



# Improvement pathways for coordination in disaster response and emergencies in Maldives- Lesson learnings from Japan's response coordination

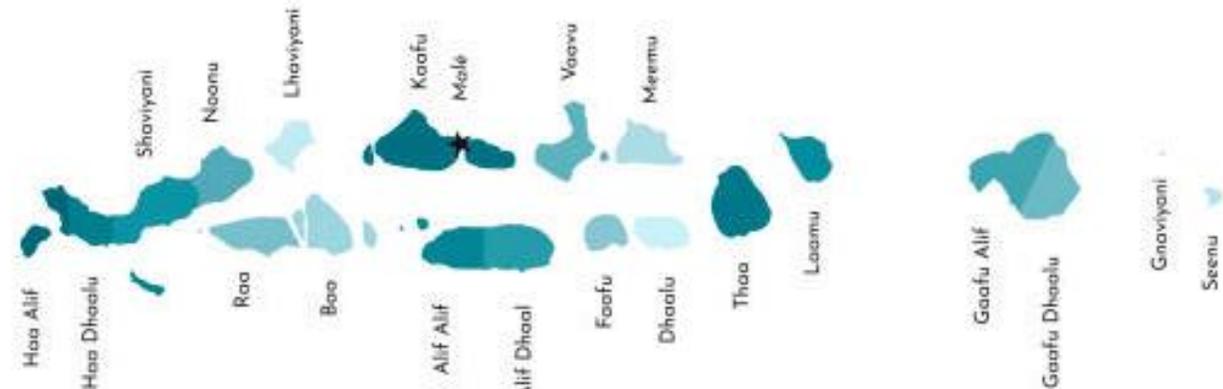
Aishath Ifa Mohamed

Senior Officer Resource Management

National Disaster Management Authority

Republic of Maldives

Visiting Researcher FY2023- Asian Disaster Reduction Center



# Disclaimer

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Contents of this research paper is prepared by Ms. Aishath Ifa Mohamed, Visiting Researcher FY2023, for the Asian Disaster Reduction Center, Kobe, Japan

Currently I hold the position of Senior officer Resource Management for the National Disaster Management Authority, Republic of Maldives.

The findings, interpretations and conclusion represent my own work and all sources of information included in the report is acknowledged from secondary sources and does not signify the views of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center or National Disaster Management Authority.

# Content

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Introduction

Disaster management system in Maldives and Japan

Disaster response mechanism in Maldives and Japan

Japan's emergency response to disasters

Improvement pathways for Maldives response coordination system

# Introduction

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## **Specific Aims**

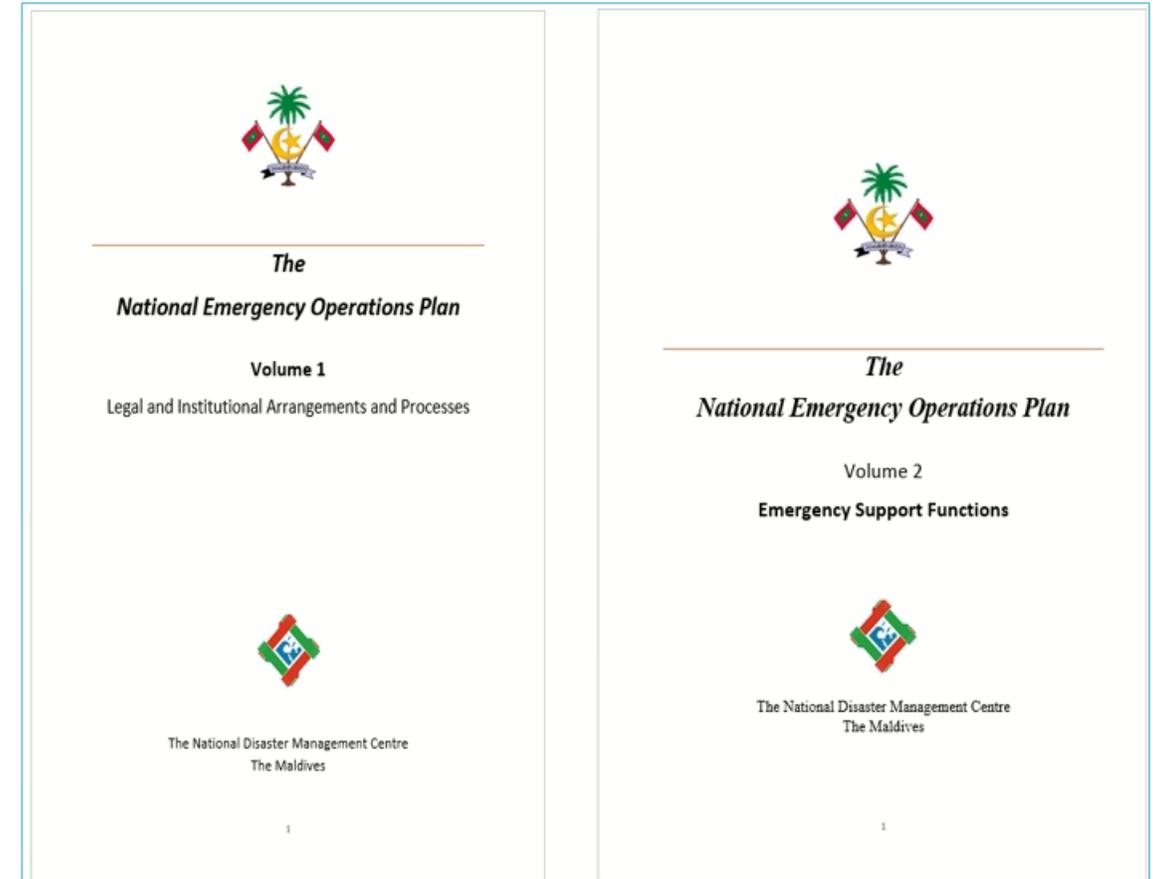
To identify current gaps, assess existing frameworks, and propose strategic enhancements to streamline coordination efforts.

