



MALDIVES

IFRC Country Cluster Support Team Delhi

2019 COUNTRY PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Maldives, whose population of about 400,000 people is dispersed over 188 islands, has an economy narrowly based on tourism and fisheries. The country made strong gains in human development and is now an upper middle-income country although it has a complex political situation, weak government institutions, a high fiscal deficit and public debt.

Despite developmental gains, inclusion issues persist, with high youth unemployment and low women's workforce participation. There is a growing sense of disenfranchisement and exclusion among young Maldivians as limited island economies, physical isolation, and increasingly conservative social values may affect their futures. Key constraints for women include political representation and access to decision-making structures, along with access to jobs, credit and property.

Environmental sustainability, climate change and disaster resilience also pose significant risks. Almost half of all settlements and over two thirds of critical infrastructure are located within 100 meters of the shoreline and are under immediate threat from rising sea levels.

Since its formal establishment in 2009, the Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) has been contributing significantly towards the country's humanitarian and development needs by establishing systems and structures that enable effective delivery of services to those who need it most across the small island nation. Their main strategic areas are disaster management, health and well-being, social inclusion, and youth empowerment through volunteerism and inclusive programming. With dynamic leadership and an energetic team of young volunteers and staff, the MRC is steadily gaining recognition and support for its work and its strong focus on vulnerability and inclusion. While increasingly supported by local resource mobilisation, MRC is not yet self-sustainable. The imminent adoption of a long-term strategic vision and results-based planning and accountability framework will provide a clear direction for the coming years. This will include a systematic roll-out of emergency response teams, the introduction of a long-term schools-based humanitarian education programme, and a strong focus on building climate resilience and promoting social inclusion for vulnerable groups, including labour migrants and those living with a disability.

In 2019, IFRC will provide technical assistance to further develop core programme areas in institutional preparedness, integrated disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, and targeted services for labour migrants. It will also work in close collaboration with ICRC to support overall National Society capacity-building including branch and leadership development, resource mobilization, youth programming and regular dialogue with authorities.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT



From Assistance to Engagement: Involving Migrants in Health Emergency Planning

Migrants are among the most vulnerable groups in Maldivian society. They make up 25 per cent of the country's total population and many are employed in unskilled labour in the construction and tourism industries. Access to health services is limited for the majority of migrants. MRC is among the very few organizations in Maldives that directly works with migrants and openly allows migrants to be a part of their volunteer and membership base. Through a two-month pilot project funded by International Organization for Migration (IOM) and aimed at raising awareness in the area of human trafficking and communicable diseases, MRC reached 1,580 migrants by building the capacity of migrant workers from different nationalities to work as peer educators of health promotion. MRC also communicated health outbreak preventative measures in multiple languages.

STATISTICS

103rd

Out of 189 countries on the 2018 Human Development Index

11.7%

Unemployment rate

25%

of youth population are not employed, in education or training

AREA OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

CHF 50,000 REQUIRED

Building on previous vulnerability and capacity assessments, MRC will engage with local communities, authorities and other stakeholders to develop concrete risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures.

- 10,000 people will benefit from clear action plans following VCA, agreed with local authorities and other stakeholders
- Training of trainers for integrated risk management, combining disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and environmental protection

HEALTH

CHF 70,000 REQUIRED

A new pilot project closely coordinated with the Health Protection Agency will contribute to the national goal of eliminating tuberculosis by 2022. It will focus especially on labour migrant workers, as well as high risk populations such as low-income groups, HIV positive people, prisoners and drugs users.

- Support to active case finding in hard-to-reach populations, including general health screening camps aimed at migrant workers
- Support enrolment and treatment adherence through active "buddy" system
- Increased awareness and eliminating stigma and discrimination

PROTECTION, GENDER & INCLUSION

CHF 32,000 REQUIRED

MRC aims to develop a long-term school-based network for the Red Crescent Youth programme, in close partnership with the Ministry of Education and with a strong focus on promoting humanitarian values and enhancing social capital.

- Case studies of successful MRC inclusion approaches
- Social inclusion audit across core programmes with focus on disability
- Training for staff and volunteers on sexual and gender-based violence
- Long-term strategy, curriculum and approach for Red Crescent Youth

MIGRATION

CHF 35,000 REQUIRED

MRC is increasingly recognised by the authorities for its ability to reach out and work with labour migrants, both in regular services and during disasters and crises. It plays a critical role in building disaster resilience, contributing to health promotion and epidemic control, promoting social inclusion and advocating on behalf of vulnerable migrants.

- Migration dialogue event co-organized by MRC and Bangladesh Red Crescent
- Joint pilot project aimed at vulnerable Bangladeshi labour migrants

STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITY

CHF 110,000 REQUIRED

MRC is currently finalizing its new strategic vision for the next decade, along with a clear results-based framework for the period 2019-2022. Key areas requiring support during 2019 include branch and leadership development, youth engagement and volunteer management, and promoting the auxiliary status. The latter includes enhancing the MRC's institutional preparedness, in particular the systematic roll-out of emergency response teams across the country in close collaboration with the authorities.

- A new strategic vision for the next decade and a results-based planning framework for the period 2019-2022
- Emergency Response Teams (ERT) trained and managed effectively with clear operating procedures and support agreed with local authorities
- Peer exchange and technical support on volunteer management

INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS

CHF 12,000 REQUIRED

While MRC has already taken important steps towards greater self-sustainability, there is still a need to grow and diversify its income from domestic and international sources. This will also be clearly reflected in the new strategic plan and results-based planning framework for the coming years.

- Enhanced capacity for resource mobilisation for core programmes and services
- Support for fundraising for global disasters and crises in selected contexts
- Formal accountability and transparency framework
- A transparent costing policy for indirect costs based on IFRC guidelines

CONTACTS

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