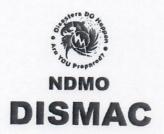


FIJI TSUNAMI RESPONSE PLAN

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National Disaster Management Office, Knollys Plaza, 1 Knollys Street, SUVA

8 August 2017

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The Tsunami Response Plan provides guidance on national roles and responsibilities to enable coordinated preparedness, warning and response for tsunami threats to all coastal areas and maritime islands within tsunami danger zones in Fiji.

1.2 Authority

The Plan is produced under the National Disaster Management Act 1998 and the Natural Disaster Management Plan 1995. It is endorsed by the National Disaster Management Council and Cabinet of the Fiji Government.

1.3 Scope

This Plan provides guidance for Tsunami Response Plans of agencies listed in Section 2.3 (hereafter referred to as Agencies) and Evacuation Plans for communities and facilities located within tsunami danger zones in coastal areas and maritime islands.

1.4 Tsunami Risk for Fiji

A tsunami is a wave train, or series of waves, generated by an impulse or disturbance such as an earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide or coral reef collapse. Fiji is located between two major tectonic plates - the Pacific Plate and the Indo-Australian Plate. Due to subduction zones movements of tectonic plates around Fiji, earthquake activity is occurring regularly. Earthquakes around the Pacific Ocean rim, including for instance South America and Japan, can also generate tsunami wave threats for Fiji. As an island nation with numerous maritime islands, coastal communities, coastal roads and structures, Fiji is extremely vulnerable to tsunamis. Due to large earthquakes in the region, five tsunami alerts were issued for Fiji in 2016 alone, although none of these ultimately posed a threat.

An earthquake-generated tsunami can reach Fiji between minutes or up to 8 hours. If the earthquake is close, there may be insufficient time to issues an official warning. Prior to the arrival of a tsunami, the sea may recede and exposed the sea floor or strong earthquake shaking may be experienced. These occurrences pose extreme danger, and immediate evacuation must follow without waiting for official direction. Tsunami waves travel rapidly. Once they can be seen it is often too late to reach safety. The initial tsunami impact can cause mass casualties and destruction of infrastructure through erosion and transportation of debris. Subsequent waves may be higher than the first, and occur over a period of several hours. Significant danger is also posed by the retreat of the water to sea which will drag with it people and debris.

Tsunami waves may be between a few millimetres and 23 metres in height. This is determined by the earthquake's magnitude, depth and distance from Fiji, as well as the local coastal terrain. Risk forecasting models for Fiji indicate that few tsunami threats would exceed 6 metres, and the majority of threats may be under 3 metres. The Plan therefore designates the Tsunami Danger Zones as any coastal or maritime area under 10 metres above sea level and less than 1 kilometre from the shore line. For banks of coastal rivers, the Tsunami Danger Zone is any area under 10 metres within 3 kilometres of the shoreline. Authorities and

communities may prefer to designate safety zones as above 10 metres after considering the impact of possibly unnecessary disruption to communities.

2.0 TSUNAMI MONITORING AND REPORTING

2.1 MRD Monitoring and Evaluation

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) website provides Information Bulletins on significant seismic activity within 8 minutes of an event. In addition, PTWC sends detailed information on seismic events via email to the officially recognized Tsunami Warning Focal Point in Fiji (Director of Department of Mineral Resources (MRD)), and the Tsunami National Contacts (Director of the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), and the Director of the Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS)).

The Fiji Mineral Resources Department (MRD) operates the national seismological observatory on a full 24/7 mode in Suva, and monitors tidal gauges in the wider region for possible tsunami threats in the Pacific region through deep sea buoys. The MRD also monitors tidal gauges at wharves in Suva, Lautoka and Vatia on Viti Levu to verify information on potential tsunami threats specific to Fiji. After verifying and analyzing the information from PTWC and tidal gauges, MRD issues a Tsunami Information Message or a Tsunami Threat Message.

On receiving a Tsunami Threat Message from MRD, the NDMO will activate emergency tsunami response procedures throughout all or part of Fiji in accordance with this Plan.

2.2 MRD Earthquake Information and Tsunami Threat Messages

The MRD is responsible for issuing 'Earthquake Information Messages' and 'Tsunami Threat Messages' in Fiji, based on its technical assessments of tsunami threats.

