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Maldivian Red Crescent

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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# Foreword by President



From its inception as a result of the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004, as the 187th National Society of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, the Maldivian Red Crescent has continued to learn and grow. The National Society has become one of the leading humanitarian actors in the country and is a beacon of hope for many, doing essential work to alleviate human suffering and amplifying voices that need to be heard.

Beginning a new four-year term as the President of the Maldivian Red Crescent in April 2021, my contributions to the National Society and its accomplishments have only just begun. Over the years, the organization has

pursued the goal of providing assistance to the most vulnerable and acting as a positive agent of change to the local communities in the Maldives and have also been recognized as an exemplary National Society of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement as well. We work towards creating a society that can efficiently and effectively respond to emergencies and disasters and find sustainable solutions to issues we face as a community. As such, the National Society has evolved and adapted to strengthen the priority areas of its work, improving the provision of First Aid services and Psychosocial Support, promoting humanitarian values, and maintaining the core mandates of disaster management and emergency response. One of the key aims of my tenure as the President of the Maldivian Red Crescent, is continuing this trajectory of progress and growth at all levels. By focusing on the financial sustainability of the organization, establishing, and strengthening partnerships and advocacy, committing to increasing inclusivity and addressing vulnerable groups in the community.

Within the past year, our accomplishments have been numerous as a National Society, and many alterations have been made to our organizational approach. The main goal of the Governing Board throughout 2021 was implementing the changes brought to the Statutes that were amended at the 11th General Assembly held in April 2021. Further work was done to work towards achieving the long-term objectives

of the Maldivian Red Crescent, as the Youth Policy and Disaster Risk Management Policy were adopted by the Governing Board, and steps were taken to ensure the accountability and transparency of the National Society with the newly elected Complaints Committee.

As an auxiliary to the state and an organization with presence in the community, the National Society is in a unique position to identify and promote the delivery of humanitarian services in an impartial, neutral, and independent manner, putting humanity first. As such, we have taken action to increase inclusivity and diversity in our work, while also acknowledging the long road ahead. Effort continues to be made to truly represent the diverse communities in the Maldives, ensuring that more women, migrants, persons with disabilities, and people of all age groups are part of our volunteer teams, staff, and leadership at organizational and unit levels. In 2021, gender parity was reached within the Governing Board with 6 women out of 11 members being elected to the Board,

All the work that we do, and all our accomplishments, have only been possible because of the volunteers, members and staff who have made immeasurable contributions to the National Society. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my greatest appreciation to the former president, Ali Nashid, who had contributed immensely to the sustainability and development of the organization in many ways and continues to serve the



National Society and the RCRC Movement. Thank you to the former and current Governing Board Members who have provided their experience, insight, and guidance in leading the course of the organization's work to best benefit the communities we assist. I would like to express my gratitude to the former and current staff, who do their utmost to ensure the continuity of the work of the National Society according to the strategic priorities. Finally, and most importantly, thank you to our volunteers, who are at the heart of everything. Thank you for always coming forward when you are needed, and for bravely and courageously persisting in giving us your time and energy. I am incredibly appreciative for your service and your sacrifices, and for staying committed to changing the lives of many in our community with your kindness and courage.

**Abdul Haleem Abdul Latheef**  
President

## Foreword by Secretary General



In 2021, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be felt. In the face of long-lasting uncertainty, ever changing circumstances and incessant fatigue, humanity persisted in adapting to its trials and tribulations. By the tenacity, courage, and kindness of those at the frontline and the global population, hard work was done to bring a sense of normalcy, safety, and reassurance to our lives. Through it all, it is the humane capacity for empathy and connection, as well as the inherent compassion one can exhibit when faced with difficulty, that remains the reason why we can come together as a community and stay strong.

The essence of humanitarian work was particularly felt during the pandemic, as it shifted to fit the needs and challenges brought on by COVID-19. In much the same way, the work done by the Maldivian Red Crescent was also ever-changing. Once again, the National Society embodied its role as an auxiliary body to the state, providing essential services in the nationwide COVID-19 emergency response efforts. As was done in 2020, the National Society commenced a varied range of initiatives to assist the State, strengthening and keeping up endeavors to provide vital support to migrants, Psychosocial Support and Risk Communications and Community Engagement.

As COVID-19 vaccination efforts began, MRC remained steadfast in advocating for vaccine equity— one of the most crucial avenues of support provided were to migrants who faced socio economic difficulties. MRC was able to assist more than 25,114 individuals to receive their vaccines, including undocumented migrants who would have not been able to access the vaccines without the registration support provided by MRC. Furthermore, more than 6597 migrants received assistance via the Migrant Support Helpline.

In adapting to the 'new normal' of the COVID-19 pandemic and adjusting to emergency response efforts related to the pandemic, the work towards furthering the key strategic priorities of the National Society was reinvigorated. The Psychosocial Support Helpline and

the Migrant Support Helpline established in 2020 continued its services, strengthening the support provided to vulnerable groups and those in need. A total of 2190 calls were attended to by the Psychosocial Support Helpline 1425 in 2021.

To increase the resilience of the community in responding to the prevalent impacts of the climate crisis, MRC contributed to the efforts to inspire and maximize collective action in responding to the climate and environmental crises.

As a National Society, the extent to which we can effectively carry out our mandated responsibilities is dependent on the relationships established with the State, partners, and donors. We would like to express our gratitude to the State for recognizing the importance of upholding our mandate and facilitating our role as an auxiliary body in the society enabling MRC provide humanitarian services to our communities in an impartial, neutral, and independent manner.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the UN in Maldives, UNICEF Maldives, WHO and UNDP Maldives for supporting us in our efforts to increase accessibility and build a more resilient community and contributing greatly to increasing our positive impact on society. Additionally, the continued support provided by our various corporate partners supported the continuous delivery of our services in the communities and as



such I would like to thank Dhiraagu for continuing its Corporate Membership with MRC for the past three years.

As a National Society of the Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement, the MRC has continued to receive support and assistance from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and other partner National Societies. We can persist in our efforts to actively work towards addressing the needs of the people by working closely with our RCRC partners, who have provided us with immeasurable guidance, resources, and insight.

As we continue to serve humanity and try to create a positive impact on the lives that we touch, we are exceedingly proud of our collective achievements over the past year. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for our volunteers, who have worked longer and harder than ever to help the most vulnerable in our communities and without doubt we would not have been able to provide these essential and lifesaving services without the support of our volunteers. As the heart of our organization, their insurmountable courage, passion, and kindness have made them beacons of hope for our community.

**Fathimath Himya**  
**Secretary General**





## Who Are We?

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The Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) is an independent, voluntary, humanitarian organization, established on the basis of the Maldivian Red Crescent Law [Law 7/2009]. Our primary objective is to provide humanitarian aid and to prevent and alleviate human suffering in close cooperation with government and local partners working towards the same goal.

Other objectives of the MRC are to provide humanitarian aid to those suffering, at times of war, conflict and peace; to protect and assist the victims including preservation of the physical integrity and dignity of the victims, at times of war, conflict and peace; to contribute to the improvement of the conditions of the weak and the vulnerable; in times of ill health, in prevention of diseases, and in response to all humanitarian emergencies; to provide support to government organizations assisting the victims and those effected by disasters and natural causes.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) recognized MRC as a full-fledged member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on 9 November 2011. Subsequently, MRC became the 187th member of the IFRC on 23 November 2011. To date we have established our presence in 10 Atolls across the country and have successfully rolled out service delivery initiatives through MRC Units in these communities and we are continuously working to expand our services to more islands.



# The 7 Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement



Humanity  
 ހިތްވަރު ދެއްވުން



Impartiality  
 ފަދަ ފަދަ



Neutrality  
 ދެކޮޅެއް ނުވާ



Independence  
 ދިވެހިކަން



Voluntary Service  
 ފަރާތްތަކުގެ ވިޔަފާރި



Unity  
 ހެއްދެވުމުގެ ބާރު



Universality  
 ހުރިހާ ބަޔާން



## COVID-19 Response in 2021



As COVID-19 pandemic entered its 2nd year, MRC continued response efforts, working through its auxiliary role to engage with the government of the Maldives providing humanitarian assistance to those in need and affected by the pandemic. With the scale of the response continuously evolving with changing circumstances of surges of COVID-19 cases, MRC mobilized its volunteers and teams to support the response efforts through the Health Emergency Operations Center (HEOC) operated under the direction of the Health Protection Agency (HPA) and the Ministry of Health. MRC units in Kulhudhuffushi City, Addu City, Lhaviyani Hinnavaru and Naifaru also worked closely

alongside respective COVID-19 emergency operations centers established in their cities and islands.

The introduction of the COVID-19 vaccines in February 2021 in Maldives marked a significant milestone in the road towards recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The President of the Maldives, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih launched the nationwide COVID-19 immunization campaign 'Dhifaau' on 01 February 2021. MRC as an auxiliary body to the state, supported in making the vaccines available to all and promoting vaccine equity. A vital part of this process was addressing the vaccination of vulnerable groups in the community, identifying gaps in accessing the COVID-19 vaccine and information. MRC extended its assistance towards the efforts of vaccination centers across the Maldives. Furthermore, through effective dialogue, advocacy and the support of public authorities and agencies, MRC helped facilitate the vaccination of undocumented migrants taking significant steps towards achieving vaccine equity in the Maldives. Given the numerous challenges that migrants have faced in accessing essential health services and other basic needs since the beginning of the pandemic, this was a milestone achievement in ensuring that no one is left behind in the immunization process.

MRC mobilized volunteers to support COVID-19 immunization efforts across the country, with volunteers engaged in supporting the management of vaccination centers, as well as provided communication assistance

and support to migrants and the elderly. In addition, MRC carried out the registration services for undocumented migrants for COVID-19 vaccination across the country and supported mobile vaccination efforts to vaccinate bed-ridden and elderly people in Greater Male' Area for the COVID-19 vaccine throughout the year in collaboration with the Health Protection Agency and Dhamanaveshi.

Over the course of 2021, there were surges of COVID-19 cases between February and March 2021, and between April and June 2021, with the latter resulting in one of the highest infection rates and deaths related to COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic. Unlike 2020, community spread of the virus was observed beyond Greater Male' Area with 73 islands placed under monitoring during May 2021. During this period of high infection rates and imposed restrictions, MRC increased its COVID-19 response efforts to provide critical humanitarian assistance to affected people including psychosocial support and other relief efforts.



Throughout the COVID-19 response efforts in 2021, MRC were active and engaged in the following areas:

-  Risk Communication and Community Engagement Activities
-  Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services and Interventions
-  Migrant Support Services and Interventions
-  COVID-19 Vaccination support and Promotion activities
-  Supporting Essential and Critical Services

A total of **183 Volunteers** were mobilized during the response efforts in 2021 who contributed **11,500 Volunteers' hours**.

