

## Accelerated Support Window

<b>Action Title</b>	Strengthening Climate and Risk Data Ecosystem in the Maldives for Early Warning
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Maldives
<b>Partner Country Entity / Entities</b>	<i>National Disaster Management Authority, Maldives Meteorological Services, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology, National Centre for Information Technology, UNEP and other stakeholders</i>
<b>Implementing Partner (if submission by Implementing Partner)</b>	UNDRR
<b>Implementing Partner Requested (if submission by Partner Country)</b>	<i>Select at least 1:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> World Bank/GFDRR <input type="checkbox"/> WMO <input type="checkbox"/> UNDRR <input type="checkbox"/> No preference
<b>Action Type</b>	<i>Select at least 1:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Continued Assistance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Analyses and Assessments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advisory Services
<b>Early Warning System Element(s) Supported</b>	<i>Select at least 1:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring, detection, analysis and forecasting of hydro-meteorological hazards providing lead-times for action <input type="checkbox"/> Dissemination of timely and authoritative warnings <input type="checkbox"/> Preparedness and response plans triggered by warnings and weather and climate predictions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disaster risk knowledge based on the systematic collection of data and disaster risk assessment  The proposed actions in the Maldives will focus on: (i) enhancing understanding of the status of risk knowledge and related tools in Maldives (ii) strengthen disaster data collection mechanisms, its aggregation and analysis with focus on EWS, including the rollout of the new tracking system for hazardous events and losses and damages reinforcement of feedback mechanisms from subnational level for the production and use of risk information and early warning coverage.  The project will build on existing processes and tools on disaster risk knowledge such as the climate risk atlas from Maldives and the disaster risk portal being supported by ESCAP and will lay the ground for the use of the new tracking system for hazardous events and losses and damages being developed by WMO, UNDRR and UNDP. An announcement of the tracking system for hazardous events and losses and damages system will be done at the upcoming COP 28. This new system (replacing Desinventar) will be an important element also of pillar 1 work of the EW4all initiative. The project will also ensure continuity of the ongoing work by UNDRR and NDMA to enhance availability and quality of data collection and the establishment of protocols for the collection and use of this data to reinforce the use of the new tracking system for hazardous events and losses and damages from early stages. In addition, this project will build on the methodologies and experiences from UNDRR in ongoing CREWS funded projects (Pacific, Lao PDR/Cambodia) in integrating aspects of disability inclusion and gender approaches into EWS. This project will also ensure linkages with ongoing efforts by UNDRR to support further integration of DRR and climate

change adaptation processes in Maldives.

This will be achieved through supporting national partners to improve usage and standardization of hazard and risk information aligned to the 2021 Hazard Classification and Taxonomy, endorsed by the International Science Council and UNDRR, including the adoption of common hazard terminology for integration into early warning systems. In addition, these actions will provide capacity building support for the Maldives in detailing damage and loss data from past events while reinforcing the processes for data collection and use during future events. UNDRR has a longstanding cooperation with NDMA and other national counterparts in Maldives in the area of disaster loss data, including support for the use of Desinventar. The focus on the use of the new tracking system for hazardous events and losses and damages is a priority for UNDRR for the upcoming years and strong partnership with Governments and other UN agencies will contribute to ensure sustainability on the use of the system. In addition, the new system will be open source and will offer the functionalities that will allow it to be tailored to country needs.

UNDRR's main counterpart for this project will be NDMA and will also include other line ministries such as Ministry of Defence (NDMA); Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Technology (MMS); Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure; Ministry of Communication, Science, and Technology (NCIT); Ministry of Health; Local Government Authority; Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources, and Agriculture; Ministry of Gender, Family, and Social Services. Due to resource constraints in NDMA, UNDRR will support capacity building across ministries to strengthen data collection and its use (with focus on early warning) and ensure the technical expertise is not held only within the NDMA, but rather all ministries who can report on losses and damages of their sectors. In this endeavor, UNDRR will connect ministry focal points to create a community of practice, which can be linked to other countries who will also undertake the new system in the coming year. Likewise, UNDRR will build on existing interagency coordination mechanisms at the UN system such as the UNCT and the IBC Resilience to harness UN expertise and collaboration on disaster loss data collection and use. In the same manner, the interpillar EW4all regional team (WMO, IFRC, ITU and UNDRR) will be an asset for the implementation of the project.