## **The improvement pathways identified in this research will assist NDMA in:**

1. Improve existing policies and operational guidelines.
2. Improve the efficiency of resources.
3. Reduce cost of the activities
4. Improve coordination between agencies.

# National Emergency Operation Plan(NEOP)- Maldives

- Established after 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami
- Plays crucial roles in guiding and directing disaster mitigation, prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, rehabilitation, and crisis management.
- Covid- 19 response - Gaps were identified in volume 2

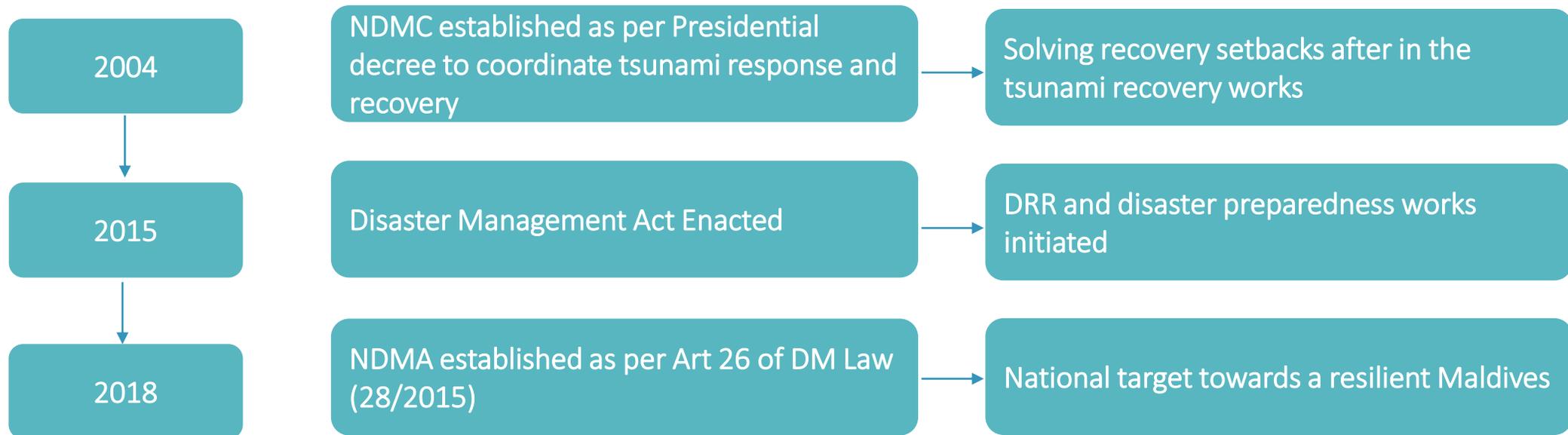


# Disaster management system in Maldives

## Administrative System

There are 20 administrative atolls and 5 City Councils in the Maldives with over 940 council members in 187 Administrative islands.

