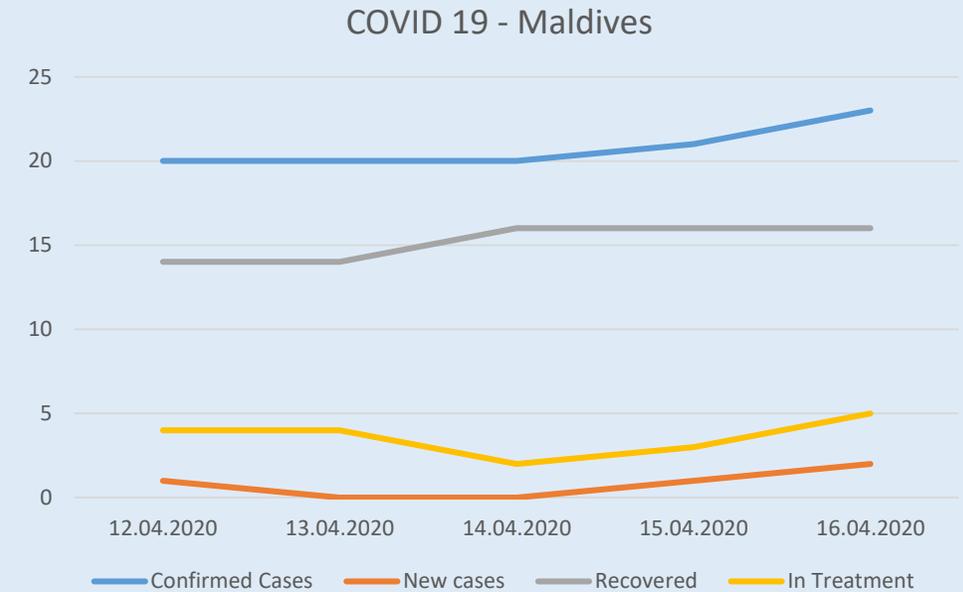


## Key Milestones

- The Maldives confirmed its first positive tested case of COVID-19 from the Greater Male' area on 15 April 2020
- At 16 April 2020, a total of 23 cases have tested positive (15 foreigners and 8 Maldivians)
- The authorities have so far identified over 200 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 On 16 April the case is acknowledged as a community transmission.
- Due to the community spread, alert levels have been raised to red (level IV) and a temporary lock down has been implemented effective 1530 on 15 April 2020

	Confirmed Cases	23
	Recoveries	16
	Isolation Facilities	31
	Quarantine Facilities	985
	Cases in Greater Male'	3



Public Health Risk Alert Levels	
National	<b>Red</b>
Kuredu Island Resort & Spa	<b>Orange</b>
WHO Risk Assessment	
Global level	<b>Very high</b>
Global status	<b>Pandemic</b>

# Community Spread Projections

- Health Protection Agency (HPA) projected that Maldives would record over **98,000 cases** of COVID-19 in the event of a community spread, if the stringent measures are lifted (14 April)
- COVID-19 infections are estimated to reach over **46,600** in Greater Male' region alone in the event of community spread, and the virus is expected to reach its peak on **the 47th day**, with more than **7,500 new cases** on the day itself **without any preventive and control measures in place.**
- However, infections are expected to reach only **2,000** on the peak day should all institutions and the public continue to execute and follow the preventive measures
- A community spread without control measures in place would see over **1,300 individuals** hospitalised on the peak day, whereas the number could be brought down to only **300** if strict preventive measures are maintained.
- HPA estimated that **15%** of hospitalisations would be normal admissions and **5%** needing care in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) during a community spread



## Economic Sector

- Over 1000 tourists remain in Maldives, with measures being taken to return nationals to their respective countries.
- The World Bank, in its latest report shared in the South Asia Economic Focus cites that South Asia's 'perfect storm' may see it set back economically 40 years, with the worst affected being Maldives.
- 1,150 cases have been presented through the Job Portal at the Ministry for Economic Development.
- The Human Rights Commission of Maldives (HRCM) is investigating 'cases of claimed no-pay leaves for indefinite periods'.
- The fishing industry continues to be impacted by rapid contraction of domestic and international markets.
- International Air Transport Association (IATA) have forecasted overall expected losses of USD 507 million for the Maldivian Airline industry in 2020 compounded by domestic and international stagnation in the market with over 20,000 potential job losses.
- Maldives Inland Revenue Authority (MIRA) revealed a 26 percent decrease in profits generated by state-run companies in March 2020. According to MIRA, Maldives collected MVR 1.11 billion as state revenue during the month, a figure 20.3% short on government projections. Considering the restrictive measures implemented over the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, MIRA recorded an 11.1 percent drop in tourist arrivals.

## Political Sector

- The local council elections and women's development committee elections were postponed to 18 April due to the state of public health emergency extended till 12 April
- The term of the current councilors are set to expire in June 2020. Depending on how the term is extended or the interim arrangements put into place, there could be questions raised on the legitimacy of the decentralized governance system
- Leaders across the political spectrum are calling for solidarity, and while some criticisms are being levelled at the economic recovery package and policies, many are welcoming the Government's health sector response
- Maldives Police have reiterated that they are monitoring nearly 1400 individuals with extremist ideologies across the country, given the risk that certain groups may exploit the crisis. Al Qaeda and ISIS have purportedly made statements that COVID-19 is a 'divine punishment'.
- The COVID-19 situation has seen a rise in the spread of conservative ideologies and there has also been some reports on confrontation between prison officers and those in remand related to pending cases on terrorism.

