

**Maldives Situation Report #15/2005**  
**Effects of Tsunami on 26 December 2004**

**Date: 11 January 2005 (15 days after disaster)**  
**Prepared by UN Country Team, Male', Maldives**

## **I. SITUATION**

The UN Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan concluded his visit to the Maldives yesterday. The SG noted that the country has experienced a national disaster, with significant implications for the economy. He urged that recovery efforts, now underway, should be well planned and coordinated with the Government, the UN and the IFIs to ensure "recovery plus," in other words, recovery that aims to improve on the pre-disaster status quo.

The joint GOM-UN-IFI assessment for recovery and reconstruction is underway.

The Office of the UN RC has established a web site with information on disaster response in the Maldives. It includes information such as contact lists, assessment reports, government data, and meeting schedules. It can be accessed at <http://202.1.199.67/drtf/index.html>.

Starting today, the Situation Report for the Maldives will be produced every other day. The next SitRep for the Maldives will be produced on 13 January.

## **II. UPDATE BY SECTOR**

According to the GOM, the overall situation in the Maldives is serious, but not critical.

### **Agriculture/fisheries**

A two-person FAO team from Sri Lanka arrived on 10 January to assess the impact of the tsunami on the fisheries and agriculture sectors. Today, they are on field visits to get an overview of the situation on the islands and will return to assist with the joint GOM-UN-IFI assessment.

### **Education**

The MoE's reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts will focus on 79 schools across the country that have been affected to varying degrees.

### **Environment**

A UNEP waste disposal expert arrived in Male' today and is working with the UNDAC environment specialist to complete the assessment the needs for waste removal, which will feed into the joint GOM-UN-IFI assessment.

### **Health:**

The MoH stressed the need for cross-sectoral coordination, particularly for health and water and sanitation. Health trends are as follows:

	Male'	Rest of country	Total
Diarrhoea	531	119	650
ARI	13	161	174
Viral fever	79	519	598
Fever with vomiting	3	11	14

*Cumulative totals: 26 December 2004---11 January 2005*

*Source: MOH, data for 11 January 2005*

### **Logistics, transport, communication**

Logistics problems remain a serious issue. The government does not have sufficient vessels to transport goods. The GoM and UNDAC have requested landing crafts and several member states have indicated that they will provide them (see sitrep of 10 January). IFRC is delivering four rubhalls. WFP is expected to provide two rubhalls to store up to 1000 Mts of relief supplies. An additional four rubhalls are expected in the coming weeks. Delivery is being coordinated by Logistics Bangkok. All mobile base stations are restored. Mobile phone coverage is now at pre-disaster levels.

### **Nutrition**

Children's nutrition is a growing concern. There will be for children: there will be a sector meeting today at 1600 to discuss (WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, Save the Children, Govt)

### **Power:**

A 10-person team from the British navy has arrived and is assessing the status of generators and will make repairs as necessary. All but five islands have power, but of these islands, all are evacuated.

### **Shelter**

3,000 houses are uninhabitable and 4,700 need major repair or total reconstruction. In the next two days, the first stage of construction of temporary shelters will be completed in Hulumale (there will be accommodation for 4,000 people when complete). UNDP has started minor repairs in Muli and Naalafushi.

### **Water and Sanitation**

10-12 islands have reported water shortages (i.e., supplies of less than one week), but all islands have at least 3-4 days supply and mobile desalination plants are being deployed to replenish supplies. THW has rehabilitated 40 wells: 15 on Vilufushi island and 25 on Kohlufushi island.

## **III NATIONAL RESPONSE**

As of next week, operations in the Crisis Centre will scale back, and staff will begin to return to their offices.

The GOM announced that the daily 1800 coordination meeting will now take place every two days at 1100 hrs. The next meeting will be Wednesday, 12 January at 11hrs.

The GOM reiterated that manifests for aid shipments be sent to the Government well in advance to ensure more efficient processing and reduce bottlenecks. There is limited warehouse storage capacity at the airport. Please send manifests in advance to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of External Resources: [der@foreign.gov.mv](mailto:der@foreign.gov.mv); fax: +960 317 592; copied to the Task Force's Aid Coordination Unit: [rshareef@dhivehinet.net.mv](mailto:rshareef@dhivehinet.net.mv) and UNDP's focal point for logistics: [shaheem.razee@undp.org](mailto:shaheem.razee@undp.org).

## **IV. COUNTRY-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE**

The UNRC/HC and the UNDAC team met with the French navy delegation who have been tasked to the north of the country to assist with medical aid where required and transportation of humanitarian aid. The French navy delegation anticipate being in the north for two days, returning to Male' then returning to the south for two days. Anticipated length of time in country is six days, which is subject to change.

