



NDMO NEWSLETTER



NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY,
IMMIGRATION & NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Volume 1

First half year 2009

"Building the National Resilience to Disasters"

FROM DIRECTOR'S DESK



Mr. Joeli Cawaki
Director, National
Disaster Management

deforestation, poor land management and the ignorance on our part in educating people on climate change adaptation

The Ministry of Environment together with its stakeholders and key agencies held a very knowledgeable and fruitful Environment Week from 1st to 5th June in Ba. The awareness week had an educational program, urban and rural school visits by the committee, workshop at Votua Village, a meeting at Nasolo village and exhibitions during launch at Ba Civic Centre and closing ceremony at Gujrat Grounds.

The National Disaster Management Office has a contingency plan to embark on training the communities throughout Fiji on disaster and risk management, our vision being 'Safe and Secure Fiji'.

We are also committed to train people who can assist NDMO to take the message of preparedness to the communities.

A team of twenty personals from government departments and other stakeholders have been trained as trainers. With more training on disaster and

risk management, they will be able to prepare the communities in terms of risk management and preparedness.

This is a big challenge for NDMO. We have also begun consultation process for the 2009 National Disaster Awareness Week. In order to prepare the communities for disasters, the NDMO is organizing workshops in the four divisions. We will target the Turaga-ni-Koros, Youth Leaders and the Women's Group Leaders in the divisions to educate and disseminate the message of disaster preparedness. NDMO together with the stakeholders will also prepare programs and visit school for a similar program that was carried out at MGM High School in May this year.

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The year 2009 began with a disaster to the nation and with more challenges to the National Disaster Management Office.

A bad weather set in on the 7th of January lasting for a couple of days causing a devastating flood that was never experienced by the communities in the western division. Nature took away what was given to us human beings and left us in suffering.

This is a clear identification of effects of global climate change through

Pacific Community Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction (PCIDRR)

The PCIDRR Field Officers [FPO's] attended a four day Exercise Training from 20/7 to 24/7/09 facilitated by ADRA Australia on how to prepare and equip the FPO's to do Simulation Exercise [SE] in their service areas.

The two Pilot Villages of Namuka in Bau and Naimalavau in Nakelo in the Province of Tailevu were used by the

trainees to test their skills they learnt from the training.

The Chiefs, Turaga ni Koros and the members of Community Disaster Management-Council of the two communities participated in the demonstration they had prepared. It was job well done.

Observers from ADRA Australia, ADRA New Zealand, the AusAID and other

witnessed the performance and gave their feedback. The two villages have shown dramatic chances and developments since Dec.2008.

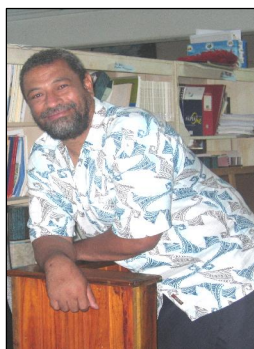




ELCOM Officials installing & maintenance of HF Radios



Mr. Aisea Quminakelo at the Launching of the Environment Week (Integrated Awareness) at Ba Civic Centre



Mr. Pajillai Dobui
Principal Disaster Management
Officer
Risk, Research & Management Unit

Emergency, Planning & Coordination (EPC) Unit

As part of the deliverables, EPC Unit tested all the 25 Radio Stations through out Fiji with ELCOM. This company has been given the contract to carry out testing and maintenance of the equipment.

NDMO signed a contract of F\$45,000 for the testing and servicing. Training on the usage of the radio was provided in each district Daily testing of the radios are carried out by the stations.

EPC Unit has also received an extension of the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) spon-

sored Program known as the School Earthquake Safety Initiative (SESI). A further funding of F\$40,000 has been received to carryout work on other schools that need urgent attention to be retrofitted.

The Carpenters Manson manual has already been completed and is awaiting printing. A launch of the Manson will be done towards the end of August. These manuals will be distributed to the Rural Housing, the Commissioners and Ministry of Education to be utilized for new buildings that will be erected that can

stand the cyclones.

