



**MAAMV001
& MAABT001**

Appeal number

619,000

Swiss Francs
Combined total funding
requirement

507,230

People to be reached

4,077

Combined number of volunteers in
Maldives and Bhutan



MALDIVES & BHUTAN

IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) Delhi

COUNTRY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Maldives

By 2020 the population of the Maldives is expected to reach 557,000, with some 32 per cent of these foreign residents. The population is spread over 200 inhabited islands – among 1,190 in the archipelago – and over 90 islands are exclusively for tourists. The geographical makeup of the country, with its scattered islands, has resulted in a wide and uneven distribution of population, with the capital city of Malé being the only island with a population exceeding 15,000. Though the highly urbanized capital has easy access to a wide range of services, this is not the case for the entire country. Despite the Maldives' relatively high human development index ranking, there remain important economic, environmental, health and social challenges, including adaptation to climate change, reducing drug abuse and effectively promoting women's empowerment. Climate change poses the greatest long-term threat to the nation. An archipelago of low-lying islands, the Maldives has been identified as one of the world's most vulnerable regions in the face of rising sea levels and climate change. Low-lying states such as the Maldives are particularly vulnerable to effects caused by sea-level rise. With its highest regions standing at an altitude of about one metre, much of the Maldives could be submerged in ocean within the next century. In addition, more intense and frequent tropical storms may affect vulnerable island communities, cause pollution of groundwater and exacerbate coastal erosion, or cause significant economic losses and damages to property.

Bhutan

Bhutan is a small, mountainous country between the People's Republic of China and India. Despite its challenging geography and limited connectivity to the global markets, Bhutan has managed to transform itself from a pastoral and subsistence economy into a rapidly growing low middle-income country by unlocking its hydropower potential. The Bhutan Red Cross Society (BRCS) was established in May 2017. The National Society is still in the early stages of its formation and continues to make steady progress on its roadmap towards formal recognition by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and membership of the IFRC. Technical assistance and cooperation will be required for both organizational development and further developing a set of relevant and sustainable core programmes and services. The programme approach for Bhutan will be based on the key areas – Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR); Health; Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI); strengthening National Society capacity; and ensuring effective international disaster management. Technical support to the National Society, including capacity building as well as reputational risk management, are provided through a coordinated approach with ICRC. Relevant work is coordinated with international partners when appropriate, such as collaboration with the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Development Programme.



NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Maldives' and Bhutan's different needs

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have been identified as the leading cause of mortality in the Maldives, accounting for 81 per cent of deaths. The majority of these diseases are preventable – the most common causes of NCDs include tobacco use, alcohol abuse, poor diets and physical inactivity.

Climate change is a stark reality affecting the lives of people in Bhutan. The population faces a high risk of glacier lake outburst floods that threaten downstream communities in Bhutan with potentially huge cost to life, property and infrastructure.

STATISTICS

44%

of the settlement footprints of all islands in the Maldives are within 100 metres of the coastline.

80%

of the land area in the Maldives is less than one metre above sea level.

70%

forest land cover in Bhutan

60%

of people live in rural areas and depend on agriculture and small-scale livestock farming in Bhutan.

MALDIVES

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 320,000

In 2020, the Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) and CCST Delhi will be prioritizing four Areas of Focus, namely: DRR, Health, PGI and Migration along with the strategies of CCST to support the National Society. MRC has identified three interlinked priorities that focus on building a strong institutional capacity for emergency response, especially through well-trained Emergency Response Teams across the entire country; developing capabilities for emergency response service provision, such as first aid and psycho-social support; and enhancing resilience-based planning using Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments as a starting point in both rural and urban settings. In the health sector, the main strategy for MRC centres around shifting the current practice of response more towards preparedness and prevention activities, particularly with regard to communicable diseases including vector-borne diseases. The ultimate goal of these activities is to consolidate MRC's role in health preparedness and disease control, factoring in emerging climate trends.

The strategy here also focuses on increasing health-related outreach and interventions targeting the foreign migrant worker population, which MRC has been actively undertaking to date. In addition to health preparedness, MRC will undertake interventions in road safety, occupational health hazards and injury prevention, given the increasing scale of challenges and gaps in response in these areas.

Over the next four years, MRC also aims to develop a close partnership with the Ministry of Education and build a school-based network of Red Crescent Youth, with a strong focus on promoting humanitarian values and enhancing social capital. CCST Delhi will continue facilitating technical support and peer exchange for the development of a school-based Red Crescent Youth network, building on components of the global Youth Engagement Strategy, the Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC) methodology and tools, and good practice from sister National Societies with similar programmes. CCST Delhi's key effort will be offering support to build MRC's capacities through multi-stakeholder engagement and advocacy, both at the grassroots and national levels, with a clear aim of positioning the National Society as a strong, credible and predictable actor in both the humanitarian and resilient development domains.

BHUTAN

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 270,000

CCST Delhi will facilitate and support the BRCS in tailoring disaster risk management training for staff and volunteers at headquarters and branch level, and promote the adoption of a clear set of basic tools and standard operating procedures for emergency response. A small stock of relief items will be pre-positioned at selected branches to facilitate an immediate response in areas that may become isolated in case of a major disaster. Volunteers from selected branches will be also be trained in promoting community resilience, engaging with local communities, authorities and other stakeholders in concrete risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures. In addition, CCST Delhi plans to support the BRCS in terms of:

- strengthening the National Society's position on first aid (FA) through capacity building and expanding its FA network;
- conducting training for volunteers on epidemic control for volunteers and FA.

Further, PGI is expected to be mainstreamed in emergency operations using IFRC's PGI toolkit and arranging the collection of gender-disaggregated data. PGI forms part of Disaster Relief Emergency Fund operations and a Training of Trainers is planned for 2020 to build on current efforts and make PGI an integral part of emergency operations and training programmes. Support to the BRCS in capacity building and organizational development includes:

- training and peer exchange opportunities for leadership development, with a focus on governance and risk management;
- developing and introducing a youth engagement strategy, and exploring options to introduce the YABC model;
- technical support on volunteer management;
- strengthening management systems and procedures through core support, training and peer exchange.

CCST Delhi will continue to support the BRCS to be an effective, credible and accountable humanitarian organization through engagement with its leaders on policy matters, supporting planning and performance management and providing technical support for effective coordination and disaster response. CCST Delhi will prioritize its support in the areas of organizational development and disaster risk management and work closely with relevant actors to strengthen the BRCS. Priorities include the recruitment of members and volunteers, the establishment of a branch network, the finalization of formal statutes, and leadership development. Programmatic support will focus on strengthening the BRCS's disaster response capacity at the institutional level, building predictable response capabilities as part of its auxiliary role, and resilience-building at the community level.

CONTACTS

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