

# Lessons From Disaster Recovery from Cities and Municipalities

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Kobe  
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National Disaster Management Centre



## Country Profile

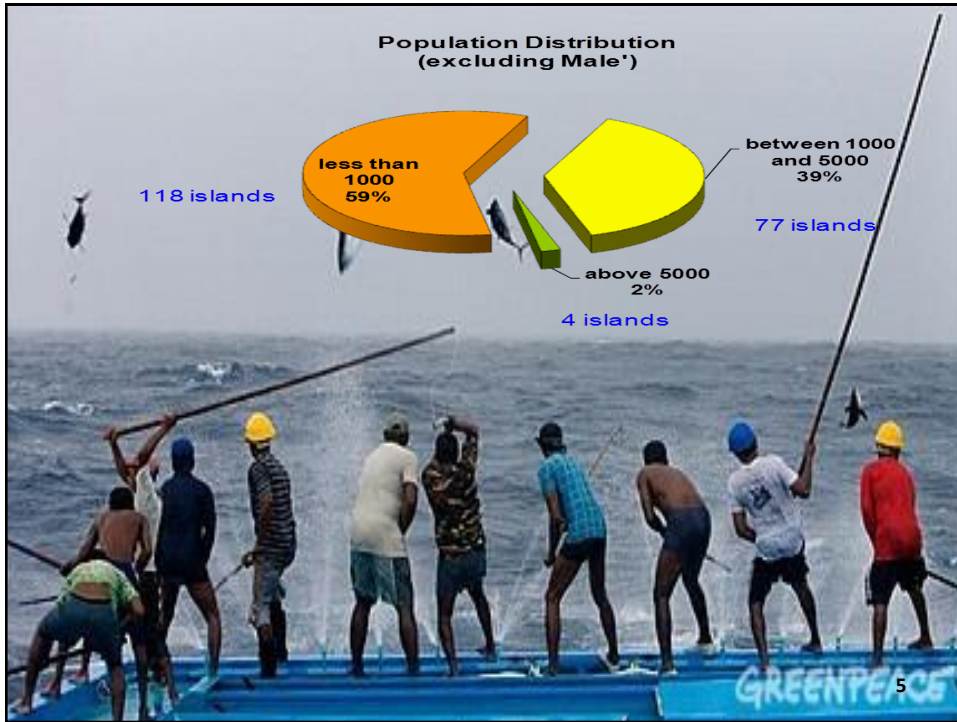
- 1,190 islands.
- 198 Inhabited Islands.
- Total land area 300 km<sup>2</sup>
- Islands range b/w 0.2 – 5 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population approx. 350,000
- Economy - Tourism and Fishing
- No proven non renewable energy resources



**About one third of the total population is in the Capital Island Male’.**



**Remoteness and inaccessibility of islands**



## Vulnerability Indicators

- Highest elevation 1.5m above sea level.
- 88 inhabited islands face perennial beach erosion.
- Wide dispersal of population across very small islands.
- Remoteness and inaccessibility of islands.
- Extremely high economic dependence on tourism.
- High import dependence.

Highest elevation 1.5m above sea level



■ Highest elevation 1.5m above sea level



Male' International Airport

## Indian Ocean Tsunami - Snapshot

- 53 of 199 island severely damaged
- 1/3 of the population directly impacted
- 30,000 people displaced
- Economic damages and losses equivalent to 62% of GDP
- Communication Network completely down
- Sever damages to essential infrastructures in most islands.  
E.g. jetties, power house, etc
- Water table of most islands contaminated due to flooding

## Local Floods of October 2012 - Snapshot

- 53 islands impacted
- Temporary relocation of people in 3 islands
- Loss and Damage to Household equipments
- Major damages to Sanitation system
- Septic tanks of most houses destroyed
- Damages to crops and agricultural farms/lands
- Transportation of relief items disrupted by heavy rain and rough seas

## Common Challenges

- Centralized system of governance and resources
- Exposure of population to vulnerability
- Transportation difficulties
- Fragile water and sanitation system
- Loose coordination among key stakeholders
- No system of early warning
- Politicization of the situation/event

## Lessons Learnt

- Importance of Legal framework
- Importance of Institutionalization of;
  - ❖ Disaster Management Centre/Authority
  - ❖ Emergency Operation Centre
  - ❖ Early warning protocols
- Importance of defining sector specific roles with a coordination mandate to disaster management authority/centre
- Capacity Building on DRR and Management on all sectors.

## Lessons Learnt..... cont..d

- **Establishment of Emergency shelters/supplies**
- **Decentralization of resources**
  - ❖ **Establishment of local regional hubs for storage of essential resources such as staples and clean water**
- **Establishment of an Emergency network for communication**
- **Importance of Public Education on DRR**
  - ❖ **Special importance of incorporating DRR into school curricula**

## Lessons Learnt..... cont..d

- **Importance of Community Based Disaster Preparedness and Management**
- **Importance of mainstreaming DRR into national and local level planning and policies.**

## Constrains, Challenges & Emerging Issues

- Lack of data on Community disaster risks
- Capacity – capacity gaps between national and atoll/islands (i.e. technical)
- Resources – insufficient for all sectors at national and atoll/island levels
- High logistical costs – isolated communities
- Reduced Donor Support

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## What needs to be done....

- Proper planning, programming, monitoring and evaluation
- Comprehensive risk and hazard and risk mapping of communities
- Climate risk assessments undertaken and prioritized
- Information sharing and sensitization of communities
- Lack of understanding in the preparation of disaster preparedness and risk reduction

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