(a) Earthquake Information Messages

An Earthquake Information Message will be issued by the MRD if, following a seismic event or other disturbance, it has assessed that there is no threat of tsunami for Fiji. The Earthquake Information message will state 'No Threat'.

(b) Tsunami Threat Messages

A Tsunami Threat Message will be issued by the MRD if, following a seismic event or other disturbance, it has assessed there is a potential tsunami threat to Fiji. Tsunami Threat messages will contain information on the expected arrival time and wave height and based on continuous assessment by MRD of all available information, and may contain warnings. Wave height information relates to the maximum height of the wave at sea, but does not take into account the height of the wave as it reaches the coastline. Tsunami Threat Messages will be issued every 30 minutes until the tsunami threat to Fiji has passed.

(c) Final 'All Clear' Messages

Once the tsunami threat to Fiji has passed, MRD will issue the final Tsunami Threat Message containing confirmation that no further tsunami threat exists for Fiji, and will

state 'All Clear'. The final Tsunami Threat message will only be issued after coordination with the NDMO in accordance with paragraph 2.4.

2.3 MRD Tsunami Messages to Agencies

The MRD will send by email all Earthquake Information and Tsunami Threat messages to the following agencies:

- (a) National Disaster Management Office
- (b) Divisional Offices (Western, Northern, Central, Eastern)
- (c) Fiji Police Force
- (d) National Fire Authority
- (e) Republic of Fiji Military Forces (Land Forces and Navy)
- (f) Fiji Corrections Service
- (g) Ministry of Education
- (h) Ministry of Health & Medical Services
- (i) Ministry of Information
- (i) Ministry of Local Government, Housing & Environment
- (k) Ministry of Lands & Mineral Resources
- (I) Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport
- (m) Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism
- (n) Water Authority of Fiji
- (o) Fiji Electricity Authority
- (p) Land Transport Authority
- (q) Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji
- (r) Fiji Ports Corporation
- (s) Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons
- (t) Fiji Red Cross Society
- (u) Fiji Broadcasting Service (FBS)
- (v) Fiji Broadcasting Corporation (FBC)
- (w) Communications Fiji Limited (CFL)
- (x) FemLINKpacific Women's Weather Watch

Once a Tsunami Threat messages are received, each agency is responsible to activate its respective Tsunami Response Plan and Evacuation Plan, and to coordinate with the NDMO.

2.4 MRD Coordination with NDMO

MRD is responsible for the technical assessment of tsunami threats and issuing Earthquake Threat Messages and Tsunami Information Messages. However, NDMO is the lead agency in all aspects of tsunami response. MRD and NDMO will collaborate closely during tsunami threat periods to ensure optimal co-ordination of required public evacuations by NDMO and other agencies in accordance with this Plan.

When a Tsunami Threat message is sent by email to NDMO outside normal government office hours, MRD will also immediately phone the NDMO Director for acknowledgment that the message has been received. During periods when the NDMO Director will not be contactable, an alternative contact point within the NDMO may be assigned and contacted by phone.

The Directors of the MRD and the NDMO are personally responsible to ensure that the mobile contact details of the NDMO Director and the alternative contact point are current at all times.

When evacuations have occurred as a result of a tsunami threat, the final 'All Clear' Message will not be released without express authorisation of the NDMO Directors or delegate. This is to ensure NDMO to coordinate orderly public returns or to activate additional national emergency measures if required in accordance with prevailing conditions.

2.5 Misleading or Alarmist Tsunami Reporting

The Ministry of Information, after receiving Earthquake Information and Tsunami Threat messages from the MRD, will monitor major social media and weather sites for unofficial tsunami reporting. Where unofficial tsunami reports are inconsistent with MRD message and are likely to mislead or falsely alarm the public, the Ministry of Information will take immediate corrective action with the concerned agencies.

3.0 TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEMS

3.1 NDMO Activation of NEOC and Divisional EOCs

When a Tsunami Threat Message is received from the MRD, the NDMO Director will immediately order activation of the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) and Divisional Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs), which in turn will notify District Officers, Provisional Administrators, Turaga ni Koro and Advisory Councilors and communities of tsunami warnings. In case where the NDMO Director is not available, the Principal Disaster Management Officer will be responsible.

