



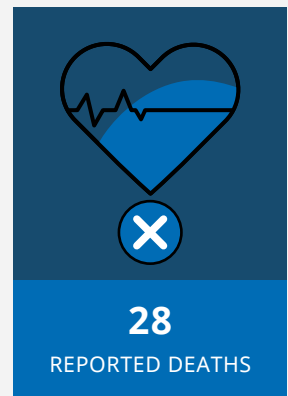
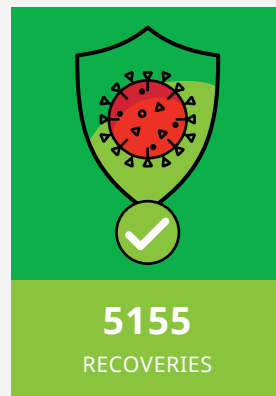
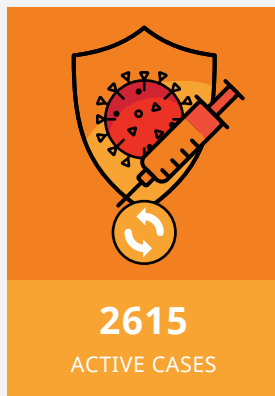
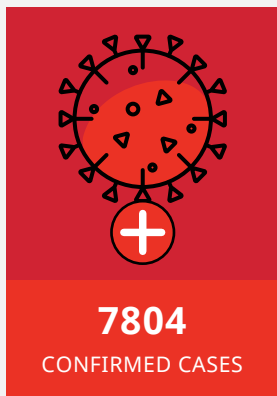
UNITED NATIONS
MALDIVES



COVID-19
RESPONSE

UN HEALTH & SOCIO ECONOMIC RESPONSE EFFORTS

JANUARY - AUGUST 2020



Maldives has reported a total of 7804 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 2615 active cases, 5155 recoveries and 28 reported deaths as of 31 August 2020. The Maldives is experiencing continued community transmission and fluctuations in daily positive rates as the economy reopens.

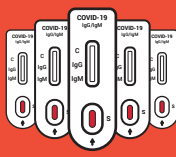
The UN Maldives Socio-Economic Impact Analysis of COVID-19 was presented to the Government on 27 April 2020. This report sets out the projected impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable groups and provides policy recommendations to the Government under each of the 5 pillars of the UNSG's framework for responding to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. While the analysis is based on the global principles of sustainable recovery and building back better, special recognition is made of the particular challenges faced by the Maldives of climate change and a fragile environmental ecosystem further impacted by the pandemic. UN Maldives will publish the UN Socioeconomic Framework in the second week of August. The Framework will also form the Joint Workplans for the extended UNDAF through to 31 December 2021.

UN Maldives signed two joint projects with the Government of Maldives on 9 July, funded by the SDG Fund, and the COVID-19 Response & Recovery Multi-Partner Fund Trust Fund. Implementation has begun with the Government, UN, CSOs, private sector, and other partners, and aims to strengthen social sector service delivery, and contribute to progress towards the 2030 Agenda.






STRENGTHENING HEALTH RESPONSE, SYSTEMS & CAPACITY




65,000+
PCR TESTING KITS



25,000
GENEXPERT
CARTRIDGES



100
HEALTHCARE
PROFESSIONALS



75
RAPID RESPONSE TEAMS
(RRTS)

The World Health Organization (WHO) has been steadfast in supporting the Government’s response to and recover from COVID-19 as the UN’s pandemic coordinator. WHO led efforts to conduct risk assessments with the Ministry of Health, to develop plans and procedures, and supported the training of critical care teams to manage severe cases. WHO assisted the Government to set up points of entry screening in international ports, establish isolation and quarantine facilities, train and activate Rapid Response Teams (RRTs), and urgent capacity building of over 100 health professionals. WHO coordinated UN contributions to developing the COVID-19 Preparedness & Response Plan and Standard Operating Procedures in consultation with global and regional experts.

WHO continues to support the strengthening of national testing capacity. Prior to the establishment of in-country testing, WHO facilitated the transfer of samples abroad and supported Maldives to establish and develop in-country testing capacity. WHO has donated more than 65,000 testing kits and are working closely with UNDP to procure 25,000 SARS-CoV-2 GeneXpert cartridges and essential equipment for regional COVID19 treatment facilities. UNDP’s global procurement unit is working on procuring Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) for the response as well. Under WHO’s work to strengthen surveillance, the Go.Data tool was introduced, and the support has been extended to operationalize over 75 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) since the beginning of the community spread in April 2020

As part of WHO’s efforts to assist upgrading of infrastructure and capacity building of healthcare facilities, work is underway to set up 2 more RT-PCR laboratories in the northern and southern regions. Additionally, critical equipment was handed over to the Ministry of Health to operationalize an ICU facility with a 20 bed capacity and decentralize critical care to 5 regions across the country. WHO in partnership with European Union also supported the operationalization of the COVID-19 Medical Facility in Hulhumale’.

