

WORLD TSUNAMI AWARENESS DAY WEBINAR



NDMA
NATIONAL DISASTER
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



Early Warning for Remote Population



**WORLD TSUNAMI
AWARENESS DAY**
5 NOVEMBER

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7 November 2023

“Fighting inequality for a resilient future”



The Maldives Unique remote populations

- Sparsely distributed islands
- One of the smallest, low-lying country in the world
- Uniquely different from its neighbors
- Fragile Environments and small Populations
- Lack of diversified economic activities. Dependent on imports
- Climate change threaten residential island; severe storms, frequent floods leads damage infrastructure, disrupt services, and contaminate freshwater.



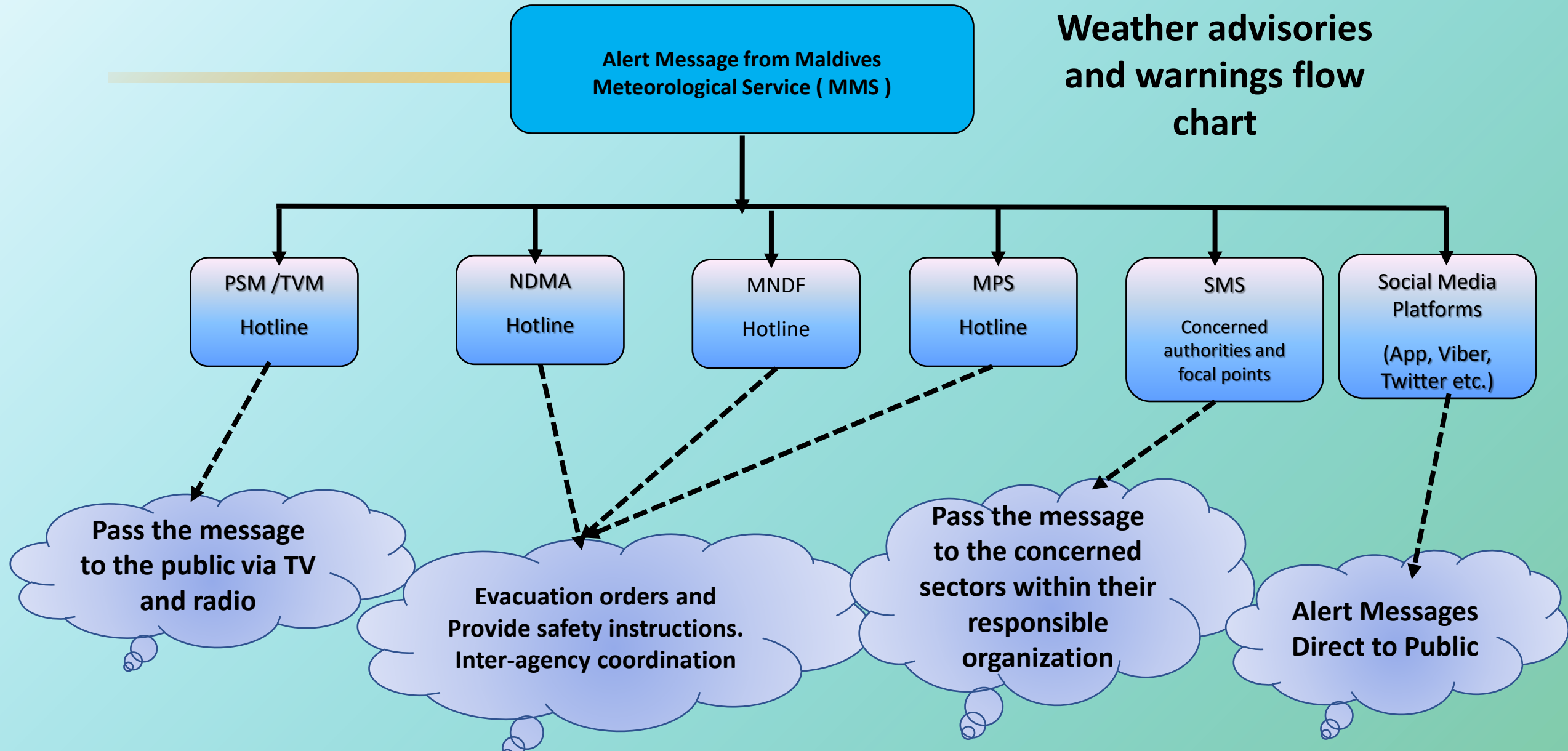
Hazard Profile

- Severe storms and cyclonic activity
- Heavy rain and floods
- Swell waves and Tidal Waves
- Strong winds
- Thunderstorms and water spouts
- Extremely rough seas
- Climate change exacerbated natural hazards



Existing Early Warning System

Weather advisories and warnings flow chart



PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES TO ACT ON WARNING MESSAGES

How have warning message helped communities to prepare and respond?

- Access to timely and accurate information about upcoming weather events
- Facilitate coordination and response efforts among various stakeholders
- Make informed decisions regarding the protection of their assets and infrastructure

What are the dissemination channels and target audiences?

- Press releases/broadcasting medium
- Social Media and Mass Messaging
- Phone/Video Calls
- Apps and Websites

Decision making SOPs and Guidelines

- NDMA establish hazard logging and incident reporting SOPs
- Damage Assessment reporting guidelines

PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

Sectors, sub-national governments and communities are capable of effectively using warning information to inform their preparedness and response Actions



- National Level – First responders and critical service sectors/providers



- Island level organizations, utility providers, transport services

Challenges

- Incorporating Risk Information into Policy and Planning across all levels
- Mobilizing Adequate Resources: Securing sufficient resources and investments to risk assessment/communication
- Limited technical resources for weather forecasting such as automatic weather stations, radars, etc
- Ensuring Effective Dissemination of early warning making sure the most vulnerable such as elderly, women head households and migrants gets time to prepare for events
- Creating a culture of community preparedness to take early warning messages seriously

Use of low-cost Innovative mechanism to enhance early warning system – Lessons Learnt from Maldives

- Upgrading national broadcasting system from analog to digital network provides opportunity to broadcast early warning messages to all broadcasting networks
- Use of satellite connectivity provides backup communication in the mobile network downtime
- Training of community emergency response teams enables local communities to activate emergency response operations
- Awareness raising at schools and community level leads to better understanding of preparedness actions to alert messages





Way Forward

- **Technology Integration:** Invest in advanced technology and data-sharing platforms to improve the speed and accuracy of early warning systems.
- **Community Engagement:** Foster community participation and education to ensure that local populations are aware of and prepared for potential hazards.
- **Capacity Building:** Provide training and resources to local authorities, meteorological services, and disaster management agencies to enhance their ability to respond effectively to warnings.
- **International Collaboration:** Strengthen collaboration with neighboring countries and international organizations to share knowledge, resources, and best practices for disaster preparedness.
- **Climate Resilience:** Implement long-term climate resilience strategies, including infrastructure improvements and land-use planning, to reduce vulnerability and enhance the effectiveness of early warning systems.