Schools Evacuation was also part of the UNCRD Program. This program was going on for a few years and MGM High School was selected to be a Pilot Project. Equipments such as helmets, hailer, emergency vests, water tanks and tarpaulins. The recorded drill will be used in other schools. Refreshments was bought for the students and teachers.

NDMO appreciates the contribution by the UNCRD and the assistance that has been provided as a partner in Risk Management.

Water Tank Project for the Schools/Communities

This project is part of Risk Management Program. Due to the urgency of fresh water supply during and after cyclones, there was a demand for water tanks from the four divisions.

UNICEF as part of their Risk Management Program offered to assist the needy [schools and communities] with 80 tanks at a total cost of F\$79,200.

These water tanks were delivered to the schools and communities that were the victims of the January, 2009 floods.

UNICEF is very generous to supply additional funds for 35 tanks at a total cost of F\$36,750 due to the demand by the communities in the outer islands.

F\$15,000 was also allocated for the delivery of tanks,

administration costs as well as for monitoring the distribution of the water tanks.

Mr. Pranab Shah, Water & Sanitation Specialist, UNICEF will make a visit to some of the sites as part of the monitoring process.

NDMO is very thankful for the kind gesture by UNICEF.

Risk Management & Research (RMR) Unit

One of the programme within the RMR Unit is the installation of the Tsunami Early warning systems in the Suva peninsula. Safeway Electronics will be handed the responsibility of installing the sirens.

The Vodafone Fiji Ltd has agreed to fund the nine units that will be installed.

The sites for the Tsunami Billboards have been iden-

tified. Suva City Council has agreed in principle to allocate sites for the billboards.

A survey has been undertaken for the Tsunami Evacuation sites within the Suva peninsula. Safe sites have been identified. Awareness on Tsunami Evacuation will be conducted by our stakeholders-[Department of Mineral Resources; Suva

City Council; National Fire Authority; Fiji Red Cross Society; Ministry of Information; Media and NDMO] MRD is working on the awareness program for the schools within the Suva Peninsula.

Volume 1 "Safe & Secure Fiji"

NDMO Library & GIS

The NDMO maintains a small Library looked after by the Risk Management and Research Unit.

Information materials on disasters such as books, magazines, pamphlets, reports on disasters from other countries as well as Fiji and SI-TREP reports are kept. These materials provide valuable information on disasters.

Materials on International Disaster Management and South Pacific Disaster management are available. Materials produced by NDMO

and other Agencies are also available for the school students as well as the public. The information is provided free of charge. There is a need for more funds to upgrade the library.

GIS—Currently, the Web-media is providing assistance to train staff on GIS. 10% of plotting of the Evacuation Centres for Western, Eastern, Northern & Central Division has been carried out. SOPAC has agreed to provide a volunteer to steer NDMO to fully complete the

GIS.

Due to the increased demand for the latest updates during disaster, a website was designed in January 2009 that accommodated for the situation reports during the flooding in the Western Division.

Regular updates will be provided by the responsible unit.



Training, Education & Awareness Unit

The TEA Unit has a lot to do to educate the vulnerable communities to be prepared for any disaster. It is big challenge for the unit to carry out such responsibilities due to unavailability of funds.

Nevertheless, The Asia Foundation TAF/OFDA and SOPAC provided funds to conduct training for Training for Instructors Course for a week at the Public Service Centre for Training and Development, Nasese. Twenty

two participants received the completion of TFI Certificates. These qualified trainers with a some training on Disaster and Risk Management will be able to assist the NDMO to carry out trainings in the communities.

TEA Unit was part of the Environment Week Awareness in Ba. School visit was also part of the awareness program. Bula Bula Indian, Varavi Muslim, Rt Filimoni Me. Bilolo Indian and Ba Sangam Primary

Schools were visited by the consisting of NDMO, FEA and Environment.

