



NDMA
NATIONAL DISASTER
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Disaster Statistics of Maldives

2024

Executive Summary

Data collected by the National Disaster Management Authority from December 2023 to December 2024 reflects a notable increase in hazard events across the Maldives. A total of 251 incidents were reported from 20 atolls, marking a 37% increase from 2023. The hazards reported include rainwater flooding, fire incidents, strong winds, surges, gas explosions, maritime incidents, thunder and lightning, and tropical cyclone related events.

Rainwater flooding emerged as the most frequently reported hazard, followed by fire and strong winds. May and August were the peak months for hazard reports, coinciding with seasonal weather variations. The Greater Male' Region recorded the highest number of incidents, with Male' City alone contributing a significant share, particularly for fire-related events.

A total of 1,423 households were affected by flooding alone, which was the most widespread impact recorded during the reporting period. Fire incidents continued to affect densely populated urban areas, with many events recorded in Male', Hulhumale', and Addu City. Government financial assistance totalled over MVR 10 million, with the largest allocation directed towards flood and fire response and recovery efforts.

Year on year comparisons highlight a steady upward trend in both reported cases and financial aid disbursements since 2022, reflecting increased exposure, improved reporting systems, and growing resource commitments. These findings reinforce the urgency of integrating climate and hazard risk considerations into island-level development planning and public infrastructure investment.

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1. Trends in the past 3 years

The total number of hazard incidents reported to NDMA has increased steadily since 2022. In 2024, the number rose to 251 reported cases, up from 183 in 2023 and 144 in 2022. This upward trend indicates not only a possible rise in hazard occurrence due to climate and environmental changes, but also improvements in reporting mechanisms and community level awareness. The data underscores the need for stronger preparedness systems, especially as the frequency and intensity of incidents continue to rise year by year.

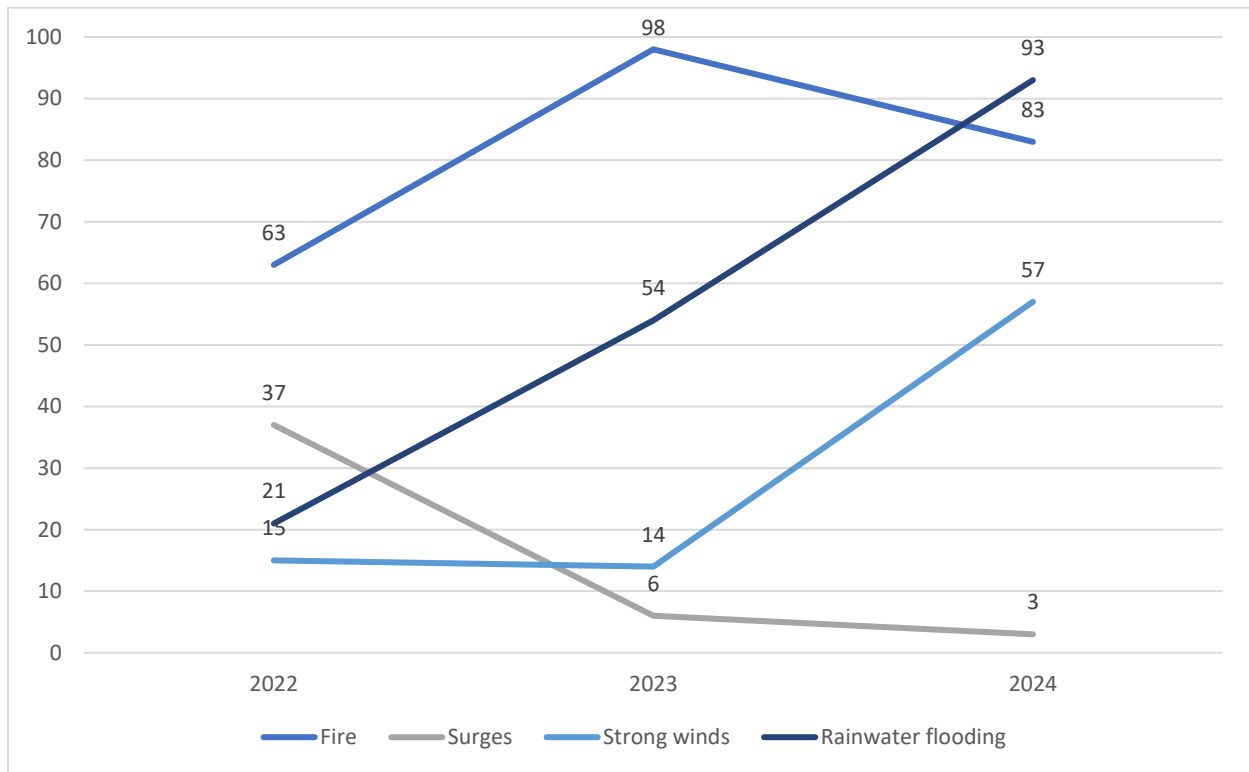


Figure 1 Number of hazards reported over the years

The amount of financial aid disbursed by NDMA has similarly increased over the last three years, with over MVR 10 million allocated in 2024, representing a significant rise from approximately MVR 6 million in 2023 and around MVR 3 million in 2022. The upward trajectory in aid provision aligns with the growing scale of reported hazard events and associated impacts, especially in high density and flood prone regions. The figures reflect both the increasing demand for emergency assistance and the government’s strengthened commitment to disaster response and recovery.

