

# Maldives Tsunami Situation Report

<b>Date: 31 December 2004</b> <b>Country: Maldives</b>	<b>Number: 01, Day 6</b> <b>Prepared by: Dr. Ohn Kyaw</b>
Please update daily information (only new developments from the last 24hrs) to send <a href="mailto:opsroom@whosea.org">mailto:opsroom@whosea.org</a> latest by 00:00 IST	
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## 1. Key issues

Coordination among the National Task Force is weak. However, the UNDAC team has been asked for assistance to better organize it.

There is still incomplete information from large parts of the country and what is available is patchy. The small pockets of population distributed over large parts of the country make it very difficult to reach; whatever supplies being sent out have to reach each and everyone. With harbours destroyed, access to islands is proving difficult. Thus, the actual situation may not be known for several more days yet.

No majors outbreaks have been reported yet, but DPH has been warning the public to be careful of any dead bodies/animals etc. MoH/DPH monitoring the outbreak situation.

## 2. Situation Update\*

(Situation analysis, including major developments in the past 24hrs)

<b>No. of Deaths</b>	<b>No. of Injured</b>	<b>No. of Missing</b>	<b>No. of Displaced</b>	<b>No. of islands affected</b>
<b>73</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>All 200 + Male'</b>

In addition to above statistics, additional information we have received:

No of homeless	12,000
Total no. of people affected (govt. est.)	100,000
Islands abandoned (out of 200 inhabited)	13
Islands with no tel. connections still	30
Resorts closed	19

Worst affected are the central atolls. On 13% of islands (25) near total destruction of all buildings, including the health facilities. Even those buildings left standing, very unstable, with huge cracks, etc.

## 3. Health status and trend\*

### Communicable Diseases

diarrohea	144 cases
fever with vomiting	06
vomiting	05
viral fever	89

(Source: MoH)

**Environmental Health (access to safe water and hygiene, sanitation situation)**

All affected islands have severe problems of lack of safe water/ and sanitation. Sewage systems working on some islands, but a lot of sewage strewn on the islands. Problems of garbage and rotting fish, in some cases dead animals are drifting from neighbouring countries (like/cows etc, which are not found locally)

15 islands have a declared water supply of two weeks or less, including five with enough to last just two to three days.

**Other health issues (Mother and child health, mental health etc)**

Mothers are being kept with their children in the shelters etc. However, some still remain on boats in the lagoons. (One island UN team visited, Kaafu Guraidhoo, mothers reported that food being offered in shelter, not particularly suitable for infants). However, government reports say baby food/milk powder etc. now being sent to all affected islands.

Most of the dead and missing are children.

MoH daily updates report 143 cases of anxiety and shock. But most affected islanders believed to be much traumatized, according to newspaper/TV/radio coverage.

**Health system and infrastructure (functioning health facilities, access etc)**

Health posts on 10% of islands (8) totally destroyed/washed away. Others damaged to various degrees, and even if usable, large number needs to be cleaned/repaired.

**4. WHO actions over the past 24hrs**

Writing flash appeal to be submitted by the UN team in the Maldives. 5 new emergency kits were received about 2200 hrs on 30 December, and have already been delivered to the MoH.

Taking part in UN and national task force meetings.

2 Swiss WATSAN engineers expected this afternoon.

**5. Key actions by Government, UN agencies, NGOs, others over the past 24 hours**

UNDAC team along with the Minister of Planning and Environment, visited two further islands, Thaa Vilufushi and Guraidhoo, both being among the most severely affected. This report will be available tonight.

A list of priority needs have been drawn up and a list of items which are not urgently needed is being drawn up jointly by the Government/UN.

Flash appeal writing underway in all agencies.

The government continues to receive all kinds of aid (money/clothing/medical supplies, etc) abroad and locally.

## **6. Contact Persons**

Dr. Ohn Kyaw  
Ag. WR to the Maldives

Email: [ohnkyaw@who.org.mv](mailto:ohnkyaw@who.org.mv)  
Tel +960 322410/327519/313564  
Fax. +960 324210

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