### **UNDP**

Mr. A.J. (Loy) Rego, Director, Disaster Management Systems and Mr. Zubair Murshed, Disaster Risk Project Manager from the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, Thailand has arrived in Male as consultants for the UNDP Country Team.

### **UNFPA**

Two workshops are being held by UNFPA to address some of the psychosocial aspects of disaster and what medical doctors and other health staff need to be aware of. UNFPA is supplying Mother and Baby Kits for the Tsunami affected expecting mothers. 100 such kits are being procured initially.

### **UNHCR**

UNHCR visited Kalaafanu school, Male and Majeediyya school Male, on 10 and 11 January. Both schools have been converted into IDP relief centres. Conditions in both were good, IDPs spoken to had no complaints. As of today, only Majeediyya School remains as an IDP relief centre, with 123 persons accommodated there. The Centre at Kalaafanu closed, as nearly all the IDPs have returned home to Guraidhoo island, the 23 who did not, were transferred to Majeediyya School. The visits to the schools were facilitated by UNICEF. (*for more details on Kalaafanu, see section under UNICEF*).

### **UNICEF**

UNICEF, in association with the Maldives Water and Sanitation Authority, will train 10 people to support the community and individual household rehabilitation, and possible reconstruction. A revised list of cold chain equipment requirements was sent by the government and UNICEF is currently procuring the supplies. The tsunami destroyed most of the weighing scales and the growth monitoring cards both in the health centres and in households. 500 new weighing scales (UNISCALE) already arrived and will be distributed to the health centres that are operational.

The Ministry of Education, WFP and UNICEF made collaboration today to start a nutritional snack project and distribute fortified high energy biscuits to schoolchildren when schools reopen on 25 January. Reconstruction of 21 temporary classes have been contracted. This will include toilets and quarters for expatriate teachers.

UNICEF and UNHCR visited a Relief Camp site at Kalaafanu School on 10 January and observed the following:

- 73 people from K. Guraidhoo island have taken shelter in the school. --31 men (mainly elderly and ill), 32 women and 10 children.
- 53 people moved back to their home island yesterday. Some more are to leave today.
- The volunteers/counsellors who received PFA training from the Red Cross International team are now working in the field. These volunteers also received a crash course special training on how to deal with children, especially on drawing and other creative activities that will get children to communicate.

### **WFP**

WFP met with the Ministry of Education together with UNICEF to discuss the distribution of biscuits in the schools. WFP is waiting to meet with the Minister of Education to formalize the operational plan.

## **V. CONSTRAINTS**

(remains valid)

- Lack of equipment and machinery to clear up debris so that reconstruction of islands can begin. Population dispersion over 200 islands scattered over 900 kms which means that

even small quantities of aid have to be transported to every island by boat, sea plane or helicopter.

- On most islands, access is designed for small boats, thereby restricting the amounts of supplies and equipment that can be delivered at any one time.
- Inclement weather (as in the past two days) restricts travel by boat and plane and hampers delivery of aid.
- Small groups of residents remain on heavily damaged islands to look for and protect valuables and properties.
- As a result of the above the country and its people remain vulnerable to continuing effects of the disaster.

## **VI. GOVERNMENT REQUESTS**

The GOM stated that as of 11 January, they will post at the Crisis Centre a list of requested items, as well as information to whom the requests have been sent.

## **IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE**

### Government requests

**In order to ensure that appropriate aid and quantities are sent to the country, please consult with the Government's Crisis Task Force through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of External Resources: der@foreign.gov.mv.**

### Priority needs

Transport and logistical coordination continue to remain the main priorities of the government given the dispersion and the difficult conditions to be endured for aid delivery. Aid has to be delivered to each the 200 islands individually and can be done in small boats or using other means of light transport.

## **V. CHANNELS FOR DELIVERY OF INTERNATIONAL AID**

### 15. Cash contributions

The Government has set up bank accounts for cash donations:

Ministry of Finance and Treasury Disaster Relief Fund

Bank of Maldives

Account No (Foreign currency): 7701- 147 900- 002

Account No (Local currency): 7701- 147 900- 001

Bank swift code: MALBMVMV

## **VI. INTERNATIONAL PLEDGES AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

### **Foreign Assistance update**

#### **(to be changed by UNDAC)**

Total cash amount committed/pledged: US \$23,929,196

Total value in kind: US\$ 5,500,089

Total (cash & kind): US\$ 29,429,286

*Source: MoForeign Affairs/DER 11 January 2005*

## **VII. OTHER INFORMATION**

### Field office contact

Aishath Jeelaan, Communications Officer, United Nations Resident Coordinator System, Tel: (960) 324501 ext. 227, mob: (960) 787 987.

Expected date of next report:  
12<sup>th</sup> January 2005.