## Introduction to National Disaster Management Authority

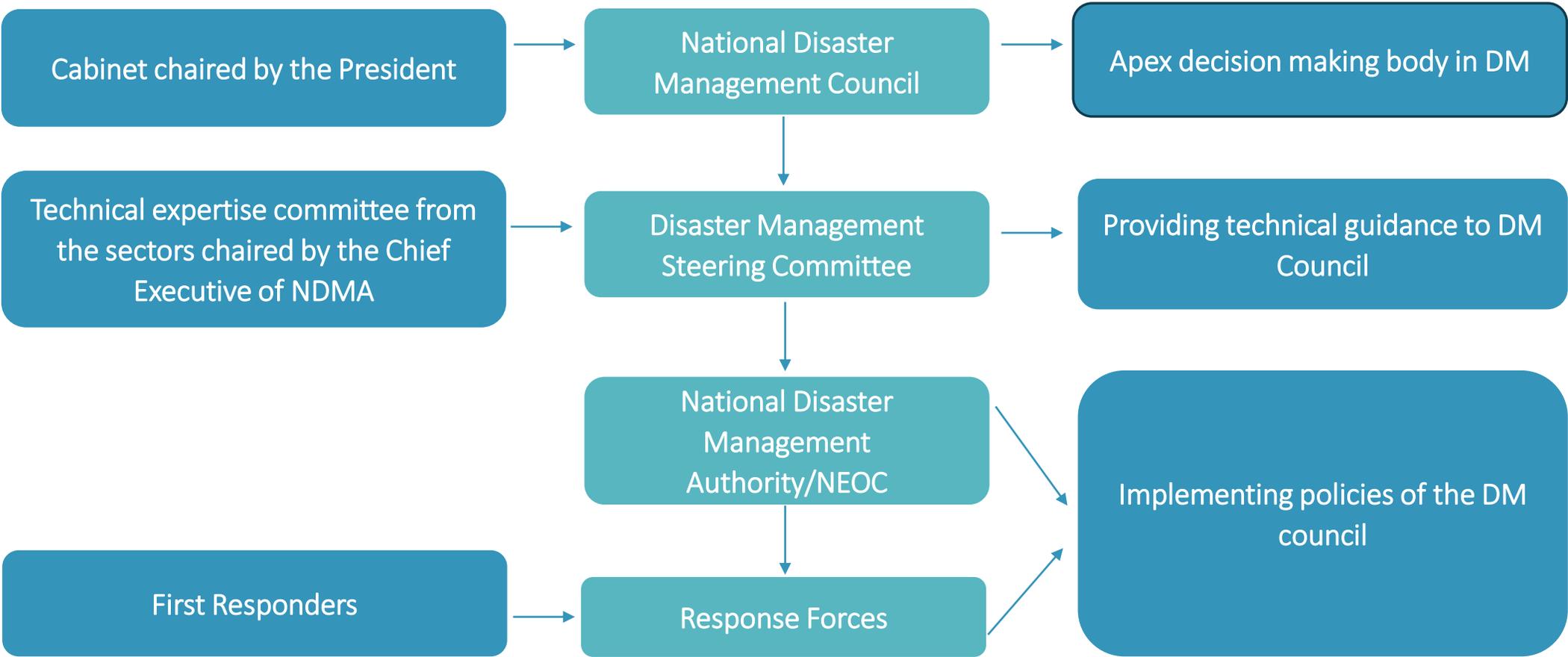


# Disaster management system in Japan

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- **Basic principles of disaster countermeasures:** Clarification of basic policies including the concept of disaster reduction
- **Responsibilities of the government, prefectures, municipalities, and designated public institutions:** Formulation and implementation of the plan for disaster management, mutual cooperation
- **Responsibilities of residents:** Self-preparedness for disaster, stockpiling of basic necessities, voluntary participation in disaster preparedness activities

# Emergency Response Mechanism in Maldives



# National Emergency Response Forces-1/3

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## National Level Coordination:

NEOC- National Disaster Management Authority- First Responders

## First Responders



Maldives National Defense Force



Maldives Police Service



# National Emergency Response Forces-2/3

## Atoll Level Emergency Coordination:

Atoll EOC- Atoll Council (Head of Operations at Atoll)

