



SUMMARY UPDATE: *Six months after the tsunami.* The WHO has been collaborating with the Government of Maldives along with the rest of the United Nations Country Team, to coordinate and implement recovery operations. UN recovery strategy on its final draft. The main focus now is on Capacity-building and EPR.

Website updated regularly (<http://www.who.org.mv>)



I. Health Protection and Disease Prevention

Project Updates for disease surveillance (including outbreak response), health systems development, nutrition, reproductive and women's health, family planning, maternal and child health, care for chronic non-communicable diseases and mental health, safe water and sanitation and environmental health, and HIV/AIDS programming.

Any outbreaks? If so, action taken (verified, investigated, responded to)

Measles:

- 832 cases to date (168 new cases).
- Affected age group above 5 years of age.
- MR campaign progress- proposal submitted for funding to American Red Cross through United Nations Foundation. First phase of the campaign to begin utilizing Tsunami funds from WHO & UNICEF until funds from ARC are received. Will start as soon as vaccine (MR) and syringes arrive in the country.

Mumps:

- 2,380 cases reported to June 28th (624 new cases).
- One island in Ari atoll reported 193 cases (population roughly 2000 with additional IDP). Field visit conducted to Ari Atoll to ensure recommendations re-isolation are being followed up.
- Cases confirmed by serology
- No complications from mumps observed

Scrub typhus:

- 49 cases (9 new cases), 2 deaths (no new deaths).

Dengue:

- 239 cases reported to DPH (48 new cases).
- No further cases reported from island reporting 11 cases after a team from the vector borne disease control unit investigated and undertook control measures.

Cat deaths:

- No further deaths reported.



MoH working in finalizing ToR for veterinarian that will try to check on the possible cause of cat deaths, as well as to assist MoH in developing preparedness plan for Avian Flu.

Surveillance

- Active AFP surveillance continues in two hospitals in Male. No cases of AFP reported.

Challenges/constraints and alternative solutions taken:

- Electronic communication would facilitate data handling;
- There is a need for staff training in basic epidemiology and outbreak response which is currently under discussion and planning in DPH/MoH with WHO.
- Curriculum of Diploma in Primary Health Care and Health Management has been reviewed by the Faculty of Health Sciences, MoH and WHO.

Dr Samad Abdullah (Coordinator CDS/SEARO) was on duty travel in Maldives and conducted discussions with MoH. Developed a plan and curricula for a “tailored” FETP for the Maldives in collaboration with NICD/India during second semester 2005 supported by Tsunami Project. Final proposal to be sent to WHO soon.

Plan to train 3 MoH officials in FETP for 3 months in NICD/India (Aug-Oct).

Plan to train 5 health officials in FETP for health workers in December 2005.

Daily report from Department of Public Health.

Good daily communication between central level and regions; timely reporting for daily surveillance. Report of 28th June 2005 in Annex 1.

Immunizations Update

Non-routine immunization of vulnerable populations within the last 2 months. Next Round (3rd round) should be under way – results in next Sit-Rep

Health Systems Update

Policy on disposal of mercury in the health care settings

- A draft policy has been developed recommending that health care workers (HCWs) carefully handle and dispose of products that contain mercury, such as thermometers and sphygmomanometers. Information on the hazards of mercury, and how to avoid exposure, will be provided to all HCWs, including dentists.



- Purchase of equipments procured through tsunami project to be “mercury-free”.

MOH are planning to develop a comprehensive purchasing policy for the Central Supply Unit for equipment, such as digital thermometers.

Waste Management

MoH will organize a two day practical workshop at Hithadhoo Regional Hospital to implement their action plan on health care waste management. This workshop will be funded by WHO. Since the training with Dept of Community Medicine. MS Ramaiah Medical College and Group of Hospitals, in May, staff at Hithadhoo Regional Hospital have conducted two information dissemination programs, including practical demonstrations on segregation, safe handling of needles, correct disinfection and safe handling of mercury spillages. Training sessions have also been organized for administrative staff and cleaning staff. Some of these sessions have been presented in Dhivehi. It is proposed that Hithadhoo Regional Hospital be developed as a ‘model’ hospital with capacity to train staff from other health care facilities.

Health care waste management training in Bangalore

The second batch of participants that will attend the training on health care waste management at the Dept of Community Medicine. MS Ramaiah Medical College and Group of Hospitals has been identified and will be starting the third week of July. This batch will include participants from two Regional Hospitals, MWSA, IGMH, Hospital Section (Procurement), Public Health Laboratory and MoEC. MoH has requested for a third batch to be trained sometime in August. SEARO technical unit working on this with the collaborative center.

