

# Maldives

## National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2011-2013)

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- **Reporting period:** 2011-2013
- **Last updated on:** 9 October 2012
- **Print date:** 11 Oct 2012

## Outcomes 2009-2011

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### Strategic Outcome For Goal 1

#### **Outcome Statement:**

Disaster risks consideration has been integrated in the Government's National Development Plan. Specifically, 2011 Strategic National Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction for 2010-2020 was designed to promote collaboration among policy makers, experts and practitioners of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the country for the development of a comprehensive risk management approach. It aims to build resilience of the nation and the island communities to disasters by sustaining the progress made by consolidating learned best practices and by incorporating risk reduction into the strategy for decentralization. Once harmonized with the policies, plans and sustainable development strategy, it will identify a consolidated set of programs and projects that can be undertaken with Government budget and considered for donor assistance. Few government agencies' programs have already integrated disaster considerations such as the Safe Island program, a new proposal for mosques as safe shelters has been developed. These mosques will act as a base for food and water storage, and communication equipment, acting as a stronghold in each island in case of disaster.

### Strategic Outcome For Goal 2

#### **Outcome Statement:**

Established government institutions lack adequate capacity and resources thus have limitations in implementing DRR initiatives at all levels including interventions for communities. The pending Disaster Management Bill delayed initiatives to strengthen certain institutional mechanisms for effective coordination and enforcement of laws, guidelines and standards that incorporated disaster risk considerations. Further the implementation of Decentralization Act hindered by the lack of sufficient capacity and resources all national, atolls and islands levels including communities. In the absence of a legal DRR framework and insufficient funding, government agencies have collaborated on ad hoc basis to implement programs. The approach has mobilized trained staff from different Ministries and institutions at the national and international level in disaster management, risk reduction and other related fields with many yet to be fully utilized. The civil society organizations have made good progress in conducting trainings to strengthen capacities of government agencies, private sectors and communities.

## Strategic Outcome For Goal 3

### Outcome Statement:

The government agencies, private sector and civil society organization have supported key sectors and several communities on emergency preparedness, response and recovery. This includes development of Community-based Disaster Preparedness Plans for affected communities with guidance on preparedness, response and recovery based on Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCA). During the process, trainings for response including trainings for 1st Aid, search and rescue, psycho-social support and early warning were provided as well as simulation exercises conducted for some islands. School level Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were completed for most schools in the country with staff being trained on emergency preparedness and decentralized management including regular mock drills being conducted within the school as well as activities carried out for community awareness with the involvement of parents in DRR. Ministry of Health and Family have specific SOP for the health sector while Ministry of National Defense Force, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture SOPs in place for their respective sectors.

## Strategic goals

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### 1.Strategic Goal Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

### Strategic Goal Statement 2011-2013 :

Government has undertaken new initiatives to change its focus from the traditional approach to Disaster Management beginning with the Disaster Management Bill that is now with the legal department for changes and finalization. The Bill seeks to provide a platform at all levels to address disaster risk reduction. In addition, the Government has developed conceptual designs for enhanced mitigation features on the proposed 'Safe Island' concept. Further, population consolidation and the creation of safe islands are part of the solution to climate change as discussed in the 7th National Disaster Management Plan. Formulation of the second National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) identified issues that have to be addressed for proper environmental management. The NAPA under the integrated Climate Change Strategy (CCS) is an attempt by the Government to develop a countrywide program that encompasses immediate and

urgent adaptation activities that address current and anticipated adverse effects of climate change. The Health Master Plan 2006-2015 identifies policy direction and goals for national disaster preparedness at all levels of the health sector. The education sector has included the focus on Disaster Management under the policy guidelines of providing safety for children. The Government's Telecom Policy emphasizes on an Emergency Communication Plan and the department is working in this direction.

## **2. Strategic Goal Area 2**

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

### **Strategic Goal Statement 2011-2013 :**

Following the Tsunami, a National Disaster Management Centre was established to facilitate the response and coordination. The Ministry for Defense and National Security, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning and National Development lead the emergency response and relief efforts in collaboration with other departments, UN agencies and other development partners. NDMC was the focal point for response, relief and recovery activities. Currently, NDMC is carrying out a more holistic model, wherein the processes of hazard identification and mitigation, community preparedness, integrated response efforts and recovery are planned for and undertaken contiguously within a risk management context to address issues of vulnerability. More than 200 staff representing ministries in the government has been trained on basic concepts of disaster management and other subjects related to disaster management carried out at national and internal levels. Community preparedness plans have been developed in 30 islands and disaster management task forces instituted with training on basic emergency response as part of the Community Based Disaster Programme.

## **3. Strategic Goal Area3**

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

### **Strategic Goal Statement 2011-2013 :**

The ambitious concept of “Building Back Better” – a phrase coined by former US President Bill Clinton in his role as UN Secretary General Envoy for Tsunami recovery – has been the guiding principle in the recovery and reconstruction programme. Building Back Better envisions the kind of society that people of Maldives will enjoy in five, ten and even fifteen years from now. Some of the features for building back better include utilization of cast concrete elements for quay walls that would replace the original structure made of ‘gunny sacks’. The National Recovery and Response Plan (NRRP) was an important tool for guiding the government’s efforts in responding to the Tsunami. School level Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were completed for most schools in the country with staff being trained on emergency preparedness and decentralized management including regular mock drills being conducted within the school as well as activities carried out for community awareness with the involvement of parents in DRR. Ministry of Health and Family have specific SOP for the health sector while Ministry of National Defense Force, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture SOPs in place for their respective sectors.

### **Priority for action 1**

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

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#### **Priority for action 1 :Core indicator 1**

National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralized responsibilities and capacities at all levels.

