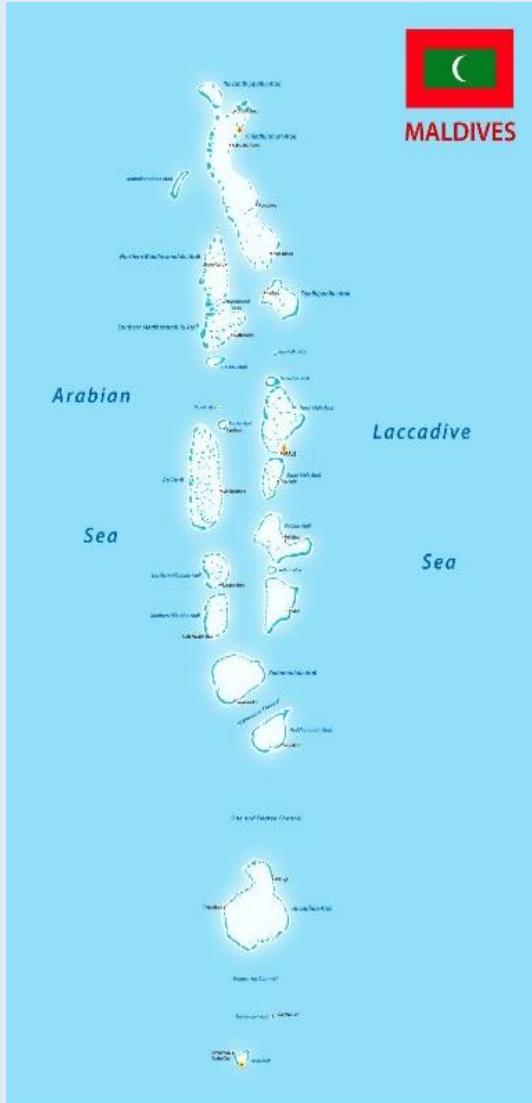


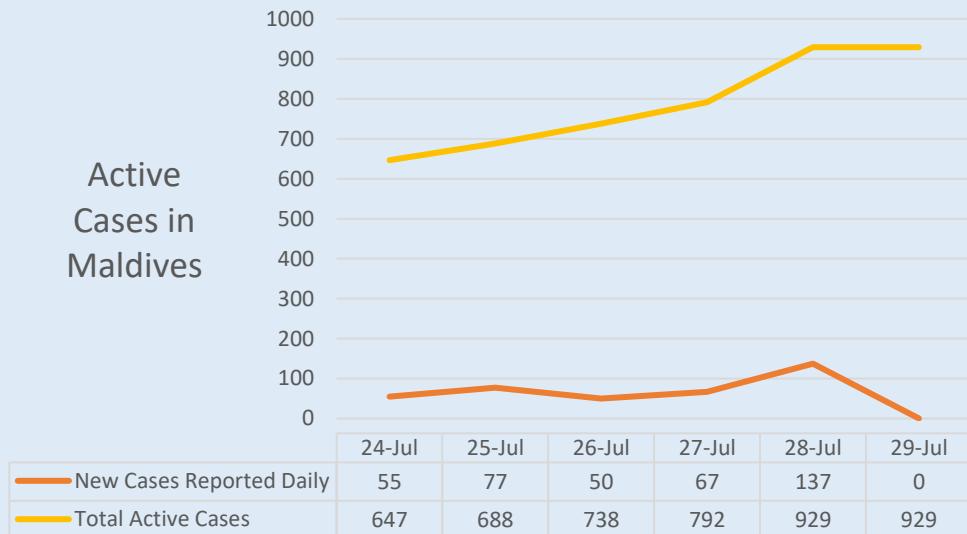
COVID19 - Weekly Situation Report

29 July 2020



- A total of 3506 cases have tested positive in Maldives with 932 active cases, and 2544 recoveries, and 15 reported deaths as of 29 July. The highest daily peak this week was 137.
- 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	3506
	Recoveries	2544
	Isolation Facilities	538
	Quarantine Facilities	0
	Active Cases in Maldives	932