# COVID-19 Response Highlights in 2021

## Risk Communication and Community Engagement Activities

**268**  
Hours of Risk Messaging via Loudspeakers

**11,788**  
IEC Material on COVID-19 and MHPSS distributed

**10**  
Online Information Session on COVID-19

**332**  
Participants completed Information Session on COVID-19

**1,196**  
Vaccination Status Assessment in Greater Male' and Addu City

### Hygiene Promotion and COVID-19 Prevention Promotion

**3,579** Hygiene kits distributed

**20,000** Masks Distributed

## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services and Interventions

1425 PSS Helpline Service  
**2,190**  
Calls Serviced via MRC PSS Helpline 1425

MHPSS Capacity Building  
**30** MHPSS Trainings

**351** participants trained in MHPSS Trainings

## Migrant Support Services and Interventions

**11,027**  
Migrants Assisted

**259**  
Emergency Food Packs

**7,182**  
Meals Provided (Direct & Indirect meal provision)

**3,579**  
Hygiene kits distributed

### Migrant Support Helpline 1458

**6,597**  
Calls Serviced via Migrant Support

## COVID-19 Immunization support and promotion Activities

**25,114**  
Supported for COVID-19 Immunization across MRC Units

**19,968**  
Supported at Vaccination Centers across MRC units

**4,593**  
Migrants registered for COVID-19 immunization via MRC Bensys across 27 islands

**533**  
Mobile Vaccination Trips Completed in Greater Male' Area

## Supporting essential and Critical Services

**947**  
Patient Transport Service Trips  
704 Emergency Medical Service  
243 Male' City Vehicle Support Operations

**75**  
Days supporting Harbor monitoring stations in Kulhudhuffushi City

**66**  
Days supporting Kulhudhuffushi City COVID-19 EOC

**60**  
Days supporting Hulhumeedhoo Health Center in Addu City

**297**  
Blood donations via blood camps in Greater Male' Area

**1303**  
Critical Medicine Packages delivered

**66,336**  
Assisted under COVID-19 Response



**183**  
Volunteers  
92 Male | 91 Female



**11,500**  
Hours of Volunteer Work

# Risk Communication and Community Engagement Activities

- 
**1,196**  
 Migrants surveyed during rapid assessments in Greater Male Area and Addu City.
- 
**418**  
 Wellness check calls made to senior citizens in Kulhudhuffushi City.
- 
**11,788**  
 Printed IEC materials distributed by volunteers in Addu City, Male' City, and Kulhudhuffushi City, as well as volunteers in Meemu, Gaafu Dhaal, Gaafu Alif, Thaa and Fuvamulah.
- 
**20,000**  
 Reusable masks distributed.
- 
**3,579**  
 Hygiene kits distributed.

One of the key activities carried out by MRC as part of its COVID-19 response is Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE). In addition to disseminating information on taking precautions against COVID-19 to the public with the support of health authorities, efforts were also made to reach vulnerable groups that were at a higher risk as they were unable to access information and resources, such as migrants. MRC also continued its role at the COVID-19 Health Emergency Operations Centers (HEOC)'s in the Communications cluster.

With the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccines, MRC engaged in activities to promote the importance of getting vaccinated against COVID-19, developing targeted messaging, and providing information on COVID-19 vaccines to combat misinformation and address vaccine hesitancy. With the support of lead migrant volunteers, a series of in-person and online COVID-19 vaccine information sessions were conducted as well as information sessions for 134 Volunteers who were involved in COVID-19 immunization support. Throughout the year, MRC social media platforms were utilized to communicate situation dependent COVID-19 messaging.

Volunteers across MRC units were mobilized to engage and communicate within their communities through different mediums such as distribution of printed Information Education Communication (IEC) materi-

als and posters, as well as playback of recorded audio messaging through loudspeakers targeted towards harder to reach groups such as migrants. Key messages were translated in multiple languages to cater to different migrant communities, with a particular focus on messaging in Bengali given the highest migrant population were from Bangladesh.

In June 2021, a rapid assessment was carried out to engage with migrant communities in Greater Male' Area, including industrial islands and in Addu City. The purpose of the assessment was to determine vaccination status of migrants, to identify challenges in COVID-19 vaccine accessibility, and to provide lifesaving information related to COVID-19. During this assessment 1196 migrants were surveyed who cited challenges in accessibility such as travel challenges, registration, and unavailability of vaccines. To maximize reach during this assessment, COVID-19 information posters were placed across targeted locations in multiple languages and re-usable masks were distributed to the participants of the survey. The findings of the assessment were communicated with the HEOC and respective Emergency Operations Centers to better advocate for accessibility pertaining to vaccines especially for individuals living in industrial islands in Greater Male' Area and Addu City.



MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Office continued efforts in ensuring the well-being of the elderly in Kulhudhuffushi City through their regular check-in programs for the elderly. Volunteers made 418 calls to senior citizens registered with the unit to check on their health and wellbeing as well as facilitate any necessary assistance they needed.

Volunteers from the MRC Units in Addu City, Male' City, and Kulhudhuffushi City, as well as volunteers in Meemu, Gaafu Dhaal, Gaafu Alif, Thaa and Fuvamulah distributed 11,788 printed IEC materials to the public to emphasize the importance of practicing COVID-19 prevention measures and to promote Mental Health and Wellbeing. These printed materials were also placed and distributed to shops, restaurants and other public areas for better visibility and maximizing reach.

As part of Hygiene promotion and COVID-19 prevention MRC distributed 20,000 reusable masks and 3579 hygiene kits throughout its response efforts during the year





## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services and Interventions

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic, one of the key areas of interventions undertaken by MRC has been strengthening Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS). With COVID-19 having significant negative impacts on the mental wellbeing of people who are directly and indirectly affected by the pandemic, MRC's Psychosocial Support Service (PSS) capacity strengthening remained a key area of focus in 2021.

### MRC Psychosocial Support Helpline 1425

MRCs continued its Psychosocial Support Helpline 1425, a toll-free service established in March 2020, offering a safe space for anyone in distress to reach out for help and support. This service is available daily, except Fridays from 12pm – 12am. The helpline, which was established to alleviate mental distress and challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, has trained call agents in Psychological First Aid (PFA) and is equipped to provide psychosocial support services. Individuals who need professional help are provided support by linking them towards appropriate help through a pre-agreed referral mechanism with relevant service providers. Contextualized guidelines and procedures were established to

support the services provided through the helpline. To ensure the standard and quality of the services provided, call agents underwent training and evaluations regularly.


From 01st January 2021 – 31st December 2021 a total of 2190 calls were serviced through the helpline. An increased number of calls were received during February – June 2021, likely due to the surge of COVID-19 cases, imposed restrictions and high number of COVID-19 related mortalities during this period. To alleviate distress and to support the emotional well-being of those affected, outgoing calls were also made to patients/frontliners in coordination with HPA. The call center also coordinated with MRC Addu City Office in providing psychosocial support to individuals in isolation during the surge in COVID-19 cases in Addu City.

### PSS Capacity Building

With the long-term impact of COVID-19, the need to strengthen and build MHPSS capacity was identified, particularly among the volunteers, frontline workers and health care workers who have been exposed to the pandemic for an extended period of time. With the impact of the pandemic increasing due to the changing


situation of COVID-19, MRC provided MHPSS capacity building trainings such as Psychological First Aid (PFA) training, PFA orientations, Supportive Communications modules, Care for Volunteers and PFA in Groups training for volunteers, frontline and healthcare workers and agencies involved with the COVID-19 response. In addition to agencies working in the COVID-19 frontlines, trainings were also conducted to participants from Laamu Atoll MNU Campus, Ombudsperson Office, Villa College and Maldivian Blood Services.

During 2021, a total of 30 MHPSS sessions were conducted with 351 participants taking part in these sessions.



# 2,190

Calls were serviced through PSS Helpline 1425



# 351

Trained during 30 MHPSS trainings

# Migrant Support Services and Interventions

Migrant workers in the Maldives were among the hardest hit communities as a result of COVID-19, and are still dealing with the pandemic's socioeconomic consequences. Unlike 2020, community spread of COVID-19 was observed by many other islands outside of the Greater Male' Area. MRC Units in Kulhudhuffushi City, Addu City, in Hinnavaru and Naifaru of Lhaviyani Atoll mobilized their volunteers to carry out Migrant Support Services and interventions to provide support to affected migrants.

In Greater Male' Area, MRC Male' City Office re-activated its meal provision programme in February 2021 and between May – June 2021. With movement restrictions affecting the services of the migrant-run food outlets, which were the primary meal arrangement modality among migrants, MRC re-activated permit issuance in coordination with the government authorities, resulting in uninterrupted meal provision to the migrants. During this period 6615 meals were provided to affected migrants. In addition, MRC also provided first aid and emergency meals for migrants who were being placed in state care prior to repatriation during this time.

With restrictive measures imposed due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, a migrant support helpline 1458 was established and operated by MRC Male' City Office. This

helpline provided assistance to migrants experiencing economic hardship, information on COVID-19 and vaccination, and assistance with COVID-19 vaccine registration. Although this helpline was not toll-free initially, within a month of establishment it was modified to operate as a toll-free helpline accessible to everyone. By removing financial restrictions on this helpline, MRC aimed to ensure that the most vulnerable in the community could reach MRC for humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, the helpline is staffed by migrant call agents, removing further barriers to accessing assistance due to language.

In addition to providing relief assistance, the migrant support helpline also made outgoing calls to 2425 individuals who were registered with MRC's Beneficiary Management System (MRC Bensys) to follow up on their COVID-19 vaccination status and identify any challenges in accessing COVID-19 vaccination. Moreover, the helpline has provided vital information and communication support to migrants and health centers across the Maldives in facilitating the vaccination of undocumented migrants. In addition, MRC also carried out remote registrations of migrants for COVID-19 vaccination in 23 different islands in coordination with the respective health centers. Since the establishment of the helpline, 6597 calls have been serviced to migrants across the Maldives.

In Addu City and in Lhaviyani Atoll Hinnvaru, community spread of the COVID-19 resulted in migrant communities to be placed under isolation which restricted their movements and access to basic necessities. During this period, MRC Hithadhoo Unit in Addu City and Hinnavaru Unit ensured that the basic needs of affected migrants were met by providing meals and hygiene kits. Through this intervention, Hithadhoo Unit provided 2121 meals to affected migrants, while Hinnavaru Unit provided meals to 567 affected migrants. In addition to meal provision, Hinnavaru Unit also distributed 100 hygiene kits to migrants placed under isolation.



## Migrants Assisted during the COVID-19 pandemic in Addu City



"During the pandemic, a lot of us migrants lost our jobs and tested positive for COVID-19. We were unable to move anywhere or find work, and MRC volunteers support and provided us with food, medicine and getting our COVID-19 vaccines. It feels good to know that we have people who will help us during difficult times."

**Shafeeg**  
Addu City



"We have noticed MRC's presence when we need help, but I especially felt it when we had no way to obtain food when we were quarantined at the Gan Isolation facility. They provided us with food and medicine then and have since supported us in getting vaccinated too."

**Jewel**  
Addu City



"During the COVID-19 pandemic, I had to complete my quarantine at the Gan Isolation facility and met volunteers from MRC for the first time. Their response was instantaneous, and they provided me with food and medicine during my isolation."

**Bachu**  
Addu City


## COVID-19 Immunization Support and Promotion Activities


The Maldives' government pledged in January 2021 that COVID-19 vaccine would be available free of charge to all Maldivians and migrant workers residing in the Maldives, including undocumented migrants, which was followed by a nationwide COVID-19 vaccination campaign that began on February 1st, 2021.

MRC extended its support to the nationwide immunization efforts by mobilizing its volunteers in Greater Male' Area, Addu City, Kulhudhuffushi City and Lhaviyani Atoll Hinnavaru providing support in registration and access for the elderly as well as migrants. Volunteers assisted in the management of the vaccination centers by supporting authorities with queue management and providing information and communication support to individuals at respective vaccination centers. MRC's Male' City Office in coordination with Health Protection Agency and Dhamanaveshi carried out the mobile vaccination service to administer COVID-19 vaccines to bed-ridden and high-risk elderly patients. With the assistance of MRC Male' City Office, 553 mobile vaccination trips were carried out in 2021.






