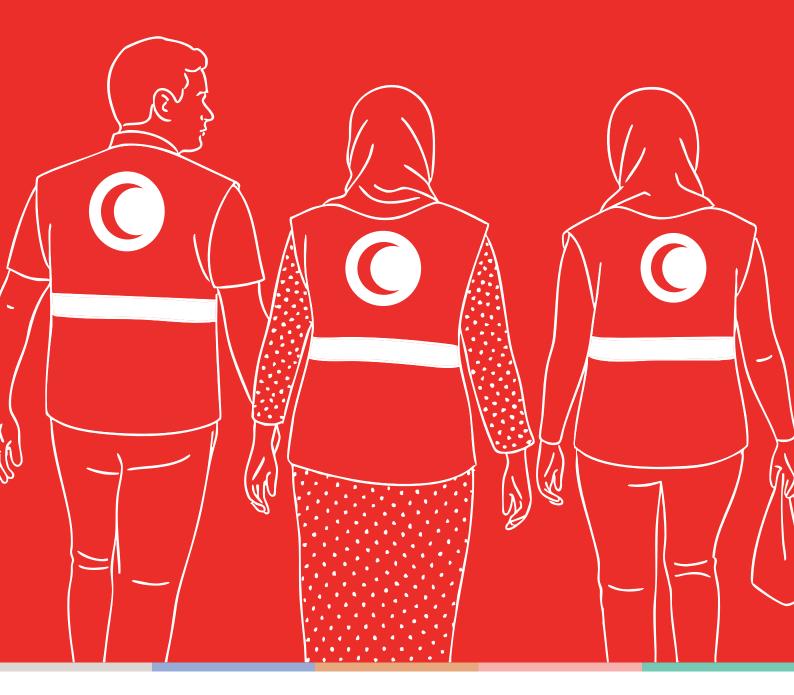
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Annual Report 2024





years of Humanitarian Service



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Heyohithun Run, Male' City

Our Story

The Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) is an independent, voluntary humanitarian organization dedicated to alleviating human suffering and strengthening community resilience. While its official journey began in 2009, its roots trace back to the devastation of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. In the wake of one of the deadliest natural disasters in modern history, the global Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including various National Societies of the movement, mobilized to support the Maldives. Through this response, it became evident that the Maldives needed its own Red Cross Red Crescent National Society, leading to the formation of the Maldivian Red Crescent.

By 2007, with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), an Interim Planning Group (IPG) was established to develop the legal and institutional framework for MRC. Through these efforts, the Maldivian Red Crescent Act [Law 7/2009] was passed by the Parliament on 28th April 2009 and ratified by the President on 7th May 2009. This legislation solidified MRC's mandate as the only recognized National Society in the Maldives, operating within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement under the Fundamental Principles of Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity, and Universality.

Over the past 15 years, MRC has grown into the largest humanitarian organization in the country, playing a pivotal role in disaster risk management, emergency preparedness and response, health and well-being, social inclusion, and youth development. As an auxiliary to public authorities, MRC continues to contribute towards national resilience through its work in emergency response, First Aid and Psychosocial Support services, resilience-based planning, health promotion in a changing environment, and fostering humanitarian values and volunteerism. By integrating disaster management, climate action, and sustainable development, MRC remains committed to addressing emerging risks, enhancing community resilience, and ensuring that humanitarian services are accessible to the most vulnerable across the Maldives.

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Foreword by MRC Interim President

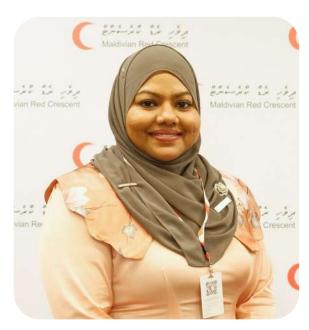


Rasheeda Ali | Interim President

The year 2024 marked a significant milestone for the Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC), as we commemorated 15 years of service. Having been part of this journey since the organization's inception in 2009, I have had the privilege of witnessing MRC's transformation into the leading volunteer-based humanitarian organization in the Maldives. This 15-year journey is a reflection of our collective commitment to humanity, built upon by a shared sense of purpose and guided by the Fundamental Principes of the Red Cross Red Crescent movement. MRC's auxiliary role to public authorities has been central to its growth, enabling impactful contributions in disaster preparedness and response, First Aid, psychosocial support, health and wellbeing promotion, youth empowerment, and more recently climate adaptation and resilience building in local communities. We have responded to crises, supported the vulnerable, and championed inclusion and resilience, always grounded in community needs. In 2024, the Governing Board, along with committees such as the Complaints and Finance, worked to further strengthen MRC's governance, transparency, and accountability. Key milestones included the formation of the Statutes Revision Committee and consultations for statutes revision in preparation for the 2025 General Assembly, the

first-ever National Youth Forum held in Addu City, and regional forums that fostered meaningful engagement across our active Units. Strategic progress was also made towards financial sustainability, including a feasibility study for the MRC Headquarters Building Project. Second Vice President Ahmed Shabin participated in COP29, highlighting MRC's and the movements commitment to climate action and advocacy. I had the honor of attending the 25th IFRC General Assembly, Council of Delegates, and 34th International Conference, where key themes such as trust, localization, and investment in National Societies were emphasized. MRC also proudly hosted the South Asia Leadership Meeting and the first-ever South Asia Women's Conference—two landmark events that reinforced regional solidarity, and advanced dialogue on sustainability, gender inclusion, and youth participation within the Movement. As Interim President, it is an honor to witness the strength of our National Society, guided by the tireless efforts of our Governing Board, the invaluable contributions of our members whose selfless service have shaped our organizations journey. I would also like to recognize that the progress and impact we have achieved would not have been possible without the steadfast support of the broader Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. From the early days of MRC's formation, partner National Societies and Movement partners have played a pivotal role in shaping our development, strengthening our capacities, and guiding us through key milestones. Their solidarity and technical support have been instrumental in enabling MRC to evolve into the National Society we are today. We are equally grateful for the strong collaboration with government organization, public institutions, and civil society actors in the Maldives, whose continued support has empowered MRC to fulfil its auxiliary role and expand its reach. These partnerships have not only enabled us to respond effectively to humanitarian needs, but also to grow and contribute meaningfully to national development and resilience efforts. Before I conclude, I would like to highlight my deep appreciation to our volunteers, members and staff whose dedication has been key to our success. It is through their tireless efforts that we have made a meaningful impact on those we serve. Building on this strong foundation, as we move forward, let's continue to strengthen our collective action and stay united with passion and purpose, guided by our shared commitment to humanity.

Foreword by MRC Secretary General



Fathimath Himya | Secretary General

The year 2024 has been a remarkable demonstration of the Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC)'s capacity, growth, and unwavering commitment to humanity. As we proudly marked 15 years since the formation of our National Society, MRC stands today as a resilient and trusted humanitarian actor—rooted in volunteerism, guided by the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and continually evolving to meet the emerging needs of communities across the Maldives.

Guided by our Strategic Plan 2019–2030, MRC expanded its Programmes and Services nationwide. Significant strides were made in enhancing emergency preparedness and response, not only through operational activities but also through high-level strategic engagement. Notably, MRC co-hosted the Inaugural First Responders Forum with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), bringing together over 40 institutions to strengthen inter-agency coordination and facilitating a space to enhance technical and operational knowledge sharing. Additionally, the successful execution of Exercise Hiyaa, a full-scale high-rise building simulation in Hulhumale, Phase 2, demonstrated our role in supporting multi-agency response coordination and reaffirmed MRC's mandated role in emergency response frameworks in the country.

First Aid and Psychosocial Support Services (PSS) remained at the heart of our community work, reaching over 4,000 individuals through trainings and awareness Programmes. These interventions empowered both volunteers and communities with life-saving skills, while fostering a culture of preparedness and collective care at the grassroots level.

Work on resilience-building was further strengthened through community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives under the Strengthening Preparedness and Resilience through Inclusive Community Governance and Enhancing Resilience and Community Preparedness (ERCP) projects, in partnership with NDMA and international partners. These initiatives supported the development of Island Disaster Management Plans and enhanced First Aid and PSS capacities in 10 island communities—contributing to more localized and coordinated responses. In addition, MRC co-hosted the first-ever South Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Forum in Addu City alongside NDMA and Addu City Council. This forum brought together 96 participants from southern atolls, government agencies, and civil society actors, providing a shared space for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaborative planning making a significant step towards fostering regional level response and resilience building.

MRC played a vital role in the national response to the rising cases of Lymphatic Filariasis, working closely with the Ministry of Health, Health Protection Agency, and IFRC. Our volunteers supported community-level screening, treatment, and awareness, demonstrating the vital role of local humanitarian actors in promoting public health, disease prevention and control. The ongoing Healthy Ageing and Migrant Support Programmes reflected our commitment to inclusive, accessible services - supporting vulnerable populations as well as strengthening social cohesion.

Youth engagement also remained a cornerstone of our work. MRC proudly reactivated one of its most impactful initiatives—the Youth as Agents for Behavioural Change (YABC) Programme, a flagship of the IFRC. Delivered in partnership with Transparency Maldives, the Programme engaged over 600 young people across four regions through experiential learning, peer-led activities, and community sessions.

It is important to note that our work in the humanitarian landscape is only possible through the strong partnerships we have built over the years. Their trust and cooperation have enabled MRC to scale its impact, expand its reach, and respond effectively to humanitarian needs across the country. We are deeply grateful for the continued support of the Government of Maldives, public authorities, UN agencies, Movement partners, civil society organizations, and private sector collaborators who continue to support our mission.

While we celebrate our successes, 2024 also served as a solemn reminder of the dangers faced by humanitarian workers around the world. Across conflict zones, disaster-stricken regions, and public health emergencies, Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers have faced increasing threats in the line of duty. We pay tribute to their bravery, honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and draw strength from their courage and commitment.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all our volunteers, members, and staff, the beating heart of the Maldivian Red Crescent. Your compassion, dedication, and resilience continue to inspire and drive our work forward. As we reflect on our 15-year journey and navigate the evolving humanitarian landscape, we do so with renewed purpose and unwavering determination to serve those most in need, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Special Event





Commemorating a Decade and a Half of Humanitarian Impact

In 2024, MRC marked 15 years of service (MRC15), —15 years of standing alongside communities, responding to crises, and fostering resilience. This milestone was not just a reflection of the past but a reaffirmation of MRC's commitment to the future. Rooted in the strength of its volunteers, members and staff, as well as the unwavering support of its partners, MRC15 was a celebration of impact, growth, and the collective spirit that defines humanitarian action in the Maldives.

The anniversary was commemorated through a series of events and initiatives across all active MRC units, enabling meaningful participation of members, staff and volunteers across the Maldives for the occasion. From ceremonies to community-driven activities, MRC15 brought together past and present volunteers, leaders, staff and supporters in a shared commitment to humanitarian service.

On 27th August, MRC hosted its MRC15 main event, gathering key members, former and current staff, past leaders and partners. The event welcomed Alexander Matheou, IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Director, as Chief Guest, alongside representatives from the International Federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), key government agencies, and National Societies from across South Asia. Their presence underscored the strong and enduring partnerships that have shaped MRC's growth, reinforcing the importance of collaboration in strengthening humanitarian action.

At the event, MRC recognized members of the Interim Planning Group for their pivotal role in the formation of the organization, as well as past and present leadership who have guided MRC's growth. Additionally, members of staff who have dedicated over 5 years of service were recognized for their dedication and commitment to the organization. MRC also honored key partner organizations for their invaluable support in advancing its humanitarian mission over the past 15 years which has been instrumental to MRC's success.

The MRC Hub, a digital platform and mobile application designed to transform volunteer engagement and community access to humanitarian services was also launched during the event. The platform is envisioned as a one-stop solution for volunteer management, resource access and service delivery representing MRC's commitment to leveraging technology for impact.