#### **Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

#### **Is disaster risk taken into account in public investment and planning decisions?**

Yes

#### **Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

- \* Yes: National development plan
- \* Yes: Sector strategies and plans
- \* Yes: Climate change policy and strategy
- \* No: Poverty reduction strategy papers

\* Yes: CCA/ UNDAF (Common Country Assessment/ UN Development Assistance Framework)

\* No: Civil defence policy, strategy and contingency planning

### **Have legislative and/or regulatory provisions been made for managing disaster risk?**

No

### **Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

#### **Description:**

Good progress has been made by the Government to establish and equip national institutions such as the National Disaster Management Center (NDMC) and sectoral agencies to institutionalize disaster risk reduction. The draft Disaster Management Bill, National Development Plan and subsequently the Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP) for DRR and Climate Change Adaptation highlights the Government's commitment of ensuring key development plans, strategic and legislative frameworks are place to adequately manage disasters in the country. In particular, the SNAP was designed to promote collaboration among policy makers, experts and practitioners of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the country for the development of a comprehensive risk management approach. It aims to build resilience of the nation and the island communities to disasters by sustaining the progress made by consolidating learned best practices and by incorporating risk reduction into the strategy for decentralization. Once harmonized with the policies, plans and sustainable development strategy, it will identify a consolidated set of programs and projects that can be undertaken with Government budget and considered for donor assistance.

Further, Government's Decentralization Act 2010 was a positive effort of defining three-tier administrative constituencies consisting of city, atoll and island councils to paved way for decentralized DRR responsibilities.

All these policies, plans, strategies and legislative frameworks were considered necessary to also facilitate budget allocation however, it must be acknowledged that severe budgetary constraints do exist that prevent holistic implementation at the programmatic level.

#### **Context & Constraints:**

The inadequate capacity limits a holistic approach to implementation of DRR measures. This is exacerbated by delayed endorsement of the DM Bill to give national institutions the legal mandate to effectively coordinate implementation of DRR initiatives in the country. The Decentralization Act is focused on emergency response and does not promote an integrated approach which local councils can advocate as many are currently formulating development

plans at the sub-national levels. Clearly, awareness and advocacy on national policy and legal frameworks can be improved to enhance the capacity of sectoral agencies at all levels of government and society to adequately mainstream DRR in relevant plans, policies and laws.

The cabinet endorsement of the DM Bill will pave for improvements at the institutional and programmatic levels to increase investment and implementation of DRR in the country in a coordinated approach.

**Priority for action 1 :Core indicator 2**

Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels

**Level of Progress achieved:**

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

**What is the ratio of the budget allocation to risk reduction versus disaster relief and reconstruction?**

-- not complete --

**Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

\* 0 National budget - Risk reduction / prevention (%)

\* 0 National budget - Relief and reconstruction (%)

\* 0 Decentralised / sub-national budget - Risk reduction / prevention (%)

\* 0 Decentralised / sub-national budget - Relief and reconstruction (%)

\* 0 USD allocated to hazard proofing sectoral development investments (e.g transport, agriculture, infrastructure)

**Description:**

Apart from Government's budget allocation there are also bilateral and multilateral investments for preparedness, prevention, relief and reconstruction at the national level. However, it was not possible to identify appropriations or expenditures at the sector level as they are difficult to track. Consecutively for capacity building, human resource is being developed with funds being allocated for various technical training. In 2009, three students were training in DRR and the other six in 2010. Further, Maldivian Red Crescent funding contributed to 25 trained individuals in the vulnerability capacity assessment.

**Context and Constraints:**

The current budgetary allocation to key sectoral agencies and different levels of government is insufficient to effectively promote an integrated approach DRR. Further to limited capacity at the national level, there is ongoing lack of capacity in local government authorities to assist island councils in addressing DRR in their development planning process. This limits further investment in capacity development and acquisition of key equipments for adequately prepare, prevent and respond to disasters in the country.

Given ongoing budgetary and capacity constraints, the opportunity exists for the country to promote effective collaboration and coordination among established institutions and programmes to rollout DRR in the country. A systematic awareness and education on DRR to enhance the knowledge and skills of stakeholders to give DRR the levels of attention in overall development planning and budgetary response it requires. An emphasis on the local government authorities in terms of funding and resources is essential given their proximity to local communities. The information management systems could be improved to monitor and track investments on funding and capacity towards DRR

**Priority for action 1 :Core indicator 3**

Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels

**Level of Progress achieved:**

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

**Do local governments have legal responsibility and regular / systematic budget allocations for DRR?**

No

**Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

\* No: Legislation (Is there a specific legislation for local governments with a mandate for DRR?)

\* No: Regular budget allocations for DRR to local government

\* 0 Estimated % of local budget allocation assigned to DRR

**Description:**

The Decentralization Act gives sectoral agencies the mandate for decentralization of DRR at sub-national government levels to also promote community participation. Further the local government authority's mandate is for relief and recovery. Clearly, the legal provision for decentralization exists however ownership of the processes is at the national level with few agencies making gradual progress to implementation it. For example, the Ministry of

Education (MoE) at the regional level has mandated all educational institutions to produce Standard Operating Procedures/Plans (SOPs) and operate at community level during the initial phase of emergencies. Further, MoE has prepared operational procedures during school emergencies to all schools, personalized to respective islands. This included training of one staff from 75% of schools in responding to disaster as education focal points. Other DRR related activities undertaken by MoE in collaboration with Care Society includes First Aid training for teachers and students. While school health and safety training has been conducted in 13 islands, establishment of child friendly schools is in progress whereas the guidelines to abide by in cases of Natural Hazards and Man-made disasters have also been sent to atolls. These guidelines are available in the MoE website. Further, the Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) has established five branches in Male and 12 units established in 12 atolls while training program produced more than 150 First Aiders, 2 Regional Disaster Response Team (Red Cross and Red Crescent) members, 2 Search and Rescue Trainers, 3 Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Trainers with more than 30 Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) volunteers and staff were trained. Furthermore, VCA trainings were conducted in all units of MRC with community action plans by MRC.

#### **Context & Constraints:**

The insufficient funding, inadequate awareness and advocacy on the function of Decentralization Act contributed to lack of ownership particularly at the local government levels to effectively mainstream DRR into their functional responsibilities, plans, programs and budgets. To date, less than 5% of islands focus on community DRR Drills and around 20 % of the islands development plans have integrated DRR in their development plans. Local budgetary allocations for developmental programs are limited. The civil society organizations have made progress to promote community-based disaster risk reduction hence government will have to provide adequate funding and capacity to effectively rollout DRR in all communities including sectoral interventions to implement its Decentralisation Act.

