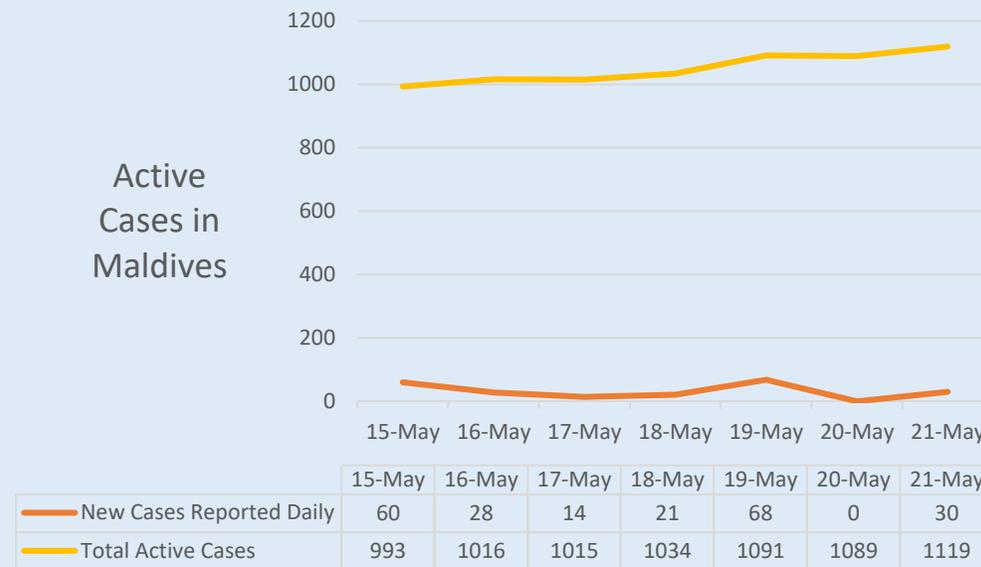


- A **total of 1216 cases** have tested positive in Maldives with 1119 active cases, 91 recoveries and 4 reported deaths as of 21 May.
- Since the first case of community spread was reported on 15 April 2020 in Greater Male' area, authorities have so far identified over 7600 contacts through contact 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.

Confirmed Cases	1216
Recoveries	91
Isolation Facilities	982
Quarantine Facilities	1494
Active Cases in Maldives	1119



Public Health Risk Alert Levels	
Greater Male' Area	Red
Kuredu Island Resort & Spa	Orange
National	Yellow
WHO Risk Assessment	
Global level	Very high
Global status	Pandemic

Health & Social Sector

- The lockdown continues until 28 May. This week's highest daily figure of infection peaked at 68. There are a total of 1119 active patients and 4 recorded deaths as of 21 May, with a heavy toll on migrant workers.
- As of 21 May, 363 buildings/apartments remain under monitoring with over 7600 individuals identified through contact tracing.
- Health Protection Agency announced that a total of 212 frontline health workers have tested positive as of 19 May.
- An Orange Alert was issued for the first time since its introduction due to extreme weather conditions including flooding, rough seas and uprooted trees. The weather conditions further complicated Government's efforts to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, in the wake of Cyclone Amphan in the Bay of Bengal.
- The situation of COVID-19 continues to generate increasing social issues with 129 people under the temporary care of the State and an additional 390 people being provided food as of 19 May.
- Approximately equal numbers were observed in the number of positive cases of Maldivians and foreign nationals this week.
- 33 high risk accommodation facilities housing migrant workers remain under monitoring by the Maldives Police Service
- Out of the 3 individuals who tested positive from random sampling and was reported missing last week, 1 remains unfound as of 21 May
- 3 individuals admitted at the K. Himmafushi Drug Rehabilitation Centre tested positive for Covid19.
- Over 230 arrests have been made for breaking the lockdown restrictions and 4313 individuals fined.

Economic Sector

- The Ministry of Finance published the third Spending Report on 14 May 2020
- A total of **MVR 873.3 million (US\$ 56.5 million)** has been spent as of 14 May, which shows a **7.3%** increase on the prior week.
- The week-on-week increment of **MVR 59.1 million (US\$ 3,826,244.5)** is primarily linked to increased spending by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on medical consumable, supplies & requisites.
- NDMA contributed to the **32%** surge in supplies & requisites observed through increased spending on fuel and meals for employees.
- TUI Group presented a 10-point plan for post-COVID-19 hotel operations with measures & standards ranging from staff trainings, distancing and extension of opening hours to reduced numbers of people per events & sports

Political Sector

- Ministry of Tourism's official Twitter and Facebook accounts were hacked on 16 May.
- The Parliament passed a bill to reduce salaries, and to impose further pay-cuts for senior government officials including the President, parliament members, judges and members of independent commissions:
 - Earning between 20,000 to 30,000: 20% deduction
 - Earning between 30,000 to 60,000: 30% deduction
 - Earning above 60,000: 35% deduction



