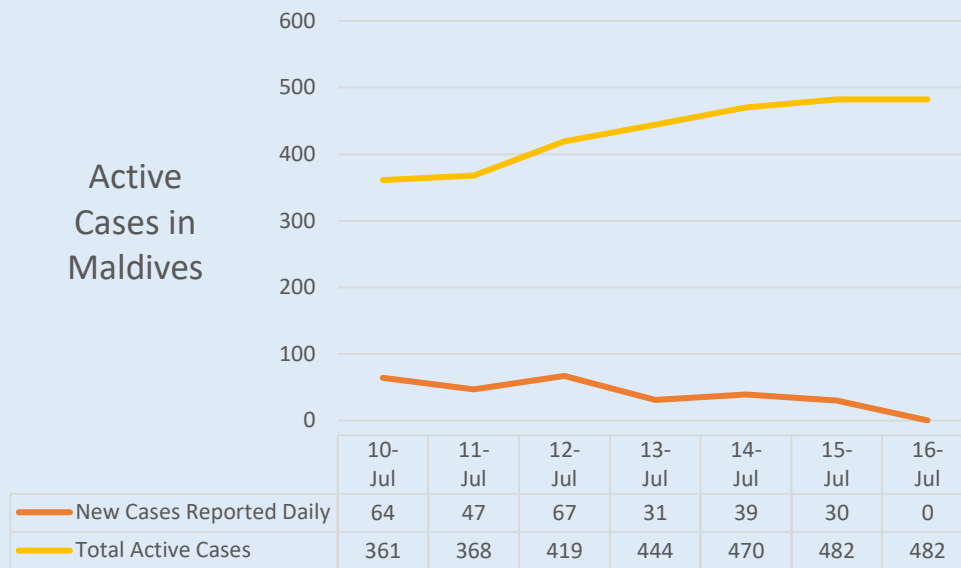




- A **total of 2831 cases** have tested positive in Maldives with 482 active cases, and 2321 recoveries, and 15 reported deaths as of 16 July. The **highest daily peak this week was 67**.
- Since the first case of community spread was reported on 15 April 2020 in Greater Male' area, authorities have so far identified over 20,000 contacts through contact tracing but have not yet identified initial source of contraction, with the patient having not travelled or interacted with a positive case.
- Alert levels were raised to red (level IV) and a temporary lock down has been implemented effective 1530 on 15 April 2020 with further eases to lockdown implemented from 1 July

	Confirmed Cases	2831
	Recoveries	2321
	Isolation Facilities	423
	Quarantine Facilities	32
	Active Cases in Maldives	482



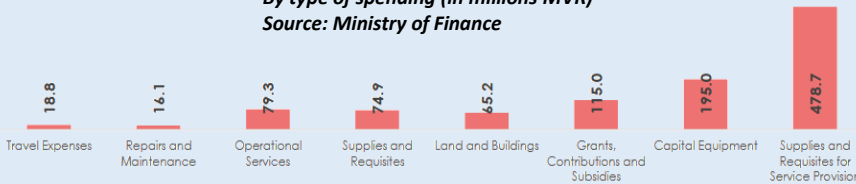
Public Health Risk Alert Levels	
Greater Male' Area	<b>Red</b>
National	<b>Yellow</b>
WHO Risk Assessment	
Global level	<b>Very high</b>
Global status	<b>Pandemic</b>

Updates from [Health Protection Agency](#) as of 22:09, 15 July 2020

## Economic Sector

- The Ministry of Finance published the tenth [Spending Report](#) on 13 July 2020:
- MVR 1042.9 million (US\$ 67.6 million)** has been spent on health response (9 July), a **1.4%** increase from last week with the frontline authorities including National Disaster Management Authority, continuing to account for most of the spending for COVID-19 operations.
- MVR 417.2 million (US\$ 27.1 million)** has been spent on the socioeconomic response (9 July), consisting of payments disbursed as financial support and relief to individuals, households and businesses affected by the pandemic.

By type of spending (in millions MVR)  
Source: Ministry of Finance



- The Asian Arbitration Center [ordered](#) the Housing Development Corporation to pay **US\$ 22.8 million** to Malaysian Company WZR over the planned Finance Ministry building proposed in the previous administration in 2016. This will impact the limited resources of the Government amid the pandemic.
- Maldives [opened its borders](#) for international flights, the first flight arriving on 15 July with 107 tourists and 24 locals. At the event held to mark the reopening of borders, Economic Minister and Acting Minister of Tourism, Fayyaz Ismail stated that he does not believe that there would be a need to impose a [second lockdown](#) on Maldives for a second time.