#### **Priority for action 1 :Core indicator 4**

**A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.**

#### **Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Are civil society organizations, national finance and planning institutions, key economic and development sector organizations represented in the national**

**platform?**

Yes

**Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

- \* 0 civil society members (specify absolute number)
- \* 0 national finance and planning institutions (specify absolute number)
- \* 0 sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)
- \* 0 private sector (specify absolute number)
- \* 0 science and academic institutions (specify absolute number)
- \* 0 women's organisations participating in national platform (specify absolute number)
- \* 0 other (please specify)

**Where is the coordinating lead institution for disaster risk reduction located?**

-- not complete --

**Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

- \* No: In the Prime Minister's/President's Office
- \* No: In a central planning and/or coordinating unit
- \* No: In a civil protection department
- \* No: In an environmental planning ministry
- \* No: In the Ministry of Finance
- \* Ministry of Defence and National Security Other (Please specify)

**Description:**

Pending the formalization of Steering Committee in the Disaster Management Bill, a multi-sectoral working group was formed during the second quarter of 2012. The primary role of the group is to serve as an information forum in an effort to coordinate DRR interventions in the country. This group comprises of representatives from relevant ministries of government and is chaired by National Disaster Management Centre. The working group is now working on ways to create awareness on disaster issues and trying to find ways to pool funding for the ongoing and future DRR activities.

**Context & Constraints:**

The existing multi-sectoral working group can be further strengthened with recognised roles and responsibilities once the Steering Committee under Disaster Management Bill is endorsed by cabinet

**Priority for action 2**

Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.

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**Priority for action 2 :Core indicator 1**

National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.

**Level of Progress achieved:**

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

**Is there a national multi-hazard risk assessment with a common methodology available to inform planning and development decisions?**

Yes

**Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

- \* Yes: Multi-hazard risk assessment
- \* 0 % of schools and hospitals assessed
- \* 0 schools not safe from disasters (specify absolute number)
- \* Yes: Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments
- \* No: Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments
- \* No: Risk assessment held by a central repository (lead institution)
- \* No: Common format for risk assessment
- \* No: Risk assessment format customised by user
- \* Yes: Is future/probable risk assessed?

**Description:**

High-resolution regional climate model for the Maldives, through statistical and downscaling of global models, to provide projections for use in national and local planning project was carried out by Ministry of Housing and Environment in collaboration with Maldives

Meteorological Service (MMS) and work was undertaken by Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System, as a sub component of Integration of Climate Change Risk into Resilient Island Planning. The disaster risk profiles for 13 islands were completed while at the sectoral level, hazard and vulnerability risk assessments were undertaken for 5.3% of the schools and few hospitals. Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) plans preparation work was conducted and Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) completed for 6 islands by Maldives Red Crescent (MRC). MRC has trained 160 locals in 26 islands and 18 Training of Trainers (ToT).

Further gaps exist for Government to have a comprehensive national hazard risks assessment and information system to inform sectors and communities to take effective action on DRR. The limited information on disaster risks affects well informed support for planning and decision-making by Government and other agencies. Coupled with this are limitations in staff capacity to collate, interpret and analyze relevant data and carry out risk assessments.

#### **Context & Constraints:**

Coordination within and among the institutions is still weak. The institutions inability to utilize Disaster Risk Assessment Reports for the sectors' development planning, policy making and programming is also related to unavailability of these reports. Additional constraints are in ability to access funding, limited technical expertise, poor state of equipment in technical agencies without relevant hardware and software for risks assessments. These are essential to achieve better results in the disaster risk assessment. Mobilization, prioritizing and allocation of resources appropriately to carry out the work smoothly and systematically. In particular, building and retaining human capacity within the institutions for DRR is of paramount importance.

It is recommended that provision of training on DRR to government, civil society organizations and private organizations is critical to enhance capacity and retain the trained staff. Formulation of technical guide to carry out the disaster risk assessment process in a standardized format and systematic matter should be given equal priority to institutional strengthening. Appointment of a lead technical agency to support the functions of National Disaster Management Center to collect, interpret and analyse risk information is important as well as making available reports and documents in the Disaster Risk Assessment for policy and decision-makers.

#### **Priority for action 2 :Core indicator 2**

Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities

**Level of Progress achieved:**

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

**Are disaster losses and hazards systematically reported, monitored and analyzed?**

Yes

**Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

\* No: Disaster loss databases exist and are regularly updated

\* No: Reports generated and used in planning by finance, planning and sectoral line ministries (from the disaster databases/ information systems)

\* Yes: Hazards are consistently monitored across localities and territorial boundaries

**Description:**

Hazard monitoring, archiving and dissemination of data and information to community for uses are carried out on a regularly basis by Maldives Meteorological Service. Meteorological, oceanographic and seismological networks are operational 24X7. Other available systems are sector specific and generally scattered thus affects systematic and periodic monitoring and dissemination of data on key hazards and vulnerabilities the country is exposed to. For available data, accessibility is often difficult while no system for the compilation and interpretation of risks integrated database system have contributed information of disaster loss database not operational in the country

**Context & Constraints:**

The national database hosted by National Disaster Management Centre has been under repair for over a year. Associated with this is lack of technical expertise that hinders implementation of data compilation and management. Owing to financial and logistical difficulties 8 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) are not in operation. Doppler Weather radar at Hulhule is also out of service, as a result of unavailability of financial resource and technical support. Lack of financial resources MMS is unable to provide repair and maintenance training to technicians working in this key area.

These challenges can be overcome with the provision of necessary support to enhance national capacities to carry out the task of operating an integrated database system. Improved allocation of sufficient funds for maintenance of scientific equipment used at MMS is also vital to maintain the systems operational for the continuous monitoring of natural hazards which may affect the country. Further, international assistance and support is required to provide training for the staff in the responsible agencies in Disaster loss data management and repair and maintenance of hazard monitoring systems.

**Priority for action 2 :Core indicator 3**

Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.

**Level of Progress achieved:**

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

**Do risk prone communities receive timely and understandable warnings of impending hazard events?**

Yes

**Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

- \* Yes: Early warnings acted on effectively
- \* No: Local level preparedness
- \* No: Communication systems and protocols used and applied
- \* Yes: Active involvement of media in early warning dissemination

**Description:**

Meteorological, oceanographic and seismic hazard monitoring networks established by Maldives Meteorological Service is in operation 24X7, except 8 automatic weather stations (AWS) and Doppler Weather Radar (DWR). Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) is operational, advisory and timely warnings are issued for extreme events and disseminate to focal points via mobile network and to citizens through media

**Context & Constraints:**

DWR and AWS are not operational due to insufficient allocation of maintenance funds and lack of trained staff in the support service unit of MMS. The communication and messages dissemination is ineffective and outreach to wider communities has not been established, as there are no localized early warning systems in the communities.

