

Annual Report 2023



The 7 Fundamental Principles
of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement



Humanity

دین، نژاد، ښار، ښارونه او ښارونه



Impartiality

د دین، نژاد، ښار، ښارونه او ښارونه



Neutrality

د دین، نژاد، ښار، ښارونه او ښارونه



Independence

د دین، نژاد، ښار، ښارونه او ښارونه



Voluntary Service

د دین، نژاد، ښار، ښارونه او ښارونه



Unity

د دین، نژاد، ښار، ښارونه او ښارونه



Universality

د دین، نژاد، ښار، ښارونه او ښارونه



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Foreword by MRC Interim President



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Our Governing Board members played prominent roles in driving forward our organizational objectives. They have actively engaged in representing MRC on global platforms and leading key projects and initiatives, demonstrating exceptional dedication and leadership in furthering our humanitarian mission.

*MRC Interim President,
Rasheeda Ali*

As the Interim President of the Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC), it is my privilege to reflect on our journey and share where we stand today. MRC has continued its unwavering commitment to humanitarianism, striving to reach the most vulnerable, ensure inclusivity, and fostering resilience within our communities. Our 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.

Throughout the year, our focus was not only on delivering impactful Programmes and Services, but also on enhancing the diversity and inclusivity within our organization. We recognized the importance of representation and worked diligently to create a more inclusive environment that values and celebrates differences among our volunteers, staff, and members. I am pleased to highlight that during the 12th General Assembly 2023, delegates from MRC Units elected Mohammed Nasir Uddin to the MRC Governing Board – Inclusivity, who will represent marginalized persons such as migrants and persons with disabilities. This marks the first ever representation of a migrant in MRC's Governing Board.

During the year, significant progress was made in enhancing transparency, accountability, and member engagement within our governance framework. The Governing Board, alongside various committees like the Complaints Committee and Finance Committee, dedicated considerable efforts to bolster MRC's governance and uphold organizational transparency and accountability. Endorsement of revised policies such as the Complaints and Appeals Policy, as well as the implementation of the Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy, exemplify these efforts. These efforts were complemented by regular meetings and forums, providing platforms for members

to voice their opinions and contribute to decision-making processes. The financial sustainability of the organization is of critical importance to the Governing Board, as such measures have been initiated to take forward the development of MRC's headquarter building and to revise MRC Act to ensure continued financial support to MRC.

Our Governing Board members played prominent roles in driving forward our organizational objectives. They have actively engaged in representing MRC on global platforms and leading key projects and initiatives, demonstrating exceptional dedication and leadership in furthering our humanitarian mission. Notably, Second Vice President Ahmed Shabin represented MRC at COP28, marking our inaugural participation in this prestigious global event. Additionally, Governing Board Member – Youth, Mohamed Shaiman Adam Saleem represented MRC at the 04th IFRC Asia Pacific Youth Forum and participated in the 11th IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Meeting, emphasizing the significance of youth representation in this regional forum. Furthermore, I participated in the Extraordinary General Assembly of IFRC in December.

In conclusion, I extend my deepest appreciation to our volunteers, staff, and members whose unwavering dedication and tireless efforts have been the cornerstone of our success. I would also like to thank the outgoing President Mr. Abdul Haleem Abdul Latheef and members of the Governing Board for their hard work. It is through their commitment to our humanitarian mission that we have been able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. As we look towards the future, let us continue to work together with passion and purpose, guided by our shared commitment to serving humanity.

Foreword by MRC Secretary General



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We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners who stood alongside us in our humanitarian mission. The Government of Maldives, UN Agencies, external partners and corporate partners, your unwavering support was instrumental in enabling us to fulfill our mission.

*MRC Secretary General,
Fathimath Himya*

As we navigate the intricate landscape of humanitarian work, Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) stands firm in our dedication in reaching the most vulnerable, ensuring no one is left behind, and nurturing resilience within our communities.

In aligning our strategic plan for 2019-2030 with ongoing initiatives during 2023, we continued to achieve considerable progress across key areas within each priority. With the aim of ensuring our ability to readily respond to disasters and emergencies, we worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to carry out a Safer Access and Restoring Family Links (RFL) Training with their support, increasing the capacity of our volunteers to navigate challenging environments effectively. In this way, MRC's participation in the Indian Ocean-wide Tsunami Exercise Drill underscored our commitment to readiness and response in the face of natural disasters.

Through a spectrum of First Aid (FA), Psychosocial First Aid (PFA), and MHPSS trainings, we helped equip our volunteers, along with members of the community, with essential skills that can save lives. Our collaboration with Transparency Maldives (TM) on "Promoting Resilience in the Maldives" (PRIME) project was dedicated to address the unique challenges and needs of young people affected by substance abuse through community-based intervention, including training sessions on first aid – leaving no one behind in our effort to build the resilience of our community.

Highlighting our commitment to environmental stewardship, our ecosystem restoration project reflected our endeavours to mitigate the impact of climate change and safeguarding natural resources. Additionally, initiatives such as the "Strengthening Preparedness and Resilience through Inclusive Community Governance (SPRING) Project and Y-Adapt training sessions, in partnership with organizations like the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), underscored our focus on disaster

risk reduction and community capacity-building.

Promoting the health and wellbeing of Maldivian society is a key area of work for MRC. As part of our response to COVID-19 pandemic, our formative assessment, conducted in collaboration with FHI360, enabled us to adapt our interventions effectively to meet evolving needs. Furthermore, initiatives such as Healthy Ageing programs across the Maldives, as well as our migrant support services, exemplified our commitment to addressing the diverse health and social challenges faced by vulnerable populations.

Working with our partners and community members, MRC strives to maintain inclusivity within our activities and programmes. To empower youth and promote inclusive education, our partnership with UNICEF on initiatives like UPSHIFT and alternative learning programs, are designed to give the youth the opportunity to meaningfully participate in their communities and learn holistic skills. Moreover, MRC's "Madhadhuveni" programme, led by the Kulhudhufushi City Unit, highlighted our commitment to fostering community and social cohesion by bringing together individuals from all walks of life to learn more about MRC and what we do, keeping the spirit of volunteerism alive. The MRC Hithadhoo Unit also hosted a Youth Camp for the Southern Region in 2023, who were equipped with essential skills and knowledge to empower and support young people in leadership roles.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners who stood alongside us in our humanitarian mission. The Government of Maldives, UN Agencies, external partners and corporate partners, your unwavering support was instrumental in enabling us to fulfil our mission. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to our dedicated volunteers whose selfless commitment and tireless efforts continue to drive the success of MRC. Together, we remain steadfast in our mission to serve humanity, uphold the principles of the RCRC movement, and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need.

About Maldivian Red Crescent

The Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) is an independent, voluntary, humanitarian organization, established based on 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.

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.

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 Maldivian Red Crescent aims to be the nation's leading humanitarian organization with offices and Units spanned all over Maldives and have successfully rolled out programmes and service delivery initiatives through MRC Units in communities. We are continuously working to expand our services to more islands. MRC recruits members, volunteers and implements Programmes and delivers services in adherence to the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity, and Universality – making no discrimination as to nationality, race, gender, religious beliefs, language, class, or political opinions.



Addu City

MRC Strategic Plan 2019 – 2030

The MRC Strategic Plan 2019-2030 is centred around concept of resilience, advocating a shift in thinking and practice, and recognizing the need for better coherence in the areas of disaster management, climate change, and development work.

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.

The Strategic Plan 2019-2030 consists of six strategic priority areas in total, with five for programmes and services and one for organisational development and sustainability. In 2023, MRC commenced the revision of the four-year results framework spanning from 2019 to 2022, along with setting new targets for 2023 to 2026, building upon the accomplishments of the previous four years.



Addu City



Male' City

MRC's Year in Numbers:



8,839
People reached via Programmes
& Services across MRC



180+
Activities across
MRC in 2023



08
Island communities
reached by MRC in 2023



03
Publications



250+
Volunteers
mobilized



7309.27
Volunteer hours
logged in 2023



Kulhudhuffushi City

Towards Resilience in 2023

Efforts towards realizing MRC's Strategic Plan 2019-2030

Throughout 2023, across MRC Units supported by the MRC headquarters, significant progress was made in the expansion of our Programmes and Services in communities in alignment with the Strategic Plan 2019-2030.

MRC continued to build on the work carried out under Strategic Priority Areas 1 & 2 focusing on Strengthening Emergency Response, First Aid and Psychosocial Support. Significant strides took place during the year in the development and strengthening short- & long-term projects towards the expansion of Programmes

and Services under Priority 3: Facilitating Planning for Resilience, Priority 4: Promoting Health and Wellbeing in a Changing Climate, and Priority 5: Fostering Humanitarian Values and Volunteerism. This expansion has been made possible through the introduction of new projects supported through the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners and external international and local partners. The year also marked progress in the area of MRC's Strategic Priority 6: Organizational Development and Sustainability, evident through the establishment of new Units and enhancements in governance, management, and service delivery mechanisms.




Strengthen Emergency Response

The primary focus of the first strategic priority area lies in emergency response, a crucial aspect of the Maldives Red Crescent's disaster risk management efforts. Mandated by the MRC Law 2009/07, emergency response serves as a pivotal responsibility for the organization. As an auxiliary to the government, MRC collaborates with relevant stakeholders, primarily the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), to address emergencies and disasters nationwide. 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). The 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.



Overview of Emergency Responses in 2023



16

Number of emergencies responded across MRC



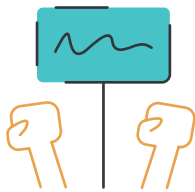
10

Fire incidents



04

Flooding incidents



02

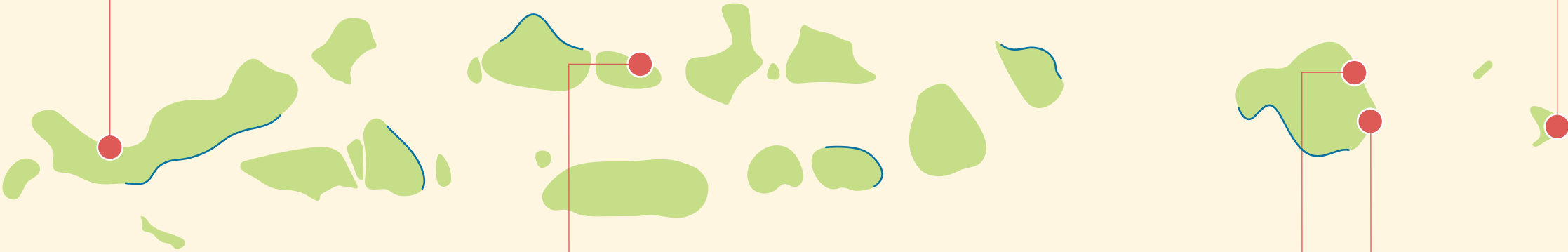
Political unrest



Kulhudhuffushi City:
On 16th September 2023, MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Unit ERTs responded to a fire incident at labour quarters within a construction site, resulting in the destruction of a migrant labour quarter at the site. MRC volunteers responded to the scene and administered first aid, tending to minor injuries sustained by workers. With over 90 migrant workers impacted with loss of essential items, including clothing, mobile phones, and cash, the Unit coordinated with Kulhudhuffushi City Council to establish a relief distribution area within the construction site, providing hygiene kits and facilitated the collection and distribution of non-food items gathered by the City Council to the affected migrants.



Addu City:
MRC Hithadhoo Unit Emergency Response Volunteers responded to the flooding incident in relation to the orange alert issued on 27th December 2023 for Torrential Rain, Thunderstorm to Addu City. ERTs supported in the mitigating flood impacts as well as rapid assessments of households of affected areas to the flood.



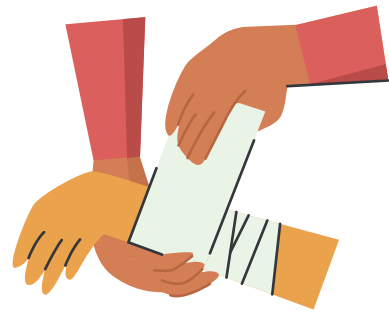
Male' City:
On 31st December 2023, ERTs of MRC Male' City Unit responded to the severe flooding incident in Male' City due to the onset of the Northeast Monsoon, with continuous heavy rain flooding over 140+ households. ERTs, in coordination with the National Disaster Management Authority, carried out rapid assessments of 140 households and supported and facilitated the temporary relocation of 65 individuals.



Gadhdhoo Unit:
On 13th November 2023, MRC Gadhdhoo Unit responded to flooding incidents in coordination with the Island Council due to heavy rain and flooding across the island.

Gdh. Faresmathoda:
On 16th May 2023, MRC mobilized volunteers and staff to facilitate a PSS intervention to the School students, teachers and parents in response to a suicide incident in the island. The team was able to provide an effective PSS intervention reaching over 155 individuals during the response.

Summary Highlights under the Priority



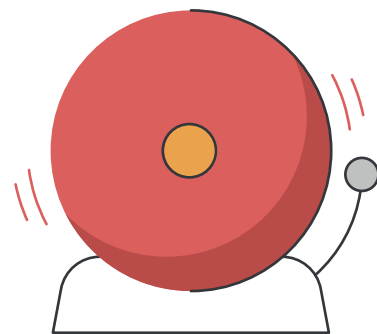
02

Emergency Response Trainings



35

Emergency Response Volunteers Trained



03

School Emergency Drills supported by MRC Male' City Unit in coordination with Ministry of Education, Maldives National Defence Force, and relevant stakeholders.

Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (GGP) scheme.

MRC signed a grant contract with the Embassy of Japan in the Maldives under the GGP scheme for the project Provision of an Emergency Support Vehicle and Dewatering Equipment to MRC Kulhudhuffushi City. This funding support will further strengthen and enhance MRC's emergency response capacity in Kulhudhuffushi City and aims to facilitate a more effective and efficient emergency response, contributing to the overall resilience of the community. MRC aims to fulfil the requirements of the project by early 2024.



Capacity Building and Expertise in partnership with International Committee of the Red Cross ICRC

Safe Access Workshop 26th – 27th February 2023

Safer Access Framework deals with the issues around access, acceptance, visibility for the National Societies and, its staff & volunteers and builds the capacity on these aspects. The workshop aims to develop MRC's capacity in responding to situations safely, effectively and in a principled manner to address humanitarian needs. 11 participants including MRC City Office staff from Kulhudhuffushi City, Male' City, Addu City and headquarters took part in the training.