## Health & Social Sector

- First 3 cases of community spread identified
- The State of Public Health Emergency was extended to 30 April while the Greater Male' area temporary lockdown was extended by a further 24 hours.
- A total of 22 households have been placed under monitoring status restricting exit and entry in greater Male' area and 4 atolls
- HPA has noted increases in cases of suicide, depression and anxiety among resort workers. Maldivians have been encouraged to contact the Maldivian Red Crescent to receive counselling.
- A ban on congregational prayers in the Greater Male' area was extended to 18 April
- An appeal by Government and many social media commentators is being made to avoid stigmatizing people coming from quarantine or otherwise affected by the virus
- During the time of reporting, 48 islands had requested for fresh water supplies. Drought and water shortage is not a unique phenomenon, each year at an average 60 islands request for emergency water supplies, however the COVID-19 crisis brings an added burden on the disaster response mechanisms in the country

## Economic Sector

- The Government has established a loan facility of USD1.3 million to support the yellowfin tuna fishing industry.
- With a narrow economic base heavily impacted by the crisis, the Government has announced that it will lease agricultural land to local councils for 3 years free of charge to increase food security, with 44 islands identified.
- A total of 17 products have been identified to be produced, aiming to reduce imports for these products and the Government hopes to cover at least 50% of current imports with local produce
- The government will provide technical assistance, fertilizers, seeds, and equipment needed
- The State Trading Organization will buy local produce for Ramadan from 1 May 2020 onwards

## Political Sector

- There are currently 3 bills in parliament related to the postponement of Local Council elections and related legal issues.
- The term of the current councillors are set to expire in June 2020 and the Parliament is seeking to find consensus on a legal framework for a possible extension of their term.
- Police and MNDF informed the Parliamentary Committee on National Security Services that given possible 'extremist attacks' the security stance of the forces had been raised.
- Police and Defence Force are investigating an incident in A. Dh. Mahibadhoo where at least 5 launches (including police and council speedboats) were burned, quoting evidence towards an "intentional act" against our forces after the operation at R. Madduvari"

## Health & Social Sector

- A lockdown of 24 hours was announced for the Greater Male' area and has since been extended for a further 24 hours
- National airline, Maldivian, has suspended all domestic flights until further notice
- The Government is establishing 5 regional facilities equipped to deal with patients who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19. The facilities will include ICU and isolation beds, as well as capacity to take samples and test.
- Ministry of Environment begins supplying water to islands after their existing supplies of drinking water in the islands were exhausted.
- The Human Rights Commission of Maldives has visited and ruled the isolation facilities in Farukolhufushi and Hulhule' Island Hotel to be equipped to deal with a possible escalation in COVID-19 cases in Maldives.



## Emergency Health Response & Procurement of Public Health Supplies

- WHO handed over an additional 5000 reactions of RT-PCR COVID-19 screening kits
- WHO supported the Critical Care Training for doctors from hospitals at greater Male' region and facilitated the establishment of Go.Data tool in Maldives, with the necessary training. In addition, facilitation of several virtual trainings on clinical management, IPC etc.
- Procurement of 25,000 COVID-19 cartridges for GeneXpert ongoing along with procurement of additional 750 PPE kits and 50 kits of 50 E gene and 10 kits of 30 RdRp assay
- WHO is providing technical support for clinical management of severe cases, strengthening healthcare waste management services and BioSafety Cabinet Certification at IGMH.
- UNICEF placed a supply order for the procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - goggles, surgical gowns, N95 masks and surgical masks worth \$257,000 for the Government. The supplies are expected to arrive in 3 weeks
- UNICEF is supporting the Government to procure medical equipment & supplies to set up ICUs, at an estimated value of \$ 5 million

## Child Protection & Education

- UNICEF supported the procurement of audio-visual recording equipment for the Ministry of Education to produce e-learning material.
- To support the training and certification of teachers for the provision of e-learning through Google G-Suit, UNICEF provided funding to train the 1st batch of 100 teachers
- With the support from UNICEF, the MoE ran tele-classes for all secondary grades last week. The target children consist of 14,852 students in the grades 9 - 12 and 12,750 students in grades 7 & 8.
- UNICEF supported the setting up of 4 e-learning classrooms in the two children's homes under the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services
- UNICEF is engaging with the Ministry of Health to resume essential health care and nutrition services, which were halted due to the focus on COVID-19 prevention.
- To strengthen the state-run children's homes, UNICEF provided the financial resources to hire additional 9 care workers and 2 teachers.
- UNICEF continues to supporting the Risk Communication & Community Engagement team at the NEOC, with the development and dissemination of key messages for public.

## Food Security & Agriculture

- IFAD supported the Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Research & Agriculture to complete design of the new Maldives Agribusiness Programme (MAP), to become operational in June-July 2020.
- An investment of USD 12.9 million, financed by IFAD concessional resources and domestic contributions. Main components include:
  - *Support the Government to refine its vision for the agriculture sector and to implement a structured policy and incentive framework;*
  - *Invest in climate-smart agriculture production for domestic markets, thereby reducing reliance on food imports;*
  - *Initial focus in the northern atolls where poverty and vulnerability among farming communities is greater, and will subsequently expand nationwide.*
- UNDP actively engaged the 18 NGO partners of the GEF SGP projects that promote agriculture across the country :
- *To potentially scale up production of the completed projects,*
- *For ongoing projects, online trainings and additional supplies were identified as immediate needs; and*
- *For projects in the pipeline, fast-tracking first tranches.*