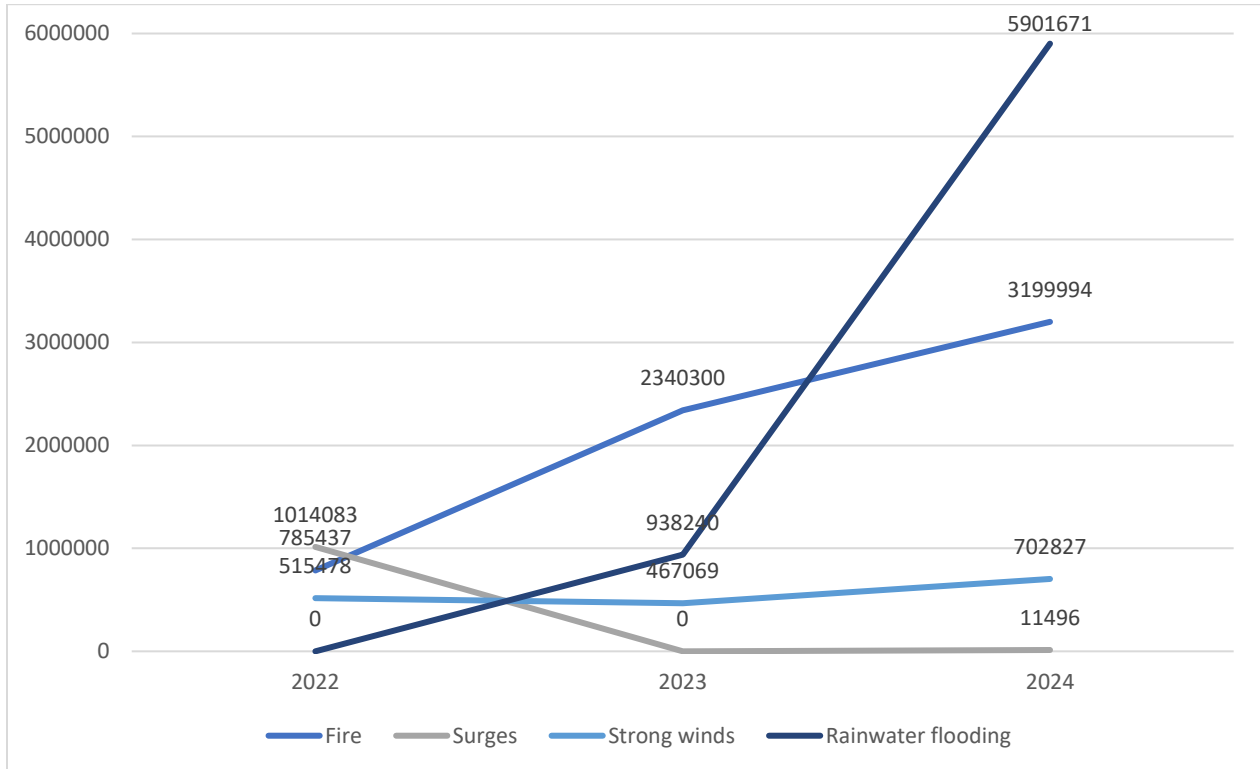


Figure 2 Amount of financial aid given over the years

2. Occurrence of hazard

Data collected by NDMA from December 2023 to December 2024 reflects the diversity and frequency of hazard events occurring throughout the year. A total of 251 incidents were reported, with the most frequent hazards being rainwater flooding, fire incidents, and strong winds. Other hazards included gas explosions, maritime incidents, surges, thunder and lightning, and tropical cyclones. The data indicates a shift toward more water and wind related hazards compared to previous years.

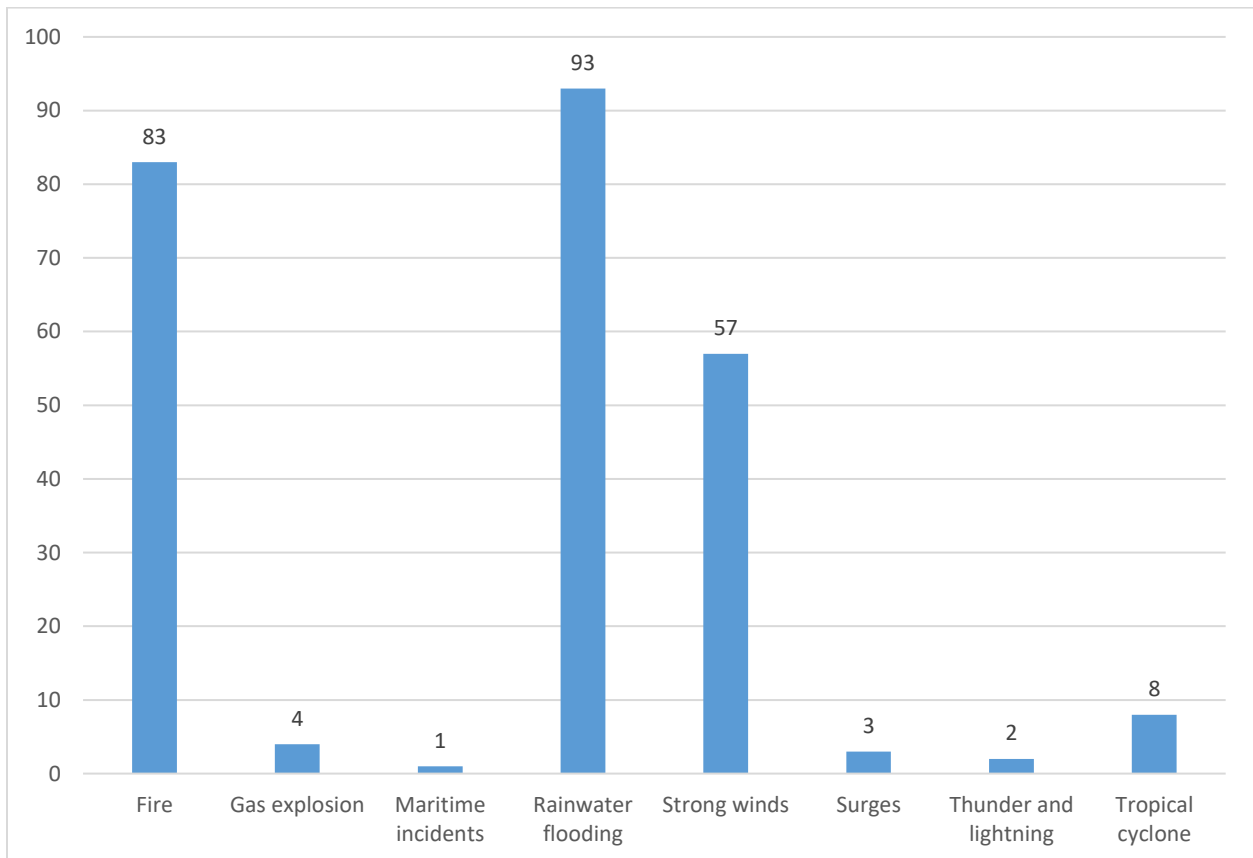


Figure 3 Types of hazards reported to NDMA

3. Number of incidents by Atoll

A geographic breakdown of reported cases shows that Kaafu Atoll accounted for the highest number of incidents in 2024, followed by Seenu Atoll. Other atolls, including Haa Alif, Haa Dhaal, and Thaa, also experienced a notable number of events. The distribution highlights the concentration of hazard events in densely populated and infrastructurally exposed regions.

