

MALAWI LAUNCHES NATIONAL RESILIENCE STRATEGY ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT AT IDDR COMMEMORATION

On 19 October, 2018, Malawi commemorated the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) in Lilongwe, Malawi under the theme, 'Reducing Direct Disaster Economic Loss has the power to transform lives'.

The guest of honour to the function was Honourable Cecilia Chazama, the Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security. Minister Chazama joined various partners in a solidarity march to the venue where she toured pavilions of various players in disaster risk management.

As one way of breaking the cycle of food and nutritional insecurity and other humanitarian crisis, the Malawi Government intends to launch a National Resilience Strategy (NRS) to serve as a roadmap to guide programme designs, funding decisions and other priorities.

This was disclosed by the Malawian Minister of Home Affairs and internal security, Cecilia Chazama in Lilongwe at the IDDR commemorations.

She said that the NRS will help the government and its development partners to face and deal with challenges the country meets in many crises. "This NRS will be implemented by ministries' departments and agencies, civil society organisations, the private sector and the United Nations (UN) agencies", said Minister Chazama.

She added that the country is making strides towards building resilience but there are challenges being faced. There is a need for more risk-informed investments that will ensure integration and coherence. The NRS launch comes as a wakeup call after the 2015 disaster where it is estimated that the country lost US\$335 million while the cost of recovery was pegged at US\$494 million. At the same time it is also estimated that the 2016 drought recovery was pegged at US\$500 million.

Chief secretary to the Office of the President and Cabinet, Lloyd Muhara, recently announced that Malawi is losing 1,7 percent of its Growth Development Product (GDP) to disaster. Muhara said there is a need for Malawi as a country to reverse



the situation for among other things, applying various interventions.

The 2018 theme IDDR theme continues as part of the Sendai Seven campaign, centred on the seen targets of the Sendai Framework. This year focusses on Target C of the Sendai Framework, reducing disaster economic losses in relation to global GDP by 2030.

In fulfilling its mandate of serving the youth, women and children, YONECO is working tirelessly to contribute towards mitigating the impact of natural disasters through their

helpline caravans as well as ensuring disaster preparedness through raising awareness on the national radio station, YONECO FM. Further to this, they are in partnership with other agencies, which provide humanitarian aid in providing beneficiary feedback and response mechanisms through their toll-free helpline services.

YONECO showcased its ICT-based tools that are used in disaster response including its Helpline service and other interventions. YONECO FM broadcasted the event live from the venue, Masinth Ground in Lilongwe, Malawi. 📺