



# MALDIVES



## 2026-2028 IFRC network country plan

20 February 2026

### In support of the Maldivian Red Crescent



7

National Society local units



16

National Society staff



1,306

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached in 2026



15,000

Climate and environment



18,000

Disasters and crises



6,000

Health and wellbeing



2,000

Migration and displacement



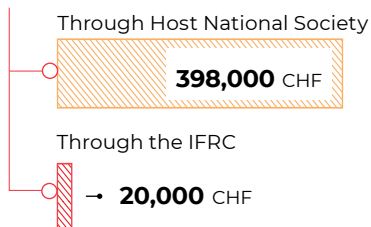
2,000

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 418,000 CHF



2027

Total 429,000 CHF

2028

Total 458,000 CHF

*Projected funding requirements*

### IFRC Appeal code

Longer-term needs:

**MAAMV001**

## Hazards



Storms



Floods



Strong winds



Fires

### IFRC network multi-year focus

#### Longer term needs

- Disaster preparedness and response
  - Climate change adaptation
    - Health and care

#### Capacity development

- Branch development
- Digital transformation
- Internal system strengthening

### Key country data links

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index** **Low**

**Human Development Index rank** **93**

**World Bank Population figure** **528,000**

**World Bank Population below poverty line** **5%**



The Maldivian Red Crescent conducting CPR and AED training for individuals for delivering crucial lifesaving interventions. (Photo: Maldivian Red Crescent)

## Detailed funding requirements

	2026		2027		2028	
	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	Host National Society	Host National Society	Host National Society
<b>Longer-term needs</b>						
Climate and environment	85,000		90,000		95,000	
Disasters & crises	90,000		95,000		100,000	
Health & wellbeing	80,000		85,000		90,000	
Migration & displacement	31,000		36,000		41,000	
Values, power & inclusion	16,000		21,000		26,000	
<b>Enabling local actors</b>	96,000	20,000	102,000		106,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>398,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>429,000</b>		<b>458,000</b>	

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

## NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Maldivian Red Crescent** was established under the Maldivian Red Crescent Act in 2009, which recognizes the National Society as an independent, voluntary humanitarian organization and the auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field. It was admitted into the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 2015.

The Act mandates the Maldivian Red Crescent to:

- Prevent and alleviate human suffering without discrimination
- Promote health and social welfare
- Strengthen disaster preparedness and response capacities
- Uphold and disseminate the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The Maldivian Red Crescent works in coordination with the Government of Maldives. The National Society maintains strong partnerships with the Health Protection Agency (HPA), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Maldives Meteorological Service (MMS), as well as key first response agencies and other key stakeholders.

At the heart of the Maldivian Red Crescent's Strategic Plan 2019–2030 is the concept of resilience, ensuring that communities are prepared, adaptable, and able to thrive in the face of evolving risks. Every programme it delivers is shaped around community needs, aligned with national priorities, the UN SDGs, and the global commitments of IFRC Strategy 2030. To achieve national and island resilience, this Strategic Plan outlines six strategic priorities for the Maldivian Red Crescent:

- Strengthen Emergency Response
- Strengthen First Aid and Psychosocial Support
- Facilitate Planning for Resilience
- Promote Health and Wellbeing in a Changing Environment
- Foster Humanitarian Values and Volunteerism
- Strengthen Organizational Development and Sustainability

In 2024, the Maldivian Red Crescent reached more than 118,000 people through its long term services and development programmes and approximately 44,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The Republic of Maldives is a small island developing state (SIDS) in the Indian Ocean consisting of about 1,190 coral islands grouped into 26 atolls over 90,000 km<sup>2</sup> of oceanic area. Average ground elevation is less than 1 metre above sea level, making the country among the world's most climate-vulnerable nations. The capital Malé City and the Greater Male' Area (Male' City, Hulhumale, Villimale') concentrate more than a third of the population and national services, while outer islands face challenges of limited connectivity and access to services.

The Maldives has a population of approximately 540,000 (2024 estimate), though due to heavy reliance on tourism, foreign migrant workers represent a significant share of the workforce and island community life. Urbanization is very high in the capital region; many outer islands experience population decline or demographic ageing as younger people migrate for employment. Service delivery (health, education, employment opportunities, etc) in remote islands remains a challenge. Social issues include rising non-communicable diseases (NCDs), mental health and psychosocial-support (MHPSS) needs, migrant-worker rights and inclusion, as well as a dependence on imports of food and goods for remote islands.

