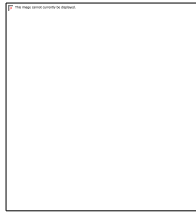


BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION



FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

**Institutional Capacity To Respond To Disaster Emergencies In
Chikomba District, Zimbabwe**

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**A dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the Bachelor of Science Honours
Degree in Disaster Management Sciences**

Supervisor: Dr H. Musarandega


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APPROVAL FORM

The undersigned certify that they have read the dissertation and have approved its submission for marking confirming that it conforms to the departmental requirements on a research entitled: “*INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO DISASTER EMERGENCIES IN CHIKOMBA DISTRICT, ZIMBABWE*”

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis has been the result of my own original efforts and investigations and such work has not been presented elsewhere for the purpose of

degree assessment. All additional sources of information have been acknowledged by means of references.

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DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to Higher Life Foundation, my husband Carlington Rwizi, my two children Adelaide and Asher and my best friend Mitchell K Nyakonda.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Musarandega, my supervisor who tirelessly guided me in conducting and compiling this dissertation. A particular acknowledgement goes to my colleagues at Bindura University, my family for their continued support and the District Development Coordinator's office who assisted me in valuable contributions which assisted in improving the final version.

Abstract

This research project aims to explore the institutional capacity to respond to disaster emergencies in Chikomba district, Zimbabwe, a region that has faced various natural and man-made disasters. The effectiveness of disaster response efforts is heavily reliant on the capabilities of relevant organizations and agencies. To achieve this, a mixed methods approach was employed, utilizing structured interviews with key stakeholders, observations, and focus group discussions with community members to gather comprehensive data on the existing institutional framework for disaster risk reduction and emergency response. The findings revealed significant strengths within certain institutions, such as established communication channels and community engagement initiatives. However, weaknesses were also identified, including inadequate resources, limited training for personnel, and gaps in coordination among agencies. The thematic analysis of qualitative data highlighted recurring challenges in disaster response, such as the need for improved resource allocation and enhanced training programs. Based on these findings, the study recommends strengthening institutional collaboration, investing in capacity-building initiatives, and developing comprehensive disaster management training for local agencies. These recommendations aim to enhance institutional capacity and improve disaster response efforts in Chikomba district, ultimately fostering more effective disaster risk reduction and building community resilience.

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Acronyms

CPU: Civil Protection Unit

CRDC: Chikomba Rural District Council

DCP: Department of Civil Protection

DCPC: District Civil Protection Committee

DDC: District Development Coordinator

DRM: Disaster Risk Management

DRR: Disaster Risk Reduction

EMA: Environmental Management Agency

NGOs: Non-Governmental Organizations

GoZ: Government of Zimbabwe

GIS: Geographical Information Systems

PAR: Pressure and Release Model

PCVA: Participatory Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment

PDC: Provincial Development Coordination

PDRA: Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment

RDDC: Rural District Development Community

VCA: Vulnerability Capacity Assessment

Chapter 1

1.1 Introduction

Disasters have a significant impact on individual, communities and countries causing death, destruction and of livelihoods. Disasters Risk Reduction is a growing field of study and practice, aimed at reducing the impact of disasters through prevention, mitigation and preparedness. The study focused on the role of institutions in building disaster response capacity in Chikomba district, Zimbabwe. The research questions explored the main challenges and opportunities for building capacity in the district, as well as the potential for collaboration between different institutions. The study is significant because it contributed to the existing body of knowledge on disaster management in Zimbabwe and provided recommendations for improving capacity at the local level.

1.2 Background of the study

Disaster Risk Reduction is global priority, given the increase frequency and severity of disasters Worldwide. Zimbabwe is no exception, as it is highly vulnerable to natural hazards such as droughts, floods, and cyclones. The Chikomba district in particular has experienced significant damage and loss from these hazards in recent years. The district's vulnerability is further exacerbated by socio-economic factors such as poverty, poor infrastructure, and limited access to resources. However, there are also opportunities for improvement, including increased awareness of disaster risk reduction efforts to build resilience.

The Chikomba district in Zimbabwe has been identified as high risk area for disasters such as floods, droughts and cyclones (UNDP, 2017). In response to this risk, the Civil Protection Unit (CPU) has worked with communities in the Chikomba district to implement disaster risk reduction measures, including early warning systems, evacuation plans, and community based disaster management committees (World Bank, 2019). The CPU has worked with communities in the Chikomba District to increase their resilience to disasters through initiatives such as livelihood diversification, infrastructure development, and capacity building (UNDP, 2017).

However, the CPU has faced challenges in the district including a lack of resources and capacity among community member (World Bank, 2019). Despite these challenges, the CPUs work in the district has been recognized as an important contribution to reducing disaster risk in the region.

Chikomba district has attempted to upgrade its emergency and disaster management capabilities through a number of development in the district. Chikomba district is prone to even disasters which may affect its neighbors besides others which may occur within the district. Therefore, undermining different institutions and their capacity to respond to disaster emergencies in the district would be an injustice to the society. It is therefore necessary to prepare for these disasters to enhance a unified strategic approach. Planning is a fundamental component of disaster management. It is essential before the onset of an emergency and even more so once it has begun. Thus calling for the exploration of institutional capacity to respond to disaster emergencies in the district. These extents to facilitation and collaboration between government, NGOs, and community based organization initiatives and relief activities

Chikomba district continues to face a number of challenges in building its capacity to respond to disasters. These challenges include limited resources, both financial and human, limited trained personnel, limited equipment, and inconsistent external support, the district has a limited number of vehicles and other equipment necessary for disaster response. In the event of a disaster, the response may be delayed or hindered due to a lack of transportation and other resources. Nevertheless, the district also has opportunities to tackle these challenges and enhance its ability to respond to disasters effectively. This means that while the lack of resources can impede disaster response, there are also chances for the district to improve its capabilities in this area. These opportunities include partnerships with other organizations, capacity building through training and education, and increased funding from the government and other sources.

The table bellows shows hazards experienced in Chikomba district for the past 5 years and their severity and the results in number of deaths of people or and livestock.

Table 1.1: Experienced hazards and their magnitude for the past 5 years

Year	Hazard type	Severity	Number of deaths
2019	Cyclone (Cyclone Idzi)	Moderate	15
2020	Pandemic (COVID 19)	High	100
2021	Pandemic (COVID 19)	High	80
2022	Epidemic (Lens) Veldt fires	High Moderate	150 (livestock) 8 (livestock)
2023	Biological (cholera and typhoid)	Moderate	10
2024	Climate (drought heatwave)	Moderate

Table 1.2: The mostly prevailing hazards in Chikomba district

Hazard	Occurrences	Severity
Flooding	4	Moderate
Veldt fires	5	Moderate
Road traffic accidents	10	High
Droughts	3	High

The table above shows the hazards that are commonly experienced in Chikomba district for the past 5 years and how often they are experienced in terms of frequency

1.2 Statement of the problem

The Chikomba district in Zimbabwe faces significant challenges in its ability to respond effectively to disasters, which poses a serious threat to the safety and well-being of its residents. The core problem lies in the district's inadequate disaster response capacity, primarily driven by several interrelated factors.