Water Safety/Sanitation

Guidelines

A working group consisting of staff from IFRC, OCHA UNDP, UNEP and UNICEF will work together on developing guidelines on water and sanitation for the Maldives.

Assessing ground water

A geo-hydrologist will join the Ministry of Health for four weeks to carry out detailed assessment of groundwater resources and existing water supply on two selected islands. Assessments will include resistivity surveys, topographical surveys, household surveys and water quality surveys. MWSA staff will be trained in geophysical surveying including topographic surveying, water quality monitoring, data analysis, data collection and handling. The Consultant will provide recommendations and methods that can be applied to provide the islands with sustainable management of water resources and



water supply for short term, medium term and long term and that could be replicated in other islands.

Logistics

The strategy and recommendations in order to establish a centralized procurement and supply system has been discussed and finalized by the committee committed to that matter.

The distribution system will be a centralized one with a Central medical store in Male (CMS) that will supply 19 service delivery points (SDP) throughout the country. (One per Atoll)

The delivery system from the CMS to the SDPs will be a delivery one while from SDPs to health facilities the system will be a collection one.

The requirement for an information system in order to coordinate, monitor and also assess the distribution network will be formulated as well.

These documents will be made available within 2 to 3 days to the MOH and presented within a week for official approval.

Mental Health

The consultant in mental health in consultation with different stakeholders in Ministry of Health, UNFPA and National Narcotic Control Bureau (NNCB) is conducting the training program for the nurses and community health workers in mental health. Two regions have been covered and by Mid-August all country should be covered by a total of 9 training workshops.

The three-day program will empower the health workers to identify common mental and psychosocial disorders. The feedback from the first training workshop was very positive and the nurses and community health workers found the issue very relevant and were very kind to learn more.

Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)

- The new STP for EPR (Dr L. Schmid) arrived on the 22.06.05. After her general briefing and introduction visits, started working at the Ministry of Health.
- Training:



- The ministry of Health received an invitation for one participant to attend the Fifth Inter-regional Training Course on “Public Health and Emergency Management in Asia and the Pacific (PHEMAP-5), 4-15 July 2005”, to be held in Bangkok, Thailand.
- WHO Maldives will facilitate the participation of 11 participants from the MoH and one participant from the WHO office in the “32nd Regional Training Course on Disaster Management” organized by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 7th – 25th November 2005.
- UNDP Maldives has invited two participants from the MoH to participate in a five days training in Male on Disaster preparedness and Response, scheduled for the beginning of July.
- A first working meeting was held with UNDP to discuss common activities in the area of EPR. In the frame of the UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme (ID 00043914), developing a Disaster Risk Profile for Maldives will start shortly. It was agreed to include WHO and MoH representatives in this activity, in order to integrate health indicators in the overall profile.

Human Interest Corner or Media activity

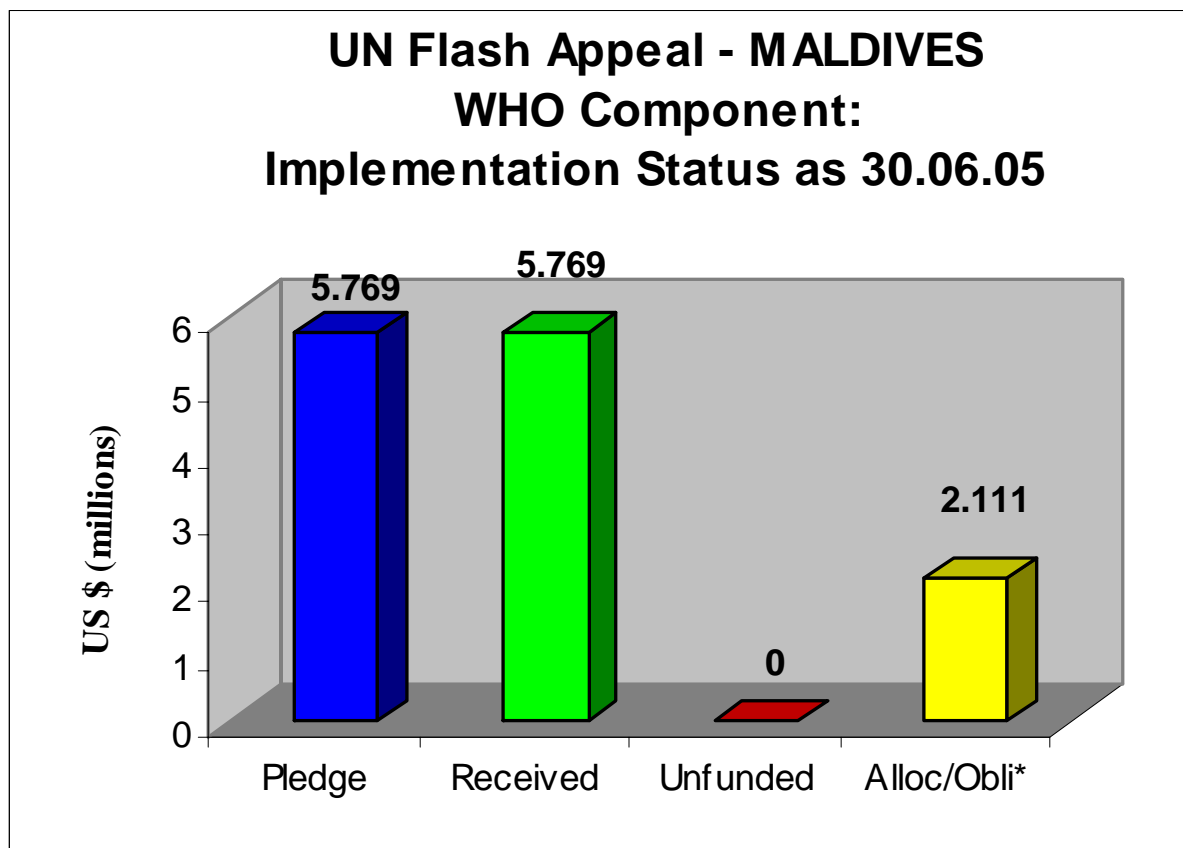
- On 26th June 2005, a regional press release on tsunami 6 month anniversary was circulated among the major local papers. The press releases were published in whole or in extracts that were incorporated into related articles. Copy of one of the articles is attached for reference.
- On 27th June 2005, a workshop was held in Hulhule Island Hotel, to discuss the scope and progress of the 11th General Programme of Work for WHO. The workshop brought together key players from various sectors such as local health authorities, non-governmental organizations, UN agencies and the like.