**533**  
 Mobile vaccination trips carried out in Greater Male Area


**4593**  
 Migrants in 27 islands registered for COVID-19 Immunization



## Vaccination of Migrants without Proper Documentation

On 21 February 2021, MRC collaborated with the Health Protection Agency and initiated the registration service for undocumented migrants to administer COVID-19 vaccines throughout the Maldives. The registration service was provided by MRC's Beneficiary Management System (MRC Bensys) which collected all relevant personal information pertaining to an individual to administer the COVID-19 vaccine. The information gathered during this process was only shared with and made available to the relevant public health authorities in charge of the COVID-19 immunization campaign in the Maldives.

Volunteers in Male' City, Kulhudhuffushi City and Addu City were provided Data Collection and Protection in Humanitarian Services training along with an orientation on Sphere standards on conducting humanitarian services. With a significant population of undocumented migrants living in the Greater Male' area, the initial roll out of the registration service was carried out in Male' City. MRC Male' City Office established an operations center at Sultan Park to carry out registration process for undocumented migrants. With COVID-19 restrictions imposed during the initial establishment of the Center, a call center was established to book registration slots in addition to walk-in registration services under this operation to facilitate easy registration and provide proper information. Concurrently with the registration process, many other

services were also provided to these migrants such as COVID-19 vaccine awareness sessions, distribution of hygiene kits and distribution of IEC materials on prevention of COVID-19 in various languages.

During the period between February – April 2022, a total of 4133 migrants were registered and were able to acquire the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Throughout this time, MRC worked with the government and health authorities to make the COVID-19 immunization process more accessible for migrants who did not have proper documentation. These efforts came to fruition as policies were later revised so that migrants with any form of documentation, including expired visas, passports and permits were able to walk-in for vaccination without prior registration.

As MRC continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its subsequent effects, it has remained actively involved in the registration and facilitation of vaccination for migrants throughout the country to date. Throughout the year, registration services were still provided by MRC Units, as well as remotely in coordination with respective health centers across the Maldives. By the end of 2021, MRC was able to register 4593 Migrants in 27 islands in the Maldives for COVID-19 Immunization. All registered migrants through this service were able to complete their COVID-19 immunization doses.



## Supporting Essential and Critical Services

Since July 2020, MRC has been working with the Health Emergency Operations Center (HEOC) to provide technical support and assistance to the on-going COVID-19 response efforts. While the scope of the engagement has changed in response to the COVID-19 situation, MRC has actively supported HEOC response coordination efforts in the areas of risk communication and community engagement, psychosocial support services and patient transport and vehicle support services. Across MRC Units, MRC Kulhudhuffushi and Addu City Units were represented and were key contributors to the COVID-19 task forces responding to the pandemic at city level. These units provided vital support in responding to evolving COVID-19 situation with support provided in areas of risk communication, and community engagement, monitoring harbor stations and supporting flu clinics in respective islands.

In 2021, trained First Aid volunteers were mobilized to support the Health Protection Agency's Emergency Medical Support Services in Greater Male' Area. Volunteers provided moving and lifting support to COVID-19 patients in addition to aiding the paramedics deployed under the service. During the surge period in 2021, MRC's vehicle fleet was also mobilized to provide additional support to HEOC's Movement Cluster, where volunteers supported movement of patients particularly high risk, bed-ridden and elderly

patients within Greater Male' Area. Between January – August 2021, volunteers providing this service supported in the movement of 947 COVID-19 patients.

MRC ensured the availability of PSS services through its toll-free helpline 1425 and continued capacity building activities focusing on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services, particularly for service providers, frontline, and healthworkers, in close coordination with the MHPSS cluster of the HEOC.

With the increase in COVID-19 cases affecting the available blood supply, MRC Male' unit organized a series of blood donation camps in collaboration with Maldivian Blood Services to help address the shortage of blood in Greater Male' Area. A total of 09 Blood camps were organized with 297 donors donating blood through these camps. Furthermore, MRC Male' City Office, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, continued to provide assistance in delivering critical medicine packages to recipient in the Greater Male' Area who faced difficulties obtaining critical medicine in the Maldives. In 2021, MRC has assisted in the delivery of 1393 medicine packages.

Kulhudhuffushi City Unit continued its role as a key stakeholder and contributor of the Kulhudhuffushi City COVID-19 task force. The unit mobilized volunteers to

assist the city's EOC as well as the harbor station, which was activated several times when the city was placed under COVID-19 monitoring. The harbor stations provided critical support to facilitate urgent and necessary travel for people within the northern atolls, as Kulhudhuffushi City is the hub of the Maldives north region. Volunteers were mobilized to support these operations for a total of 75 days through 2021.

MRC Addu City Office maintained its role as a key stakeholder of the Addu City COVID-19 task force and continued to support Addu City's response efforts. For 60 days, volunteers in Hulhumeedhoo Unit provided support providing triage and assistance to incoming patients at the Hulhumeedhoo Health Center. Hithadhoo Unit also mobilized its migrant volunteers to support the response efforts of the Addu Equatorial Hospital, providing communication and translation support to affected migrants.



## Volunteering during a Pandemic



"In responding to COVID-19, I volunteered for MRC to work at the harbour monitoring desk in Kulhudhuffushi City. I also worked in risk communications and in conducting welfare calls for the senior citizens and migrant workers. During this time, I listened to people sharing their griefs during the COVID-19 outbreak and was able to be present for them during such difficult times. I learnt to listen to people's stories and encourage them to help them feel better. I also learnt how to act in complex situations in response to the cruciality of the moment. I was happy to get the opportunity to work with so many people – including the community and the wonderful pool of volunteers."

**Shameema Ahmed**  
Kulhudhuffushi City Unit



I have been involved in COVID-19 response with MRC since April 2020. Since then, I have been engaged in various activities such as conducting awareness sessions for migrants, supporting the migrant support center established during initial lockdown, providing assistance to National Emergency Operations Center and Health Emergency Operations Center representing MRC, and supporting the COVID-19 vaccination efforts at vaccination Centers. I have learned a lot during the COVID-19 response. Learned lot of leadership skills, how to handle different situations in critical moments, how to make quick decisions, how to be patient in stressful situations, and mostly to be more kind to the vulnerable."

**Kamal Hosen**  
Male Unit



As someone who has always wanted to be a volunteer, I felt blessed to start my voluntary work by providing much needed assistance to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout this response, I worked at the COVID-19 help desk at Feydhoo Avashu Office, supported flu clinics in Feydhoo Health Center and Addu Equatorial Hospital and supported the COVID-19 vaccination efforts in Addu City. Volunteering taught me gratitude. Being grateful for what I have, finding positivity in the world, and coming together to help others and solve issues."

**Asima Abdul Gayyoom**  
Hithadhoo City Unit



"During the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, I was actively volunteering for MRC as part of the Hinnavaru Emergency Response Team and was also involved in the harbour monitoring team. During the response, I worked with an extraordinary group of volunteers who gave their all to limit the spread of COVID-19, providing support to those who were affected. This response provided me the opportunity to learn and face new experience and also allowed me to realize how valuable our support was to those who were affected in our community"

**Mohamed Muneer**  
Hinnavaru Unit



## MRC Strategic Plan 2019 – 2030



The Maldivian Red Crescent's Strategic Plan 2019-2030 is its third Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan aims to establish the organization's long-term direction to consolidate its organizational mandate and identity in the Maldives. The 12-year plan includes broad objective statements aimed for 2030, with the goal of aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) / Agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework

This MRC Strategic Plan 2019-2030 centers on the concept of resilience. It advocates a shift in thinking and practice, recognizing the need for better coherence in the areas of disaster management, climate change, and development work. This approach aims to increase effectiveness of MRC's humanitarian role and work done in Disaster Risk Management.

There are six strategic priority areas in total, five for programmes and services, and one for organizational development and sustainability

## Strengthen Emergency Response

The first strategic priority area of the MRC focuses on emergency response, a key area of service of the national society's disaster risk management work in the Maldives. This priority area builds on MRC's existing capacity, experiences, and strengths in providing emergency response services through the community-based emergency response teams (ERTs). Emergency response is a key role mandated by the MRC Law 2009/07 and as an auxiliary body to the state, MRC responds to emergencies and disasters across the country in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, primarily the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The MRC trained community based ERTs continue to respond to a variety of emergencies and disasters by mobilizing communities, providing first aid and psychosocial support and assisting internally displaced people.

One of the key areas of work carried out in 2021 under this priority was the revision of the Disaster Risk Management Policy and the adoption of the revised Disaster Risk Management Policy by the Governing Board on the 26th of September 2021. The purpose of the policy is to foster integrated approaches to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, preparedness, response and recovery as a holistic continuum with different overlapping and complementary activities. The policy applies

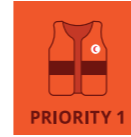
to MRC's emergency response activities and related disaster risk management activities at island, atoll/city, national and international level.

MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Unit is a key stakeholder and contributor to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which serves as the city's response coordination hub for response coordination in the city. While the unit dealt with fewer flood related emergencies than previous years, the effects of tropical cyclone "Gulab" necessitated a flood response in September 2021. ERTs from the unit were mobilized to support the dewatering efforts in different parts of the city in addition to providing support at the EOC setup and the flood helpline. A total of 12 volunteers were mobilized for this response which lasted over 07 hours. With similar flood related emergencies occurring frequently in Kulhudhuffushi City, a training session on operating and maintaining dewatering systems was conducted for unit ERT volunteers to improve response effectiveness and build capacity of unit ERTs.

MRC Addu City Office responded to the flooding incident in Hithadhoo where volunteers supported to conduct the rapid assessment of households affected by the flooding. During another instance of heavy rain and flooding, MRC volunteers provided support to the MNDF Fire

and Rescue Services, helping them protect households from flooding.

MRC Male City Office responded to a series of emergencies in the Greater Male' Area, including an airport emergency in August 2021, due to a full emergency declared at Velana International Airport to carry out an emergency landing of an aircraft. ERTs were deployed to the scene to support the passengers and provide Psychosocial Support to passengers and crew. The unit also responded to 03 fire incidents where psychosocial support was provided to affected individuals and relief assistance in coordination with NDMA and responded to 02 civil unrest situations providing first aid support.



# Strengthen First Aid and Psychosocial Support Services



The second priority area of MRC focuses on the provision of emergency services and support building on the national society's existing role and experience in providing First Aid and Psychosocial Support Services (PSS) as part of emergency response services. Over the last decade, MRC has been an organization that has provided First Aid training and services across the country. While emergency response services typically include a variety of actions, this priority area establishes the MRC's lead role and core expertise in emergency service as First Aid and PSS. The strategy entails increasing First Aid and PSS service, improving First Aid and PSS service quality, and increasing overall First Aid capacity of communities and service providers through targeted training.