Firstly, there is a lack of financial resources, which limits the ability of institutions to invest in essential disaster management infrastructure and services. This financial shortfall affects not only the procurement of necessary equipment but also the implementation of effective disaster preparedness and response strategies.

Secondly, the district suffers from a shortage of trained personnel. Many institutions lack adequately trained staff who can respond to emergencies, which results in inefficient management of disaster situations. This gap in human resources further exacerbates the challenges faced during disaster events, as untrained personnel may struggle to execute effective response measures.

Additionally, there is a significant inadequacy of equipment and infrastructure necessary for disaster response. Without the proper tools and facilities, the ability to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies is severely compromised, leading to delays that can result in increased casualties and property damage.

As a consequence of these factors, the Chikomba district often experiences *delayed and ineffective disaster responses*, which contribute to heightened vulnerability among its population. This situation not only leads to increased loss of life and property during disasters but also undermines the overall resilience of the community.

This research aims to investigate these challenges in depth, exploring the capacity of institutions in Chikomba district to respond to disaster emergencies and identifying potential strategies for improvement. By addressing these issues, the study seeks to contribute to enhancing disaster management practices and ultimately safeguarding the lives and properties of residents in the district.

1.3 Research aim

The aim of this study is to conduct a comprehensive exploration of the capacity of institutions in Chikomba district, Zimbabwe, to respond effectively to disaster emergencies. This investigation will focus on assessing the availability of resources, the level of training among personnel, the adequacy of equipment and infrastructure, and the overall preparedness of these institutions. By identifying strengths and weaknesses within the current disaster response framework, the study seeks to provide insights that can enhance institutional capacities and improve overall disaster management strategies in the district.

1.4 Objectives

The objectives of the study are to

1. To explore the main challenges
2. To assess the effectiveness of existing disaster response policies and practices in Chikomba district.
3. To suggest improved strategies

1.6 Research questions

1. What are the main challenges faced by institutions in Chikomba district in responding to disaster emergencies?
2. How effective are the existing disaster response policies and practices in Chikomba district?

3. What improved strategies can be suggested to enhance disaster response capacity in Chikomba district?

1.7 Significant of the study

This research is significant as it addresses a critical gap in the existing literature on disaster management, particularly within the context of Zimbabwe and other developing nations. While there has been some exploration of disaster management strategies, there is a notable lack of detailed information regarding local-level contexts, especially in Chikomba district.

By conducting this study, I aim to gain a deeper understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities that institutions face in this specific setting. This understanding is essential for developing tailored disaster management strategies that are effective and relevant to the local community.

Furthermore, the literature review underscores the importance of *institutional capacity* in facilitating effective disaster response. By focusing on this aspect, the study will contribute valuable insights that can inform policymakers and practitioners, ultimately leading to improved disaster management practices not only in Chikomba district but also in similar communities facing comparable challenges.

In summary, this research will enhance the body of knowledge on disaster management at the local level, providing a foundation for future studies and practical applications aimed at strengthening institutional responses to disasters in Zimbabwe and beyond.

1.8 Justification of the study

The research on the capacity of institutions in Chikomba district to respond to disasters is crucial for several compelling reasons:

1. ***High-Risk Area***: Chikomba district is recognized as a high-risk area for disasters, including severe storms and floods. Understanding the capacity of local institutions to respond effectively can significantly reduce the loss of life and property during such events. Effective disaster response mechanisms are essential for safeguarding the community and ensuring their safety.
2. ***Economic and Social Impacts***: Disasters can have devastating economic and social consequences. A robust disaster response can help mitigate these impacts, facilitating quicker recovery and minimizing long-term disruptions. For instance, the severe storm in 2018 caused extensive damage to property and infrastructure, leading to economic losses and service disruptions. By studying the response capacity, the research aims to identify ways to enhance resilience and recovery efforts.
3. ***Tailored Solutions***: It is vital to understand the specific challenges and opportunities unique to Chikomba district to develop tailored solutions that meet the community's needs. The local context plays a significant role in disaster management, and insights gained from this study can inform more effective strategies that are culturally and contextually appropriate.
4. ***Long-Term Development***: The disruption of services due to disasters can have lasting effects on the district's economic development. For example, lost income and damaged infrastructure can decrease productivity and deter investment, creating a ripple effect on the local economy. By addressing these issues through research, the study aims to contribute to sustainable development and resilience-building in the community.
5. ***Social Consequences***: The social impact of disasters can be equally severe. For instance, after a major flood, many children in Chikomba district were forced to miss school due to damaged roads and infrastructure, leading to a loss of educational opportunities and increased risk of social exclusion. Understanding these social dynamics is essential for developing comprehensive disaster response strategies that consider the well-being of all community members.

In summary, this study is important not only for enhancing disaster response capacity in Chikomba district but also for contributing to the broader discourse on disaster management in Zimbabwe and similar developing contexts. By identifying challenges

and proposing effective strategies, the research aims to foster resilience and improve the overall quality of life for residents in the district.

1.9 Definition of terms

- *Disaster Management*: Planning, preparing, responding, recovering.
- *Disaster*: Serious disruption of community functioning.
- *Institutions*: Organizations with specific roles and responsibilities.
- *Capacity*: Strengths and resources for effective response.
- *Coping Capacity*: Ability to manage adverse conditions.
- *Risk*: Probability of negative consequences occurring.
- *Disaster Risk*: Potential losses from hazards over time.
- *Hazard*: Event causing potential loss or disruption.
- *Vulnerability*: Susceptibility to disaster impacts.

- *Resilience*: Ability to recover from hazards.

- *Mitigation*: Actions to reduce disaster impacts.

- *Preparedness*: Readiness for effective disaster response.

- *Response*: Immediate assistance during disasters.

- *Recovery*: Restoring normalcy after a disaster.

- *Disaster Risk Management*: Systematic process to lessen impacts.

- *Disaster Risk Reduction*: Efforts to manage disaster causes.

- *Adaptation*: Adjustments to climate change effects.

1.10 Conclusion

Chapter 1 provided an overview of the study on disaster management in Chikomba district, Zimbabwe. It included the background of the study, the research aim and objectives, the research questions, the significance of the study, and the justification for the study. This research is important because it helped to improve the disaster management capacity of the district and to better prepare for future disasters. The study also contributed to the existing literature on disaster management in developing countries.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The literature review included a review of relevant literature on disaster management, focusing on theories and models of disaster management, the role of institutions, and the challenges and opportunities in this field. This review drew on a variety of sources, including academic journals, government reports, and case studies. The review helped to identify gaps in the existing literature and provided a basis for the primary research presented in subsequent chapters.

2.2 Disaster Management models and Frameworks

2.2.1 The Hyogo Framework for action 2005-2015

The Hyogo Framework for Action, established in 2005 by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), provides a strategic and systematic approach to reducing vulnerabilities and risks to disasters.

The Hyogo Framework emphasizes the importance of building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters, including the enhancement of institutional capacities for effective disaster response and risk reduction. In the case of Chikomba district in Zimbabwe, where disaster risk reduction is crucial, the Hyogo Framework's principles can be instrumental in guiding the development and strengthening of institutional capacities for disaster response.