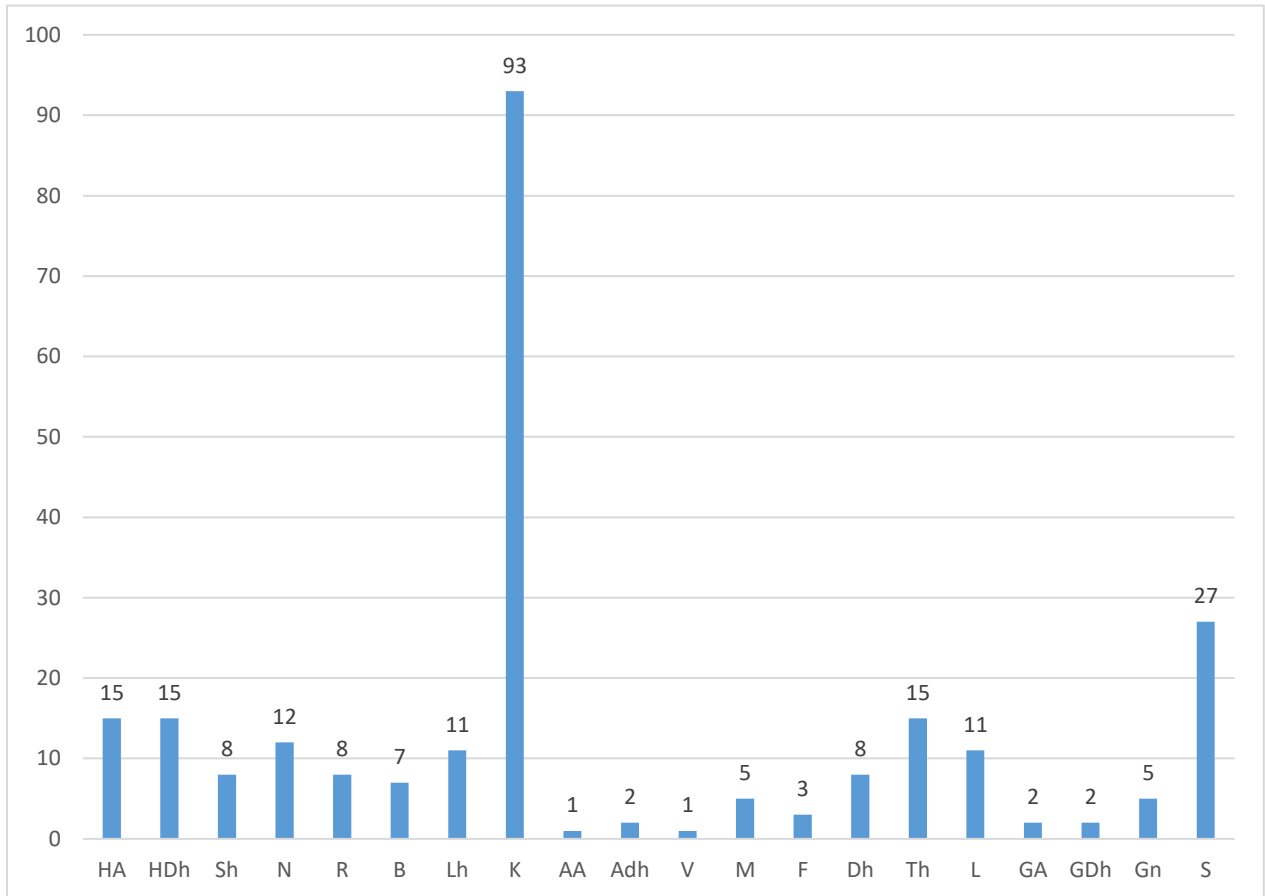


Figure 4 Number of incidents reported by Atoll

4. Number of incidents by month

Incident reports were highest during May and August, reflecting seasonal hazard patterns linked to monsoonal shifts and cyclonic activity. In May, storm related events caused a rise in reports, particularly related to strong winds and flooding. August also saw a spike due to intense rainfall and associated flooding incidents. This monthly distribution supports the need for heightened preparedness during the southwest monsoon period.

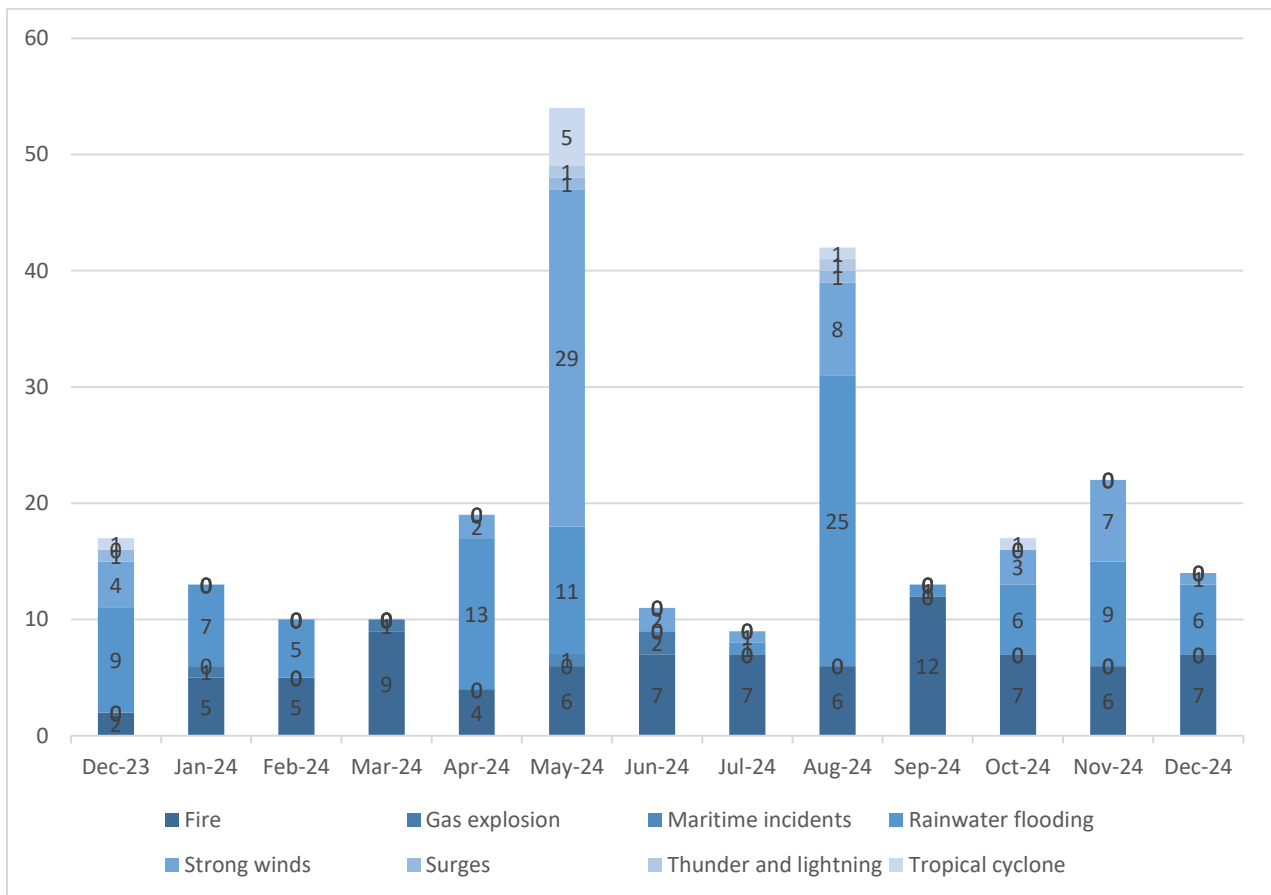


Figure 5 Number of incidents reported by month

Fire incidents remained consistent throughout the year, with a slight rise in September. Strong winds spiked during May, coinciding with a surge in storm activity. Rainwater flooding peaked in August, when rainfall exceeded 100 mm in certain islands. The month-wise breakdown highlights the timing and impact of both seasonal and event driven hazards.

