CIDCA- Tailored Intelligence for Actionable Early Warning Systems- Maldives

B0416 - Maldives - Male

REPORTING PERIOD 2025- 2026

Narrative

REPORT DATE: 20-04-2026

1. Executive Summary

2. Background

3. Key Results Achieved

- **Level of Reporting:**

  Output level results

  Project Outputs:

  Upgrade, improve, and where needed, expand collection and observation networks across the country to ensure data acquisition and disaster preparedness.

  Contributing Outcomes:

  Outcome 2 By 2026, national and subnational institutions and communities in Maldives, particularly at-risk populations, are better able to manage natural resources and achieve enhanced resilience to climate change and disaster impacts, natural and human-induced hazards, and environmental degradation, inclusively and in a sustainable manner

  Contributing Outputs:

  MDV_Output 2.1 Enabling environment and multisector engagement for carbon footprint reduction in priority sectors

- **Level of Reporting:**

  Output level results

  Project Outputs:

  Development of localized communication channels and tools via social media, websites and mobile apps to ensure accessibility of information to the community.

  Contributing Outcomes:

  Outcome 2 By 2026, national and subnational institutions and communities in Maldives, particularly at-risk populations, are better able to manage natural resources and achieve enhanced resilience to climate change and disaster impacts, natural and

human-induced hazards, and environmental degradation, inclusively and in a sustainable manner

Contributing Outputs:

MDV_Output 2.1 Enabling environment and multisector engagement for carbon footprint reduction in priority sectors

Progress Note:

Indicative tasks: Activity 2.1 Improve the dissemination and availability of meteorological data to the public through digital channels. To-date progress: â€¢ The development of the MMS website and mobile application is progressing on schedule, with mobile application beta testing completed. High fidelity prototypes aligned with the new branding are in place, featuring user centred design, improved hazard alert displays, hyper local forecasts, real time data integration, and streamlined navigation. Both platforms are compliant with WCAG 2.1 standards, ensuring inclusive access. These systems are positioned to serve as MMSâ€™s primary public channel for real time forecasts, alerts, climate data, and disaster information for a wide range of users. â€¢ The scope of work includes the design, development, and deployment of a modern, responsive, and user-friendly digital platform serving as MMSâ€™s primary public channel. The system will deliver real-time weather forecasts, alerts, climate data, and disaster-related information to the public, government agencies, private sector users, and international partners, while ensuring inclusive access, including for persons with disabilities. â€¢ The MMS branding and identity have been fully developed and officially launched in January 2026 through a high level event. The branding package has been operationalized across MMS communication channels, introducing standardized templates and a consistent visual identity. This has strengthened visibility and credibility of MMS as the national authority on weather and early warning services and improved the clarity and consistency of information dissemination. â€¢ Early results indicate a measurable increase in public engagement following the rollout of the new branding and standardized communication approach. Impressions on X increased from 26,000 to 38,000 in the immediate post launch period, alongside a gain of 56 new followers between January and February. Engagement on the MMS Viber community, which is a primary communication channel for local audiences in the Maldives, has also strengthened, with membership reaching 43,900 users. These results demonstrate increased reach and uptake of MMS information products, indicating improved effectiveness of early warning communication. â€¢ These investments have addressed critical gaps in MMSâ€™s ability to communicate weather and hazard information. The introduction of a unified brand and modern digital platforms has improved clarity, accessibility, and user experience, enabling more structured and timely dissemination of multi hazard alerts. This is expected to further increase public trust, improve uptake of forecasts and advisories, and support more risk informed decision making. Together, these results establish a strong foundation for expanded outreach in 2026, including national awareness campaigns, user onboarding, and wider dissemination of early warning information.

- **Level of Reporting:**

  Output level results

Project Outputs:

Improved capacity and coordination among government and stakeholders on EWS data analysis, interpretation and application to local contexts.

Contributing Outcomes:

Outcome 2 By 2026, national and subnational institutions and communities in Maldives, particularly at-risk populations, are better able to manage natural resources and achieve enhanced resilience to climate change and disaster impacts, natural and human-induced hazards, and environmental degradation, inclusively and in a sustainable manner

Contributing Outputs:

MDV_Output 2.1 Enabling environment and multisector engagement for carbon footprint reduction in priority sectors

Progress Note:

Indicative tasks: Activities not scheduled for this quarter. Preparatory discussions and planning are underway to ensure future capacity-building and coordination efforts are well aligned with project objectives. Activity 3.1 Conduct capacity building programs to enhance partner/stakeholder capacity on the effective utilization and integration of climate and weather data. To-date progress: â€¢ Work on Activity 3.1 has progressed through continued technical consultations and development of a draft concept for the Impact Based Forecasting and Multi Hazard Early Warning Systems workshops by MMS. The workshop is now planned for Q2 2026. Discussions with MMS and relevant stakeholders have continued throughout Q1 to ensure alignment with operational priorities and capacity needs. This has strengthened the relevance and targeting of the training content and delivery approach. â€¢ Under 3.1.2, the bill remains under development with Ministry of Tourism and Environment, and UNDP will be engaging a consultant under this activity to support finalization of the draft and assess feasibility, including the monetization component in Q2 2026. The engagement will facilitate the development of a comprehensive and well-grounded draft aligned with national priorities and ready for further review and submission to Parliament.