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MRC15 celebrations across MRC Units



Heyohithun Run, Male' City



Humanitarian Art Competition submission, Kulhudhuffushi City

Beyond the main event, the anniversary was celebrated through nationwide initiatives, with regional offices and MRC Units leading commemorative activities that engaged volunteers, members and communities.

Events such as the Heyohithun Run in Malé, the Run for Humanity in Fuvahmulah City and Addu City brought communities together in celebration of MRC15, showcasing the collective efforts of volunteers, members, and staff and reflecting the way in which the work of the organization extends beyond crisis response.

In Kulhudhuffushi City, the Humanitarian Art Competition 2024 provided a creative platform for school children to explore and express humanitarian values. Designed to foster volunteerism and community engagement, the competition spanned across three themes: "Everyone Can Volunteer," "I Am for Humanity," and "My Role Towards a Cleaner Environment." Winners were recognized during the International Volunteer Day 2024 official function, where they were awarded trophies, and a special tote bags featuring the winning artworks as prizes, further reinforcing the connection between creativity and humanitarian advocacy.

By engaging with individuals across the country, these activities fostered a sense of unity and strengthening the bonds that help make communities more resilient.



Former and current MRC leadership together with some members of the Interim Planning Group (not all members) at MRC15 event.

15 YEARS OF MALDIVIAN RED CRESCENT

15 Years of Volunteerism with MRC

Every year, on International Volunteer Day (IVD), MRC honors the dedication and contributions of its volunteers. In 2024, this celebration was even more special as it was integrated into the MRC15 anniversary celebrations. Volunteers who are the backbone of the organization were at the center of these activities, with recognition events and gatherings held to celebrate their invaluable efforts. Through these initiatives, MRC reaffirmed its commitment to supporting and appreciating those who selflessly dedicate their time and energy to humanitarian work.

Alongside these events, MRC sought new ways to deepen its connection with the public. Biannual newsletters were released, capturing milestones, impact stories, and the voices of those who had shaped the organization's journey. A new Viber channel was launched, enhancing digital engagement and making it easier for communities to stay connected with MRC's work. These efforts signified a broader commitment to increasing visibility, strengthening outreach, and solidifying MRC's presence across communities.



Male' City



Kulhudhuffushi City



Male' City Addu City



Strategic Plan 2019 -2030

The MRC Strategic Plan 2019-2030 sets a long-term vision for the organization, ensuring that its humanitarian mandate remains relevant and responsive to the evolving needs of communities in the Maldives. Centered around the concept of Resilience, the strategy integrates disaster risk management, climate action, and sustainable development to create a more holistic and effective approach to humanitarian work. Building on to the existing strengths and capacities of the organization, the strategic priorities areas under the plan also aligns with global development frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Paris Agreement. Reinforcing MRC's role as a key partner in national and global humanitarian action, the plan also reflects MRC's commitment to adapting to emerging risks, leveraging innovation, and empowering volunteers to create stronger, more resilient communities for the future

In 2024, MRC made significant strides in expanding its Programmes and Services across communities, in line with its Strategic Plan 2019-2030, with both short term and long-term initiatives contributing to the advancement of the five programmatic strategic priority areas. This growth was facilitated by the introduction of new projects, supported by Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners, as well as international and local collaborators. Additionally, notable progress was achieved in its priority area focusing on Organizational Development and Sustainability, demonstrated through the establishment of new units, the formation of strategic partnerships, and the continued strengthening of governance, management, and service delivery mechanisms.



STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 - 2030 9



Strengthen Emergency Response

The primary focus of the first strategic priority area is emergency response, a crucial component of MRC's disaster risk management efforts in the Maldives. Mandated by the MRC Law 07/2009, MRC plays a key role as an auxiliary body to the state, responding to emergencies and disasters nationwide in close collaboration with stakeholders such as the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and first response agencies. This priority area leverages MRC's existing capacity, experience, and strengths in providing emergency response services through community-based emergency response teams (ERTs).

Throughout the year, MRC ERTs have actively responded to various emergencies and disasters by mobilizing communities, providing First Aid and Psychosocial Support, assisting internally displaced people, and delivering immediate humanitarian assistance. Additionally, MRC has worked with key stakeholders like NDMA to enhance coordination and improve disaster preparedness across the country. This included implementing training programs, equipping response teams, and integrating risk-based planning into community preparedness initiatives. By reinforcing these systems, MRC continues to support the development of an effective, coordinated, and sustainable approach to disaster management across the Maldives.

Summary of Emergency Response and ERT Mobilization in 2024

19 Emergency Responses



06

FLOOD RESPONSE



04

EMERGENCY PSS
SUPPORT INCIDENTS



08

FIRE INCIDENTS



N. Hen'badhoo



Male' City



Kulhudhuffushi City

Key Highlights: Programmes, Projects and Events in 2024



Strengthening Water Emergency Preparedness in the Maldives

In October 2024, MRC, in partnership with the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC), successfully conducted its first-ever Water Emergency Rescue Training in Kulhudhuffushi City. This initiative was part of RCSC's "Water Rescue Training for Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in South Asia region" project and aimed to enhance water rescue capabilities at a regional level. The training brought together participants from MRC units in Kulhudhuffushi, Male'City, and M. Kolhufushi, as well as representatives from the National Disaster Management Authority, Maldives Police Service, and the National College of Policing and Law Enforcement.

The five-day training combined theoretical knowledge with hands-on practical exercises, equipping participants with essential skills in operating inflatable rescue boats (IRBs) and executing life-saving procedures. Upon completion, the RCSC donated two IRBs and 12 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE), including flotation devices, rescue ropes, helmets, and gloves, to bolster MRC's water rescue capacity.

The closing ceremony was attended by RCSC Vice President and Secretary General Mr. Li Lidong, and the Chinese Ambassador to the Maldives, Her Excellency Ms. Wang Lixin. This significant training not only enhances the preparedness and response capabilities of MRC and its partners but also underscores the support extended by RCSC in strengthening MRC's capacity to manage diverse emergency situations. also been shared with the Global Migration Lab as a contribution to their Global Report on Trust of the migrant community towards Humanitarian Actors.







Mainstreaming Anticipatory Action in Disaster Response.

In 2024, MRC took significant steps towards mainstreaming Anticipatory Action (AA) within its disaster risk management and climate change adaptation frameworks. Supported by the IFRC Anticipation Hub, IFRC Disaster Law, and the Sri Lanka Red Cross, MRC organized a sensitization workshop for its staff and volunteers. This workshop aimed to familiarize participants with the concept of AA, its tools and mechanisms, and pathways for implementing AA before disasters occur.

Additionally, MRC collaborated with NDMA to host a multi-stakeholder sensitization workshop on AA where representatives from 11 organizations, including government ministries, private-sector partners, and humanitarian actors, gathered to discuss existing components of AA within the country. This event was part of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)'s Sustainable National Anticipatory Action through Preparedness (SNAP) project and was co-facilitated with the support of IFRC, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Anticipation Hub.

The workshop, held from 1st – 2nd December 2024, utilized peer learning methods, with participants gaining insights from the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society on initiating AA in a country and establishing a coordinated national mechanism. During the workshop, participants identified additional entry points for integrating AA into the national disaster risk management (DRM) system. A session led by the IFRC Disaster Law team focused on institutionalizing AA through its integration into laws and policies. Other Interactive sessions enabled participants to draft a plan of action for the country, outlining concrete steps for future implementation. This plan includes strategies to incorporate potential anticipatory actions into the activities of the country's DRM Technical Working Group. This collaborative initiative underscored MRC's commitment to strengthening disaster preparedness and integration of anticipatory action at both organizational and national-level discussions.

Airport Simulation Exercise, in Fuvamulah City.

In June 2024, MRC Fuvamulah City Unit contributed to the execution of the Fuvamulah Airport emergency drill in partnership with local authorities, including the regional airport company. MRC provided support through its volunteers for the preparation of the simulation exercise and mobilization of First Aiders for the exercise.

Handover of Emergency Support Vehicle and Dewatering Equipment to MRC under the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme

MRC completed the requirements of the grant contract with the Embassy of Japan in the Maldives under the GGP scheme for the Provision of an Emergency Support Vehicle and Dewatering Equipment to MRC Kulhudhuffushi City in 2024, In addition to strengthening and enhancing its emergency response capacity to ensure timely and efficient response to disasters, MRC also aims to utilize the dewatering equipment to support the management of floods, a common challenge in Kulhudhuffushi City. An official handover ceremony was held and attended by Her Excellency Mrs. Takeuchi Midori, Ambassador of Japan to Maldives, to officially hand over emergency support vehicle and dewatering equipment to MRC's Interim President Rasheeda Ali and Secretary General Fathimath Himya. This landmark event was also attended by the Kulhudhuffushi City Mayor Mohamed Athif along with senior officials of the Kulhudhuffushi City Council, partner organizations as well as members and volunteers of MRC Kulhudhuffushi City.



Emergency Operations Centers Study Tour

Thailand, Indonesia and Philippines | June 2024

Ibrahim Shameel, Manager – Programmes and Services was part of the Maldivian delegation comprising of representatives from National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Construction and Infrastructure, and the Maldives Meteorological Service. This tour was supported under the Maldives Urban Resilience Development Project (MURDP) funded by World Bank with coordination support through ADPC, aimed at enhancing emergency operations in the Maldives through peer-to-peer knowledge exchange from regional countries on emergency operations centers (EOCs), emergency response mechanisms and improved strategies for emergency response. As part of the tour, the Maldivian delegation visited the ADPC in Thailand, the Emergency Operations Center of the National Disaster Management Authority of Indonesia, ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Center), and the Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics in Indonesia. In the Philippines, the delegation visited the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD), the Paranaque City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management office, and the Philippines Disaster Resilience foundation (PDFR).

During the tour, MRC also facilitated a visit to the Indonesian Red Cross and Philippines Red Cross, where the delegation learnt about the role of the national society along with coordination mechanism utilized during disasters and emergencies as well as information on the setup of the emergency operations centers by the national societies in their respective countries.

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

Indonesia | 26th - 30th October 2024

Shafna Ahmed Didi, Manager, South Regional Office & Services was selected to participate in the Asia Pacific Surge training hosted by the Indonesian Red Cross, with the support of the Japanese Red Cross. This training aimed to develop and strengthening emergency response capacity in the Asia Pacific region, focusing on the WASH sector as well as enhancing technical knowledge and skills of National Society staff and volunteers. Following the completion of the training, Shafna is now part of the Rapid Response Register for IFRC for surge deployments within the movement.



Restoring Family Links (RFL) Regional Meeting

Bangkok, Thailand | November 2024

Ibrahim Mohamed, North Regional Manager, participated in the RFL Regional Meeting for Asia Pacific 2024, organized by the ICRC and held in Bangkok, Thailand from 30th November – 02nd December 2022. This annual meeting reunited the Family Links Network practitioners of the Asia Pacific region to address RFL issues and challenges as well as to foster discussions on the RFL Strategy 2020 – 2025 and regional plan of action based on the framework of the RFL Strategy framework.

Feature Story

First Responders ForumBuilding a Culture of Preparedness



In the face of escalating natural hazards exacerbated by the climate crisis, the need for more effective emergency response systems and mechanisms has never been more critical. Strengthening collaboration and understanding between response agencies is essential to meet the increasing challenges faced in emergency response.

The Inaugural First Responders Forum 2024, organized through a partnership between MRC and NDMA, aimed to address this need by bringing together core and cooperating first responders in the Maldives. This milestone event was supported by the Strengthening Preparedness and Resilience through Inclusive Community Governance (SPRING) Project, implemented by MRC in partnership with NDMA and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), supported by the USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance.