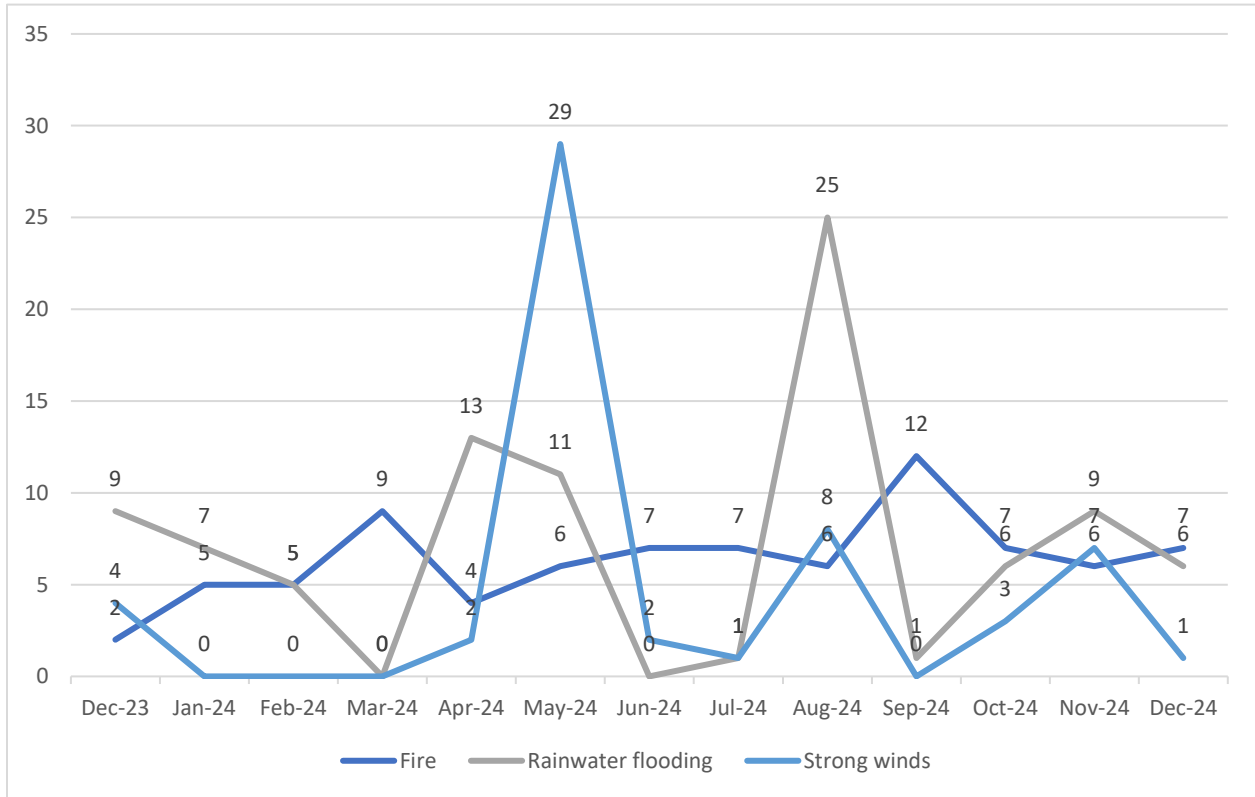


Figure 6 Frequency of main hazards over the year

5. Number of households affected by hazards

A total of 1,423.00 households were affected by rainwater flooding in 2024, a significant increase compared to previous years. Other hazards that led to household impacts included tropical cyclones (77 households), fires (62 households), and strong winds (57 households). Minor impacts were reported from surges and lightning-related events. The figures highlight flooding as the year’s most widespread and damaging hazard.

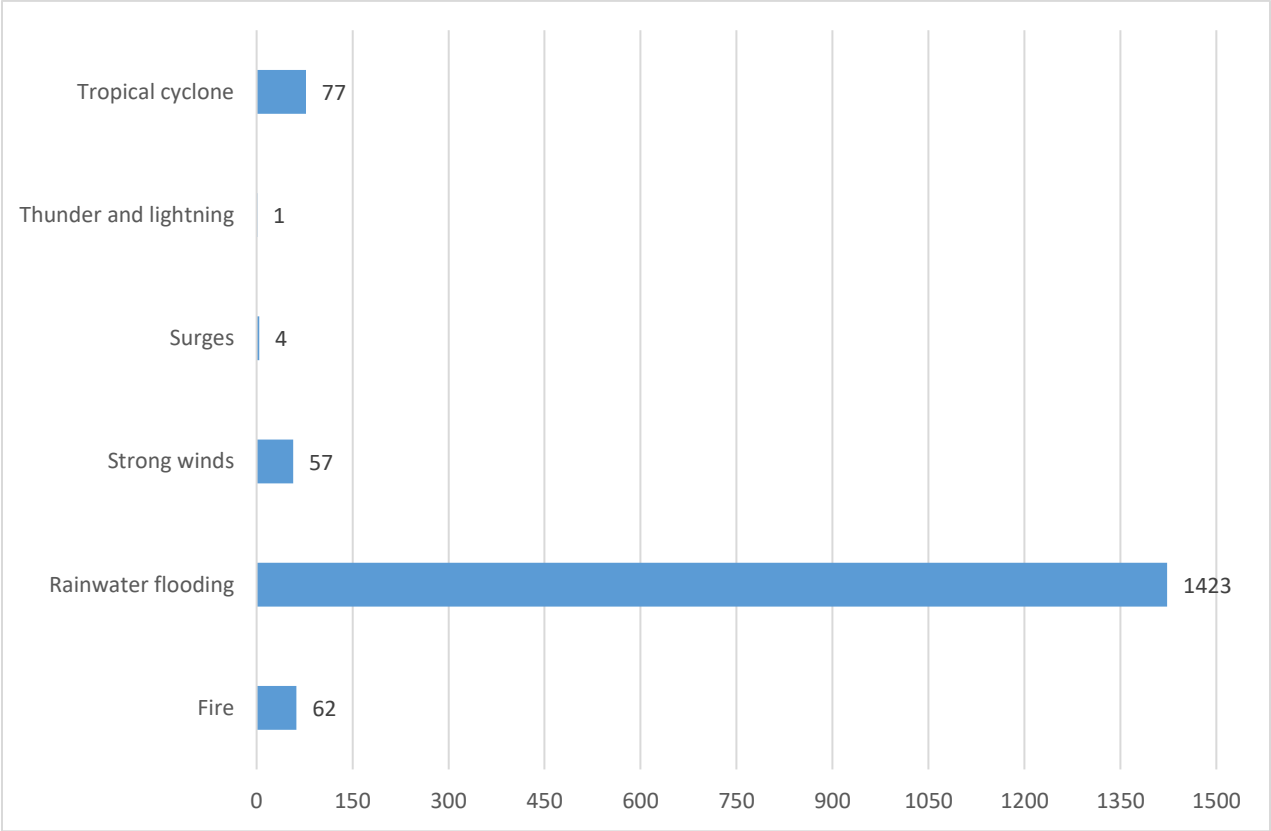


Figure 7 Number of households affected by hazards

6. Number of incidents by island

Data compiled from reported cases show that over 150 islands experienced at least one hazard event in 2024. Male' City had the highest number of fire incidents, while many inhabited islands in Kaafu, Seenu, and Thaa atolls were repeatedly affected by flooding and strong winds. The table underscores the spread of hazards, with both urban centers and rural islands facing exposure.