- **Level of Reporting:**

  Project level results

  Contributing Outcomes:

  Contributing Outputs:

  Progress Note:

  The official launch of the Maldives Meteorological Service (MMS) branding was held on 20 January 2026 in MalÃ© as a high level event marking a key milestone in strengthening national early warning communication systems. The event was attended

by senior government and development partners, with the Hon. Minister of Tourism and Environment, Mr Thoriq Ibrahim, serving as Chief Guest. High level representation from the Embassy of the Peopleâ€™s Republic of China was present, including Ms He Fen, ChargÃ© dâ€™affaires a.i., alongside participation from UNDP senior management and national stakeholders. The event formally unveiled the new MMS brand identity, which has since been operationalized across all communication channels. The launch reinforced MMSâ€™s role as the authoritative national institution for weather, climate services, and early warning, while also highlighting the contribution of the Thayyaaru Project supported by CIDCA. The presence of senior government and donor representatives strengthened visibility of the partnership and underscored national commitment to improving early warning systems and risk communication.

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4. Key Challenges Encountered

- **Level of Reporting:**

  Output level results

  Project Outputs:

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  Contributing Outcomes:

  Outcome 2 By 2026, national and subnational institutions and communities in Maldives, particularly at-risk populations, are better able to manage natural resources and achieve enhanced resilience to climate change and disaster impacts, natural and human-induced hazards, and environmental degradation, inclusively and in a sustainable manner

  Contributing Outputs:

  MDV_Output 2.1 Enabling environment and multisector engagement for carbon footprint reduction in priority sectors

  Progress Note:

â€¢ Initial delays experienced in the previous reporting period related to the ESIA and ESMP requirements have now been resolved, with the full safeguards package completed in line with UNDP standards. While the ESIA and ESMP process extended timelines by approximately 80 to 90 days due to the need for site specific assessments across a geographically dispersed AWS network, it has strengthened the environmental and social integrity of the project. The completion of this process has enabled procurement and implementation activities under Output 1 to formally commence, marking a clear transition from preparatory work to execution. Technical and procedural challenges related to procurement and system alignment have also been addressed through detailed assessments and iterative consultations with MMS. The complexity of working with an existing AWS network required careful refinement of technical specifications to ensure interoperability, durability, and long term sustainability. These efforts have now translated into concrete progress, with procurement processes initiated, including the issuance of minibids for AWS upgrades and related systems. Adjustments made during earlier procurement stages, including changes in vendor arrangements where required, have strengthened the robustness and feasibility of implementation moving forward. While these challenges have been largely mitigated, they have informed a more realistic sequencing of activities and highlighted the importance of sustained coordination with government counterparts and MMS. The requested adjustment to the workplan remains under review and is considered important to ensure that the progress achieved through safeguards compliance and technical preparation is fully translated into high quality implementation and delivery of results.

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5. Project Risks and Issues

â€¢ Potential risks have been identified that may affect implementation under Output 1 as activities move into the execution phase. The current global and national economic context, including rising costs of goods, logistical challenges particularly during trans shipment, and specialized equipment, presents a foreseeable challenge that may impact the fund allocation, procurement and the overall scale and timelines of infrastructure related interventions. In addition, administrative and coordination timelines on the government side may pose potential delays in progressing activities. Capacity constraints within MMS have also been noted as a consideration, requiring phased implementation and close coordination to ensure effective absorption and sustainability of project outputs

6. Lessons Learned

- These risks indicated are being proactively considered, with mitigation measures including early procurement planning, prioritization of critical investments, and continued engagement with government and MMS to support timely and effective implementation.
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7. Conclusions and Way Forward

Whilst the noted challenges and risks have been largely mitigated, they have informed a more realistic sequencing of activities and highlighted the importance of sustained coordination with government counterparts and MMS. The requested adjustment to the workplan remains under review and is considered important to ensure that the progress achieved through safeguards compliance and technical preparation is fully translated into high quality implementation and delivery of results.

8. Other Reporting Requirements

- **Reporting Requirements**

  CDR Q4 2025

- **Reporting Requirements**

  PTR Q1 2026(Jan-Mar 2026)

- **Reporting Requirements**

  Project PTR (from Jan 2025 to March 2026)

- **Reporting Requirements**

  Thayyaaru QPR Annex Q1 2026

- **Reporting Requirements**

  Project QPR (Donor Report)

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