The Republic of the Maldives is a republic governed under the 2008 Constitution. The President serves as both Head of State and Head of Government and is directly elected for a five-year term. The government operates with a unified executive and cabinet system, with most policy authority centralized in the presidency. The People's Majlis (Parliament) is a unicameral legislature composed of 93 members elected for five years. Under the Decentralization Act, the Maldives has a three-tier local-governance system of city, atoll, and island councils, each directly elected. These councils manage local planning and services, supporting the national decentralization agenda. While progress continues, many councils especially in remote islands, still have limited capacity and resources for full-service delivery.

Tourism remains the cornerstone of the economy, accounting for more than 30 per cent of GDP and most foreign exchange earnings. Fisheries and small-scale agriculture contribute less than 5 per cent of GDP but are essential to island livelihoods. Economic growth is sensitive to external shocks such as pandemics, fuel-price changes, and global tourism trends. Infrastructure costs, import dependence, and limited economies of scale drive high public-expenditure needs.

The Maldivian population faces a combination of interconnected humanitarian, development, environmental and social challenges, shaped by climate vulnerability, geographical dispersion, rapid urbanization, migration dynamics, and pressure on essential services.

The Maldives is globally recognized as one of the most climate-vulnerable Small Island Developing States (SIDS). With over 80 per cent of the land less than one meter above sea level, communities face escalating exposure to sea-level rise, coastal erosion, storm surges, flooding, salinization of freshwater aquifers, prolonged dry spells, and heat stress. These hazards threaten the habitability of islands, food security, household water supplies, public infrastructure, and livelihoods, especially fisheries, tourism, and small-scale agriculture. Environmental degradation, including coral bleaching, loss of coastal ecosystems, and weak island-level waste management, further reduces natural resilience. Many inhabited islands rely on fragile shorelines and artificial coastal defenses that are increasingly overtopped by rising seas and extreme weather. Despite progress in the disaster management landscape, the Maldives continues to face recurrent small-to-medium-scale disasters, including floods, strong winds, island fires, and water shortages, which disproportionately affect remote atolls. According to global risk models (INFORM), the Maldives has high hazard exposure and low coping capacity, largely due to its dispersed geography, limited logistics options, and variable island governance capacity. Community-level preparedness remains uneven. Many islands lack early warning dissemination mechanisms, anticipatory action systems, and multi-hazard risk awareness tailored to local contexts. Critical infrastructure, powerhouses, health posts, desalination plants, and communication towers are often located within 50–100 metres of the coastline, making it highly susceptible to climate and disaster impacts.

The country's health profile is characterized by rising non-communicable diseases, vector-borne illnesses (eg. dengue), and increasing mental health burdens, especially among youth. Climate

change is amplifying health risks, including heat stress. Healthcare access remains unequal. Remote islands depend on limited health staff, intermittent medical visits, and emergency referral systems that are often strained. Migrant populations and vulnerable households face additional barriers linked to affordability, language, documentation, and social inclusion. In addition, rapid internal migration from outer islands to Greater Male' Area, the capital, combined with a large population of over 100,000 migrant workers places increasing pressure on housing, services, infrastructure, and crisis response mechanisms.

Migrants often experience gaps in healthcare, legal protection, disaster preparedness, and access to risk information. Many live in shared or crowded accommodation in flood-prone urban zones. Outer islands face declining populations, weaker infrastructure, and fewer services, leading to unequal access

to opportunities and resilience-building resources. Vulnerable groups, including women, elderly people, persons with disabilities, children, and migrant communities, experience specific barriers in accessing inclusive services and participating in local decision-making.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

The Maldives, the world's lowest-lying nation with more than 80 per cent of its land less than one metre above sea level, is facing accelerating climate risks that directly threaten the country's habitability, infrastructure, economy, and community wellbeing. Rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and saltwater intrusion are undermining freshwater security and affecting essential infrastructure that is often located within 100 meters of the shoreline. Increasingly variable monsoons, higher temperatures, and more frequent extreme weather events such as storm surges, flooding, and high-wind incidents are altering predictable seasonal patterns and increasing the burden on island councils, households, and emergency systems.

These climate patterns disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, including remote island communities, migrant workers, elderly people, women-headed households, and youth. Localized freshwater shortages, rising soil salinity, and marine ecosystem decline (including coral bleaching) are weakening livelihoods, especially fisheries, tourism and small-scale agriculture and increasing health risks such as dengue and heat stress. Environmental degradation, including the loss of mangroves and wetlands, pollution of groundwater and lagoons, and increasing plastic waste, further erodes natural resilience. Land use pressures from reclamation, harbour expansion and dense urban development have the potential to intensify climate impacts by altering natural buffers and straining drainage systems.