Restoring Family Links (RFL) Training 28th February – 2nd March 2023

The ICRC and National Societies collaborate globally through the Family Links Network, focusing on reuniting individuals with their families via the Restoring Family Links (RFL) programme. With support from the ICRC Protection teams in Bangkok, Thailand and New Delhi, India, 19 individuals comprising of emergency response volunteers and staff from MRC Headquarters were trained in RFL services in an effort to build MRC's

capacity in the RFL service delivery. Though MRC has coordinated with ICRC in delivery of RFL services as required throughout the years, this training marks the first step in building MRC's role and capacity in the delivery of such services in the future.

IFRC Asia Pacific Surge Training – Hygiene Promotion in Emergencies

Aminath Shahuba, Programme Officer – Health & Inclusion, was selected for the IFRC Asia Pacific Surge Training – Hygiene Promotion in Emergencies held Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia. The training focused on planning and implementing community engagement activities around Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (HP). The training also included practical group assessments on how to conduct and HP session to children with identified key messaging and a simulation group activity in the Villages of Kota Kinabalu. The training also included an Introduction to the Sphere Handbook followed by extensive theory sessions of the 8 steps of Hygiene Promotion in Emergencies.

IFRC Emergency Team Leader (ETL) Training 2023

Mariyam Asiya, Programme Officer – Disaster & Climate Action was selected for the IFRC Emergency Team Leader Training Programme held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The training was designed for leaders operating in an emergency environment characterized by a hectic pace and varied contexts, requiring interaction with peers and external stakeholders, adaptive planning, urgent decisions based on inconsistent information, and reliance on oral communications.



Asia Pacific Surge Training: Emergency Water and Sanitation, Hygiene Promotion (WASH)

Fathmath Yamaan Shuau, Project Coordinator – SPRING, was selected for the IFRC Asia Pacific Surge Training: Emergency WASH held in Indonesia from 20th – 25th October 2023. The five-day training aimed to enhance the emergency response capacity in the Asia Pacific region and included theoretical and practical sessions, utilizing methods like tabletop exercises and simulations. Participants were expected to gain foundational knowledge and skills in key emergency WASH topics and understand cross-cutting issues in planning and implementing interventions.



#Exercise Hiyaa – Highrise Simulation Exercise for Phase 2, Hulhumale'

Due to the increasing number of high-rise buildings and the densely populated nature of Hulhumale', the potential impact of emergencies is significantly heightened. This emphasizes the urgent need for proactive measures and preparedness to effectively mitigate and respond to such situations.

One primary purpose of the Strengthening Preparedness and Resilience through Inclusive Governance (SPRING) is around enhancing capacity to prepare for and mitigate disaster impacts for all members in the targeted communities of the Maldives including the early warnings and strengthening the local ability of all to respond to and recover from disasters. In collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), an emergency simulation exercise targeting high-rise structures in Phase 2 of Hulhumale' under the Project was planned. This simulation, the first of its kind in the Maldives, will provide a framework for first responders to manage emergencies effectively in high-rise structures.

Considering the scale of the exercise and the involvement of multiple agencies, initial planning meeting and a working group was established in in October 2023, with the aim of conducting the exercise in 2024. Additionally, efforts to engage with the Hiyaa Community and raise awareness about the exercise and underscore its importance to residents were one of the key priorities identified by the working group.

Vilunveri Fest 2023

To mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023 and to take the initial step into launching the High-Rise Building Simulation Exercise, a community event "The Vilunveri Festival" was held on 13th October 2023. This event was a collaborative effort with the National Disaster Management Authority, Maldives National Defence Force - Fire and Rescue Services, Maldives Police Services, and Hulhumale' Development Corporation. The broader aim of the event was to increase awareness and preparedness

surrounding fire emergencies with an increased focus on the role of first responders in the Maldives.

This multi-stakeholder event employed an inclusive, community based holistic approach to increasing awareness by integrating information dissemination into interactive activities such as games and demonstrations, targeting a range of demographic groups including children, elderly people, people with disabilities and caretakers. Attendees learned about commonly occurring hazards and disasters in the Maldives, how to prepare for them and, steps to take in case of an emergency or a disaster situation. Over 100 individuals in the Hiyaa Community took part in the event, allowing response agencies to raise public awareness around disaster risk reduction mechanisms as well as urban disasters and emergencies in the Maldives.



Male' City

Feature Story

07th Indian Ocean-wide Tsunami Exercise (IOWave23)

B. Kendhoo

Following the devastating impact of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, an Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS) was established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) with the primary aim of coordinating mitigation efforts between member states. The system was first tested in 2009 with the Indian Ocean-wide Tsunami Exercise Drill – a vital tool in building the region's capacity and assessing the effectiveness of response systems and ensuring preparedness among key stakeholders within the disaster response arena.

As part of the SPRING Project, in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority, Maldives Meteorological Service and Baa. Kendhoo Council, Maldives took part in the 07th IOWAVE exercise on 25th October 2023.

Preceding the exercise, jointly with the NDMA and MMS, awareness sessions were carried out for the already established Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) of B. Kendhoo and 184 community members comprising of the public, school students and parents. The exercise served as an evaluation tool for community preparedness by testing twelve Tsunami Ready indicators – broadly divided into assessment, preparedness, and response- where the island community portrayed commendable compliance. Throughout the exercise, community level responders demonstrated exceptional effectiveness, referring to the Island Disaster Management Plan developed for the community to guide the response and evacuation

process. B. Kendhoo's successful execution of the IOWAVE exercise underscores the significance of rigorous preparedness, community engagement and ongoing evaluation in the face of potential disasters.





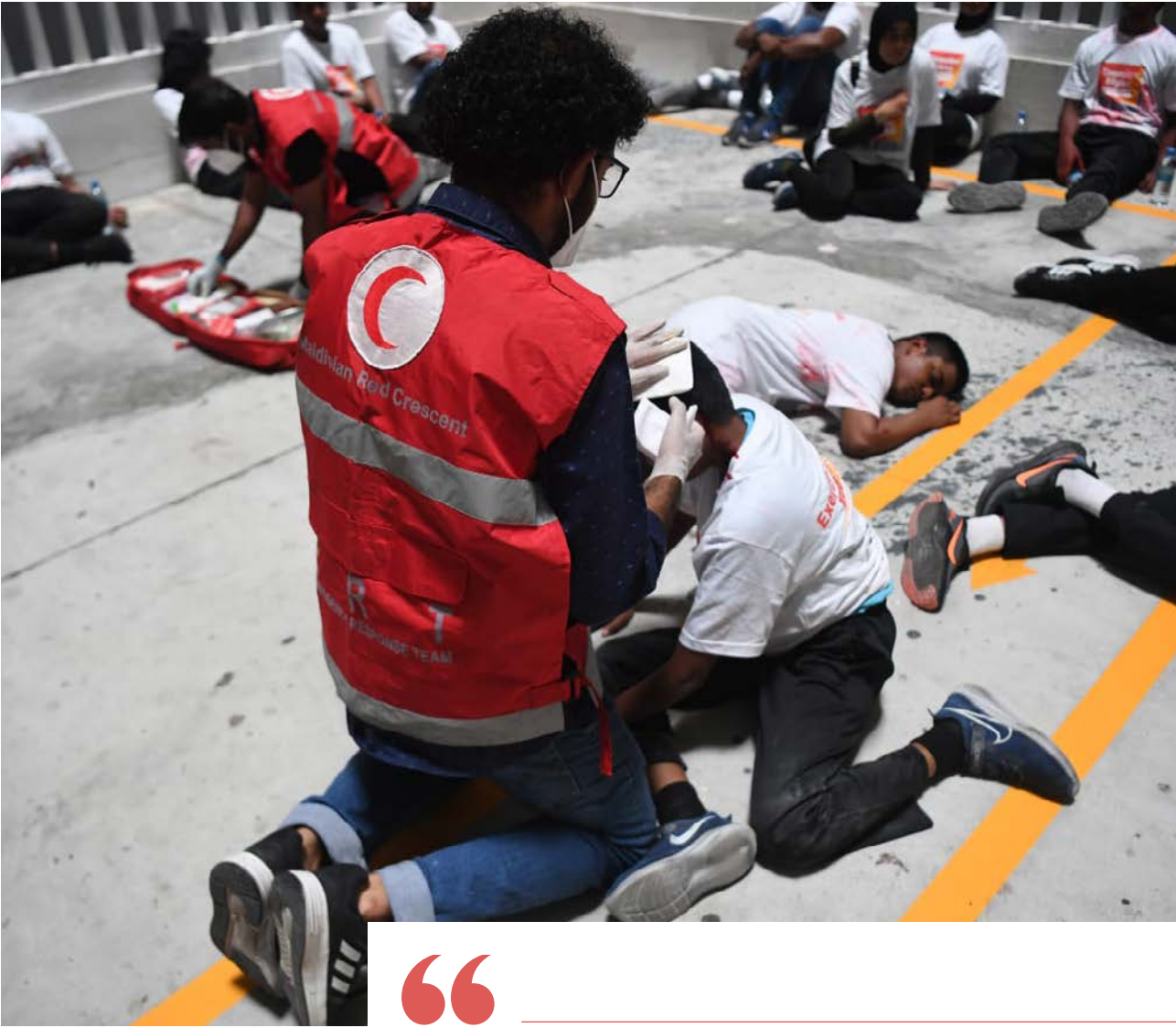
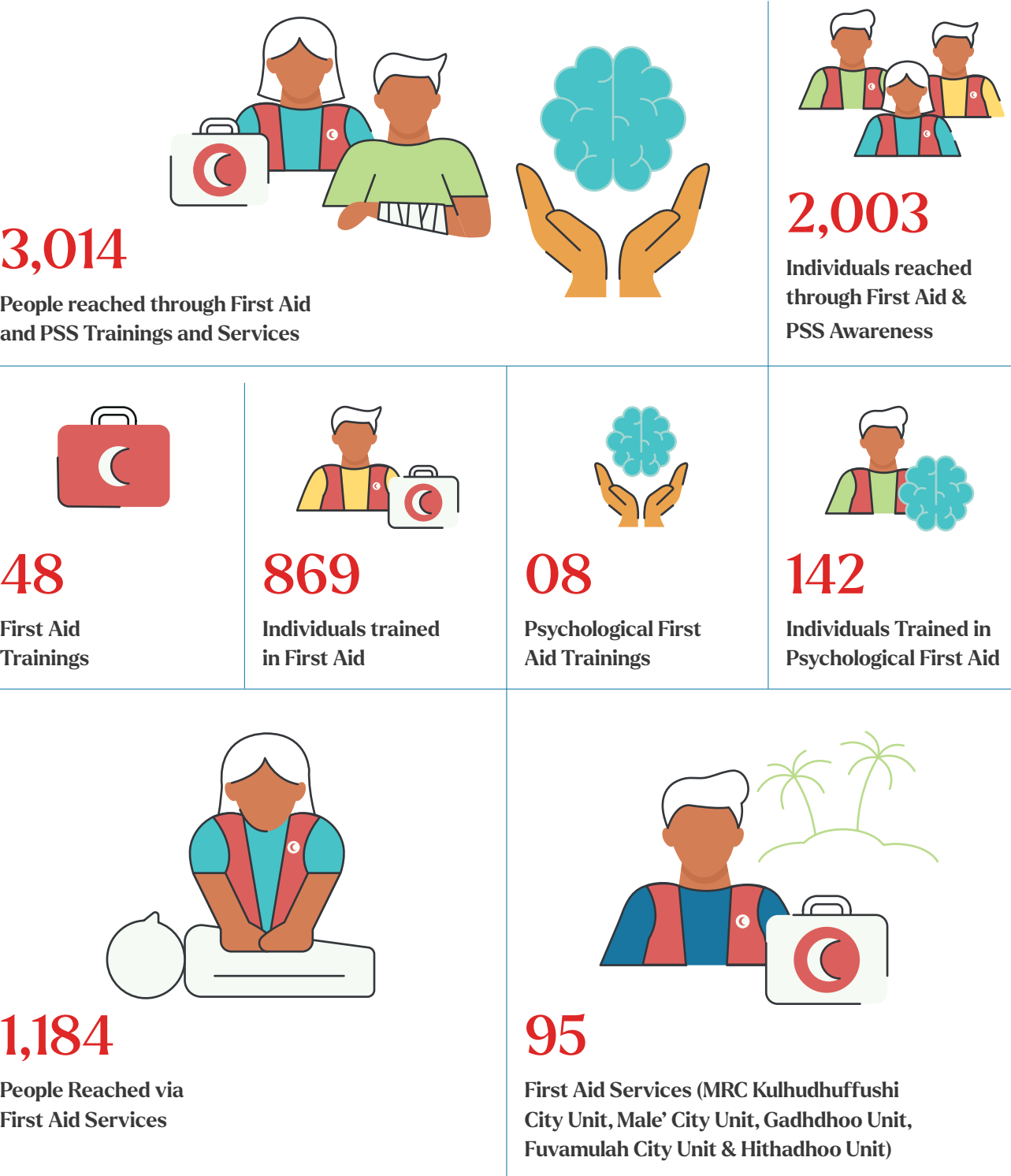
PRIORITY 2

Strengthen First Aid and Psychosocial Support Services

This priority area builds on MRC's established role and expertise in delivering First Aid and Psychosocial Support Services (PSS) within emergency response frameworks. While emergency response services typically include a variety of actions, this priority area establishes MRC's lead role and core expertise in emergency services as First Aid and PSS. This strategic area also focuses on strengthening the organization's focus on First Aid and PSS through the scaling up of the provision of First Aid and PSS services, enhancing their quality, and the overall First Aid capabilities of communities and service providers through tailored training programmes. The priority area further focuses on strengthening of the standards and expanding the reach of MRC's First Aid and PSS Services across communities in the Maldives. Additionally, this priority area underscores MRC's Commercial First Aid Programme and its expansion.



