

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



Maldives

Disaster Risk Management

UNDP has long viewed disaster risk management as a crucial element of any nation's sustainable development. In the case of the Maldives, the tsunami highlighted only too clearly the importance of adequate risk reduction strategies. UNDP's Disaster Risk Management project in the Maldives seeks to enable communities to manage impact of climate change and reduce disaster risk vulnerabilities. The main objective of UNDP's Disaster Risk Management project in the Maldives thus, is capacity building and institutional strengthening for disaster risk reduction.



UNDP supports national counterparts to develop a disaster risk perspective to effectively manage and reduce risk.

Key Projects under Disaster Risk Management

Capacity Building for Crisis Prevention and Recovery in Maldives - The project seeks to enhance the overall institutional capacity of the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) and other stakeholders at national and community levels for effective disaster risk reduction and disaster management with functional systems and mechanisms for effective coordination and preparedness and response in place.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management in Schools - This project aims to support the government in integrating Disaster Risk Reduction in the school curriculum and co-curricular activities. Expected outputs include the development of a framework for integration of disaster risk reduction in school curriculum, development/revision of syllabus, instructional materials, teachers guide, and student manuals. It also includes the development of a guideline on school preparedness and piloting of school preparedness activities and new curriculum on

OVERVIEW

UNDP is supporting the country on the road to relief, long-term recovery and disaster preparedness planning and is working with the people of Maldives in strengthening the capacity to address environmental challenges

disaster risk reduction in target schools.

Disaster Management and Environment for Sustainable Development - This project aims to support the government in integrating disaster risk reduction in the National Building Code. Expected output includes the development of a framework for integration of disaster risk reduction into the National Building Code, review and enhancement of the National Building Code including development of an implementation framework for the code and formulation of compliance documents for relevant clauses specifically disaster-related clauses.

Strengthening National and Local Capacities for Effective Early Warning Dissemination and Response - This project aims at strengthening capacity at the national and community levels for early warning for tsunami and other hazards by facilitating finalization of the draft protocol for end-to-end early warning dissemination, drawing up of early warning response plans at island, atoll and national levels, simulation exercises at different levels to fine tune the plans and maintain pro-active preparedness/readiness, training of island communities and relevant officials at different levels on early warning dissemination protocol, and raising community awareness about disaster mitigation and preparedness.

Safe Shelter to Vulnerable Islands - The project aims to provide the island community with vertical evacuation to around 1000 people during times of natural disasters i.e. Tsunami, flooding. Specifically, the multi-purpose safe shelter building is aimed at addressing the needs for emergency evacuation to the most vulnerable families in the island, serve as a place for safeguarding and storing basic necessities and medical facilities needed during and immediately after a disaster, to use an emergency operations centre. The multi-purpose building will also be used for community activities during normal times.

Detailed Island Risk Assessment in the Maldives - This is one key project activity which is supporting the government's initiative on developing safer islands. This is an offshoot of the findings of the Disaster Risk Profile report which provide the vulnerability ranking of the islands in the Maldives. In order to make an in-depth analysis of the risks that the islands faced, a detailed island risk assessment for 9 selected islands was initiated. This study is first of its kind in the country. The full report is expected to complete and publish this year.

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Key Achievements

Under the overall objective of Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, the project adopted the following approach and priorities within the framework of the Tsunami Recovery Programme:

A. **Strengthening the Institutional and Legal Systems (ILS) for disaster risk management**

- Formulation of the Draft Institutional Framework for Disaster Management
- Draft Disaster Management Act of the Maldives
- Supported the development of the National Disaster Management Plan
- Disaster Risk Management integrated into the UNDAF and UNDP Country Programme

B. **Multi hazard disaster response and preparedness planning and mitigation activities**

- Developed the first ever GIS-based disaster risk profile of the Maldives
- Supported establishment of early warning system; Equipment worth \$1.8 million procured and operational and training provided
- Strengthened Emergency Operations Centre: through equipment support for 1 national and 5 regional Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs)
- Community based disaster preparedness plans developed in 39 Islands across 7 Atolls; conducted simulation exercises in 2 Atolls
- Developed sector disaster management plans i.e. Tourism sector Disaster Management framework developed; selected resort islands with disaster preparedness plans
- Responded to the May 2007 Sea Swells emergency in some islands in the Maldives on recovery coordination, rapid damage assessment and livelihood support.
- Initiated disaster preparedness planning in schools; developed the School Emergency Preparedness Guidelines
- Integration of climate change into the Community Based Disaster Risk Management activities, training and preparedness plans.

C. **Training and Capacity Building**

- National disaster management training held for key ministry officials and local NGOs
- Developed training guides and manuals i.e. Community Based Disaster Preparedness Planning and Basic First Aid
- First Aid, Psychosocial counseling and early warning training provided to volunteers of selected island communities
- Key Government Staff trained on various DM skills i.e. CBDRM, Risk Assessments and GIS in Disaster Management

Future Direction

[Approximate Resource Requirements]:

- Sustain support to building institutional, national, and local capacities for disaster risk reduction, emergency management and response **[US\$500,000, 2009-2011]**
- Development of the End-to-End Early Warning System, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and training **[US\$300,000, 2009-2011]**
- Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in key development policies and national development plans **[US\$300,000, 2009-2011]**
- Risk assessments and related researches/studies to enhance disaster resilience and develop mitigation options for most vulnerable islands. **[US\$300,000, 2009-2011]**