II. Health Policy, Coordination and Services Delivery

- Project name and amount for funding: **MAV EHA 001 (US \$ 5,769,500)**
- Status update including as many concrete figures as possible:

WHO Expected Contribution – Update	Allocation (US \$)	Obligated (US \$)
1. Assessment & Coordination	418,000	370,601
2. Support MoH in Coordination of Health Sector Activities	388,500	75,939
3. Prov. S&E of essential assets	2,870,000	1,282,094
4. Technical Support in Disaster Affected areas	232,000	3,623
5. Advocacy & Capacity Building response to Public Health Emergencies	348,000	45,333
6. Disease Surveillance and Response	426,500	129,332
7. Monitor & Surveillance of Environmental Health	1,086,500	204,225
TOTAL	5,769,500	2,111,146





Implementation Status:

- **GRAND TOTAL: US \$ 2,111,146**
- **37% implementation (obligation/earmarked) against pledge**

Upcoming challenges:

Deadline has now been extended to 31 December 2005 for all projects, including DFID.

Coordination Update (WR)

- Coordination bodies / meetings, joint-work, etc.

III. WHO Operations

Urgent Needs: nothing

Operational Platform Update:

Training in the tracking System for Tsunami project has just been conducted with support of ISM/SEARO in the project office at WHO-Male. The project manager expects this tool will help in planning the utilization of the resources before the end of the year, as well as follow up of all the procurements requests.

Issues with e.g. cars, etc...:

One speed boat for the use of MoH in affected atolls has been completed and will be handed over to MoH. One more to be completed within next two weeks.

Upcoming challenges:

An expected request for local procurement of medical supplies represents a special challenge for the tsunami team.

HR Update:

STP/C

EPR expert seconded from German Red Cross arrived and joined the project.

Extensions of contract to the end of 2005 for Ibrahim Kone and for Dr. Shalini Pooransingh to the end of September 2005 have been sent to SEARO for renewal.



Contract of Hydrologist has been finalized and first installment released. Expected to arrive in Maldives by 09 July 2005 to assist MWSA.

Contract of Information Officer to be renewed.

R&R policy – what percentage of staff are compliant with this:

Dr Shalini Pooransingh and Dr Hedvig Pelle are on R&R
We have been informed by UNRC that effectively 1st July, R&R will apply after 4 months of continuous stay in the duty station (not 8 weeks-2months as it is now).

Staff TOR:

ToR's of Information officer revised.

Security Update:

Upcoming challenges: N/A

Government Relations Update:

Status update: Nothing to report

Visa issues:

- 30 days tourist visa is issue to all visitors arriving to the Maldives. Extensions are requested through the WCO.

Upcoming challenges: Nothing to report

Financial Pledges Update:

Status update:

- Total pledge received.

Upcoming challenges:

No need for more funds for 2005, but it might be very relevant for 2006