Summary Highlights under the Priority





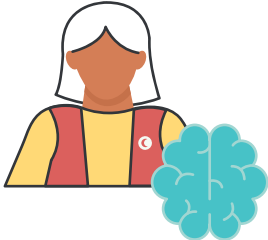



“
First Aid trainings and services are important – they teach lifesaving skills to members in our community and work to ensure the safety and well-being of people in day to day life. As a trained and Certified First Aid volunteer, I've become more confident with myself and my ability to do my part as a first aider. I have learned how to work effectively as a team and deal with people with different personalities, and always be kind to others.
Ahmed Shavee Abdul Gadheer,
Male' City Unit Volunteer

Promote the health and wellbeing of young people experiencing behavioural crises related to substance use by providing education, service, and support through community first responders Project:

MRC concluded this project implemented in partnership with Transparency Maldives funded through the support of USAID. This 02 Year project has been implemented by MRC, with the main objective of building capacity of adolescent and at-risk youth population and services providers in the areas of First Aid and Psychological First Aid. The target regions under the project included Kulhudhuffushi City, Lh. Hinnavaru, Greater Male’ Area, Fuvamulah City and Addu City. In addition to adolescent Youth, the project targeted key service providers in the target regions including Island Council Representatives, teachers, social service and healthcare workers.

Key Highlights under the Project

 <div>23</div> <div>Standard First Aid Trainings</div>	 <div>425</div> <div>Participants Trained in First Aid</div>	 <div>1,248</div> <div>Individuals reached via the Project</div>
 <div>13</div> <div>Psychological First Aid Trainings</div>	 <div>232</div> <div>Participants trained in Psychological First Aid</div>	 <div>591</div> <div>People reached through First Aid and PSS Awareness (Targeted for School Students, Parents & Teachers)</div>

Basic First Aid Training for Migrants

As part of MRC’s on-going partnership with Italian Red Cross in enhancing Migrant Support Programme, a Basic First Aid Training which trained 14 migrants was carried out on 09th June 2023 equipping participants in First Aid knowledge and skills.



Automatic External Defibrillator Training for First Aid Trainers

With the support of ICRC and in partnership with the Singapore Red Cross, 19 First Aid Trainers of MRC completed the First Aid AED Training of Trainers, building the overall capacity of the organisation to deliver AED training sessions.

Saudi Emergency Medical Service Conference (SEMS) 2023

Mohamed Adeel, Manager – MRC Male’ City Office participated in the 03-day conference held from 18th – 20th September 2023 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabiya, organized by the IFRC and Saudi Red Crescent Authority. The primary aim of the SEMS Conference 2023 was to foster knowledge sharing, mutual learning, and collaboration to shape the future of emergency medical services by bringing in esteemed speakers and carrying out specialized workshops to enhance expertise and skill sharing.





Addu City



Kulhudhuffushi City



Male' City



Kulhudhuffushi City



Gdh. Gadhdhoo

Capacity Building Support towards Ministry of Education's Psychosocial Support helpline for School Students:

MRC organized a 03-day Psychological First Aid and Mental Health Training Programme from 06th – 08th May 2023 for call agents of the Ministry of Education's Psychosocial Support Helpline for School Students. In addition to the training, MRC provided technical guidance and expertise, sharing MRC's experience in operating a PSS helpline from 2020 – 2023.





Facilitate Planning for Resilience

Focusing on strengthening risk-based resilience planning at island and city levels, this priority area builds on MRC's role in the preparation of risk assessments using the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCA) tool. The work under this priority entails the expansion of MRC's coverage of risk assessments, increasing the utilisation of data and information gathered from the assessments in local level planning and advocating for a national risk assessment guideline. Local level planning across the country can benefit from a resilience-based perspective, covering planning not only for disaster management, but also towards adaptation and climate resilient development.



Strengthening Preparedness and Resilience Through Inclusive Community Governance (SPRING) Project



The Strengthening Preparedness and Resilience through Inclusive Community Governance (SPRING) is a joint project implemented by MRC with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) funded by USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance.

At the heart of the SPRING Project is a primary objective to strengthen community preparedness and resilience through inclusive community governance and active stakeholder engagement. The project focuses on empowering local stakeholders, such as local councils and community-based organizations, through capacity development, fostering partnership, awareness campaigns, and knowledge sharing. By building self-reliance at the community level, SPRING project aims to empower communities across the Maldives to effectively mitigate and prepare for disasters.

One key component of the project involves the conducting Hazard Vulnerability Capacity Assessments (HVCAs) in seven islands throughout the Maldives while facilitating the development of Island Disaster Management Plans (IDMPs) in these target islands to aid these communities in enhancing their resilience to hazards and disasters.

In 2023, jointly with NDMA, MRC facilitated workshops in Finey (Haa Dhaalu Atoll), Komandoo (Shaviyani Atoll), Kendhoo (Baa Atoll), Maalhos (Baa Atoll), Dhiffushi (Kaafu Atoll), and Dhevvadhoo (Gaafu Alifu Atoll). These workshops aimed to strengthen disaster preparedness and resilience through inclusive community governance, all while addressing the intensifying impacts of climate change. During the workshop, participants are guided through a variety of data collection methods, including key informant interviews (KIIs), focus group discussions

(FGD's), historical timelines, seasonal calendars, venn diagrams, and mapping, to complete the HVCA and IDMP which includes action plans for the community identifying risk reduction measures and creating effective response strategies for potential disasters.

Upon the conclusion of the HVCA and IDMP development, MRC aims to support the implementation of Priority Implementation Projects (PiP) for each of the 07 target islands focusing on immediate interventions to improve disaster preparedness in these communities.

“

Learning about what I need to do during an emergency or a disaster, and how to prepare for a situation like that was one of the most important things I learnt during the training. Getting to know important terms about disaster risk reduction was also a highlight.

Mariyam, Dhevvadhoo, participant in Island Disaster Management Plan Workshop

“

Standard First Aid is essential for any community. Knowing how to provide basic first aid in an emergency can make a real difference, especially on an island like ours. Thanks to this training, I feel more confident and prepared to help in case of an accident or disaster.

Participant of MRC Standard First Aid training in K. Dhiffushi

Empowering Youth for Climate Action: Insights from Regional Y-Adapt Training of Facilitators in South Asia

In partnership with International Federation for Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and with the support of Italian Red Cross, MRC hosted the Regional Y-Adapt Training of Trainers workshop from July 01st to 06th 2023, bringing together passionate and driven youth from all over South Asia.

The Y-Adapt Approach

‘Y-Adapt’, or ‘Youth Adapt,’ is a dynamic and game-based curriculum consisting of 7 modules that not only educates but also empowers youth to take meaningful action in their communities to combat the effects of climate change. This innovative programme addresses a wide range of climate-related challenges, including rapid-onset events such as rainfall leading to flooding, to slower-onset issues such as extreme heat causing drought. Y-Adapt encourages youth to not only understand the complexities of climate change but to also develop and implement their own climate change adaptation and advocacy plans within their local communities.

The initial half of the training based was in K. Dhiffushi which focused on the context of vulnerable, rural communities, where the impacts of climate change can be distinctly different from urban areas. Understanding these nuances is crucial for creating effective adaptation strategies. The second half of the training transitioned to Male’ City, allowing participants to explore the urban context of climate change, highlighting the challenges and opportunities that arise in densely populated areas.

The core components of the training emphasized that while climate change communication involves education, information, and warnings at a surface level, its effectiveness lies in considering diverse experiences, cultural models, and underlying values as well as identifying what fosters a personal connection

to climate change is motivation for proactive action.

The final session involved a collaborative and practical exercise where participants were organized into country groups. The objective was for each group to formulate a draft proposal outlining the specific steps and strategies they would undertake to implement Y-Adapt in their respective countries. The participants were encouraged to draw upon the knowledge and skills acquired during the training sessions to tailor their proposals to the unique challenges and opportunities present in their home countries. Successful environmental adaptation is community-based and participatory, building on the priorities, knowledge, and capacities of local people.

Ibrahim Mohamed, Manager – MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Office, Mohamed Shaiman Adam Saleem, Governing Board Member – Youth, Fathmath Yamaan Shuau , Project Coordinator – SPRING, Zumarath Ali, Programme Assistant – MRC Addu City Office, Reesham Rameez, Volunteer – Male’ City Unit and Ahnaf Ali, Volunteer – Male’ City Unit participated in this regional Training of Training Workshop



“

The Y-Adapt training has been a transformative experience, expanding my comprehension of the global climate crisis and highlighting the immediate requirement for grassroots action. Working with passionate individuals globally has offered valuable insights. My goal is to make a meaningful contribution to climate change adaptation efforts in my community and beyond, fostering a more resilient and sustainable future.

Ahnaf, MRC Male’ City Unit

“

Y-Adapt is a unique learning experience that connects the past, present, and future of climate change. Through games and activities, I learned how the climate has changed over time and how it affects me and my community today. I also learned how to take action and adapt to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Mohamed Shaiman Adam Saleem,
Governing Board Member – Youth



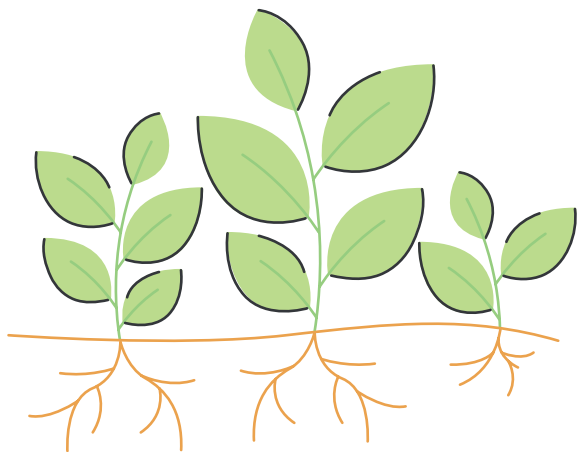
Kulhudhuffushi City

Ecosystem Restoration Project

Kulhudhuffushi City

In response to the environmental challenges that Kulhudhuffushi is facing, the MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Unit has embarked on a grassroots mission to restore the island’s ecosystem. This initiative encompasses the revitalization of coastal vegetation and the preservation of the island’s essential mangrove ecosystems. Some of the activities under the project include the cleaning up of mangrove and coastal areas of Kulhudhuffushi City.

In addition to this, MRC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kulhudhuffushi City Council to establish a dedicated plant nursery. This nursery will prioritize the cultivation of tree species essential for restoring coastal vegetation, mangroves, and fulfilling other urban green requirements of the island, including planting trees along roads and in public spaces.



Male' City

With the aim of engaging the community in removing trash from coastal areas, to spread awareness among the community on the extent of coastal pollution and to restore our ecosystems, MRC Male' City Unit organized a coastal clean-up event at the Greater Male' Area on 27th October 2023, at the Masverin Park Area.

The clean-up was carried out in coordination with Dive Desk, Male' City Council, Waste Management

Corporation Limited (WAMCO) and Maldives Police Services (MPS). During the event, a total of 1.97 tonnes of waste was collected, which primarily consisted of rubber tyres dumped into the lagoon area. Building up to the event, MRC Male' City Unit disseminated Information Education Communication (IEC) materials across its social media platforms to create awareness on the effects of coastal pollution on the wildlife and ecosystems that reside in our oceans.



Male' City

Training Course on Integrated Flood Risk Management in a Changing Climate, Bangkok, Thailand

Ibrahim Mohamed, Manager – MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Office participated in a 05-day training course on Integrated Flood Risk Management in a Changing Climate organized by Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC). This training was targeted for emergency response workers, water engineers, and all other relevant officials working in the wider spectrum of flooding risk management. Involving a variety of sessions on different aspects of climate change and flood risk management, the training also fostered discussions on cross-cutting issues such as gender and the role of media. Other components delivered in the training included key information on nature-based solutions, integrated water resource management, estimation of climate related loss and damage, and the importance of early-warning mechanisms, including aspects of the Early Warning for All initiative developed by the UN, which is being implemented in several countries including the Maldives.



02nd Climate and Youth Roundtable in Global Economic Development and Security Forum (GEDS), Changsha, China

Hussain Yoosuf, Vice Chairperson – MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Unit represented MRC at the Climate and Youth Roundtable in Global Economic Development and Security Forum (GEDS) organized by International Federation for Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Boao Forum for Asia. The Roundtable aimed to explore youth-driven initiatives for Awareness, Action, and Advocacy. Eminent speakers from various sectors collaborated to discuss ideas and solutions, emphasizing the pivotal role of young people in addressing climate and economic security challenges, and how the climate crisis affects our livelihoods. During the roundtable, Hussain shared insights on the on-going ground-level efforts in ecosystem restoration and protection initiatives carried out by MRC.



Early Warning for All initiative

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 identify strengthened early warning systems as a critical component of building resilience to disasters and crises and, by extension, contributing to sustainable development. Early Warnings for All (EW4All) is a special initiative of the UN Secretary General, which aims to spearhead action to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems by 2027. Under the umbrella of EW4All, Maldives aims to scale up prior efforts and strengthen national early warning systems.

Early warning systems (EWS) are key elements of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, as they help reduce or avoid the detrimental impacts of hazardous events. To be effective, early warning systems need to be risk-informed, target communities most at

risk, disseminate messages and warnings efficiently, and ensure preparedness and support early action.

Multi-sector and multi-stakeholder coordination, involvement of communities at risk, having an enabling institutional and legislative environment, clear roles and responsibilities, and adequate operational capacities, are essential for effective and consistent Early Warning Systems.

Building on the existing regulation and operationalization of EWS in the Maldives, the Government of Maldives, with the support of the UN under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator for the Maldives, convened technical expertise from the four pillar leads in the region with the goal of boosting political momentum for and achievement of the EW4All Action Plan by 2027.



Disaster Risk Knowledge



Observations, Monitoring, Analysis, Forecasting



Warning Dissemination & Communication



Preparedness & Response capabilities



National Level Consultation for the Early Warning for All Initiative, August 2023

MRC Secretary General Fathimath Himya attended and facilitated the Multistakeholder National level consultation for the Early Warning for All initiative held in partnership with the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy, United Nations Maldives, National Disaster Management Authority and Maldives Meteorological Service leading the discussion on preparedness and response under the initiative.

The Early Warning Systems (EWS) Implementation Road-map 2023 – 2027

In October 2023, the Maldivian government launched the Scaling Up Early Warning Systems Implementation Roadmap 2023 – 2027, which was collaboratively developed with input from National Disaster Management Authority, Maldives Meteorological Service, Ministry of Homeland Security and Technology and the Maldivian Red Crescent. This roadmap developed with support from UNDRR provides a basis for coordinated efforts among diverse national and local agencies, channelling focused programming and resource allocation towards scaling up national early warning systems.

The EWS Implementation Roadmap 2023-2027 serves as a strategic guide to drive initiatives that span from national to local levels, channel investments towards enhancing Early Warning Systems for more effective Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and facilitate the seamless integration of comprehensive early warning mechanisms. This roadmap presents a set of recommended actions designed to prioritize investments in EWS and DRR, in accordance with Target G of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Disaster Management Act of Maldives.