The forum brought together over 91 participants from 40 organizations, including first response agencies, government representatives, civil society organizations, healthcare professionals, local councils, and members of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) from across the country. Notable attendees included the Minister of Defense, Honorable Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon, U.S. Ambassador to the Maldives, Hugo Yen, Dr. Sisisra Madurapperuma from the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Chief Executive of NDMA, Mr. Hisan Hassan, MRC Interim President Rasheeda Ali, and Secretary General Fathimath Himya, alongside senior leadership of response agencies.

Through a series of plenary and panel discussions, the forum covered a diverse range of topics aimed at enhancing understanding of potential risks and fostering inter-agency collaboration. These sessions provided a platform for responders to share knowledge, expertise, and experiences on disaster risk management, strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation, the role of local leadership in driving grassroots resilience, ensuring safety in high-rise buildings, developing effective pre-hospital care, and more.

The insights and discussions from the First Responders Forum 2024 were designed to enhance and strengthen collaboration between core and cooperating response agencies, while also fostering innovation in emergency response. As we face the complex challenges brought about by climate change and evolving risk landscapes, it is crucial to cultivate a culture of preparedness and strengthen inter agency cooperation. Building on the success of the forum, together in partnership with NDMA, MRC, is committed to advancing inter agency coordination and collaboration to build resilient communities across the Maldives.





First Responders Forum – Building a Culture of Preparedness

Feature Story

Exercise HiyaaFull-Scale High-Rise Building Simulation Exercise



One primary component of the Strengthening Preparedness and Resilience through Inclusive Governance (SPRING) project centered around enhancing the capacity to prepare for and mitigate disaster impacts for all members in the targeted communities of the Maldives. This included improving early warning systems and strengthening the local ability to respond to and recover from disasters.

The increase of high-rise buildings has increased over the past decade with rapid urban development in Hulhumale. It is estimated that 92,000 residents currently live in Hulhumale. The increase of high-rise structures and the concentrated habitation of large populations in Hulhumale can significantly amplify the impact of emergencies, underscoring the crucial need for proactive measures and preparedness to effectively mitigate and respond to such situations. This simulation exercise was the first of its kind in the Maldives which laid the foundation and guided first responders to effectively manage emergency situations in high rise structures. This joint initiative between NDMA and MRC aimed to evaluate and enhance the readiness and efficiency of first responders and the community in tackling emergencies such as fire incidents within a high-rise setting.

Considering the scale of the exercise and the involvement of multiple agencies, an initial planning meeting was held in October 2023, leading to the establishment of a dedicated working group. The primary goal of this working group was to facilitate better coordination and support for the execution of the exercise in 2024. Key priorities identified by the working group included engaging with the Hiyaa Community to raise awareness about the exercise and emphasize its importance to residents, as well as equipping essential staff from the Housing Development Corporation to better handle emergency situations. To kickstart engagement with community members, the "Vilunveri Festival" was held on October 13, 2023, in celebration of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. This event was a collaborative effort involving the MRC, NDMA, Maldives National Defense Force - Fire and Rescue Services, Maldives Police Services, and the Housing Development Corporation. The broader aim of the event was to increase awareness and preparedness surrounding fire emergencies, with a particular focus on the role of first responders in the Maldives. Over 100 individuals from the Hiyaa Community participated in the event, providing response agencies with an opportunity to raise public awareness about disaster risk reduction mechanisms and urban disaster and emergency preparedness in the Maldives.

As part of the final preparations for the exercise, a multi-Agency Tabletop Exercise (TTX) was conducted, engaging key stakeholders such as MNDF – Fire & Rescue Services, Maldives Police Service, HDC, MTCC, STELCO, and MWSC. This exercise aimed to enhance coordination, evaluate response strategies, and identify key gaps in preparedness. Orientation sessions for HDC security personnel were carried out on First Aid, evacuation protocols, and emergency coordination procedures, ensuring greater preparedness among frontline responders. Additionally, community-focused awareness sessions reached 100+ members in the Hiyaa Community, providing insights into the risks and hazards associated with fire incidents and outlining appropriate actions to take in such situations.

The full-scale Emergency Exercise, Exercise Hiyaa, was executed on February 24, 2024, at Hiyaa Tower 16, Hulhumale' Phase 2. This multi-agency exercise brought together over 100 participants from 11 response agencies. The exercise aimed to simulate high-rise evacuation scenarios and firefighting operations, promoting interagency collaboration and coordination. Following the exercise, a debriefing event was held with all participating agencies to conduct a collaborative review of the exercise, discuss challenges encountered, and identify areas for improvement. The lessons learned contributed to a policy paper submitted to the President's Office, outlining recommendations for improving high-rise disaster preparedness.

The execution of such an exercise highlights the importance of collective commitment and action in fostering a culture of preparedness and building community resilience. By engaging community members, stakeholders, and enhancing skills, MRC and NDMA aim to create a safer and more resilient environment for all residents of the Maldives.





Exercise Hiyaa – Full-Scale High-Rise Building Simulation Exercise



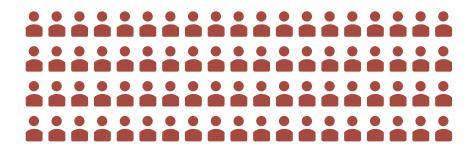
PRIORITY 2

Strengthen First Aid & 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 such as First Aid and PSS. MRC also focuses on strengthening and the scaling up the organization's First Aid and PSS standards and services, enhancing their quality, and the overall First Aid capabilities of communities and service providers through tailored training Programmes, further expanding its reach across communities in the Maldives.

In 2024, MRC continued to strengthen its capacity in First Aid and Psychological First Aid (PFA) through training Programmes across its Units and regularly mobilizing volunteers to provide essential first aid and psychosocial support during both emergency and non-emergency situations. These services were offered at various community events, including marathons, sporting activities, school functions, and other public gatherings, ensuring the well-being of participants and attendees. Additionally, MRC's commercial first aid services contributed to the organization's sustainability, reflecting its commitment to serving the community while generating revenue to support its humanitarian efforts.

Impact at a Glance in 2024



4,080 People Reached

via First Aid + PSS Trainings & Services



48 First Aid Trainings

913 Trained in First Aid



10 Psychological First Aid (PFA) & Psychosocial Support (PSS) Trainings

116 Trained in PFA & PSS



29 First Aid Awareness Sessions

1,372 People reached



U8 PFA & PSS Awareness Sessions

723 People Reached



86 First Aid Services Events (Kulhudhuffushi City, N. Velidhoo, Male' City, Gdh. Gahdhoo, Fuvamulah City & Addu City)

956 No. People reached via First Aid Services



25 First Aid Kits distributed

07 Island Communities, Scouts, Kulhudhuffushi City



Key Highlights: Programmes, Projects and Events in 2024

First Aid Competition, Kulhudhuffushi City

In 2024, the Kulhudhuffushi City Unit organized a First Aid Competition as part of Madhadhuveni 2.0 event. The event provided a practical platform for volunteers to apply and strengthen their First Aid skills through structured scenarios and coordinating as a team. This competition offered an interactive approach to building First Aid skills of volunteers helping to build confidence and improve readiness as well as encouraging peer learning.

Major First Aid Trainings, Services in Pictures

A collection of photos of First Aid and PSS trainings as well as First Aid services across MRC Units





Kulhudhuffushi City

Addu City





N. Velidhoo

Kulhudhuffushi City







N. Velidhoo





Kulhudhuffushi City





Male' City Addu City



Male' City



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 work in conducting risk assessments, increasing the utilization 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.

In 2024, through key Programmes such as the SPRING Project, the Enhancing Resilience and Community Preparedness in Maldives (ERCP) Project, and the Strengthening Urban Youth Climate and Resilience Programming in South Asia Project, MRC worked alongside national and international partners towards community-driven resilience initiatives and expand disaster preparedness at the different levels in the Maldives.



Key Highlights: Programmes, Projects and Events in 2024

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

MRC concluded the SPRING project on 31st August 2024, implemented in partnership with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), funded through the support of the USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance. Aligned with MRC's strategic priorities on Strengthening Emergency Response and Facilitating Planning for Resilience, at the heart of this 18-month project is the primary objective to strengthen community preparedness and resilience through an inclusive all-of-society approach

Focusing on two core components: community awareness and mobilization, and capacity building, the SPRING project focused on empowering local stakeholders, such as local councils and community-based organizations, through capacity development, fostering partnership, awareness campaigns, and knowledge sharing. The project also supported in strengthening emergency response capacity, engagement of the private sector in disaster risk management, and interagency coordination, as reflected under the 'Priority 1' section of this report.

7
Target
Islands

5,162+
People Reached through project interventions



Hazard Vulnerability Capacity Assessment & Island Disaster Management Plan Development

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

- 07 Island Disaster Management Plan (IDMP) developed
- 144 People Engaged in IDMP & HVCA Process

Priority Implementation Projects (PiPs)

Beyond the development of IDMPs, each of the target islands of the project were supported in the implementation of Priority Implementation Projects (PiPs) focusing on immediate interventions to improve disaster preparedness in these communities. The PiP initiatives aimed to enhance community capacity and awareness by empowering members to provide initial care during emergencies, develop organized primary responses, and manage disaster situations effectively, building confidence and reducing panic in crises. By engaging with the entire community, the PiP initiative expanded the support network in the community to address critical gaps in emergency response capabilities.

- 14 interventions under the PiP initiatives
- 486 People Reached via PiP initiatives

First Aid and Psychological First Aid Capacity Building Initiatives Hdh. Finey, Ga. Dhevvadhoo, B. Kendhoo, K. Dhiffushi and Ga. Dhevvadhoo

During the IDMP development process, community members from Hdh. Finey, Ga. Dhevvadhoo, K. Dhiffushi, and Ha. Vashafaru identified the need to increase the capacity of their island communities in First Aid and Psychological First Aid as a key priority for disaster response. In response to these engagements, under the PiP initiative of the project, First Aid and Psychological First Aid trainings were conducted to strengthen the capacity of each Island and ensure that community members were equipped to provide First Aid and Psychosocial Support during emergencies, enabling them to effectively respond to disasters. In addition to the trainings, targeted efforts to increase community level awareness on First Aid & Psychological First Aid were carried out through awareness sessions.

- 188 Individuals from the community Trained in First Aid & Psychological First Aid
- 211 reached via First Aid & Psychological Awareness Sessions



Hdh. Finey



Awareness Sessions on First Aid, Psychological First Aid & Fire Prevention, Sh. Komandoo

The IDMP process in Sh. Komandoo identified specific gaps, particularly in disaster risk reduction (DRR) awareness among young people. Recognizing the importance of equipping future generations with lifesaving skills, students of Sh. Atoll Education Cetner participated in First Aid & Psychological First Aid Awareness, followed by an awareness session on fire prevention carried out with the support of Maldives National Defense Force – Northern Area Command. These sessions empowered students to provide initial care and manage emotional responses during emergencies as well as common causes of fire incidents in the Maldives and equipped students with various firefighting techniques using different fire equipment. As an extension of practical support, fire extinguishers were donated to the school, further enhancing the community's preparedness and resilience.

- 87 Students Reached through awareness sessions in. Sh. Komandoo
- 15 Fire extinguishers donated

Community Action for Disaster Response (CADRE) Training, B. Maalhos

With recurrent flooding, incidents of household fires and periodic sea swells, B. Maalhos is highly prone to and easily affected by disasters. Following the dialogue with B. Maalhos Island Council and community members, during the IDMP development process, a contextualized version of the ADPC Flagship Emergency Response Training Community Action for Disaster Response (CADRE) Training was organized for members of the community with the support of ADPC and Pakistan's Rescue 1122. Through this 5-day training, participants were introduced to elements such as common hazards, securing family, and preparing for response, components of basic life support, dead body management, fire emergencies, water emergencies and basic search and rescue amongst other crucial aspects of emergency response and disaster management. At the end of the training, participants took part in a simulation exercise where their knowledge and skills garnered through the sessions were tested and assessed.







