Risk Assessment experience in the Maldives

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Existing Risk Assessments

1. Developing a Disaster Risk Profile for the Maldives (2006) with UNDP support
    1. 1037 Islands Captured using remote sensing Techniques
    2. Included Multi Hazard Assessment and Vulnerability Assessment
    3. Assessed hazards: Tsunami, Cyclone, Storm Surge, Sea Swells, Earthquake
    4. Risk index of 1 -5

Role of Global Risk Assessments for National Dialogue

- Awareness
- Broad rationale and direction for action

Existing Risk Assessments (contd..)

2. Detailed Island Risk Assessment for Maldives – DIRAM (2007) with UNDP support
    1. Assessed 10 islands designated as “safe islands” and compared to normal islands
    2. Assessed social, economic and physical vulnerability to determine how safe the islands are
    3. Identified island-specific mitigation measures

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Using the risk assessments

- Existing risk assessments have been used for:
  - Designing risk reduction projects including selection of most vulnerable islands
  - Raising awareness of public and at policy level
  - Determining risk to development projects
  - Forecasting response and relief requirements after disaster

Challenges

- Lack of local capacity to conduct technical risk assessments
- Poor coordination, leading to repetitive assessments and surveys
- Absence of information management system
- Weak Decision support system
- Lack of Awareness at all levels

Current development

- A new Hazard Risk, Vulnerability and Adaptive Capacity Assessment Tool is in development with support from UNDP
  - To be used at island level
  - Has 50 indicators
  - Has both quantitative and qualitative indicators
  - Will allow comparisons between islands of total risk and vulnerability

How to enhance the use of risk assessment data

- Integrate risk assessments/information into designing development projects
- Integrate using risk assessment data in island development planning
- Institutionalize the maintenance and updating of risk assessments cross –sector and into local governance (DM Units at island level)
- Make risk information accessible

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Global to Local Risk Assessment

- Capturing the attention of decision makers
- Triggering and guiding local risk assessments
- Local scientists understand limitations but need support to use it for advancing to local risk assessment

Thank you