Working Towards Good Governance For Effective Risk Reduction – Fiji Experience

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Guiding Principles for the Establishment of Legal, Institutional and Policy Framework on Risk Reduction

- Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action
- United Nations Millennium Development Goals
- Plan of Implementation on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 2003
- Regional Comprehensive Hazard And Risk Management (CHARM) Guideline
- Pacific Position Paper for the WCDR, 2005
- Disaster Risk Management Review Outcome
Disaster Risk Reduction Measures & UN Millennium Development Goals

Government promoting the UN Millennium development goals to raise rural living standard and alleviate poverty.

- Implementation of sectoral development programs. Improve health and education services
- Govt Self-Help Program – Govt contributes two-third cost of project by rural communities
- Formulation of Div & Dist Development Plans to properly plan & coordinate future rural development initiatives
- Review of rural development planning machinery and Fijian administration
Legal and Regulatory Framework

- Natural Disaster Management Act (NDMA) deals with emergency and disaster management.

- Sectoral legislations deal with sectoral programs aimed at risk reduction.

- Social Justice Act – Govt support through Affirmative Action covering 29 programs in key areas: a. Education & Training; b. Land & Housing; c. Participation in commerce; d. Participation in all levels of the state.
Review of Disaster Management Legislation and Plan

- Identify necessary measures and mechanisms for improving disaster management arrangements
- A streamlined approach for the management of both natural & human induced disasters
- To reflect comprehensive and strategic approach towards disaster risk management
- Determine emergency management arrangements for technological disasters and complex emergencies
- Minister to make regulations
Constraints

- Legislation restricted to natural disaster
- Legislation yet to cover the paradigm shift towards Comprehensive Hazard Assessment and Risk Management (CHARM)
- No supporting regulations for effective disaster risk management, and to ensure compliance and enforcement mechanisms are in place
- Limited resources for effective monitoring and enforcement
Policy and Planning

- National Strategic Development Plan, 2003-2005 emphasises a comprehensive and strategic approach on disaster risk reduction under five policy objectives:
  - To mainstream Disaster Management into the national development decision making process.
  - To improve Hazard and Risk Management
  - To improve community awareness of risk, preparedness and response
  - Assist communities to be self-reliant and self-sufficient in the face of disasters
  - To invest in infrastructure development to mitigate disaster impact
National Disaster Management Plan

Provides the policy framework for:

- Disaster operations/emergency response
- Relief operations
- Rehabilitation/Recovery
- Education, awareness and training
- Mitigation
Disaster Risk Management Policy Implementation – Problems/Constraints

- Lack of education, awareness & training
- Absence of enabling mechanism – Implementation Guide & working documents
- Absence of personnel with proper knowledge, competence & commitment
- Competing priorities
- No financial commitment by Government
- Lack of support at political/decision making level
Paradigm Shift: Comprehensive Hazard And Risk Management (CHARM) Program

- All hazards whole of country approach
- Development planning tool designed to provide a systematic decision-making process
- Risks clearly defined & prioritised
- Integrating risk management into national development planning
- CHARM mainstreaming in govt articulated under the Fiji Strategic Development Plan 2003-2005
- Development of CHARM Implementation Guide and Training Program
CHARM Process Overview

1. ESTABLISH THE RISK MANAGEMENT CONTEXT
2. IDENTIFY RISKS
3. ANALYSE RISKS
4. EVALUATE RISKS
5. TREAT RISKS

Accept Risk

- Yes
- No

COMMUNICATE AND CONSULT

MONITOR AND REVIEW
Government Policy on CHARM Implementation Strategy

- Budget Submission – 2006 Capital Project Budget Proposal Template to include CHARM Requirements

- Development Policy Proposals - Consultation with National Working Group Mandatory.

- Project Implementation – Project Committee to provide screening/monitoring mechanism

- Rural Development – CHARM included in Capital Budget Program Working Guide
Development Policy Proposals, CHARM Consultations Obligatory – WHY?

