

2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Emergency Readiness/ Response

Country: MALDIVES

Date: 13 / 04 / 2020

Cases reporting

- 20 confirmed cases and **NO DEATHS** of COVID-19 reported in the Maldives.
- The 20th case was detected in a Maldivian who was tested before release from quarantine.
- 907 people are currently under quarantine; 10 in isolation facilities.
- 2670 samples have been tested, and results for 38 samples are pending as of 12 April 2020.

Developments/ activities carried out by Member State

- On 10 April 2020, the State of Public Health Emergency was extended until 30 April 2020.
- HPA has initiated surveillance at Male to assess any community transmission of COVID-19.
- The Government intends to **relocate a total of 5000 migrant workers** to accommodation with better living conditions as a precautionary measure to prevent spread of COVID-19.
- The Government has **established 5 regional COVID19 facilities** with ICU and Isolation beds. They are at Hithadhoo, Gaaf Alif, Laamu, Baa and Shaviyani Hospitals.
- On 11 April 2020, the Minister of Economic Development and the Minister of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture assured that food security is a priority for the government.
- Bank of Maldives (BML) has introduced **short-term financing solutions** in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and the Maldives Association of Tourism Industry (MATI) to counter the economic impact of Covid-19 on the Maldives' tourism sector.
- BML also decided to issue MVR 308 million from their reserves to resorts, guesthouses, and other local businesses. Resorts and guesthouses can request funding up to USD two million to be repaid within three years.

WCO activities

- WHO continues to closely work and technically support the MOH and NEOC.
- WHO supported to update and print **“Home Quarantine” guideline** developed by the MOH.
- Timely sharing of updated WHO guidelines and recommendations on a regular basis.
- Scaling up of Risk Communication and Community engagement.

WHO support provided to Member State

- 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.
- Facilitated establishment of Go.Data tool in Maldives along with the necessary training.
- Facilitation of several training through webinars and webex on clinical management, IPC etc.

Support requested from SEARO

- Immediate request include procurement of 4 GeneXperts, 10 Biosafety Cabinets and **25,000 COVID-19 cartridges**.
- **50 kits of 50 E gene** and 10 kits of RdRp assay and additional 750 sets of PPEs.

Support / Coordination from SEARO and other agencies

- Needs assessment to upgrade IGMH Lab to BSL 3 level.