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

Updates [Covid-19 Dashboard](#) as of 23:47, 28 July 2020

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Economic Sector

- Maldives National Bureau of Statistics revealed a quarterly 5.9% GDP decline in the first quarter of this year at MVR 18.6 bn down from 19.8 bn.
- As per Maldives Immigration, 904 tourists and 266 expatriate workers have [entered the country](#) since the reopening of borders on 15 July.
- The Indian Government [announced plans](#) to provide additional financial assistance packages to the Maldives to mitigate the economic impacts of the global pandemic.
- Turkish Airlines has [resumed passenger flights](#) to the Maldives on 24 July.
- SriLankan Airlines has increased the frequency of [commercial operations](#) between Maldives and European destinations.
- China's Exim Bank has [ordered](#) the Government of Maldives to repay MVR 154 million (US\$ 10 million) as part of a loan issued to the parliament member for Dh. Meedhoo constituency Ahmed Siyam (Sun Siyam), which was granted via a sovereign guarantee by the previous administration. If the State fails or refuses to pay the debt, it will result in a sovereign default, which may devalue the Maldivian currency and affect international trade and the country's global standing.
- As per the report formulated by the Presidential Commission on Asset Recovery and Corruption, losses in the money laundering case involving the Maldives Marketing & Public Relations Corporation [exceeds](#) MVR 4 billion.

Political Sector

- The joint opposition, Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) and Peoples National Congress (PNC) held a [series of protests](#) criticizing perceived Government failures. Subsequently, a few members of the opposition were summoned for questioning by the Police while the opposition accuse the police of using unnecessary force, and rough handling female protestors.
- Human Rights Watch calls on Maldives to [release expatriate workers](#) detained and remanded over a number of protests in different areas of the country due to unpaid wages for months.
- A report submitted by the 1267 monitoring committee of the United Nations Security Council [highlighted](#) that the Islamic State (IS) is working in the Maldives "with a network of supporters in the Maldives".



Health & Social Sector

- Maldives saw a record high in daily cases since the easement of lockdown measures with 137 new positive cases reported on 28 July. As of now, 60 patients are [hospitalized](#), and 1 patient is on ventilator support.
- The Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC) [expressed concern](#) regarding the increasing number of positive cases and the drastic increase in number of direct contacts identified through contact tracing. HEOC also warned of the onset of a second wave and that restrictions might need to be reactivated.
- A resident of [Haa Alif Kelaa](#), and a pregnant woman admitted to Hulhumale' Hospital tested positive for COVID-19.
- The first tourist [testing positive](#) for COVID-19 upon arrival since Maldives opened its borders on 15 July.
- Three Maldivian patients that traveled to India on the special flights arranged to India to obtain critical treatment unavailable in the country have [passed away](#).



Government Response

Health & Social Sector

- The Health Protection Agency (HPA) is carrying out a second public health inspection on 29 July to check compliance of businesses and other outlets with the precautionary guidelines.
- The Minister of Health, HE. Abdulla Ameen [warned via Twitter](#) that the COVID-19 situation is worsening by the day and urged the public to continue following precautionary measures.
- The HPA [postponed](#) the reopening of guesthouses scheduled for 1 August, and advised safari operators to obtain a permit before resuming services.
- As per the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Eid-ul-Alha prayers will be held at separate mosques, however, the usual mass congregation will [not be held](#) this year due to the pandemic.
- The Government [officially opened](#) designated COVID-19 management facilities in Addu City, Fuvamulah City and HA. Ihavandhoo.

Political Sector

- The Government canceled the usual festivities to mark Independence Day (26 July). In his televised remarks on the occasion, President Solih [called for unity](#) and for political actors to prioritize national interest, rise above shared differences and avoid politicizing issues.
- The Speaker of the Parliament Mohamed Nasheed on the occasion of the 55th Independence Day stated that the peace and security of the Maldives is tied to the stability of the Indian Ocean region.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abdulla Shahid held a virtual conference, attended by President Solih, to celebrate the 55th anniversary of independence for Heads of Missions accredited to the Maldives. Speaking at the event President Solih [stated](#) that Maldives will continue to strengthen partnerships and multilateral relations.

Economic Sector

- The Ministry of Finance announced that a total of MVR 27.2 million has been disbursed as [income support allowances](#) to 6,638 individuals to date.
- 200 undocumented migrant workers were [repatriated](#) to Bangladesh on 28 July. To date, Maldives has repatriated over 4000 undocumented migrant workers amid the COVID-19 pandemic
- The Labor Relations Authority has [set a deadline](#) for RIX Pvt. Ltd. to complete pending payments to their expatriate workers (in relation to the dispute on Bodifinolhu which saw the detention of 19 migrant workers).
- A symbolic cheque was [handed over](#) to the Government of Maldives by the Government of India to mark the implementation of nine projects in the Maldives under the High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) scheme on 28 July.