Through the joint project under the COVID-19 Multi-Partner Trust Fund, WHO is working jointly with the Ministry of Gender, Family & Social Services (MoGFSS) to establish a high dependency and critical care set up for the Home for People with Special Needs (HPSN) in K. Guraidhoo. WHO has further supported the MoGFSS to protect elderly people through logistical support to maintain sanitation services and prevent infection.



CRITICAL CARE EQUIPMENT & PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



Photo by: ©WHO Maldives

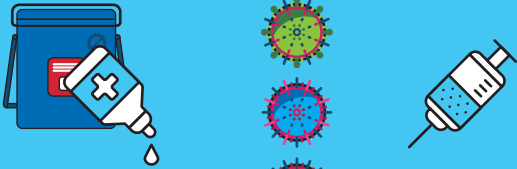




**UNITED NATIONS
MALDIVES**



**COVID-19
RESPONSE**



200,000+
MEASLES VACCINES &
COLD CHAIN EQUIPMENT

38,000+
LIFE-SAVING
VACCINES



UNICEF’s contributions to the COVID-19 response include the provision of over 151,000 pieces of personal protection equipment and 5,000 testing kits to the Ministry of Health. To ensure the continuity of essential health services amid the pandemic, UNICEF financed and delivered over 200,000 doses of measles vaccines and cold chain equipment, and assisted in the procurement of an additional 38,000 doses of life-saving vaccines. UNICEF is providing additional human resources to assist with the running of a health facility in Male’ which provides immunization and nutritional services to children and women. Moreover, UNICEF has obtained over 2000 hand sanitizer bottles and 37,000 hand-washing soap to schools across the country.



**ESSENTIAL WATER
TESTING KITS
& TOOLS FOR
COMMUNITIES**



**40
PRISON OFFICERS
TRAINED**



**SIGNING OF JOINT PROJECTS FUNDED BY SDG FUND
& COVID19 MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND (MPTF)**

UNDP is collaborating with the Ministry of Environment to procure essential water testing kits and co-designing tools for groundwater recharge and rainwater harvesting to support over 50 communities to improve water security at island level. UNFPA in partnership with the Government of Australia, are also ensuring provision of reproductive health equipment and personal protective equipment amid the pandemic and working to increase awareness on reproductive health and gender-based violence in the context of COVID-19.

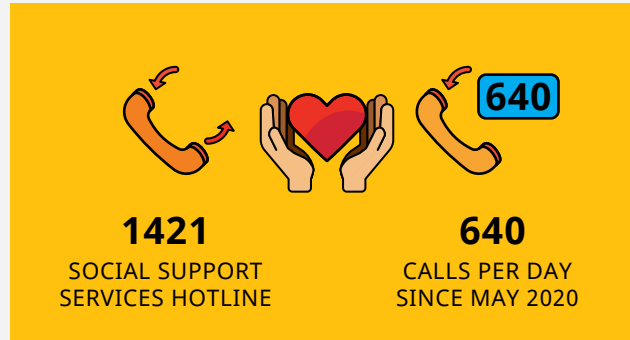
As part of the response, UNODC with assistance from the European Union, contributed key health care equipment and personal protective equipment including surgical masks, hand sanitizers, gloves and disinfection dissolvable tablets to the Maldives Correctional Service and conducted an online training on the prevention and containment of viruses in places of detention for over 40 prison officers. UNODC is also continuing technical support on maintaining health and safety in prisons in Maldives and presented the Dhivehi translation of the Nelson Mandela Rules to the Government.

UN Maldives, together with the UN Police Division’s Standing Policy Capacity, convened workshops for the Maldives Police Service from 28 June to 2 July on promoting human rights in law enforcement in the context of a public health emergency.

