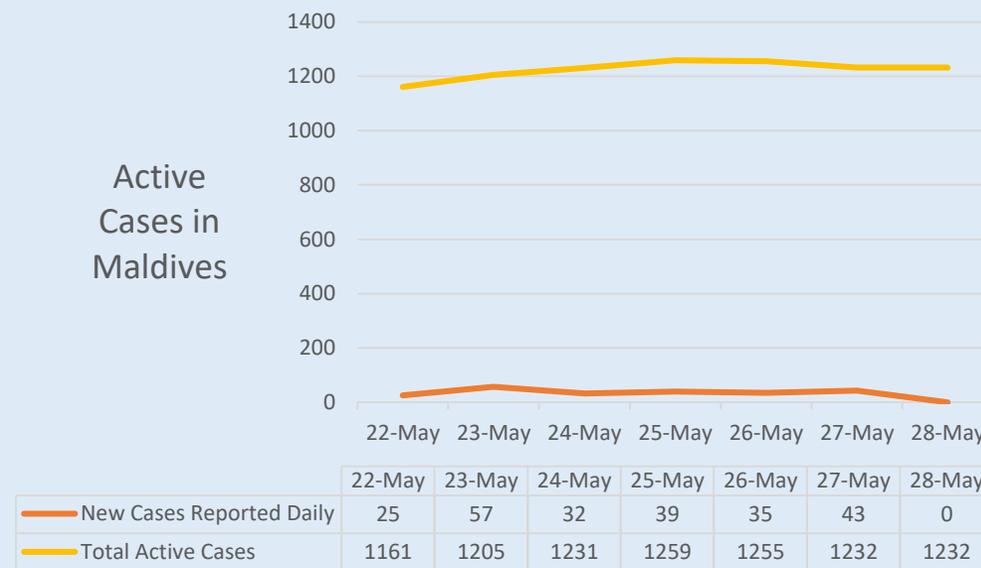




- A **total of 1457 cases** have tested positive in Maldives with 1232 active cases, and 242 recoveries, and 5 reported deaths as of 28 May.
- Since the first case of community spread was reported on 15 April 2020 in Greater Male' area, authorities have so far identified over 8000 contacts through contact 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 limited eases to lockdown announced on 28 May

	Confirmed Cases	1457
	Recoveries	242
	Isolation Facilities	1126
	Quarantine Facilities	1781
	Active Cases in Maldives	1232



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

## Health & Social Sector

- On 27 May, the Health Minister announced a significant decrease in the rate of transmission, and the number of contacts per case, which enabled limited relaxations to the lockdown, to be implemented in phases starting 29 May.
- The State of Public Health Emergency was extended to 29 June.
- This week's highest daily figure of infection peaked at 57. There are a total of 1232 active patients and 5 recorded deaths as of 28 May.
- As of 27 May, 430 buildings/apartments remain under monitoring with over 8000 individuals identified through contact tracing.
- Health Protection Agency announced that a total of 221 frontline health workers have tested positive as of 26 May.
- Authorities have started [investigating](#) the death of an unborn baby in Sh. Narudhoo, who died in delay of transfer of the mother to the regional hospital.
- COVID-19 is generating increasing social issues, with 90 people under the temporary care of the State, and an additional 380 people being provided food as of 26 May.
- The National Emergency Operations Centre announced that Maldives Police Service will reveal [personal information](#) of an individual who tested positive and remains unfound for over 14 days now.
- [313 arrests and 5657 individuals fined](#) for breaching lockdown rules.

## Economic Sector

- The Maldives Inland Revenue Authority (MIRA) is expecting a [State income](#) of **MVR 8.95 billion (US\$ 579.4 million)** this year, which is a **48%** drop on anticipated figures.
- The Ministry of Finance published the fourth Spending Report on 21 May 2020.
- A total of **MVR 866.9 million (US\$ 56.1 million)** has been spent as of 21 May, which is a **0.7%** decrease from the week before due to cancelation of an order for medical equipment by the NDMA. NDMA and Ministry of Health continue to account for the majority of spending towards COVID-19 response efforts.
- Moody's Investment Service downgraded Maldives' long-term foreign and local currency issuer and the foreign-currency senior unsecured ratings from level B3 to B2, as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Loan repayments have been extended by 6 months for the Bank of Maldives, Housing Development Finance Corporation and SME Development Finance Corporation.

## Political Sector

- Sittings at the Parliament have [commenced](#) with the approval of HPA, attracting a lot of criticism from the public despite precautionary measures practiced. The Spokesperson of NEOC stated that NEOC was not consulted in this process.
- Some MPs of the ruling party, MDP expressed distress over the Parliament's decision to approve the Government's proposal to [amend the constitution](#) to extend the term of existing local councilors due to the pandemic.
- The Prosecutor General [denied claims](#) that the PGO was seeking to release 30 individuals in remand stages for suspected drug trafficking and ensured that charges will be raised accordingly.



## Economic Sector

- Immigration will delay the imposition of late fees on visa payments.
- The Government of Japan provided a grant aid of **MVR 67.8 million (US\$ 4.4 million)** to aid with socio-economic development, strengthen capacities of Maldives Customs Service and Maldives Immigration, strengthen border control and assist in countering terrorism and further extended an aid package worth **MVR. 21.7 million (US\$ 1.4 million)** for economic recovery
- The Local Fish Market in Male' has re-opened, with specific new guidelines.
- A total of **MVR 290,131 (US\$ 18,784)** was disbursed to 69 individuals under the Government's 'Income Support Allowance' scheme.
- Loan applications for 159 people were approved by the Bank of Maldives.
- **MVR 127.1 million (US\$ 8.2 million)** was approved by SME Development Finance Corporation (SDFC) to 640 individuals, businesses and self-employed freelancers.

