

Maldives



- Andaman Trench (4 Oct)
- Heard Island (18 Oct)
- Makran Trench (11 Oct)
- Java Trench (25 Oct)



Desktop drill conducted with DM committee and CERT member of B.Kendhoo



Island community evacuated at the assembly area stated in DM plan, while CERT member attending them

National Tsunami Warning & Mitigation System

The Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning Center sent a warning signal to the Maldives National Tsunami Warning Center (Meteorological Center (MMS)). This warning message will be sent by phone call, text message or fax to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and other stakeholders such as the Maldives Defense Force, Maldives Police Service, Maldives Red Crescent, and Media. An Emergency Operation Center will be activated under the leadership of NDMA. The warning messages will be passed on by NDMA to atoll council, who will then pass them on to island council. NDMA will also release press statements, advisories through media platforms. The council will notify the public of the warning message and the appropriate action to take based on the alert level.

Island community's tsunami readiness was assessed using the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Program, which supported in the evaluation of Island Disaster Management Plan.

National Organisation of Exercise IOWave23

IOWave23 exercise was organized by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) with assistance from the Maldives Red Crescent, the Maldives Meteorological Services, and the B.Kendhoo Island Council. Maldives joined the Java Trench exercise.

Prior to the drill, Sensitization and awareness sessions were conducted to the staffs of different stakeholders of the island as well as school students, teachers and general public in about how to prepare for a tsunami and how tsunami warning system works. Following the awareness sessions, the DM committee and island CERT members participated in a desktop drill.

During the drill day, the exercise began with the first alert, the DM committee was activated, and the EOC was established in a short period of time. CERT members were alerted simultaneously. As mentioned in Island DM Plan CERT functioned as per instruction from EOC. CERTs divided themselves to sub groups of Early warning, search and rescue, first aid, shelter management, evacuation. CERT liaison in the EOC acted as the sources of information both to from CERT and DM committee.

The island council issued the necessary advisories in accordance with the alert message received from the NDMA until the tsunami alert was lifted.

This exercise allows the island community to assess its preparedness of DM committee, CERTs and general public in an event of a tsunami. It also assisted the island in determining whether the location designated as the safe zone in the DM plan is feasible.

What was notable throughout the exercise, even though it is an exercise, the CERTs ensured expatriates, tourists in the island were involved in the receiving warning messages (Test messages) in different languages.

Exercise Participants

The island stakeholders; Kendhoo Council, kendhoo health center, Kendhoo utility service provider (FENAKA), and Kendhoo school participated in the exercise.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) actively participated in the exercise. Both in desktop drill and main evacuation drill as well.

The whole island community supported the exercise by engaging in sensitization sessions. More than 60 people participated in evacuation drill as well, including the elderly and expatriates living on the island.

Lessons Learnt

Overall, the exercise was well-coordinated. Prior to the practice, the island community was well informed therefore participation was high. Throughout the exercise, expatriates guests were informed by giving alert messages their native language.

Looking at areas for improvement, it was discovered that the public warning messages were too long, requiring more time to finish, additionally while the loudspeaker systems works very well in normal situation, during rainy days the announcement might not be clear to some areas of the island. This identified the need of redundant system like an alarm etc.

Through out drill neither EOC nor CERT had not taken resources management in consideration. Drill also highlighted the need to strengthen the Incident Command System

During the debriefing the evaluator recommended to designate the selected safe zone with signage etc. or consider developing the place with shelter etc.

Organisation Logo(s)



NDMA
NATIONAL DISASTER
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Further Information:

Please send to UNESCO-IOC IOTIC and ICG/IOTWMS Secretariat:

1. Videos of activities undertaken in IOWave23



Sensitization of school students and public about the event!



Desktop drill with all the stakeholders

Links to social media (X, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn) related to IOWave23

<https://x.com/ndmamv/status/1716384124871884919?s=46&t=eEwaYl30kfYdJsZjPicUQg>

<https://x.com/ndmamv/status/1716384852877189543?s=46&t=eEwaYl30kfYdJsZjPicUQg>

<https://x.com/ndmamv/status/1716668796419866782?s=46&t=eEwaYl30kfYdJsZjPicUQg>

<https://x.com/ndmamv/status/1716668823275971013?s=46&t=eEwaYl30kfYdJsZjPicUQg>

<https://x.com/ndmamv/status/1716796322920206680?s=46&t=eEwaYl30kfYdJsZjPicUQg>

<https://x.com/ndmamv/status/1717146050560209060?s=46&t=eEwaYl30kfYdJsZjPicUQg>

<https://x.com/maldivianrc/status/1717562662702456920?s=46&t=eEwaYl30kfYdJsZjPicUQg>

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