Government policy frameworks, including the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the National Adaptation Plan, the Climate Change Policy Framework, biodiversity action plans and the Early Warning for All (EW4ALL) Roadmap prioritize ecosystem protection, community-based adaptation, and strengthen forecasting and early warning systems. In this context, the Maldivian Red Crescent's auxiliary role is critical in connecting national climate ambitions with community-level preparedness, awareness, and action, ensuring that no island and no vulnerable group is left behind.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Maldivian Red Crescent will strengthen its long-term contribution to national climate resilience and environmental sustainability by advancing locally driven, risk-informed, and inclusive climate action across the country. Over 2026–2030, the National Society intends to contribute to the Government's climate adaptation commitments and Early Warning for All (EW4ALL) roadmap while operationalizing the community resilience ambitions of the Strategic Plan 2019–2030. The multi-year high level objectives of the National Society include:

- Strengthen community-level climate resilience and risk awareness nationwide
- Support the national scale-up of multi-hazard early warning under EW4ALL roadmap
- Promote climate-smart approaches within health, water, and community wellbeing Programmes
- Integrate climate-sensitive health promotion, heat health awareness, and disease prevention messaging into its community health, First Aid, MHPSS, and protection initiatives
- Contribute to protecting ecosystems and local natural buffers that support community resilience
- Work with communities, youth, and local governments to promote environmentally responsible practices and protect local ecosystems such as mangroves, wetlands, and coastal vegetation that reduce disaster risks and safeguard livelihoods
- Strengthen humanitarian diplomacy for climate resilience and inclusive adaptation
- Enhance institutional capacities to deliver climate and environment programming at scale
- Strengthen internal systems, digital tools, and staff and volunteer capacities to ensure effective delivery of climate-related services

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## Planned activities in 2026

- Expand climate and environmental risk communication, education, and awareness initiatives nationwide, with a focus on supporting remote and underserved island communities in understanding and reducing climate risks
- Support the national scale-up of multi-hazard early warning systems under the EW4ALL roadmap by strengthening community dissemination pathways and assisting local councils in integrating early warning into development and preparedness plans
- Promote environmentally responsible practices and ecosystem protection by facilitating community participation in monitoring and conserving local natural buffers such as mangroves, wetlands, and coastal vegetation
- Engage in humanitarian diplomacy to advocate for climate resilience and inclusive adaptation, ensuring the needs of vulnerable groups are represented in national climate and environmental policy processes and awareness initiatives
- Enhance institutional capacities by improving internal systems, digital tools, and staff and volunteer skills to

effectively deliver climate and environment programming at scale, including the use of digital platforms for community engagement and early warning dissemination

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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will continue to support the Maldivian Red Crescent in scaling climate and environment programming through targeted technical support and capacity strengthening. It will provide ongoing guidance on climate-smart programming, community modules for EW4ALL, and integration of climate considerations across health, DRR, and resilience. Support will include strengthening PMER systems for adaptation programming and mobilizing surge and technical expertise from APRO and the CCST as needed.

Participating National Societies and IFRC Reference Centres, particularly the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, will contribute specialized support on anticipatory action, climate risk analysis, [Y-Adapt](#), and [nature-based solutions](#). It will also facilitate capacity building, peer learning, and alignment of bilateral support with the multi-year objectives of the Unified Plan.



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## Disasters and crises

For real-time information on IFRC emergencies, visit IFRC GO page [Maldives](#).

The Maldives faces persistent and growing disaster risks due to its extreme geographic exposure, limited elevation, and highly dispersed island settlements. According to the INFORM Risk Index, the country has high hazard exposure and moderate to low coping capacity, with vulnerability exacerbated by climate-induced changes, infrastructure fragility, and service disparities across islands.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy of the Maldives, together with the NDMA Strategic Plan 2024–2029, identifies a range of recurrent hazards that continue to affect communities: coastal flooding, storm surges, strong winds, heavy rainfall events. These hazards, combined with rising sea levels and changing monsoon patterns, increase the frequency of small- and medium- scale disasters that disrupt daily life, local economies and social stability, especially in remote atolls.

The recent emergency responses highlight the systemic impact of these events: loss and damage to homes and public infrastructure; interruptions to water, power and communication services; damage to fisheries and small businesses and temporary displacement of households. Remote islands experience longer recovery periods due to

resource limitations, while urban centers especially Malé City experience flash flooding, drainage congestion, and hazard-induced pressure on essential services and logistics.