Photo by: ©Ministry of Foreign Affairs



ENHANCING SOCIAL PROTECTION & BASIC SERVICES

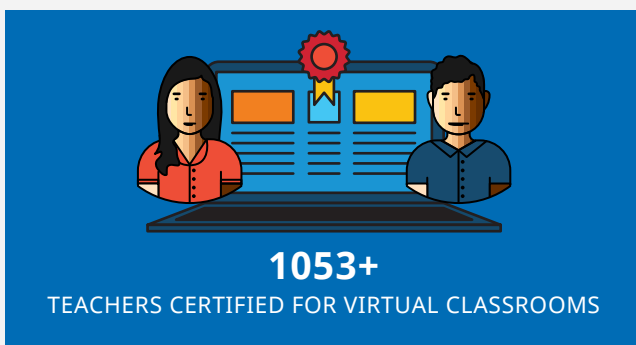


UNICEF provided social protection support to vulnerable groups during the lockdown. Over 600 households were reached with essential care packages, and individuals in temporary shelters were provided daily meals in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Family & Social Services. Additionally, UNICEF partnered with local NGO Advocating the Rights of Children (ARC) to reach over 90 vulnerable families with basic social protection in the islands. UNICEF is currently supporting the capacity building of social workers working in child protection with over 185 hours of supervision through ongoing training and mentoring sessions.

The financial and technical support from UNICEF and UNDP has enabled the establishment and operationalization of the new social support services hotline (1421) of the Government, which will enable the hotline to respond to an increased number of calls for help from victims of domestic violence and vulnerable groups that need assistance amid the pandemic. According to the Government, the helpline receives an average of 640 calls per day since its establishment on 20 May.

UNICEF, WHO, UNDP and UNFPA are also working closely with the Government to address rising mental health issues arising due to the COVID-19 crisis with UNICEF leading the support for the expansion of mental health and psychosocial support services throughout the country. UNDP is supporting provision of legal aid to those impacted by the pandemic and victims of violence through local CSOs and the Bar Council of Maldives.

ENSURING CONTINUITY OF LEARNING



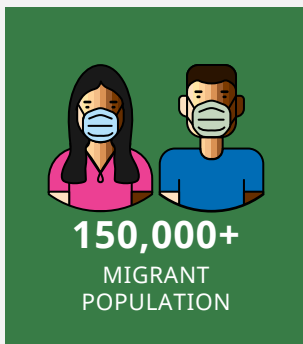
UNICEF is aiding the Government to formulate and implement the Emergency Education Response Plan. As part of the introduction of distance learning, UNICEF is supporting the training and certification of teachers on Google Classroom. To date, over 1053 teachers have been certified by Google. Furthermore, UNICEF is also assisting the Ministry of Education to roll out the "Back to School" Campaign and has so far provided infection prevention and control supplies for all 213 schools across Maldives and oriented over 5400 teachers on psychological first aid.

Photo by: ©UNICEF/UNI336017/Preechapanich

SUPPORTING ECONOMIC RECOVERY & FOOD SECURITY

UNDP assisted in securing a grant aid package through the Government of Japan, which will benefit the Government and entrepreneurs by enabling greater investments to address and diversify the economic base, explore new avenues of entrepreneurship, and contribute to the overall objective of stimulating economic growth in the long-term. As part of the UN Maldives Socioeconomic Response, a rapid livelihoods assessment was completed by UNDP and national stakeholders to understand the impacts of COVID-19. The report details the economic overview, impact of the crisis on employment in the tourism sector, and the impact of the crisis on MSMEs. An economic diversification project was formulated to respond to the initial findings of the assessment, to support the current efforts to strengthen food security and local production, through incorporation of modern climate-smart practices, and build capacity to reinforce the current recovery roadmap plans of the Government.

To address the challenges related to Maldives' dependency on food imports which has been further impacted by the crisis, the IFAD started the Maldives Agribusiness Programme (MAP) in June 2020, with an investment of US\$ 12.9 million. FAO has an ongoing assessment of the food security, whilst providing support to strengthen the national capacity to expand production and to introduce new high yielding varieties of traditional crops to the farmers.



ADVOCATING FOR SOCIAL COHESION & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

IOM, together with the Maldivian Red Crescent, is advocating for the rights and access to services for the migrant population (comprising close to 150,000), including undocumented workers who are facing stigma and discrimination during the pandemic. Migrant workers are the group most vulnerable to, and impacted by, the virus due to their very poor and congested living conditions.

UNDP partnered with the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment, the Youth Council and Ooredoo Maldives to organize the 5th social innovation camp "Miyaheli" with over 70 participants to create innovative ideas to aid the nation in its COVID-19 response and recovery efforts themed around education, health, food security and livelihoods, prevention of violence, and social cohesion.

WHO and UNICEF support the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) pillar of the Health Emergency Operations to combat misinformation during the pandemic by supporting development of awareness materials and enhancing technical support, human resources, and funding.

In order to ensure business continuity of essential services, UNDP has supported the justice sector agencies to digitalize their services. Courts in Male', and Magistrate Courts in the islands are the key focus. The Judicial Service Commission, Employment Tribunal, Attorney General's Office will also be supported in their digital transformation efforts.

Photo by: @Mohamed Nash'ath