The need for PSS capacity building was identified as a key area of intervention as part of the COVID-19 response efforts, with the pandemic negatively impacting the mental wellbeing of communities across the Maldives, including frontline and health care workers as well as volunteers. As part of this initiative, MRC provided capacity building training on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS), such as Psychological First Aid (PFA) training, PFA orientations, Supportive Communications modules, Care for Volunteers and PFA in Groups. A total of 30 trainings were conducted with 351 participants from COVID-19 response agencies

and participants from Laamu Atoll MNU Campus, Ombudsperson Office, Villa College and Maldivian Blood Services, Ministry of Gender and Social Services and Human Rights Commission of Maldives.

In May 2021, MRC partnered with Transparency Maldives on a project aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of young people who have suffered or are suffering behavioral crises as a result of substance abuse. Targeted trainings for adolescent and at-risk kids, as well as support providers and caregivers are planned as part of this two-year project. Under this project in 2021, Training of Trainers (ToTs) trainings was conducted on First Aid and Psychological First Aid. 16 First Aid Trainers and 22 Psychological First Aid Trainers were trained to assist in the delivery of trainings in the project's target communities.

With the help of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 12 First Aid Trainers across MRC Units participated in a virtual orientation program on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Defibrillation (CPRD) during COVID-19 circumstances. MRC also restarted its Commercial First Aid Programme conducting 15 commercial First Aid training sessions where participants were trained with the knowledge and skills to administer first aid during everyday emergencies.

Standard First Aid trainings for the community were carried out at MRC Male' City, Addu City and Kulhudhuffushi City Office to boost Unit capacities in First Aid due to the easing of COVID-19 constraints. A total of 05 Standard First Aid trainings and 02 First Aid Training of Trainers (ToT's) training were conducted training 101 participants in First Aid and 28 First Aid Trainers during the year. With the increase in requests for First Aid Services, Units attended 15 first aid services in non-emergency situations including public and sports events.

Following the theme of World First Aid Day 2021 "Be a hero at school and in your community", MRC Units in Greater Male' Area, Addu City, and Kulhudhuffushi City conducted First Aid information sessions in 9 schools. A total of 349 students participated in these activities, where they learned basic First Aid information through an interactive and engaging information session with MRC First Aid Trainers.



351

trained in 30 MHPSS trainings

22

Psychological First Aid Trainers trained

349

Students reached via First Aid Awareness Sessions Across 9 schools

101

Persons trained in First Aid

28

First Aid Trainers trained



## Feature Page

# Basic First Aid Training for Blind and Visually Impaired Society of Maldives (BVISM)

Learning First Aid is for everyone! Supporting and facilitating everyone in the community to learn first aid skills and conducting inclusive training has always been a priority of the MRC. In 2021, in partnership and support of the Blind and Visually Impaired Society of Maldives (BVISM), MRC was able to conduct a Basic First Aid training and train 30 blind and visually impaired participants on First Aid.

This training was the first of its kind for MRC. Even though there was no precedent, numerous preparations were made in organizing and setting up the training. Sonath Abdul Sattar from MRC Male' Unit, who led this training conducted research in preparation to ensure that the training met the necessary First Aid requirements and catered to the participants' challenges. Some of the considerations made during the training preparations included emphasizing the importance of adhering to basic First Aid principles, being mindful of the language used, and employing experimental teaching methods to address the challenges faced by the participants. Furthermore, prior to the training, MRC trainers practiced all practical sessions that would be conducted as part of the training by blindfolding themselves. This process allowed them to better understand how to communicate the steps and

skills included in the training and familiarizing themselves with the descriptive language they must use to explain practical skills. To better prepare for the training session, an orientation meeting was held between the trainers and the participants prior to the training in order to communicate and provide an overview of the training to the participants, as well as to highlight what to expect during the training session, the basic requirements, and to provide a space for the participants to communicate their needs.

The training delivery was a collaborative effort, with 05 other First Aid trainers assisting to ensure that all participants received the necessary support and guidance to complete the practical aspects of the training. This training was an impactful and mutual learning experience for all parties involved. The 30 participants from BVISM, gained knowledge on life saving skills that they had never had the opportunity to learn before. Communication between participants and trainers was maintained throughout, and trainers were able to learn crucial lessons on adjusting to new methods and adapting content to make it more accessible for all.

This training also emphasized the importance of taking

action to promote community inclusivity and facilitating meaningful engagement with people with disabilities, such as the participants from BVISM. By engaging and gathering feedback, MRC is able to improve not only future trainings, but also other programmatic activities carried out by MRC.

"As those who are visually impaired, we have never been given the opportunity to participate in first aid training sessions, so we don't know how to react in emergency situations or when we face injuries at home. The training was a first and allowed us to learn important skills like how to give CPR, which was memorable. In the future, I think more training sessions like this should be conducted for people with disabilities, because it's only by doing more of these activities that organisations can learn how to best engage with communities like ours and effectively deliver important information we need"

**Ziyaau**  
Member of BVISM and Participant



"I think the first aid training was needed, because it means that in the future I'll be prepared for when my loved ones are hurt or need help. We learnt many new things that we never had the chance to learn before, and the atmosphere created during the training was very friendly and put us at ease. Opportunities like this should be provided more to people who are blind or visually impaired, where our needs are identified and effort is made to make things like this more accessible to us."

**Muslim**  
Member of BVISM and Participant

"The skills learnt by participants in this training were critical for their everyday lives. For most of the participants in this training, this was the first time they had experienced physical practical training. For many of the participants, this was one of the few times they have been out of their house and for some of them it was their first time travelling to Male'. The knowledge they gained from this training can be useful and helpful for them at home, while others who are employed can find the knowledge gained from this training helpful at their workplace. One of the participants who was blind and, in a wheelchair can now explain the knowledge he gained from the training to guide someone during an emergency which can help save a life. The participants of this training taught me so many things. As a trainer, this experience taught me that I will have to be ready to change and be flexible with the content and facilitation methodology depending on the participants of the training. Despite their disability, the fun, the laughter and jokes we shared together throughout the day will always be special for me."

**Sonath Abdul Sattar**  
Lead Trainer, Male' Unit

## Facilitate Planning for Resilience



This priority area focuses on strengthening risk-based resilience planning at the island and city levels, drawing on MRC's extensive experience in the role of risk assessment preparation using the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments tools. A resilience-based approach to local level planning can benefit the entire country, including planning not only for disaster management, but also for adaptation and climate resilient development. The work under this priority aims to expand MRC's coverage of risk assessments and increase the utilization of data and information gathered to advocate for a national risk assessment guideline.



In 2021, MRC piloted the Y-Adapt programme of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Kulhudhuffushi City. Y-Adapt is a program aimed at engaging youth to better understand climate change and its consequences, as well as taking practical steps to adapt to climate change in their communities. In 2021, three sessions were completed, with participants engaging in an interactive, game-based curriculum designed to inspire them to take active action to adapt to climate change in a local context. MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Unit intends to continue this program in 2022.



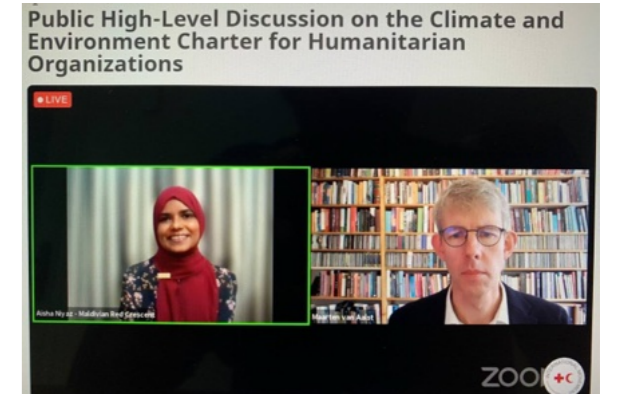
On the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021, MRC and NDMA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen the existing partnership and improve strategic collaborations to take action on disaster risk reduction and preparedness, as well as to support disaster management planning at the local level. In addition, on International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Unit hosted a Clubhouse event to discuss the climate crisis, the prevalence of frequent severe weather events and the importance of preparedness and risk reduction for island communities. The discussion was moderated by Ibrahim Mohamed, Manager of the MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Unit, where Ahmed Abdulla – Kulhudhuffushi City Council, Faroosha Ali Naseer– National Disaster Management Authority and Ahmed Shabin– Maldives Meteorological Services joined in as speakers for this event.

While MRC is a key partner in the implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation activities at the local level, the National Society also made significant contributions to a variety of international avenues in 2021. One such avenue was the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations, with volunteers and members providing constructive feedback during the Charter's drafting process. Aisha Niyaz, First Vice President of MRC, represented the national society in the advisory committee and provided critical technical support to the joint initiative by the IFRC and ICRC. The Charter, which was formally adopted by the IFRC and the ICRC in 2021, aims to galvanize and direct collective ac-

tion in response to the climate and environmental crises, which are evidently also primarily humanitarian crises. It also aims to amplify climate action in the humanitarian sector and beyond. MRC became a signatory of the Charter on 27th June 2021 and has invited organizations in the Maldives to join the collective efforts by signing and adopting the Charter.

MRC participated in the Planet Red Summit, a Red Cross Red Crescent Movement virtual summit on "Tackling the humanitarian impact of climate change and pandemics, together." MRC's First Vice President Ms. Aisha Niyaz was a speaker at the High-level discussion at the Planet Red Summit on the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations and discussions on climate change and its humanitarian implications. In addition, MRC also conducted a session in the summit with MRC Secretary General Himya, First Vice President Aisha Niyaz and Deputy Chief Executive of National Disaster Management Authority Umar Fikry discussing climate smart disaster risk reduction efforts, influencing investments, laws, policies and plans at a global and local level.

At the RCRC Climate and Youth Summit, MRC in partnership with the Bangladesh Red Crescent hosted a session on 'National Societies as Change Makers' Suma Moosa Latheef MRC's Programme Officer - Disaster Risk Management and youth volunteer Ali Nabaah from Kulhudhuffushi City Unit, discussed the national societies efforts to tackle the climate emergency, sharing specific examples such as MRCs contribution towards the Cli-



mate Emergency Act of Maldives, and contribution towards the development of the Climate and Environment Charter through Unit level consultations highlighting the importance of meaningful engagement of youth, and vulnerable groups in the process. MRC also contributed to the 16th UN Climate Change Conference of Youth (COY16) by submitting a youth statement focusing on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation from the perspective of small island nations and amassed over 620 signatures. This statement was later combined into a national youth statement and presented at COY16 by the Maldivian Youth Delegation.

# Ecosystem Restoration in Maldives

MRC's work as a humanitarian actor responding to emergencies and disasters revolves around resilience. Recognizing the need to integrate developmental work, humanitarian work, and climate action, MRC strives to be a key actor in reinforcing the message of the country's environment's safekeeping, conservation, and restoration. With local ecosystems under exacerbated strain due to the destruction and damage caused by disasters and neglect in addition to the climate crisis, promoting the protection and recovery of these vital ecosystems contribute towards disaster prevention and building community resilience.

On World Environment Day 2021, the National Society launched a pilot project focusing on eco-system restoration in the Maldives, which focuses on advocacy and sustainable activities to restore ecosystems through nature-based solutions. The project aims to restore ecosystems by reviving coastal vegetation in Addu City and mangroves in Kulhudhuffushi City, using a two-pronged approach centered on advocacy and sustainable activities and focusing on the broader area of nature-based solutions.



## Kulhudhuffushi City

Mangroves are an important part of Kulhudhuffushi City's ecosystem; the island's identity and name are inextricably linked to the mangroves. Various flora and fauna, call these water bodies home. Furthermore, the mangroves provide many ecosystem services such as serving as a natural flood mitigation system, protecting the community and infrastructure from rain-induced flooding. However, without sustainable guidelines in place to preserve and protect the mangroves, the mangroves have faced irreversible damage from reclamation to damage from simple actions such as littering.