Table 1 Number of incidents by island

Number of incidents reported: by hazard									
Atoll	Islands	Fire	Rainwater flooding	Strong winds	Surges	Thunder and lightning	Tropical cyclone	Gas explosion	Maritime Incident
HA	Utheem	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dhidhoo	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Maarandhoo	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Uligan	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Kelaa	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hoarafushi	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Ihavandhoo	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Baarah	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Muraidhoo	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HDh	Kulhudhuffushi City	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Nellaidhoo	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Hanimaadhoo	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Nolhivaranfaru	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sh	Komandhoo	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
	Noomaraa	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Feevah	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Foakaidhoo	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Maaungoodhoo	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
N	Maafaru	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Maalhendhoo	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Lhohi	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Kudafari	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Landhoo	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Manadhoo	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Holhudhoo	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Velidhoo	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Kendhikuldhoo	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Henbandhoo	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
R	Ungoofaaru	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Angolhitheemu	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

	Inguraidhoo	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Maduvvari	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hulhudhuffaaruu	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Vaadhoo	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Rasmaadhoo	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
B	Goidhoo	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Eydhafushi	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Kihaadhoo	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Kendhoo	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dharavandhoo	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lh	Hinnavaru	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Naifaru	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Olhuvelifushi	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Kurendhoo	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
K	Male' City	47	11	1	0	1	0	4	1
	Hulhumale'	14	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Guraidhoo	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Himmafushi	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Kaashidhoo	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Maafushi	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dhiffushi	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
	Thilafushi	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Como Cocoa Island Makunufushi	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
AA	Ukulhas	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
ADh	Omadhoo	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Hangnaameedhoo	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
V	Fulidhoo	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
M	Mulah	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Dhiggaru	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Maduvvari	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
F	Nilandhoo	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Feeali	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dharanboodhoo	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Dh	Kudahuvadhoo	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hulhudheli	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Bandidhoo	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Maaenboodhoo	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Th	Guraidhoo	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Hirilandhoo	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Vandhoo	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Madifushi	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Thimarafushi	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
	Buruni	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Omadhoo	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Gaadhiffushi	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Veymandoo	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
L	Gan	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Maamendhoo	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Fonadhoo	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hithadhoo	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Isdhoo	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
GA	Dheevadhoo	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Dhaandhoo	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
GDh	Gadhdhoo	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Madaveli	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Gn	Fuvahmulah City	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
S	Maradhoo	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
	Feydhoo	0	6	4	0	0	1	0	0
	Hithadhoo	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
	Maradhoo Feydhoo	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
	Hulhudhoo	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0

7. Rainwater flooding incidents by Atoll

Rainwater flooding was the most frequently reported hazard across the Maldives in 2024. Kaafu Atoll experienced the highest number of cases, followed by Seenu and Laamu atolls. The majority of these incidents occurred in May and August during periods of heavy rainfall. This pattern reaffirms the seasonal vulnerability of many islands to intense rainfall events.

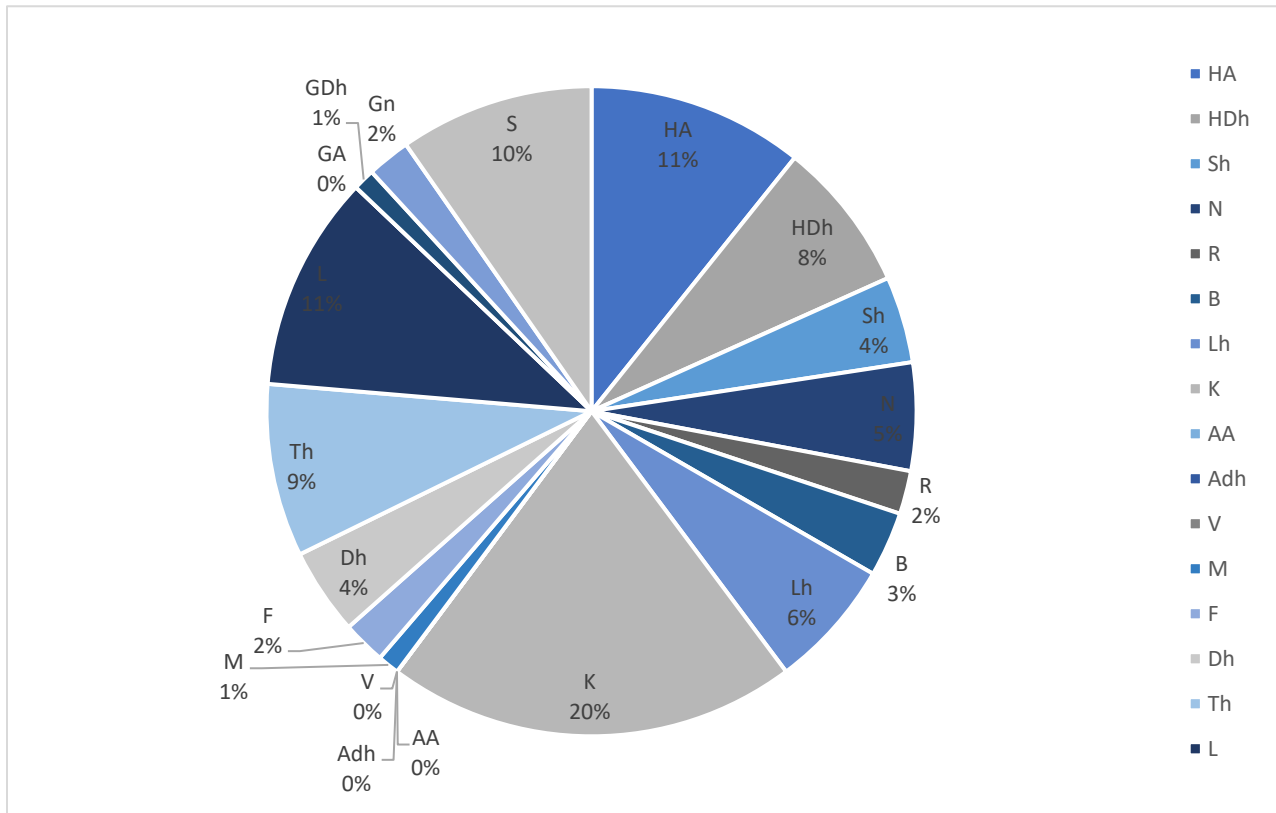


Figure 8 Number of rainwater flooding incidents by Atoll

8. Fire incidents by Atoll

Fire incidents were most heavily concentrated in Kaafu Atoll, particularly in Male' City and Hulhumale'. Urban areas with higher electrical load and population density saw more frequent fire hazards. The data points to the importance of fire safety protocols and urban hazard mitigation strategies.

