

Ms. Shaufa Aminath (Maldives)



As-salāmu ‘alaykum(peace be upon you) I’m Shaufa, a humanitarian worker by passion, and a project officer by profession from the Maldives Islands in the Indian Ocean.

Since 2014, I have been working for the National Disaster Management Center (NDMC), the main coordinating body for disaster management activities at the national and local level which was formed after the destructive 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

For more than 10 years, NDMC was involved in the response and coordination of relief efforts. Currently, NDMC adheres to a more holistic model which addresses the processes of hazard identification, mitigation, community preparedness, integrated response efforts, and recovery. These are planned for and undertaken continuously within a risk management context, and issues of vulnerability in the Islands are addressed in partnership with international organizations, donor agencies and other partners.

The Maldives experience low impact, high frequency disasters such as storm surges, flooding due to heavy rainfall, and urban fires. Hence our work has focused on preparedness, mitigation, relief, and response activities over the past few years. During emergency situations, all staff members work at the emergency operation center (EOC) until the situation subsides, providing shelter and basic necessities for the Internally Displace People (IDP’s) During emergencies, my key role is in information dissemination, planning, and IDP management.

As a project officer in the Disaster Risk Reduction unit, I am tasked with the implementation and facilitation of projects from local and donor agencies. That is, I carry out community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) efforts, including two core trainings: the Island Disaster Management Planning Workshop (IDMP) and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainings in local island communities. I also work to raise community awareness of disaster risk reduction, and conduct various school-based awareness programs and activities.

Furthermore, I am involved in most of the planning and implementation of various trainings and workshops organized by the NDMC. As the Communications and Information Officer, I manage the official web-based elements, social media profiles, and outreach. I also act as the focal point for the Information Commissioner office of the Maldives while assisting in the ongoing development of emergency operations and the development of other program guidelines and

standard operating procedures.

Nevertheless, during my tenure at ADRC I believe that I will be able to make a positive contribution to the organization and have a positive impact on the people I work with, especially in the DRR and Child Centered Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) education sector. I look forward to equipping others with proper disaster prevention knowledge while having the chance to develop and enhance my own skills.

I'm beyond grateful for the immense learning opportunity this program offers in terms of helping me more effectively make a difference at both the local and national levels. I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to the government of Japan, ADRC family, my fellow visiting researchers of 2018 from India and Malaysia and to the friends in Japan for the time I will get to spend exploring and learning more about disaster preparedness measures.