Clearly, end to end multi-hazard early warning system should be established to provide timely early warnings to local communities and people at risk. In particular, alternative early warning systems such as priority calling using satellite communication to avoid communication network jam could improve dissemination of information to communities. It is essential to allocate sufficient Financial assistance and technical support to enhance the surface observation network to collect hazard information from inhabited islands and tourist islands as well as for equipment maintenance. Further international assistance and support should be acquired to provide relevant training for technicians and operational staff of MMS. Equally important to enhance dissemination mechanisms for delivering effective and timely early warning to people at risk and responsible agencies.

### **Priority for action 2 :Core indicator 4**

National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.

#### **Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

#### **Does your country participate in regional or sub-regional actions to reduce disaster risk?**

Yes

#### **Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

- \* Yes: Establishing and maintaining regional hazard monitoring
- \* Yes: Regional or sub-regional risk assessment
- \* Yes: Regional or sub-regional early warning
- \* Yes: Establishing and implementing protocols for transboundary information sharing
- \* No: Establishing and resourcing regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks

#### **Description:**

Multi-hazard Early Warning systems takes into account the trans-boundary hazards like tsunami and tropical cyclones. Maldives Meteorological Services works in close collaboration with international and regional multi-hazard early warning centers for issuing advisories and warning for extreme events. Global and regional advisories and early warning messages on extreme meteorological, Oceanographic and seismic events are exchanges through WMO Global Telecommunication System (GTS).

#### **Context & Constraints:**

Lack of funds for staff working for reducing trans-boundary risks are unable to participate in the workshops and meeting arranged by Regional and International Centers in the area of DRR. This could be improved to promote information exchange and sharing within the region in an effort to improve national capacities

### **Priority for action 3**

Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

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### **Priority for action 3 :Core indicator 1**

Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Is there a national disaster information system publicly available?**

No

**Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

\* No: Information is proactively disseminated

\* Yes: Established mechanisms for access / dissemination (internet, public information broadcasts - radio, TV, )

\* No: Information is provided with proactive guidance to manage disaster risk

**Description:**

Maldives has ad-hoc mechanisms to disseminate information on disasters and disaster risk reduction to communities and general public. The Maldives Meteorological Services and Ministry of Health website provides updated information on weather changes, onset of disasters/epidemics and ongoing disasters when it occurs. However, the public awareness of the information update on these two websites is limited.

During a disaster situation public information broadcasting partners such as radio and TV stations are involved in disseminating information to the public at the onset of warning, preparedness message and etc. A formal agreement has been initiated between Maldives Broadcasting Commission and National Disaster Management Centre (in partnership with Maldives Meteorological Services and Ministry of Health, Communication Authority of Maldives and Maldivian Red Crescent) to build general public awareness through media on disaster issues. This agreement also prioritizes formation of procedures of adherence by media during a disaster and building capacity of media personnel on information dissemination on disasters and disaster risks. In 2012, National Disaster Management Centre and Maldivian Red Crescent signed a MoU to improve and scale-up DRR awareness and campaign to Maldivian public on preparedness to disasters.

**Context & Constraints:**

Maldives need to develop a strategy for dissemination of updated disasters including risk and preparedness i.e. a Disaster Information System to the public and communities. This can be supported by the set-up of an updated and well organized website by the National

Disaster Management Centre (NDMC). The current NMDC website has been under construction for over a year. Once established, it is recommended that availability of information on the website is widely marketed and encouraged for use as well as monitoring usage and access to the website to keep count users. Further, the media need to take an active role in supporting delivery of information on disasters their risk and required preparedness messages to the public. A formalized agreement and procedures between NDMC and Maldives Broadcasting Commission would strengthen this.

**Priority for action 3 :Core indicator 2**

School curricula , education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Is DRR included in the national educational curriculum?**

Yes

**Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

- \* Yes: primary school curriculum
- \* Yes: secondary school curriculum
- \* Yes: university curriculum
- \* No: professional DRR education programmes

**Description:**

The primary and secondary school curriculum of Maldives contains messages on disasters, disaster risk and disaster preparedness in subjects such as Environmental Sciences and Dhivehi Language. The Maldivian National University also has Disaster Management as subjects within two of their courses on Public Administration and Primary Health. In addition, Education Development Centre of MoE is currently revising the school curriculum, where the books developed for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction to School Curriculum project by UNDP and MoE in 2010 is being incorporated to make a new subject area called Health and Well Being. The new curriculum is expected to be launched in 2014/2015. Ministry of Education also has a guideline for School Emergency Operations Procedures (SoEP), through which schools in 12 atolls have drafted SoEP's and conducted drills involving school children and teachers in 2011. Consequently, 13 more schools practiced drills in 2012.

Two Disaster Preparedness Weeks were incorporated into the School Academic Calendar 2012 to encourage awareness and activities in disasters, disaster risk and disaster preparedness in schools. Several activities such as school hazard and evacuation mapping, dengue preparedness and prevention and First Aid trainings were conducted in schools as part of designated week's activities.

**Context & Constraints:**

Whilst the School Emergency Operations Procedures (SoEP) has been set in numerous schools, there is insufficient technical capacity at island and atoll level to implement the plans and conduct drills. Consequently, schools also face constraints in funding allocation for disaster management and drill activities, and it is recommended that all schools are provided a specific allocation for disaster management activities in schools and fully utilise teachers for DRR as many have been trained.

**Priority for action 3 :Core indicator 3**

Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.

**Level of Progress achieved:**

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

**Is DRR included in the national scientific applied-research agenda/budget?**

No

\* No: Research programmes and projects

\* Yes: Research outputs, products or studies are applied / used by public and private institutions

\* No: Studies on the economic costs and benefits of DRR

**Description:**

Ministry of Environment conducted a study on Coastal Adaptation Measures in 2012 and National Climate

UNDP conducted a study on LECRED in Laamu Atoll, the study is being used to conduct a community project in the atoll.