Food security remains sensitive to external shocks. While the Maldives is not currently in severe IPC classifications, its reliance on imports means that disasters whether local or global can quickly affect affordability and availability of food and essentials, particularly for low-income households and migrant workers.

The NDMA Strategic Plan 2024–2029 underscores several systemic constraints, i) Uneven capacity at island and a toll level to plan, prepare and respond to emergencies, ii) Gaps in early warning dissemination, particularly last-mile communication, iii) Limited standardized contingency planning across communities, iv) Critical infrastructure vulnerability, with most facilities located close to shorelines, v) Need for stronger community engagement, especially with migrants, women, children, elderly and persons with disabilities.

The Government is advancing these priorities through the Disaster Management Act, national emergency operations framework, the DRR Strategy, island-level DRM plans and the Early Warning for All (EW4ALL) Roadmap. The strategic direction emphasizes risk-informed development planning, anticipatory

action, integrated climate disaster risk management, improved early warning systems, and strengthened partnerships with civil society and national stakeholders.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Maldivian Red Crescent's multi-year high level objectives for disasters and crises focus on strengthening community preparedness and resilience nationwide through the Hushiyaaru campaign. Key aims are raising household-level hazard awareness and improving access to preparedness tools, prioritising remote and underserved islands.

Aligned with the EW4ALL roadmap, the National Society will enhance people-centred early warning systems by improving last-mile communication, supporting councils with early warning SOPs, and enabling anticipatory actions to protect vulnerable groups and essential services. The decentralised model will facilitate quicker emergency support via regional offices and units, with ongoing training for volunteers in First Aid, psychosocial support, rapid assessment, information management, and community liaison. Coordination with NDMA, local governments, and other response agencies will be strengthened.

The National Society will support councils and committees in integrating risk information—drawing on experience from IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operations and the SPRING project—into disaster management plans and community emergency response teams (CERTS). Consistent with its Strategic Plan, the National Society will promote inclusive disaster risk reduction and emergency response, systematically addressing the needs of women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, migrants, and vulnerable groups, while expanding feedback and risk communication channels across all islands.

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#### Planned activities in 2026

- Strengthen community preparedness and resilience nationwide under the Hushiyaaru campaign, with a focus on household-level hazard awareness and

access to preparedness tools, especially in remote and underserved islands

- Enhance people-centred early warning systems in line with the EW4ALL roadmap by improving last-mile communication, supporting councils to implement community early warning SOPs, and promoting anticipatory actions to protect vulnerable groups and essential services
- Reinforce the National Society's decentralised model for faster emergency support through regional offices and units, including building volunteer capacity in First Aid, psychosocial support (PSS), rapid assessment, information management, and community liaison
- Strengthen coordination mechanisms between NDMA, local governments, and other first response agencies for more effective emergency response
- Support councils and community committees in integrating risk information, including lessons from DREF operations and projects such as SPRING (2023–2024), into island disaster management plans and the development of community-based emergency response teams (CERTS)
- Implement inclusive approaches within disaster risk reduction and emergency response, ensuring the needs of women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, migrants, and other vulnerable groups are addressed
- Expand mechanisms for feedback, risk communication, and community engagement across all islands

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#### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Maldivian Red Crescent in strengthening disaster risk management systems in alignment with national policies and the Unified Plan. It will provide technical guidance on community-based DRR, the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) framework, anticipatory action, and cash-readiness. The IFRC will also support planning, PMER for DRR Programmes, and surge mobilization during emergencies.



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## Health and wellbeing

The Maldives continues to face an evolving set of public health challenges influenced by demographic change, climate variability, urbanization and uneven access to essential services. National health priorities identified by the Ministry of Health emphasis non-communicable diseases (NCDs), mental health and psychosocial wellbeing (MHPSS), maternal and child health, and the prevention of vector borne diseases such as dengue all of which increasingly affect vulnerable groups.

NCDs remain the leading cause of morbidity, with older persons, low-income households, persons with disabilities, and women in remote islands experiencing reduced access to early screening, regular monitoring, and follow-up. Mental health needs are rising nationwide, with older persons, migrants, adolescents and individuals affected by climate-related stressors experiencing heightened psychosocial vulnerabilities.

Access to healthcare is highly uneven. While Malé and Hulhumalé host specialized health services, outer islands face persistent service gaps, including limited staffing, fewer diagnostics, long-distance referrals, and disruptions during bad weather. For elderly people and people with disabilities, mobility constraints can significantly restrict access to care. Migrant workers and their families also face barriers linked to language, affordability and documentation.