Climate Champion's initiative Workshop 2023

Second Vice President Ahmed Shabin represented Maldivian Red Crescent at the Climate Champion Initiative Workshop held in Geneva, Switzerland from 03rd - 04th June 2023. This workshop brought together National Society leaders and technical volunteers from 20 National societies who were identified as 'Champions' in implementing and scaling up locally led climate action. After the workshop, the group continued to function as a voice to maintain National Society momentum in the lead up to UNFCCC COP 28, with regular online meetings being held to remain updated.

As part of the workshop, representatives were required to develop an action plan to serve as a resource for each Climate Champion National Society to identify the top actions they aimed to take as Champions in 2023. MRC finalized its action plan based on the on-going programmatic areas currently being carried out, focusing its efforts in thematic areas such as scaling-up climate programming, applying climate science, accessing climate finance, engaging in climate advocacy and policy, communication on climate, and the development of international policies and targets within the national society.

Feature Story

MRC 2nd Vice President Ahmed Shabin's insights on #COP28



MRC's Second Vice President Ahmed Shabin accounts his experience representing Maldivian Red Crescent as part of the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) delegation for the first time at the Conference of Parties of UNFCCC (COP) #COP28, which was held in the United Arab Emirates from 30th November - 12th December 2023.

Gearing up for COP28

The groundwork for #COP28 commenced months in advance, with Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) chosen to partake in the Climate Champion workshop held in Geneva early July 2023. This workshop brought

together leaders, technical volunteers, and youth as Climate Champions from 20 National Societies actively engaged in Climate Action. The workshop covered in-depth discussions around climate science and setting the scene of international dialogues and narrowing it down to country and community level activities. As change makers, the participants were also equipped with media and engagement training.

Monthly online meetings followed, focusing on themes such as Early Warning for All, Nature-Based Solutions, #COP28 Key Messages, locally led adaptation and engagement with the Government.

At #COP28

The IFRC COP28 delegation was 30 National Societies strong and joined by regional and Geneva office representatives. Delegates were strategically distributed between week 1 and 2 of the conference, with my personal involvement falling within Week 1. Thanks to the seamless efforts of the IFRC and Emirati Red Crescent teams, the registration, coordination, and logistical processes were smoothly managed.

Just by the sheer scale of the event, as a first timer, I believe no amount of preparation could prepare one for a COP. To say the least, the venue was huge, and the event was plentiful. Each day started off bright and early with breakfast at the hotel followed by a bus ride to the Dubai Expo City, the venue for #COP28. On the ride, a briefing was provided to all delegates on what's in the agenda for the day, main events hosted or joined by IFRC as well as other events that maybe of interest, negotiations that are happening on the day and a quick summary of the negotiations.

The IFRC Communications team played a pivotal role, organizing delegates for media engagements and spotlighting them at the IFRC Reclaimed Table – a unique display featuring debris from climate disasters worldwide, symbolizing the urgent need for action.

MRC's engagement at #COP28

Representing MRC, I participated in the IFRC press conference on Day 1 and the COP Presidency's press conference on Day 3, offering insights from the Red Cross Red Crescent movement and a Small Island Developing States (SIDS) perspective. Additionally social media lives on IFRC Instagram and X space, media engagements were done on EuroNews Live and British Radio Live.

The conference also offered a very timely avenue to host a meeting at the IFRC pavilion with the Maldivian government delegation led by Minister Thoriq Ibrahim - Minister of Climate Change, Environment and Energy and Mr. Ali Shareef – Climate Envoy. I thank the Ministry and team for accepting our invitation to the IFRC pavilion. The week unfolded with opportunities to attend several thematic events by notable speakers

- such as anticipatory action and climate financing, and the Climate Smart Resilient Island initiative session hosted by the Maldivian Government.

One unique and interesting aspect was the opportunity to observe the negotiations that were taking place. As the IFRC policy team was attending and closely following the negotiations, national society delegates were invited to tag along and even able to pitch key messages and points to note from the IFRC team to country negotiators. In this regard, comments were pitched to the Maldivian negotiators on the draft text of Global Stocktake.

As I bid adieu to the team and left Dubai on the 07th of December, delegates for the Week 2 were joining the team. We stayed in touch and received live updates through the WhatsApp group as well as the daily update report sent every night.

#COP is a process, and unavoidably always mixed with varying sentiment, #COP28 was no different. While there were breakthrough achievements such as adoption of the loss and damage fund on day one and first mention of 'fossil fuel', the outcomes were scrutinised for their lack in impact and needed scale. The closing plenary was a testament to the struggle and constant need for scaling up the voice of small island states. Continuous effort is needed to align and scale up our humanitarian programmes, services, and advocacy towards the fast-unfolding realities of the Climate Crisis.





Promote Health and Wellbeing in a Changing Environment

The fourth strategic priority area focuses on promoting the integrated approach to addressing existing and emerging health issues in the Maldives. In addition to factoring in climate change related impacts on health, MRC has worked in epidemic preparedness and control, including responses to rise in cases of influenza and dengue. Taking an integrated approach, with an emphasis on preparedness and prevention activities, rather than emergency response, this priority also focuses on expanding health related outreach and interventions to migrant populations, as well as collaborating with the community on preparedness and prevention activities.



MRC’s partnership with FHI360, to strengthen and continue its PSS Helpline Service and MHPSS interventions and conduct a formative assessment of existing knowledge, attitude and practices of Maldivians related to COVID-19 vaccination.

MRC concluded this project implemented in partnership with FHI 360 as a component of the EpiC project in February 2023, which is a five-year global project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). One primary component of the Project was to undertake a Formative Assessment to address COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy, as the effects of post COVID-19 pandemic continue to be felt, and the need to better understand the vaccine hesitancy in the Maldivian community caused by scepticism about the benefits of vaccination and to investigate ways to enhance vaccine uptake was identified.

The Assessment was implemented in two stages. The first stage involved gathering information through

a review of literature and available COVID-19 data, social listening, and conducting consultative meetings with a total of 7 experts and health officials as well as interactions with youth groups in the form of an offline event and an online competition, to gather their insights for effective COVID-19 prevention and to promote vaccine uptake among peers. The analysis of gathered information was conducted to form hypotheses regarding people’s responses to Risk Communications and Community Engagement, and a set of flash/dialog cards were created based on the hypotheses. The second stage comprised a total of 21 consultative meetings with primary audiences and 29 consultative meetings with secondary audiences in selected locations: Greater Male’ Region, L. Gan, ADh. Dhigurah, HA. Ihavandhoo and



GDh. Madaveli. The data acquired in stage 1 was then evaluated to validate the hypotheses that were formed. The assessment sought to and succeeded in obtaining information that can help in reducing mortality from COVID-19, decreasing the transmission of the disease, and strengthening and transforming health systems.

The formative assessment report on COVID-19 Vaccination in the Maldives was officially launched on 23rd February 2023 during an official event. The event was held at Champa Central Hotel with 58 attendee’s representing Ministry of Health, Health Protection Agency, USAID, other Ministry Officials, President Office Officials, Health workers and representatives of schools. During the event, MRC’s research consultant. Dr. Sheena Moosa presented the findings of the assessment to the Attendee followed by a Q & A session for attendees. This component of the project was carried out in coordination with FHI 360, Ministry of Health, Health Protection Agency, UNICEF Maldives, and USAID.

The project also included a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Service component targeted towards Health workers and frontline workers in the Country. Following a needs assessment and inputs received from Health Protection Agency, MRC incorporated additional modules into its Psychological First Aid Training incorporating modules on Stress and coping and selfcare. As per the requirements of the Health Protection Agency, trainings were conducted for health workers, nurses, doctors, and administrative staff working in the Health Sector in Raa and Laamu Atoll.

25
Health Workers from 10 islands in Laamu atoll completed the training

20
Health Workers from 11 islands in Raa atoll completed the training

Closure of MRC’s Psychosocial Support (PSS) Helpline

On 31st January 2023, MRC discontinued the MRC Psychosocial support helpline due to the challenges faced in financially sustaining the Helpline.

The MRC PSS helpline was established in 2020 as part of MRC’s COVID-19 response efforts to alleviate the challenges and support those affected during the pandemic. This PSS helpline was the first ever PSS Helpline to be launched and the first remotely operated PSS call center in Maldives. With the generous support of partners UNICEF Maldives and FHI 360, MRC continued it’s the services via the helpline from March 2020 – 31st January 2023 servicing over 6000+ calls via the helpline, providing PSS and necessary assistance. We thank our incredible team of volunteers, call agents & staff who supported the helpline operations starting from 2020 till its closure. Their contribution has been invaluable to ensure access to PSS, better mental health & emotional wellbeing for those in distress in our community.

Summary of PSS Helpline Outputs 2020 – 2023



Women’s Self-Help Group Project

MRC concluded its partnership with UNFPA Maldives on the implementation of the pilot project to establish women’s self-help groups at community level in Kulhudhuffushi City. The project aimed to increase the capacity of community members through the training of facilitators and mentors, working to pilot and operationalize the support groups.

Building on the work done in 2022, which included the completion of a Training of Trainers and a Women’s Self-Help Group Training in Kulhudhuffushi City, MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Unit worked with the established Women’s Self Mentors Group trained in 2022 to create safe spaces for Gender Based Violence (GBV) survivors

through the facilitation of open chat sessions, conduct information sessions on GBV, and create overall awareness through community outreach activities.

A Programme Document and Mentors’ Manual for the implementation of Women’s Self-Help Group was published as part of the project, together with UNFPA Maldives. This programme document encompasses a training curriculum aimed at addressing that gap, by training women’s self-help groups using a social norms approach, to be able to understand how gender norms are created and maintained within society and individuals, and in turn enable violence.

Healthy Ageing Programme

In line with MRC’s commitment to enhancing the health and wellness of senior citizens within the community, MRC Units in Kulhudhuffushi City, Male’ City and Addu City carried out activities to build the capacity of our staff and volunteers and provide support in carrying out relevant programmes.



Kulhudhuffushi City



Partnership with Ali Fulhu Thuthu Foundation

In 2023, MRC entered a partnership with the Ali Fulhu Thuthu Foundation with the aim of addressing the projected ageing population in the Maldives through organized, systematic programming that could help the elderly improve their quality of life, increase or maintain their independence, promote positive health behaviours and mobility through reduced disability, increase social inclusion and improve their mental health, promoting the importance of their contribution and experience to the community.

MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Unit and Hithadhoo Unit in Addu City made regular visits to the households of the elderly in the community, with assessments carried out to understand their physical and mental wellbeing, and provision of information on promoting wellness as well as services provided by MRC.

Under the Project, MRC Male’ City Unit also sustained and expanded their capacity to provide patient transport services in the Greater Male’ Area. Patient Transport Ergonomics Training was conducted to build capacity of staff and volunteers through hands on experience focused on safe, secure, and efficient provision of Patient Transport Services and response to emergency situations. This training focused on safe moving of individuals including elderly, bedridden personnel and patients who are immobile or have limited mobility, and those with other specific medical or physical needs, while also taking into account that the service is provided in challenging environments in congested buildings which require careful navigation and strategic maneuvering when moving individuals.

Feature Story

Israhvehinge Haveeru – Kulhudhuffushi City & Addu City

The “Israhvehinge Haveeru” events in Kulhudhuffushi City and Addu City were made possible through the on-going partnership between Maldivian Red Crescent and Ali fulhu Thuthu Foundation, focusing on promoting healthy ageing in the Maldives.

Kulhudhuffushi City

Held on 18th November 2023, the event had a remarkable turnout of over 120 elderly individuals, all aged 60 and above, and showcased a diverse array of stalls offering essential services and recreational activities. Among the services provided on-site were free General Random Blood Sugar (GRBS) testing, accompanied by dietary counselling, and pension-related assistance. The event also included an inter-generational dialogue facilitated by several elderly participants and enthusiastic young volunteers of MRC, which focused on enhancing social inclusion for the elderly.

In addition to the MRC’s contributions, various organizations in Kulhudhuffushi City actively participated in the event, setting up stalls to engage with the community. Amongst the organizations include Kulhudhuffushi City Council, Kulhudhuffushi Women’s Development Committee, Kulhudhuffushi Regional Hospital, Kulhudhuffushi City Police, Young Leaders Kulhudhuffushi Branch, and H.Dh. Family and Children’s Service Center. Their collective presence enriched the event, offering a comprehensive range of resources and support.

The success of the “Israhvehinge Haveeru” is a testament to the strength of community collaboration and the shared commitment to the well-being of Kulhudhuffushi’s elderly population. MRC extends its gratitude to all contributors and looks forward to

working towards to promotion of community health and wellbeing of elderly in our communities.

Addu City

In November 2023, MRC Hithadhoo Unit organized the “Vilunveri Issrahvehin”, a public event tailored for senior citizens across the connected islands of Addu City. The event commenced with a bus tour, allowing participating seniors to explore various sites within Addu City. Highlights from the event included a visit to the newly reopened Astra Cinema in S. Gan, now transformed into a museum showcasing historical moments of Addu City. Additionally, the group received a warm welcome at the Southern Most Point of Addu City, coordinated by the Maldives National Defence Force. Following the bus tour, a Community Forum was hosted in partnership with the Family and Children Center, Addu Equatorial Hospital, Human Rights Commission of the Maldives, and Maldives Police Service. This forum centred on the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and aging gracefully, gathering valuable feedback from participants to enhance services catered to senior citizens in the city.



Kulhudhuffushi City



Kulhudhuffushi City

Patient Transport Service – Greater Male' Area

The Patient Transport Services provided by MRC Male' City Office is one of the MRC's flagship services, providing a means of transportation for those in need from hospital to home and vice-versa in the Greater Male' Area. This service provides bedridden patients better access to medical services, prioritizing human dignity and respect. In addition to the Patient Transport Service, MRC Male' Unit also provides Dignified Movement of the Deceased Services, supporting transport of deceased individuals in the Greater Male' area.



Male' City



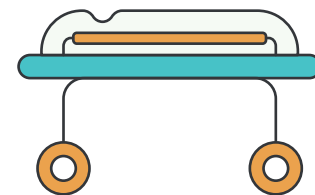
73

People reached through Services



170

Patient Transport Trips in 2023



182

Dignified movement of the deceased

Partnership with Maldives Pension Administration Office (MPAO)

MRC signed a partnership agreement with the MPAO to bolster its Patient Transport Services in the Greater Male' Area. This partnership is in alignment with the commitment of both organizations to improve healthcare accessibility and quality for the community, particularly for vulnerable populations such as the elderly and those with limited mobility. This partnership aims to support MRC's Male' City Unit with human resource support to ensure the sustainable continuation of this vital service amidst increasing demand.