**Context & Constraints:**

Government recognized the importance of research and encourages collaboration among the sector however the challenge has been in effective coordination. This includes research into disaster risks and risk reduction measures in Maldives are not prioritized by institutions

and sectors. Given the weak institutional arrangements for research, the identification and establishment of standardized methodology and procedures for research is essential. New research into economic and social costs of DRR will be of significant benefit for the government. It is recommended that government gives priority to establishing a research unit within existing institutions to conduct studies into the relevant DRR areas with local academics. Efforts should be geared towards set up of a multi-sectoral platform led by National Disaster Management Centre for easy access to the public including sectors for their own purposes.

**Priority for action 3 :Core indicator 4**

Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Do public education campaigns for risk-prone communities and local authorities include disaster risk?**

Yes

**Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

- \* No: Public education campaigns for enhanced awareness of risk.
- \* Yes: Training of local government
- \* Yes: Disaster management (preparedness and emergency response)
- \* Yes: Preventative risk management (risk and vulnerability)
- \* Yes: Guidance for risk reduction
- \* No: Availability of information on DRR practices at the community level

**Description:**

Government's countrywide public awareness is sector specific and adhoc. The civil society organizations such as Maldivian Red Crescent with the support of sector partners conducted an "Advocacy for Governance on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)" to support island and atoll councils to incorporate DRR into island development plans in 2012. Prior to that awareness and training on community-based disaster preparedness including formulation of plans have been developed in 37 islands

while CBDRR plans were developed by Care for 4 islands and Maldivian Red Crescent conducted CBDM plan in 25 islands. Under these programs, emergency drills have been carried out in the island communities and schools.

Ministry of Health also conducted a pandemic table top exercise with stakeholders in three atolls, to train and practice pandemic control at island level. In addition, the “madhiri rulhi” campaign for Dengue Prevention by Ministry of Health focused on prevention of dengue outbreak in communities. In addition, public awareness messages by Ministry of Health and Family on communicable diseases and possible risks such as during H1n1 pandemic has been given out. Further, Maldives Meteorological Services conducted weather, earthquake and tsunami awareness on 6 Atolls.

In 2012, National Disaster Management Centre and Maldivian Red Crescent signed a MoU to initiate scaling up general public awareness campaign on DRR in an effort to promote public preparedness to disasters.

#### **Context & Constraints:**

There is no national strategy for awareness, education and advocacy on DRR in the country. Coordination among government agencies remains weak thus adhoc awareness undertaken by different sectors. One of the challenges is the isolation of atolls and islands which increases the costs for any outreach programs for DRR. The multi-sectoral working group established by National Disaster Management Centre could be strengthened to promote and ensure cost-effective coordination of the country’s awareness and advocacy initiatives on DRR, early warning and response action. Improve investment in long-term social marketing plan targeting peoples’ using local language is also necessary to achieve behavioral change.

### **Priority for action 4**

#### Reduce the underlying risk factors

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#### **Priority for action 4 :Core indicator 1**

Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.

#### **Level of Progress achieved:**

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

#### **Is there a mechanism in place to protect and restore regulatory ecosystem services? (associated with wet lands, mangroves, forests etc)**

Yes

#### **Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

- \* Yes: Protected areas legislation
- \* Yes: Payment for ecosystem services (PES)
- \* Yes: Integrated planning (for example coastal zone management)
- \* Yes: Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)
- \* Yes: Climate change adaptation projects and programmes

**Description:**

Although some substantial achievements have been made a few legal and other important documents need to be endorsed or finalized. Some of these include:

- The building code has been revised to incorporate climate change adaptation and disaster risk consideration but it needs enactment
- The revised Environment Preservation and Protection Act/Bill also needs to be enacted
- physical development master plan, at the moment, does not have DRR built-in to it per say.
- the recently established National Geographic Information System is not yet capable to utilize information to identify risks/hazard zones. The NGIS can be enhanced to make such information available to ensure the decisions are fact based, for example of requests for addressing emergency water shortages in the islands can be better managed if the information were available through the NGIS.

**Context & Constraints:**

The main constraints relate to lack of clarity in the decentralized institutional arrangements and mechanism. The clarity on roles and responsibilities is needed to come in for national and local authorities to take ownership of issues and seek solutions. For example, the Ministry of Environment and Energy implements projects such as the Integrated Climate Change Resilient Island Planning project that has local level adaptation feeding into land use planning processes. This will help bring local solutions into the planning stage. The challenge is no proper framework on mainstreaming DRR into the planning processes.

It therefore recommended that mainstreaming of DRR and climate change adaptation in key sectors beings at the legislative and policy levels such as the upcoming Land use Planning Act, revision to the mandatory Environment Impact Assessments. Further, National Geographic Information System is not yet capable to utilize information to identify risks/hazard zones. The NGIS can be enhanced to make such information available to ensure the decisions are fact based, for example of requests for addressing emergency

water shortages in the islands can be better managed if the information were available through the NGIS.

**Priority for action 4 :Core indicator 2**

Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Do social safety nets exist to increase the resilience of risk prone households and communities?**

No

**Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

- \* No: Crop and property insurance
- \* No: Temporary employment guarantee schemes
- \* No: Conditional and unconditional cash transfers
- \* Yes: Micro finance (savings, loans, etc.)
- \* No: Micro insurance

**Description:**

The country has a National Social Protection Agency under which several social nets are operating now including a health coverage, aged-persons allowance, etc. There is a small-loans facility for financing housing construction as well.

The transportation network needs to be still wider and secure to reach populations at risk as sea-based transportation is rather risky during storms and such events.

Some of the water & sanitation, harbor construction work are still ongoing as part of 2004 tsunami recovery.

**Context & Constraints:**

One of the main issues is that no specific undertakings have come about targeted specifically to populations most at risk. There is a need to gather and analyze data that point to specific needs of such population. A proper information and fact based decision making system is not in place for DRR.

**Priority for action 4 :Core indicator 3**

Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Are the costs and benefits of DRR incorporated into the planning of public investment?**

No

**Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

\* Yes: National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.

\* Eg: - Oil storages Please provide specific examples: e.g. public infrastructure, transport and communication, economic and productive assets

\* Yes: Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals

**Description:**

The context remains similar to 2009-2011 reporting. The other economic sectors that have made some progress in integrating DRR are tourism, fisheries and agriculture but not comprehensive.

