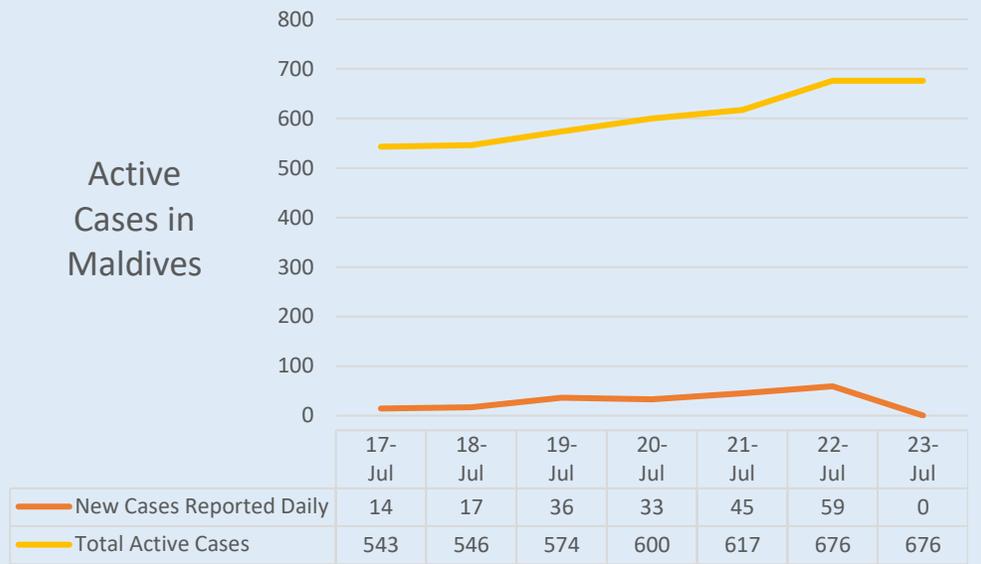


- A **total of 3103 cases** have tested positive in Maldives with 676 active cases, and 2397 recoveries, and 15 reported deaths as of 23 July. The highest daily peak this week was 59.
- Since the first case of community spread was reported on 15 April 2020 in Greater Male' area, authorities have so far 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	3103
	Recoveries	2397
	Isolation Facilities	421
	Quarantine Facilities	0
	Active Cases in Maldives	676



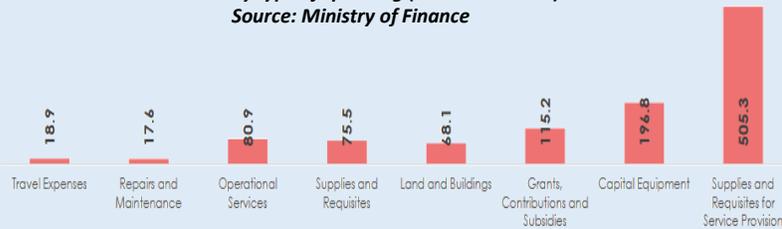
Public Health Risk Alert Levels	
Greater Male' Area	<b>Red</b>
National	<b>Yellow</b>
WHO Risk Assessment	
Global level	<b>Very high</b>
Global status	<b>Pandemic</b>

Updates [Covid-19 Dashboard](#) as of 10:38, 23 July 2020

## Economic Sector

- The Ministry of Finance published the twelfth [Spending Report](#) on 20 July 2020:
- MVR 1078.3 million (US\$ 69.9 million)** has been spent on health response (16 July), a **3.4%** increase from last week with Indhira Ghandi Memorial Hospital (IGMH) and the Ministry of National Planning & Infrastructure accounting for most of the spending for COVID-19 operations.
- MVR 521 million (US\$ 33.8 million)** has been spent on the socioeconomic response (16 July), consisting of payments disbursed as financial support and relief to individuals, households and businesses affected by the pandemic.

By type of spending (in millions MVR)  
Source: Ministry of Finance



- A total of **MVR 18.1 million (US\$ 1.1 million)** has been disbursed as [income support allowances](#) by the Ministry of Finance to a total of 4,525 individuals. Further, the Ministry also issued over **MVR 350 million (US\$ 22.7 million)** under the Government's recovery loan scheme.
- The International Finance Corporation for Maldives stated its [commitment](#) to assist Maldives through its economic recovery.