B. Maalhos



B. Kendhoo

Installation of Community Resource Maps Ha. Vashafaru, Hdh. Finey, Sh. Komandoo, B. Kendhoo, B. Maalhos, K. Dhiffushi (Kaafu Atoll), and Ga. Dhevvadhoo

Resource maps were installed in each of the target islands under the project. These maps, developed through a participatory IDMP process, contain critical information such as evacuation centers, assembly points, and emergency contact numbers. The maps were strategically placed to ensure that all essential information is easily accessible to the community.



Hdh. Finey



Ha. Vashafaru

Strengthening MRC's Capacity in Emergency Response and Resilience Planning

Emergency Response Induction Training, Hdh. Kulhudhuffushi City

An Emergency Response Induction Training was held in H.Dh. Kulhudhuffushi in 2023 targeted towards strengthening MRC's volunteer pool of emergency response teams (ERT). During the training, participants were equipped with basic knowledge regarding the core principles of emergency response including the functions of an Emergency Operation Center (EOC), evacuation centers and shelters, relief distribution centers alongside key assessment tools used by MRC and NDMA during disasters.

07th Indian Ocean-wide Tsunami Exercise (IOWave23) B. Kendhoo in 2023

Following the devastating impact of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS) was established by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to coordinate mitigation efforts among member states. As part of the SPRING Project, in collaboration with NDMA and Maldives Meteorological Services, MRC supported the execution of the Indian Ocean-wide Tsunami Warning Exercise (IOWave) drill in B. Kendhoo in October 2023. The IOWave exercises served as a comprehensive evaluation tool, encompassing pre-planning and post-evaluation phases, to test the participating country's coordination, communication, and response capabilities in the face of potential tsunami threats. The drill was preceded by three awareness sessions covering significant information on the drill process, evacuation and response for CERT members and Disaster Management (DM) Committee, the public and school students, staff, and parents. On the day of the drill, NDMA and MRC made observations regarding the skills and knowledge of CERT members in B. Kendhoo by assessing their ability to follow Standard Operating Procedures and apply skills such as search and rescue, First Aid and Psychological First Aid during the drill.

• 184 individuals Engaged in the IOWAVE exercise

Enhanced Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (EVCA), Training of Trainer Development Workshop

The main objective of the EVCA Training of Trainer workshop was to empower trainers with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to effectively facilitate participatory community risk assessments using the EVCA toolkits, integrating climate change, gender, health, livelihoods and diversity considerations, and fostering community resilience. As part of the training, participants learned how to conduct risk assessments using the EVCA toolbox which includes step-by-step guidance tailored to analyze and visualize resources, vulnerabilities and hazards in a community. Volunteers and staff from MRC Units, as well as representatives from NDMA participated in this 06-day workshop, equipping them with essential knowledge on conducting participatory community risk assessment using the EVCA toolkit with a broader focus on integrating the 11 dimensions of resilience into the Community Disaster Risk Reduction Program of the Maldives.

• 30 Participants trained as EVCA Trainers & Facilitators



Increasing Public Outreach and Awareness on Disaster Risk Reduction

During community consultations following the curation of the IDMPs, individuals across target islands noted that the broader community was unfamiliar with basic concepts in relation to disaster risk reduction including emergency contact numbers, key hazards within local islands and ways to prepare for and mitigate hazards at household levels. Aiming to empower the whole community by mainstreaming DRR related information whilst championing inclusive community governance, several knowledge products were developed and disseminated through digital and printed mediums.

This included the development of the Handbook on Disaster Preparedness- a 9-page comprehensive guide which compiled information on the current landscape of disasters in the Maldives, how to stay safe from common hazards such as fires, floods and tidal surges, extreme heat, vector borne diseases and important emergency numbers. Written in both English and Dhivehi, the book assured that various demographics within target islands were reached. Additionally, a door to door initiative was implemented to distribute and disseminate the booklet. Utilizing digital mediums, the knowledge products were also disseminated on MRC's social media and website to increase reach.

- 1299 booklets disseminated via door to door initiative across all target islands
- 3000+ views and online engagement via digital media platforms

Engagement of Private Sector in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

As part of the SPRING Project, in partnership with NDMA, MRC executed 02 interventions to foster engagement with the private sector. This engagement allowed businesses to identify existing gaps in DRR and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and develop solutions and recommendations to prepare for emergencies, fostering a sense of accountability. The initiative created a platform for building multi-stakeholder relationships and public-private partnerships in the medium and long term, leading to more coordinated and effective disaster management, while providing alternative solutions through contingency plans, ensuring the long-term functionality of enterprises during crises.

Business Continuity Plan Workshop

In partnership with the Business Center Corporation (BCC), a sensitization session on Business Continuity Planning (BCP) targeted towards BCC's existing clientele was organized to disseminate information and promoting BCP adoption among small and medium-sized enterprises. Key discussion points during the session included the identification of primary risks in the Maldives and recognition of potential damage to infrastructure, revenue and customer confidence in the aftermath of disasters. The workshop also outlined steps for implementing a Business Continuity Plan which included creating a framework, conducting business analysis, enforcing continuity strategies and reviewing the plan by regularly testing the BCP through simulations. This session marked a significant step in bringing BCPs to SMEs.

• 09 SMEs engaged in BCP Workshop



Policy Dialogue on Private Sector Engagement in Disaster Management Workshop

In July 2024, MRC partnered with ADPC and NDMA to organize a Policy Dialogue on Private Sector Engagement in Disaster Management. The primary objective of this dialogue was to develop recommendations for private sector engagement in disaster management in the Maldives, which is essential for integrating businesses into preparedness and response efforts. A diverse range of participants partook in the workshop, including individuals from institutes such as Ministry of Economic Development, Business Center Corporation, UNDP, Allied Maldives and SIGs Maldives amongst other organizations. Participants discussed priority areas for private sector engagement in the Maldives, identifying key areas where private sector involvement could improve and enhance disaster management efforts as well as recommendations were made to strengthen private sector engagement within the DRR arena of the Maldives.

- 17 Organizations engaged in Policy Dialogue
- 27 Individuals engaged in the Policy Dialogue



Enhancing Resilience and Community Preparedness in the Maldives (ERCP)

The ERCP Project, implemented by MRC in partnership with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), builds on the community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) Programme led by NDMA, reinforcing disaster preparedness and resilience across the Maldives and building on the key milestones achieved through the SPRING project. Supported by the United States Agency for International Development Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID BHA). The overarching goal of the project is to enhance risk-based resilience planning at island and city levels and strengthen locally led preparedness and mitigation efforts by systematically building the capacity and improving the use of existing resources and tools in island communities.

The project primarily aimed to engage with 10 island communities in implementing the Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) program to facilitate risk-based planning and mitigation in these target island communities. Key interventions planned under the project include: -

- Conducting Enhanced Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (eVCA) and the development of Island Disaster Management Plans (IDMP).
- Establishing Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) to bolster local response capabilities.
- Capacity building of established CERT Teams in First Aid and Psychological First Aid (PFA) as part of building emergency response capabilities.

Furthering MRC's CBDRM efforts, the ERCP project also aimed to develop a contextualized eVCA toolkit to streamline methodologies on conducting community-based risk assessments into the national CBDRM program of the NDMA. The project also aims to prioritize building partnerships and strengthening emergency response coordination regionally to foster community-driven efforts to mitigate disaster risks,





Lh. Kurendhoo

N. Velidhoo





Lh. Kurendhoo N. Ve

Feature Story

South Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction



In November 2024, MRC, in partnership with NDMA and the Addu City Council, successfully concluded the first-ever South Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Addu City, Maldives. Supported by the ERCP Project, this forum brought together 96 participants from local councils in Gaafu Ali, Gaafu Dhaalu, Fuvamulah City, and Addu City, as well as key government agencies, NGOs, academia, and businesses in the region. The forum emphasized the critical need for integrating DRR into national development plans, fostering valuable discussions and knowledge sharing among stakeholders. Key disaster response agencies, including the Maldives National Defense Force Southern Command and the Maldives Police Service, shared insights from recent incidents, highlighting the importance of coordinated efforts in disaster response and management.

Furthermore, the forum facilitated knowledge sharing by the Addu City Council and other island councils in the southern region on their efforts to build resilience through disaster management plans and risk mitigation strategies. Sessions delivered by the Maldives Meteorological Service and the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment, and Energy underscored the need to leverage advanced technology and ecosystem-based solutions for effective early warning systems. This collaborative initiative highlighted the significance of multi-stakeholder engagement in creating sustainable and resilient communities across the Maldives.







South Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Strengthening Urban Youth Climate and Resilience Programming in South Asia

This sub-project was implemented by MRC in partnership with the International Federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Italian Red Cross as part of a broader initiative to strengthen urban youth climate and resilience programming in South Asia. As climate change intensifies disaster risks in the Maldives, this project focuses on youth-led resilience initiatives to address critical climate change issues in the Maldives.

As part of these efforts, MRC helped carry out youth-led initiatives including conducting Y-Adapt Programs for schools and volunteers, development and distribution of bucket hats to address heat, coastal vegetation restoration as a means to mitigate flooding and erosion, and lastly, developing knowledge products for public outreach advocating on climate resilience and adaptation.

Key highlights of project interventions implemented in Kulhudhuffushi City, Male' City and Addu City include: -

Implementation of Youth Adapt (Y-Adapt) Training Programs

The Y-Adapt curriculum aims to engage youth in developing climate literacy, disaster preparedness and local adaptation planning through interactive, game-based modules with the goal of equipping young changemakers with the skills to design and implement community-driven climate resilience initiatives.

- 03 Y-Adapt Trainings
- · 52 youth trained in Y-Adapt

Publication of Children's Book: The Girl Who Grew A Beach

MRC published a Children's storybook "The Girl Who Grew a Beach" an educational children's storybook designed to inspire climate action among young people centering on the concept of environmental stewardship. Book reading sessions for children and donation to numerous schools and community libraries were organized by MRC to ensure wider access and inspire young readers. "The Girl Who Grew A Beach" was also showcased by the IFRC at the International Youth Conference in Seoul, Korea, as an innovative approach to engage young audiences on environmental stewardship and youth-led climate initiatives.







Male' City

Increasing Community Awareness on Heat Action

A series of knowledge products were developed to increase awareness on extreme heat, its health impacts and preventive measures to mitigate against such effects. To capture the attention of diverse audiences and provide practical solutions to combat extreme heat, buckets hats with key messaging were produced and distributed. This initiative provided a trendy alternative to caps, along with aa simple solution to minimize the negative consequences of exposure to extreme heat, especially in urban communities.







Kulhudhuffushi City

Strengthening Ecosystem Restorations Initiatives of MRC

Contributing to the existing ecosystem restoration initiatives MRC, work towards establishing the "Malafehi" community plant nursery in Kulhudhuffushi City, and Addu City was initiated under the project. Through collaboration with local councils and other community organizations, the nurseries will focus on increasing the number of trees readily available for coastal vegetation restoration, mangroves restoration, and for other general needs. Special considerations will be given to increase the number of plants and trees native to the respective islands. The initiative also provides an avenue for MRC to foster community engagement and, work with diverse audiences, including young people and elderly in the community, as part of its outreach activities.

Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Indian Ocean Tsunami

On the 20th anniversary of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, the Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) supported the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) by participating in the "Vilunveri Vihi," Exhibition - a national event that honored the lives lost during the disaster and the journey of disaster management in the Maldives. MRC contributed to an exhibition that showcased and highlighted the pivotal role of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and its Partner National Societies in the recovery and rebuilding efforts following the tsunami, as well as the efforts that led to the formation of the Maldivian Red Crescent.