**Context & Constraints:**

Financial and budgetary constraints have been the main factor in addressing the issue of incorporating DRR into public investments. However some of the standards that are used such as in the buildings sector are of high caliber and are globally accepted levels incorporating typical hazards mitigation for the settings. Strengthening of awareness, education and advocacy initiatives is essential to sensitize policy and decision-makers on the importance understanding disaster risks in development planning and implementation processes.

**Priority for action 4 :Core indicator 4**

Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

## **Is there investment to reduce the risk of vulnerable urban settlements?**

No

### **Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

- \* No: Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas
- \* No: Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas
- \* No: Training of masons on safe construction technology
- \* No: Provision of safe land and housing for low income households and communities
- \* Yes: Risk sensitive regulation in land zoning and private real estate development
- \* Yes: Regulated provision of land titling

### **Description:**

The Decentralization Act requires that island development plans are produced. The Land Law also requires for islands to do a Land Use Plan. However, the island councils are not adequately equipped to identify proper risk mitigation measures into the development plans.

### **Context & Constraints:**

The implementation capacities at local level need to be improved. Information and knowledge on recognizing and addressing hazards needs to be given more rigorously. During island development planning and land use planning, the local level planners need to be equipped with the proper guidelines and tools to ensure the enforcement of existing guidelines and policies, such as the Building Code that is being finalized. The location of certain infrastructure depends on necessarily on disaster risks but availability of land and accessibility for many atolls and islands.

### **Priority for action 4 :Core indicator 5**

Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes

### **Level of Progress achieved:**

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

## **Do post-disaster programmes explicitly incorporate and budget for DRR for resilient recovery?**

No

**Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

- \* 0 % of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR
- \* No: DRR capacities of local authorities for response and recovery strengthened
- \* No: Risk assessment undertaken in pre- and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction planning
- \* No: Measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery

**Description:**

Although the recovery efforts took into account the existing national standards and guidelines for example on housing, there were no specific occasions where the resilient recovery was incorporated.

**Context & Constraints:**

While the SNAP identifies the strategic directions on resilience building for possible hazards, and given the dire financial situation of the country, there has been no specific allocation and budget for DRR for resilient recovery.

However, increasing overall resilience is increasingly being advocated for now in addressing economic, climatic and disaster impact

**Priority for action 4 :Core indicator 6**

Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.

**Level of Progress achieved:**

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

**Are the impacts of disaster risk that are created by major development projects assessed?**

No

**Key Questions and Means of Verification:****Are cost/benefits of disaster risk taken into account in the design and operation of major development projects?**

No

**Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

- \* No: Impacts of disaster risk taken account in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

\* No: By national and sub-national authorities and institutions

\* No: By international development actors

**Description:**

There are no procedures in place to assess the cost/benefits of development projects. Although EIAs are conducted, the disaster aspects of such projects are not explicitly covered.

**Context & Constraints:**

To ensure that there are appropriate processes in place to take into account disaster scenarios specifically, the new Environment Act needs to address this. Moreover, the Disaster Management bill needs to recognize this and provide adequately in it to address the issues. The capacities to assess development projects from a DRR angle is also a constrain and planners and engineers need to be sensitized on this topic.

**Priority for action 5**

[Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels](#)

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**Priority for action 5 :Core indicator 1**

Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Are there national programmes or policies for disaster preparedness, contingency planning and response?**

Yes

**Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

\* Yes: DRR incorporated in these programmes and policies

\* No: The institutional mechanisms exist for the rapid mobilisation of resources in a disaster, utilising civil society and the private sector; in addition to public sector support.

**Are there national programmes or policies to make schools and health facilities safe in emergencies?**

Yes

**Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

\* Yes: Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety

\* Yes: Training and mock drills in school and hospitals for emergency preparedness

**Are future disaster risks anticipated through scenario development and aligned preparedness planning?**

No

**Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

\* No: Potential risk scenarios are developed taking into account climate change projections

\* No: Preparedness plans are regularly updated based on future risk scenarios

**Description:**

The Government's National Development Plan and Strategic National Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction are the overall policy and planning framework for DRR in the country. Other partners such as the UN and civil society organizations have supported the government on developing contingency plan in different sectors. The established institutions' technical capacity varies among the different sectors where some have more technical expertise and equipments whereas others are not fully equipped. Nonetheless, certain sectors have made good progress including:

- Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture – developed detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Hotel Operator authorization on Disaster Management.
- Ministry of Health and Family - Standard Operational Procedures for Government agencies was developed for when a large percentage of employees fall victim to an epidemic and private sector. This will in operation once the Public Health Bill that outlines the actions to be undertaken during the epidemics is completed. Further, H1N1 SOPs were developed for schools and health facilities. A national pandemic influenza preparedness plan and Tsunami SOPs were also developed. Overall, the Public Health Bill once endorsed will give Ministry of Health the mandate to enforce health protection measures in emergency and non emergency situations.
- The Ministry of Education has completed and implemented the School Emergency Operation Guide for most schools in the country
- Emergency Management Workshops for MNDF officials as well as other agencies and community first responders were conducted in Southern and Central Parts of the Country. These workshops give a special focus to DRR, community based disaster planning and multi agency coordination.

- Fire evacuation drills have been conducted in various schools in the Capital and other parts of the country.

**Context & Constraints:**

Several institutions made good progress however it has been a challenge to track and coordinate interventions. Since the post Tsunami efforts on DRR, investments on capacity developing in the country has been significant but it has been difficult to track and utilize available capacity to enhance overall institutional and technical capacities when necessary and required. Clearly, the level of commitment from sectorial agencies varies depending on their capacities and institutional mandates for DRR. The Government is encouraged to endorse the Disaster Management Bill to give sectors and legal mandates to effectively coordinate and implementation cost-effective interventions on DRR.

**Priority for action 5 :Core indicator 2**

Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.

**Level of Progress achieved:**

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

**Are the contingency plans, procedures and resources in place to deal with a major disaster?**

Yes

**Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

- \* No: Plans and programmes are developed with gender sensitivities
- \* Yes: Risk management/contingency plans for continued basic service delivery
- \* Yes: Operations and communications centre
- \* Yes: Search and rescue teams
- \* No: Stockpiles of relief supplies
- \* Yes: Shelters
- \* No: Secure medical facilities
- \* No: Dedicated provision for disabled and elderly in relief, shelter and emergency medical facilities

\* No: Businesses are a proactive partner in planning and delivery of response

**Description:**

Few government agencies have disaster and contingency plans at the national, atolls and island levels with ad hoc training drills and rehearsals. No legal framework exists to compel key government agencies, private sector and local communities put in place disaster and contingency plans; ensuring regular trainings and drills; and tracking for monitoring purposes. A contributing factor is the inadequate awareness and advocacy on the importance of disaster preparedness in the country which is a concern for policy and decision-makers.