Vector control activities in Kulhudhuffushi City in 2023



Kulhudhuffushi City

06th International Course: Management of the Dead in Emergencies

Ali Shafiu, Fleet Officer – MRC Male' City Office was nominated to take part in the 06th International Course: Management of Dead in Emergencies Training organized by International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) held in Islamabad, Pakistan from 02nd – 10th December 2023. The primary aim of the course was to impart knowledge on the management of the dead in emergency situations and disasters, as well as to provide an in-depth look into forensics in such cases. The course provided insights about forensic aspects in the management of the dead in emergencies and facilitated the opportunity for the experienced and dynamic group of participants from various national societies and organisations to exchange vital knowledge.



Migrant Support Services

In addition to the Migrant Support Programme and services provided, MRC plays an active role in various international initiatives related to migration and humanitarian efforts. MRC is currently part of the Global Migration Task Force (GMTF), Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN) and the Protection, Gender & Inclusion (PGI) South Asia Network to support and foster the development and implementation of effective migration strategies and to strengthen regional cooperation. Through these platforms, MRC and other RCRC movement partners exchange best practices in migration management and humanitarian assistance. MRC is one of the National Societies that represent the South Asian region in the GMTF steering group, while also having contributed to The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Migration Strategy Working Group.

At the national level, MRC participated as a panelist in the bilateral conference organized by Public Interest Law Centre (PILC) on “Bangladesh-Maldives Labour Migration” and the Webinar organized by Mission for Migrant Workers Maldives (MMWM) on “World Day Against Trafficking in Persons”, as well as taking part in the “Shikaara” Anti-trafficking workshop conducted by the Maldives Anti-TIP Office, bringing to light insights on the work carried out by MRC in support of migrants facing vulnerabilities.

Migration and Displacement Needs Assessment

As part of MRC’s efforts to strengthen migrant support services, in partnership with the Italian Red Cross (ItRC), MRC carried out a migration and displacement needs assessment with technical support from ItRC,



technical research consultant (formerly associated with MNU), IFRC and Global Migration Lab in 2022 & 2023. The objectives of this assessment were to carry out primary and secondary research to map and analyse stakeholders in the community, identify barriers to access essential services for migrants, to understand the current living and working conditions of migrants across Maldives, to understand migrant community perspectives on receiving services from humanitarian actors at various capacities, and to conduct a literature review of existing research material. MRC mobilized volunteers to carry out the assessment in Greater Male’ Area, Kulhudhuffushi City and Addu City with 168 responses collected for the assessment during the period. The data collected from the assessment has also been shared with the Global Migration Lab as a contribution to their Global Report on “Migrants’ Perspectives: Building Trust in Humanitarian Action”.

MRC is currently compiling the data collected and formulating the assessment report which is expected to be published in 2024.

Health and Legal Camp for Migrants – Greater Male’ Area

Organized annually, the Health and Legal Camp for Migrants held by MRC aims to build and maintain trust between the migrant community and other humanitarian actors. In 2023, the event was carried out in partnership with the Public Interest Law Center (PILC), with the support of the Italian Red Cross to mark the International Migrants Day on 22nd December 2023.

An estimated 1000+ people attended this event which had stalls providing free legal services, and health screening and check-ups, as well as food and cultural activities. The stalls and services were provided by other humanitarian actors, foreign missions and state actors providing migrant support services such as the Mission for Migrant Workers Maldives (MMWM), Public Interest Law Centre (PILC), Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM), the Bangladesh High Commission, Health Protection Agency (HPA), Transparency Maldives, Society for Health Education (SHE), Indian Council for Cultural Relation in Maldives and MEDICOS - the Maldives National University Students’ Union, Villa College, and Housing Development Corporation (HDC).



Fostering Humanitarian Values and Volunteerism

Centred on inclusivity and partnership building, this priority involves 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 emergencies and disasters. It also entails actions such as institutionalising and localising a community engagement framework that promotes inclusivity and partnerships based on MRC's experience.



Feature Story

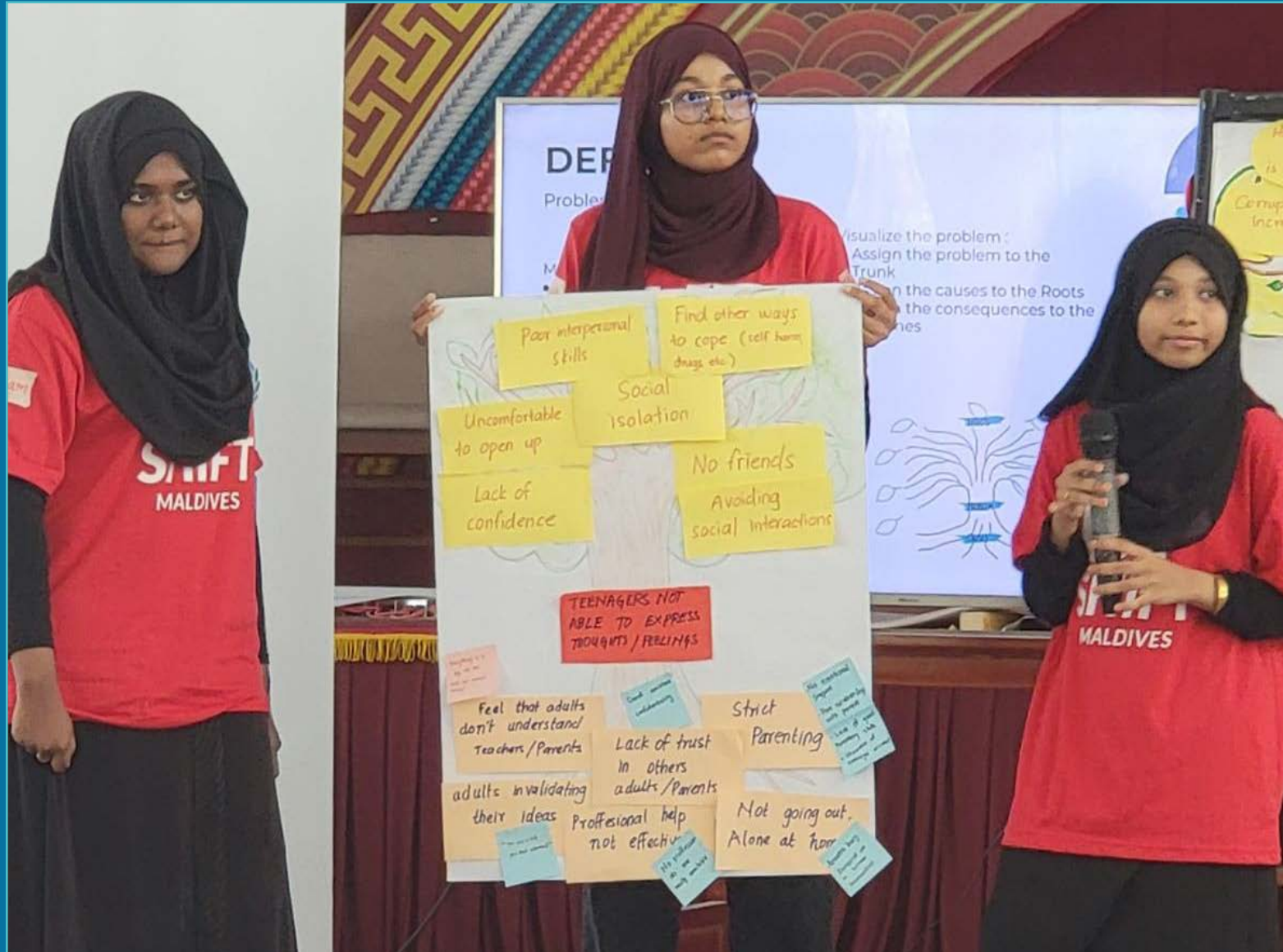
Alternative Learning Programme and UPSHIFT Project in Addu City

The MRC Alternative Learning Programme (ALP), implemented in Addu City, aimed to increase the accessibility of comprehensive learning and skill development programmes for vulnerable and at-risk youth. This programme has been a flagship programme carried out since 2019 in partnership with UNICEF Maldives and community stakeholders and was concluded after the successful implementation of the UPSHIFT Programme component in August 2023.

Risk Assessment on the Situation Analysis of Out-of-School Children in Addu City

The Maldives Census 2014 data recorded approximately 600 children between the ages 6-15 years who were not attending school or studying. The data showed that within the southern atolls, Addu City has the highest numbers of out of school children.

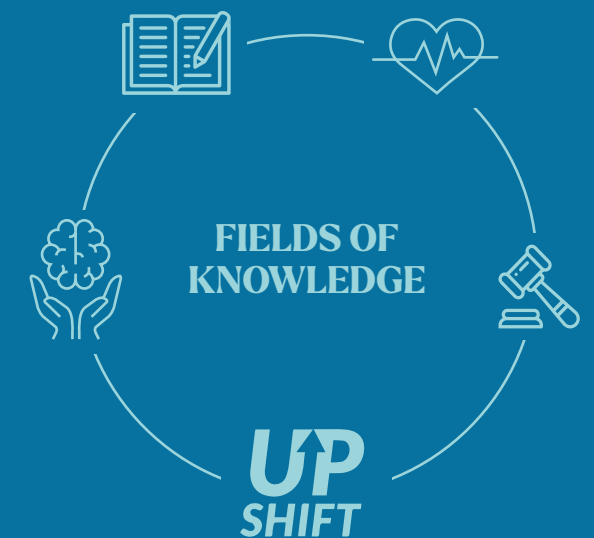
A Risk Assessment on the Situation Analysis of Out-of-school children in Addu City supported by UNICEF Maldives through an independent consultancy, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, revealed that many at-risk adolescents and young adults lack secondary education, engage in risky behaviours like drug use, and have weak family ties. They also lack meaningful activities, including leisure pursuits. This assessment highlighted a critical gap: these individuals have never accessed life-skills or civic education programs, leaving them vulnerable to harmful influences. Despite their challenges, those interviewed expressed aspirations to work in resorts, join the military, pursue photography, or



become sea sports instructors. Additionally, they showed a strong interest in receiving skills training and engaging with the Maldivian Red Crescent if given the opportunity.

Overview of the Alternative Learning Programme (ALP)

Following the dissemination of the findings of the assessment in 2018 with the stakeholders in Addu City, the ALP Programme was launched and began implementation in 2019, as part of the Out-of-School-Children Alternative Learning Programme (OOSC-ALP) Project, with the partnership of UNICEF Maldives and Addu City Council, to work collectively to address the vulnerabilities of at-risk adolescents and young people in the city. The fields of knowledge covered under this programme includes literacy, numeracy, life skills, health and wellbeing, legal and religious awareness, vocational training, and the development of such skills for parents and guardians as well. However, due the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme was halted between 2020 – 2021. In 2022, MRC and UNICEF Maldives re-entered a partnership to revive the programme with the introduction of a UNICEF flagship programme UPSHIFT, which aims to foster design-centred thinking, social innovation, and entrepreneurship skills.



Basic Literacy and Numeracy.

This component of the programme was designed with the support of the Ministry of Education. This included assessments of identified young participants who underwent literacy and numeracy assessments, which was followed by tailored individual learning plans.

Psychosocial support and life skills.

A team of 10 MRC volunteers underwent capacity building training supported by UNICEF Maldives focused towards working with at-risk young people. The session was delivered by volunteers and staff through a series of interactive and engaging sessions focusing on Mental Health and Psychosocial wellbeing and incorporate real life scenarios to apply life skills.

This component of the programme received positive feedback overall from the participants was identified as a population component of the programme

Adolescent health and well-being.

The component of the programme focused on adolescent health and well-being providing participants with information and skills required to protect them and their family from harmful behaviours such as drug use and risky sexual practices and on adopting pro-health lifestyles and choices. Facilitators delivering the programme were also trained to identify participants who might require PSS interventions and referrals mechanism were established to link to national services.



Legal awareness.

This component of the programme was delivered with the support of the Prosecutor General's (PG) Office in Addu City. The aim of this component was to provide accurate information about the laws (such as the Drug Law, Road and traffic regulations, Law on possession of lethal object, law on the rights of children, the Penal Code) and law enforcement mechanisms. This knowledge was delivered with the goal to ensure participants are not misled by adults or peers into breaking the law.

UPSHIFT Programme

This flagship Programme by UNICEF Maldives, works to foster social innovation and problem-solving skills in adolescents and youth, and encouraging entrepreneurial mindsets to prepare them for workplaces and their future at large. In 2022, after the completion of the UPSHIFT facilitator training, MRC Addu City Office Manager, Shafna Ahmed Didi completed the Master UPSHIFT Facilitator Training. Aiming to introduce the youth and adolescents in the community to the basics of the UPSHIFT Programme and increase engagement, MRC Addu City Office supported in organizing a bootcamp for youth and adolescents in Addu City in 2022.

“
I learnt a lot from the classes. We wrote down easier goals and managed to fulfil it within a week of setting it. The goals don't need to be huge, but it could be small and achievable. I also learnt about values, valuing friendship, and family, how to prepare for interviews, we also practiced scenarios and how to write a resume too. I enjoyed my time learning and meeting new friends along the way.

Milha Ibrahim,
ALP Participant



Feature Story

Youth Camp – 101 Hours with MRC, Addu City

With the support of ICRC, a youth camp – 101 hours with MRC was carried out in Addu City, from 14th – 18th November 2023. The primary aim of the camp is to assemble a cohort of young people from Addu City and young people from MRC Units in Gdh. Gadhdhoo and Fuvamulah City for a 5-day Youth Camp aligned with the principles of the Maldivian Red Crescent and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Participants who attended the camp participated in a series of activities to inspire community action, foster humanitarian values and volunteerism while also learning valuable skills to their growth and development.