A special panel discussion titled "The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in the Maldives - the Formation of the Maldivian Red Crescent" also took place during the exhibition. This discussion featured insights into the formation of MRC, the necessity of establishing a national society, and its journey over the past 15 years as the largest humanitarian organization in the Maldives. The panelists included MRC's Interim President and first Secretary General Rasheeda Ali, current MRC Secretary General Fathimath Himya, and former MRC Governing Board member Arif Rasheed. The panel provided an opportunity to share the significant contributions of the global Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in the tsunami recovery efforts and the eventual formation of MRC, emphasizing its role in building community resilience.



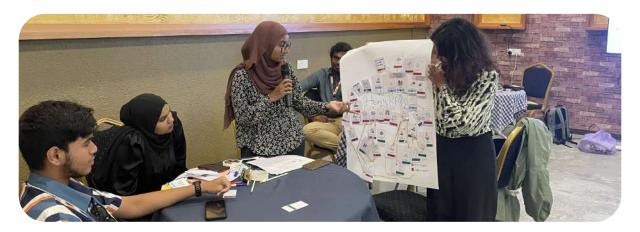
MRC Interim President Rasheeda Ali, Secretary General Himya and Former Governing Board Member Arif Mohamed at Viluntheri Vihi panel discussion



MRC leadership and IFRC representative with Minister of State for Defence and Chief Executive of National Disaster Management Authority

Climate Action Journey

Building on its global advocacy efforts, MRC took significant steps in 2024, with the support of the IFRC and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Center in initiating the first phase of the Climate Action Journey– an integrated approach to scaling up climate action and locally led adaptation approaches by Red Cross Red Crescent Societies. A climate risk assessment workshop was conducted, as part of Climate Action Journey, which laid the groundwork for integrating climate risks into MRC's programming and fostering collaboration with key stakeholders to address the growing impacts of climate change.



Ecosystem Restoration initiatives

In 2024, MRC continued its efforts to safeguard, conserve, and restore the natural environment of the Maldives, building on initiatives launched in 2021. Taking a two-pronged approach, combining advocacy efforts with sustainable, community-driven activities in promoting environmental stewardship and resilience through its Units across the Maldives.

Ecosystem Restoration Initiative in Pictures

A collection of photos of the Ecosystem Restoration Initiatives across MRC Units.



Kulhudhuffushi City



Addu City



N. Velidhoo



Male' City

Y-Adapt Facilitation Support to Philippines Red Cross Makati & Bacolod, Philippines | March 2024

MRC Y-Adapt Trainers Ibrahim Mohamed, Manager, North Regional Office and Fathmath Yamaan Shuau, Project Coordinator supported the Philippines Red Cross (PRC) as part of the 'Greengen' Project in conducting Y-Adapt training sessions for PRC Youth staff and volunteers across different chapters of PRC, training 40+ participants.



Bacolod, Philippines



Makati, Philippines

Feature Story

Advancing Climate Resilience and Early Action on the Global Stage



MRC's Second Vice President, Ahmed Shabin, represented MRC as part of the IFRC delegation at two pivotal global forums in 2024: Conference of Parties (COP) of UNFCCC, #COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan and the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) in Antigua and Barbuda.

At COP29, VP Shabin hosted a lunchtime talk at the IFRC Pavilion on the theme "Early Warnings, Early Action." He shared MRC's journey since its formation in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami, emphasizing the importance of partnerships with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in implementing community-based disaster risk management Programmes, Y-Adapt and ecosystem restoration initiatives undertaken by MRC. He also echoed the IFRC's message that the climate crisis is a humanitarian and health crisis, calling for increased investment in early warning systems and anticipatory action.

During SIDS4, VP Shabin underscored the critical role of National Societies in disaster and climate risk governance. He highlighted the need for inclusive early warning systems, particularly in Small Island Developing States, where weather data gaps remain a significant challenge. His participation reinforced MRC's advocacy for closing the finance gap and ensuring no one is left behind in the fight against climate change.

These engagements underscored MRC's commitment to advancing climate resilience, strengthening early warning systems, and promoting community-based disaster risk reduction on the global stage.







PRIORITY 4

Promoting Health and Wellbeing in a Changing Climate

The fourth strategic priority area focuses on promoting an 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.

In 2024, MRC played a crucial role in public health response, migrant health support, and disease prevention initiatives, working in close coordination with government agencies and international partners.



Key Highlights: Programmes, Projects and Events in 2024

Lymphatic Filariasis Response, 2024

Filariasis is a parasitic infection transmitted mostly by Culex mosquitoes, which breed in dirty standing water. Although those infected with Lymphatic Filariasis may not show any symptoms for many years, the slow damage to the lymphatic system can cause swollen limbs, breasts, or genitals. Maldives was the first in the region to be certified as having eliminated Lymphatic Filariasis in 2016.

In December 2023, cases of lymphatic filariasis were detected among migrant communities during a health screening event in Kulhdhuffushi City. Following the identification of additional cases in greater male' area, the Ministry of Health and Health Protection Agency initiated a nationwide screening effort to determine the extent of the spread of the disease and combat further spread at a community level. Based on the initial findings, the Government planned immediate interventions to avoid a nationwide spread. Ministry of Health and Health Protection Agency have been carrying out Screening Tests in Cities across the Maldives with a particular focus on the migrant community. Based on findings the source of the disease is from individuals who have travelled to the Maldives from regions where the disease is endemic in India, Bangladesh. To support the response of the government's efforts to combat further spread of Lymphatic Filariasis, MRC mobilized CHF 298,000 through the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to support national efforts in screening, treatment, and prevention. MRC volunteers across the country were also mobilized to assist with community engagement, communication and translation support. Furthermore, MRC in coordination with IFRC initiated the procurement of additional screening kits and medicine required for executing Mass Drug Administration as well as the scaling of outreach and awareness activities in multiple languages with the aim of addressing misinformation and promoting prevention

As part of the response, MRC, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Health Protection Agency, and WHO with the support of IFRC played a key role in

- Supporting nationwide screening efforts and mass drug administration efforts for Lymphatic Filariasis through mobilization of volunteers, purchase of medicine and testing kits.
- Developing and disseminating awareness materials in multiple languages, including Dhivehi, English, Bangla, Tamil, Sinhala, and Hindi.
- Development of knowledge products for health workers for the use of screening kits and distribution of MDA medicine.
- Conducting vector control initiatives such as mosquito breeding site elimination, in collaboration with local councils and stakeholders.
- Launching the #MadhiriaaMaDhuru campaign to encourage community-led vector control and public engagement in filariasis prevention and other vector borne diseases.



Male' City



Male' Cit





Male' City Addu City







Migration Support Services

As an organization dedicated towards reaching the most vulnerable in our communities, MRC's Migrant Support Programme has been a key area of engagement and priority for MRC since its inception. Through the on-going partnership with the Italian Red Cross (ITRC), MRC has continued to implement various initiatives and migrant support services in 2024

Migration and Displacements Needs Assessment Report

In May 2024, MRC successfully published the Migration and Displacment Needs Assessment Report. In alignment with the IFRC Global Strategy on Migration 2018 – 2022, the completion of this assessment marks a significant milestone for MRC in continuing its efforts towards providing humanitarian assistance to migrants and improve existing services available to the migrant community. This assessment was carried out in partnership with the Italian Red Cross, IFRC and the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Migration Lab.

The work towards carrying out this assessment was initiated in late 2022. The methodology for the assessment included individual surveys, desk-based research, and consultative meetings with key stakeholders regarding their services to the migrant communities. Through the mobilization of volunteers, data was collected from migrants across key regional zones Kulhuduffushi City, Greater Male' Area and Addu City.

A high level event was organized for the launching of the report where MRC disseminated the findings of the report which included barriers migrants face in accessing basic services, information on key service providers, and the overall needs of migrants in the Maldives. The report also included recommendations for interventions to address the urgent and fundamental needs of migrants. Furthermore, it proposed measures for creating inclusive and accessible services in the Maldives aimed at fostering a more informed and supportive environment for migrants.

The high level event was attended by the Interim UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Bradley J. Bussetto, Italian Red Cross Head of Migration, Ms. Francesca Basile, high level representatives and technical staff from government agencies, international organizations, civil society, and other partner organizations. The event also hosted a panel discussion centered around the findings of the report as well as challenges faced by key stakeholders in facilitating access and support for essential services to migrants.



Migration Practitioner Trainings

The development of the Migration Practitioner Training has been one of the key outcomes achieved through the partnership between MRC and ITRC between 2022 - 2023. This contextualized training aims to develop a group of participants who are equipped with the skills and knowledge to apply humanitarian protection standards in all activities implemented with migrant communities. Following the Migration Practitioners Training of Trainers conducted in 2022, ITRC and MRC have further refined the training package in 2024. Some of the crucial components included in the training are Psychosocial Support Services (PSS), Restoring Family Links (RFL), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), health and safety practices and legal support services in the context of migration and displacement.

- 19 participants trained
- MRC Volunteers and Staff, CSO representatives



Health and Legal Camp, Greater Male' Area

Organized by MRC Male' City Unit, this annual event in the Greater Malé Area held on the occasion of International Migrants Day, successfully brought together key stakeholders, including government entities, civil society organizations, and other humanitarian actors. The event created a vital platform for migrants to access essential services such as health care, legal assistance, and avenues for information exchange, fostering meaningful interactions and connections, enhancing the overall well-being and integration of migrant communities in the area.

The event featured various stalls set up by service providers for migrants, including, Mission for Migrant Workers Maldives (MMWM), Public Interest Law Centre (PILC), the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM), , Transparency Maldives, the Society for Health Education (SHE), , Villa College Law Society, Labour Relations Authority, U-inspire Maldives, Maldives Indians, Maldives Tamil Sangam and the Housing Development Corporation (HDC).



Male' City

Triathlon Event for Migrants, Addu City

As part of its ongoing efforts to engage with migrant communities, the MRC Hithadhoo Unit in Addu City organized a Triathlon event specifically for migrants. Aimed at fostering inclusion and engagement, this event brought together over 50 migrant participants in Hithadhoo, creating a lively and enjoyable atmosphere, featuring events sessions on handwashing and First Aid awareness, providing essential health and safety information to the migrants. Implemented with the support of volunteers, relevant stakeholders and supporters, this event highlighted MRC's commitment to bringing together community members to build a vibrant and inclusive community for all.





Contributing to the Global Red Cross Red Crescent Migration Strategy

In addition to its Migrant Support Programme in the Maldives, MRC actively participates in international migration and humanitarian initiatives. MRC's Secretary General, Fathimath Himya, co-chairs the Migration Leadership Group of the movement. MRC also contributed to the movements Action Plan, Implementation Toolkit, and Monitoring plan (AIM) Working Group, the Global Migration Task Force Steering Group, and the Migration Online Training Advisory Group, supporting global migration strategies and developing resources for practitioners worldwide.

Patient Transport & Fleet Support Services, Greater Male' Area

The Patient Transport Services provided by the MRC Male' City Unit 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 with better access to medical services, prioritizing human dignity and respect. In addition to the Patient Transport Service, the MRC Male' Unit also provides Dignified Movement of the Deceased Services, supporting the transport of deceased individuals in the Greater Male' area.



196

People reached through Services



43

Patient Transport Service Trips



195

Dignified Movement of the Deceased Services

Patient Transport Ergonomics Training

To enhance the overall service quality and the capacity of volunteers supporting patient transport services, the MRC conducted its annual patient transport ergonomics training. This training equipped participants with essential skills in First Aid, moving and lifting techniques tailored for high-rise buildings in the Greater Malé Area, and the dignified management of deceased individuals. Combining classroom instruction with field activities, including a simulation exercise, the training aimed to develop the capacity of MRC volunteers to deliver safe and effective services while maintaining high standards of care.

