

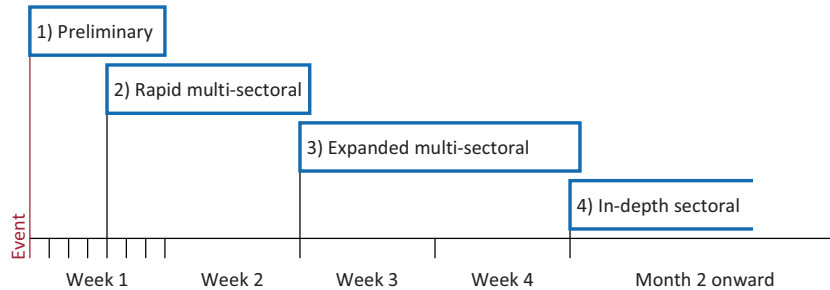
Post-Disaster Assessments in Fiji

Situation analysis for strengthening DIMS in Fiji
Workshop on Strengthening DIMS for Fiji
2-4 September 2009, Suva
Joe Chung

Post-disaster surveys identify

- The extent of the impact of the disaster and the damage caused;
- Emergency relief needs and priorities; and
- Relief and recovery needs and priorities for operations.

Emergency Phases & Data Needs



Information needed after an emergency comes from two main sources:

- Surveys of the immediate impact, which vary in their depth according to the emergency phase (Accurate multi-sector overview is required asap; Detailed sector specific information after first life-saving needs are dealt with.)
- Baseline data compiled from multiple sources, such as digital maps, population data, and key social infrastructure such as health clinics, schools and airfields. These data must be pre-positioned and readily accessible.

Present Situation

- Many independent surveys using incompatible formats – each ministry collects its own data, other agencies also.
- Even among the Divisions, different survey formats were used during the 2009 nation-wide floods – making compilation by NDMO difficult.
- No clear strategy to collate, use information or maintain detailed records.
- Limited data management capacity at NDMO.

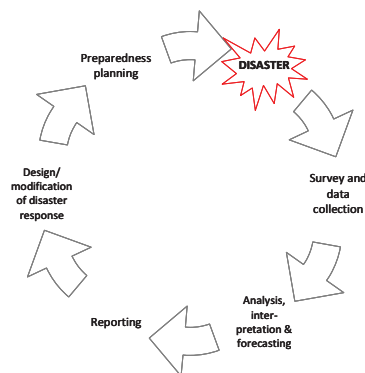
Assessment management issues in Fiji

- Limited capacity of NDMO to facilitate and coordinate post-disaster assessments;
- The need for a common and agreed system/methodology and format for assessments and data collection;
- The need for effective strategies for data compilation, analysis, sharing and use;
- The need to tap the potential of meaningful community participation.

The need to strengthen the capacity of National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC)

- Strengthen their capacity to receive data, interpret it and act on it (operating procedures, software, information management systems and tools, training, communication technology etc)
- Strengthen their capacity to store data for analysis and policy formulation (draw out lessons learned)

The assessment process



Communications technology in Fiji

- Mobile phones send data immediately from almost anywhere in Fiji to a data centre (No coverage in centre of large islands and some remote islands.)
- GIS are a powerful analytical and reporting tool in many government agencies, but these systems need to be better linked into coordinated national reporting systems.
- GPS technology and hand-held data collectors allow an area to be quickly surveyed, households identified by a GPS code and data collated from separate surveys that use these codes.
- Remote sensing technology at SOPAC at a high international standard.

Sum-up

- Damage assessment in Fiji is the responsibility of Government with Acts to govern it.
- Fiji has regional and international agencies, NGOs, etc in-country to assist if needed.
- Decentralised assessment system requires strong coordination and effective tools.



Thank you