Mechanisms and resources are not well established at the national with atolls and islands yet the representation of different government agencies demonstrated commitment for collaboration to effectively coordinate disaster response programs. This includes the following:

- Risk Management / Contingency plans have been developed for 3 atolls.
- 48 existing police stations can be used as operations and communication centers and the number of the police stations are expected to rise to a total of 68 by the end of 2013.
- National Disaster Management Center has a focal point in each of the inhabited islands and an agreement has been formulated by the NDMC with the Communication Authority of Maldives, CAM, to shut down the normal phone system and to switch on the emergency system during a disaster so that emergency communications can take place among the focal points.
- Vessels and aircrafts located in four regions in the country for different purposes are ideally suited for search and rescue teams as well as medical evacuation.
- Safe houses/shelters were constructed in 5 islands namely Dhuvafaru in Raa Atoll, Muli in Meemu Atoll, Gan and Fonadhoo in Laamu Atoll and Vilufushi in Thaa Atoll.
- Maldivian Red Crescent has trained special teams who are deployed across the country that can provide basic search and rescue; first aid, triage and coordination.

**Context & Constraints:**

Inadequate awareness and advocacy on the importance of disaster preparedness contributed to lack of systematic institutionalization of disaster preparedness and contingency planning in key government agencies. Further, the absence of a legal framework for DRR affected enforcement of key requirements to prepare and respond to disaster in a cost-effective way. Consequently, inadequate human and institutional capacity with ad hoc preparedness and response interventions increases the level of vulnerability particularly for people in remote and isolated atolls and islands.

Initial efforts of the civil society organizations with key government agencies to support communities could be strengthened to scale-up disaster preparedness and contingency

planning. In the absence of a national legal framework, the current lead agencies for DRR are encouraged to utilise established institutional arrangements to facilitate and coordinate cost effective preparedness and response support in the country.

Future investments are necessary to formalize existing institutional mandates to facilitate easy access to available capacity and resources in the country to promote whole of government approach on disaster preparedness and response programs including standardisation of certain protocols for either communication or search and rescue.

#### **Priority for action 5 :Core indicator 3**

Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.

#### **Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

#### **Are financial arrangements in place to deal with major disaster?**

Yes

#### **Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

- \* Yes: National contingency and calamity funds
- \* Yes: The reduction of future risk is considered in the use of calamity funds
- \* Yes: Insurance and reinsurance facilities
- \* Yes: Catastrophe bonds and other capital market mechanisms

#### **Description:**

The National Disaster Management Center has an emergency budget that can be utilized in the event of a disaster. Also mechanisms exist to call for international funds through the Ministry of Finance and Treasury as per the protocols.

#### **Context & Constraints:**

Although the budget allocation for emergency is considered sufficient in comparison to the level of risk, it is important to note that strong policies are not laid down in the efficient and effective use of the allocated budget. Apart from funding, there is inadequate availability of alternative essentials such as water reserves for the country. It is therefore recommended that clear guidelines and procedures for the access and use of emergency funds as well as long-term investment in key vulnerable sectors such as water, agriculture, education and health.

#### **Priority for action 5 :Core indicator 4**

Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews.

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Has an agreed method and procedure been adopted to assess damage, loss and needs when disasters occur?**

Yes

**Key Questions and Means of Verification:**

- \* Yes: Damage and loss assessment methodologies and capacities available
- \* No: Post-disaster need assessment methodologies
- \* Yes: Post-disaster needs assessment methodologies include guidance on gender aspects
- \* Yes: Identified and trained human resources

**Description:**

National Disaster Management Centre coordinates the process of collecting and reviewing information before, during and after a natural hazard with the assistance of key stakeholders such as Maldives Meteorological Service. There are also trained focal points from government agencies and civil society organizations located in all inhabited atolls and islands. For examples, in October 2012, 20 focal points from 10 atolls will be trained on Damage Assessment at Train-of-Trainer level. These focal points will then train the island focal points within their respective atolls.

**Context & Constraints:**

No comprehensive system exists to effectively coordinate the dissemination of information after a hazard event has been formulated and is in the process of being commissioned. As a result, there has been adhoc information sharing hence it is important to establish the system as soon as possible including alternative communication system for outreach to atolls and islands..

**Drivers of Progress**

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**a)Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development**

**Levels of Reliance:**

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action

developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

**>Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region? Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region?:** Yes

If yes, are these being applied to development planning/ informing policy? : Yes

**Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

Few studies/reports/atlasses on multi-hazard analyses such as the Detail Island Risks Assessments, National Adaptation Plan of Action and National Strategic Action Plan exist in the country however there seems to be a gap in the interpretation, integration and application of these in development planning and well informed policy formulation etc. In particular, specific areas of multi hazards needs to be further analysed as there is no regular continuity of hazard mapping and documentation. This will likely improve due to strong advocacy by international partners and priorities by the government there is a positive approach to the whole issue. Multi-hazard analysis is ongoing to develop policies in the near future to enable integration in the development.

**b)Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized**

**Levels of Reliance:**

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

**Is gender disaggregated data available and being applied to decision-making for risk reduction and recovery activities?:** Yes

**Do gender concerns inform policy and programme conceptualisation and implementation in a meaningful and appropriate way?:** Yes

**Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

Gender issues are identified and considered as much as possible in a variety of spectrums however the level of priority is not significant. Integration of DRR activities and awareness raising, particularly the awareness on gender-related issues have been carefully analyzed and implemented at community levels and be further improved across all sectors in all levels of government agencies.

### **c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened**

#### **Levels of Reliance:**

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

**Do responsible designated agencies, institutions and offices at the local level have capacities for the enforcement of risk reduction regulations?:** No

**Are local institutions, village committees, communities, volunteers or urban resident welfare associations properly trained for response?:** Yes

#### **Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

Significant increase in capacity levels since the Tsunami and recently there has been growing concerns to enhance capacity of local level representatives. A task force comprising key government agencies was established and currently in operations for disaster response and provision of relief as well as growing interest in volunteerism. While Government has had gradual progress through the decentralization processes, most atolls and islands are currently preparing their DRR plans. A major concern is that limited resources available for the trained experts to utilise and equally important is weak enforcements where existing institutional mandates stipulates action.