In line with the support to reinforce pillar 1 of the EW4All Initiative and overall support to risk knowledge and disaster loss data, the project will support the establishment of a "risk knowledge working group". The risk working group would assist in coordinating the efforts around Pillar 1 in the EW4All initiative, including using the roadmap, gap analysis, and accompanying documents to help guide the collation of existing data, collection of novel information where needed, and implementing its use to strengthen the existing EWS. The composition would include leadership by NDMA and representation from MECCT, MMS, NCIT, MRC, LGA, and sectoral ministries including, but not limited to, agriculture and fisheries, health, and planning. We would also invite the participation of local universities and producers of risk knowledge. Despite its long history and strong performance in disaster risk management, the Maldives is building up its national climate and risk information ecosystem to fulfill multiple purposes and policy objectives. Government, UN and other actors collect and produce climate and risk information, but largely without the ability to share these data seamlessly and without the benefit of national hazard information being aligned to international standards.

This ASW concept will focus on supporting nationally led efforts to improve tracking of disaster impacts and data collection mechanisms, including the use of the new tracking system for hazardous events and losses and damages. This information will support enhanced early warnings, while also strengthening preparedness and response measures by enabling impact-based forecasting across the country.

**Contributions to  
CREWS  
Programming  
Principles and  
Results  
Framework**

**CREWS Programming Principles addressed:**

*Select all relevant:*

- People-centered
- Gender-responsive
- Promotes Coherence
- Leverage

**CREWS Results Framework Outputs to which the Action is expected to contribute to:**

*Select at least one:*

- NMHSs' service delivery improved, including the development of long-term service delivery strategies and development plans
- Risk information to guide early warning systems and climate and weather services developed and accessible
- Info. and comm. tech., including common alerting protocols, strengthened
- Preparedness and response plans with operational procedures that outlines early warning dissemination processes strengthened and accessible
- Knowledge products and awareness programmes on early warnings developed
- Gender-responsive training, capacity building programmes provided

**CREWS Programme Indicators to which the Action is expected to contribute to:**

*Select at least one:*

- Loss of life
- Forecasting and warning capacity
- Access to early warning
- Use of risk information
- Capacity to disseminate warnings
- Capacity to prepare for and respond to warnings

The proposed action promotes national and sub-national coherence in the collection, access to, and use of risk information for application by national actors in early warning systems, preparedness and prevention, and risk-informed investment across various sectors.

This proposed action will improve access to and use of standardized climate and risk information to accelerate integration of risk analysis into preparedness and disaster risk reduction, including by strengthening national risk data ecosystems. There remains tremendous scope in the Maldives to improve common risk information platforms to guide early warning systems, and DRR planning and investment.

Working with national, UN and other partners, this proposed action will improve coherence and harmonization of disaster, climate, loss, vulnerability and exposure data and make the consolidated evidence-base accessible through an open-source data aggregation, as has recently been endorsed by national partners in each country.

Building stronger early warning systems for prevention and anticipatory action by complementing weather forecasts and warnings to produce impact-based forecasts is a focus of this 18-month initiative. Harmonized country-specific risk information -- such as topography, flood and landslide hazard maps, populations at risk, geo-located critical infrastructure and other social vulnerabilities and exposures -- requires access to risk information. UNDRR and its implementation partners will encourage coordination between national meteorological and hydrological services, disaster management authorities and development and humanitarian agencies to improve sharing of risk information for harmonized approaches to impact-based forecasting in each country. The aim is to bring global and national actors together to complement weather forecasts and warnings developed with country-specific information -- such as topography, flood and landslide hazard maps, population demographics and geo-located critical infrastructure and other vulnerability and exposures. These efforts and the data platform hosted will be further