This framework emphasizes the need for integrating disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning, as well as the importance of enhancing the resilience of communities and institutions to disasters. Given the specific focus on Chikomba district, it would be beneficial to explore how the principles of the Hyogo Framework can be applied to boost the institutional ability for disaster response within the district.

By aligning the project with the Hyogo Framework for Action, you can emphasize the importance of integrating disaster risk reduction into local development initiatives and strengthening the capacity of institutions in Chikomba district to effectively respond to disaster emergencies. This approach can contribute to building a more resilient and prepared community in the face of potential disasters.

2.2.2 The Sendai Framework

The global adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 introduced a comprehensive outline of priorities and actions to steer initiatives aimed

at reducing disaster risk (UNISDR, 2015). This framework underscores the significance of comprehending and mitigating risk factors, improving readiness, reinforcing governance and institutions, and fostering community involvement in disaster preparedness."

2.3 Disaster management models

Disaster management models provide frameworks for understanding and analyzing the complex processes and interactions involved in disaster response. Several models have been developed to guide disaster management practices, including the Disaster Management Cycle, the Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRM) model, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Disaster Management Cycle, often depicted as a continuous cycle of four phases (mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery), provides a systematic approach to managing disasters (Coppola, 2011). This model highlights the importance of activities such as risk assessment, planning, and capacity building in the pre-disaster phases, as well as the coordination and collaboration required during response and recovery.

The Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRM) model emphasizes the necessity for a wide-ranging and multi-sectoral method to disaster management (UNISDR, 2013). It promotes the integration of disaster risk reduction into development planning, recognizing that addressing underlying risk factors and building resilience can contribute to effective disaster response.

These models provide conceptual frameworks that can inform the analysis of institutional capacity for disaster response in Chikomba District. By examining the literature through the lens of these models, this review aims to identify the extent to which the district's disaster management practices align with these frameworks and explore opportunities for improvement.

2.4 Disaster Management in Zimbabwe:

The Civil Protection Act

The Civil Protection Act of Zimbabwe is a key legislative instrument that governs disaster management and response in the country.

The Civil Protection Act (Chapter 10:06) of Zimbabwe provides the legal framework for disaster risk management and response. The Act aims to enhance the country's capacity to prevent, prepare for, mitigate, and respond to disasters.

Under the Act, the Department of Civil Protection (DCP) is designated as the lead agency responsible for coordinating disaster management efforts. The DCP is empowered to establish and implement disaster management plans, coordinate emergency response activities, and mobilize resources during disaster events.

The Civil Protection Act outlines the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, including government departments, local authorities, NGOs, and community-based organizations, in disaster management. It emphasizes the need for collaboration, information sharing, and joint planning among these entities.

The Act provides provisions for the declaration of a state of disaster, which enables the government to mobilize additional resources and take necessary measures to discourse the effects of a disaster. It also outlines procedures for the establishment of disaster management committees at the national, provincial, and district levels to facilitate coordination and decision-making during emergencies.

Furthermore, the Act highlights the importance of public awareness, education, and training in disaster risk reduction and response. It emphasizes the involvement and participation of communities in disaster management activities.

The Civil Protection Act of Zimbabwe serves as a crucial legal framework for disaster management, guiding the country's efforts in preparedness, response, and recovery. It provides a basis for institutional coordination, resource mobilization, and the implementation of strategies to mitigate the impact of disasters.

2.4.1 Roles of The Civil Protection Unit

The civil protection unit is a government agency in Zimbabwe that is responsible for coordinating disaster response and relief efforts (UNDP, 2017). The CPU was established in 1989 as part of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural and Urban Development, and it is tasked with safeguarding that communities are equipped for disasters and that they have the capacity to respond and recover from them (World Bank, 2019). The CPU works with other government agencies, as well as international organization and NGOs to provide training, resources and other forms of support to communities that are at risk of disasters. The CPU has been involved in a number of disaster response and recovery efforts in Zimbabwe, including the response to the Cyclone Idai in 2019 (World Bank, 2019) The Department of Civil Protection (DCP), operating under the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works, is the key government agency responsible for disaster management in Zimbabwe (GoZ, 2017). The DCP is tasked with the coordination, planning, and implementation of disaster risk reduction and response activities at the national level. It collaborates with other government departments, local authorities, NGOs, and international partners to enhance disaster management efforts. However, the CPU has faced challenges such as limited resources and capacity, which have impacted its ability to effectively reduce disaster risk in the country (UNDP, 2017). Despite these challenges, the CPU remains an important player in disaster risk reduction in Zimbabwe.

2.4.2 Disaster risk profile of Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe, located in Southern Africa, is prone to a range of natural and man-made disasters, including floods, droughts, cyclones, and disease outbreaks. The country has established a comprehensive disaster management framework to address these challenges.

Zimbabwe has implemented a comprehensive strategy for disaster risk reduction, acknowledging the necessity of collaborative actions across different fields. The National Disaster Risk Management Policy serves as the primary structure for managing disasters in the nation (GoZ, 2017). It underscores the significance of evaluating risks, early warning mechanisms, enhancing capabilities, and involving communities in preparing for and responding to disasters.

In addition to the government's efforts, Zimbabwe has a vibrant civil society sector actively engaged in disaster management. Numerous NGOs and community-based organizations play a critical role in disaster response, providing humanitarian assistance, community mobilization, and capacity building initiatives (UNDP, 2013).

Despite the progress made in disaster management, Zimbabwe faces challenges related to resource constraints, capacity limitations, and the need for improved coordination mechanisms. The country continues to work towards strengthening its institutional capacity, enhancing early warning systems, and mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development planning (GoZ, 2017).

2.4.3 Disaster management institutions in Chikomba District

In Zimbabwe, disaster management is primarily coordinated by the Department of Civil Protection (DCP), which operates under the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works (GoZ, 2017). The DCP is accountable for developing national policies, strategies, and plans for disaster risk reduction and response. It plays a crucial role in coordinating and mobilizing resources during disaster events, as well as providing technical support to local authorities and other stakeholders (GoZ, 2017).

At the district level, Chikomba District falls under the purview of the District Civil Protection Committee (DCPC) which is head by the District Development Coordinator (DDC) which is responsible for implementing disaster management initiatives within its jurisdiction. The DDC works in collaboration with the Chikomba RDC and with the DCP and other relevant government departments to develop and implement disaster preparedness and response strategies at the community level.

Furthermore, various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) are actively involved in disaster management efforts in Chikomba District. These organizations often collaborate with government institutions to enhance community resilience, provide early warning systems, and facilitate disaster response activities (Chikomba RDC, n.d.).

The effectiveness and capacity of these disaster management institutions in Chikomba District may vary due to factors such as resource availability, institutional support, and local dynamics. Further investigation and analysis of the specific roles, coordination mechanisms, and resource allocation of these institutions within the context of

Chikomba District would provide a more comprehensive understanding of their capacity to respond to disaster emergencies.