3.2 Agency Warning Systems

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When Agencies receive a Tsunami Threat Message from the MRD, each Agency is responsible for warning subsidiary or associated Agencies, departments, staff, students, and people under its duty of care in accordance with its respective Tsunami Response Plan, and in alignment with the National Disaster Response Plan.

3.3 Tsunami Warning Sirens in Suva

NDMO is responsible for the operation, site selection, installation and maintenance of Tsunami Warning Sirens in places of high coastal density. In Suva, 2 sirens are in place and another 5 will be installed. Sirens will be progressively installed in other locations of high population density.

When the NDMO receives a Tsunami Threat Message from the MRD, the NDMO Director will assess the situational threat to Suva and activate Tsunami Warning Sirens if required.

The NDMO Director will de-activate the Tsunami Warning Sirens once a final Tsunami Threat message has been received and in accordance with other disaster management considerations, such as the coordination of population movements with other agencies or the need for movement restrictions.

NDMO will activate the tsunami warning sirens at least twice annually for maintenance, testing, public drill or educational purposes, provided that prior notification of maintenance or drill has been given to Agencies in paragraph 2.3. Siren activation will not to exceed 10 minutes.

3.4 Additional Sirens for Tsunami Warning

NDMO may authorise use of sirens for tsunami warnings in remote locations where no public sirens are installed after prior consultation and consideration of the specific circumstances and proposed terms of use.

4.0 TSUNAMI DANGER ZONES AND EVACUATION AREAS

4.1 Tsunami Danger Zones

A tsunami danger zone is broadly classified as coastal areas up to one (1) kilometer from the foreshore that is not at least ten (10) metres above sea-level. Banks of coastal rivers may also fall within tsunami danger zones for three (3) kilometres inland.

4.2 Evacuation Areas

Each city, town, village or settlement within a tsunami danger zone must designate evacuation routes and areas which can be easily accessed by the respective community. Evacuation areas for coastal areas must be at least one (1) kilometer inland or at least ten (10) meters above sea level. For coastal rivers, site-specific assessments must be made to determine safe zones that are at least ten (10) metres above sea level for three (3) kilometres inland.

Each respective city council, town council, or Community Disaster Committee is responsible for ensuring that its nearest evacuation area is clearly demarcated, kept in a reasonable condition for sudden mass occupation, and is accessible at all times.

4.3 Signage for Tsunami Danger Zones and Evacuation Areas

In high-density coastal cities and towns, villages and settlements, signage indicating tsunami danger zones and the route to the nearest evacuation area must be erected, monitored and maintained by the city, municipal, or town council. Evacuation areas must be accessible without prior notice and maintained to accommodate and provide assistance to large population numbers appropriate to the geographical location.

5.0 EVACUATIONS

5.1 Public Direction by Fiji Police Force

The Fiji Police Force, which has the overall responsibility to protect life and property at all times, will advise and direct the general public to evacuate from high density areas to the nearest evacuation zone. At the evacuation site, the Fiji Police Force will continue provide safety and protection for the evacuated population. To ensure efficient evacuation procedures, the Fiji Police Force may:

- (a) close roads and direct traffic away from tsunami danger zones;
- (b) provide additional evacuation assistance to people with disabilities or other vulnerabilities;

- (c) make arrests for disobedience of lawful orders, including refusal to evacuate;
- (d) provide protection and crowd control in evacuation areas;
- (e) once a "All Clear" Message has been received, assist and direct populations to return.

5.2 Cities, Municipalities, Towns and Villages

The relevant public authorities for cities, municipalities, towns, villages and settlements which have overall responsibility for populations within tsunami danger zones are responsible for all aspects relating to the evacuation of populations under their authority, and must:

- (a) prepare Evacuation Plans with clearly defined roles for staff for each population site;
- (b) ensure that evacuation routes are clearly marked with signage and are accessible, including for people with disabilities or other vulnerabilities;
- (c) ensure that public warning systems are in place and are understood by the general public;
- (d) ensure that public officials are designated and informed of duties and responsibilities for evacuation of populations during tsunami alerts;
- (e) co-ordination with the NDMO through the Divisional Planning Officers and NDMO Disaster Risk Reduction Officers to ensure public preparedness, education and awareness of tsunami risks and evacuation procedures;
- (f) conduct drills twice annually to pre-determined evacuation sites;
- (g) maintain a system to keep track of incidents during evacuation or evacuation drills and address the causes of those incidents to prevent re-occurrence during future evacuations;
- (h) ensure that people with disabilities and other vulnerabilities are identified and afforded additional assistance as required;
- develop contingency plans for short or medium term care of populations during or after an evacuation;
- (j) report regularly to the respective Ministry or NDMO on the status of the evacuation and the staff care if difficulties arise.