MGM High School conducted a full scale Evacuation Drill on 24/4/09. The stakeholders/Integrated partners participation made the program a success [Fiji red Cross; St John Ambulance; Mineral resource Department; National Fire Authority; Ministry of Information; Media and NDMO]



TFI Participants Group Photo

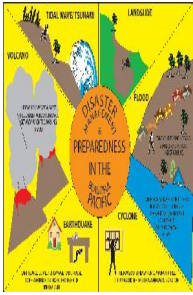
Integrated Awareness

NDMO was invited by the Department of Environment to be part of the committee for the Environment Week that was launched in Ba. The Western Division was affected by the devastating floods in January and it was important to take awareness down to the vulnerable communities as a team. A Team consisting of Department of Environment, FEA, NDMO, Live and Learn and USP joined hands for the aware-

ness at Votua Village Hall. A total of 70 participants from 20 villages participated in a day's workshop. It was amazing to know that these vulnerable communities had very little knowledge of climate change and its impact on the environment as well as the people. Health issues were part of their daily lives due to the sewerage spills at the mouth of the river near Votua Village.



Mrs. S. Kumar & Mr. Jim Pedro at the NDMO Display Booth during the Environment Week at Ba Civic Centre



Disasters Do Happen, Are U Prepared!

NDMO is guided by SIX Principles

1. Governance—Organizational, Institutional, Policy and Decision-making Framework
2. Knowledge, Information, Public Awareness and Education
3. Analysis & evaluation of Hazards, Vulnerabilities and Elements at Risk
4. Planning for effective Preparedness, Response and Recovery
5. Effective, Integrated and People– Focused Early warning Systems
6. Reduction of Underlying Risk Factors.



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Food Security Program

NDMO is currently working on adapting this program to educate the community on the methods of food preserving for disaster. Crops that can be available for consumption in a short period of time as well as food that can be preserved to be used during disaster.

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES, ARE YOU BE READY?

Do you know what to do? Do you have a plan? Fire, Police and emergency medical services may be delayed in responding. You need to learn what to do, have a plan and be prepared to take care of yourself, your family and your community. Whether it's typhoon, Land-

Be Smart, Be Responsible

Trainings/Workshops/Seminars-Local/Overseas

Staff Welfare Club

Overseas Trainings

- Comprehensive Strategy for Recovery from natural Disaster for Middle East and Asian Countries. (A. Quminakelo)
- Brisbane, Australia—Awareness and Training—16/3—23/3/09 [P. Dobui]
- Pacific Emergency & Disaster Management 18/5—22/5/09 in Honiara, Solomon islands [J. Satakala]
- Disaster Response & Recovery Training 19/5—27/5/09 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia [Ins. I. Sinolo]
- Natural Disaster Prevention and Management 4/5—27/6/09 Seoul Korea [L. Rayasi]
- Executive Course in Disaster Management 26/5—5/6/09 in Singapore [P. Dobui & Una from Health]

Local Trainings

- Training for Instructors 16/3—20/3/09 at PSC CTD organized by NDMO in collaboration with TAF/OFDA.
- VCA conducted by Fiji Red Cross Society from 20/4 –23/4/09 at Nadave
- Organizational Crisis & Risk Management—PSC 11/5—12/5/09 at CTD, Nasese.
- Evacuation Procedures—Post Fiji 12/6/09 at JJ'S on the Park

Seminars

- Tonga—Information and Communications Technology [ICT] and Disaster Risk Reduction 17/2—20/2/09
- UN-SPIDER—Building Capacities to Reduce Disasters 2/6—4/6/09 Viena, Austria
- Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 16/6—19/6/09 in Geneva

The NDMO family maintain good relationship. We focus on the members as much as we focus on the daily functions and the output of the organization.

Though a small organization, we do fund raising and contribution in cash or in kind for the welfare of the members.

The staff shared a happy moment for the graduation of Joji Satakala with a Post Graduate Degree in MBA.

NDMO organized a farewell lunch for Mr. Joji Satakala who was posted to Ministry of Provincial Development to Act as Provincial Administrator, Ra.

Another member, Mrs. Nayacalevu who joined the NDMO in August 2008 has moved on to join the Police Department from mid of July, 2009.

One cannot ignore the happiest moments of a family of birth of new members. We shared our happiness with Mr. Paiata and his family on the birth of second child, a son. The Rukulawe family have another responsibility of an additional member, a girl.

