

Ms Aishath Ifa Mohamed (Maldives)



As-salaamu 'alaykum (Peace be upon you)

I am Ifa, holding the post of senior officer for resource management at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), directly handling emergency operations and resources. On January 24, 2021, I began my career in disaster management. Before my appointment as a senior officer in resource management, I held the post of emergency response officer at NDMA.

NDMA's purpose is working towards a resilient Maldives that is ready and prepared for emergencies and disasters. NDMA is carrying out a more holistic model, in the processes of hazard identification and mitigation, community preparedness, integrated response efforts, and recovery.

The Maldives is a nation of numerous small islands situated at low elevations, making the entire country susceptible to physical vulnerability due to its flat topography. The Maldives frequently encounters disasters characterized by low intensity but high frequency, including storm surges, flooding from rainwater, and urban fires. Therefore, one of the most important objectives of NDMA is to mainstream disaster risk reduction at the national level. This includes planning processes, establishing agreed standards, and developing procedures and policies.

As a senior officer working in the emergency management department, I have been a crucial player in emergency situations at the Emergency Operation Center. I am responsible for coordinating relief and humanitarian aid during emergencies and conducting assessments after disasters. I am also tasked with strengthening emergency operations to ensure an effective and coordinated response and strengthening local governments for emergency response.

In addition, I have facilitated trainings on disaster risk management for different stakeholders. I carry out the Island Disaster Management Plan (IDMP) in the communities and awareness sessions for vulnerable populations to achieve the NDMA's vision for a resilient Maldives. Moreover, I organized the establishment of Community Disaster Response Teams (CERT) and also provided them with special training regarding response.

I want to express my appreciation for the continuous dedication of ADRC in facilitating knowledge co-creation initiatives, fostering research, and advancing disaster risk reduction (DRR) in member countries across Asia. I am truly thankful for the chance to participate in the 2023 Visiting Researcher program, representing the Maldives, and expanding my understanding of DRR.