Thus, as part of MRC's commitment to advocate for and promote ecosystem-based restoration, the Kulhudhuffushi City Unit initiated a series of mangrove cleanup programs. In 2021, two series of mangrove clean-up activities were organized and successfully executed. Both mangroves in the Northern and Southern parts of the island were attended to, as part of this initiative. Notably, the mangrove in the north of Kulhudhuffushi, before being reclaimed for developmental purposes, was one of the biggest mangroves in the Maldives with unique characteristics such as clean white clay.

Such activities to conserve mangrove ecosystems had never been carried out on such a large scale in Kulhudhuffushi before, and they served as a wake-up call to the public about the importance of mangroves and their protection. With the Kulhudhuffushi Community's overwhelming positive response to the MRC ecosystem restoration program and the enthusiasm of the volunteers, efforts to conserve and restore the mangroves are expected to increase in 2022 with plans for mangrove planting activities.



"Successful restoration generates a wide range of benefits - Not only forest quantity and quality, but enhanced food security, improved air and water quality, climate change resilience, job creation and more. Also, they provide defence against disasters, supports nutrient recycling, and soil & sand formation; and they contribute to the regulation of climate and diseases. I was involved in the mangrove clean-up activity carried out by the Kulhudhuffushi City Unit and have taken part in the Y-Adapt program. I really enjoyed being part of cleaning up the mangrove. If we work together, we all can do what we really want to, improve our community, and develop together."

**Ahmed Goda Mostafa Goda**  
Kulhudhuffushi City Unit (Volunteer)

## Addu City



Coastal vegetation is an integral feature of the Maldives' natural ecosystem, providing habitat for wildlife and invaluable ecosystem services such as protecting communities from strong winds and oceanic waves. The coastal vegetation in Addu City has been harmed for a variety of reasons, including land reclamation projects, sand mining, and waste disposal. These unsustainable development practices exacerbated with climate change and sea level rise has led to increasing incidences of flooding from increasing frequency and intensity of sea swells and storm surges.

As such, the Addu City office of MRC took the initiative to contribute to the ecosystem restoration project. In

accordance with the MRC Strategic Plan 2019-2030 and the findings of the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment conducted in Addu City in 2017, the process of restoring the coastal vegetation began in all the city's islands, with planting 500 coconut palms and 110 Fish Poison "Kinbi" trees which are known to act as windbreaks and wave barriers. In 2021, the Unit began working in collaboration with the Addu City Council that made the pledge to plant 100,000 coconut palms in the coming years. Complementing the plantation of these trees, two major coastal clean-up activities were conducted as well.

This project was received well by the public and the

volunteers alike, with many volunteers taking part in the ecosystem restoration activities and was led by migrant volunteers. The activity being led by migrants highlighted their contribution to the community along with promotion of inclusion in the communities. To address the challenges of sourcing native species in tree planting efforts, volunteers established a plant nursery on the grounds of the MRC Addu City Office. Overall, this project has paved the way for more long-term, sustainable solutions to ecosystem damage, benefiting local communities.



# Promote Health and Wellbeing in a Changing Environment



This strategic priority area encourages an integrated approach to addressing existing and emerging health risks in the Maldives while taking climate-related impacts on human health into account. This builds on MRC's successful interventions in health preparedness and epidemic control, including responses to increases in influenza and dengue cases. The priority takes an integrated approach, with an emphasis on preparedness and prevention activities, rather than emergency response. The priority area focuses on expanding health related outreach and interventions to foreign migrant worker populations, as well as collaborating with the community on preparedness and prevention activities.

To support vector control measures, in partnership with the Kulhudhuffushi City public health unit, volunteers of MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Unit supported elimination of common mosquito breeding sites such as road drainages, husk soaking pits, vacant boats and wells of the vacant houses under the dengue surveillance program.

The Kulhudhuffushi City Unit's Healthy Ageing Programme continued to monitor and check in with the city's elderly population via phone calls and home visits, with the aim of promoting physical and mental wellness. With the COVID-19 situation limiting physical interaction opportunities for over a year, Kulhudhuffushi City Unit was able to organize a special event for senior citizens of the city, where they could participate in activities, get health check-ups, and receive information on vital topics



such as first aid, home safety, and digital connectivity.

MRC Addu City Units in Hithadhoo and Hulhumeedhoo also continued its healthy ageing programme "Haalu Kihineh", with volunteers visiting senior citizens of the community to conduct wellness checks, assess physical and mental wellbeing of senior citizens in the community. Addu City Office also donated a Stair Chair to the Addu Equatorial Hospital to aid in moving and lifting patients in Addu City and to increase community accessibility to health care services.

One of the flagship services provided by MRC Male' City Office is the provision of the Patient Transport Services (PTS) to bed-ridden patients in the Greater Male' Area. The Patient Transport service is a crucial service provided in the Greater Male' area which enables bedridden patients to attend regular consultations to seek medical services. This service was also a crucial service of MRC's COVID-19 response operations with volunteers providing support to individuals testing positive in COVID-19. With the increase in demand for the service a total of 151 Patient Transport Service trips were completed excluding COVID-19 related trips during the year. In addition to the Patient Transport Service, Male' City Office also mobilized its vehicles to provide dead body movement services, completing 80 dead body movement services during the year.



MRC initiated a project to conduct a COVID-19 Immunization awareness campaign in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Health Protection Agency, and the World Bank, with the goal of disseminating vaccine-related information and understanding vaccine hesitations among communities. With the Maldives having had great success in administering COVID-19 vaccines to a large percentage of the population, the project was revised after discussions with project partners to reach out to the migrant community and those who may be hesitant to receive COVID-19 vaccination through capacity building of community leaders, councils, the Women's Development Committee, NGOs, and key island stakeholders. The project will be carried out in three locations, namely, Greater Male' Area, Haa Dhaalu Atoll and Addu City and will also include an outreach activity focused on the migrant population in Laamu Atoll. Capacity building sessions for lead volunteers and staff under this project was carried out in December 2021 by Health Protection Agency, including basic training in Psychological First Aid for COVID-19, a training on how to support people in distress due to COVID-19 and a session on addressing COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy.



## 151

Patient Transport Service trips were completed excluding COVID-19 related trips

## 80

Dead body movement Services

## Introducing Patient Transport Service in Addu City

With the help of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), MRC purchased two fully equipped ambulances in 2021 to expand its Patient Transport Services. One of the ambulances was dispatched to MRC Addu City Office to launch the Patient Transport Service in the Addu City-connected islands.

A moving and lifting training was also conducted, along with an orientation on how to use the vehicle to provide quality patient transport service, with the support and experience of Male' City Office, who have been providing Patient Transport Service in the Greater Male' Area. A total of 15 participants took part in this training conducted in December 2021 where MRC volunteers and health workers from Addu Equatorial Hospital joined as participants.

MRC developed a project to implement COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement for stakeholders working with vulnerable groups in collaboration with UNICEF Maldives and the Health Protection Agency. This project aims to facilitate dialogue among stakeholders in the country's identified vulnerable groups and identify key information gaps within these groups, ensuring that the identified vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, women, children, people with disabilities, homeless people, people with addiction and other psychological disorders, and people with chronic illnesses, have a better understanding of COVID-19 and the risks associated with it. Throughout 2021, MRC held a series of stakeholder consultations to develop Information Education Communication materials for various vulnerable groups.

MRC continues to take steps to encourage a healthier lifestyle at an organizational level. In November 2021, the participants of the Annual Planning Workshop inclusive of staff, Governing Board and Unit members were screened for diabetes with the support of the Diabetes Society of Maldives. This enabled the participants to understand the potential risks of being diagnosed with diabetes.

In partnership with the Italian Red Cross (ITRC), MRC initiated efforts to conduct a migrant and displacement needs assessment with the key objectives of mapping and analyzing stakeholders, identifying barriers to access essential services and to understand current living and working conditions of migrants across the Maldives. The initial consultations process with stakeholders involved in this assessment, including the Maldives National University, began in 2021. This assessment also includes secondary desk-based research in the form of a review of available publications. In addition to the needs

assessment, ITRC has been assisting in the continuation of the 1458 Migrant Support helpline, which is an essential component of our MRC's Migrant Support Services.

Under its mental health programming, MRC continued to do essential work to address the mental health needs of the population. In addition to the psychosocial support services provided through the MRC PSS Helpline 1425, the MRC continued its Gulhalamaa campaign, which focuses on increasing mental health awareness through targeted messaging to vulnerable groups and to the greater public whilst also promoting the PSS services provided through PSS Helpline 1425. The awareness messaging of this campaign is developed in English and Dhivehi, making the information more accessible for all by targeting populations in cities and communities in islands across the Maldives.



## Feature Page Health and Legal Camp for Migrants

International Migrants Day is observed globally on December 18th and is one of the key days observed by MRC each year. The day's activities were centered on the theme "Harnessing the Potential of Human Mobility." The theme emphasized the importance of facilitating migrants' access to essential resources, thereby increasing their ability to realize their full potential.

MRC organized the Health Camp in collaboration with Mission for Migrant Workers (MMWM), Public Interest Law Center (PILC), UNICEF Maldives, Human Rights Commission of Maldives (HRCM), Society for Health Education (SHE), Health Protection Agency (HPA), Welfare Association for Tamil Expatriates, Transparency Maldives, Housing Development Corporation (HDC) and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in Maldives. Over 890 migrants attended the camp where migrants attending were provided with avenues for free legal aid services, legal information in multiple languages, free health checkup and screenings along with information on communicable diseases and treatment services.

At the camp, MRC carried out hygiene promotion activities including distribution of hygiene kits and provided information about the MRC Migrant Support Helpline 1458 in addition to providing COVID-19 vaccination assistance to migrants who were unable to access information about COVID-19 vaccines or unable to access essential documents. Throughout the event, migrant volunteers provided translation support ensuring that many migrants were able to access health services and legal advice easily.



## Feature Page

# World Mental Health Day 2021

The theme of the 2021 World Mental Health Day, which took place on October 10th, was "Mental Health care for all: let's make it a reality." MRC organized a Clubhouse discussion event and a public event on the occasion, emphasizing the importance of increasing access to mental health care services regardless of age, nationality, and status. The impact of COVID-19 on mental health and the provision of related mental health and psychosocial support services has made the need for discussion focused on the subject even more prominent.

The Clubhouse event was hosted on 10th October 2021 by MRC Addu City Office, focusing on the process of accessing mental health and psychosocial support services, challenges faced by service providers and public in advocating for greater mental health awareness, and how to approach the provision of these services in Addu City. During the discussion, the speakers went into detail about the state of the mental health sector in the Maldives, specifically Addu City, and the need to increase capacity building activities to meet the demand for mental health services. Furthermore, the importance of addressing misconceptions and misinformation about mental health awareness and mental health service provision in the community was emphasized, as well as a discussion of potential solutions. The speakers for the event were Shahula Ahmed- UNICEF Maldives, Abdullah Faseeh- SHE, Aminath Gulfishaan- International Medical and Diagnostic Center (IMDC) Addu City and Dr. Asiyath Mohamed Didi- Hithadhoo School Principal, with the Manager of

MRC Addu City Office, Shafna Ahmed as the moderator.

