

Availability of Baseline Data for Disaster Risk Management in Fiji

Workshop on Strengthening DIMS for Fiji
2-4 September 2009, Suva

Joe Chung

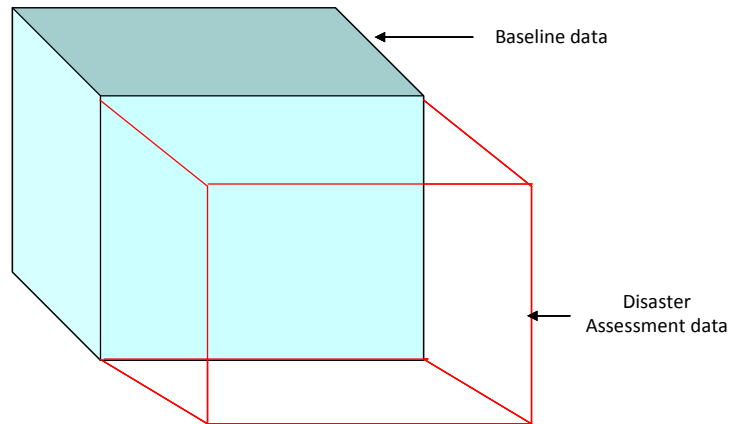


What is Baseline Data?

- Information outside of disaster events about settlements, living conditions, vital infrastructure, etc, as well as hazards and vulnerability patterns.
- Data compiled from many sources, such as health, population and maps of key social infrastructure such as health clinics, schools, water, roads, etc.
- Data that must be readily accessible to assist disaster assessments.
- Data required for disaster risk reduction planning, implementation and monitoring.



Baseline data describes the situation outside of a disaster event and helps us to understand it better



Baseline data is used to:



- Provide relevant and up-to-date background information to complement on-the-ground assessments of disaster events to help determine the needs;
- Provide information regarding the pre-disaster situation;
- Support longer term analysis of disaster risks and disaster preparedness activities;
- Support disaster management policy formulation and implementation.

Sources of baseline data in Fiji

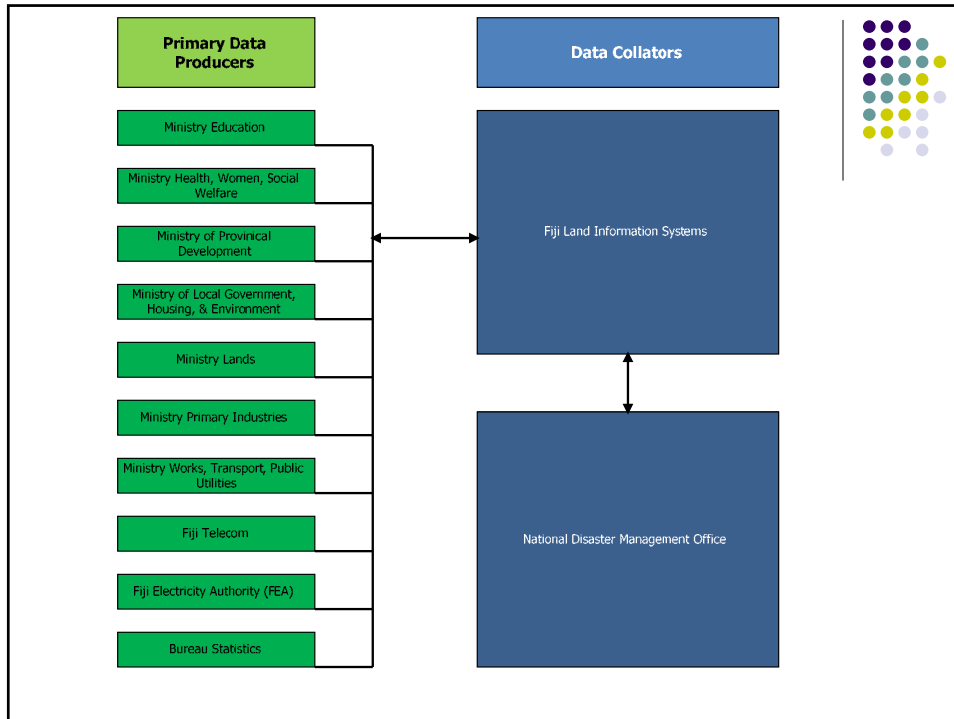


- National surveys or mapping exercises such as aerial photographs or GIS
- Administrative records (i.e. usual reporting systems) of government ministries, departments or corporations.
- Natural hazard analysis – eg studies of flood risk areas and geological hazards from Dept Mineral Resources, or records of National Meteorological Office

Data Producers & Data Collators



- Main primary data producers: Ministries of Education; Health; Provincial Development and Multi-ethnic Affairs, Primary Industries and Sugar, Works, Transport and Public Utilities, Local Government, Housing and Environment; Women, Social Welfare and Housing; Lands; Industry, Tourism, Trade and Communications, Bureau of Statistics, FEA, Telecom, and Fiji Red Cross Society.
- Main national data collating agency: Fiji Lands Information System (FLIS) Support Centre through the Fiji Land Information Council (FLIC).



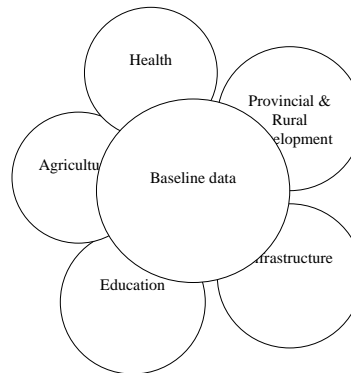
National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)

- NDMO has both a data collating role, through its need to access baseline data, and a data producing function through its responsibility for coordinating disaster assessments in the immediate post-disaster period.
- NDMO is currently under-equipped to perform either function adequately.

Many ministries routinely collect relevant information for DRM



- How to (i) sort data (ii) collate (iii) update (iv) identify & assist users?
- How to get the right data, for (different types of) response not all the data?



Regional & international agencies



- **SOPAC:** The main regional organisation with a technical capacity for disaster risk management.
- **SPC, SPREP** also have DRM relevant data
- **International agencies:** Many regional and international agencies are based in Fiji and provide humanitarian assistance, including UN agencies (UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UNDP, OCHA, ISDR), ADB, World Bank, European Union, AusAID, NZAID, Japanese Government and other bilateral agencies.
- Generally, international agencies use or assist the use of national DRM data, rather than produce it.

DRM Management Issues



- The capacity of NDMO to meet its responsibilities
NDMO remains under-resourced to carry out many of its responsibilities, particularly in data management.
- Duplication of baseline databases without good coordination
Many Fiji government agencies have established databases or GIS systems but these systems were not being fully utilized. A whole range of new research bodies have been created within government, but the basic problem of data creation and collection had not been solved.

How to develop NDMO capacity?



- What functions should NDMO develop that will not duplicate the capacity and functions of FLIS?
- How can FLIS support NDMO in maintaining and accessing baseline data and coordinating with other key ministries?