## Political Sector

- The Minister of Defence Uz. Mariya Ahmed Didi stated that the [protests by expatriate workers](#) were not the result of deprivation of their rights at the Parliament Committee on National Security and Foreign Relations. The Chief of Defence Force also described the unrests as equivalent to foreign workers infiltrating and invading the nation. These remarks were met with public outrage and criticism of the Government on social media.
- High Court Judge Hassan Ali who has been accused of being involved in falsifying documents in the abduction and murder case of Journalist Ahmed Rilwan [resigned](#) on 22 July, at a time where the Judicial Service Commission has summoned him for the last hearing of the case in question.
- The Government of Maldives reiterated its commitment to uphold the rights and freedom of peaceful assembly enshrined in the Constitution in a statement after public concerns were shared regarding the decision to impose "temporary" restrictions on public gatherings. The Government reiterated that regulations on peaceful assembly "are in line with current domestic and international legislations".

## Health & Social Sector

- The Government of United States [donated](#) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (**US\$ 150,000**) to the Maldives
- The Health Protection Agency revealed that the number of positive cases requiring hospitalization is increasing, with [52 patients](#) admitted as of 22 July.
- The 3 mosques that were temporarily closed as part of the contact tracing process of a positive individual have been [reopened](#) after disinfection.
- The Maldives Police Service stated that they intervened to resolve an [unrest amongst migrant workers](#) in Vaavu Atoll on 21 July and that no injuries were sustained. No further details were provided by the Police except that the sponsor of the workers in question are negotiating with the workers to settle the dispute.
- The Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) released a [press release](#) stating that recent events of unrest and protests were sparked by "years of neglect" brought to the forefront "even more so than before" by the many socio-economic challenges that migrant workers go through in Maldives. The recent demonstrations by migrant workers are reported to be about the drawn-out issue of unpaid wages for months.



## Health & Social Sector

- According to the Minister of Health, Ahmed Ameen, [efforts are underway](#) to ensure that Maldives is included amongst the first countries to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine.
- The Government [officially opened](#) COVID-19 treatment facilities in L. Gan and GA. Villingili.
- The Prosecutor General's Office [decided against](#) pressing charges against individuals who were arrested for violating lockdown regulations.
- The Health Protection Agency (HPA) [publicized guidelines](#) for travel between islands for essential services amid the pandemic.
- The Health Protection Agency amended regulations for Male' residents to travel to, and stay in, other islands for work purposes up to a period of 5 days.
- The Ministry of Education is [planning to open schools](#) for an additional two grades, grade 7 and grade 8 in August on a date to be announced.
- The Maldives Immigration will accept applications for Maldivian passports [only through their digital postal "Imuga"](#) from 23 July onwards.
- President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih inaugurated 'Geveshi Gulhun', a [national campaign](#) against domestic violence led by the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services, citing domestic violence as a contributing factor to several social issues in the country.

## Political Sector

- 200 undocumented migrant workers were repatriated via Maldivian Airlines to Bangladesh on 22 July.
- President Solih via his personal Twitter handle revealed that he has received the report developed by the Presidential Commission on Corruption & Assets Recovery today and that the Government has started taking necessary action based on the report.
- President Solih [appointed](#) Ms. Niumath Shafeeq as the Children's Ombudsperson this morning.
- The Parliament [approved](#) five nominations by President Solih to be appointed as foreign envoys.
- The Parliament [approved to remove](#) Mr. Mohamed Zahid from his position as the Vice President of the Human Rights Commission of Maldives (HRCM) on 22 July.

## Economic Sector

- President Solih met with the National Taskforce on Resilience Building and Economic Recovery to discuss the [path forward](#) towards recovering from the impacts of COVID-19 on the economy.
- The Ministry of Economic Development started a campaign, taking to the streets to [search](#) for migrant workers who wish to return to their home countries.
- The Minister of Economic Development, Fayyaz Ismail announced that between 15,000 and 20,000 [undocumented workers](#) would be repatriated before the end of the year.