## Political Sector

- All 7 charges against former Vice President Ahmed Adeb, with regards to the Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC)'s embezzlement scandal, worth over MVR 1.3 billion were [dropped](#) by the Criminal Court on 14 July. It is expected that the Government will appeal this decision.
- Speaker of the Parliament [called to dissolve](#) the Presidential Committee on Deaths and Disappearances and the Committee on Asset Recovery given the impact of COVID-19 on the state finances, stating that the Committees have failed to fulfil their mandates in a reasonable timeframe.
- Some members of the [Human Rights Commission](#) and [National Integrity Commission](#) resigned amid impending dismissal by the Parliament's Committee on Human Rights & Gender.
- The Minister of Youth urged NGOs to refrain from engaging in social media activity that might [threaten](#) peace and national security.

## Health & Social Sector

- The number of positive cases recorded reached 2831 with 2 [new reported deaths](#) bringing total up to 15.
- The Government has pledged to pay [pending risk allowances](#) for frontline workers by August 2020
- Maldives Police Service has [launched a search](#) for 8 undocumented Bangladeshi nationals, after they fled from a quarantine facility unauthorized.
- Protests took place amongst migrant workers in Hulhumale' with regards to several months of unpaid wages following the arrest of 41 workers. The Police released a statement on 13 July stating that strict [legal action](#) will be taken against those who resorted to violence during the protests.
- Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has [called](#) on President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih to adopt "appropriate sanctions" in the sexual harassment allegations against the President's Director of Communications. A protest was also held on 12 July calling to ensure perpetrators of sexual harassment are held accountable.
- Human Rights Watch released a statement on 15 July describing the Maldivian Government's [recent restriction on protests and assemblies](#) as a violation of fundamental rights. This was following the declaration by the Ministry of Home Affairs stating that [protests and gatherings](#) can only be held with prior written consent by the Police.
- The Maldives Meteorological Service (MET Office) has warned of severe weather over some regions of Maldives with several islands in the central and southern atolls experiencing rising tides and sea swells.



## Health & Social Sector

- The Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC) urged offices in the greater Male' area against holding unnecessary physical meetings due to the spike in number of daily COVID-19 cases following easing of restrictions.
- Health Protection Agency (HPA) conducted a mass public inspection on 12 July and [inspected](#) over 1400 businesses and other establishments to check if they were following public health guidelines.
- Maldives Immigration declared that all travelers must submit a [health declaration](#) 24 hours prior to travel. Tourists can fill and submit their health declarations via the online portal 'Imuga'.
- Travel to India has been facilitated under the national insurance scheme Aasandha for a [second batch](#) of Maldivian patients who require critical treatment unavailable in Maldives.
- The Economic Ministry has [changed regulations](#) so that expatriates employed in the Maldives with valid employment approvals can return to the country without obtaining a special permit following opening of borders.
- The Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services [launched](#) a 3-month national campaign titled 'Geveshi Gulhun' to create awareness on domestic abuse and violence.
- Discussions have been held at the President's Office with the National Security Council (NSC) and relevant stakeholders regarding measures that can be implemented to [address the issue of ongoing protests](#) by expatriate workers due to unpaid wages.

## Political Sector

- 152 undocumented workers were repatriated to Bangladesh via Maldivian airlines on 16 July.
- Minister of Economic Development, Fayyaz Ismail has been temporary put in charge of the Tourism Ministry following dismissal of former Minister Ali Waheed due to alleged sexual misconduct.
- The Government has opened for applications for members of [Human Rights Commission](#) and [National Integrity Commission](#).
- Ministry of Home Affairs [declared](#) that street protests, marches, parades, and other gatherings can only be held with "prior written approval by Maldives Police Service", with the exemption of the carnival area in capital Male'. The declaration was made in accordance with the controversial first amendment ratified by former President Yameen, to the Freedom of Peaceful Assembly Act in August 2016.
- Prosecutor General, Hussain Shameem announced the decision to [appeal](#) the Criminal Court's decision to reject the 7 charges raised against former Vice President Ahmed Adeen at a press conference held on 14 July. Following this decision, the Judicial Service Commission announced a [disciplinary investigation](#) into Criminal Court Judge Ismail Rasheed on 15 July.

## Economic Sector

- The Government published [FAQs for the New Normal](#) for visiting Maldives following removal of all travel restrictions on 15 July.
- President Solih [visited](#) Velana International Airport on 14 July to check the special arrangements and precautionary measures in place to ensure social distancing and screening passengers for COVID-19 symptoms.
- President Solih met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and executives of the Ministry to discuss [foreign policy priorities](#) taking into account the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.