Immediate Health Response	WHO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical assistance for lab strengthening Provision of medical equipment, consumable & essential life-saving medicines to establish a high dependency unit and critical care set up in the Home for People with Special Needs (HPSN) as per the COVID-19 MPTF funded UN Maldives project. The intensive care equipment donated includes oxygen concentrators, ventilators, patient monitors, pulse oximeters, defibrillators etc. 	UNICEF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy and support to ensure continuation of essential health services focusing on immunization, ANC and for safe resumption of essential nutrition services under the new normal Providing support to Dhamanaveshi Health Facility, to provide Child Health Services to children in Male'. Supporting HPA to take stock of the current nutrition services provided in health facilities around the country, and monitoring coverage rates for utilization of services. Orientation of 5,486 teachers on Psychological First Aid in partnership with MRC & Ministry of Education 	WHO & UNICEF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing support to the Health Emergency Operations Centre coordination group 		
Socioeconomic Response	Pillar 1 - Health First: Protecting Health Services & Systems <p>WHO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated participation of the Ministry of Health in regional webinar on #HepatitisFreeFuture in South-East Asia Region to mark the World Hepatitis Day 2020 Technical support & advocacy resulted with progressive taxation on sugary confectionaries, sugary beverages, processed meat and excludes tobacco products from duty exemption at regional ports as per the newly ratified Imports-Exports Act. Supported updating of the Influenza Surveillance data to FluNet and GISRS as part of ongoing WHO support to strengthening of Influenza surveillance in Maldives. Supporting the MNU Research team which restarted the data collection for NCD Risk Factor STEPS Survey. <p>UNICEF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with partners to develop & disseminate messages on the importance of Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices to note importance of healthy feeding practices amid COVID-19 Developed illustrated messages for the upcoming World Breastfeeding Week Support to developing a Resilience & Recovery Health Response Plan led by the Government Advocated for prioritizing public health & ensuring comprehensive primary health care services as an integrated package, particularly in the urban health facilities to address the gaps in the system, strengthen immunization services & expand access to mental health services. 	Pillar 2 - Protecting People: Social Protection & Basic Services <p>Joint Agency Efforts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHO, UNICEF & UNFPA contributes to the Health Working Group of National Recovery Taskforce UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA & WHO working on the joint UN program on Mental Health & Psychosocial Support with Maldivian Red Crescent, local NGO SHE, and Centre for Mental Health for enhancing services <p>UNICEF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder consultations regarding violence against women and girls held to identify responses to (i) break the silence and encourage reporting, (ii) responses to the negative social norms and values that revictimize and increase stigma, (iii) identifying and strengthening services and (iv) expediting the justice processes along with a consultation with NGOs. Delivered Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) supplies worth US\$ 22,564 including large dustbins, face shields for school cleaners, rubber gloves for cleaning and tissues and plastic gloves for children with disabilities who have special hygiene requirements for all 213 Government Schools. Working with Gender Ministry & other partners on a nationwide campaign to combat sexual violence against children and women and discussions are underway with a research institute to develop baseline data. Partnered with CSO ARC to conduct a rapid assessment of children's internet usage patterns & develop public awareness materials on online safety, violence against children & domestic violence prevention. In addition, to provide community-based mental health & psychosocial support services for children, parents; provision of emergency relief to families and individuals impacted by COVID-19; provision of basic food supplies to single parents living in islands & reaching care givers of children aged 0-23 months on breastfeeding Partnered with CSOs SHE and Blue Hearts to expand the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support through TV & online counselling and professional psychological counselling. Partnered with Maldivian Red Crescent on the capacity building of volunteers and stakeholders on MHPSS to strengthen community level delivery of services for people affected by COVID-19 <p>WHO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handing over of "Essential Care" and Infection Prevention and Control items for persons with disabilities to the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services including Baby Diapers (45,000), adult diapers (15,000), hand sanitizers (2500 bottles), handwash (1000 bottles), gloves (15,000) medical masks (8000) & wet wipes (75,000). 	Pillar 3 - Economic Response & Recovery <p>UNDP:</p> <p>Conducted a virtual Stakeholder Consultation Workshop to formulate messages to promote social cohesion, tolerance and respecting diversity in the Maldives was with relevant government agencies and CSOs.</p>	Pillar 4 – Macro-Economic Response <p>UNDP:</p> <p>Conducted a public virtual forum on climate induced migration</p>	Pillar 5 - Social Cohesion & Community Resilience <p>Joint Agency Efforts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNICEF & WHO supporting Risk Communications & Community Engagement (RCCE) of the Health Emergency Operations Centre <p>UNICEF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To complement the back to school campaign – Ufalun Schoolah, supporting the campaign to disseminate messages to children & parents <p>WHO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to the Youth Ministry for the 'Dhulhaheyo, Hashiheyo' Campaign to promote physical activities especially among younger population as part of MissionFit Maldives.