A public event on 22nd October 2021 was organized by MRC in Rasfannu Area, Male' City. This event was organized in partnership with UN Maldives and in collaboration with organizations in the Maldives that provide mental health services and support MHPSS related programmes. Partners consisted of UNICEF, Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services, Centre for Mental Health (CMH), Society for Health Education (SHE), Villa college, Institute for Counseling and Psychotherapy (ICP), Institute for Mental Well Being (IMWB), Mental health awareness foundation (MHAf) and Drymscape. As a result of this event, the public was able to gain knowledge about mental health awareness and how to seek help if mental health and psychosocial support were required. The public was able to freely interact with service providers and learn about mental health services and how to access them in the Maldives. On-site mental health screenings, consultations were also available. An approximate 500 people, including children, participated in the event and in the different activities.

"Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing is one of the most important factors in improving the general health of a community. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the mental health of many and has exacerbated existing conditions, particularly in children and adolescents. As a society, we must all do our part to address these effects and ensure that they are able to access the assistance they need."

**Shahula Ahmed**  
Programme Specialist – UNICEF  
Maldives



## Foster Humanitarian Values and Volunteerism

This strategic priority area, which focuses on inclusivity and partnership building, includes the formation of meaningful partnerships between MRC Units and local actors, with the goal of increasing the inclusion of vulnerable groups in community development activities. This approach is based on the belief that more socially inclusive communities are more resilient and better able to recover from disasters and emergencies. It also entails actions such as institutionalizing and localizing a community engagement framework that promotes inclusivity and partnerships based on MRC's experience.

To engage with youth in their community, MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Unit held two information sessions for 142 students at Afeefuddin School and Haa Dhaalu Atoll Education Center, promoting volunteerism and providing information on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. These information sessions also allowed students to gain knowledge and insight into the way National Society operates and its mandate in the strategic priority areas. The Unit also took part in the Family Evening event held as part of the Integrated Human Rights Programme conducted by the Human Rights Commission of Maldives (HRCM) in Kulhudhuffushi City, which provided the public with information about MRC and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

Despite the many challenges due to the evolving situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, MRC Addu City Office, continued the Alternative Learning Programme in Addu City, aimed to implement comprehensive learning and skills development programmes for vulnerable and at-risk youth in learning areas such as literacy, numeracy, life skills, health and wellbeing, legal awareness and religious awareness, vocational training, and developing skills of the parents and guardians. This partnership project with UNICEF Maldives as well as key stakeholders in Addu City, was concluded in 2021. Since the beginning of this project, Addu City Office had 65 participants enrolled under this Programme including 49 male and 16 female participants.



PRIORITY 5

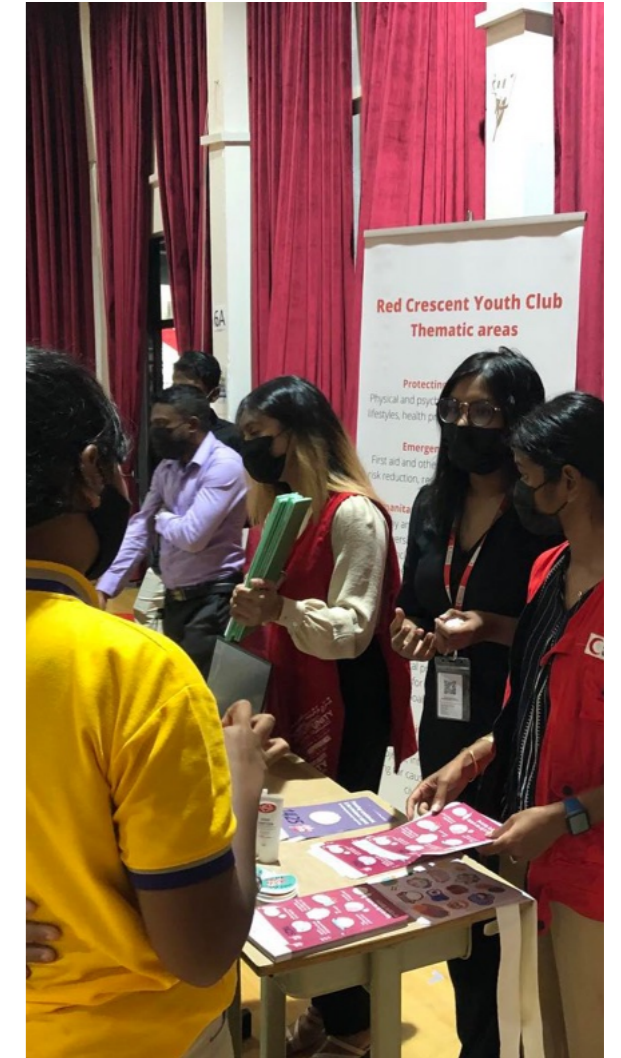
## Feature Page Red Crescent Youth

Since its inception in 2009, the Maldivian Red Crescent has sought to contribute to youth development. The MRC Strategic Plan 2019-2030 identifies youth empowerment as a key program area of the National Society. In the context of the Maldives, the current population pyramid shows that 48 percent of the population is under the age of 25, making youth development an important area for the Maldives' future.

With these considerations in mind, MRC established Red Crescent Youth (RCY), a school and college/university-based educational programme that would serve as a pillar of youth development and empowerment. RCY's mission is to contribute to the holistic development of young people by allowing them to reach their full potential and assisting them in becoming constructive, critically thinking, resilient, civically engaged, and socially responsible community members. The goal of the RCY is to create a network of youth who are engaged as agents of change. The RCY would foster the spirit of volunteerism and charity among young people through the culture of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement through promoting the 7 Fundamental Principles of the Movement—Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity, and Universality.

The RCY will be a part of the co-curricular programmes of schools and institutes, where it will operate as part of the institute's student body and youth leader clubs. The RCY will conduct regular meetings weekly or biweekly, engaging in educational activities, planning, project work, ceremonies, outings, and camps. The Educational Programme of RCY is based on needs and thematic areas chosen to align it with the areas of work of the Maldivian Red Crescent. The five core thematic areas of RCY are protecting Life and Health, Emergency Preparedness, Humanitarian Education and Diplomacy, Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development and Community Service and Action.

This Programme was first implemented in Billabong High School in 2021, targeting students of grade 5, 6, and 7 with weekly club meetings. MRC Male' City Office took part in on Open Day Event to facilitate the registration to the Programme with 30 students signing up for the club. After piloting with Billabong High School, MRC aims to implement this Programme across the country to engage youth as agents of change through different educational activities, peer learning, community service, and more.



# Organizational Development and Sustainability



Focusing on organizational development and sustainability, this strategic priority area includes five key areas: governance and membership, volunteer management, resource mobilization, partnership and outreach, and management and service delivery.

This priority area focuses on expanding the MRC's outreach and operations in the country by increasing the number of members, volunteers, and Units across the country. It also focuses on improving the internal governance and management structure, as well as increasing the diversity and representation of population groups among members and volunteers. Additionally, self-sustainability through regular and unrestricted income, along with an increase in revenue generation, is an important aspect of this priority area. The work also focuses on increasing the visibility and outreach of MRC and strengthening the internal workflow and data management systems.

## Governance and Membership

MRC had 7 active units across the country at the end of the year, of which Male City and Villimale' Unit, Hithadhoo and Hulhumeedhoo Unit in Addu City, and Kulhudhufushi Unit have staff members covering the three regions in the north, central, and south of Maldives. In January 2021, a new Unit was established in Lhaviyani Hinnavaru

with the inaugural Unit assembly attended by both MRC Secretary General Himya and Former MRC President Ali Nashid who chaired the assembly. In addition, MRC's Lh. Naifaru Unit was reactivated at the beginning of the year with Governing Board Youth Member Ms. Masha Midhath chairing the assembly virtually for unit re-activation.

Unit assemblies were carried out across all active units, with new members being elected to the unit boards. Male' and Addu branch carried out branch board elections electing new members to the vacant positions of their branch board. For the first time in MRCs history, a migrant was elected to a governance position with member Mohammed Nasir being elected to the position of General member of Male' Branch. This was a positive step towards better inclusivity and representation within MRC governance and achieving its strategic target on inclusivity on governance.

By the end of 2021, a total of 219 active members were registered across all units of MRC.

The Governing Board of the MRC had 07 meetings in 2021. The key areas of focus of the Governing Board for the year were on the revision of the Rules of Procedure (RoP) of MRC to align with the newly revised Statutes, ensuring the smooth transition of the dissolution of

## Additional key work and decisions by Governing Board

MRC's Youth Policy and Disaster Risk Management Policy were adopted.

### MRC Youth Policy:

The Maldivian Red Crescent Youth Policy defines the national society's goals for youth development, the Maldivian Red Crescent Youth Age Group, and what youth engagement means to the Maldivian Red Crescent. Guiding principles were also established, laying the groundwork for the Maldivian Red Crescent's youth section.

### Disaster Risk Management Policy:

The purpose of the Disaster Risk Management policy was to promote integrated approaches to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, readiness, response, and recovery as a holistic continuum of activities that overlapped and complimented each other. This policy also replaced the Maldivian Red Crescent's "Emergency Response Policy."

Branches and working towards the sustainability of the National Society, development of the branch transitional plan and also focused on the financial sustainability of MRC. As such a Sub-committee to overlook the RoP revision was formed along with Financial Advisory Committee working towards the sustainability of MRC.

Financial Sustainability Sub-committee members comprised of the President Abdul Haleem Abdul Latheef, Second Vice President Ahmed Shabin and Treasurer Fathimath Rukshana. In addition, former MRC President Ali Nashid and Governing Board Male' Region Member Arif Mohamed were also invited to be part of this committee to provide advice and expertise for the work carried out

by this committee. The Sub-committee had 02 meetings during the year and committee members also met with the Attorney General, Deputy Speaker of Parliament and the lawyers of MRC to discuss the review process of the MRC Act.

The RoP Sub-committee consisted of Second Vice President Ahmed Shabin, Treasurer Fathimath Rukshana, Youth Member Aminath Masha, North Region Member Fathimath Ibrahim and was Chaired by First Vice President Aisha Niyaz. During the year 09 ROP Sub-committee meetings, and 07 RoP consultation meetings were carried out online and physically for Units in Male', Villimale', Hithadhoo, Hulhumeedhoo and Kulhuduffushi during the

year. In addition to the RoP Subcommittee Members, the consultations were supported by North Region Member Fathimath Rifdha.

The Complaints Committee did not receive any complaints throughout 2021. The first task of the Complaints Committee was to review the existing MRC Complaints Procedure after which a revised Complaints Submission Procedure was completed and published in June 2021. As per the Statutes, the Complaints Committee began its work on the development of Complaints and Appeals Policy of MRC which will be adopted by the Governing Board in early 2022.



## Feature Page

# 11th General Assembly of Maldivian Red Crescent

The 11th General Assembly of the Maldivian Red Crescent was held from 23rd to 24th April 2021 with 53 delegates across MRC branches in Haa Dhaalu, Male City, Lhaviyani, Gaafu Alif, Fuvahmulah and Addu City, joining the assembly. Adapting to the restrictions due to COVID-19, this General Assembly was the first of its kind, taking place virtually, with representatives from the IFRC and ICRC acting as observers.

