



Regional Consultation of SEAR Member Countries  
on  
**Health Facilities  
Safe from Disasters**  
New Delhi, India  
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Country Presentation  
**REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES**

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## ABOUT MALDIVES...

- Maldives is an archipelago of nearly 1196 islands to the south of India, with
  - 200 inhabited islands.
  - It has a population of 300,000 and is visited by more than 600,000 tourists per year
  - Atolls are formed by groups of islands that encircle to form geographical regions.
  - There are 20 atolls. As islands are geographically dispersed, atolls have been further grouped into 6 regions
  - The main two industries in Maldives are tourism and fishing.
  - A lower middle income country,
  - Has a migrant labor force of 60,000.




## Health care Structure

- Tier one – 19 health posts, each of which provide basic health care services to populations based on a single island.
- Tier two –116 health centers. Each health centre has at least one medical doctor.
- Tier three -13 atoll hospitals, which provides health services to the respective atoll.
- Tier four - comprises of six regional hospitals. Regional hospitals are the first proper referral hospitals in the periphery.




## Health care Structure

- Tier five - This level constitutes of:
  - (1) The Ministry of Health;
  - (2) Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital
  - (3) Department of Medical Services
  - (4) Department of Public Health,
  - (5) Maldives Food and Drug Authority
  - (6) Health Councils
    - Maldives Medical Council,
    - Maldives Nursing Council,
    - Maldives Board of Health Sciences.




## Private Sector


- Private health services comprises of
  - ADK Hospital ,
  - Private Clinics and
  - NGOs that concentrate their services in specialized fields.



## Adverse effects of Disaster on Hospitals





- On 2004 tsunami Maldivian health care structures were affected badly
  - One Regional Hospital,
  - 2 Atoll Hospitals,
  - 14 Health Centers
  - 20health posts and
  - 10 family health sections destroyed or severely damaged








## Preparedness in health facilities

- Some facilities have disaster plans
  - In Indhira Gandhi Memorial hospital In Male' there are written emergency preparedness and response plans.
- HEPRP was formulated on the assumption that, being the prime tertiary hospital center in the Maldives.
- Most casualties of external disasters will be brought to IGMH.
- It will be instituted to deal with an event, which presents a number of patients in excess of the number with which the hospital's routine facilities can cope with.





## Preparedness in health facilities

- Every year there is emergency drill for hospital staffs with co operation with National defense force
- Aims:
  - Mass casualty management
  - Pre hospital care
  - Patient transfer to safe areas
  - Hospital care
  - Post disaster management.





## Preparedness in health facilities

- Some health facilities have Disaster Committees and Emergency Command Centers
  - In IGMH Male'
    - Emergency command center will be on action when there is a disaster or mass casualty incident.
    - They have regular meetings
    - It consists of all concerned parties
- National Disaster management center and other key institutions are formulating specific plans for managing disasters in health sector and other inter related sectors.




## Challenges

- Geographical dispersion and the difficulties of access to islands
- Transport and logistical difficulties
- High unit cost of delivery of health care
- Inadequate resources
- Lack of trained manpower and lack of emergency planes
- Lack of awareness of higher level government officials about the problem.




## Disaster Risk Reduction

- Attention to disasters and vulnerability for such events gained recently after the 2004 Tsunami .
- Very minimal or no co ordination between health sector and other actors of disaster risk reduction in Maldives.
- There are written building codes in Maldives but Maldivian construction industry is very young and there are no specific studies conducted to know vulnerability of the health care structures for such adverse events.


## Disaster-resilient health facilities


- Non of the health facilities' vulnerability assessment for external and internal disasters are done in Maldives
- In IGMH there are Intention for formulation of Internal disaster management planes including Hospital evacuation planes in case of internal disaster.



## We Hope

- To increase our awareness and understanding of the issues about hospital safe from disasters.
- To highlight the issue of hospital safe from disasters at decision making level officials in Maldives and to take steps towards risk assessment of health care facilities.
- To identify opportunities to strengthen disaster risk reduction, preparedness in Health facilities with cooperation of other sectors in disaster management in Maldives.
- This consultation will develop a SEAR framework action plan with respect to hospitals safe from disasters and also mechanisms to implement the action plan



# THANK YOU

