

Maldives Situation Report #09/2005

Effects of Tsunami on 26 December 2004

Date: 5 January 2005 (10 days after disaster)

Prepared by UN Country Team, Male', Maldives

I. SITUATION

No. of Deaths	No. of Injured	No. of Missing	No. of Displaced/homeless	Areas affected
82	2214	26	21663	All 20 atolls

II. UPDATE BY SECTOR

Electricity

The State Electric Company today reported that it has restored electricity to all but 5 of the islands that lost power supplied due to the tsunamis.

Food Distribution and logistics

The Government Taskforce has today reported that it has sent 216 tons of assistance to the islands with four vessels dispatched today. It also reported that 6 regional centres have been established to aid food distribution in the atolls and some centres are already active.

Health status

	Male'	Rest of country
Diarrhea	399	084
ARI	08	075
Viral fever	48	274
Viral fever with vomiting	03	013

(source: MOH, data for 5 January 2005)

II. NATIONAL RESPONSE

URGENT: The Government's Crisis Task Force urgently requests that manifests for aid shipments be sent to the Government well in advance to ensure more efficient processing and reduce bottlenecks. There is limited warehouse storage capacity at the airport. Please send manifests in advance to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of External Resources: der@foreign.gov.mv; fax: +960 317 592; copied to the Task Force's Aid Coordination Unit: rshareef@dhivehinet.net.mv and UNDP's focal point for logistics: shaheem.razee@undp.org.

III. COUNTRY-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

Actions of UN Teams

UNICEF

UNICEF is fully involved in the relief operations of UN Country Team in the Maldives and meets daily with the government counterparts to organise the flow of information and determine immediate requirements for relief. It has also been playing a technical advisory role to the government and has been coordinating with the government Health Task Force and the Maldives Water and Sanitation Authority to distribute supplies to the most affected areas as well as for longer term recovery plans for the sectors of health, nutrition and WES.

UNICEF is also coordinating with the Ministry of Education for immediate relief for schools and students as well as longer term recovery plans. Under this plan, UNICEF will provide school in a box kits to students who will attend those schools that are partially damaged and will reopen in the last week of January.

UNICEF will also help the government in repairing and reconstruction of damaged schools and is holding discussions with the government to ensure that child friendly teaching methods continue to put into practise after schools reopen.

It has also been working with the Government task force for psycho social intervention. UNICEF Staff have undertaken assessments to 4 of the affected islands.

The initial immediate survival requests from the government to UNICEF included food especially for children, hygiene items and some play material for the evacuated children in Male' and the children on the most affected islands.

At the request of the government, UNICEF has procured the following materials, which will reach the Maldives in the next few days:

Item	Quantity
Basic family water kits	1,430
Water tanks	50 set
Weighing Scale for mother & child (electronic)	260
Bacteriological H2S filed testing kit	100
Conductivity meter	20
School-in-a Box Kits	400 sets
Recreational Kits	80 sets
Cold Chain walk-in room	1

The Ministry of Education has sent a request for \$457,961 for the construction of 75 classrooms and their furniture. UNICEF has already received funds from the US Fund for UNICEF to cover the cost.

To date US\$1,744,382.51 has been received for the above activities through the Global Humanitarian Response.

UNICEF has provided 1728 litres of water (2 litre bottles) received from DFID to the government for distribution to the families in need.

UNFPA

Immediate action by UNFPA includes contribution of water, sanitation and hygiene supplies such as sanitary napkins, toothpaste, tooth brushes, towels and clothing to the displaced population. Emergency supplies including clean delivery kits, clinical delivery equipment and materials for safe blood transfusions have been procured.

UNFPA is assisting the Government and NGOs in providing psychosocial support services to the most affected women, girls and children and this has already been initiated with local NGOs.

UNFPA is supporting the Ministry of Health and working with the other UN agencies to assess the impact of the disaster and to help develop a comprehensive plan for relief and rehabilitation.