### Atoll EOC includes:

Health Services

Police (Atoll)

MRC Branch

Utilities

Telecom



# National Emergency Response Forces-3/3

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## Island Level Emergency Coordination:

Island EOC- Island Council (Head of Operations at Island)

## Island EOC includes:

Health Services

School

Police

MRC Unit /NGOs

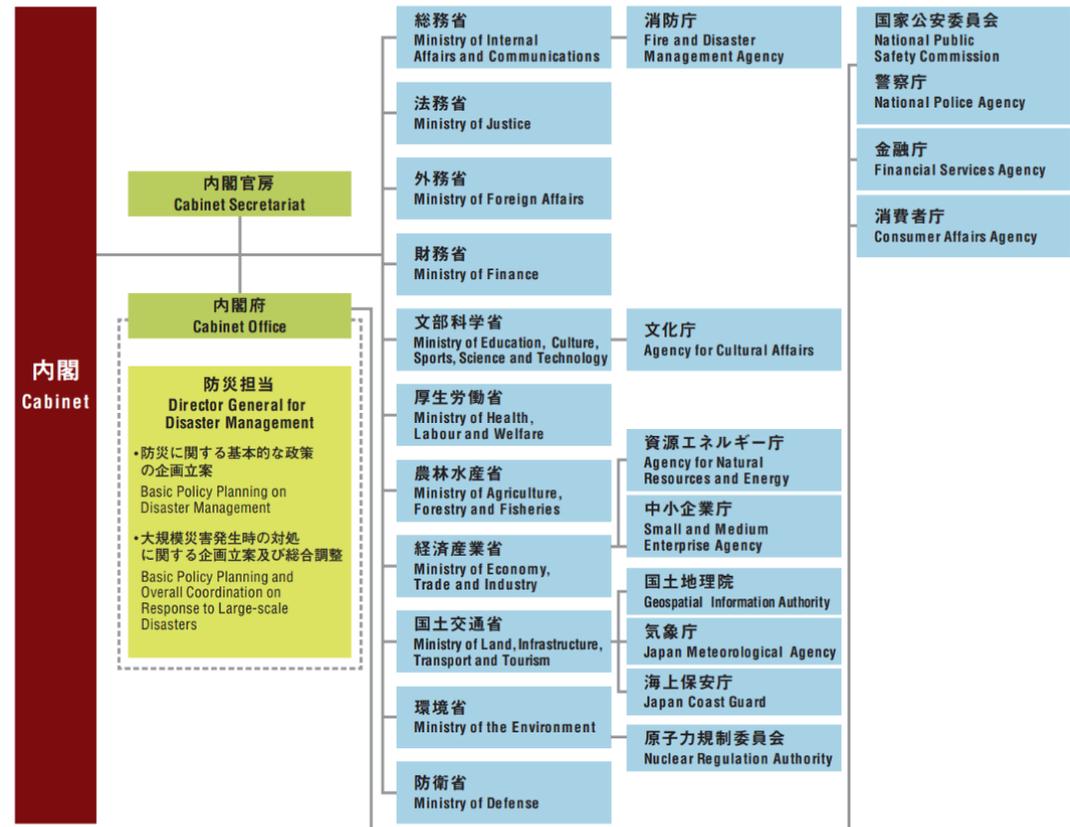
Utilities

CERT liaison- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)



# Disaster Response Mechanism in Japan-1/2

## 内閣府及び関係省庁 Cabinet Office and Related Ministries and Agencies



※この図は防災に関係する省庁の関係を概念的に表現したものである。 This chart conceptually represents the relationship of ministries and agencies related to disaster management.  
 ※東日本大震災からの復興については、復興庁が担当している。 The reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake is lead and managed by the Reconstruction Agency.



中央防災会議  
Central Disaster Management Council

# Disaster Response Mechanism in Japan-2/2



# Emergency Response to Disasters – Japan 1/2

- Disasters surpassing the capacity of the impacted local government, diverse support mechanisms are activated by- National Police Agency
- Self-Defense Forces can be deployed for emergency response tasks upon the governor's request in the affected prefecture.
- Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs) are sent to: deliver broad medical services, utilizing Self-Defense Forces vehicles and aircraft to transport critically injured individuals to hospitals beyond the affected area.