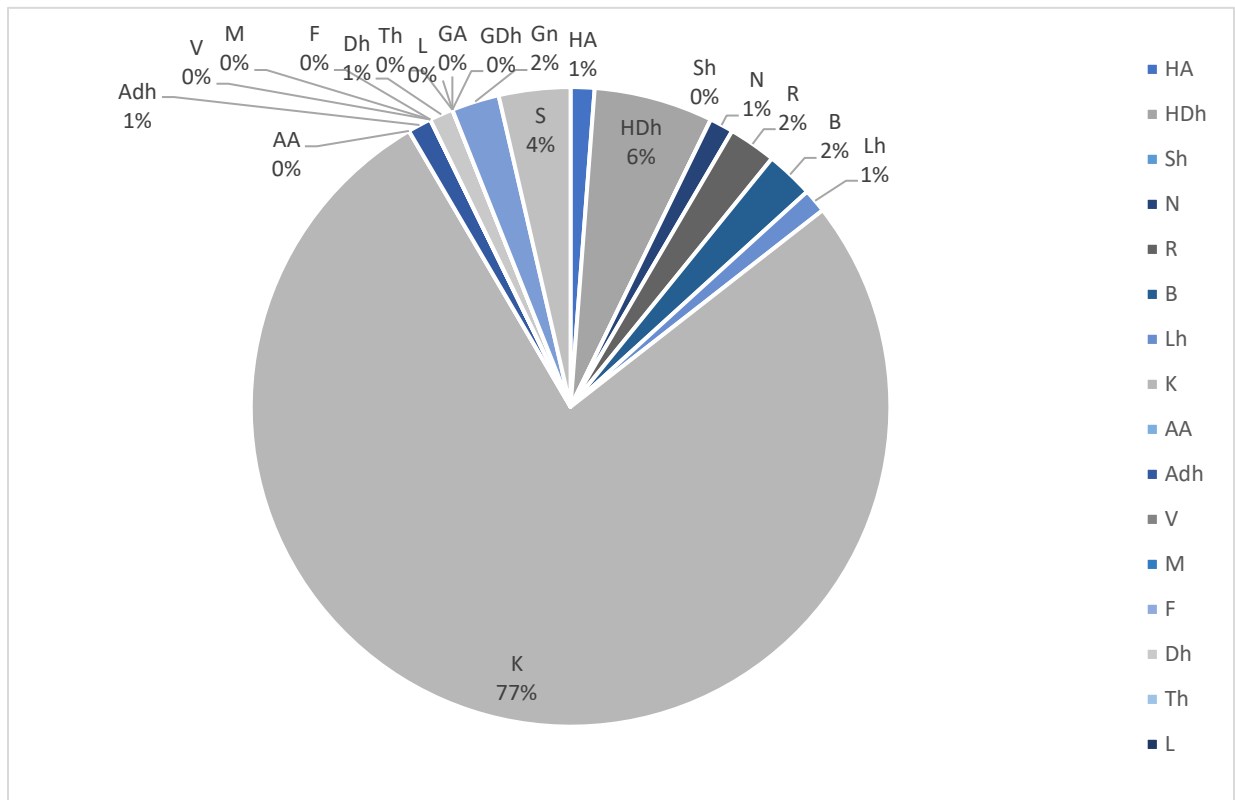


Figure 9 Number of fire incidents by Atoll

9. Strong wind incidents by Atoll

Strong wind incidents were reported from several atolls, with the highest number of cases recorded from Kaafu and Seenu Atolls. Other atolls reported fewer incidents, typically ranging from one to two cases each. The data highlights that strong wind events were geographically widespread but concentrated in a few key regions.

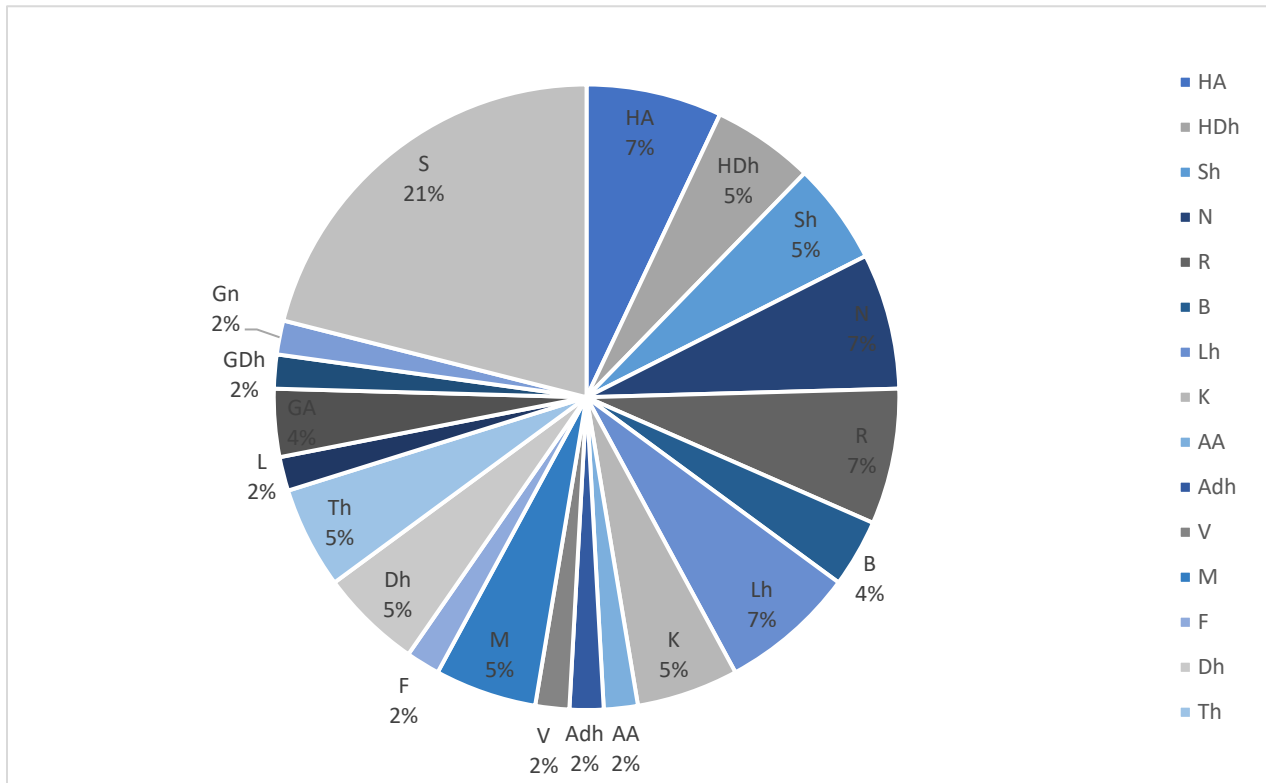


Figure 10 Number of strong wind incidents by Atoll

10. Incidents reported from Greater Male' Region

The Greater Male' Region, accounted for a significant portion of hazard reports in 2024. This urban zone saw high occurrences of both fire and flooding. The data reinforces the vulnerability of densely populated regions and the need for focused disaster risk reduction planning.