2.5 Conclusion

Chikomba district, Zimbabwe faces significant disaster risk due to hazards such as droughts and floods, as well as human-made risks such as deforestation and land degradation. The district's rural, agrarian economy makes it particularly vulnerable to the impacts of disasters, they lack adequate disaster management capacity further exacerbates the vulnerability. This study seeks to address these challenges by conducting a mixed methods assessment of disaster management capacity in Chikomba district.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This section introduces the approach used to examine the institutional ability to address disaster emergencies in Chikomba district, Zimbabwe. It describes the research framework, methods for gathering data, sampling approaches, and data analysis techniques applied in the research. Additionally, the section covers the ethical factors considered throughout the research endeavor.

3.2 Description of study area/map



The area is generally known as Chivhu though the administrative name is Chikomba. The district is situated in the south-western corner of Mashonaland East Province. It is bordered by Hwedza to the North East, Marondera and Seke to the North, Mhondoro-Ngezi in the Mashonaland West [Province to the west, Gutu District in Masvingo Province to the south and Buhera District in Manicaland to the Eastern side. The district is divided into wards and wards are divided into villages. The district has Chiefs, headmen and village heads who stand and enforce environment protection laws through issues of taboos and sacred places. The geographical location of Chikomba district makes it prone to even disasters which may affect its neighbours besides others which may occur within the district. Four major roads pass through the district: 1 Harare-Masvingo-Beitbridge, 2 Chivhu-Murambinda-Mutare, 3 Chivhu-Gutu-Chiredzi, 4 Chivhu-Mvuma-Gweru. These routes are the busiest and logically the routes are the district's major focus on road accidents related disasters. Most of the district constitutes the catchment areas for the Sabi and Sanyathi rivers, several streams flow eastwards and westwards leaving a north south watershed and a dissected landscape. The area has commercial areas which are very prone to veld fires. Chikomba district has the highest

record of veld fires in the province leading with 40% every year. (Chikomba district civil protection unit plan 2020).

3.3 Research Design

The research design employed in this study is a qualitative approach, which aims to explore and understand the institutional capacity to respond to disaster emergencies in Chikomba district in-depth. Qualitative research allows for the collection of rich, descriptive data that captures the perspectives, experiences, and opinions of key stakeholders involved in disaster management (Creswell, 2013).

3.4 Data Collection Methods

A qualitative multi-method approach was adopted to explore disaster management capacity in Chikomba district. The study utilized interviews, focus group discussions, and observations to encompass a variety of viewpoints, experiences, and approaches concerning disaster management. This allowed for the gathering of in depth information about strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges of disaster management capacity and to identify key themes and patterns that emerged from data.

3.4.1 Interviews

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with selected key informants. The interviews aimed to gather detailed insights and perspectives on disaster response efforts, challenges, and opportunities. Open-ended questions were used to inspire contributors to portion their understandings, thoughts, and suggestions related to the institutional capacity to respond to disaster emergencies. The interviews were conducted face-to-face or via video conferencing, depending on the availability and preferences of the participants. All interviews were audio-recorded with the participants' consent and transcribed verbatim for subsequent analysis.

3.4.2 Focus Group Discussions

Focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with community members and local residents. The FGDs provided a platform for participatory discussions, enabling us to explore community experiences, concerns, and suggestions related to disaster management. FGDs were conducted in community settings, ensuring a comfortable and

conducive environment for open dialogue. The discussions were audio-recorded, and comprehensive notes were taken to capture the main points and themes.

3.4.3 Observations

Direct observations were conducted to observe the actual practices and dynamics within the disaster management institutions in Chikomba District. Time spent in the field, attending meetings, workshops, and training sessions related to disaster management. Observations were documented through field notes, capturing the interactions, decision-making processes, and operational aspects of the institutions.

3.5 Data collection instruments

Interviews, focus group discussion and observations are data collection instruments that were used in this research during data collection to gather rich and comprehensive data from key stakeholders and community members. The following instruments were utilized:

3.5.1. Interview Guide:

To explore the perspectives, experiences, and opinions of key stakeholders involved in disaster management, we developed an interview guide. The guide consisted of a structured set of open-ended questions and prompts. It facilitated in-depth conversations with participants, allowing them to share valuable insights on the institutional capacity to respond to disaster emergencies. Probes and supplement queries were included to further sightsee precise areas of attention. The interview guide ensured consistency in the interview process and helped us gather relevant and detailed data.

3.5.2. Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Guide:

To capture community members' experiences, concerns, and suggestions related to disaster management, we conducted focus group discussions. A carefully designed FGD guide was used to facilitate participatory discussions. The guide included a series of questions and prompts that encouraged participants to share their perspectives within a group setting. General questions initiated the discussion, while specific questions explored different aspects of disaster response. Probing questions were included to encourage participants to elaborate on their responses and engage in meaningful

dialogue. The FGD guide provided a structured framework for the discussions, enabling us to gather diverse viewpoints and community experiences.

3.5.3. Observation and Observation Checklist:

In addition to interviews and focus group discussions, we used observation as a data collection method. Through direct observation, we aimed to capture participants' behaviors, interactions, and the context in which they occurred. An observation checklist was developed to systematically record specific behaviors, events, or patterns of interest during the observation process. The checklist included predefined categories or variables that we wanted to observe and document. By using the observation checklist, we ensured consistency in data collection and focused on relevant aspects of the research topic.

3.5.4. Document Analysis:

To complement the primary data collection methods, we conducted document analysis. We examined and analyzed existing documents relevant to disaster management in Chikomba District. These documents included reports, policy documents, organizational records, official correspondence, and other written materials. A document analysis guide was developed to systematically extract relevant information from the documents. This guide facilitated the identification of key themes or patterns and the analysis of the content in relation to our research objectives. Document analysis provided additional insights into the institutional capacity to respond to disaster emergencies based on existing documentation.

By utilizing these data collection instruments - the interview guide, FGD guide, observation, and document analysis - I was able to gather a comprehensive range of data from diverse sources. These instruments ensured that I captured the perspectives of key stakeholders, community members, and relevant documents related to disaster response capacity in Chikomba District. The data collected through these instruments formed the basis of our analysis, enabling us to gain a deeper understanding of the

institutional capacity and identify strengths, challenges, and areas for improvement in disaster response efforts.

3.6 Sampling Techniques

Purposive sampling was used to select participants for both the interviews and focus group discussions. The selection criteria included individuals with direct involvement in disaster management activities, such as officials from the local government's disaster management department, representatives from NGOs working in disaster response, and community leaders with experience in emergency situations. Efforts were made to ensure diversity in terms of age, gender, occupation, and geographical location to capture a range of perspectives and experiences related to disaster response in Chikomba district.

3.7 Population

The population of interest in this study includes key stakeholders involved in disaster management in Chikomba district, including representatives from local government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and community members. The research aimed to encompass a broad spectrum of viewpoints and experiences associated with disaster response endeavors in the district.