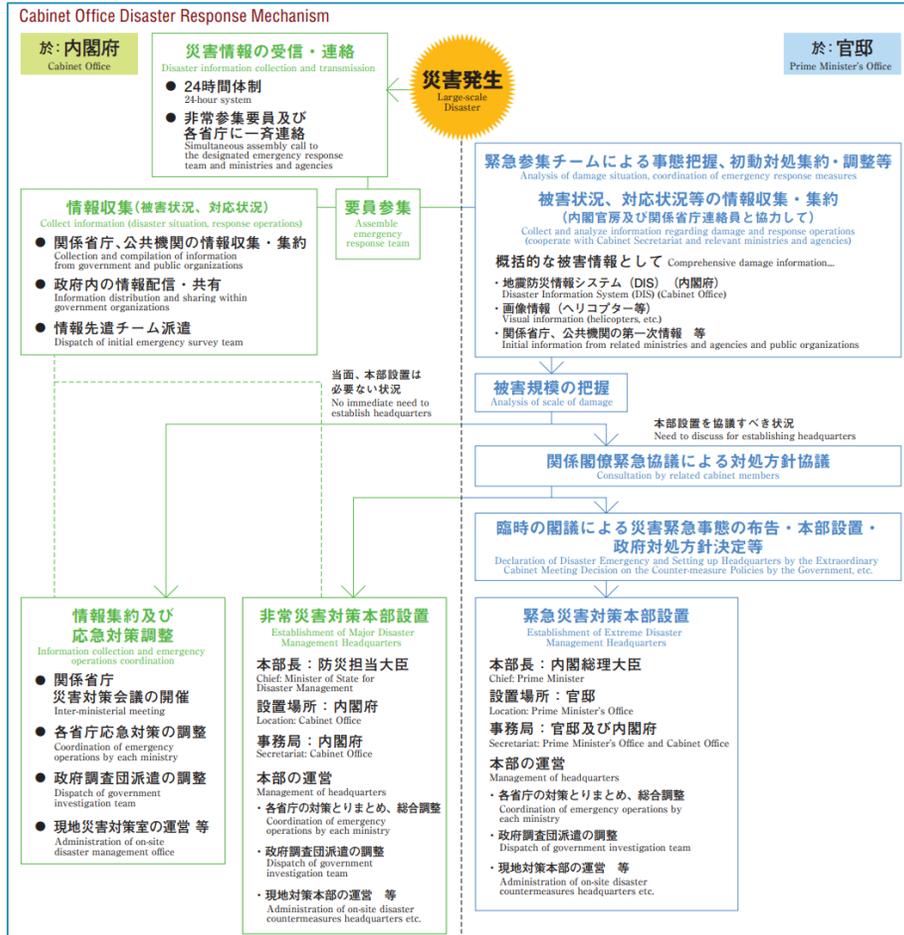


非常災害現地対策本部  
On-site Headquarters for Major Disaster Management



広島県の土砂災害に係る政府調査団  
The Government Investigation Team for the Landslides in Hiroshima Prefecture.