Epidemic risks remain recurrent, with hotspots often found in densely populated areas. Vaccination coverage is high overall. WASH access shows national progress, but differences across islands remain substantial. Some remote islands still often rely primarily on rainwater harvesting or contaminated groundwater sources, disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups particularly children, elderly people, and people with chronic illnesses.

### Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Maldivian Red Crescent's overarching objectives focus on strengthening community health and First Aid services by prioritising outreach to vulnerable groups such as older persons, people with disabilities, migrants, and those living on remote islands. These efforts involve expanding partnerships with the Ministry of Health and Health Protection Agency, implementing youth-led peer education, and promoting behavioural changes to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

To further support wellbeing, the National Society is committed to scaling up Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) across all regions, with particular attention paid to individuals at heightened risk—including older persons, women, youth, migrants, and those affected by climate-related stressors. By increasing the number of trained personnel and volunteers, and ensuring MHPSS is accessible even outside emergency contexts, the aim is to foster everyday community resilience and improved psychosocial health.

Enhancing epidemic preparedness and public health risk communication remains a priority, with inclusive interventions such as dengue prevention, safe water practices, and climate-sensitive health messaging tailored to the needs of vulnerable groups. The Maldivian Red Crescent also seeks to improve equitable health access across remote islands by disseminating inclusive health information, supporting referral systems, and empowering volunteers to identify and assist at-risk households—especially those facing barriers due to age or disability.

The National Society is also advancing climate–health resilience at the community level by integrating climate-sensitive adaptation measures into all health programmes, and strengthening institutional capacity to deliver inclusive,

community-focused health services. This involves ongoing development of staff and volunteer skills in [First Aid](#), MHPSS, epidemic control, protection, gender and inclusion, and community engagement, leveraging digital tools to coordinate health data and services, and ensuring support for elderly people and those with disabilities.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Expand community-based health and first aid ([CBHFA](#)) programmes, prioritising outreach to older persons, people with disabilities, migrants, and those living on remote islands through youth-led education and NCD screening referrals
- Increase Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) capacity in all regions, training more staff and volunteers to focus on vulnerable and high-risk groups, and ensuring everyday access to support services
- Enhance epidemic preparedness and public health risk communication by delivering inclusive, accessible information and interventions—such as dengue prevention and safe water practices—tailored to the needs of vulnerable groups
- Promote equitable health access for remote islands and at-risk populations by supporting health information dissemination, referral systems, and volunteer-led transport and accompaniment
- Integrate climate-sensitive health adaptation measures, such as heat-health and infectious disease prevention, into all community health programmes to build resilience against climate-related health risks
- Strengthen institutional capacity by developing staff and volunteer skills in First Aid, MHPSS, epidemic control, protection, gender and inclusion, and community engagement, with an emphasis on digital tools and support for elderly people and people with disabilities

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to accompany the Maldivian Red Crescent in scaling inclusive, community-centered health and wellbeing services. It will provide technical guidance on community health, MHPSS, climate–health integration, PGI and epidemic preparedness. Support will prioritize inclusive approaches that strengthen services for older persons, persons with disabilities, women, youth and migrants. The IFRC will assist with PMER, digital health tools, surge capacity for emergencies, and localization of regional and global health tools.



The Maldives is primarily a country of destination for labour migration and internal migration, with limited outward migration and no significant refugee or asylum-seeker population. The country hosts an estimated 180,000+ migrant workers, representing nearly 40 per cent of the labour force, one of the highest ratios globally. Migrants predominantly come from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, working in construction, tourism, fisheries, services and domestic work. The MRC Migration & Displacement Needs Assessment (2024) confirms that migrant workers face high levels of social and economic vulnerability, with many living in high-density accommodation and working in physically demanding roles.

Access to essential services, including health care, legal aid, mental health support, and social protection is often restricted by language barriers, documentation requirements, and employer-dependent mobility. Migrant women, migrant domestic workers, older migrants, and undocumented workers face heightened risks of exploitation, harassment, occupational hazards, and exclusion from community mechanisms. People with disabilities and individuals from minority groups experience additional barriers. The Needs Assessment identifies unequal access to information, limited familiarity with emergency systems, and lower participation in preparedness activities as recurring challenges.

Internal migration is increasing, driven by uneven development and access to services. Movement from outer islands to Malé, Hulhumalé and Addu City strains urban services and contributes to overcrowding. Residents of remote islands, especially elderly people, youth, low-income households, and people with disabilities, face greater isolation during disasters, limited livelihood options and higher financial vulnerability. Climate change heightens future displacement risks: sea-level rise, erosion, flooding, and water scarcity are expected to affect habitability in several islands.

