

EU CBRN CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

Eastern and Central Africa

Building an effective CBRN response plan for Malawi – sharing the Ghana experience

Lilongwe, Republic of Malawi
Umodzi Park Hotel, 7-8 June 2018

A meeting with the National Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Team of the Republic of Malawi and first response agencies focusing on preparation of the CBRN response plan, took place in Lilongwe on 7-8 June 2018, within the framework of the European Union (EU) CBRN Centres of Excellence (CoE) Initiative. The meeting was drawing on experience of the Republic of Ghana which is Republic of Malawi's regional partner in the Eastern and Central Africa Centre of Excellence. It was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Malawi with the support of the Regional Secretariat for Eastern and Central Africa (ECA).

Official opening was conducted by Ambassador Mungosaukaakudyalichete Makawa, Phd, Controller of Legal Services in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The meeting was further addressed by Mr Fabrice Basile, the Head of Political, Press and Information of the EU Delegation to Malawi, and Ms Alma Pintol, the Regional Coordinator for Eastern and Central Africa CoE while Mr Francis Mponda, Acting Director of Political Affairs, and the Republic of Malawi CBRN Initiative National Focal Point gave welcoming remarks and encouraged the National Team to take advantage of the Workshop towards formulation of a Republic of Malawi CBRN Emergency Response Plan.

Ambassador Makawa welcomed to the Warm Heart of Africa the two facilitators from the Republic of Ghana, a country that Malawi has enjoyed very cordial relations with since independence. He stated: *“It remains for me to encourage the National Team to continue engaging the way it has been doing because a lot of work remains to be done in readiness for any incidences. Some of the needs that are so obvious include the strengthening of the first responder stakeholders’ capability to safely operate in a CBRN environment, decontamination management, mixed CBRN samples handling, correct use of CBRN protective suits and respirators, as well as, modelling and simulation of CBRN incidents”.*

Mr Basile greeted the opportunity for the Malawi stakeholders to discuss the existing protocols and response mechanisms in place in Malawi and stated that: *“At the EU side we perceive this initiative of regional experience exchange as a tool that can pave the way for a greater regional cooperation, ensuring sustainability of the CBRN Risk Mitigation initiative, developing greater ownership amongst the partner countries.”*

The institutions represented were: the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA); the Department of Immigration Services; Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS); Malawi Defence



Force/Ministry of Defence; Malawi Police Service; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security; and the University of Malawi, Polytechnic.

After a presentation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the country's involvement in the EU Risk Mitigation CBRN Centres of Excellence (CoE) Initiative and outlined ongoing projects and meetings, the Regional Coordinator for the Eastern and Central Africa Regional Secretariat, introduced the role of the Regional Secretariat with respect to the exchange of best practice and experiences.

Mr William Kofi Baffoe-Mensah, Ghana National Focal Point, presented their national approaches towards the elaboration of the CBRN response plan, spoke about mapping and benchmarking, while Maj. Isaac Boako, led the participants through conducting gap analysis and zero drafting. Mr Fyaupi Mwafongo, a representative of Malawi Department of Disaster Management Affairs presented the existing protocols, response mechanisms and achievements in Malawi which triggered productive discussions and exchange of experience. The meeting was concluded after a table-top exercise which brought to front available resources and gaps. A draft road-map was prepared to be implemented by Malawi with the support of the CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative.

The EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative involves 60 countries in 8 regions of the world, is funded by the European Union and implemented by the EU with the support of United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). The Initiative has been developed with the technical support of relevant international and regional organizations, the EU Member States and other stakeholders, through coherent and effective cooperation at the national, regional and international level. The Initiative aims at strengthening regional security and safety by sharing good practices and capabilities, by developing guidelines, by identifying and deploying resources to respond to the needs identified by partner countries and by supporting the development of national CBRN policies.

For more information:

CBRN Centres of Excellence website: <http://www.cbrn-coe.eu/>

European Commission, Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace website (see section about "Stable Situations"): <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/node/7350>