5.3 Educational Facilities

The Ministry Education, which has overall responsibility for every registered education facility operating within a tsunami danger zone, is responsible for all aspects relating to the evacuation of the staff, students and teachers, and must:

- (a) identify an evacuation site and route for each school within a tsunami danger zone;
- (b) prepare an Evacuation Plan with clearly defined roles for staff and students;
- (c) educate students on tsunami awareness and conduct drills twice annually to a predetermined evacuation site;
- (d) maintain a system to keep track of students during evacuation;
- (e) ensure that students with disabilities are identified and afforded additional assistance as required;
- (f) establish a contact system for parents after evacuation;
- (g) ensuring that parents are aware of the Evacuation Plan relating to their children, the primary care responsibility of the Ministry of Education, the location of the evacuation site, and the contact system or number to call after an evacuation has occurred;
- (h) take all necessary steps to discourage parents from approaching schools during tsunami alerts;

- develop contingency plans for short or medium term care of the students during or after an evacuation;
- (j) report regularly to the Ministry of Education on the status of the evacuation and the student care.

5.4 Medical Facilities

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services, which has overall responsibility for every medical facility operating within a tsunami danger zone, is responsible for all aspects relating to the evacuation of the staff and patients in its care, and must:

- (a) prepare an Evacuation Plan with clearly defined roles for staff and contingency plans for evacuation of staff and patients;
- (b) conduct drills twice annually to a pre-determined evacuation site;
- (c) maintain a system to keep track of patients during evacuation;
- (d) ensure that staff and patients with disabilities and other vulnerabilities are identified and afforded additional assistance as required;
- (e) establish a contact system for families of patients after evacuation;
- (f) develop contingency plans for short or medium term care of patients during or after an evacuation;
- (g) establish temporary medical units to accommodate mass casualties;
- (h) report regularly to the Ministry of Health & Medical Services on the status of the evacuation and patient care.

5.5 Correctional Services Facilities

The Fiji Corrections Service, which has overall responsibility for every detention facility operating within a tsunami danger zone, is responsible for all aspects relating to the evacuation of the staff and inmates in its care, and must:

- (a) prepare an Evacuation Plan with clearly defined roles for staff and contingency plans for evacuation of inmates, staff and families within correction facility grounds;
- (b) coordinate closely with the Fiji Police Force to ensure that evacuation by land transport is prioritized for inmates, particularly inmates with disabilities;
- (c) conduct drills twice annually to a pre-determined evacuation site;
- (d) maintain a system to keep track of inmates during evacuation;
- (e) ensure that staff and inmates with disabilities are identified and afforded additional assistance as required, including disability appropriate transportation;
- (f) develop contingency plans for short or medium term care of inmates during or after an evacuation:
- (g) report regularly to the Fiji Corrections Service on the status of the evacuation and the inmate protection and care.

5.6 Tourist Facilities

The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism through its Tourism Response Team (TRT), which is comprised of heads of key tourism organisations, has overall responsibility for government coordination with the tourism industry for the safety and security of all guests. The Tourism Response Team will provide information on tsunami preparedness to tourist facilities operating within tsunami danger zones, and to encourage each major tourist facility to:

- (a) prepare Evacuation Plans with clearly defined roles for the evacuation of staff and tourists to identified evacuation sites;
- (b) conduct drills twice annually to pre-determined evacuation sites;
- (c) ensure that staff and tourists with disabilities and other vulnerabilities are identified and afforded additional assistance as required;
- (d) report to the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism on the status of evacuations if difficulties arise.

