South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (SEARHEF)

COVID-19 pandemic

2020, Maldives

Funds allocated: US$ 175,000

- **SEARHEF** supported the strengthening of the COVID-19 preparedness and response activities in Maldives in 2020.

- The Ministry of Health of Maldives, as a part of its response to COVID-19 Pandemic, requested for **SEARHEF** assistance for the pandemic response in the country.

- **SEARHEF** supported risk communication activities related to COVID-19 by providing technical and coordination assistance. It also assisted efforts to develop and spread health education messages. With the help of **SEARHEF**, the Ministry of Health (MoH) of Maldives documented essential steps of its COVID-19 response. Further, MoH also developed case studies based on the response.

- **SEARHEF** helped to improve the laboratories in two regions of the island nation including provision of essential laboratory equipment, test kits and other laboratory supplies.

- **SEARHEF** also collaborated in improving infection prevention and control. Some activities carried out for this purpose included bolstering the management of health-care waste, provision of personal protective equipment to health first responders, and training of health staff.

- **SEARHEF** financing was used by the Ministry of Health for training of health staff on surveillance, case investigation and rapid response, and for the supply of critical forms and formats for surveillance and reporting.

- **SEARHEF** was a rapid and effective mechanism to augment the capacity of Maldives in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.