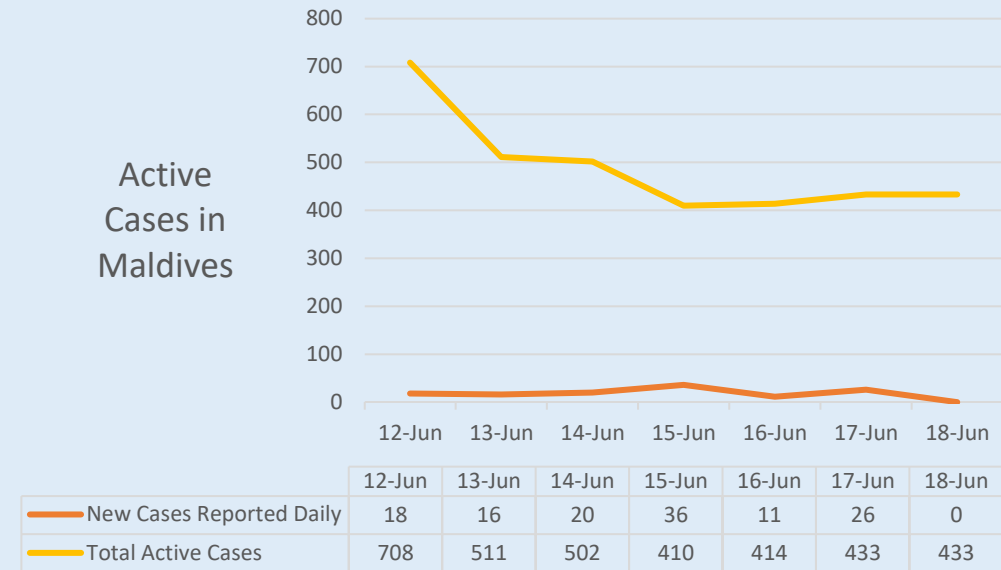


- A **total of 2120 cases** have tested positive in Maldives with 433 active cases, and 1677 recoveries, and 8 reported deaths as of 18 June.
- Since the first case of community spread was reported on 15 April 2020 in Greater Male' area, authorities have so far identified over 15,000 contacts through 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 announced on 15 June

	Confirmed Cases	2120
	Recoveries	1677
	Isolation Facilities	453
	Quarantine Facilities	356
	Active Cases in Maldives	433



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

Updates from [Covid19 Dashboard](#) as of 21:19, 17 June 2020

Health & Social Sector

- Further [easement measures](#) to the lockdown are being implemented starting 15 June and all precautionary measures implemented in all inhabited islands outside Greater Male' have been lifted.
- This week's highest daily figure of infection peaked at 36. There are a total of 433 active patients, 8 recorded deaths as of 18 June.
- As of 3 June, 754 buildings/apartments remain under monitoring with over 15,00 contacts identified through contact tracing.
- Schools across the country are [scheduled to re-open](#) on 1 July with precautionary measures including temporary suspension of the Government's school breakfast initiative.
- The Waste Management Corporation will continue ongoing precautionary measures for waste collection services till 1 August.
- A resolution calling for an inquiry into the [systemic oppression of women](#), has been submitted by Deputy Speaker, MP Eva Abdulla and passed by the Parliament. The resolution was forwarded to the Committee on Human Rights and Gender for further review.
- A number of gender equality advocates originating from local NGOs Family Legal Clinic (FLC), Nufoshey and Uthema Maldives demanded that rape and sexual offences be declared as serious criminal offences.
- The Prosecutor General has forwarded [46 cases](#) of sexual offence to court during lockdown.

Economic Sector

- President Solih stated that the State's expected revenue for 2020 will drop by [approximately US\\$ 1 billion](#) during the inaugural meeting of the National Taskforce on Resilience Building and Economic Recovery.
- The Ministry of Finance reported that the economy is expected to contract by **11.5%** in 2020. The Ministry is facing challenges in establishing an economic outlook for the year given the possibility of a second wave.
- The World Bank [reported](#) that if the lockdown persists, preventing tourists from returning in 2020, GDP is expected to drop by **17.5%**. In the medium-term, the Maldives is expected to make a slow but steady recovery with a projected GDP growth in 2021 between **7.9 - 8.5%**.
- The Finance Minister proposed to parliament to [delay the implementation](#) of the minimum wage given the economic impact of COVID-19.
- The European Investment Bank (EIB) [granted a loan](#) of **EUR 20 million** to assist in economic recovery by supporting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) operating in the tourism and industry sectors.
- The Maldives Inland Revenue Authority (MIRA) revealed that the total revenue for May was **MVR 206.28 million (US\$ 13.4 million)**, an **81%** drop compared to the same month last year.

Political Sector

- The Parliament building was [evacuated](#) on 17 June after an administrative employee tested positive for COVID-19.
- The Parliament's committee on member's privileges & ethics are [looking into](#) events that led to the injury of Naifaru constituency MP Ahmed Shiyam, during a sitting held in early June regarding Local Council Elections.
- The Parliament accepted the [Police Service Bill](#) aiming to ensure police operations and services are provided in accordance with the Maldives constitution, human rights and constitutional conventions and has forwarded it to the Committee on National Security Services for review.
- The Elections Commission (EC) outlined that candidates who filed candidacy papers for the now-delayed Local Council Elections will be provided the opportunity to withdraw their candidacy.