5.7 Land Transport

The Land Transport Authority, which has overall responsibility for every public transport driver operating within a tsunami danger zone, is responsible for all aspects relating to the evacuation of the staff and passengers in its care, and must:

- (a) prepare Evacuation Plans with clearly defined roles for staff and contingency plans for evacuation of staff and clients from Land Transport Offices and public transportation terminals within tsunami danger zones;
- (b) issue instructions to all public transport drivers on evacuation procedures during tsunami alerts for any route within tsunami danger zones, including additional duty of care and procedures for evacuation of passengers with disabilities and other vulnerabilities;
- (c) issue public notices prohibiting the use of private vehicles during a tsunami alert;
- (d) conduct drills twice annually to pre-determined or otherwise suitable evacuation sites;
- (e) establish a contact system for public transport drivers after evacuation through the Land Transport Authority;
- (f) Report to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport or NDMO on the status of evacuations if difficulties arise.

5.8 Maritime Transport

The Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji, which has overall responsibility for every maritime facility operating within a tsunami danger zone and at sea, is responsible for all aspects relating to the evacuation of the maritime staff and passengers, and must:

- (a) prepare an Evacuation Plan with clearly defined roles for staff and passengers for coastal facilities, and for vessels within coastal regions;
- (b) conduct drills twice annually to pre-determined evacuation sites;
- (c) maintain a system to keep track of staff during evacuation;
- (d) ensure that staff with disabilities and other vulnerabilities are identified and afforded additional assistance as required;
- (e) develop contingency plans for short or medium term care of staff during or after an evacuation;
- (f) report to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport or NDMO on the status of evacuations if difficulties arise.

5.9 Facilities of Other Agencies

Every other Agency, business or organisation operating facilities within a tsunami danger zone is responsible for all aspects relating to the evacuation of the staff and members of public on its premises, and must:

(a) prepare an Evacuation Plan with clearly defined roles for staff;

(b) conduct drills twice annually to a pre-determined evacuation site;

(c) maintain a system to keep track of staff during evacuation;

(d) ensure that staff with disabilities and other vulnerabilities are identified and afforded additional assistance as required;

(e) develop contingency plans for short or medium term care of staff during or after an

evacuation;

(f) report to the respective lead agency or NDMO on the status of the evacuation if difficulties arise.

6.0 ADDITIONAL TSUNAMI SUPPORT SERVICES

6.1 Search and Rescue

After a tsunami event, search and rescue operations will be conducted by the Fiji Police Force and National Fire Authority on land and by the RFMF Naval Operations at sea. Rescued survivors will be taken to medical triage stations for assessment before proceeding to evacuation areas.

6.2 Medical Triage

In the case of a tsunami event occasioning casualties, the Ministry of Health and Medical services will establish and inform the NDMO, the Fiji Police Force and the RFMF of the location of medical triage stations nearest to the affected area.

6.3 Deceased Persons

The National Fire Authority will notify the Fiji Police Force of the location of deceased persons found on land during search and rescue operations. Deceased persons found at sea and in impacted areas will be recovered by the RFMF and taken to the Fiji Corrections Service sites.

The Fiji Police Force is responsible for identification of deceased persons and notification of their families, and will maintain a register of deceased persons recovered during tsunami events.

6.4 Family Tracing

The agencies facilitation family tracing and reunification services may coordinate with the NDMO to assist with public announcements on contact points for the general public.

After evacuations or tsunami events, family tracing will be facilitated by:

- (a) Ministry of Education and respective educational facilities, for students and their families;
- (b) Ministry of Health & Medical Services and respective health facilities, for patients and their families;
- (c) International Committee for Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the Fiji Red Cross Society.

6.5 People with Disabilities and Other Vulnerabilities

The Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons and organisations representing people with disabilities and other vulnerabilities may:

- (a) collaborate with government authorities, agencies, organisations, businesses and communities to identify and incorporate into Evacuation Plans procedures and mechanisms for safe evacuation of people with disabilities and other vulnerabilities;
- (b) provide guidance for people with disabilities and other vulnerabilities to increase their individual capacity to initiate evacuation;
- (c) collaborate with the NDMO to raise awareness on appropriate evacuation assistance for people with disabilities and other vulnerabilities.

7.0 EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

NDMO will develop tsunami education and awareness materials based on the Tsunami Response Plan for public distribution, and will progressively source and include GIS mapping of Tsunami Danger and Safe Zones around Fiji.

