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Defining Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy Integration: Evidence and Recommendations from Zambia

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1 Introduction

Climate change has brought a new dimension to hydro-meteorological processes by increasing the uncertainty related to weather and the climate, particularly extreme weather and climate events (climate extremes). Climate extremes with potentially negative impacts; i.e. natural hazards, may turn into disasters having impacts on people and their livelihoods by interacting with complex environmental, socio-economic and political interlinkages, which may be further affected by climate change. (IPCC, 2013, 2012; Schipper, 2009; Schipper and Pelling, 2006)

To tackle the impacts of natural hazards, there are two, until recently, separated fields: Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA). DRM can be divided into two related, but distinct components: Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Disaster Management. DRR can be defined as a set of policies, objectives and measures implemented and taken before any disaster risk is apparent, whereas Disaster Management places focus on the phase when the threat of disaster becomes evident.¹ CCA can be defined as a process in natural systems to adjust to the actual climate and its effects, and a process in human systems to adjust to the actual and expected changing climate and its effects, "in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities". (IPCC, 2012)

¹ In this paper, DRM is used when referring to the entire DRM policy of Zambia (e.g. Table 1), as the policy covers both DRR and Disaster Management. Otherwise, DRR is used and DRR is the focus of this paper. DRR and DRM terms are not used interchangeably.

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