- Risk reduction to be taken into account at the initial stage of policy development to drive the mainstreaming process.

- Comprehensive strategic approach means involving others to move in a common direction to achieve tangible results.

- CHARM is a holistic approach that involves collaborative efforts & pooling/utilization of resources.

- CHARM mainstreaming as Core Business within the framework of government program activities.
Development Policy Proposals
Consultations - Benefits

- Increased awareness on risk reduction among policy and decision makers
- Enhance collaborative partnerships in identifying and treating risks
- Enhance information sharing & networking
- Maximize utilization of resources & avoid duplication
- Recognise risk reduction as an integral part of development policy proposals
- Government to invest in risk reduction programs to enhance socio-economic development
Suva Earthquake Risk Management Pilot Project (SERMP) – CHARM Application

- Multi-disciplinary study - involved 46 agencies during 1995-1997
- One of the largest pilot projects of its type ever attempted in a PIC
- Study produced a comprehensive information resource on earthquake hazard and tsunami risks for the city of Suva
- Recommendations (90) of the study report are currently being implemented
- Recommendations provide the basis for legal, policy and institutional framework
Opportunities offered by SERMP

- Development of new project implementation, management and scientific techniques that suit PICs

- Collaborative multi-agency project management and implementation strategies

- Project development concepts based on facilitation and capacity building, and new scientific methodologies

- Partnership with local, regional and International organisations
Tourism Sector – Billion Dollar Investment

- Involves virtually all agencies
- Combine Law Enforcement Agencies Working Group established
- Risk Management Working Group established
- Adopted the Greenglobe 21 but most hotels only reached Accreditation and not Certification Level
Tourism Sector

- Govt not in favour of legislative review with regard to capping for personal liability but to consider other options like risk management.

- Risk management to be an integral part of Tourism development.
Tourism Sector – Constraints

- Lack of risk data available in other Ministries on the Tourism industry
- Lack of consultation and engagement with agencies
- Monitoring compliance and enforcement mechanisms need to be reviewed
Structural Changes to strengthen Community Participation

- Current structure restricted to government authority, responsibility & networking
- Communities & their committees do not feature
- Structure perpetuates dependency & complacency
- Preparedness shift as the ultimate goal
- Focus on Government/community partnership
NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

CABINET

NDM COUNCIL

Mitigation & Prevention Committee

Preparedness Committee

Emergency Committee

Disaster Controller (Permanent Secretary)

Disaster Coordinator (Director NDMO)

Disaster Service Liaison Officers and NGO’s

National Emergency Operations Centre

Divisional DISMAC

District DISMAC

Community/Village Disaster Management Committee
Community Participation – How?

- Legislative Review – Community Leaders endorsed inclusion of community in the structure
- NDMO conducted community based training
- NDMO assisted development of Village Disaster Plan
- CHARMM included in Community Development Capital Budget Program Working Guide
- Ongoing consultation with Community Development Committees
- Training of Youth Volunteer Groups
Community Participation - Benefits

- Greater community awareness
- Better organization at community level
- Enhance Community empowerment and ownership
- Reduced Government costs

FROM SELF PITY TO SELF HELP
National Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Fund (NDRRF)

- Dedicated Fund established under section 16 of the Disaster Act to deal with disaster relief & rehab
- PM’s National Disaster Committee responsible for the Fund
- Established in the 2004 budget with a sum of FJ$2 million
- Solicit contribution from private sector & external donors and develop partnership
National Disaster Relief And Rehabilitation Fund

- M/Finance to conduct study to enable investment of funds in government securities to generate income
- Fund also deal with preparedness & disaster risk reduction programs & activities
- Tax incentives for private sector to cover under the Rules and Regulations of the Fund
NDRRF – Constraints

- Competing priorities & state of economy – inhibiting factors
- Need to review financial & procurement procedures for emergency response & relief
- Review investment policy
- Obtaining donor agencies and private sector support