The Maldives does not have an active population of refugees or asylum-seekers, and internal displacement occurs primarily in short-term contexts following disasters, fires, flooding or infrastructure damage. Governmental frameworks for migration are primarily anchored in the Employment Act, Immigration Act, and sectoral regulations on worker welfare. While national policies emphasize labor rights and safe migration, operational gaps remain particularly in labour inspections, grievance mechanisms, safe housing and access to documentation. There is currently no comprehensive national displacement policy, but national disaster laws address temporary shelter and emergency assistance.

Coordination on migration is led by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, the Ministry of Homeland, Immigration, Ministry of Health, and local councils, with support from

IOM, UNDP, UNODC and civil society partners. There are no formalized mechanisms ensuring migrant participation in disaster preparedness or community resilience systems, despite increasing exposure to environmental and urban risks.

### Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Maldivian Red Crescent aims to strengthen inclusive access to essential services for migrants and vulnerable island communities by expanding outreach efforts, prioritizing sites with high migrant density, domestic worker networks, and remote islands where basic services are limited. This includes providing health information, First Aid, mental health support, referrals, and other basic necessities.

To enhance disaster preparedness and risk communication, the National Society will tailor early warning and education initiatives for migrant communities, making use of translated materials, peer educator models, and targeted outreach. These efforts align with national commitments to integrate migrants into local preparedness planning.

Advancing dignified and rights-based support, the Maldivian Red Crescent will foster community linkages and rights awareness, working with ministries, employers, and civil society groups. Special attention will be given to high-risk populations such as migrant women, older migrants, and people with disabilities.

The Maldivian Red Crescent will facilitate initiatives that create shared spaces and reduce stigma, including youth engagement, culturally adapted information, and inclusive community engagement processes to ensure that migrant and displaced voices inform program design.

The National Society will also build sustained institutional capacity for migration and displacement programming by enhancing technical expertise, data tools, and volunteer skills, with a focus on protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), and the use of digital tools for identifying and supporting vulnerable groups.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Expand outreach to high-density migrant worksites, domestic worker networks, and remote islands to facilitate access to health information, First Aid, MHPSS, referrals, and basic services for migrants and at-risk island communities.
- Strengthen community-level early warning dissemination and disaster preparedness education for migrant

communities, including translating materials, using peer-educator models, and targeted outreach.

- Develop tools for rapid protection assessment and safe-shelter support for vulnerable groups, and coordinate with local councils and the NDMA to respond to small-scale displacement due to disasters.
- Promote safe and dignified service access for migrants by enhancing community linkages, rights awareness, and partnerships with ministries, employers, and civil society organizations, with a focus on supporting high-risk groups such as migrant women, older migrants, and persons with disabilities.
- Facilitate inclusion and social cohesion through youth engagement, culturally adapted information materials, and inclusive community engagement and accountability (CEA) processes to ensure migrant and displaced voices inform program design.

- Build institutional capacity by developing sustained technical expertise, data tools, and volunteer skills for migration-sensitive programming, including enhanced PGI capacity, localized referral pathways, and digital tools for vulnerability identification and follow-up.

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support Maldivian Red Crescent in strengthening migration and displacement programming in alignment with the Movement Migration Strategy 2024–2030. It will provide technical guidance on migration programming, protection, community engagement and climate-related displacement. The IFRC will support the National Society in integrating migration considerations into DRR, health and PGI portfolios, strengthening PMER systems, and improving linkages with regional route-based initiatives.



*The National Society provides relief and recovery support for those affected by disasters in Maldives. (Photo: IFRC)*



## Values, power and inclusion

The Maldives has achieved strong national progress in education, youth engagement and gender equality; however, inequalities and protection concerns persist across different islands and population groups. Access to education is generally high, though geographic disparities, socio-economic barriers and infrastructural limitations still affect children and youth from remote islands, low-income households and migrant families. Schools face vulnerabilities related to flooding, coastal hazards, overcrowding, and limited continuity mechanisms

during emergencies, with disparities in inclusive education services for children with disabilities.

Protection, gender and inclusion challenges remain significant. Women, children, people with disabilities, elderly people, migrant workers may face discrimination or barriers in accessing services, participating in community structures or seeking protection. National reports highlight concerns around gender-based violence, child protection, and exclusion of people

with disabilities from full participation in public life. The legal and policy framework including the Gender Equality Act, the Child Rights Protection Act, the Domestic Violence Act and the Disability Act provide strong foundations, but implementation remains uneven across islands, with limited local protection capacity. The MRC Migration and Displacement Needs Assessment (2024) further highlights inclusion gaps affecting migrant workers especially women, undocumented migrants, and those living in congested accommodations. These groups face barriers in accessing accurate information, legal remedies, psychosocial support and community platforms.