MRC's Audit Report 2020, Annual Report 2020 and the Annual Work Plan and Budget 2021-2022 were officially adopted during the Assembly. In addition, the Statutes of Maldivian Red Crescent was revised for a 3rd time that included major changes to the governance structure such as the dissolution of MRC Branches within 6 months of the General Assembly, resulting in the Units of the Maldivian Red Crescent being granted more autonomy, and the Unit Boards having more responsibilities. Furthermore, amendments were made to the Statutes to ensure women representation in the Governing Board. As such, 03 out of 12 Governing Board seats are now reserved for women. In addition, one additional seat has been created for inclusivity to represent marginalized persons such as migrants and persons with disabilities.

The assembly also held elections for 6 Governing Board positions, including the President, Second Vice President,

two Governing Board Members from the North Region, two Governing Board Members from the South Region, and a Governing Board Member from the Male Region. Furthermore, elections were held to establish the MRC's Complaints Committee.

With a total of 53 delegates taking part in the elections, members elected the following new members to the governing board.

- President: Abdul Haleem Abdul Latheef
- Second Vice President: Ahmed Shabin
- North Region Member: Fathimath Ibrahim
- North Region Member: Fathimath Rifdha Mohamed
- Male' Region Member: Moosa Rilwan
- South Region Member: Ahmed Milson

The Complaints Committee was elected with 5 members, with a significant milestone where Dr. Zeba un-Nehar was elected as the first migrant member to the committee. She was then elected as the committee's chair by a unanimous vote of the committee members.

- Chairperson: Dr. Zeba Naher
- Member: Ibrahim Moosa
- Member: Fathimath Rishana
- Member: Mohamed Hoodh Ibrahim
- Member: Zeenath Shakir

## Notable moments during the 11th General Assembly

MRC Governing Board achieved gender parity with 6 out of 11 members being women, reaching one of its Strategic Targets under Priority 6

Fathimath Ibrahim was elected as the Northern Region Member making her the 1st ever person with disability elected to MRC's Governing Board.

This general assembly also marked the end of Ali Nashid's term, who had served MRC for the past six years as the President having led the organization in a critical time and contributed significantly to the sustainability of MRC. In addition, Mohamed Arif, Male' Region Member, Moosa Aboobakuru North Region Member and Ahmed Jawad, South Region Member ended their term as Governing Board members who had played a vital role in strengthening the governance of the MRC by supporting the Branches and Units of the respective regions.



## MRC Governing Board



**Abdul Haleem  
Abdul Latheef**  
President



**Aisha Niyaz**  
First Vice President



**Ahmed Shabin**  
Second Vice President



**Fathimath Rukshana**  
Treasurer



**Aminath Masha  
Midhath**  
Youth Member



**Maimoona Aboobakuru**  
Government Nominated Member



**Fathimath Rifdha  
Mohamed**  
Governing Board Member - North



**Moosa Rilwan**  
Governing Board Member - Male'



**Ali Mohamed**  
Governing Board Member - South



**Fathimath Ibrahim**  
Governing Board Member - North



**Ahmed Milson**  
Governing Board Member - South

## MRC Complaints Committee



**Dr. Zeba Un Naheer**  
Chairperson



**Fathimath Rishana**  
Member



**Mohamed Hoodh  
Ibrahim**  
Member



**Zeenath Shakir**  
Member



**Ibrahim Moosa**  
Member

## Volunteer Management

During the year 2021, a total of 19,175 volunteer hours were logged by 258 MRC volunteers across the Maldives. While the majority of the volunteer mobilization was to support the COVID-19 response, in particular the COVID-19 immunization efforts, volunteers were able to take part in regular programmatic activity implementation of MRC during the latter half of the year with the scale down of response.

While the community dealt with the long-term repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, volunteers continued to demonstrate fortitude and endurance, with many continuing to support the COVID-19 response activities, particularly the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines. Throughout the year, volunteer focused activities such as capacity building exercises, team building events and orientations were conducted across MRC Units. Furthermore, to ensure mental well-being of volunteers, focused training for volunteers such as Care for Volunteers Training and Psychological First Aid in Groups was conducted to build capacity of active volunteers in Male City.

To strengthen and improve MRC's volunteer data management and communication, with the support of ICRC, the development of an online volunteer management system commenced in 2021. Through this system, the national society aims to digitize the entire volunteer management system across MRC.

Recognizing and commending the efforts made by volunteers across all Units is vital to appreciate the hard work of the volunteers. Secretary General Himya, was able to meet with the volunteers in Male' City, Addu City, Kulhudhuffushi City and Hinnavaru Unit during the year. During these visits the challenges faced by volunteers were discussed and areas where additional support needed were identified to further expand services.

On International Volunteer Day 2021, Male' City Office and Kulhudhuffushi City Office hosted volunteer appreciation events highlighting the incredible work of the volunteers throughout the year. Udaya Regmi, IFRC Head of Country Cluster Team, and Jan Miskoc, Deputy Head of Regional Delegation - ICRC New Delhi, Secretary General Himya and Governing Board Members joined the events in celebration of International Volunteer Day and expressed their appreciation and support by volunteers at both Units. While the COVID-19 situation in some islands made it challenging to host events, across MRC Units volunteer gatherings and events were carried out to recognize the efforts of MRC volunteers.



## Volunteer Testimonies across MRC



"I have been volunteering at the Addu City Office of MRC since 2017. Volunteering has given me the chance improve my skills by working in different fields with different types of people. Over the past year, the most memorable activity I experienced as a volunteer was the COVID-19 vaccination programme, where I got to work with those at the front line and help many groups of people. I look forward to continuing to be a volunteer and work my way up, remaining as someone who helps the community."

### Maziya Waheed

Hithadhoo Unit



"I began my journey as an MRC volunteer in Addu City in November 2018, after hearing about the movement from a friend. I've learnt that what makes me want to continue volunteering is knowing that I am helping people in need. As someone who has always loved contributing to a good cause, I aim to keep volunteering as much as possible. Being a volunteer has also given me the opportunity to learn new things and overcome new challenges. I've attended many training sessions, such as First Aid and Emergency Response trainings, where I learnt skills which are vital in emergencies and its one of my favourite parts of being a volunteer with the MRC. I hope to continue using the important lessons I've learnt during my time as a volunteer to build a community where more people become interested in volunteerism and is wholeheartedly appreciated by everyone in the community."

### Hawwa Shausan

Hulhumeedhoo Unit



"At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, during a very crucial time, I began volunteering for MRC, mostly at the vaccination centres in the connected islands of Addu City. Although working in the pandemic situation was challenging and frustrating, the joy of working as a volunteer changed it all for me. As I assisted people during the time I spent volunteering at vaccination centres, I experienced joy in helping others. Moreover, assisting the elderly citizens in getting vaccines gave me immense happiness. Though I found it a bit challenging to deal with people during the initial days, I found that it became easier with every passing day. Currently, I'm serving as a general member at the Hithadhoo Unit and dream to serve MRC by being in further positions."

### Ibrahim Umar Naseer

Hithadhoo Unit



"Having been encouraged by some colleagues I worked with during tsunami relief efforts, I began volunteering for MRC in 2014. I think it's important to give back to the community during times of need. I want to use my skills and abilities and work with other volunteers in a very supportive and fun environment, because I enjoy the bonds formed with volunteers working together in such extreme situations. The feeling of being a part of this community of volunteers who share similar values and desires is hard to quantify. Some memorable events I've encountered as an MRC volunteer have been during the fire that occurred in Henveiru in 2019, where we had to calm some families who were searching for their loved ones, and in 2020, where I assisted in giving psychological First Aid to people during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. In times like these, I wish to see steps taken to remove all barriers that prevent families from receiving help during times of distress."

### Fiunaz Waheed

Male Unit



"After completing ERT training in 2018, I became interested in joining MRC as a volunteer. Initially, I found volunteerism difficult because I didn't have many people to lean on. However, as I continued volunteering, I found friends in other volunteers, and this served as another reason why I wished to continue the journey. Through the many memorable experiences that I've gained as a volunteer for the MRC, from the initial ERT training that started everything to mangrove clean-ups in 2021, I aspire to utilize every possible experience I receive for the betterment of the community, especially vulnerable groups like migrants and youth at risk."

### Ahmed Athif Ali

Kulhudhuffushi City Unit



"I first got to know about volunteering opportunities at MRC through a social media post, and then became a volunteer after completing an ERT training in 2018. The positive image of MRC volunteers in the hearts of elderlies is also another factor that inspired me to begin volunteering. Throughout my time as a volunteer, events that involve assisting the elderly are the most memorable activities for me. The reason why I want to continue to be a volunteer is very clear to me: to help those in need. As a volunteer, I hope that our community becomes healthier and more connected." – Aishath Yoosuf, Kulhudhuffushi City Unit

### Aishath Yoosuf

Kulhudhuffushi City Unit



"I started volunteering during the early days of the COVID-19 response. After witnessing the work done by MRC during the pandemic, I felt inspired to join the movement and became trained in first aid shortly after. What makes me want to continue doing voluntary work is the feeling I get when I can help the community and I enjoy all the voluntary services that I participate in. One of the most memorable activities that I took part was the Elderly Evening that was organized by the MRC in partnership with Kulhudhuffushi Women's Development Committee in 2021. In the future, I hope to go as far as possible in this line of work and to remain as an MRC volunteer."

### **Aminath Maisha**

Kulhudhuffushi City



"While I was working for Australian and Canadian Red Cross Movements in 2007 as the Community Education Officer to help the tsunami affected island communities in the Maldives, I became involved in the formation of the MRC. During this time, while travelling to help different island communities and witnessing the desperate situation of the citizens, I felt that helping them in any way I could was necessary as a human being. Now, as an MRC volunteer and a Male Unit Board member, I continue to volunteer because I'm inspired by the need to help those in need. Although every year that I've volunteered for MRC has been enjoyable in many ways, providing psychological first aid to those in need, and helping conduct activities held for the elderly have been particularly memorable. As a volunteer, I hope to be a key person involved in as many activities of MRC to make the movement highly recognised in different communities."

### **Mariyam Saeeda Ibrahim**

Male Unit



"I became an MRC volunteer in 2020, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and am now the Youth Member of the unit, also trained in Psychological First Aid. The main reason why I became a volunteer was because I wanted to help people. I also wanted to share that experience with a group of like-minded peers and enjoy spending time with my fellow volunteers. In the future, I hope that we can build a more resilient community that can bounce back from emergencies and other situations."

### **Mariyam Aamal Abdullah**

Hinnavaru Unit



## Resource Mobilization

Areas of resource mobilization during 2021 include Commercial First Aid and Psychosocial Support Trainings, provision of first aid services, merchandise sales, Patient Transport Service, corporate and general membership fees and rental income.

## Partnerships and Outreach

The work carried out by MRC is supported by the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners, government and non-government agencies that have engaged and collaborated with the national society which strengthens MRC's humanitarian diplomacy, advocacy, and impact across communities. These partnerships are crucial, allowing MRC to continue its services to provide humanitarian assistance where and when needed.

During 2021, Secretary General Himya, met with key stakeholders and partners such as the Ministry of Health, National Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Sri Lanka, International Organization for Migration, Transparency Maldives, Health Protection Agency, UN Maldives, and UN Agencies – UNICEF, UNDP and WHO.

# MRC Partnership Forum 2021

With the aim of bringing together key partners to discuss potential areas of collaboration, and continued partnership with MRC, a Partnership Forum in December 2021 was hosted with the support of ICRC. The forum provided an opportunity for MRC to share its strategic priorities, progress, future plans and discuss areas of collaboration with its partners.

