

Nomination for the 2015 Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction

**Institution name:** CARE SOCIETY (NGO)

**Address of headquarters:** H. Fiyaathoshimaage, Fiyaathoshimagu, Male’ Maldives

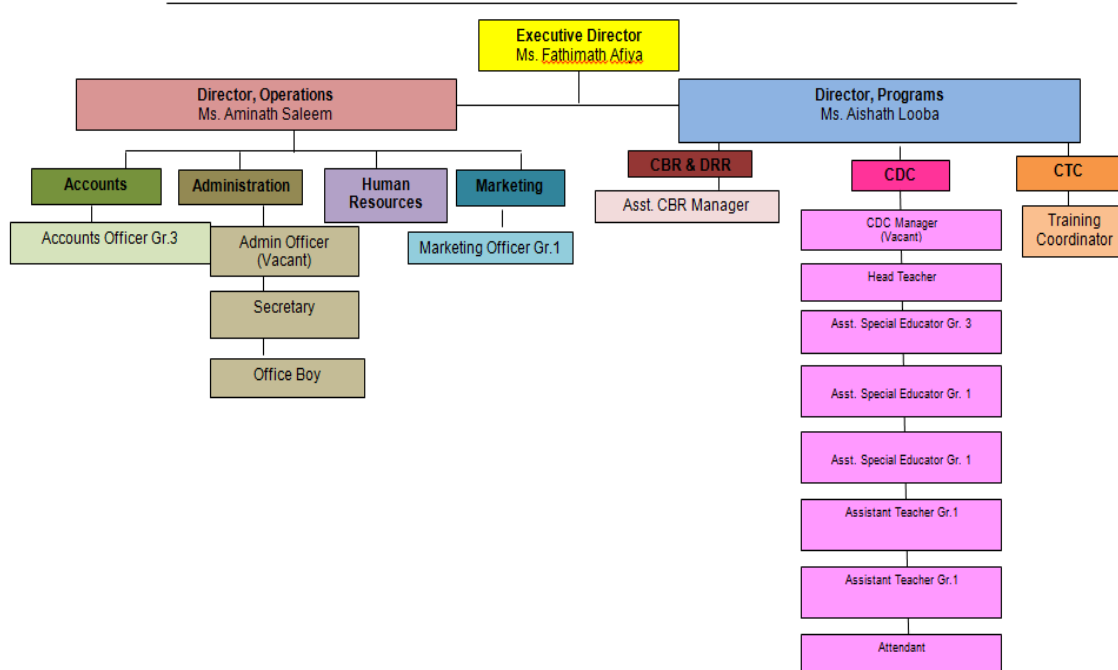
**Date of creation:** 09<sup>th</sup> November 1998

**Main fields of activity:** Promoting rights of people with disabilities, promoting rights of children, promoting rights of women, building capacity of NGOs and CBOs and assisting survivors or natural disasters like Tsunami.

**Size:** 18 Staff

**Organization structure:**

**CARE SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**



**Annual budget:** MVR 1,163,769.09

**Sources of income:**

Donations, membership fees, External funding, Project funds

**Name and title of chief executive officer:**

Fathimath Afiya, Executive Director

Nominator's Information

**Nominator's Name: Imad Mohamed**

**Address: M. Beach Roadge, Male' Maldives**

**Email: imad@huvadhooid.org**

**Present position: Executive Director, Huvadho Aid**

**Previous posts and functions: Senior Planning Office, Department of National Planning**

As Senior Planning Officer at Department of National Planning, I was given function to align policies and programs of line ministries with National development Plan, mainstream cross cutting issues such as human rights, gender, and disaster risk reduction into development plan. Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction and Vulnerability Reduction issues into national development plans and programmes was one of the core duties of my work at Department of national Planning. I also involved with Tsunami Impact Assessment Studies done by IFRC in collaboration with Department of National Planning and National Disaster Management Center. As part of preparing the assessment

In less than 800 words, please describe the remarkable and innovative effort carried out by the nominee

To reduce the impact of disasters and build disaster resilience under the theme “Shaping the Future.”