Community trust and engagement vary across islands. Some communities express concerns regarding information reliability, limited two-way communication in emergencies, and inconsistent involvement of vulnerable groups in decision-making. The diversity of communication preferences ranging from social media to mosque announcements to council messaging requires tailored, localized CEA approaches.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Maldivian Red Crescent prioritizes the mainstreaming of inclusion and protection throughout all its programs, with a strong focus on integrating protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) in areas such as disaster management, health, migration, and community initiatives. This approach emphasizes safeguarding, survivor-centered referral processes, disability inclusion, and the protection of vulnerable groups—particularly women, children, migrants, and older persons.

Expanding community engagement and accountability (CEA) systems is another key objective for the Maldivian Red Crescent. The National Society is dedicated to enhancing feedback and complaint mechanisms, developing localized and culturally appropriate communication strategies, and ensuring that vulnerable groups play a meaningful role in shaping program design and decision-making.

The National Society aims to promote humanitarian education and foster community learning by leveraging its expertise with youth engagement initiatives. Through programmes such as Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC), y-adapt, First Aid, and various safety and wellbeing platforms, the MRC supports the dissemination of humanitarian values and fundamental principles, targeting schools, youth groups, and island communities.

The National Society also seeks to enhance its institutional capacity for PGI, CEA, and ethical humanitarian action. This includes ongoing volunteer training, developing robust safeguarding systems, adopting digital tools for ethical feedback management, and ensuring disability- and gender-sensitive approaches are integrated across all Units and Regional Offices.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Organize regular inclusion and protection training workshops for staff and volunteers, with a focus on safeguarding, disability inclusion, and survivor-centred referral processes
- Upgrade and localize community engagement and accountability (CEA) platforms, including introducing accessible feedback and complaint channels tailored to different community needs
- Launch school- and community-based humanitarian education sessions, such as YABC and y-adapt, to promote fundamental principles and positive behavioural change among youth and educators
- Establish partnerships with local councils, social protection agencies, and health providers to strengthen referral pathways and support services for survivors of violence and vulnerable groups during emergencies
- Develop digital tools and systems for ethical management of feedback and complaints, ensuring all Units and Regional Offices integrate disability and gender-sensitive approaches

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support in embedding values, power and inclusion across its humanitarian work. It will provide technical expertise on PGI, CEA, safeguarding and humanitarian education, supporting the National Society to strengthen institutional systems, adapt global tools and ensure survivor-centred and inclusive service delivery. Regional and global IFRC PGI teams will assist in developing inclusive approaches for migrants, people with disabilities, elderly people, women and youth.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Maldivian Red Crescent is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is

at the orientation phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.



### Strategic and operational coordination

#### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Consolidate a unified planning and coordination framework with NDMA, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, local councils and other key ministries, ensuring that National Society's regional and Unit-level work is anchored in national strategies such as the DRR Strategy, EW4ALL roadmap and health priorities
- Strengthen internal coordination between HQ, regional offices and Units, clarifying decision-making lines, surge arrangements and information flows for both long-term Programmes and emergency response
- Improve resource mobilization and partnership management, combining domestic revenue generation (commercial First Aid, MHPSS training, Patient Transport

Services, HQ development) with predictable multi-year support from IFRC and other partners

- Maintain and further develop the unified planning approach with the IFRC network, using the Unified Plan and annual workplans as the primary coordination platform for IFRC Secretariat and any supporting Participating National Societies.

#### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will accompany Maldivian Red Crescent in maintaining a strong unified planning process, joint annual workplans, and coordination mechanisms with the authorities and partners. Participating National Societies and IFRC Reference Centres will contribute through thematic coordination platforms, peer exchange and joint planning exercises, ensuring that bilateral support is aligned with the Unified Plan and its strategic direction.