Government Response

Health & Social Sector

- In his remarks to the inaugural meeting of the National Taskforce on Resilience Building and Economic Recovery on 17 June, President Solih stated that Maldives is well-positioned to begin a strong economic recovery .
- The National Emergency Operations Centre has commenced random sampling of 5 groups including frontline workers, correctional officers, senior citizens, people living in congested communal living spaces and people between 20 and 39 years to determine the level of community spread following easing of lockdown restrictions.
- The TAG team changed its policy on home quarantine for individuals being repatriated from abroad and traveling from Greater Male' to other inhabited islands to be tested for COVID-19 after 14 days.
- A BioFire COVID-19 testing machine was installed at Addu Equatorial Hospital with the capacity to conduct 24 tests per day.
- Ministry of Islamic Affairs will [facilitate arrangements](#) for Hajj pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia if it is permitted by the Saudi Government this year.
- A sunset bill was submitted to Parliament on 17 June, making it mandatory for landlords to issue a minimum of [2-months notice prior to eviction](#) of tenants amid the pandemic.
- The Government of India has [approved](#) the transport of medical equipment procured by the State Trading Organization (STO).

Political Sector

- President Solih [appointed](#) Mohamed Aslam as Minister of National Planning, Housing & Infrastructure after merging Housing & Planning Ministries following the resignation of the Minister for Housing and Urban Development (due to ill health) at the end of last week.
- Parliament's draft of the new Police Bill grants [substantive authority](#) to its Standing Committee on National Security Services (241 Committee) if passed.
- Repatriation efforts:
 - 370 Maldivians in Malaysia were repatriated on 15 and 17 June
 - 569 Bangladeshi nationals were repatriated within the past week
 - 156 Indian nationals were repatriated on 17 June

Economic Sector

- On 16 June, the government revealed that MVR 325 million in loans [were issued](#) to various businesses via Bank of Maldives (BML) and the Small-Medium Businesses Development Financial Corporation (SDFC).
- The Health Protection Agency (HPA) publicised draft guidelines permitting tourists to enter Maldives without testing for COVID-19.
- The Parliament has presented its [advisory](#) regarding the first draft of the Maldives Safe Tourism Guideline (MSTG) report, compiled by the Ministry of Tourism, to President Solih.
- The Parliament has passed a bill to not collect [additional fees or taxes](#) from tourists, as the country prepares to reopen its border in July.
- The government estimates [approximately 908,000 tourists](#) to visit in 2020 as opposed to the 1.7 million tourists that visited in 2019.





Health Response

- WHO:**
- Handed over essential medicines consisting of 50,000 Ampules of Fentanyl and 700 vials of Midazolam to the Ministry of Health
 - Provided technical support to:
 - Update the Home Quarantine guidelines
 - Refine and update guidelines for next phase of easing out lockdown restrictions,
 - Issue guidance on 1) COVID-19 and pregnancy, childbirth, and breast-feeding, and 2) disinfecting & sterilizing to prepare for reopening of schools

Socioeconomic Response

Health First: Protecting Health Services & Systems	Protecting People: Social Protection & Basic Services	Economic Response & Recovery	Macroeconomic Response & Multilateral Collaboration	Social Cohesion & Community Resilience
<p>WHO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized a virtual campaign for World Blood Donor Day to thank donors & raise awareness on the need for safe blood and encourage donations amid the pandemic • Initiated online training on clinical management of Dengue & Chikungunya for all health facilities in the country. The training commenced in HDh, Baa, Dhaalu and Alif Dhaalu Atoll initially with over 150 clinicians, nurses & public health staff • Submitted the Annual Leprosy Statistics Report 2019 to the global DHIS2 application system including drug procurement requisition for the year 2021. • Ensuring continued immunization services in Greater Male and other islands <p>UNICEF & UNFPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy for the continuation of essential health & note the importance of monitoring & reporting routine services 	<p>UNICEF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched the Education Response Plan for COVID-19 (ERP) with Ministry of Education on 17 June to guide the safe reopening of schools • Supporting the training of teachers on psychological first aid in preparation for school reopening with the Ministry of Education & Maldivian Red Crescent • Launched an online storytelling program for children named "Vaahakaige Dhuniye" aiming to promote literacy and child-parent interaction under the social limitations of the crisis 	<p>All agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic discussions with the President's office regarding the development of the Resilient Maldives Concept by the President's National Taskforce on Resilience Building & Economic Recovery • Engagement of agencies in the technical working groups of the taskforce for developing the Resilient Maldives Concept 	<p>UNDP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed the project document amounting to US\$1.4 million on the Japan-funded COVID-19 recovery project with Government of Maldives. The project will be implemented by partners including Agro National Corporation (AgroNat), Housing Development Corporation (HDC) and the Business Center Corporation (BCC). between June 2020 - March 2021. 	<p>Joint Agency Efforts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By WHO and UNICEF for the Risk Communication and Community Engagement pillar under the NEOC <p>UNDP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring possibility of expanding access of 'Thaana Mallow' application for migrant workers with smartphones who understand Maldivian language.