	<p>enhanced by the creation of new risk data around damages and losses and infrastructure vulnerability.</p>
<p><b>Need and Rationale</b></p>	<p>In early 2022, UNDRR initiated engagement with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for the Maldives to help improve the collection, management and use of risk data, which is currently fragmented across multiple entities, contributing to inefficiencies and missed opportunities for joined up action based on a shared understanding and metrics of risk. Improved early warning, risk information and risk analysis in the Maldives requires better harmonized approaches to risk data collection and analysis. The NDMA invited UNDRR to deliver inception training on risk assessment methods and options to systematize the collection of risk data to facilitate access and use by national end-users. In addition, following the Maldives inclusion in the 30 focus countries of the UN Secretary General’s EW4All Initiative, a preliminary gap analysis of the status of risk information identified gaps in the availability of comprehensive national climate and disaster risk information, disaster loss and damage data, and vulnerability data for critical infrastructure. To respond to the need to get a clearer and better picture of the status of risk knowledge in the country in order to ensure that risk knowledge feeding into EWS builds on existing tools and process, UNDRR will conduct an in-depth analysis of available risk information, data platforms and its use in Maldives. In addition, the project will support the Government and related stakeholders in collecting, collating, and utilizing risk data that will contribute to guide multi-hazard early warning systems and shared understanding of climate risk and services. The proposed actions in the Maldives fulfills a nationally-defined need to support national and sub-national actors on the collection, analysis and use of national risk data and information will support government authorities and other actors toward continuous improvement of early warning systems and improved harmonization of data systems.</p> <p>The project will contribute as well to reinforce feedback mechanisms from subnational level for the production and use of risk information and early warning coverage, including facilitating participation of subnational level into the production of risk knowledge and contributing to broader understanding of the coverage of EWS.</p>
<p><b>Alignment</b></p>	<p>There is a high degree of awareness of the need for multi-hazard early warning systems, more consistent application of risk knowledge across sectors (ministries and departments), and the importance of integrating climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts. A call to action to address this need has been delivered by the UN Secretary General with the Early Warnings for All Initiative, which calls for all people to be covered by inclusive, multi-hazard, and end-to-end EWS by 2027. Moreover, the initiative has named 30 focus countries among the SIDS and / or LDCs to prioritize the strengthening of these systems, and Maldives is one of them. As global co-lead on the EW4All initiative and leader of Pillar 1, UNDRR is working to ensure everyone in Maldives is covered under EW4All by 2027. In addition, UNDRR has been requested by government authorities in the Maldives to support the updating of the Strategic Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, the Maldives’ national strategy for sustainable development from 2019-2023. At the same time, the Strategic Action Plan (SAP), the Maldives’ national strategy for sustainable development from 2019-2023 and National Spatial Plan 2020 – 2040 include objectives on climate resilience. As part of the COVID-19 national resilience and recovery plan (2020 – 2022), the government of Maldives has identified disaster preparedness, early warning and risk management as key focus areas in the coming two years. While enhancing the focus on preparedness, the government remains committed to strengthen Maldives climate and disaster risk governance systems including through investments in strengthening coordination capacity, integrated information management systems on risks, response capacities and damage and loss induced by disaster and climate change. CREWS ASW support will directly respond to national priorities and actions to improve disaster risk knowledge based on the systematic collection of data and disaster risk assessment.</p>

	This ASW project will also contribute to the pipeline proposal in South-Asia that includes Maldives. The pipeline proposal details the need for strong localized early warning systems in places like Maldives, Bhutan, and Nepal due to their terrain, geographic spread, and small community sizes outside the major metropolitan areas. Therefore, the support to end-to-end and community focused EWS that are inclusive of gender and disability will provide a foundation to build the South Asia efforts from. Moreover, the strong need for more timely and comprehensive disaster loss data across the region is evident from the pipeline proposal, and the building of this capacity with the new system will enable UNDRR and partners to understand the best capacity building mechanisms to strengthen interagency cooperation on collection and use of loss data across large geographical areas with challenges based on terrain and island spread, as those we see in Bhutan, Nepal, and Maldives.
<b>Timeframe</b>	The proposed action covers a 12-month period in the Maldives.
<b>Action Cost (To be completed by Implementing Partner)</b>	USD 242,950 (USD 215,000 in activities and 27,950 in partner fees)
<b>Other/ Attachments</b>	[Country Endorsement Letter or similar <sup>1</sup> if submission by Implementing Partner]- Forthcoming [Detailed Activity List to be provided by Implementing Partner]- See page 3 and below. [Detailed Budget to be provided by Implementing Partner]- See below
<b>Activities</b>	<b>USD</b>
Activity 1: enhancing understanding of the status of risk knowledge and related tools in Maldives through a grant to a research institution/or consultancy and technical support from UNDRR programme managers.	20,000
Activity 2: Support on institutionalization of disaster damage and loss database with enhance data quality, disaggregation by hazard as per hazard classification and integrated with extreme event cataloguing efforts by MetServices with WMO. This will be conducted through capacity building (workshops and peer learning exchanges including national and subnational level and consultancies to support data collection and the development of data governance frameworks.	60,000
Activity 3: reinforcement of feedback mechanisms from subnational level for the production and use of risk information and early warning coverage through a grant with an organization working in the field, technical support from UNDRR programme managers	50,000
Activity 4: Coordination and operation of the new Risk Working Group through support to national consultations and capacity building.	20,000
Activity 5: Knowledge product development and training (in collaboration with hydromet, NDMA, and sector ministries) on use-cases for application of risk and hazard data for early warning. This will be done through a grant to a specialized institution and technical support from UNDRR programme managers and consultations (workshops)	65,000
	<b>Programme Budget</b> 215,000
	<b>Partner Fees</b> 27,950
	<b>Total</b> 242,950

<sup>1</sup> This can include existing Letters or Frameworks in place between the Implementing Partner and Partner Country or Countries in the event that the scope of engagement includes the specific early warning system Action being requested. For Regional Action requests, the Endorsement Letter or similar existing Letter or Framework can originate from relevant regional institutions.