the preparedness capacity is the extent of links and integration with external disaster management architecture, in such a way as to ensure that local communities become part of the central focus of this architecture and are supported as at and when needed.

Above all, preparedness and response will be ineffective if there is no effective coordination, and if coordination mechanisms are not deliberately put in place and their functioning processes are not made mandatory.

STEPS TO TAKE:

In order for such an efficient and effective mechanism to be put in place, certain steps will be required:



DRR & CRR



Preparedness

Response

ABOUT



Diffusion Communications is a strategic communication consultancy which specialises in Documentation for Accountability, Impact and Priming. Area of expertise include research, editorial services, specialised writing, branding/reputation management, media relations, social media marketing, documentary and content development. We also provide specialised development communication consultancy for NGOs and development agencies. We do these by keeping our focus on the social science of human relations and principles of priming. We therefore function at the intersection where creativity, brand management, mass targeting, influencer management meet to produce irresistible products, services and ideas. Our deep knowledge of how people respond to information and the stimuli for buying in into ideas, form opinions and the dynamics of public sphere make the difference.



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The Pan African Center For Strategic Reflection,
Planning And Alternative Action

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