Throughout the camp, participants engaged in a variety of classroom and field activities aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of the Global Red Cross

Red Crescent Movement and the formation of the Maldivian Red Crescent and the national society's role within the community. They also took part in sessions focused on building self-awareness, confidence, and mental wellbeing, along with focused sessions on team building, and coordination skill development through group work assignments. Additional topics included learning about advocacy and communication, particularly regarding environmental and social issues, as well as conflict resolution to promote humanitarian values and positive citizenship. Participants also honed their communication skills, including public speaking and understanding the role of media in society, and gained awareness on internet safety, safe social media usage, and cybersecurity. Given the important role of youth in climate action, participants also delved into the complexities of climate change and learn about community-led climate action activities.

The camp convened 30 young individuals from Gdh. Gadhdhoo, Fuvamulah City, and connected islands of Addu City, who emerged as youth leaders enriched by the valuable and shared experience from the camp.

“

I learnt that even though you fail most of the time, you must never give up and always hope for the best. Youth camp has taught me valuable lessons on how to make the right choices and how to not overreact in situations.

Aminath Faiha Abdul Ghafoor,
Addu City



“

We got to learn a lot about Red Crescent and by using the knowledge we gained to present them with dramas, presentations etc was fun and helpful. Overall, I had a lot of fun and learned so many things throughout the camp. I was also able to make some new friends too. The MRC youth camp taught many people like me, important skills and the open discussions made us understand the problems in the society and what we can do to fix such problems.

Aminath Maisa Fath-hee-,
Addu City

“

The Youth camp was memorable and connected me to lots of amazing individuals. The value of this opportunity was immense, and I express my gratitude to Shafna ma'am, Zumi, Maseeh, Milson and all other board members and facilitators organizing it. The camp did not only teach me valuable lessons, life lessons and character development but it transformed me. I wish to join other events of MRC and grateful for the opportunity given to me

Abdullah Anaan,
Addu City

“

I really love the experience that I've got from the 101 hrs of youth camp it really made an impact on my life from all perspectives especially in career guidance and in addition to that I've got the chance to share my knowledge with the rest of our community's youth and I'm sure that it has been helping them with the same way. And again, huge thanks for Addu city's MRC for giving me a chance to be in 101 hrs youth camp

Mohamed Shanoon Saadiq,
Gdh. Gadhdhoo.

“

We played fun and interactive games and took part in several activities that helped us get accustomed to the camp and make new friends. The MRC camp was extremely educational and very enjoyable. Throughout the various sessions, it opened my eyes to a lot of issues we have, and I also learned about ways to better myself and tackle problems efficiently from highly knowledgeable people in those fields

Fathimath Ramsa Rasheed,
Addu City

Feature Story

“*Madhadhuveni*” – Volunteer Engagement Programme, Kulhudhuffushi City

The inaugural “*Madhadhuveni*” volunteer engagement programme by MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Unit was designed to welcome new recruits to the MRC and to strengthen team unity between the new and existing volunteers.

This half-day programme included various activities aimed at enhancing leadership skills, fostering teamwork, and promoting a healthy lifestyle. Participants took part in team-building exercises, sports events, motivational sessions, and MRC induction sessions, which concluded with a beach cleanup to give back to the community.

With 30+ volunteers actively involved in the 2023 edition, *Madhadhuveni* proved to be a resounding success, and set to be a regular programme within MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Unit. This ongoing initiative reflects the Units commitment to fostering teamwork and dedication among our volunteers while making a positive impact on the community through meaningful engagement and service.



MRC Special Events 2023

World Red Cross Red Crescent Day 2023

MRC Units organized a series of activities and events to commemorate and celebrate World Red Cross Red Crescent Day 2023. These initiatives were aimed to honour the work of the movement, promote volunteerism, and foster humanitarian spirit.

Kulhudhuffushi City

An information session was arranged for 84 students of Afeefuddin School, focusing on the Red Cross Red Crescent movement, the establishment of the Maldivian Red Crescent and its programmes and Services. This session was seamlessly integrated into the students' social studies curriculum, offering insight into volunteer opportunities within the community and the importance of volunteerism.

Male' City

A special information session on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement was organized for the



Male' City

students at Finland International School in Male' City. With a group of 35 students, the session aimed to educate students about the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, including the establishment and role of the Maldivian Red Crescent in the community. The session included engaging activities where students learned about humanitarian values and the significant impact of volunteerism within their community.

Addu City

MRC Hithadhoo Unit commemorated World Red Cross Red Crescent Day alongside World Thalassaemia Day 2023 through two collaborative events with local stakeholders. On May 7th, 2023, in collaboration with city-level stakeholders, a family-oriented event was held for families from the connected islands of Addu City. The event featured various interactive games and activities, along with information sessions on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Subsequently, on May 19th, 2023, another community event took place in Maradhoo, Addu City, focusing on children and organized in partnership with city-level partners. This event included stalls set up by MRC and other stakeholders, offering information, interactive games, and activities for attendees



MRC Day Run for Humanity - Addu City

Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) Day

16th August marks the date in which the first ever MRC General Assembly was conducted in 2009 following the ratification of the MRC Act [07/2009]. This day marks the official formation of MRC and the significant contributions made by its Volunteers, Members and Staff as well as the milestones achieved by the organization. To celebrate the 14th year of its formation, a series of community events were organized by MRC Units in Kulhudhuffushi City, Male' City and Addu City to showcase the work of the organization, promoting its mandate, and acknowledging the invaluable contributions made by its volunteers, members, and staff and garner stronger connections with the community.



Kulhudhuffushi City

Kulhudhuffushi City

To commemorate MRC Day and World Humanitarian Day 2023, MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Unit organized a Humanitarian Art Competition and the Annual humanitarian festival, - a large scale community event aimed at enhancing community engagement and promoting the organization's programs and services

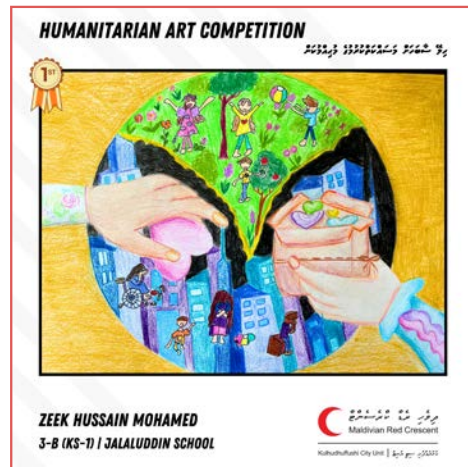
Humanitarian Art Competition

The Humanitarian Art Competition, was a new initiative launched in 2023 by the Unit, with the aim of instilling

humanitarian values and volunteerism amongst school children. The competition targeted towards students at key stages 1 and 2, followed the 04 thematic areas aligned with the humanitarian mission of MRC: _

- Spirit of Humanity
- Importance of Voluntary Service
- Disaster Preparedness as a Civic Responsibility
- Children as Champions of Healthy Lifestyle

Submissions, gathered through schools were evaluated through an external judging panel in coordination with the Unit.



1st place – Key Stage 1: Zeek Hussain Mohamed



1st place – Key Stage 2: Aishath Alisha Ahmed



2nd place – Key Stage 1: Mohamed Alsan Ahmed



2nd place – Key Stage 2: Mohamed Nawaz Nasrulla

Humanitarian Festival

This annual flagship event of MRC Kulhudhuffushi City is a large-scale event featuring numerous stalls catering to individuals of all ages in the community. The festival, which aimed to foster community involvement, promote humanitarian values, and showcase the programmes and services offered by the Maldivian Red Crescent, also had active participation from various community stakeholders. The festival featured stalls from MRC and partnering agencies offering a diverse array of interactive activities, games, and services for all age groups. Over 800 community members attended the event, actively engaging with the activities and festivities throughout the day.

Male' City

As part of celebrating #MRC14, MRC Male' Unit organized a series of initiatives across the Greater Male' Area, aimed at enhancing community engagement and promoting the organization's programs and services. These efforts included diverse activities targeted for the community, including a collaborative blood donation drive with the Maldivian Blood Services promoting the importance of voluntary blood donation as well as fundraising initiatives through a dynamic social media campaign and the Unit's annual Heyohithun Run

The Heyohithun Run 2023 took place on 18th August 2023 at Hulhumale' Central Park. This fundraising event is an integral part of MRC Male' City's annual calendar

and is dedicated to generating funds for emergency response initiatives within the Greater Male' Area. The event's success hinges on the sale of participant bibs, and with the support of volunteers a series of activities were carried out to promote the event throughout August to mobilize community participation. A total of 125 bibs were sold, and an impressive total of MVR 44,150 was generated through the sales of bib and direct donations from community members. The Heyohithun Run garnered active participation from 56 individuals, demonstrating widespread community support for this annual event of MRC Male' City Unit. The event's success was made possible through collaborative efforts with partners such as Urbanco, Event Maldives, M Print, Glowfit, Total Fitness Group, Maldives Police, and Male' Water and Sewerage Company.

Addu City

To celebrate the Maldivian Red Crescent Day and World Humanitarian Day 2023, MRC Hithadhoo Unit organized the Annual Run for Humanity Event. The primary goal of this event was to instil a sense of humanitarianism within the community while also raising funds through the sale of event bibs which would be directed towards bolstering MRC's emergency response efforts in Addu City. The event drew together over 200 community members from the connected islands of Addu City, where MRC amplified the programmes & service of the organization, promoted humanitarian principles and healthier lifestyles. A total of 140 participants took part and completed the run, with 158 bibs sold. MRC Hithadhoo Unit was able to generate 31600 MVR through the sale of bibs and 45500 MVR as direct donations from the public and local businesses for the event.



Male' City

Feature Story

MRC Governing Board Member – Youth, Mohamed Shaiman Adam Saleem’s insights into Youth Engagement within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement

MRC’s Governing Board Member – Youth, Mohamed Shaiman Adam Saleem’s accounts his experience representing Maldivian Red Crescent in the Youth Engagement and Lived Leadership Academy in Banepa, Nepal in November 2023, and the 04th Asia Pacific Youth Forum during the 11th Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Hanoi, Vietnam from 19th – 23rd November 2023.

“The Youth Engagement and Lived Leadership Academy organized by Danish Red Cross and Nepal Red Cross Society was my first experience representing MRC in an International Platform. The academy’s primary goal was to cultivate leadership skills among youth leaders from various national societies. During our consultative sessions, we delved into the development of the Youth Engagement Strategy (YES 2.0). As a representative of MRC, I voiced the challenges our organization faces and advocated for the youth’s rightful place in shaping our strategy. We explored untapped potential in youth-led community engagement, emphasizing the need for dedicated resources and support structures. Additionally, we highlighted on importance of inclusivity through representative youth consultation mechanisms and innovative youth programs.

The 4th Asia Pacific Youth Forum, themed “Resilience Rising: Inspiring Youth Leaders in Innovative Disaster Preparedness,” commenced with youth delegates reflecting on the challenges, opportunities, and

experiences faced by their respective national societies in disaster preparedness. Engaging in spirited discussions, we explored strategies for becoming disaster-ready from a youth perspective, emphasizing Youth-Led Innovation and Local Solutions.

Furthermore, we convened a Youth Dialogue on Climate Crisis, providing a platform for sharing both fear and hope regarding living amidst climate change. Given that the Maldives is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, I underscored the urgent need for immediate climate action especially for small island nations. Additionally, I highlighted the climate change-driven mental health conditions affecting our dedicated volunteers and youth. The Asia Pacific Youth Forum culminated in the presentation of the “Hanoi Youth Commitments 2023”, a powerful declaration advocating for resilient youth driving a disaster-ready Asia Pacific. This commitment was shared during the 11th Asia Pacific Regional Conference.

Despite the Maldivian Red Crescent being one of the youngest National Societies, it filled me with pride to acknowledge that we have some of the best structures and programs for youth engagement and empowerment. Our progress is not hampered by our strategies or intentions but constrained by limited resources.”





Organizational Development & Sustainability

This strategic priority area focuses on organisational development and sustainability and includes five key areas - governance and membership, volunteer management, resource mobilisation, partnership and outreach, and management and service delivery.

Focusing on expanding MRC's outreach and operations in the Maldives, the priority area works towards increasing the number of members, volunteers, and Units across the country. It also focuses on improving the internal governance and management structure of the National Society, as well as ensuring that there is an increase in the diversity and representation of population groups among members and volunteers. Another important aspect of this priority area is the emphasis on self-sustainability through regular and unrestricted income, along with an increase in revenue generation. 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 05 active units across the country at the end of the year, including two newly established units in N. Velidhoo (Noonu Atoll) and Gdh. Gadhdhoo (Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll). Staff presence and administrative bases are established in Kulhudhuffushi City, Male’ City and Addu City, providing support and interventions in three regions - the North, Central and South of Maldives.

Unit assemblies were carried out across all active Units alongside regional forums that served as a crucial platform for engagement and exchange within members of respective Units, as well as meeting the statutory requirement as per MRC Statutes.



Male’ City

Regional Forums [North & Central]:

- On August 25th, 2023, the North regional forum, chaired by Mohamed Hussein, Chairperson of Kulhudhufushi unit, convened to address pertinent issues.
- South regional forum, led by Thohira Abdulla of Hithadhoo unit, took place on August 29th, 2023.
- During these forums, members delved into topics such as the Partners for Humanity Initiative, stakeholder engagement strategies, and shared insights from significant unit events and undertakings. Furthermore, discussions during the forums emphasized the need to revisit the fundamental principles, particularly concerning the impartiality and neutrality expected from Governance members and unit board members. There was also a focus on preparing for the 2023 Presidential elections, stressing the importance of maintaining impartiality and neutrality at unit level.



149
Members at the
end of 2023

The Governing Board of MRC had 07 meetings during the year 2023. There were two extraordinary and five regular meetings of the Governing Board In 2023. Some of the major highlights of work of the Governing Board and its members are: -

- Dissolution of units with fewer than 20 members effective from January 31st, 2023.
- Endorsement of the approval of revisions to the Complaints and Appeals Policy and the implementation of the Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy.
- The governing board appointed Mamdhoo Mohamed and Sama Hussain, activating the full composition of the Complaints Committee.
- To address representation, the Governing Board decided to temporarily appoint the existing Southern Region member to the position of the Female South Member until the next General Assembly.
- A name change was approved for the Male’ Unit, which is now referred to as the Male’ City Unit, reflecting its broader scope in service delivery in the greater Male’ region.
- A subcommittee was established for the development of the Fuvahmulah Unit, composed of Treasurer Sharafudeen Ali, South Region Member Ahmed Milson, and Second Vice President Ahmed Shabin.
- Governing Board Youth Member Mohamed Shaiman Adam Saleem contributed to the Strategic Plan review as part of a working group.