### National Society development

#### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen the regional model and Unit structures, providing clearer roles, basic resourcing and capacity-building packages for governance and volunteers, so that services can be delivered consistently across the three regions and units
- Advance financial sustainability, including the phased development of the Hulhumalé HQ and land plot, expansion of commercial services (First Aid, MHPSS, Patient Transport Services), and improved financial management and planning aligned with the multi-year budget envelope in the Unified Plan
- Scale up digital transformation via the Maldivian Red Crescent Hub, embedding digital tools in finance, HR,

volunteer management, logistics and PMER, and ensuring staff and volunteers have the skills to use them

- Invest in leadership, governance and volunteer management, including succession planning, youth leadership opportunities and internal training aligned with Movement standards

#### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide NSD-focused support, including access to NSD funding streams, technical advice on financial sustainability and digital transformation, and peer learning on governance and branch/unit development. Reference Centres and hubs will contribute tools and coaching on volunteer management, leadership development and institutional strengthening.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Position Maldivian Red Crescent as a key actor on resilience, climate and protection, contributing evidence and community perspectives to national platforms such as Hushiyaaru, EW4ALL processes, health security discussions and migration policy dialogues
- Strengthen public communication and visibility, ensuring that communities, authorities and partners understand Maldivian Red Crescent's role, Fundamental Principles and added value, and that stories from remote and vulnerable groups are amplified

- Use humanitarian diplomacy to address operational constraints, including access, inclusion of migrants and vulnerable groups, and investment in local preparedness and community-based services

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will provide humanitarian diplomacy and communication support, including strategic messaging, spokesperson training and engagement in regional and global platforms. Participating National Societies and reference centres will offer peer support and technical expertise on campaigns, evidence generation and policy engagement, aligned with Movement Migration and Climate strategies.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen accountability systems, including financial controls, audits, risk management, procurement, security management and integrity mechanisms, aligned with IFRC policies and donor expectations
- Embed PGI, safeguarding and CEA as core organizational standards, ensuring survivor-centered approaches, safe referral pathways, accessible complaints and feedback mechanisms, and disability and gender-sensitive programming across all strategic priorities
- Advance digital transformation as an enabler of accountability and agility, using the Maldivian Red Crescent Hub and other tools to improve real-time data, decision-making, transparency and reporting to communities and partners

- Promote a culture of learning and adaptation, using evaluations, reviews and joint monitoring frameworks (linked to the Indicator Bank and Unified Plan M&E arrangements) to continuously improve programmes quality and systems

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will continue to support the National Society in strengthening PMER, financial risk management, integrity frameworks, safeguarding, PGI and CEA systems, as well as digital and data capacities. Reference Centers and specialized networks (e.g. PGI, CEA, Cash, IM) and supporting National Societies will provide technical expertise, tools and peer learning opportunities, helping the Maldivian Red Crescent to consolidate accountable and agile ways of working across all Strategic Priorities.



The Maldivian Red Crescent's inclusive approaches within emergency response aims to address the specific needs of children, women, elderly, persons with disabilities, among others. (Photo: IFRC)

# THE IFRC NETWORK

## The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Maldivian Red Crescent through the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) and operationally through the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in New Delhi, India. IFRC has accompanied the Maldivian Red Crescent

since its establishment in 2009, providing technical leadership, surge support and development assistance aligned with the core functions of the IFRC.

## IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources;

clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

## Movement coordination

The **Maldivian Red Crescent** ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of

emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation \(SMCC\)](#) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

## Coordination with other actors

The National Society's auxiliary role is anchored in the MRC Act (2009), enabling structured engagement with national and local authorities. The National Society contributes to multiple national coordination platforms led by the Government:

- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) – Emergency Response, disaster preparedness and Risk Management, Hushiyaaru campaign, community-based DRR and EW4ALL
- Ministry of Tourism and Environment – climate adaptation, community-based climate resilience initiatives
- Maldives Meteorological Service – early warning, climate literacy and risk information
- Ministry of Health and Health Protection Agency (HPA) – community health, First Aid, MHPSS, epidemic preparedness

- Ministry of Homeland Security and Immigration – migration and displacement coordination
- At the sub-national level, the Maldivian Red Crescent works closely with island and city councils, supporting assessments, awareness campaigns and early warning dissemination, demonstrating the auxiliary role in disaster response (e.g., flood events, severe weather incidents, island fires).

Beyond government, the Maldivian Red Crescent has engagements and partnerships with UN agencies – UNDP, IOM, UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA. The National Society works with INGOs and academic institutions such as local universities for research, training and youth volunteering. It works with private sector in areas such as telecommunications, resorts, corporate partners supporting first aid, safety and community programming.



**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 16 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

### About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2026 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC [Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

### Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the [IFRC network databank](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2026 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-estimation of the efforts led by all
- Reporting bias: the data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain
- **Definitions:**
  - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
  - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

### Additional information

- [IFRC network country plans](#) • [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC network databank](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [Evaluations and research bank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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