3.8 Data Analysis

Thematic analysis was employed to analyze the qualitative data collected from interviews and focus group discussions. The transcripts and notes were carefully reviewed and coded to identify recurring patterns, themes, and categories relevant to the institutional capacity to respond to disaster emergencies. The coding process involved both deductive coding, guided by the research objectives and existing literature, and inductive coding, allowing for the emergence of new themes from the data. The codes were then organized into meaningful categories, and relationships between categories were examined to develop overarching themes. The analysis aimed to offer a thorough comprehension of institutional capacity and pinpoint essential strengths, obstacles, and areas for enhancement in disaster response endeavors.

3.9 Data Validity and Reliability

To ensure the validity of the data, multiple strategies were employed. A rigorous approach was used to select participants, ensuring that they had firsthand experience

and knowledge of disaster management in Chikomba district. The interview and FGD guides were developed based on existing literature and expert opinions in the field, enhancing the content validity of the data collection instruments. Triangulation was employed by using multiple data sources (interviews and FGDs) to validate the findings and enhance the overall credibility of the study.

To enhance data reliability, we maintained consistency in data collection procedures, including using standardized interview and FGD guides, and conducting interviews and FGDs in a similar manner across participants. Detailed notes and audio recordings were utilized to ensure accurate representation of the participants' perspectives and experiences.

3.10 Pilot Test

Before conducting the main data collection, a pilot test was conducted to refine the interview and FGD guides and ensure their clarity and appropriateness. A small sample of participants who were similar to the target population was selected for the pilot test. Feedback from the pilot participants was used to modify and improve the data collection instruments, ensuring that they effectively captured the intended information.

3.11 Data Presentation

The findings from the qualitative data analysis were presented in a narrative format, highlighting the key themes and patterns identified. Direct quotes from participants were used to support and illustrate the themes, providing a rich and authentic representation of their perspectives. The data presentation also included visual aids such as tables, charts, or diagrams to enhance the clarity and understanding of the findings.

3.12 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations were given utmost importance throughout the research process. The study obtained ethical clearance from the relevant research ethics committee or institutional review board to ensure the protection of participants' rights and welfare.

Informed consent was obtained from all participants before their involvement in the study, ensuring that they were fully aware of the study's purpose, procedures, and potential risks and benefits. Participants were assured of confidentiality and anonymity, and their identities were protected during data collection, analysis, and reporting. Any personal identifiers were removed or anonymized during the transcription of interviews and the reporting of findings. It was also ensured that participants had the opportunity to ask questions, clarify doubts, and withdraw their participation at any stage of the study.

Table 3.1: *Chikomba District land distribution*

Land	Figure
Communal area	73 622
Small scale areas	8 318
Resettlement A1 and A2	22 015
Chivhu town	12 207
Total population	121 162 (CENSUS 2022)

Table 3.2: *Hazard classification in Chikomba district*

Hazard type	Example
Natural hazards	Flooding, drought, Cyclone
Technological hazards	Road traffic accidents, chemical spills, mine collapse
Biological hazards	Disease outbreak, epidemics and pandemics
Environmental hazards	Air pollution, water contamination and deforestation

Geophysical hazards	Landslides and mudslides
Climate hazards	Drought, heatwave
Social economic hazards	Poverty, Political instability

3.13 Conclusion

This chapter has presented the research methodology employed to investigate the institutional capacity to respond to disaster emergencies in Chikomba district, Zimbabwe. The qualitative research design, including interviews and focus group discussions, allowed for an in-depth exploration of stakeholders' perspectives and community experiences. The study employed purposive sampling to select participants from a diverse range of backgrounds. Data validity and reliability were ensured through rigorous selection criteria, triangulation, and consistency in data collection procedures. A pilot test was conducted to refine the data collection instruments, and thematic analysis was employed to analyze the qualitative data. Ethical considerations were carefully addressed to protect the rights and welfare of the study participants. The next chapter presented the findings and analysis derived from the qualitative data, shedding light on the institutional capacity to respond to disaster emergencies in Chikomba district from the perspectives of key stakeholders and the community

Chapter IV

RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

In this chapter the findings from the research on disaster management capacity in Chikomba District, Zimbabwe were presented. The purpose of this study was to assess the capacity of institutions and communities to respond to disaster emergencies in the district and to pinpoint the elements that lead to community vulnerability and resilience.

Research findings are based on the data collected from various sources, including interviews with key informants' stakeholders, focus group discussion with community members and secondary sources of information. In-depth interviews were conducted with 20 key stakeholders, including traditional leaders, government agencies, NGOs and community based organizations to gain insights into institutional capacity for disaster management in Chikomba district.

In addition, focus group discussions were conducted with community members from different villages and wards in the district to understand community perspectives on disaster vulnerability and resilience. To supplement primary data collection efforts, the analysis incorporated secondary data sources such as government reports and academic literature.

Table 4.1: *Participants Demographic table*

Participant ID	Gender	Age	Occupation	Role in Disaster management
P1	Female	52	Community leader (Chief)	Volunteer responder
P2	Male	45	Government staff	Disaster coordinator
P3	Female	28	NGO worker	Community outreach

P4	Male	55	Retired	Disaster Preparedness
P5	Female	40	Health worker	Medical response

Source: Field data

4.2 Disaster Management Capacity

The institutional capacity of local governments, NGOs, and community-based organization is a critical component of Disaster management. Effective disaster management requires strong leadership, coordination and resources which can be challenging in rural communities like Chikomba District. In this study, the institutional capacity of key stakeholders involved in Disaster management, including their staffing levels, funding sources and coordination mechanisms were examined.

4.3. Identified institutions in Chikomba District and their roles

Through data collection and analysis methods, a range of institutions involved in disaster emergency response were identified in Chikomba district which included the following:

4.3.1 District Civil Protection Committee (DCPC)

The DCPC has been a key institution in improving communication and collaboration among different stakeholders during disaster emergencies in Chikomba district. It is also responsible for coordinating disaster management activities across the district (interviewee X, DCPC Key informant interview). The formation of this committee has brought together representatives from government agencies, NGOs, and community-based organizations, allowing to work together coordinating their efforts which has improved the effectiveness of disaster response in the district. The interviews conducted and documentary search provided further details about the roles and responsibility of the DCPC. For example, the provision of technical support to their stakeholders, mobilizing resources, establishing early warning systems and coordinating local level response efforts.

4.3.2 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

NGOs in Chikomba district includes, Caritas, Higher Life Foundation, World Vision and Hand in Hand, are providing disaster relief and development assistance.

NGOs has also played a significant role in strengthening disaster management capacity in Chikomba District. For example, NGOs such as Caritas, Hand in Hand and World Vision have worked closely with the communities to build resilience and improve preparedness for disaster. During focus group discussion conducted in Nharira community, traditional leaders were greatly appreciating these NGOs for working with their communities and improved their way of life through different development initiatives like the Goat inception program by Hand in Hand, community gardening and pumped water scheme by Caritas which are aiming at reducing poverty and promoting clean and safe water to drink and also nutritious meals through community gardens.

According to interviewee Y, a representative from World Vision, 'We have worked closely with communities in Chikomba district to create early warning systems, establish disaster response teams, and build infrastructure that can withstand natural hazards'. This collaboration between NGOs and communities has helped to improved disaster management capacity and resilience in the district.