Care Society was established on 09<sup>th</sup> November 1998, to promote rights of persons with disabilities. However in 2004 with destruction of Tsunami; in 2005 Care Society added the objectives of promoting people with disabilities, rights of children, rights of women, capacity building of Community Based Organizations and NGOs and assisting victims of natural disasters. Care Society is the only NGO in the Maldives till today that has included the objective of DRR work on its mandate.

### **Tsunami Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program:**

Care Society with Action Aid International (AAI) initiated the Tsunami Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program in the Maldives for a period of 3 years effective from early 2005 to 31st March 2008. In this project a total of Maldivian Rufiyaa 39 million (USD 3.14 million) was invested.

Under this project Care Society worked in 17 islands in four Atolls. The project had 4 Objectives which are as follows:-

1. To reduce negative Psychosocial effects
2. To support livelihood recovery and sustainability.
3. To strengthen communities and institutions to secure rights and reduce vulnerabilities
4. Just and Accountable Governance.

The key approach of the Project was to build resilient communities in the islands as a long-term strategy to shape the future of island communities.

Under AAI project, Care Society focused on construction of buildings that are disaster resilient and the building can be used as a safe shelter. With this approach Care Society supported building resilient pre-schools in 4 islands, which were elevated from the ground level, the communities can take safe shelter in times of disasters. Play based method was introduced in 8 schools in Tsunami affected islands in partnership with Ministry of Education. Play based method focused on development of young minds toward shaping a resilient generation. Additionally, 3 Agricultural Nurseries were built in 3 Atolls with seed-banks on top floor which were designed to be Disaster resilient as food storage for emergencies. In the agricultural component the island communities were taught the importance of plantation and value of nutritional food. In this program, over 1673 households were targeted by providing plants, pesticides, fertilizers under the guidance of Agricultural experts based in islands.

Care Society was the first agency/Institution that introduced School safety programs in partnership with Ministry of Education in the Maldives to build capacity of school children. Care Society believes that to build a resilient community, knowledge has to be imparted to younger generations. It was after the initiation of school safety program by Care Society that Ministry of Education initiated School Safety programs in Maldives.

The School safety program's major focus was to engage the younger generation to preserve the environment, to recycle garbage, aware the children about damage that plastic bags could do to the environment, how the children could be stay safe at home and Do's and Don'ts during and after a disaster.

Care society believes that children can play a huge role being agents of change. Once their younger minds are well prepared and aware of disasters it is believed that these changes would be implemented for better disaster prepared communities in the future.

Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM) was designed with support of Mercy Malaysia to build resilient communities as 1<sup>st</sup> Responders. Communities in 9 Islands were trained in search & rescue, fire safety and first aid. The communities were mobilized to address emergencies and disasters within the communities in the islands rather than depending for assistance from capital or others. In these programs, taskforce of 20 people from different sectors were trained. This program benefitted the whole populations of these 9 islands.

Under CBDM program one of the major activities was to develop a community based disaster management plan in each of the 9 islands. When these plans are developed and strategized, Care Society gives highest priority to involve people with disabilities in the focus groups. These (CBDM) community disaster plan was produced as a guiding document that will pave a way for them to be prepared for any disasters or emergencies. The plan includes resources and capacity available in the community, hazards and vulnerability maps and contacts of trained task force members.

Care Society also trained psychosocial Community Level workers to address the emotionally disturbed communities in any common disasters in Maldives like flooding, sea surge and flash flood. A total of 242 people were trained in 4 Atolls in 17 islands. The trained Community level workers were from Government, NGOs and individuals. A one year training, in Counseling and Psychology (Advance level certificate ) opportunity was given to 18 people from the Islands and Male'.

As objectives of Care Society is working with the most vulnerable groups in the communities like children, people with disabilities and women, Care Society always has tried to integrate these groups. Hence all these programs are inclusive with specific focus on building disaster resilient communities that are accessible specifically for people with disabilities and elderly people.

In less than 400 words, please describe how the nominee's work is funded.

With assistance from Oxfam, Care Society worked in Laamu and Gaafu Atoll on cash for work program, clearing debris on 8 islands to inject cash into the island communities after the tsunami disaster. The total budget for this program was Maldivian Rufiyaa 2,629,460.87 (USD 206,232.23) and targeted 758 women and 583 men. This program focused on building community resilience after the tsunami.