### **d) Human security and social equity approaches integrated into disaster risk reduction and recovery activities**

#### **Levels of Reliance:**

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

**Do programmes take account of socio-environmental risks to the most vulnerable and marginalised groups?:** Yes

**Are appropriate social protection measures / safety nets that safeguard against their specific socioeconomic and political vulnerabilities being adequately implemented?:** No

#### **Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

Geographical nature of the country including the sparse population remains a challenge in terms of outreach however emphasis on equality on the basis of human security and social

equity approaches has been well received by the recipient communities during disasters. The area that requires improvement is the economic recovery especially for subsistence farmers and artisanal fisheries.

**e) Engagement and partnerships with non-governmental actors; civil society, private sector, amongst others, have been fostered at all levels**

**Levels of Reliance:**

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

**Are there identified means and sources to convey local relevance, community experience or traditional knowledge in disaster risk reduction?:** Yes

**If so, are they being integrated within local, sub-national and national disaster risk reduction plans and activities in a meaningful way?:** No

**Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

Significant engagement and partnerships with INGO; a few with private sector have fostered at certain levels due to recovery activities after the tsunami but development or coordination mechanisms to sustaining these partnerships is absent. The Engagements of local NGOs at certain levels have contributed to increase the DRR knowledge at the community levels.

**Contextual Drivers of Progress**

**Levels of Reliance:**

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

**Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

Institutions have been given priority by the government and some improvement has taken place however due to unavoidable circumstances progress has been slow but steady.

**Future Outlook**

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**Future Outlook Area 1**

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

**Overall Challenges:**

The overall challenges towards disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction includes: • Weak institutional establishments to integrate at all levels of government; • Inadequate awareness and advocacy including gender sensitive policies and plans; • Limited capacity to interpret technical information into analysis to guide development planning and policy design;

**Future Outlook Statement:**

All the challenges identified are considered and known to the Government authorities resulting in gradual progress being made in all relevant areas of DRR and DRM. This includes international best practices either studies or practices experiences have helped facilitated action from the relevant government authorities.

**Future Outlook Area 2**

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

**Overall Challenges:**

Maldives is at the infant stage of systematically contributing to building resilience to hazards due to various factors and one being Disaster Management was not a top priority until the lessons learnt from the Tsunami in the region. Other challenges include: • No clear mandates for coordination, monitoring and reporting; • Inadequate funding and at times financial restrictions and shortfalls; • Inadequate human capacity in terms of new and emerging disaster preparedness, prevention and response under DRR strategies as well as limited technical expertise available in country; • No legal framework on DRR is a major setback in a lot of the national initiatives on DRR; and • Political instability due to the transition phase of Maldives towards a democratic and decentralized government system with the enabling policy and legislative frameworks.

**Future Outlook Statement:**

A great deal of efforts has to target sensitization of politicians in the country to generate continued political will to prioritise strengthening of institutions with required capacity and resource through the endorsement of the Disaster Management. With considerable experience and help from other countries who have developed their disaster management mechanisms, the government is positive to building a resilient country.

**Future Outlook Area 3**

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

**Overall Challenges:**

Prior to the Tsunami, emergency preparedness and response programs in the reconstruction were quite new in the country and highly likely to gain momentum however the main challenge is remains in the different sectoral codes of practices, guidelines and standards as there is no formal mechanisms for tracking and reporting.

**Future Outlook Statement:**

Incorporation of risk reduction approaches in taking place slowly and with decentralized responsibilities the government hopes to make significant improvements particularly in enforcement so that relevant sectors can adhere to specific emergency preparedness, response and recovery guidelines and standards. .

**Future Outlook Area 4**

The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66/199, requested the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. A first outline will be developed for the next Global Platform in 2013, and a draft should be finalized towards the end of 2014 to be ready for consideration and adoption at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015

**Please identify what you would consider to be the single most important element of the post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2025).:**

The Government's suggestions for consideration are: • Enhance capacity on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction and perhaps merge intervention where necessary; • Increase financing for specific DRR interventions at national levels; • Improvements in technology and/or equipments for DRR outreach including alternative Early Warning Systems

**Stakeholders**

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**Organizations, departments, and institutions that have contributed to the report.**

- \* National Disaster Management Centre () - Fathmath Thasneem
- \* Min. Defence & National Security () - Mohamed Nadheem Ibrahim
- \* Min. Education () - Hussain Rasheedh Moosa
- \* Min. Tourism, Arts & Culture () - Hassan Zameel
- \* Min. Transport & Communication () - Abdul Nasir Mohamed
- \* Min. Islamic Affairs () - Mohamed Didi
- \* Min. Fisheries & Agriculture () - Naseef Mohamed

- \* Min. Home Affairs () - Ibrahim Hameedh
- \* Min. Environment & Energy () - Abdulla Majeed
- \* Min. Housing & Infrastructure () - Mohamed Shafee
- \* Min. Foreign Affairs () - Rishfa Rasheed
- \* Min. Gender, Family & Human Rights () - Umar Moosa Fikuree
- \* Min. Human Resources, Youth & Sports () - Ali Zaki
- \* Min. Health () - Abdulla Ariz
- \* Min. Finance & Treasury () - Mohamed Imad
- \* Presidents Office () - Mohamed Hassaan
- \* Maldives Broadcasting Commission () - Ahmed Raashid
- \* CCHDC () - Dr. Fathimath Nazla Rafeeq
- \* Meteorological Service () - Abdul Muhsin Raamiz
- \* Communication Authority of Maldives () - Abdulla Shiham Adam
- \* Local Government Authority () - Aishath Afaaf
- \* Attorney General's Office () - Haafiza Abdul Sathaar
- \* Maldivian Red Crescent () - Aminath Sharmeela
- \* Department of Immigration & Emigration () - Hassan Khaleel
- \* Department of National Planning () - Yasmeen Rasheed
- \* UNDP () - Mohamed Inaz
- \* Maldives Police Service () - Jamsheed Ali