<b>Immediate Health Response</b>	<p><b>WHO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical support for inspections of compliance of public spaces with HPA regulations.</li> <li>• Recommendations for the newly introduced Health Declaration Card for entry to Maldives.</li> </ul>	<p><b>UNICEF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided 175 cubic metric tonnes of PPE &amp; WASH supplies to Ministry of Health (22 July) to ensure that protection equipment are readily available to front-line health professionals responding to COVID-19. The supplies consists of 150,690 items worth MVR 7.1 million including 30,950 surgical masks, 16,971 N95 masks, 280 Body bags, 47,040 face shields, 1,408 protective goggles, 40,000 surgical gowns, 40 clinical thermometers, 2,000 hand sanitizers &amp; 12,000 hand soap.</li> <li>• Continuing support to the Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC) coordinating the COVID-19 pandemic response.</li> <li>• Continuing advocacy and support to ensure continuation of essential health services focusing on immunization, and ANC under the new normal measures.</li> </ul>	<p><b>UNODC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical support to prisons on prison health &amp; safety</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Pillar 1 - Health First: Protecting Health Services &amp; Systems</b></p> <p><b>WHO:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uploaded Influenza Surveillance data to FluNet and GISRS to strengthen Influenza surveillance in Maldives</li> <li>• Launch of COVID MPTF project, provided items to establish a high dependency unit in the Home for People with Special Needs (HPSN), items for infection prevention and control, and essential care items as part of improving emergency preparedness</li> <li>• Resumed data collection for STEPS, an NCD risk factor survey (19 July), halted in March due to COVID-19.</li> <li>• Dengue and chikungunya clinical management and vector control training completed for all atolls.</li> <li>• Facilitated participation in the meeting of Regional Programme Review Group (RPRG) for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) and Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis (STH) held from 13-16 July.</li> <li>• Facilitated dialogue between National Programme with SEARO and HQ on Vector Control Assessment and Integrated vector Management Workshop.</li> <li>• Technical support to complete and submit the JRF and AERF report 2019 and Routine Immunization Coverage monthly data 2020 in the context of COVID-19.</li> <li>• Coordinated participation in the WHO South East Asia Regional Technical Advisory Group on Immunization</li> <li>• Advocacy in global partnership forum on COVAX facility, which is designed to guarantee rapid, fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines</li> <li>• Submitted the country situation analysis and assessment on IPC and WASH in health facilities</li> </ul> <p><b>UNICEF:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing work with national partners on developing and disseminating key messages on the importance of Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices.</li> <li>• Over 3000 school teachers were oriented on Psychological First Aid by MRC, in partnership with MoE &amp; MRC.</li> <li>• Collaborated with partners to develop a Resilience and Recovery Health response plan</li> </ul> <p><b>UNDP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement of PPE items and water testing kits supported by the Rapid Response Facility and for diagnostic testing kits for regional hospitals with WHO</li> </ul> <p><b>UNODC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Translated and printed 2000 copies of the English to Dhivehi translation of the Nelson Mandela Rules, and presented to the Government on Nelson Mandela Day (18 July)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pillar 2 - Protecting People: Social Protection &amp; Basic Services</b></p> <p><b>Joint Agency Efforts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHO, UNICEF &amp; UNFPA contributed to Health Working Group meetings of the National Recovery Taskforce</li> <li>• UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA &amp; WHO working on the joint UN program on Mental Health &amp; Psychosocial Support with Maldivian Red Crescent, local NGO SHE, and Centre for Mental Health for expanding and enhancing services</li> </ul> <p><b>UNICEF:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical support for supervision of social workers of MoGFSS (65 hours from 10/6 – 10/7).</li> <li>• In partnership with Martin James Foundation UK, held a session to 49 social workers to improve their capacity to work with adolescents referred to MoGFSS.</li> <li>• Ongoing collaboration with Ministry of Education on the “Back to School Campaign – “Ufalun Schoolah”.</li> <li>• Ongoing certification of teachers in Google G-suite with a total of 1053 teachers certified to date. 100 certified teachers have started Google Instructor Level training.</li> <li>• Initiated efforts to develop baseline data and establish baseline for the ongoing campaign on sexual violence on children and women.</li> <li>• Working with Gender Ministry and partners on a nationwide campaign to combat sexual violence against children and women.</li> </ul> <p><b>UNODC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of findings of Technical Needs Assessment of the Juvenile Justice system in the Maldives to identify needs to strengthen child protection systems (20 July).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pillar 3 - Economic Response &amp; Recovery</b></p> <p><b>UNDP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to Transparency Maldives, Bar Council of Maldives, &amp; MRC to provide legal aid to migrant workers.</li> <li>• Second session of National Dialogues Series on MSME Response and Recovery Following COVID-19 conducted by Business Centre Cooperation with UNDP, focused on ‘How to Reduce Fixed Operating Costs to Protect Solvency’ for small business communities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pillar 5 - Social Cohesion &amp; Community Resilience</b></p> <p><b>Joint Agency Efforts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNICEF &amp; WHO supporting Risk Communications &amp; Community Engagement (RCCE) of the Health Emergency Operations Centre</li> </ul> <p><b>UNDP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Podcast series highlighting frontline workers in COVID-19 response continues, with focus this week on Business Centre Cooperation’s work.</li> </ul> <p><b>UNODC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtual regional PVE network consultation meeting on 15 July, hosted by the Maldives, to strengthen the national and legal frameworks for preventing &amp; countering violent extremism.</li> </ul>
<b>Socioeconomic Response</b>				