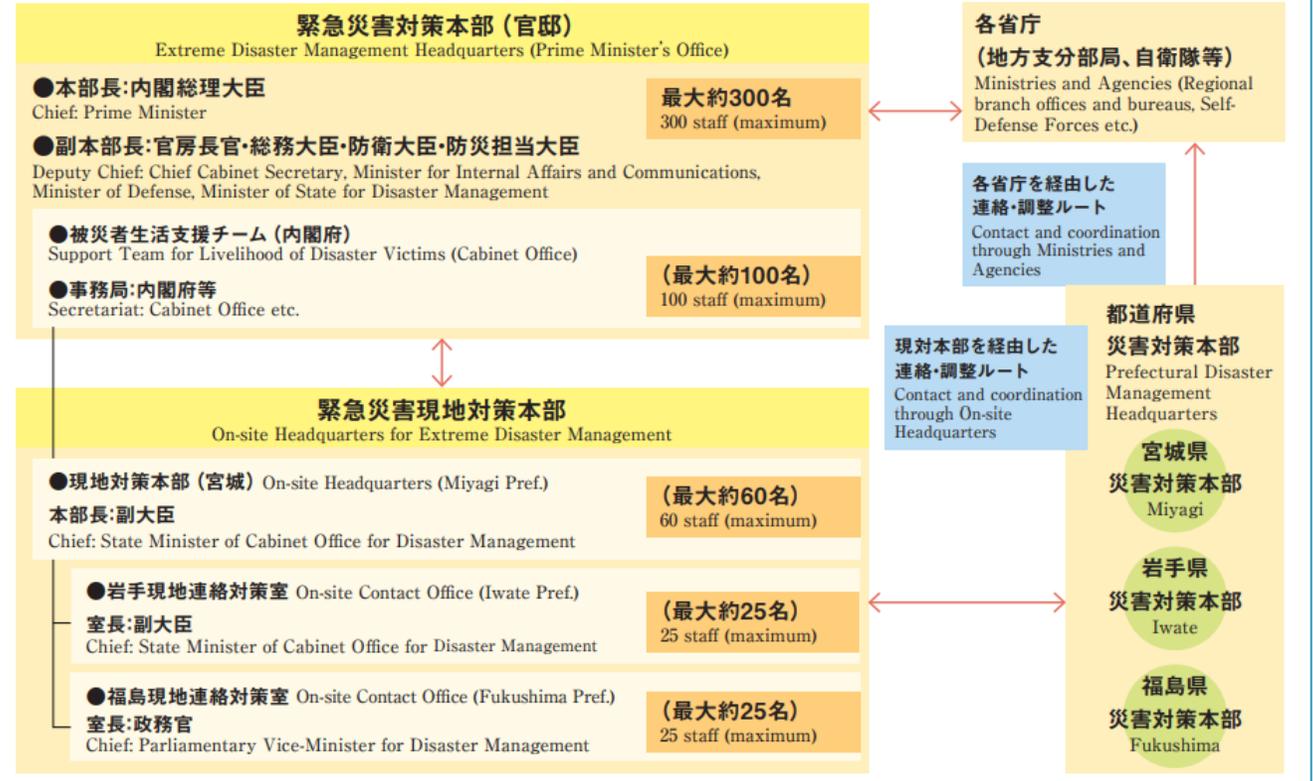
# Emergency Response to Disasters – Japan 2/2



## 災害発生時の国及び地方公共団体の連携システムについて (東日本大震災の場合) Coordination System between National and Local Governments (in the case of the Great East Japan Earthquake)

### 東日本大震災における緊急災害対策本部と各県の連絡・調整体制

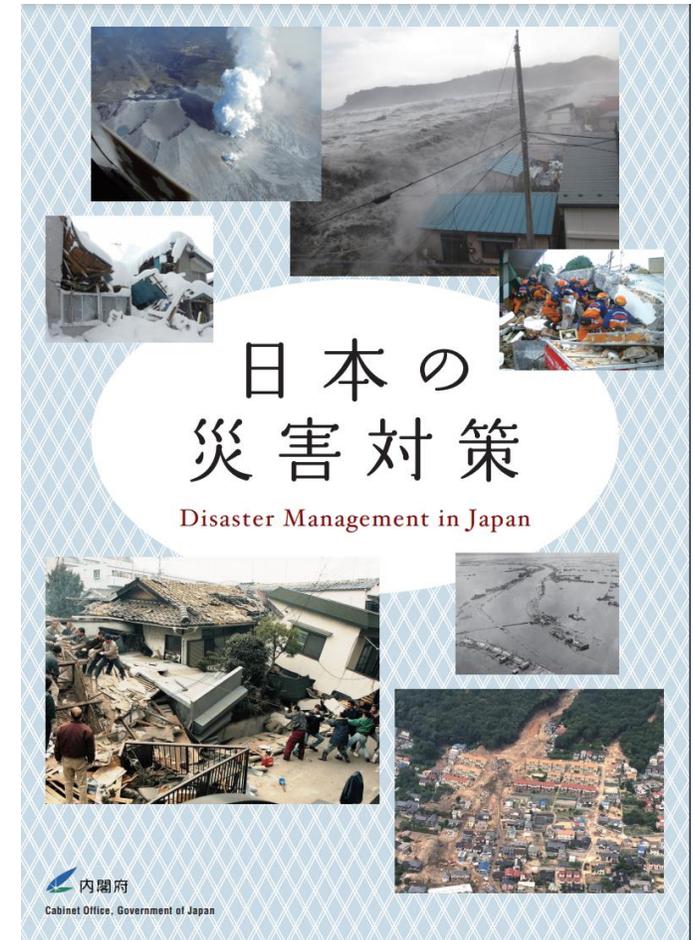
Communication and coordination system between Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters and each prefecture during the Great East Japan Earthquake



# Improvement pathways for Maldives response coordination system 1/6

## Developing a National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP)

- Identifying and assessing potential risks and vulnerabilities, allowing authorities to develop proactive measures to mitigate the risks.
- Can enhance the Maldives capacity to engage with regional and international partners in disaster risk reduction and response efforts.
- Develop comprehensive SOPs for disaster response, covering each phase of the disaster management cycle.