Annually and no later than Disaster Awareness Week in October, NDMO will conduct activities to increase tsunami preparedness including:

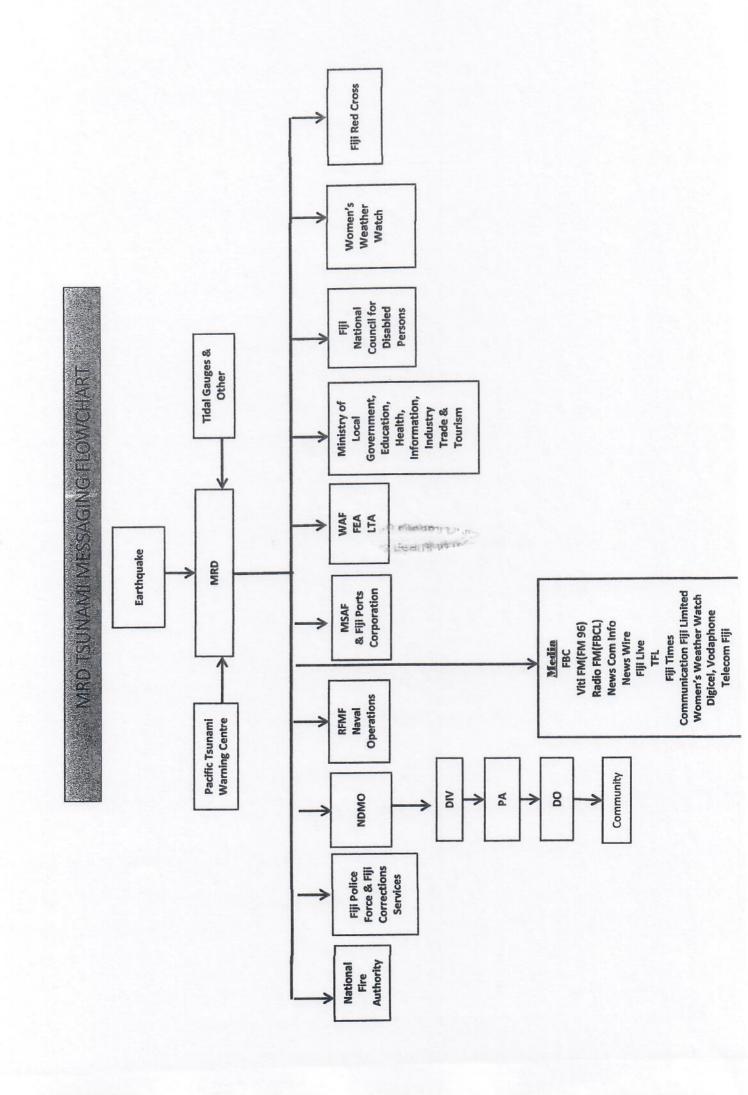
- (a) General education and awareness campaigns for communities;
- (b) Tsunami tabletop exercises for agencies listed in Section 2.3;
- (c) National Tsunami Drill; and
- (d) Lessons Learnt to inform a review of the Plan.

8.0 TSUNAMI RESPONSE PLAN REVIEW

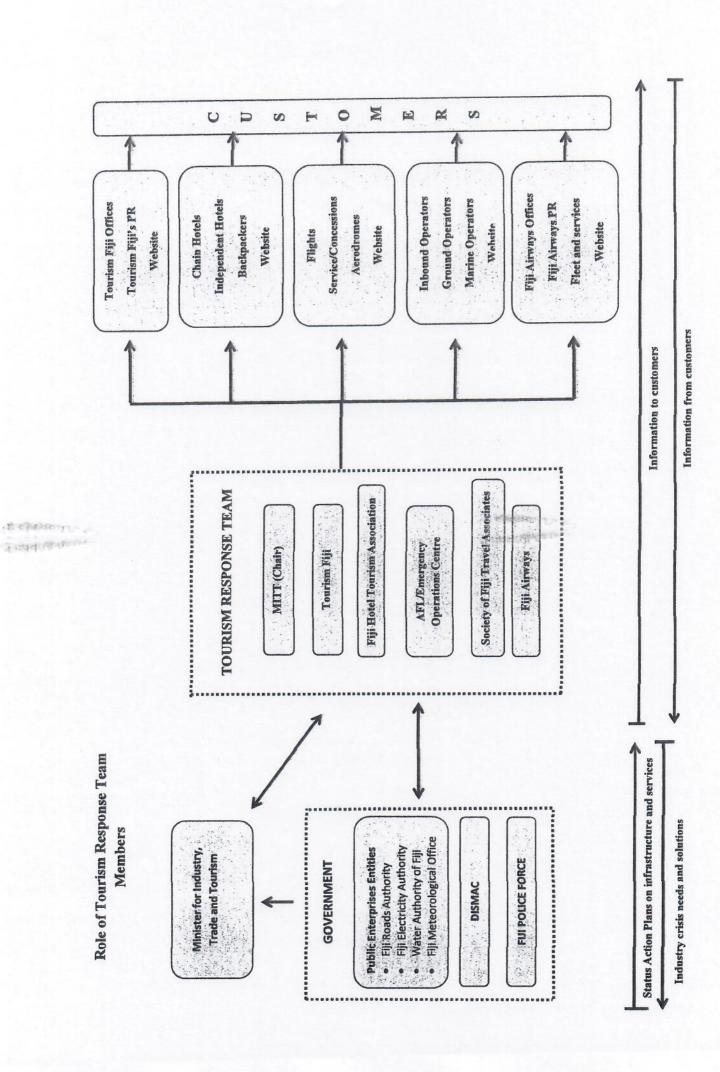
NDMO will conducting annual reviews of the Plan to incorporate changing national circumstances and Lessons Learnt from tsunami events, tabletop exercises and field drills. Additional maps indicating tsunami danger and safe zones will be annexed as they become available.