4.3.3 Government agencies

Government agencies such as the Ministry of Local Government and Public works and the Zimbabwe Republic Police, The involvement of both the Health and Social Development departments was also significant in Chikomba District. These agencies provide emergency response and enforcement services. For example, the department of civil protection has provided trainings to community volunteers on disaster response and evacuation procedures, which has improved the district's preparedness for disasters. during the focus group discussion, it was stated by one of the community volunteers undergoing the training that, "The importance of these trainings cannot be seen now, people will only realize it when their beloved ones are in danger and these people (Government agencies i.e. the DDC) are back to their offices, when they desperately need a trained personnel to assist and save life".

Data from interviews with the government officials and other document analysis revealed that government agencies are also playing a significant role in improving

disaster management capacity in Chikomba District through partnership and contribution to financial and resources support.

Each of these institutions plays a unique and important role in disaster management, and their capacity and effectiveness have a significant impact on the resilience of communities in Chikomba District.

4.4 Strengths and Weaknesses of Institutional capacity

4.4.1 Strength of Institutional capacity

The findings of this research indicate that institutional capacity for disaster management in Chikomba district is being strengthened by the presence of key institutions such as the District Civil Protection Committee, Non-Governmental Organizations and Government agencies, the establishment of coordination mechanisms, and the development of community based initiatives. These strengths have helped to improve the district's preparedness and response to disasters and have contributed to a greater understanding of community vulnerability and resilience.

4.4.2 Weaknesses of Institutional capacity

➤ Inadequate Human and Financial Capacity

One of the major weaknesses in institutional capacity for disaster management in Chikomba District is lack of human capital and financial resources. Interviews with stakeholders revealed that the DCPC, NGOs and Government agencies faces severe challenges in terms of staffing, funding and equipment. The lack of human and financial resources has led to a situation where institutions are unable to effectively respond to disasters. For example, the interviewee Z from the DCPC, reported that "We have a severe shortage of staff, and this makes it difficult to coordinate our efforts effectively during disaster emergencies."

➤ Lack of coordination and communication

Another weakness in institutional capacity for disaster management in Chikomba district is lack of coordination and communication among stakeholders. Despite the presence of the DCPC, there are still gaps in coordination and communication between different agencies and between government and non-governmental actors. This lack of coordination and communication has resulted in delays in disaster response, as well as duplication of efforts and wasted resources. For example, a representative from Caritas (interviewee X) " We often find ourselves duplicating efforts because different NGOs are working in the same district area without coordination.

➤ Lack of community engagement

A third weakness in institutional capacity for disaster management in Chikomba district is lack community engagement and empowerment in disaster management processes. Stakeholders reported that community members are often left out of decision-making processes and are not involved in the planning and implementation of disaster management strategies. This lack of community engagement has resulted in disaster management strategies that are not tailored to the specific needs and priorities of communities. For example, during focus group discussion conducted, community members expressed frustration with government and NGO programs that were not designed with their input and did not address their specific concerns and challenges.

This highlighted the need for greater community engagement and empowerment in disaster management processes, in order to ensure that strategies are effective and sustainable.

In summation, the weaknesses in institutional capacity for disaster management in Chikomba district include inadequate human and financial capacity, lack of coordination and communication among different stakeholders, and lack of community engagement and empowerment in disaster management processes. These weaknesses have hindered the ability to effectively respond to disasters and to build community resilience.

4.5 Challenges and Opportunities of institutional capacity

The identified institutions are associated with different challenges and opportunities which either makes it a success or a failure in responding to disaster emergencies in Chikomba district.

4.5.1 Challenges of institutional capacity

The research findings identified several challenges in the institutional capacity for disaster response in Chikomba district. Limited financial resources emerged as a significant challenge, impacting the implementation of preparedness measures, infrastructure development, and capacity-building initiatives. Capacity constraints including a shortage of trained personnel and limited technical expertise, were also identified as challenges.

Furthermore, gaps in early warning systems and information dissemination were highlighted as areas that require attention. Enhancing the effectiveness of early warning systems and ensuring timely communication of warnings to at risk communities emerged as critical priorities for improving disaster response. The interviewee X said, "the most worrying thing is that, before we could know of any potential hazards our beloved ones are affected, our livestock and property are affected. How then are we supposed to make preparations and avoid such losses, I think there is something that must be done in order to alert people about the impending disasters before it happens." They emphasized their pain due to the fact that they could be relaxing unaware of the possible danger around them.

4.5.2 Opportunities of institutional capacity

Despite the above challenges, opportunities were revealed to enhance the institutional capacity for disaster response. These findings emphasized the potential for community engagement and participation. Community members expressed their willingness to actively contribute to disaster management efforts and highlighted the importance of community-based initiatives in improving disaster resilience.

Additionally, the use of technology was identified as an opportunity to strengthen disaster response. Leveraging technological advancements, such as mobile applications for early warning dissemination and remote sensing for hazard monitoring, can significantly enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of disaster response initiatives. Data collected from focus group discussions conducted together with government agencies revealed a great need to make use of technology so as to improve disaster

response capacity and resilience. In depth interviews conducted after focus group discussions proved that use of technology can be of importance. Interviewee Y, said "It is now era of technology and almost everyone is exposed to the use of mobile phones and technology, why not make use of that to save lives, rather than streaming live shows we can build a better tomorrow together".

Moreover, integration of traditional knowledge (IKS) and practices into formal disaster management approaches emerged as a promising opportunity. Community members emphasized the value of traditional knowledge in understanding local hazards, coping mechanisms and resilience strategies. Integrating this knowledge can lead to context-specific and culturally appropriate disaster management. Interviewee X said that, " I think if the traditional knowledge can be considered and is upgraded through research and document review disaster management capacity could be improved" She went on to emphasize the importance of traditional knowledge as it works together with culture and beliefs. According to focus group discussion with traditional leaders, it was revealed that some responding mechanisms seems not to be working in other communities because they are not applicable and acceptable in their societies, some of the strategies were considered disrespecting the community leaders.

Zvinotibvisa Chiremerera, vanofanira kutanga vanzwa isu, nekuti tineruzivo nedunhu redu,zvino kana ivo vouya votanga kutonga muno chinenge chava chii chakadaro chinoitwa navanana. these were the words that expressed their total disagreement in NGO and Government led initiatives that does not appreciate and respect the existence of local traditional leadership and traditional knowledge.

4.6 Discussion of Findings

The findings from the qualitative data analysis demonstrate the existing strengths and challenges in the institutional capacity to respond to disaster emergencies in Chikomba, Zimbabwe. The analysis revealed the need for enhanced coordination mechanisms, improved risk assessment processes, and stronger resource allocation for disaster preparedness and planning. It also emphasized the significance of fostering collaboration, engaging the community, and establishing partnerships with external stakeholders. Furthermore, the findings underscored the importance of continuous capacity building and training to enhance the skills and knowledge of responders

4.7 Validation and Trustworthiness

To ensure the trustworthiness and validity of the qualitative data analysis, various measures were implemented, including member checking and triangulation of data sources. These measures enhanced the credibility of the findings and increased the reliability of the study outcomes. However, it is important to acknowledge limitations such as potential biases in participant selection and the generalizability of the findings.