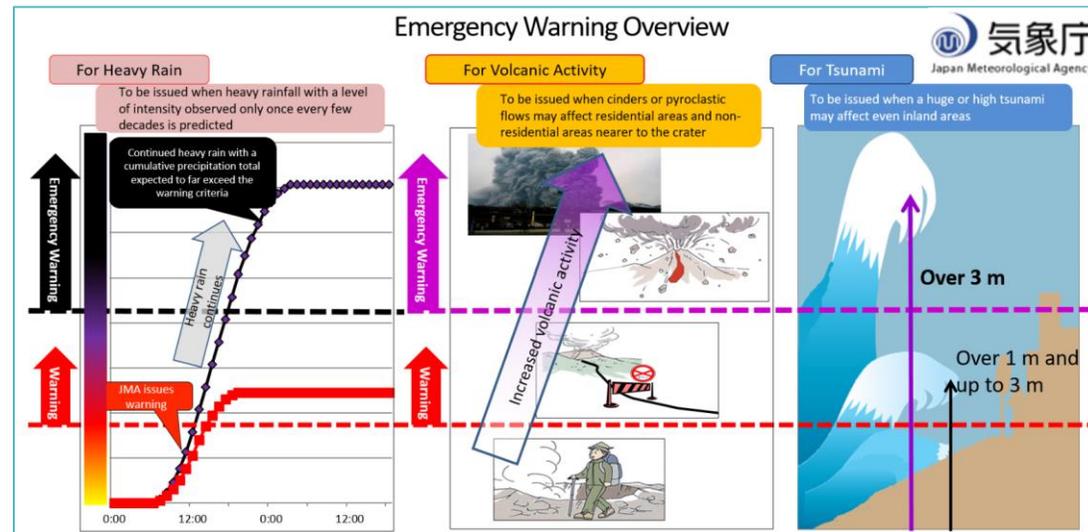




# Improvement pathways for Maldives response coordination system 3/6

## Early Warning Systems

- Invest in early warning systems for various types of disasters, such as Tsunami, surges, storms, and floods.
- Ensure that the public is well-informed and educated on how to respond to early warnings, including evacuation procedures and safety measures.



A poster titled "Earthquake Early Warnings" from the Japan Meteorological Agency. It features a large orange and yellow background with a sunburst pattern. The text reads: "Earthquake Early Warnings", "緊急地震速報 (Kinkyu Jishin Sokuhou) in Japanese", "Forecasts of strong ground motion caused by earthquakes", and "Flow of an Earthquake Early Warning". The flowchart shows: 1. Earthquake! (Seismometer), 2. JMA (Issuance of EEW by JMA), 3. TV, radio, etc (Provision to the public through broadcast media). It also includes a note: "Please note that strong tremors may arrive at the same time as the Earthquake Early Warning in areas that are close to the focus of the earthquake." and the logo of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan Meteorological Agency.

# Improvement pathways for Maldives response coordination system 4/6

## Interagency Collaboration

- Enhance collaboration among different government agencies, NGOs, and international organizations.
- Conduct regular joint training exercises to improve communication and coordination among the various entities involved in disaster response.
- Training for emergency response teams, including first responders, medical personnel, and support staff.