Throughout 2023, members of the Governing Board represented MRC at various international forums.

- The Youth Member, Mohamed Shaiman Adam Saleem, was elected as the Vice Chairperson of the South Asia Youth Network (SAYN). He was engaged in regional youth initiatives throughout the year.
- In November 2023, Youth Member, Mohamed Shaiman Adam Saleem joined the Secretary



Kulhudhuffushi City

- General of MRC at the Asia Pacific Youth Network General Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam. Following this, he also represented MRC at the Regional Youth Leadership Academy in Kathmandu, Nepal from November 5th to 11th 2023.
- Second Vice President Ahmed Shabin attended the International Humanitarian Law in Commonwealth meeting in London on 23rd May 2023 as well as the Climate Champions Initiative organized by the IFRC.
- Second Vice President Ahmed Shabin was also nominated to represent MRC amongst the Twenty national societies selected to lead IFRC in preparations for COP28. At COP28, he played an active role in the IFRC delegation, participating in press conferences offering valuable insights from the movement and a perspective from Small Island Developing States (SIDS). He also participated in media engagements, including appearances on Euro News and British Radio Live, showcasing MRC’s involvement and perspectives.
- Second Vice President Ahmed Shabin was elected as co-chair of Asia Pacific RCRC Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) network on Disaster Law.
- First Vice President, Rasheeda Ali attended the Extraordinary General Assembly of IFRC held in Geneva, Switzerland during December.

12th General Assembly 2023

The 12th General Assembly of the Maldivian Red Crescent was held from 23rd to 24th April 2023, with 53 delegates across MRC Units in Kulhudhuffushi City, Male’ City and Addu City, and Addu City. The Assembly was conducted in a hybrid model with a total of 12 representatives from Kulhudhuffushi City, Male’ City and Hithadhoo Units taking part physically at the assembly. In addition, 40 representatives from these respective Units took part in the Assembly virtually. MRC was pleased to also have observers from the International Committee of the Red Cross and international federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent societies (IFRC) joining virtually at the assembly.

This General Assembly marked the end of the term of Aishath Niyaz, who served as the First Vice President of MRC for the past four years and significantly contributed to and amplified the voice of MRC and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in global and local platforms on the climate crisis. She also contributed towards the development and strengthening of Programmes in alignment with MRC’s Strategic Plan 2019-2030. In addition, Treasurer Rukushana Ali, Governing Board Member – Youth Member Aminath Masha Midhath, Governing Board Member – South Region Ali Mohamed ended their terms as Governing Board members who had played a vital role in strengthening the governance of the MRC, strengthening youth engagement across MRC Units, and supporting MRC Units of the respective regions.

Notable highlights from the Assembly: -

- The Assembly approved the formal documents including the Governing Board Report, Finance Commission Report 2022, Annual Report 2023, Annual Workplan and Budget 2023.
- Reports from the inaugural National Youth Forum were presented to the assembly, shedding light on youth perspectives and initiatives.
- The Audit Report was conditionally

- approved with comments and further clarifications presented by the Members.
- Faris & Co LLP was appointed as the external auditors of MRC from 2023-2025.
 - The following members completed their term as members of the Complaints Committee:
 - Dr. Zeba Un Naher
 - Fathimath Rishana
 - Zeenath Shakir
 - Ibrahim Moosa
 - Mohamed Hoodh Ibrahim
 - Following the completion of terms of the outgoing Governing Board members, the assembly held elections for 04 Governing Board positions, including the First Vice President, Treasurer, Youth member (ex-officio appointment as chairperson of National Youth Council), Governing Board Member Inclusivity. The governing board member – South Region remained vacant as there were no applicants.
 - The following members were elected to the Governing Board:
 - First Vice President: Rasheeda Ali
 - Treasurer: Sharafudeen Ali
 - Governing Board - Youth Member: Mohamed Shaiman (ex officio appointment as chairperson of National Youth Council)
 - Governing Board Member - Inclusivity: Mohammad Nasir Uddin

- Following the completion of terms of the outgoing Complaints Committee Members, the following members were elected to the Complaints Committee:
 - Mohamed Hoodh Ibrahim (re-elected for 2nd term)
 - Fathimath Waheeda
 - Fathimath Nashwa Badeeu



Volunteer Management

Throughout 2023, volunteers across MRC Units engaged in programmatic activities including capacity building trainings, provision of services, community events and emergency responses.



7309.22

Volunteer hours logged by MRC Volunteers



250+

MRC Volunteers across Maldives

International Volunteer Day 2023

International Volunteer Day marked on 05th December annually, recognizes, celebrates, and commend the efforts made by volunteers globally. On International Volunteer Day 2023, MRC Units organized various activities in appreciation of volunteers, highlighting their significant efforts in 2023.

Male’ City Office

To commemorate International Volunteer Day 2023, MRC Male’ City Unit hosted two memorable events: a picnic excursion to Kudagiri Island and a volunteer dinner night.

The picnic trip offered a variety of engaging activities, including team-building exercises, swimming, volleyball matches, and a tree-planting activity in collaboration with Urbanco was carried out. Volunteers were also presented with certificates, T-shirts, and stickers as tokens of appreciation. A sumptuous BBQ feast was prepared to complement the outdoor festivities.

The volunteer dinner night provided an opportunity for volunteers who couldn’t attend the picnic to gather, celebrate and be part of the International Volunteer Day Celebrations. Volunteer certificates adorned with stickers were distributed recognizing their volunteers’ hours and efforts during the year. Additionally, during the event, certificates were also awarded to the Male’ Unit Board and Male’ Unit Youth Council in recognition of their invaluable support throughout 2023.

Kulhudhuffushi City Office

To commemorate the International Volunteer Day, a volunteer picnic trip was organized for the volunteers and members of the Unit to HDh. Nolvihanfaru on 16th December 2023. This picnic provided an avenue for volunteers to enjoy beyond the common areas of work and to further strengthen the team bond within volunteers. This picnic consisted of several games and challenges including a first Aid-based obstacle relay and a beach cleanup. A total of 25 volunteers participated in this activity from the Unit.

Addu City Office

As part of Volunteers Celebration of the year 2023, a picnic was organized at Kottey, Hithadhoo, Addu City. The event served as a casual yet meaningful gathering, with games, activities, and opportunities for volunteers to share their suggestions and opinions to bolster the volunteer base in Addu City gathering valuable feedback. A total of 22 volunteers participated in this vibrant celebration, contributing to its success, and fostering a sense of community spirit among all the group of volunteers from the Unit.



Kulhudhuffushi City



Male’ City

Feature Story

To me volunteerism is..

On international volunteer day 2023, we asked volunteers across MRC what volunteerism means to them.

“

Relaxing, fulfilling and life changing. I've enjoyed meeting different people from all events and activities. I've also learnt that everyone is different. We shouldn't judge people before you know them. Everyone, especially the youth, should participate in social activities and help each other. Let's be grateful.

Mohamed Alim Aboobakuru,
Kulhudhuffushi City



“

Interesting, fun and heartwarming. Being able to learn new skills and learning to adapt to any situation have been some of the best things about being a volunteer. When you're in the field, every action you take should be executed so that you can bring out your maximum potential.

Abdulla Hisham Mohamed,
Kulhudhuffushi City



“

Educational and vocational as well as an experience! By being a volunteer at MRC, I've been able to experience so many new things. I've learnt to be more patient, and the true importance of being grateful and kind

Aminath Risma Hassan,
Kulhudhuffushi City



“

Something that is intrinsic to who we are as human beings. It feeds the soul. When you volunteer, it's important to enjoy yourself and put a smile on your face. The work we do as a team means that we give without expecting any return and we don't miss any opportunity to volunteer!"

Mohamed Muaz Rasheed,
Addu City



“

Rewarding, enlightening, and it makes me feel grateful. Being able to contribute to the community without expecting anything in return is a great feeling. As a volunteer, you also learn the importance of keeping the personal differences aside and focusing on the task on hand. Selflessness is key.

Fathimath Khalid,
Addu City



“

A great chance to help those in need effectively and efficiently. By volunteering, I feel like I'm contributing to a greater cause and becoming a better person. By helping more people, we are able to save more people and create a happier community.

Dhetcinamoorthy Chelliah,
Male' City



“

Satisfying work and a valuable opportunity. Raising awareness, being part of the team, and engaging in activities like first aid and emergency response.

Mohamed Shiyaz,
Male' City



“

Altruism, connection and betterment. I enjoy being able to contribute to strengthening our social fabric. Giving someone your time is the most valuable gift. Even if you aren't rich and cannot donate, donating your time and skills to do the needful is something that will leave an ever-lasting impact. Volunteerism is the best legacy to leave for our future generations.

Mariyam Shifaana Hussain,
Male' City



“

Fulfilling, impactful, and rewarding. I feel a sense of purpose by making a positive impact in my community by contributing my time and skills to help others, and witnessing the tangible difference it makes. I've learned the significance of empathy and understanding diverse perspectives. It has highlighted the power of collective action and reinforced the importance of kindness and generosity. It's also taught me valuable organizational and teamwork skills, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility.

Wazna Shiyam,
Addu City



“

A way of life. Throughout my time as a volunteer, I've learnt that small changes can have a big impact. Volunteering is a learning experience, and once you become a volunteer, you are always a volunteer at heart.

Aminath Naifa,
Male' City



Addu City

Resource Mobilization

Areas of resource mobilization during 2023 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.

In addition, resource mobilization through fundraising activities were carried out by MRC Male', Addu and Kulhudhuffushi City Units through public events as well as special fundraising

initiative on the occasion of MRC Day 2023.

In 2023, MRC underwent a rebranding of its Corporate Membership Programme, now known as the 'Partners for Humanity Initiative'. This rebranding aims to expand MRC's partnerships to involve a broader spectrum of the community in its humanitarian mission. It also seeks to enhance accessibility for small businesses and organizations to become partners with MRC.

Fundraising Initiatives Supporting Global Emergencies

In 2023, numerous devastating disasters and emergencies struck across the globe, affecting countless individuals due to both natural disasters and conflicts. As a member of the global Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, MRC actively engaged in contributing to the relief efforts by the red cross Red Crescent movement and sister national societies through the generous support and contributions of the Maldivian community.

MRC successfully raised a total of MVR 10,458,218.10 across three fundraising campaigns, contributing significantly to humanitarian assistance and relief efforts.

Syria & Türkiye Relief Fund

MRC launched the Türkiye and Syria Relief Fund on 07th February 2023, in response to Emergency Appeal by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to respond to the deadly earthquake in Türkiye and Syria and support the relief efforts.

The relief fund was opened from 07th – 14th February 2023 and raised a total of MVR 2,990,618.91 in 07 days. Donations collected through the Türkiye and Syria Relief supported the CHF 200 million international appeal released by the IFRC to provide humanitarian assistance to those affected by the Türkiye and Syria earthquakes in coordination with the Turkish and Syrian Red Crescent.

Morocco Relief Fund

The Morocco Relief Fund was opened by Maldivian Red Crescent on 14th September 2023, in response to the Emergency Appeal by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to respond to the earthquake in Morocco and support the relief efforts. The relief fund was opened from 14th – 21st September 2023 and raised a total of MVR 70,931.64 in 07 days. Donations collected through the Morocco Relief Fund supported the CHF 100 million Emergency appeal released by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to provide humanitarian assistance to those affected by the Morocco earthquake.

Palestine Relief Fund

The MRC Palestine Relief Fund was opened on 14th October 2023 in response to the emergency appeal by Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) to donate funds to support the response and relief efforts in the rapidly escalating Humanitarian Crisis in the Gaza Strip. The relief fund was initially opened from 14th to 28th October 2023, and later extended up to 12th November 2023 due to the rapidly deteriorating situation in Gaza and the public appeal towards the extension of MRC's Palestine Relief Fund.

The total funds raised for the MRC Palestine Relief

Fund between 14th October 2023 – 12th November is MVR 7,396,662.56. The funds raised contributed to Preliminary Emergency Appeal launched by PRCS on 10th October 2023 (Appeal Updated on 15th October 2023), which is targeted towards delivery of humanitarian assistance, such as provision of First Aid and Health Services, fuel and essential supplies for the operation of humanitarian facilities, transfer of the sick and wounded provision of clean water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter, basic relief items (including food, clothing, and household essentials), protection, and community engagement to the most vulnerable.

International Outreach and Representation

As a member of the Global Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, MRC received opportunities to participate, contribute to international conferences, regional meetings, and exposure trips.

Throughout the year, Secretary General Fathimath Himya represented MRC at leadership levels, actively participating and engaging in various international conferences and meetings on behalf of the organization. Notable representation includes: -

- 11th Asia Pacific Regional Conference, Hanoi, Vietnam; She served on the drafting committee for the declaration, speaking as a panellist in the session themed "Becoming a Trusted Organization," presented a summary of discussions to the plenary on behalf of IFRC, and chaired the South Asia Region meeting to finalize the Hanoi Call for Action document.

- Islamic Committee of the International Crescent and Red Cross Red Crescent-National Societies: In July 2023, Secretary General Himya played a pivotal role in the consultative meeting held at the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and also joined as a panellist contributing her insights and MRC experience at the event hosted by the Saudi Red Crescent Authority on 'digitalization within the movement'.

- Movement Induction Course for National Society Leaders of the Asia Pacific Region: Secretary General Himya attended this workshop in September

2023, held in Kuala Lumpur covering critical components such as fundamental principles, national society development frameworks, and humanitarian diplomacy, among others.

- South Asia National Societies Leadership meeting: Secretary General Himya participated in this meeting in June 2023, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. As the only female Secretary General in the region, she contributed to the discussion and deliberations of strategies to enhance cooperation and coordination within the region.

In addition, MRC representatives attended the following regional level workshops and meetings organized by the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and other global partners.



Disaster Resilience Week 2023, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific | 24 – 27th July 2023

Ibrahim Shameel - Manager of Programmes & Services, represented MRC as part of the IFRC delegation at the Disaster Resilience Week held at the United Nations Conference Center in Bangkok, Thailand. Sharing MRC's experiences during the side event titled "Regional Learning Platform for Knowledge Exchange on Early Warning for All Initiative," Shameel emphasized the significance of integrating early warning mechanisms into existing community preparedness and response efforts. Additionally, Shameel visited the headquarters of the Thai Red Cross Society at their invitation, where he learned about their ongoing work and exchanged experiences.