4.9 Conclusion

In conclusion, the qualitative data analysis presented in this chapter provides valuable insights into the institutional capacity to respond to disaster emergencies in Chikomba, Zimbabwe. The findings highlighted the areas that required attention and improvement, such as preparedness and planning, collaboration and partnerships, and capacity building and training. These findings have implications for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders involved in disaster management in Chikomba and can contribute to the development of more effective and sustainable disaster response strategies.

Chapter V

Summary, conclusion and recommendations

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presented the analysis and discussion of the research findings from chapter four. The data collected through interviews, focus group discussion and documentary search were analyzed using thematic analysis. The analysis aimed to identify key themes and patterns related to the institutional capacity to respond to disaster emergencies in Chikomba district, Zimbabwe. This chapter provided a comprehensive exploration of the findings, their implications, and their alignment with the research aim and objectives.

5.2 Institutional Structures and Mechanisms

The analysis of the research findings revealed that Chikomba district has established the District Civil Protection Committee as a key institutional structure for disaster response. This committee serves as a platform for coordination, planning and resource mobilization during disaster events. the department of Civil Protection (DCP) plays a central role in coordinating and implementing disaster response activities, NGOs and community based organizations, contribute their expertise and resources

The establishment of the District civil protection committee reflects the recognition of the importance of coordination and multi-stakeholder approach to disaster management. This institutional structure enables different stakeholders to pool their resources, share information and align their efforts towards effective disaster response. The involvement of local authorities, NGOs and community based organization further strengthens the district's capacity to respond to disasters by tapping into local knowledge, resources, and community networks.

However, it is important to ensure that the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder within the institutional structure are clearly defined. the analysis revealed instances where role delineation and coordination among stakeholders were not well defined, leading to inefficiencies and potential gaps in disaster response. Therefore, it is crucial to establish formal mechanisms for effective collaboration, information sharing and decision making among stakeholders to enhance the overall institutional capacity for disaster response.

Table 5.1 Summary of findings

Theme	Subtheme	Quotation
Institutional capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resource allocation	“We struggled with limited funding and equipment”
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordination and communication	“Communication breakdown hindered our response”

Community engagement	Awareness and education	“Community workshops improved disaster preparedness”
	Community based organizations	“Local NGOs played a crucial role in relief efforts and capacity building through development initiatives”
Challenges and Barriers	Limited Funding and Resources	“Lack of resources hindered our ability to respond “Coordination between agencies was lacking”
	Lack of interagency Collaboration	

5.3 Coordination and collaboration

The analysis of the research findings highlighted both positive and negative aspects of coordination and collaboration among stakeholders involved in disaster management in Chikomba District. While there were instances of effective coordination and collaboration, some challenges were identified, including limited information sharing, unclear role delineation and inadequate communication channels

The research findings underscored the importance of regular coordinating meetings as a platform for stakeholders to come together, share information, and align their efforts. These meetings provide an opportunity to address challenges, gaps and emerging needs in disaster response. However, the analysis revealed that the effectiveness of coordinating meetings can be further enhanced by ensuring active participation,

promoting open communication and fostering a culture of collaboration among stakeholders.

Information sharing emerged as a critical aspect of coordination and collaboration. the analysis revealed the need for improved mechanisms to facilitate the timely and accurate sharing of information among stakeholders. This includes the establishment of standardized reporting systems, information management protocols, and the use of technology for real-time data sharing. Strengthening information sharing processes can enhance situational awareness, support evidence based decision-making, and improve the overall coordination of disaster response efforts.

Furthermore, the analysis emphasized the importance of capacity building initiatives to enhance stakeholder's skills and knowledge in disaster management. Capacity constraints, such as a shortage of trained personnel and limited technical expertise, were identified as challenges. Investing in training, education and skill development programs can address these capacity gaps and empower stakeholders to effectively contribute to disaster response activities.

5.4 Challenges and Opportunities

5.4.1 Challenges

The analysis of this research findings identified several challenges in the institutional capacity for disaster response in Chikomba district. Limited financial resources emerged as a significant challenge, impacting the implementation of preparedness measures, infrastructure development, capacity-building initiatives. Addressing this challenge requires the allocation of adequate financial resources for disaster management, both at the national and district levels. This includes exploring opportunities for external funding, engaging with development partners, and advocating for increased budgetary allocations for disaster risk reduction and response.

Capacity constraints, including a shortage of trained personnel, limited technical expertise, were also identified as challenges. The analysis emphasized the need for comprehensive capacity-building, programs to enhance the skills and knowledge of stakeholders involved in disaster management. These programs should focus on areas such as early warning systems, risk assessment, emergency response planning and community engagement. Building a skilled and knowledgeable workforce is crucial for effective disaster response and resilient-building efforts.

Gaps in early warning systems and information dissemination were identified as areas that require attention. The analysis emphasized the need for robust early warning systems that can effectively detect and communicate hazards to at risk communities. This involves the investment in technologies like weather monitoring systems, automated alert systems, and communication networks. Furthermore, it's crucial to conduct community engagement and awareness programs to make sure that communities receive and comprehend early warnings, empowering them to take prompt and suitable actions.

5.4.2 Opportunities

Despite these challenges, the analysis identified several opportunities to enhance the institutional capacity for disaster response in Chikomba District. Community engagement and participation emerged as an important opportunity. This analysis highlighted the willingness of community members to actively contribute to disaster management efforts and the value of their local knowledge and resources. Strengthening community based initiatives, fostering community ownership, and integrating traditional knowledge into formal disaster management approaches can significantly enhance the districts' resilience and response capacity.

The analysis also revealed the potential for leveraging technology and innovation in disaster response. The utilization of mobile technology, geographic information systems (GIS), and remote sensing can enhance the collection, analysis, and decision-making processes related to data. Integrating these technologies into existing systems and processes can enhance situational awareness, facilitate rapid response and support evidence-based decision-making.

Furthermore, the analysis emphasized the significance of integrating disaster risk reduction into development planning. This involves incorporating disaster risk measures into development projects and policies. Chikomba District can build resilience, reduce vulnerabilities, and minimize the impact of future disasters. This includes incorporating disaster risk assessments, land-use planning, and infrastructure development that consider the potential risks and hazards.

5.5. Implications

- i. Institutional Strengthening:

The study emphasizes the need to strengthen the institutional capacity of local government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders involved in disaster response. This can be achieved through enhancing coordination mechanisms, investing in training and skill development, and fostering partnerships to leverage available resources

ii. Addressing underlying challenges:

Addressing underlying social and economic challenges Pelling (2011) notes that "it is not possible to understand or manage disaster risk without considering the broader social, economic, and political factors that contribute to vulnerability." Addressing underlying social and economic challenges in Chikomba district and beyond is therefore critical for reducing disaster vulnerability and improving disaster management capacity.

iii. Investing in capacity-building initiatives:

Develop comprehensive training, education, and skill development programs for stakeholders involved in disaster management. Address capacity constraints by building a skilled and knowledgeable workforce

iv. Community-based disaster management plans:

Kulatunga et al. (2013) argue that "community-based disaster management strategies are effective because they build on local knowledge and capacities, which can be mobilized in times of crisis." Developing community-based disaster management plans in Chikomba district can help to build local capacity and resilience by involving local communities in disaster management decision-making and planning.

v. Community Engagement:

The findings underscore the significance of engaging and involving the local

community in disaster management processes. Efforts should be made to enhance community participation, communication, and awareness to ensure the effectiveness of preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. Systems and processes to enhance response capacity.