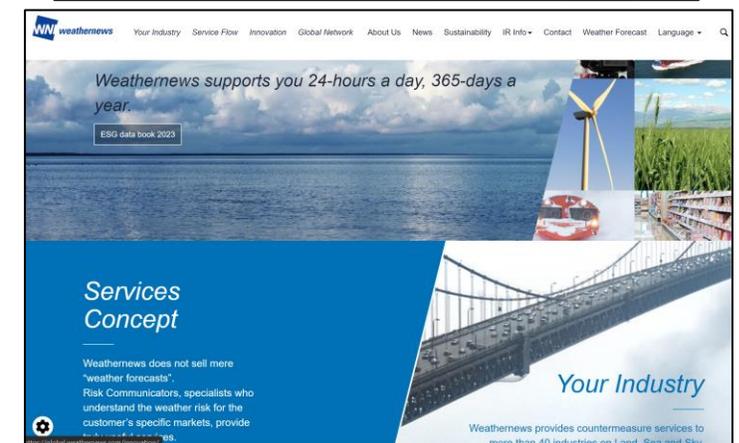
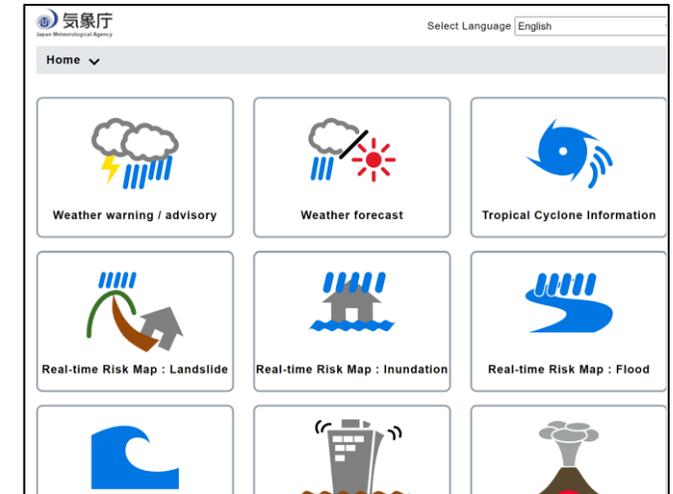


# Improvement pathways for Maldives response coordination system 5/6

## Public-Private Partnerships

- Establishing partnerships with local businesses and industries -can ensure a more comprehensive and resourceful response, exploiting both public and private resources.
- *Case: Japan's collaboration with Weather News Inc (WNI)*

Japan Meteorological Agency, a government office, partners with Weather News Inc.



# Improvement pathways for Maldives response coordination system 6/6

## Documenting Past Disaster Responses

- A valuable tool for refining future responses.
- Maintaining records of response initiatives provides a detailed account of the Emergency Operation Center's (EOC) decisions in coordinating responses.
- Perform post-disaster assessments to pinpoint areas that require enhancement and apply corrective measures.

On July 6, the "Team to Support for Reconstructing Livelihoods of the Affected due to Heavy Rain from July 1 of 2021" was established under the direction of then Prime Minister Suga, consisting of officials at the level of vice-ministers from various ministries and agencies. On July 30, for the purpose of restoring the lives and livelihoods of the affected, the team established a "Set of Support Measures for the Heavy Rain from July 1 of 2021," as a set of urgent measures to be taken, based on the needs of the affected areas and the characteristics of each area.

On August 31, 2021, the Cabinet approved a cabinet order to designate disasters caused by Heavy Rain from May 7 to July 14 in 2021 as a disaster of extreme severity, and on March 11, it admitted partially amending the cabinet order (See APPENDIX 14-1).



Extreme Disaster Management Headquarters for Heavy Rain from July 1 of 2021 (the second meeting)



The affected site visit to Shizuoka Prefecture by then Minister of State for Disaster Management from the Cabinet Office Tanahashi (Source: Cabinet Office)

Damage due to the Heavy Rain from July 1 of 2021



Damage of debris flow in Atami City, Shizuoka Prefecture (Source: Cabinet Office data)



Headwater of debris flow in Atami City, Shizuoka Prefecture (Source: Cabinet Office data)

### (3) Response by the Government

The government held an Inter-Agency Disaster Alert Meeting at 12:30 p.m. of July 1, 2021. Then, after debris flow disaster in Atami City, Shizuoka Prefecture occurred around 10:30 a.m. of July 3, an Emergency Response Office in the Prime Minister's Office was set up at 1:10 p.m. and a Cabinet Office Survey Team was dispatched to the Shizuoka Prefecture Government Office at 2:45 p.m. Furthermore, at 5:00 p.m. on the same day, a Ministerial Meeting (the first meeting) was held in the presence of then Prime Minister Suga, who instructed them "to pay attention to the secondary disasters, proceed with flexible and thorough correspondence, and promptly provide necessary support to shelters and other measures." On the same day at 5:30 p.m., the Authorized Disaster Management Headquarters for Heavy Rain from July 1 of 2021 was established, and at 7:00 p.m., its first meeting was held. The same meeting was held twice in total by July 5.

**Thank You for  
EVERYTHING**