Protection Gender & Inclusion Workshop, International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) | 20th – 22nd June 2023

Mariyam Yaasa Shareef, Senior Programme Officer – Migrant Support represented MRC in this workshop with the thematic focus on Protection in Humanitarian settings. Building on the Movement Wide commitment to Overarching Principles on Protection and Minimum Protection Approach, in cooperation, the workshop focused on Protection in Humanitarian Settings in Asian context, addressing protection concerns in emergencies, protracted crises, displacement, climate related crises and others.

During the workshop participants from different National Societies discussed protection concerns in diverse contexts, including emergencies, complex crisis, migration and displacement context, and climate change impact on protection risks. Additionally, identification of tools and mechanisms to address risks in the organization and in operations was done as a group activity. Furthermore, discussions on National Society, Regional and Global PGI commitments and priorities were also carried out. Ways to build stronger peer-to-peer support by activating PGI networks in South-East Asia and South Asia were also discussed.

IFRC Global Communications Forum 2023 | 11th – 16th June 2023

Aishath Zaha Mohamed, Programme Officer – Communications and Advocacy, represented MRC at the IFRC Global Communications Forum 2023. Since 2008, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) have co-organized this global forum that takes place every three years, hosted by a National Society. In 2023, this forum was hosted in Amman, Jordan. The main aim of the GCF is to bring together senior communications practitioners from across the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement with the goal of enhancing and strengthening communications across the Movement by fostering collaboration, innovation, networking, and learning.

The forum engaged participants in various topics highlighting on the importance of enhancing digital literacy, leveraging social media, and refining storytelling. Lessons from recent emergencies and donor communication were explored, informing brand strategy development to participants. Capacity-building in crisis communication, including COVID-19 response, was also emphasized, alongside disaster simulations and improved collaboration. The sessions of the forum also highlighted the importance of understanding media trends, combating misinformation, and proactive crisis management. Key take home recommendations for the forum for national societies included investing in storytelling, establishing a clear brand identity, testing content reception, prioritizing audience engagement, and empowering volunteers in content creation for diverse demographics.



Seminar on Post-Disaster Reconstruction Capacity Building for Developing Countries | 19th November – 06th December 2023

This 14 – day seminar and exposure trip was organized by Chinese Red Cross-National Training Centre supported by the Ministry of Commerce of China was held in Beijing, China. Aishath Ifaa Maaz Shareef, Programme Officer – MRC Male' City Office was nominated by MRC and joined the Maldivian delegation participating in this exposure trip including members from the National Disaster Management Authority and other government Ministries. The primary aim of the seminar was to impart knowledge of disaster risk reduction and post-disaster reconstruction from the perspective of developed countries to the developing countries.

Launch of the Sustainable National Anticipatory Action through Preparedness (SNAP) Programme in South Asia | 13th – 15th December 2023

Ibrahim Shameel - Manager of Programmes and Services, joined the Maldivian Delegation including the National Disaster Management Authority and Maldives National Defence Force for the launch of the Sustainable National Anticipatory Action through preparedness (SNAP) Programme in South Asia organized by Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC).

The event was a hub for insights, best practices as

well as an opportunity for networking and nurturing regional cooperation for anticipation actions in South Asia building on the success of the PEER program in South Asia delivered by ADPC in partnership with USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance.

Student and Teacher Exposure Programme and Industry Visits for South Asian Developing Member Countries (DMC) | 3rd – 14th December 2023

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) extended an invitation to MRC to participate in a knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) aimed at strengthening vocational high schools in South Asian DMCs. This initiative sought to enhance the capacity of students, teachers, relevant ministries, and other stakeholders through capacity-building activities, including exposure programs and industry visits. Held in Seoul, Korea, the exposure trip focused on enriching participants' understanding of vocational high school education in South Korea. Shafna Ahmed Didi – Manager, MRC Addu City Office, attended this exposure trip gathering insights and best practices, particularly relevant to MRC's Alternative Learning Programme, further enhance youth-focused initiatives.



Feature Story

MRC Partnership Forum 2023

On 10th October 2023, MRC hosted its Partnership Forum 2023, supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and bringing together our key partners, collaborators, and supporters to discuss progress, potential areas for co-creation and continued partnership with MRC.

Partnerships Towards Resilience

MRC's Partnership Forum 2023 is an event held every other year, aiming to bring together existing partners, collaborators, supporters, and key stakeholders to present the progress of MRC's work, as well as



to discuss potential key areas for co-creation and continued partnership with MRC. MRC hosted 39 attendees from 20+ partners at the event, with government agencies, state institutions, international organizations, civil society organizations and members of the corporate sector participating in the forum.

During the forum, MRC presented a series of interactive presentations providing an insight to our work, including areas of expertise and plans to realize MRC's Strategic Plan 2019-2030. The sessions aimed to provide progress updates on the key Programmes and Projects carried out by MRC between 2020 -

2023 while also facilitating discussions with partners attending the forum. A forum report was developed following the conclusion of the event which was shared with partners to highlight the key areas of partnership with MRC as the organisation, which works towards expanding its humanitarian efforts and commitment to aiding the vulnerable and fostering community resilience, relies on the excellence of the Programmes crafted through collaborations and partnerships.



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. This 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 they are needed.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Partners

IFRC & ICRC: The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners have supported the MRC since its formation. Both partners have provided technical assistance and financial support for various programmatic areas of MRC, particularly around Emergency Response, First Aid capacity, the Y-Adapt Programme and youth focused initiatives as well as the organizational development and strengthening of MRC Governance.

Italian Red Cross (ItRC): MRC has continued its partnership with ITRC, focusing on strengthening and developing sustainable Migrant Support Services. In 2023, through this partnership, MRC organized the Basic First Aid Training targeted towards Migrants as well as the annual Health & Legal Camp event in the Greater Male’ Area.

Singapore Red Cross (SRC): In 2023, Singapore Red Cross and Singapore Red Cross Academy supported MRC in organizing the First Aid AED Training of Trainers building MRC’s First Aid Trainer Capacity. SRC also provided support in acquiring of First Aid Training materials required for the expansion of MRC’s First Aid Training Capacity.

Turkish Red Crescent (TRC): Through the TRC’s National Societies Support Fund (NSSF) MRC is currently working on a project working towards strengthening and digitalization of MRC’s Information Management Capacity, Volunteer Member Management, Services, and public communication.

Government/State/Independent Agencies

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 continued its support in areas of Health and wellbeing including the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA): MRC worked closely with NDMA in responding to numerous emergencies throughout 2023 and have been collaboratively working together in the implementation of the Strengthening Preparedness and Resilience through Inclusive Community Governance (SPRING) project working in areas of strengthening Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction as well as emergency response capacity across communities.

Maldives Pension Administration Office: MRC signed a partnership agreement with the MPOA to bolster its Patient Transport Services in greater Male Area’ in alignment with the commitment of both organizations to improve healthcare accessibility and quality for the community, particularly for vulnerable populations such as the elderly and those with limited mobility.

Ministry of Islamic Affairs: MRC has worked closely with the Ministry providing assistance annually in ensuring the welfare of travelling Hajjajeens and their families during the annual Hajj pilgrimage period.

Maldives Police Service (MPS): MRC collaborates closely with the MPS in emergency responses during the Presidential Elections held in 2023 as well as the delivery community events. MRC has also worked closely with MPS in providing capacity-building and technical support in areas of First Aid and Psychological First Aid.

UN Agencies

UNICEF Maldives: MRC maintained its strong partnership with UNICEF Maldives, collaborating closely on the integration of UNICEF’s flagship programme UPSHIFT into its alternative learning programme and the delivery of activities under the partnership.

International Organisation for Migrants (IOM) Maldives: MRC ventured into a collaborative project with IOM Maldives to produce Information Education Communication (IEC) materials targeted towards migrants that focused on health-related messaging, including mental health and overall wellbeing.

UNFPA Maldives: MRC signed an Implementing Partner (IP) agreement with UNFPA Maldives to continue the implementation of the Women’s Self-Help Group Project in Kulhudhuffushi City.

International and Local Partner Organizations

Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC): MRC ventured into a partnership with ADPC, under the Sub-grant award for the project Strengthening Preparedness and Resilience through Inclusive Community Governance in the Maldives (SPRING) Project. This project aims to strengthen community preparedness and resilience through inclusive community governance and active stakeholder engagement. This partnership has provided MRC an opportunity to expand its capacity and reach in areas of disaster risk reduction, emergency response and climate action, supporting communities in effectively mitigating and preparing for disasters.

USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (USAID BHA): MRC has partnered with the USIAD BHA on a 2-year project titled Enhancing Resilience and Community Preparedness in Maldives (ERCP) with overall goal is to enhance and strengthen risk-based resilience planning at island and city levels. The project will be carried out in partnership with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

Transparency Maldives: During 2023, MRC concluded its partnership with Transparency Maldives from the project aimed at improving the health and well-being of young people who have suffered or are suffering behavioural crises as a result of substance abuse.

FHI 360: MRC concluded its partnership with FHI360 in February 2023 after the successful delivery of all partnership deliverables including the launch of the Formative Assessment on COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy in the Maldives as well as capacity building trainings targeted towards frontline and health workers on Psychological First Aid. This partnership was supported under the project as part of the Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC), a global project funded by USAID, with the support of Ministry of Health.

Ali Fulhu Thuthu Foundation: MRC ventured into a partnership with Ali Fulhu Thuthu Foundation on the implementation of 03-year Project to address the Maldives’ projected ageing population through organized, systematic programming aimed at improving quality of life of elderly citizens targeted in 03 regions in the Maldives.

Dhiraagu: A long-standing key partner, that became the first ever organization to enlist in the MRC Partners for Humanity as a Gold Tier Partner.



Financial Summary

The accounts for the year 2023 were audited by Faris & Co LLP. The financial statements of MRC for the period ending 31 December 2023 were prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities (“IFRS for SMEs”).

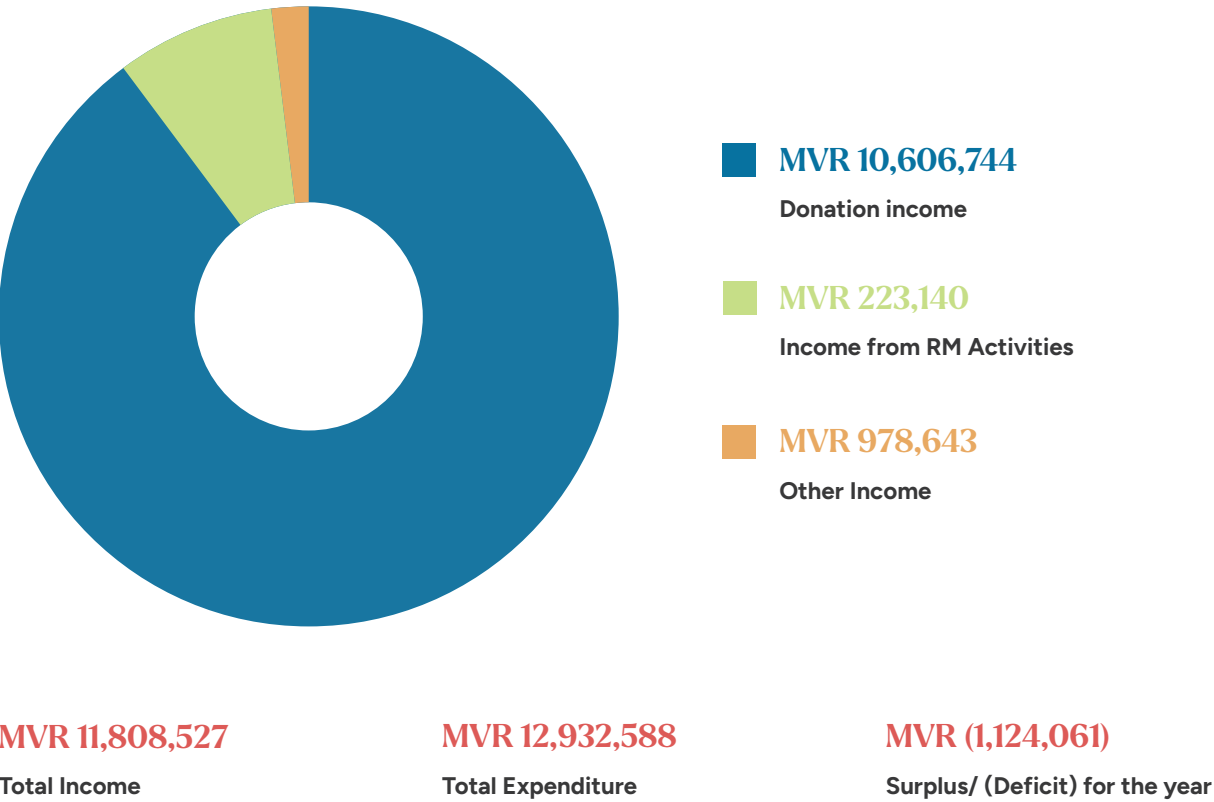
MRC’s Income funding is largely dependant on the donor funding provided by different organizations and corporations. Most significant contribution throughout the last 3 years has been the funding provided by the government of Maldives from the National Budget under the auxiliary role vested on MRC.

Other significant donors include ICRC and IFRC, whose continued support has enabled MRC to carry out Programme activities and also contributed towards supporting administration costs. In addition to this following donors contributed:

- **UNICEF** - mental health and psychosocial support service strengthening, Covid 19 risk communication activities and alternative learning programme
- **ADPC** - to increase the disaster risk reduction capacity of the Maldives by supporting resilience building activities across target islands.
- **UNFPA** - women’s self help group activities for prevention of gender based violence in Maldives
- **AFTF** - Health and Wellbeing in a Changing Environment – Healthy Ageing Programme
- **FHI360** -carry out activities to strengthen the COVID-19 response in Maldives- Mental Health Helpline and Formative Assessment to address vaccine hesitancy.
- **ITRC** - strengthening migrant support services
- **Transparency Maldives** - providing first aid and psychosocial support service trainings
- **TURK** - strengthening MRC’s psychosocial support helpline service project.

Total income for the year 2023 is **MVR 11,808,527** and expenses are at **MVR 12,932,588** resulting in a deficit of **MVR 1,124,061** for the year.

Revenue and Gains



Emergency Response Fund

MVR 1,174,627	MVR 58,980	MVR 1,233,607
ERF Reserve as at January 01, 2023	Received in contribution for ERF	ERF Reserve as at December 31, 2023



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Maldivian Red Crescent



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