A collection of photos of MRC Units carrying out vector control initiatives, blood donation events and fleet support services.





Male' City

Fuvahmulah City







Kulhudhuffushi City

Addu City

Male' City

07th International Course on the Management of the Dead in Emergencies Islamabadh, Pakistan | December 2024

MRC Staff Mohamed Nafiz, Driver – Central Regional Office and volunteer Dhanish Abdhul Muhsin, Volunteer, Male' City Unit was nominated to take part in the 07th International Course in Management of Dead in Emergencies Training organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) held in Islamabad, Pakistan. 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 organizations to exchange vital knowledge.

Healthy Ageing Programme



As part of the on-going partnership between MRC and the Ali Fulhu Thuthu Foundation on promoting healthy ageing in the Maldives, a series of activities were carried out across MRC Units in 2024.

N. Velidhoo

Hdh. Kulhudhuffushi City

Volunteers of MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Unit continued their regular interventions in engaging with the elderly in the community visiting the households of the elderly who lived alone, checking in on their physical and mental wellbeing, and providing information to promote wellness was provided during the visits.

Hashiheyo Exercise Program

The Hashiheyo Exercise Programme, organized by Kulhudhuffushi Regional Hospital and facilitated by the Maldives Police Service, was successfully conducted with the support of the MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Unit. The program aimed to promote healthier lifestyles and increase public awareness around physical fitness and wellness particularly towards elderly in the community.

The initiative featured three key components: aquatic exercises, land-based High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT), and fitness awareness sessions. To track participants' progress and the overall impact of the program, regular BMI measurements and laboratory tests were carried out. In addition to delivery onsite First Aid services throughout the Program, MRC provided coordination and financial support for the implementation of the activities under the program. This collaboration reflected a shared commitment within Kulhudhuffushi City preventive health, community well-being, and multi-sectoral partnerships.

Hdh. Nellaidhoo

MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Unit carried out a memorable evening in Hdh. Nellaidhoo for more than 80 members of the island's elderly community, fostering connection, wellbeing, and intergenerational dialogue as part of MRC's Healthy Ageing Programme. Organized in collaboration with the Haa Dhaalu Family and Children's Services Center, Hdh. Nellaidhoo Council, Maldives Police Service, Ooredoo Maldives and local stakeholders, the event created spaces for experience sharing, strengthen intergenerational bonds, and supported the mental and social health of the elderly in the community.





N.Velidhoo

MRC Velidhoo Unit launched its Healthy Ageing initiatives within the community in 2024, focusing on visiting the elderly to promote their mental and physical health and wellbeing, providing information on access to services, and identifying ways to carry out regular interventions in the community.





Male' City

In 2024, MRC Male' City Unit organized a successful "Enmenge Holhuashi" initiative with senior citizens in the Greater Male' Area at the newly established Israhvehinge Naadhee in Male' City. Through this activity, MRC created a platform for senior citizens to connect with each other and with younger generations, promoting a sense of community and belonging through a series of interactive sessions, discussions, and recreational activities designed to enhance mental and physical wellbeing. Participants were encouraged to share their experiences and wisdom, facilitating a rich exchange of ideas and fostering mutual respect between generations.



Addu City

MRC Hithadhoo Unit continued their flagship initiative, the 'Haalu Kihinie' Programme, where volunteers engaged regularly with elderly in the community. Through series of visits throughout the year, volunteers aim to foster a strong connection with the elderly, ensure their physical and mental wellbeing, strengthen their connection in their community and promoting their inclusion within Addu City.



Ishrahvehinge Haveeru 2024

MRC Hithadhoo Unit held a joyful special event for the elderly of the connected islands from Addu City with the annual "Israhvehinge Haveeru" event.

This year the event brought together 100+ elderly in Addu City for a special sunset visit to the Southernmost point of Maldives. Following the visit, a special evening tea was organized at equator village, providing an opportunity for the elderly community to connect with each other and members of the community and share their experiences. The event was more than just a gathering—it was a celebration of community, kindness, and intergenerational connection. Through collective effort and a shared spirit of inclusivity, Israhvehinge Haveeru once again created a space where the elderly felt valued, heard, and connected to their community. This event was supported by the Addu City Council, Family and Children Center, MNDF – South Regional Command, Maldives Police Service and equator village.



Asia Pacific Regional Public Health in Emergency Training

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

30th September - 04th October 2024

Aishath Reesham Rameez, Programme Officer – First Aid, MRC Male' City Office participated in this regional training where she gained valuable insights into global health response tools, coordination mechanism for health emergencies and the critical role of public health in crisis contexts such as pandemics and humanitarian crises.





Asia Pacific Regional Training on Community Health for Non-Communicable Diseases

Kathmandu, Nepal September 2024

Haisam Shareef, Chairperson of MRC Male' City Unit participated in this regional training hosted by IFRC, Danish Red Cross and Nepal Red Cross Society. During the training, participants were equipped with tools needed to strengthen collaboration with public health authorities, empower community health workers and volunteers to engage in community Programmes on NCDs, and to strengthen NCD prevention, control and management.



Fostering Humanitarian Values and Volunteerism

Centered 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 institutionalizing and localizing a community engagement framework that promotes inclusivity and partnerships based on MRC's experience.

In 2024, through flagship Programmes such as Youth as Agents for Behavioral Change (YABC) and targeted community engagement efforts, MRC continued to empower young people and strengthened youth engagement fostering humanitarian values and sense of volunteerism across its Units.

Key Highlights: Programmes, Projects and Events in 2024

Promoting a culture of non-violence and peace in communities through the Youth as Agents for Behavioral Change Programme (YABC).

In 2024, MRC, in partnership with Transparency Maldives, restarted the Youth as Agents for Behavioural Change (YABC) Programme, a flagship youth engagement initiative of the IFRC that has been previously implemented by MRC. Leveraging YABC, the project focused on the promotion of a culture of non-violence and peace (CNV+P), with the recognition that youth are a powerful source of change, whose energy and skills need to be harnessed when pursing societal transformation. The overarching goal of this project was to empower youth to take up an ethical leadership role in inspiring positive transformation of mindsets, attitudes and behaviors within themselves and their community. The Programme is built on three pillars - youth empowerment, operating from inner peace and reaching out to the community. Thematic areas addressed include non-discrimination and respect for diversity, inter-cultural dialogue, social inclusion, promotion of gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence, violence prevention, mitigation and response, the Fundamental Principles and underpinning humanitarian values of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as well as international humanitarian law. Interpersonal skills such as empathy, active listening, critical thinking, non-judgment and dropping bias, nonviolent communication, negotiation and mediation, and personal resilience were promoted throughout the Programme.

YABC uses non-formal peer education techniques such as games, role plays, simulation and visualization exercises, storytelling, and arts. Through these activities, participants are encouraged to step out of their comfort zone and work together to learn and explore solutions to problems in a safe and supportive learning environment. Championing the YABC thematic areas, such as non-discrimination and respect for diversity, inter-cultural dialogue, social inclusion, gender equality, violence prevention and response using immersive, interactive and hands on sessions, the project interventions engage young people to take meaningful action in their communities The project was implemented in 04 regions of the Maldives, Kulhudhuffushi City, Greater Male' Area, Fuvamulah City and Addu City.

- 664 Youth Engaged
- 15 YABC peer educators trained

With the support of the IFRC, Pakistan Red Crescent, MRC trained 15 YABC Peer educators consisting of volunteers and staff as peer-educators who supported the YABC sessions carried out in project locations.

 34 YABC Sessions conducted across Kulhudhuffushi City, Greater Male' Area, Fuvamulah City and Addu City.

Trained peer-educators of MRC supported the implementation of YABC Sessions across Kulhudhuffushi City, Greater Male' Area, Fuvamulah & Addu City.

- 241 Students engaged through YABC School Sessions
- National YABC Camp

A 5-day youth camp was organized bringing together 21 young changemakers from across the country



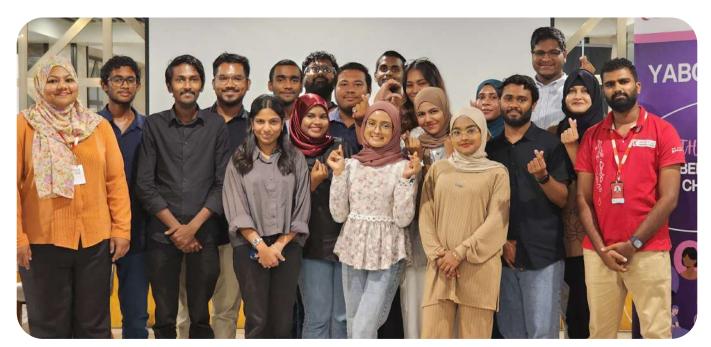
National YABC Camp, Addu City



YABC Session, Kulhudhuffushi City



YABC Session, Male' City



YABC Peer Educators Training, Male' City



Being part of the YABC journey has been a transformative experience for me. Following the completion of the regional YABC Training of Trainers Training in 2021, this YABC project provided me the opportunity to not only practice what I learnt during the training but also see the impact of implementing successful YABC initiative. As a trainer I've had the privilege not only to grow personally during the past year supporting the project implementation, but also to guide and witness the growth of others—both my fellow peer educators and participants. The Programme sharpened my skills in empathy, non-violent communication, and ethical leadership while also providing me different perspectives of our youth which has enabled me me to contribute more meaningfully during activities. It's incredibly rewarding to see peer educators' step into leadership roles with confidence and compassion, and to watch young participants begin to question biases, embrace diversity, and engage in positive dialogue. Each session becomes a space for mutual learning and inspiration. Through YABC, we're not just teaching values—we're living them. This experience has reaffirmed my belief that youth hold immense potential to shape a more resilient, peaceful society, and with the right support, they can truly become the heartbeat of positive change in our community.

Feature Story

MRC YABC Youth Camp: Inspiring positive transformation of the community with Youth

One major event of the promoting a culture of non-violence and peace in communities through the Youth as Agents for Behavioral Change Programme (YABC) project was the five-day YABC camp held in Addu City from 29th September – 03rd October 2024 Bringing together 21 young changemakers from across the country, the camp provided an interactive platform for participants to engage in hands-on activities and practical sessions, focusing on key themes such as non-discrimination, respect for diversity, social inclusion, gender equality, violence prevention, and intercultural dialogue. A special session was also held on Y-Adapt, a game-based curriculum that equips youth with the knowledge and skills to take meaningful action against climate change.

The camp was made possible through the collaboration of Addu City Council, Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF), Maldives Police Service (MPS), National College of Policing & Law Enforcement, Transparency Maldives, and Equator Village, among others. With their support, participants took part in physical training and swimming classes, gender equality discussions, sessions on Maldivian history, democracy, and hygiene promotion, as well as topics on spirituality and religion. These diverse sessions fostered both personal growth and community awareness, equipping youth with the tools to drive change. Through youth-led solutions and a focus on empowerment, the camp encouraged participants to operate from a place of inner peace while addressing social challenges in their communities.

"I expected to improve my self-confidence and communication skills, but the camp provided much more than I imagined. I feel like a whole new person."

Amanee, Camp participant.

"I'm going to start setting smart goals for personal growth, practicing reflection, and building supportive networks."

Layaaly, Camp Participant.

"Hearing different perspectives helped me see how these lessons can be applied in real life."

Shaamikhu, Camp Participant.

The impact of the camp was deeply felt by its participants. These testimonials underscore the lasting impact of the camp, which not only strengthened individual capacities but also inspired a collective commitment to positive change within their communities.





Expanding Volunteer Engagement & Community Outreach

In 2024, MRC strengthened community engagement through a variety of inclusive public events promoting humanitarian values, social responsibility, and community engagement. Through these initiatives MRC also aimed towards expanding its volunteer base and overall outreach across communities.