## Political Sector

- President Solih held a discussion with the US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien on efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.
- On 26 May, the Parliament passed to bill to formulate a [joint committee](#) to probe into the status of investigations of the corruption case of MMPRC and the cases of forced disappearances and murders.
- Repatriation efforts for the week of 28 May include:
  - 1002 Bangladeshi nationals repatriated via Maldivian Airlines
  - 305 Indian nationals repatriated via Air India
  - 265 Chinese nationals were repatriated via China Eastern Airlines
  - 78 Thai nationals stranded in Maldives and Srilanka were repatriated
  - 26 Maldivian nationals were repatriated from Bangkok

## Health & Social Sector

- The Government [announced plans](#) for Phase 1 of relaxing lockdown restrictions, effective 29 May 2020.
- Congregational prayers have resumed in all islands except seven islands under monitoring.
- As per the press conferences held on 27 May, testing capacity has been increased to 600 tests per day and bed capacity close to 500 has been developed.
- The Technical Advisory Group stated that there are currently no shortages in oxygen capacity and human resources if the situation does not deteriorate drastically.
- The China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) donated PPEs to line Ministries in the COVID-19 response.
- 10 ventilators arrived from Dubai, under the Government's single source procurement policy, increasing the total number of ventilators available to 129.
- Minor Hotel Group donated a PCR testing machine and 100 gallons of hand sanitizer.
- The Government of Thailand and the King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL) donated 10 mini ventilators to Maldives.
- The Health Protection Agency publicized guidelines on home quarantine.
- The Government of Japan extended a **MVR. 8.4 million (US\$ 543,832)** emergency grant for Maldivian Red Crescent and UNICEF to support the COVID-19 response.
- The National Social Protection Authority (NSPA) provided [financial assistance](#) of **MVR 1.14 million (US\$ 73,806)** to Maldivians stranded abroad due to COVID-19.
- The Ministry of Tourism stated that [467 resort employees](#) stranded in Male' were transferred to quarantine facilities.
- Ministry of Education announced that exams scheduled for October/November 2020 will be postponed to May/June 2021.
- Sports activities will be [allowed](#) on islands where there are no confirmed cases.



<b>Immediate Health Response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided 5000 additional COVID19 test kits to IGMH and MoH.</li> <li>• Technical assistance to IGMH laboratory to finalize SOPs for using newly validated RT PCR test kits.</li> <li>• Facilitated &amp; coordinated interactions with WHO Bangladesh and India office for multi-media IEC materials in Bangla</li> <li>• Supported development of Video Spots for “EkugaiEmmen” COVID-19 Solidarity Campaign and on Home Quarantine</li> <li>• Participated in planning of easing out lockdown measures &amp; maintaining continuity of health services</li> <li>• Evaluated immediate requirements for autoclave &amp; consumables for Health Care Waste Management in COVID-19 facilities</li> </ul>	
<b>Socioeconomic Response</b>	<b>Health First: Protecting Health Services &amp; Systems</b>  WHO:  UNICEF:	Initiated strategic dialogues for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening the health system to deliver Universal Health Care</li> <li>• Policy and strategic directions for health services delivery, strategic purchasing, availability of essential medicines &amp; drugs, mapping of HRH and further digitalization of the service delivery.</li> <li>• Developed IPC guidance and measures (Dhivehi and English) to be used in Routine Immunization.</li> <li>• Provided input to the Government’s plans for service provision to vulnerable groups especially elderly and people with disabilities.</li> <li>• Provided technical input to ensure continuity of communicable disease surveillance and activities especially for TB, Neglected tropical diseases, HIV and Hepatitis</li> <li>• Procured 12,000 bottles of liquid handwashing soap and provided additional funds to procure hand soap in preparation for reopening of schools.</li> <li>• Procured and delivered 2,000 bottles of hand sanitizers and is in the process of delivering 12,000 bottles of liquid handwash soap procured for the Ministry of Health, to be used at the health facilities providing COVID-19 treatment.</li> </ul>
	<b>Protecting People: Social Protection &amp; Basic Services</b>  UNICEF:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance for the reopening of schools, including pre-schools with the Ministry of Education (MoE)</li> <li>• Finalized second draft of the Education Contingency Plan</li> <li>• 95 of 1,144 teachers supported by UNICEF completed their Google G-Suite, with training and certification ongoing.</li> <li>• A total of 2,775 students continued learning last week on Google Classroom (facilitated through UNICEF support), guided by the trained teachers.</li> <li>• Supplied education &amp; play kits for children with disabilities registered with Care Society, to use at home during lockdown with the support of Youth Ministry</li> <li>• Provided funding to the Autism Association to procure education &amp; play kits for children registered with the NGO, to use at home during lockdown</li> <li>• Supported the establishment and operationalization of the national Domestic Violence/Gender-Based Violence reporting hotline 1421</li> <li>• Worked with ARC (NGO) to provide emergency food assistance to the children of 91 vulnerable families in one of the islands currently under lockdown.</li> </ul>
	<b>Social Cohesion &amp; Community Resilience</b>  WHO:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical support to Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community engagement to design and launch a nationwide campaign on physical activity and healthy lifestyle (Dhulhaheyo Hashiheyo) including social media campaign</li> </ul>