5.6 Recommendations

i. Strengthen coordination and collaboration among stakeholders: Establish formal mechanisms for coordination, information sharing, and decision-making. Clearly define roles and responsibilities to avoid duplication and gaps in disaster response activities. Frantz (2018) emphasizes the importance of "whole-of-society" approaches to disaster management, where all relevant stakeholders work together in an integrated and coordinated way. Establishing coordination and collaboration mechanisms between government agencies, NGOs, and community groups can help to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of disaster response and recovery efforts in Chikomba district.

ii. Allocating adequate financial resources: Advocate for increased budgetary allocations for disaster risk reduction and response. Explore opportunities for external funding and engage with development partners. According to The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2013) it highlights the importance of investing in disaster management resources, stating that "building resilience requires investment in a wide range of disaster management resources, including early warning systems, evacuation procedures, and shelter provision." By investing in disaster management resources and capacity-building in Chikomba district, the district can improve its ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

iii. Enhance early warning systems and information dissemination: Invest in robust early warning systems, including weather monitoring systems, automated alert systems, and communication networks. Conduct a community engagement and awareness programs to ensure timely and appropriate actions by at risk communities. Investment in disaster management resources and capacity-building Hyndman (2010) argues that "effective disaster management requires a comprehensive approach that includes both mitigation and response measures." Investing in disaster management resources and capacity-building, such as early warning systems,

evacuation procedures, and shelter provision, can help to improve the district's resilience to disasters and reduce the impacts of hazards.

iv. Mainstream disaster risk reduction into development planning: Incorporate disaster risk assessments, land-use planning, and infrastructure development that consider potential risks and hazards. Ensure that development projects and policies contributed to building resilience and reducing vulnerabilities.

v. Improve information sharing and communication: Establish standardized reporting systems, information management protocols, leverage technology for real-time data sharing. Enhance communication channels and promote open dialogue among stakeholders

Implementing these recommendations requires strong commitment and collaboration among stakeholders, including government agencies, local authorities, NGOs, community-based organizations and the affected communities themselves. By addressing the identified challenges and leveraging the opportunities, Chikomba District can enhance its institutional capacity for disaster response, build resilience, and reduce the impact of future disasters.

5.7 Conclusion

In conclusion, the study on the institutional capacity to respond to disaster emergencies in Chikomba, Zimbabwe has provided valuable insights into the strengths and challenges of the existing disaster management system. The study's findings, conclusions, implications, and recommendations offer a roadmap for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders to enhance disaster response efforts in Chikomba. By implementing these recommendations, the institutional capacity can be strengthened, leading to a more resilient and effective disaster management system in the study area.

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List of Appendix

Appendix 1

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION CLEARANCE LETTER

Appendix 2

Interview Guide:

Introduction:

My name is Ruth N Vengesai, I am a student at Bindura University doing an undergraduate degree in Disaster Management Sciences. I would like to thank you all for your participation. The purpose of this interview is to help me to write my research project on the topic, 'Institutional capacity to respond to disaster emergencies in Chikomba district, Zimbabwe.' I am kindly asking you cooperate with me about the next 20-30 minutes. Your cooperation is highly appreciated.

Please I need you all to feel comfortable and safe for informed consent is being obtained and I assure you of confidentiality. Your responses here are not going to be used for anything else besides academic purposes. Thank you once again

1. Do you have any knowledge on the Institutions who are responsible for disaster response in Chikomba district?
2. Can you describe their role and responsibilities in disaster management?
3. How would you assess the current capacity of our organization/department in responding to disasters?
4. What are the key challenges you face in coordinating disaster response efforts?
5. Can you share any successful strategies or initiatives that have been implemented to enhance disaster response capacity?
6. How do you perceive the collaboration and coordination among various stakeholders involved in disaster management?
7. What are the critical resources or support needed to improve our disaster response efforts?

8. Have you encountered any specific barriers or constraints in implementing disaster response plans? If so, what were they, and how were they addressed?

Further questioning

- Can you provide an example to illustrate your point?
- Could you elaborate on that further?
- How do you think these challenges can be overcome?

Appendix 3

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Guide:

- The purpose of the focus group discussion is to explore the instructional capacity for disaster response. We are going to divide ourselves into groups of at least 8 individuals per group

- We have group norms which are supposed to be obtained to ensure a safe and respectful environment which includes confidentiality, and honesty and integrity

1. What are some of the major disasters that have occurred in this community in recent years? How were they managed?

2. How would you describe the level of preparedness among community members in responding to disasters?

3. What are the key strengths and weaknesses you observe in the current disaster response system in our community?

4. How can community members actively contribute to disaster management efforts?

5. Are there any specific vulnerable groups within the community that we should pay special attention to during disaster response? How can we address their needs effectively?

6. What are some successful community-driven initiatives or practices that have been implemented to enhance disaster resilience?

7. How can we improve communication and coordination between community members and relevant authorities during disaster emergencies?

Further questioning

- Can someone provide an example or share a personal experience related to this issue?
- Is there anyone who disagrees or has a different perspective on this matter?

Appendix 4

Observation and Observation Checklist:

Introduction:

- The purpose of the observation is to see how DCPC members conducted their meetings and workshops and their participation and behaviors.
- I am asking for permission to observe and record your actions and interactions. During workshop, meetings and events.

Checklist Items:

1. Frequency and nature of communication between different stakeholders involved in disaster response.
2. Availability and utilization of necessary resources (e.g., equipment, supplies) during response activities.
3. Compliance with established protocols and guidelines for disaster management.
4. Demonstrated leadership and decision-making processes during emergencies.
5. Interactions and collaboration among community members during preparedness or response activities.
6. Inclusion of vulnerable groups in disaster response efforts.
7. Adherence to safety protocols and practices.

Appendix 5

Document Analysis

- The purpose of document analysis is to have an overview of d national disaster management and institutions. To analyze their documented roles and responsibilities and compare with what they are actually doing on group.

The types of documents being examined includes online journals, online websites, books, magazines and daily newspapers.

- The maintenance of confidentiality and handling of documents responsibly is my top priority. There no publications of this Information will be done.

1. What are the key policies, plans, or guidelines related to disaster response in our organization/community?
2. How do these documents outline roles, responsibilities, and procedures for different stakeholders?
3. Are there any specific targets or indicators mentioned in these documents to measure the effectiveness of disaster response efforts?
4. Do the documents highlight any specific strategies or initiatives to enhance community resilience and preparedness?
5. Are there any reported evaluations or assessments of previous disaster response activities? What were the findings and recommendations?

Further questioning

- Are there any gaps or inconsistencies you noticed across these documents?
- How do you think these documents are being implemented in practice?