Madhadhuveni 2.0, Kulhudhuffushi City

Building on the success of Madhadhuveni 1.0 in 2023, the MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Unit organized a volunteer engagement Programme to welcome new recruits to the organization in 2024 as well. Participants took part in team-building exercises, sporting activities, and sessions integrating YABC and Y-Adapt tools, motivational presentations, as well as MRC induction sessions. In addition to being an innovative way to recruit new volunteers and members to MRC, the event enhanced leadership skills, fostering teamwork and strengthen team unity between new and existing volunteers. The Kulhudhuffushi City Unit aims to further develop this initiative as its flagship Programme, fostering humanitarian values and volunteerism to engage the community in making a positive impact.



Orientation Session for MNU Students, Male' City

Male' City Unit in partnership with Maldives National University, School of Medicine organized an interactive induction session of MRC, engaging students on volunteering opportunities with MRC around different areas including emergency response, First Aid and community Programmes

Fahi Furusathu Job Festival, Kulhudhuffushi City

The MRC Kulhudhuffushi City Unit participated in the Fahi Furusathu Job festival, hosting a stall to share key information on various opportunities available at MRC in areas of emergency response, first aid, health and wellbeing and technical roles. Through the event, MRC connected with attendees across many demographics, such as young people and professionals to expand the volunteer network and overall awareness on MRC's mission in the Maldives.

World Red Cross Red Crescent Day 2024 Community Events

MRC Units organized a series of community-driven activities in Kulhudhuffushi City, M. Kolhufushi, Gdh. Gadhdhoo, and Addu City to commemorate World Red Cross Red Crescent Day 2024, simultaneously celebrating World Children's Day. Through these events, volunteers engaged with people of all ages to promote the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and provide information about the Programmes and services of MRC, increasing the public understanding of MRC's mission.



Kulhudhuffushi City



Addu City

Addu City

Strengthening Community Inclusion & Public Engagement

Notable Community Events in the South:

- Addu Eedhi Samaa 1445 Fancy Parade Skit Volunteers
 performed an informative skit on the six strategic areas
 and seven fundamental principles of MRC, engaging large
 audiences.
- Aailee Haveeru Festival Hosted in Hithadhoo, Maradhoo
 & Feydhoo, where 39 volunteers engaged children in interactive educational games on humanitarian principles.
- Sharafuddin School Family Evening Promoted the Run for Humanity and encouraged youth participation in community-driven initiatives.

These events provided valuable platforms for MRC to engage new volunteers, strengthen partnerships, and promote key humanitarian values.

By investing in youth-led humanitarian action and inclusive volunteer engagement, MRC is fostering a new generation of changemakers, committed to social cohesion, non-violence, and community resilience.



Male' City



GDh. Gadhdhoo



PRIORITY 6

Strengthening Organizational Development & Sustainability

This strategic priority area focuses on organizational development and sustainability and includes five key areas - governance and membership, volunteer management, resource mobilization, 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 MRC, 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.

During the year, administrative bases of MRC transitioned into regional offices with the Kulhudhuffushi City, Male' City and Addu City Offices transitioning into North, Central and South Regional Offices. With staff presence in all regional offices, this management shift aimed at decentralizing operations and improving regional coordination to provide support to MRC Units operating within these regions.

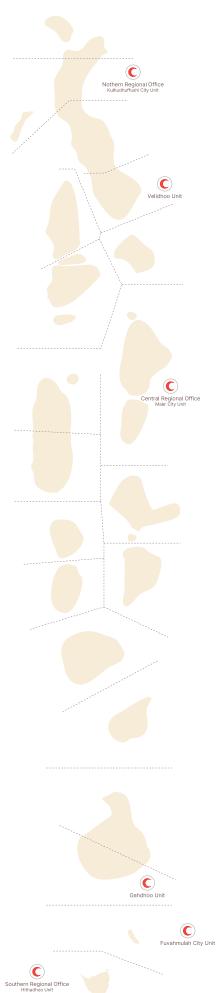
Ensuring long-term sustainability and institutional growth is a key priority for the MRC. In 2024, MRC continued to enhance governance structures, strengthen volunteer management, expand partnerships, and improve management and service delivery to streamline efficiency of the organization.



Hand Offices

Regional Offices





Governance and Membership

MRC had 08 active units across the country at the end of the year, including two newly re-activated Units in M. Kolhufushi & Fuvamulah City. Unit assemblies were carried out across all active Units alongside the north, central and south regional forums, which served as a vital platform for engagement and exchange among members of the respective unit board members, while also fulfilling the statutory requirement outlined in the MRC Statutes. While the north and central regional forums were held virtually, the south regional forum was held in-person in Fuvamulah City bringing unit board members from Gdh. Gahdhoo, Fuvamulah and Addu City. During these forums, unit board members across the region shared their experiences, and highlighted the implementation of programmatic activities within their units. They also addressed common challenges and explored strategies for overcoming them in the future. Additionally, during all three regional forums, discussions on the proposed revision of the statutes were held as an integral part of the forum.

The Governing Board of MRC had 05 regular meetings and 03 extra ordinary meetings during 2024. Some of the key highlights of work of the Governing Board and its members are;

- Following the resignation of MRC's President Abdul Haleem, the First Vice President Rasheeda Ali was appointed as Interim President until the next General Assembly.
- Statutes Revision Committee was established comprising of Ahmed Shabin (Second Vice President), Sharafuddeen (Treasurer), and Mohamed Shaiman Adam Saleem (Youth Member), to review and update governance frameworks. The subcommittee conducted multiple online and physical consultations with members, staff to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive review process.
- Re-activation of MRC Units in M. Kolhufushi, Ga. Villinigli and Fuvamulah City Interim president chaired the Unit assemblies in M. Kolhufushi & Ga. Villingili and Second Vice President Ahmed Shabin chaired the Fuvamulah Unit Assembly.
- The first in-person National Youth Forum chaired by Governing Board Youth Member and Chair
 of the National Youth Council Mohamed Shaiman Adam Saleem was held in Addu City. The forum
 brought together youth delegates from all active Units of MRC. During the forum, a declaration
 was formulated by the delegates to strengthen MRC's Youth section
- Adoption of an income distribution guideline, outlining the allocation of income generated through Commercial Trainings and Services.
- The Governing board appointed Abdulla Ali, Ahmed Fazeel, and Raheel Hisan to the MRC's Finance Commission fulfilling the full composition of the Commission with 07 Members.
- Second Vice President Shabin was appointed as the designated member to mentor for Youth Forum, providing guidance and leadership for youth-led initiatives.
- Endorsement of the implementation of MRC's Travel Policy was adopted by the Governing Board.
- MRC Interim President attended the South Asia Regional Leadership meeting convened in the Maldives in August 2024. Governing Board Youth Member Mohamed Shaiman Adam Saleem also represented the South Asia Youth Network during the meeting.
- Second Vice President Ahmed Shabin represented MRC and attend the COP29 held in Baku, Azerbaijan and
 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) held in Antigua and Barbuda as part
 of IFRC's delegation. As part of the delegation, he played an active role in the delegation offering valuable
 insights from the movement and perspective from SIDS urging decisions makers and leaders to protect
 vulnerable communities, investment in people and communities to get ahead of disasters.
- Interim President, Rasheeda Ali alongside MRC Secretary General Fathimath Himya attended the General Assembly of IFRC held in Geneva, Switzerland during October 2024.
- A financial feasibility study was conducted for the MRC Headquarter Building Project, following which
 the Interim President, Second Vice President along with Treasurer of the Governing Board supported the
 Secretary General in seeking various financing options to initiate the HQ Building Project. Meetings were held
 with individual interested parties with the aim of finalizing financing options in the year 2025.

South Asia Leadership Meeting

In August 2024, MRC hosted the South Asia Leadership Meeting with support from IFRC, at Bandos Maldives. The meeting brought together leaders from National Societies across the region, including Afghanistan, Nepal, India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and the Maldives to discuss critical areas such as national society sustainability, resource mobilization, and the increased participation of women and youth. The discussions emphasized the importance of strengthening collaboration among national societies to address shared challenges and enhance collective impact in the region. The meeting was chaired by MRC Interim President Rasheeda Ali.



South Asia Leadership Meeting

Building on its commitment to strengthening governance and inclusivity, in December 2024, MRC hosted the first-ever Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) South Asia Women's Conference in the Maldives. This conference brought together delegates from South Asian National Societies, IFRC, government representatives, embassies, and corporate entities to address the challenges and opportunities for women in leadership. Discussions focused on overcoming societal and structural barriers, sharing inspirational success stories, and developing strategies to enhance women's roles in decision-making. In addition, the South Asia National Societies developed an outcome statement to be presented and endorsed in the South Asia Leadership Meeting working towards women empowerment and inclusion at leadership levels within the region. The conference underscored MRC's ongoing efforts to promote gender equality within the humanitarian sector and foster stronger regional collaboration in advancing women's leadership across South Asia.



Feature Story

IFRC General Assembly and Statutory Meetings 2024



Interim President Rasheeda Ali, SG Fathimath Himya, and Senior Governance Officer Maaha Madeeh represented MRC at the 25th IFRC General Assembly, Council of Delegates and 34th International Conference held from 22nd – 31st October 2024.

The 24th session of the General Assembly brought together 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to discuss and determine the IFRC's priorities for the next two years. The Assembly also approved policies and tools to guide National Societies in their daily humanitarian work. Key elements such as trust and integrity, localization, volunteering and investing in National Societies were key agenda items in the Statutory Meetings.

As the Co-Chair of the Migration Leadership Group, Secretary General Fathimath Himya played a prominent role at the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. During the session on the Migration Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement 2024-2030, she highlighted the strategy's implementation and monitoring mechanisms, as well as its potential impact on National Societies. SG Himya also made a statement at the 34th International Conference in support of the resolution – Empowering local leadership, capacity and delivery in principled humanitarian action and strengthening resilience on behalf of South Asia NS's, expressing full commitment to support the implementation critical recommendations ensuring that locally-led humanitarian action is strengthened across South Asisa region. In addition, during the IFRC General Assembly, Former president of MRC, Ali Nashid was elected for a second term as a member of the IFRC Compliance and Mediation Committee.

Meeting with Movement Partners

The Assembly also provided a platform for MRC to engage with IFRC, ICRC, and Partner National Society representatives. These discussions focused on expressing gratitude for the invaluable support received over the years and exploring opportunities to strengthen partnerships for future collaboration.

- MRC delegation met with IFRC President Kate Forbes and Secretary General Jagan Chapagain to extend appreciation for the
 continuous support to MRC and further discussed MRC's financial sustainability and strengthening existing partnerships with
 IFRC and movement partners.
- Meetings were also held with other partner national societies such as the Singapore Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Australian Red Cross and Chinese Red Cross Society. In addition to discussions around possible areas of collaboration and partnerships, MRC extended sincere appreciation extended by these national societies to MRC since its formation.





MRC delegation with President of Australian Red Cross Charles Burkitt





 ${\sf MRC}\ {\sf delegation}\ {\sf with}\ {\sf Wang}\ {\sf Ping}, \\ {\sf Former}\ {\sf Vice}\ {\sf President}\ {\sf of}\ {\sf the}\ {\sf Red}\ {\sf Cross}\ {\sf Society}\ {\sf of}\ {\sf China}$

MRC delegation with IFRC President Kate Forbes



MRC delegation with IFRC Secretary General Jagan Chapagain



MRC delegation with President of Italian Red Cross Rosario Valastro

International Outreach and Representation

Institutionalizing Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) - Regional Knowledge Sharing Workshop

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 24th - 26th January 2024

Aishath Zaha Mohamed, Senior Programme Officer - Communications and Advocacy and MRC's focal point for Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) participated in a workshop to identify key priorities and roadblocks to strengthening CEA in the region, contributing to the Asia Pacific CEA Roadmap. The workshop also provided a platform to share expertise and knowledge on institutionalization of CEA and other technical areas such as engaging community voices in operations, Programme planning and decision making.