WHO

WHO is undertaking disease surveillance and response particularly with respect to tracking patterns of life-threatening diseases and establishing an early warning system. It is coordinating action with the health system and other health actors, locally, nationally and internationally.

WHO is also providing public health guidance on responding to disease outbreaks, water quality, sanitation, chronic disease management and mental health. As such the relevant guidelines on “Flood Preparedness and Response have already been shared with the Ministry of Health.

Working with the Government, WHO is also ensuring access to essential health care to all those affected by the tragedy and helping to coordinate medical supplies to ensure that supply chains are working and that medicines are reaching where they are needed.

Two engineers from WHO arrived on 31 December 2004, and have been coordinating closely with UNICEF and the Government in conducting situation assessments and responding needs in various affected islands. Two more doctors are to arrive on 6 January to assess the capacity of the WHO country office in Maldives to respond to the disaster. An Epidemiologist is also arriving tomorrow to assist in tracking patterns of life-threatening diseases and establishing an early warning system. Experts in the area of disaster, environmental health, food safety, epidemiologists and a media specialist is also expected to arrive shortly to join the WHO team.

Material procured	Status
5 New Emergency Health Kits 98	Arrived on 4 January and have been handed over to the clearing and distributing agent of the Govt.
10 Surgical kits	
100,000 Pkts ORS	Arrived on 3 January
8 metric tons of Chlorine (bleaching powder)	To arrive today 5 January.
5 New Emergency Health Kits 98	To arrive on 6 January

WFP

WFP is assessing the more accurate food needs in the country whilst responding to the Governments’ request to provide food aid for the tsunami victims. WFP has launched an immediate response that includes 100 metric tons of high energy biscuits and is airlifting them into Male. A limited quantity of this amount has already arrived in the Maldives with 40 tons due to arrive on 6 January 2005.

WFP has also been providing airlift of non-food items to other UN agencies.

A WFP Vulnerability Analysis Mapping mission has arrived in the Maldives yesterday and is conducting currently undertaking short and medium term assessments.

Constraints

- Lack of equipment and machinery to clear up debris so that reconstruction of islands can begin.
Population dispersion over 200 islands scattered over 900 kms which means that even small quantities of aid have to be transported to every island by either boat, sea plane or helicopter.
- On most islands, access is designed for small boats, thereby restricting the amounts of supplies and equipment that can be delivered at any one time.
- Inclement weather (as in the past two days) restricts travel by boat and plane and hampers delivery of aid.
- Small groups of residents remain on heavily damaged islands to look for and protect valuables and properties.
- As a result of the above the country and its people remain vulnerable to continuing effects of the disaster.

4. Government requests

No longer needed: Tents

Jerry Cans

On hold: Food
Experts/ Teams
Medication

Still needed: Toiletry sets
Kitchen sets
Water making equipment
Water harvesting equipment
Water storage equipment

IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Government requests

In order to ensure that appropriate aid and quantities are sent to the country, please consult with the Government's Crisis Task Force through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department of External Resources: der@foreign.gov.mv.

Priority needs

Transport and logistical coordination continue to remain the main priorities of the government given the dispersion and the difficult conditions to be endured for aid delivery. Aid has to be delivered to each the 200 islands individually and can be done in small boats or using other means of light transport.

V. CHANNELS FOR DELIVERY OF INTERNATIONAL AID

15. Cash contributions

The Government has set up bank accounts for cash donations:
Ministry of Finance and Treasury Disaster Relief Fund
Bank of Maldives
Account No (Foreign currency): 7701- 147 900- 002
Account No (Local currency): 7701- 147 900- 001
Bank swift code: MALBMVMV

VI. INTERNATIONAL PLEDGES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Total cash amount committed/pledged:

Total value in kind:

Total cash & kind:

VII. OTHER INFORMATIONS

17. Field office contact

Aishath Jeelaan, Communications Officer, United Nations Resident Coordinator System, Tel: (960) 324501 ext. 227, mob: (960) 787 987.

18. Expected date of next report: 6th January 2005.