With partnership with Action Aid we have injected a total of Maldivian Rufiyaa 39million (USD 3.14 million).

Total amount of Mvr 801,840 (\$ 52,000) was injected for implementation of two projects. One, Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDM) and two, school safety programs conducted with support of Mercy Malaysia.

American-Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (AJDC) funded a project USD 50,000 for school safety program in six islands.

Views from Front line (VFL) funded the amount of USD 39,000 to conduct a survey related to DRR works in Maldives.

FIDA project focused on implementing community based rehabilitation programs in five atolls with specific attention to integrating people with disabilities into disaster resilient communities. A total budget of USD 62,950.

Asian Disaster Risk Reduction Network (ADRRD) provided trainings at regional and national levels.

If Care Society receives the Prize money, the funding would be utilized on implementing a project on " School Safety Program- inclusion for all". The project would focus on larger communities with schools of about 1000 to 2000 student population. It is estimated that by working in five different communities a target of 7000 school children would be reached. Hence, a larger community is expected to benefit by this program with inclusion of vulnerable groups.

## List of Documents

### PDF files

**1. What is a disaster in local language 'Dhivehi'**

It's a practical guideline booklet about disasters for those working in the Education Sector and school children.

**2. Not by Taxi**

It's a storybook for children about the damage to the environment that can cause by using transport like taxi to school. The morale of the story suggests that in order to protect the environment you can walk to school and leave early to go to school not to be late.

**3. Plastic bags**

It's a picture storybook for children about the damage to the environment by using plastic bags. The morale of the story highlights different scenarios where the plastic bags could harm the birds, fish living in the sea and the plants.

**4. Disaster Response and National Charter**

### Power Point Presentations

**1. People with disabilities and disaster**

Presented by Aishath Looba, Director Programs, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Target groups: Police, Disaster Management Centre and, Government officials

**2. Hyogo Framework of Action, TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON COMMUNITY BASED**

**3. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, 25TH JUNE - 28TH JUNE , CENTRAL HOTEL - MALE**

**4. Prepared by: Shekh Mohammad Altafur Rahman, External Human Rights Consultant, Civil Society Conference on National Charter, Care Society, Maldives**

**5. Presentation on the assistance provided to Tsunami affected communities in Maldives by Care Society**

**6. Tsunami destruction in Ga Atoll**

## Internet links

1. Fisheries-Based Livelihoods in the post-tsunami context, PEOPLE'S REPORT, India, the Maldives, Sri Lanka & Thailand

[http://www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/fisheries\\_based\\_livelihoods\\_in\\_the\\_post-tsunami\\_context.pdf](http://www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/fisheries_based_livelihoods_in_the_post-tsunami_context.pdf)

2. Violence Against Women in the post-tsunami context Violence Against Women in the post-tsunami context

PEOPLE'S REPORT, India, the Maldives, Puntland (Somalia), Sri Lanka & Thailand

[http://www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/vaw\\_in\\_the\\_post-tsunami\\_context.pdf](http://www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/vaw_in_the_post-tsunami_context.pdf)

3. Homestead Land & Adequate Housing in the post-tsunami context

PEOPLE'S REPORT, India, the Maldives, Sri Lanka & Thailand

[http://www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/homestead\\_land\\_and\\_adequate\\_housing\\_in\\_the\\_post-tsunami\\_context.pdf](http://www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/homestead_land_and_adequate_housing_in_the_post-tsunami_context.pdf)

4. Disaster Risk Reduction in the post-tsunami context

PEOPLE'S REPORT, India, the Maldives, Sri Lanka & Thailand

[http://www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/ddr\\_in\\_the\\_post-tsunami\\_context.pdf](http://www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/ddr_in_the_post-tsunami_context.pdf)

5. NGO Capacity and Needs Assessment, February 2009, Male', Maldives

Details about Care Society from page 16 - 20

<http://www.mv.undp.org/content/dam/maldives/docs/Democratic%20Governance/NGO%20Capacity%20&%20Needs%20Assessment%20-%20Raajje%20Foundation.pdf>

6. Tsunami Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program

<http://www.caresociety.org.mv/web/eng/tsunami.html>