A total of 40 organizations took part in this forum including Catherine Haswell - UN Resident Coordinator Maldives, Udaya Regmi - IFRC Head of Country Cluster Team, and Jan Miskoc - Deputy Head of Regional Delegation ICRC New Delhi joining the forum.



## Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Partners

### IFRC & ICRC

The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners have supported the MRC since its formation. In addition to programmatic work, both partners provided technical assistance and financial support for MRC's COVID-19 response work. During 2021, Udaya Regmi, IFRC Head of Country Cluster Team, and Jan Miskoc, Deputy Head of Regional Delegation - ICRC New Delhi, visited MRC and attended the Partnership Forum 2021 and volunteer day celebration events of MRC.

### Singapore Red Cross (SRC)

The Singapore Red Cross and the MRC have had a long-standing partnership through which the SRC has immensely contributed to the service delivery of the National Society. During the year 2021, SRC donated Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) vital to MRC's COVID-19 response efforts as well as 50 oxygen concentrators which has been donated to hospitals and health centers across the Maldives.

### Italian Red Cross (ITRC)

In partnership with ITRC, in 2021 MRC commenced working on developing sustainable Migrant Support Services. Through this project, a toll-free migrant support helpline 1458 was established to provide assistance to migrants, and a research survey on migration and displacement needs assessment will be carried out in Maldives in 2022.

## Government

### Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services (MoGFSS)

To work together in protecting the rights of children, women and those living in vulnerable situations, MRC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services (MOGFSS) on 28th September 2021. Under this partnership, MRC and MoGFSS committed to providing support in mutual areas of collaboration and agreed on extending in capacity building opportunities in areas such as First Aid and Psychosocial Support Services. Furthermore, under this partnership MRC Male' City Office have supported the Ministry in providing support to recruit Patient Caregivers to look after hospitalized patients under state care.



### Ministry of Health and Health Protection Agency

MRC has always worked closely with the Ministry of Health and Health Protection Agency since its inception. MRC continued its role as an auxiliary to the government and provided vital support to the Ministry of Health and HPA throughout the COVID-19 response, particularly in 2021 with the COVID-19 immunization efforts across the country.

### Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In collaboration with Ministry of Foreign affairs, MRC have continued to support the delivery of critical medicine to recipients facing challenges in bringing medication from other countries, during COVID-19 pandemic.

### National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

On International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021, MRC signed an MOU with NDMA to strength its existing partnership and to strengthen strategic collaborations in the areas of disasters risk reduction and preparedness and to support disaster management planning process at local level.

### National Drug Authority (NDA)

MRC provided technical support in the establishment of NDA Hotline and additionally worked closely with capacity building of staff at the authority.

## UN Agencies

### UNICEF Maldives

MRC have continued its close collaboration with UNICEF in 2021 working together in multiple projects. MRC concluded the Alternative Learning Programme for at-risk youth in Addu City. The project aimed to implement comprehensive learning and skills development programmes for vulnerable and at-risk youth in learning areas such as literacy, numeracy, life skills, health and well-being, legal awareness and religious awareness, vocational training, and developing skills of the parents and guardians.

Under the COVID-19 response partnership with UNICEF Maldives, MRC have been able to strengthen the MHPSS Service and interventions, delivering timely and quality services for people affected by COVID-19 and other distressing situations. MRC also partnered with UNICEF Maldives to implement the project 'COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement for stakeholder working with vulnerable groups in collaboration with Health Protection Agency. This project aims to facilitate dialogue among stakeholders in the country's identified vulnerable groups and identify key information gaps within these groups, ensuring that the identified vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, women, children, people with disabilities, homeless people, people with addiction and other psychological disorders, and people with chronic illnesses, have a better understanding of COVID-19 and the risks associated with it.



## NGO's

### Transparency Maldives

MRC partnered with Transparency Maldives on a 2-year project aimed at improving the health and well-being of young people who have suffered or are suffering behavioral crises as a result of substance abuse. The project is supported by USAID Maldives.

### West Australian Maldivian Association Inc (WAMA)

WAMA donated 8000 Australian Dollars to procure Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to provide support for MRC's on-going COVID-19 response efforts which will help in safeguarding response volunteers of MRC.

## Corporates/Companies and other Partner Organizations

### Dhiraagu

In addition to renewing its corporate partnership for the year 2021, Dhiraagu remained a key partner of MRC in supporting emergencies and supported the establishment of MRC's toll-free migrant support helpline 1458.

### Ooredoo

Ooredoo Maldives continued its essential support in connectivity and telecommunication of MRC's COVID-19 response including the establishment of MRC's toll-free migrant support helpline 1458. MRC's Male' City Office further partnered with Ooredoo Maldives in a joint blood donation camp during 2021.

### Bangladesh High Commission

MRC and the Bangladesh High Commission, continued to work closely together in providing support to affected migrants across the Maldives, especially those impacted by COVID-19. In particular, the high commission was able to support the recruitment of migrant volunteers to support the COVID-19 Immunization efforts of MRC providing vital communications and translation support.



## International Outreach and Representation

MRC Secretary General Himya, represented MRC and contributed to numerous Red Cross Red Crescent Movement meetings and technical working groups throughout 2021.

### Technical Team Drafting the Mental Health Act

Secretary General Himya represented MRC in the technical team to draft the Mental Health Act. Twelve meetings were held during the year to draft and comment on the Mental Health Act and to provide necessary technical support to the lawyers of the Attorney General's Office.

### GlowRed Network

GlowRed Network aims to support women empowerment and advocate for gender parity in alignment with the Women and Leadership Resolution which was co-sponsored by MRC and adopted in the Statutory meetings in 2019. In addition to the GlowRed Network meetings, both the Secretary General Himya, and First Vice President Aisha Niyaz attended 10 meetings of the working group on establishing reporting mechanisms for the Women and Leadership Resolution. With the increase of women leaders across MRC Governing Board and Units, the number of MRC members in this network significantly increased in 2021.

### Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN)

Secretary General Himya, acted as one of the two co-chairs of the APMN from 2020. As co-chair she facilitated the APMN meetings and provided technical support to both the steering committee of the APMN and to the co-chair group. During the year 5 APMN meetings were held in addition to the Annual General Meeting of the network, of which some sessions were facilitated and led by Secretary General Himya.

### High Level Working Group on the new Operating Model and new Resourcing Architecture

The High-level Working Group on the new Operating Model and new Resourcing Architecture is a group of selected National Society leaders formed under the guidance of the Secretary General of IFRC. The main aim of the group is to provide technical support in developing a paper for the New Operating Model for the IFRC focusing on National Society financial sustainability, humanitarian diplomacy and other important topics such as resource mobilization. Secretary General Himya, was represented in the group and attended 6 meetings of the group throughout the year.

### Migration Leadership Group (MLG)

The Migration Leadership group was formed to assist and provide technical support in the development of a Movement Migration and Displacement Strategy and to develop the resolution required to proceed with formulating the strategy. The group includes National Society Leaders, representatives from IFRC and ICRC. As an initial task the MLG has developed a Resolution 'Towards a Movement Strategy on Migration' for the Council of Delegates which will be submitted for adoption in the 2022 General Assembly. To plan the work of the MLG and to lead and facilitate the discussions of MLG a separate co-chair group comprising of Swiss Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Maldivian Red Crescent, IFRC and ICRC was formed. MRC was represented in both the MLG and Migration Leadership Co-Chair groups by Secretary General Himya who provided technical input and assisted with the facilitation of the sessions.

### 4th Global Compact for Migration (GCM), United Nations

Secretary General Himya, gave a speech in the 4th Global Compact for Migration, United Nations on behalf of the IFRC and ICRC highlighting the auxiliary role of the National Societies in providing much needed humanitarian assistance to migrants and refugees, and how the Red Cross Red Crescent movement contributes to the implementation of the GCM at the country level. During her speech, she called for support from the governments to create humanitarian space for humanitarian organizations in providing the much-needed support to the most vulnerable in alignment with the GCM on behalf of the movement.

### COVID-19 Asia Pacific Immunization and Vaccination for the World's vulnerable – internally displaced populations refugees and migrants

Secretary General Himya presented the work of MRC in ensuring vaccine accessibility for migrants, highlighting the importance of governments to create humanitarian space for national societies to provide the necessary support for migrants. She shared MRC's experience in working with the government to ensure vaccine accessibility to all in the Maldives in this webinar organized by World Health Organization.



# Financial Summary

The accounts for the year 2021 were audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), who was appointed in the MRC General Assembly held in April 2021. The financial statements of MRC for the period ending 31 December 2021 were prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities ("IFRS for SMEs").

As a humanitarian organization, donor funding remains crucial to MRC in managing the MRC activities and projects. Similar to the previous year, Government of Maldives has supported MRC towards the overall organizational capacity building and strengthening of governance by providing grant funding.

International donors such as IFRC and ICRC remain the most significant contributors to MRC. In addition to this we have received support from, Italian Red Cross, UNICEF, Transparency Maldives, WHO, Ministry of Health/World Bank and Swiss Embassy for areas such as Migrant Support Activities, Mental Health and psychosocial support service, and immunization and risk communication activities. West Australian Maldivian Association Inc. also provided donor support in purchasing Covid 19 related equipments such as masks and sanitizers.

Total income for the year 2021 is MVR 14,906,525 and expenses are at MVR 14,478,745 resulting in a surplus of MVR 427,780 for the year.

## Revenue and Gains



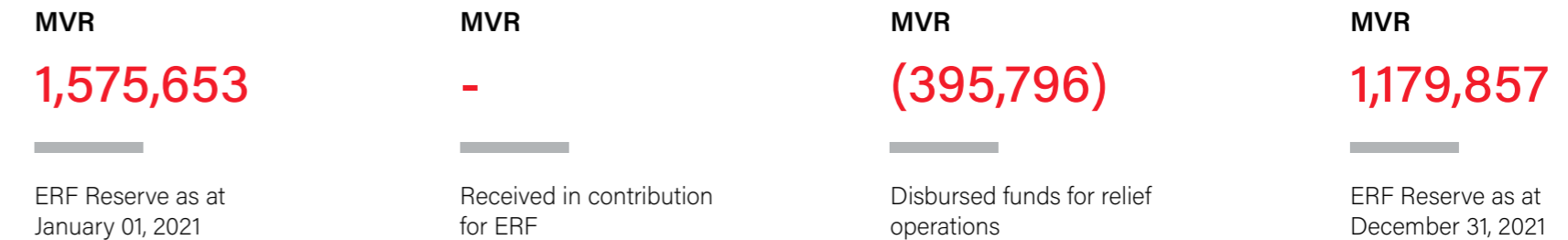
### Contributions

- Donation Income : **MVR 13,695,710**
  - Other Income : **MVR 90,525**
  - Income from RM Activities : **MVR 1,120,290**
- Total Income : MVR 14,906,525**

**Total Expenditure : MVR 14,478,745**

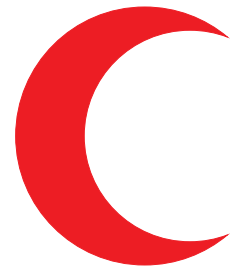
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year **MVR 427,780**

## Emergency Response Fund (ERF)



**Document Author :** Maldivian Red Crescent, 2021

**Photography :** Maldivian Red Crescent Archive



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