Economic Sector

- The President in his address to the nation on 20 May, announced the deferment of lease payments for resorts, agricultural islands and other land leased by the Ministry of Finance.
- The Government has so far arranged 6-month moratoriums for over 15,000 loans and loan facilities have been arranged for an additional 98 businesses under the economic recovery scheme.
- The Government has been developing a 'Safe Tourism Guidelines' policy for post-COVID-19 reopening of tourist resorts as they prepare to open Velana International Airport for international travel within July
- Applications have been opened to claim the Income Support Allowance announced last week.
- The Ministry of Finance has amended the Public Finance Regulations to allow the state to issue grants to individuals in need of assistance

Political Sector

- The Home Ministry is identifying prisoners whose sentences expire before the end of 2020 and submit their cases for review for executive clemency with 116 prisoners in Maafushi prison falling into this category identified so far.
- The Government repatriated 148 Thai nationals, via a chartered Maldivian Airlines flight on 17 May and 67 Bangladeshi nationals onboard a Bangladeshi military aircraft on 18 May.
- The Maldives Police Service is investigating cyber attacks on WhatsApp and other social media platforms targeting front-liners and the hacking attacks on Government websites.

Health & Social Sector

- On 20 May 2020 President Solih addressed the nation and outlined the Government's plans on easing movement restrictions gradually in different phases. The President reiterated that restrictions will be eased once testing capacity is increased and additional equipment required have arrived.
- The Health Protection Agency (HPA) began conducting antibody tests to identify individuals that may have potentially recovered from COVID-19, without having shown any symptoms.
- The HPA has also commenced mobile medical operations for high risk accommodation facilities housing migrant workers. Consultations were carried out for general medical issues.
- The Government has undertaken testing at various correction facilities including K. Maafushi Prison, Male' Prison and K. Himmafushi Asseyri Prison. All samples have tested negative so far.
- Maldivian Red Crescent's recently established Migrant Relief Fund has received over USD. 50,000 within one month while the Government received over USD 65,000 from the Canadian government for vulnerable persons as well as medical supplies from Chinese companies.
- A 800-bed labour quarter in Hulhumale' has been completed in 22 days. The facility was constructed by the Housing Development Corporation and the China State Construction Engineering Corporation Limited.
- The Ministry of Higher Education requested that all self-funded Maldivian students currently residing abroad for higher education purposes to register themselves on the Ministry website.

Emergency Health Response

WHO:

- Provided an additional 10,000 COVID-19 tests to Ministry of Health.
- Provided technical assistance on refining & updating the SOPs for COVID-19 with Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in consultation with experts in regional offices.
- Training laboratory staff on “Dos and Don’ts” for RT-PCR, surveillance teams on strengthening contact tracing.
- Coordination with 2 regional hospitals HDh. Kulhudhuffushi and Addu, for WHO supported additional PCR laboratory set-ups.
- Supported establishment of Gym Equipment at National Emergency Operations Center to promote physical activities.
- Technical assistance for new guidance on adjusting public health and social measures.
- Advocating on World Health Assembly and Government of Maldives commitments.

UNICEF:

- Procured 5,000 COVID-19 test kits to be handed over to the Government in early June

Joint Agency Collaboration:

- UNICEF, WHO, UNDP and UNFPA are working closely under the taskforce established, to implement joint activities to address mental health during the COVID-19 emergency. This includes collaboration in the area of mental health and psychological support, building on the partnership with Maldivian Red Crescent and Indhira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, to provide remote services to support mental health and address gender-based violence.
- WHO & UNICEF are continuing to support the Risk Communication and Community Engagement pillar under the NEOC.

Socio-Economic Response

UNICEF:

- Supporting online training on Google G-Suite for 73 teachers giving them the skills to get certified as a Google trained teacher. A total of 10 teachers have received certification from the Google G-Suite, enabling them to reach a total of 140 students with online classes.
- Continuing to support the Ministry of Education to resume online learning and televised classes. Schools across the country have received a policy directive on the production of televised classes

UNDP:

- Partnering with the Government of Japan to assist the country gear up towards COVID-19 recovery, with a grant aid package benefitting the Government and entrepreneurs.
- Presented first round of findings of the rapid livelihoods assessment to understand the livelihoods impacts of the COVID-19 crisis undertaken in partnership with Ministry of Economic Development and other Government institutions.
- Supporting Ministry of Environment on water security in selected islands. The project is nearing completion of rainwater harvesting & storage facilities in 8 islands.
- Partnering with Ministry of Environment to finalize a technical case study on assessing groundwater quality in 45 islands across Maldives.
- Partnering with Transparency Maldives to provide Legal Aid for workers who are affected by the crisis.

WHO:

- Supporting the National Drug Agency to continue services by facilitating equipment to manage more calls on their hotline.
- Working with the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services to ensure care and support to elderly population and persons with disabilities.