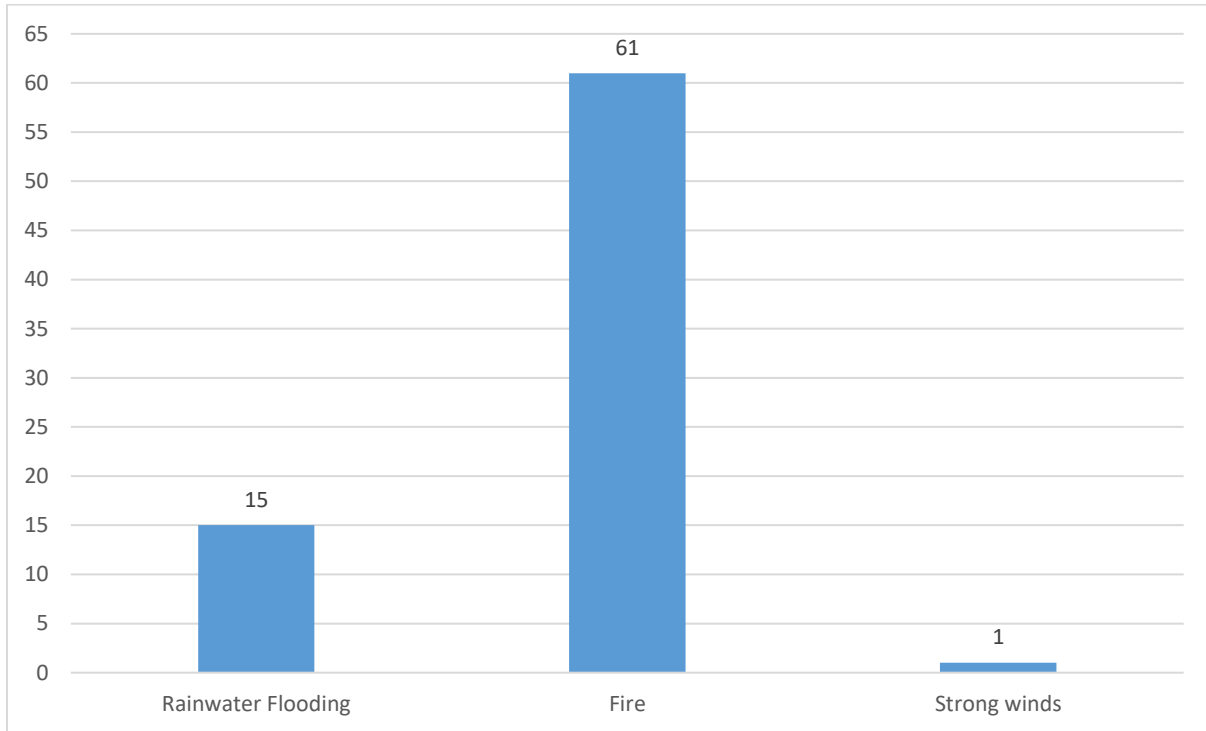


Figure 11 Number of cases reported from the Greater Male' Region

11. Financial assistance provided by hazard

Rainwater flooding received the largest share of financial assistance, followed by fire related incidents. The distribution of aid reflects both the frequency and severity of hazards encountered. Government support was disbursed as both relief and recovery aid to assist households, businesses, and public services.

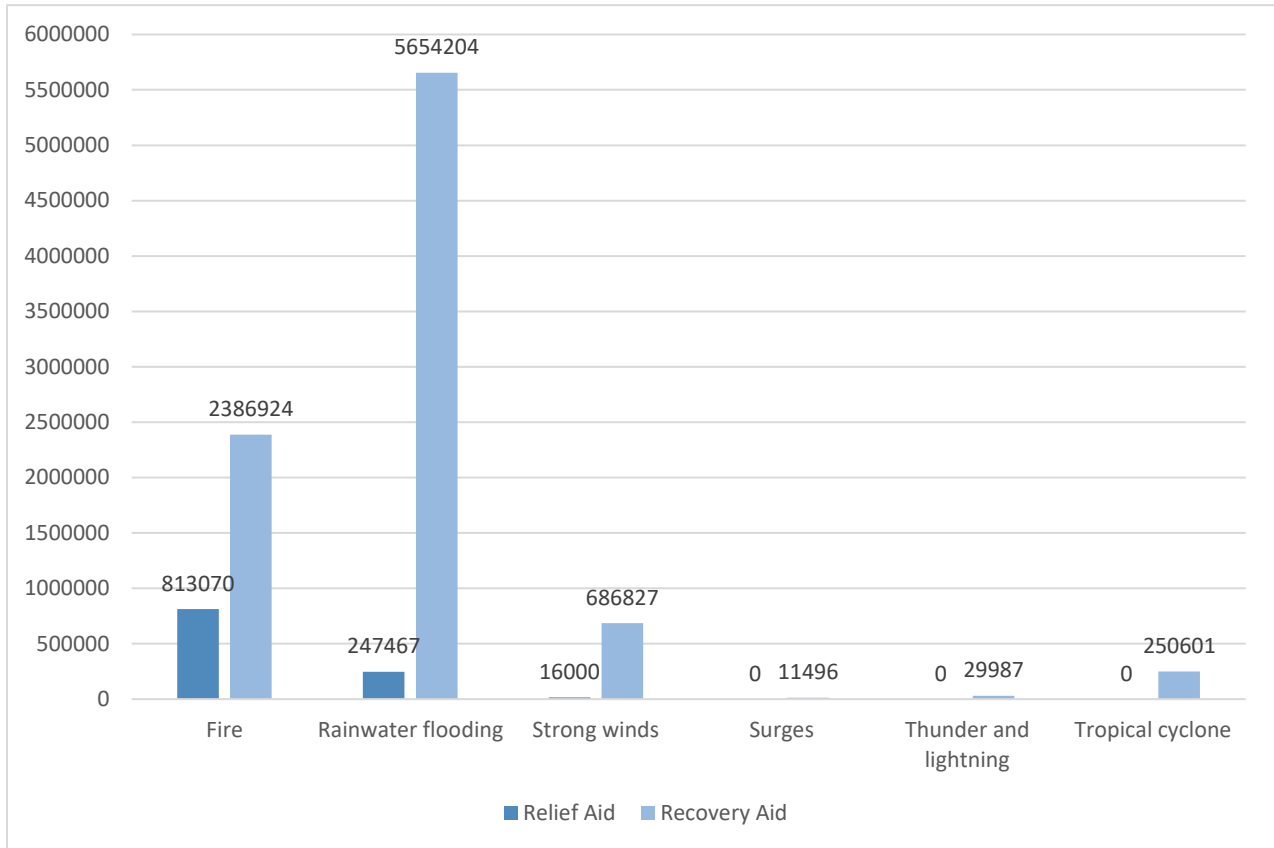


Figure 12 Financial assistance provided by hazard

12. Financial assistance provided by Atoll

Kaafu Atoll received the highest volume of financial aid, consistent with its high incident count. Other atolls receiving substantial support included Seenu, Laamu, and Thaa. This pattern indicates the alignment of financial aid with reported hazard events and household impact levels.