<b>Immediate Health Response</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>UNICEF</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy &amp; technical support to the Health Emergency Coordination Committee (HECC)</li> <li>• Handed over an additional 4000 E gene assays and critical lab equipment including RNase extraction, Qiacube RNA Extraction Machine and consumables to Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH)</li> <li>• Strengthening regional capacity by handing over of necessary items for 2 ICU set ups and 8 Bio Safety cabinets for strengthening laboratory functions</li> <li>• Technical guidance for airport drills in preparation to open borders</li> <li>• Published Maldives Go.Data success story in collaboration with WHO SEARO and Health Protection Agency (HPA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to the Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC) coordination group on continuing the COVID-19 pandemic response.</li> <li>• Procurement of PPE and critical medical equipment and supplies to ensure safety and protection of frontline workers and control of infection. The shipment is scheduled to arrive on 19th July 2020.</li> <li>• Advocacy &amp; support to ensure continuation of essential health services (immunization, ANC) under new normal measures.</li> <li>• Over 3000 school teachers oriented on Psychological First Aid by MRC in partnership with UNICEF &amp; Ministry of Education</li> </ul>

	<b>Pillar 1 - Health First: Protecting Health Services &amp; Systems</b>	<b>Pillar 2 - Protecting People: Social Protection &amp; Basic Services</b>	<b>Pillar 3 - Economic Response &amp; Recovery</b>	<b>Pillar 5 - Social Cohesion &amp; Community Resilience</b>
<b>Socioeconomic Response</b>	<p><b>WHO:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing technical support to Ministry of Health to review the current structure and departmental functions</li> <li>• Completed clinical management training on dengue and chikungunya for all health facilities of 19 atolls</li> <li>• Technical assistance to develop Mental Health Training Packages based on WHO Mental Health Guidance for workers</li> </ul> <p><b>UNICEF:</b></p> <p>Ongoing work with national partners on developing and disseminating key messages on the importance of Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices</p> <p><b>UNDP:</b></p> <p>Procurement of PPE items and water testing kits supported by the Rapid Response Facility and support for diagnostic testing kits for regional hospitals with WHO</p>	<p><b>Joint Agency Efforts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHO, UNICEF &amp; UNFPA contributed to Health Working Group meetings of the National Recovery Taskforce</li> <li>• UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA &amp; WHO joint UN program on Mental Health &amp; Psychosocial Support with Maldivian Red Crescent, local NGO SHE, and Centre for Mental Health for expanding and enhancing services</li> </ul> <p><b>UNICEF:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical support through ongoing supervision of social workers of the Ministry of Gender, Family &amp; Social Services with an aim to improve the quality of service. From 10 June- 10 July, 65 supervision sessions were held with additional guidance on specific cases.</li> <li>• Held a learning session for 49 social workers in partnership with Martin James Foundation UK, to improve their capacity to work with adolescents</li> <li>• Continuing collaboration with Ministry of Education on the “Back to School Campaign – “Ufalun Schoolah”</li> <li>• The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) granted \$750,000 for the Education Emergency Response Proposal submitted by UNICEF on behalf of the Ministry of Education. Around 50% of the funds will go for critical capital investments in the education sector while the rest will go into building an enabling environment for teachers, improving capacity for planning and monitoring during COVID-19 and improving learning through remedial support to students in the 213 Government Schools.</li> <li>• Ongoing certification of teachers in Google G-suite with a total of 700 teachers certified to date. A total of 100 certified teachers have started Google Instructor Level training.</li> <li>• Procurement of cleaning and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) supplies (US\$ 155,000) to all 213 Government Schools</li> <li>• Working with Gender Ministry &amp; partners on a nationwide campaign to combat sexual violence against children &amp; women.</li> </ul> <p><b>WHO:</b></p> <p>Technical health support to the “Back to School Campaign” including development of videos on disinfection</p>	<p><b>UNDP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to Transparency Maldives to provide legal aid to workers facing employment issues due to COVID-19</li> <li>• First session of National Dialogues Series on MSME Response and Recovery following COVID-19 Crisis conducted with Business Center Cooperation on Intelligence &amp; Business Continuity Planning for small businesses</li> <li>• Next phase of the Rapid Assessment to understand the extent and nature of impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the Maldives economy, and on employment &amp; MSMEs</li> </ul>	<p><b>Joint Agency Efforts:</b></p> <p>UNICEF &amp; WHO supporting Risk Communications &amp; Community Engagement (RCCE) of the Health Emergency Operations Centre</p> <p><b>UNICEF:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported printing of posters and billboards on adapting to the new normal for installation in greater Male’ region and islands.</li> <li>• Distributed IEC materials and floor stickers for physical distancing to shops in Male’ area with support from Maldives National Cadet Corps and Maldivian Red Crescent</li> </ul> <p><b>UNDP:</b></p> <p>Podcast series highlighting frontline workers in COVID-19 response with this week’s focus on Maldivian Red Crescent’s work on establishing the Migrant Relief Fund.</p>