ANNEX A TSUNAMI ADVICE TO PUBLIC - DO NOT RISK LIVES. ARE YOU READY?

- Notice Natural Early Warning Signs If there is a strong earthquake or sea water recedes from the shoreline, do not approach the sea. Receding water is an indication that a tsunami wave is coming. Move as quickly as you can to a safe area at least 10 metres above sea level or 1 km inland. Do not wait for official directions move immediately to safety. Wait there until you hear official 'All Clear' message.
- Be evacuation aware Ensure that you and your family know the nearest evacuation points to your home, work place, leisure area and school and how long it takes to get there. Do not enter danger zones looking for family members.
- Listen for Official Warnings Once tsunami sirens are activated or a public order
 has been given to evacuate to higher ground, you must leave immediately for
 evacuation areas. Do not go home first to collect family members, belongings or pets.
 People who fail to follow evacuation orders may be arrested. Failure to evacuate can
 cost lives.
- Avoid Car Travel: In a tsunami, cars are death traps. Particularly in high density
 areas, do not travel by car but make your way to tsunami safe zones by foot as quickly
 as possible. In the interests of order and safety, road blocks will be erected to
 minimize vehicle traffic and maximize movement by foot. Traffic jams may not only
 delay your escape, but can also block essential services from operating.
- Schools have Evacuation Plans All schools near tsunami danger zones have primary responsibility to ensure safety of students during tsunami events. Schools have evacuation plans to move students to a safe zone (if the school is in a tsunami danger zone) or to keep students safe in school (if the school is not in a tsunami danger zone) till the danger has passed. Do not go to schools to collect your children during a tsunami event. Make sure you know the location of the school's evacuation zone and phone number to contact your children after the tsunami danger has passed.
- Move to Highest Point: Only if trapped in a low-lying zone or unable to reach higher ground, move to the highest available point e.g. the highest floor of a strong multi-level building. If caught in the tsunami flow, try to hold onto something that floats.
- Tsunamis Waves Can Return: A series of tsunami waves may occur over many hours, and subsequent waves may be larger than the first. The progress of these waves will be tracked by the MRD, and the NDMO will issue an 'All Clear' message once the danger has passed.
- Stay Safe: Do not leave the evacuation point until a public order has been given to return, especially if damage has been caused. Tsunami waves can sweep away ground, such as the sandy coastal shores and river banks. This may extend the reach of high tides further inland than usual and deposit large amounts of debris.



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TSUNAMI EVACUATION MAP FOR SUVA CITY Legend **Tsunami Evacuation Routes** Projection LTM Zone 60S
Spheriod WGS 84
Datum WGS 84
Datum WGS 83 and topographic layers from Fij. Lands information System (FLIS)
PS GB imagery Acquisition Date 2000
This map showns the most effective means to the public in event of a stunam, evacuation is the Proposed Evacuation Areas and Evacuation for the Proposed Evacuation Evacuation Areas Tsunami Danger Zone Police Station Fire Station Health Facilities