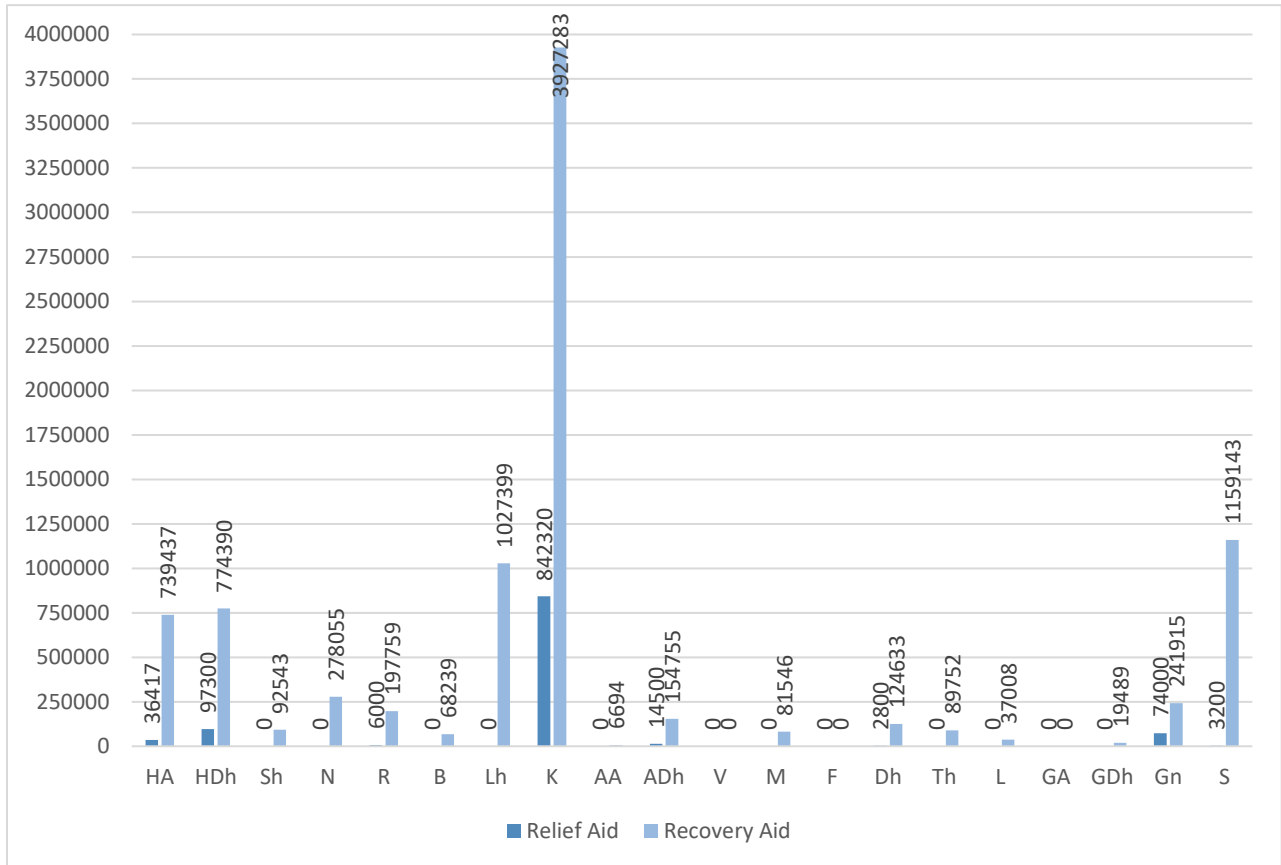


Figure 13 Financial assistance provided by Atoll

Challenges and recommendations

Challenges

Despite progress in incident reporting and response coordination, the following challenges persisted in 2024:

- High risk concentration in urban areas: Densely populated urban areas, especially in the Greater Malé Region and Addu City, continue to experience repeated fire and flooding incidents. The complexity of urban infrastructure and limited space for mitigation increase vulnerability.
- Inconsistent reporting across islands: While reporting has improved, variations in the timeliness and completeness of incident submissions still exist. Some remote islands may underreport minor incidents, affecting the comprehensiveness of national statistics.
- Lack of disaggregated data: Data on affected individuals is not consistently broken down by age, gender, or other vulnerability factors, limiting deeper analysis for targeted interventions.
- Aid monitoring and transparency gaps: While aid amounts are recorded, there is no systematic process to monitor the distribution, effectiveness, or timeliness of aid provided to affected individuals or households.
- Seasonal peaks without coordinated response plans: Although hazard peaks are generally seasonal, response efforts often remain reactive rather than anticipatory, lacking predefined atoll or island level contingency plans.

Recommendations

- Enhance urban risk reduction measures: Implement fire prevention and flood mitigation strategies in high risk urban areas, including routine inspections, enforcement of building codes, and public awareness campaigns.
- Standardize and improve incident reporting: Train focal points in all islands to use consistent formats and ensure timely submission of incident data. Introduce digital tools to improve efficiency and accuracy.
- Strengthen data disaggregation: Revise data collection templates to include demographic breakdowns. This will improve the ability to plan inclusive disaster risk reduction and response.
- Establish a monitoring system for aid distribution: Develop a simple tracking mechanism for aid disbursement that links case numbers to follow-up actions and outcomes, enhancing transparency and accountability.
- Develop seasonal response frameworks: Use historical trends to prepare seasonal hazard forecasts and preposition response resources. Encourage local councils to develop simple response plans before monsoon or high-risk periods.

Conclusion

The 2024 Statistical Report reveals a continued increase in hazard frequency and intensity across the Maldives, especially in the form of urban fire incidents and seasonal flooding. The significant rise in case numbers, coupled with concentrated impacts in key atolls, reflects not only environmental and climatic shifts but also rapid urban development without proportionate investment in risk mitigation.

Despite positive strides in reporting and aid delivery, critical gaps persist in preparedness, data systems, and inclusive recovery strategies. The path forward requires an integrated and anticipatory approach to disaster risk management. One that aligns data with action, and planning with local realities.

By strengthening institutional coordination, community capacity, and data informed risk reduction, the Maldives can transform its growing exposure into an opportunity for resilience. A nationwide commitment to proactive, inclusive, and adaptive disaster governance will be key to protecting lives, assets, and sustainable development in the years ahead.