Asia Pacific Regional Migration and Displacement Practitioners Training Workshop

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | March 2024

Mariyam Yaasa Shareef, Senior Programme Officer – Migrant Support participated in the regional migration and displacements practitioners training workshop. The workshop brought together movement practitioners across the region focusing on the RCRC movements approach to migration, experience sharing, as well as Migration Strategy of the movement. The workshop provided valuable insights, fostering collaboration and enhancing strategies for supporting migrants and displaced populations in the region.



Asia Pacific Youth Innovation Workshop Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | March 2024

Ibrahim Shameel, Manager – Programmes & Services participated in this workshop focusing on strengthening and utilizing Asia Pacific Youth Network and related platforms, engaging youth volunteers and National Societies' and IFRC's practitioners. The workshop also examined membership services perspectives to enhance youth and volunteer involvement with National Societies, bridging gaps between policies and practices, and promoting youth engagement within NS programs. During the workshop, Shameel also presented on-going initiatives of MRC and prototype of MRC's shift towards digitalization of Volunteer Member Management.

Asia Pacific National Society-Financial Development Workshop Bangkok, Thailand | 07th - 08th October 2024

Aminath Sheena Adam, Coordinator – Finance & Administration participated in the regional training hosted by IFRC. The workshop focused on enhancing financial management skills of national societies in the Asia-Pacific region gaining key insights to strengthen governance, financial sustainability, ensuring transparency and improving resource management.



Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction Manila, Philippines | October 2024

SG Himya attended the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) representing MRC. During the Conference, she participated as a Panelist for the Working Session: Enhancing capacity and resources for local resilience. During the session, she shared insights on MRC's efforts in institutionalizing capacity for local governments and communities and highlighting the importance of strong partnerships in disaster risk reduction, preparedness and climate change adaptation for effective utilization of resources to ensure the inclusion of at-risk groups.

At APMCDRR,SG Himya was recognized as a finalist for the Women's International Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (WIN DRR) Excellence Award, highlighting her work in reducing disaster risk and building community resilience in the Maldives.



MRC Secretary General Himya with Maldives Delegation at APMCDRR 2024

Asia Pacific regional Training of Trainers Workshop for Project Management

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | October 2024

Ibrahim Shameel, Manager – Programmes & Services participated in this regional level Workshop aimed at strengthening project management and PMER capacities across the movement. This workshop equipped participants from the national societies to enhance Programme, project and operations management to improve service quality, efficiently and accountability.

Asia Pacific PGI & Safeguarding Regional workshop 2024 Bangkok, Thailand | 04th - 08th November 2024

Mariyam Yaasa Shareef, Senior Programme Officer – Migrant Support and MRC's PGI focal participated in the workshop which brought together participants from the Asia Pacific Region to think Global and Act local in addressing the needs, gaps and to plan regionally to strengthen integration of protection, gender and inclusion measures into NS's responses, readiness and resilience building processes.

34th South Asia Training Sessions (SATS) on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Kathmandu, Nepal, 2nd – 06th December 2024

Fathmath Yamaan Shuau, Project Coordinator participated in the 34th South Asia Training Session (SATS) on International Humanitarian Law (IHL), organized by the ICRC. This training brought together 34 participants from eight South Asian countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The training covered a wide range of IHL topics, including the relationship between IHL and other branches of international law, the conduct of hostilities, the protection of civilians, and the application of IHL in contemporary contexts such as cyberspace and emerging technologies.



Volunteer Management

MRC's volunteer network remains the backbone of its humanitarian services. Throughout 2024, volunteers across MRC Units engaged in programmatic activities including capacity building trainings, provision of services, community events and emergency responses



Total Active Volunteers



8,010Total Volunteer Hours

A collection of photos of MRC volunteers across Units.





GDh. Gadhdhoo







Addu City





Kulhudhuffushi City







N. Velidhoo

Kulhudhuffushi City



Male' City

Feature Story

MRC Hub: Digitizing the volunteering experience and expanding accessibility



Traditionally, volunteer recruitment and communication were managed through communal groups, social media signup calls, and individual outreach. While effective to an extent, these processes were time-consuming and limited the ability to engage with a broader, more diverse audience. Additionally, the lack of an accessible digital platform meant that potential volunteers and members had fewer opportunities to connect with MRC's mission and services. Recognizing the increasing digital connectivity across the Maldives, where the majority of people use smartphones and digital platforms daily, MRC saw the opportunity to address these challenges by introducing a digital solution to simplify the volunteer experience and make MRC more accessible than ever before. The MRC Hub was officially launched by IFRC's Asia Pacific Regional Director Alexander Matheou during a special event which was held to mark MRC's 15th anniversary. Developed with the support of the Turkish Red Crescent's National Societies Support Fund (NSSF), the MRC Hub is a cutting-edge digital platform and App that will revolutionize the way we connect with our communities and volunteers.

Following successful beta testing, the Hub became fully operational by September 2024, with ongoing refinements based on user feedback. The MRC Hub streamlines operations, improves accessibility, and fosters greater engagement across all aspects of MRC's work. Key features include a unified database for tracking volunteer and member information, skills, and availability; simplified registration, reporting, and mobilization processes; and digitized core services such as First Aid Training, Patient Transport Service, and Dignified Transport of the Deceased. Additionally, the platform enhances communication through real-time updates, event notifications, and training opportunities for volunteers and members, while also providing the public with access to MRC services, resources, and information.

The MRC Hub underscores MRC's commitment to innovation and its vision of building a more resilient, connected, and inclusive society through digital transformation.





Resource Mobilization

Areas of resource mobilization during 2024 include Commercial First Aid and Psychosocial Support Trainings, provision of First Aid services, merchandise sales, Patient Transport Service, Partner for Humanity initiative, general membership fees, and rental income. In addition, resource mobilization through fundraising activities were carried out by MRC Units in Kulhudhuffushi City, Male' City, Fuvamulah City and Addu City through public events such as the Unity Run, Heyohithun Run and Run for Humanity.

Partners for Humanity Programme

As part of its commitment to fostering strategic partnerships, MRC rebranded its Corporate Membership Programme as the "Partners for Humanity Initiative to involve a broader spectrum of the community in it's mission. In 2024, 03 corporate organizations were part of the initiative aligning their values with MRC's goals to support its humanitarian mission across the Maldives. These partnerships are crucial in enhancing the capacity of the organization to deliver impactful humanitarian services and reflect the importance of corporate engagement in building stronger, more resilience communities across the Maldives.



Platinum Partner

Joining the Partners for Humanity Initiative as a Platinum Partner, BML forged a new partnership with MRC in 2024, demonstrating its commitment to humanitarian work and community resilience across the nation.



Bronze Partner

As part of its 45th Anniversary celebrations, Allied Insurance joined the initiative as a Bronze Partner, showcasing its dedication to building resilience and social responsibility in the Maldives



Gold Partner

Renewing its long-standing partnership with MRC since 2020, Dhiraagu reaffirmed its support as a Gold Partner in 2024, further strengthening their role in supporting MRC's humanitarian Programmes and services across the Maldives.

Partnerships & 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, strengthening MRC's humanitarian diplomacy, advocacy, and impact across communities and allowing MRC to continue providing 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 providing 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 expanding and strengthening of sustainable Migrant Support Services in the Maldives. ITRC has also extended its support on youth climate and resilience Programmes.

Turkish Red Crescent (TRC)

Through the TRC's National Societies Support Fund (NSSF) MRC launched the MRC Hub a cutting-edge digital platform and App revolutionizing the way we connect with our communities and volunteers.

Australian Red Cross (ARC)

ARC provided crucial supporting MRC's role in the Global Migrant Network within the Red Cross Red Crescent movement.

Philippines Red Cross (PRC)

In 2024, PRC extended their support to MRC in facilitating tour of PRC's Emergency Operations Center and disaster response mechanism and peer to peer knowledge exchange during the study tour of the Maldivian Delegation in June 2024. In addition, MRC also extended its support in the delivery Y-Adapt Trainings for local branches of PRC as part of peer exchange program.

Indonesian Red Cross

Indonesian RC extended their support to MRC in facilitating tour of the NS's Emergency Operations Center and disaster response mechanism and peer to peer knowledge exchange during the study tour of the Maldivian Delegation in June 2024.

Pakistan Red Crescent

Pakistan RC supported MRC in re-launching the YABC Programme of MRC providing vital support in training YABC Peer Educators in 2024.

Anticipation Hub

Anticipation hub supported MRC in executing the sensitization session on Anticipatory Action at NS and national level in 2024.

Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Center

RCRC Climate center worked closely with MRC in guiding the initiation of the Climate Action Journey (CAJ) towards mainstreaming Climate Smart Programming.

Government/State/Independent Agencies

Ministry of Health and Health Protection Agency

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 and epidemic outbreaks such as the Lymphatic Filariasis response in 2024.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

MRC worked closely with NDMA in responding to numerous emergencies throughout 2024 and have been working in partnership in the implementation of the SPRING and ERCP Project 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 National Defense Force (MNDF)

MRC worked in partnership with MNDF in responding to numerous responses in 2024 and collaborated in the execution of Exercise Hiyaa and the National Fire Prevention Week.

Maldives Police Service (MPS)

MRC collaborates closely with the MPS in responding to emergency responses including the parliamentary elections in 2024, Exercise Hiyaa as well as during community events.

Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSFD)

MRC has worked closely with MSFD in implementing capacity building trainings on First Aid for care workers under the ministry in 2024.

National Drug Agency (NDA)

MRC has worked closely with NDA in capacity building of Staff on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services.

UN Agencies UNFPA Maldives

MRC completed the implementation of the Women's Self Help Group Project in Kulhudhuffushi City as Implementing Partner (IP) carried out between 2022 – 2024.

International and Local Partner Organizations

Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)

MRC ventured into a partnership with ADPC, under the Subgrant award for the SPRING providing MRC's the 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. In addition to SPRING Project, ADPC has worked closely in strengthening MRC's capacity in areas of Disaster Risk Reduction and Anticipatory Action.

USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (USAID BHA)

USAID BHA has supported MRC's efforts in implementing CBDRM programmes through its direct partnership under the ERCP project.

Bangladesh High Commission

MRC and the Bangladesh High Commission, continued to work closely together in providing support to affected migrants across the Maldives.

Transparency Maldives

MRC has worked in partnership with Transparency Maldives for the Promoting a culture of non-violence and peace in communities through the Youth as Agents for Behavioral Change Programme (YABC) project in 2024.

Ali Fulhu Thuthu Foundation

MRC ventured into a partnership with AliFulhu 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.

Kulhudhuffushi City Council

In addition to working community level initiatives, emergency responses, MRC signed an MOU with Kulhudhufffushi City Council on the management of community plant nursery.

Male' City Council

MRC has worked closely alongside Male' City Council in delivery community level Programmes and initiatives as well as emergencies responses in Greater Male' Area.

Addu City Council

MRC has worked closely alongside Addu City Council in delivery community level Programmes and initiatives in Addu City. Notably, MRC collaborated with Addu City Council in hosting the South Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Forum in 2024.

Public Interest Law Center (PILC)

MRC collaborated alongside PILC in providing legal assistance and support to affected migrants across the Maldives.

Mission for Migrant Workers Maldives (MMWM)

MRC collaborated alongside MMWM as part of it's migrant support Programme including the development of the Migration Practitioner Training and roll out Migrant Health Camps.

Financial Summary

The accounts for the year 2024 were audited by Faris & Co LLP. The financial statements of MRC for the period ending 31 December 2024 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 dependent on the donor funding provided by different organizations and corporations. Most significant contribution throughout the last 4 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 contributed towards supporting administration costs. In addition to these following donors contributed:

- Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) to increase the disaster risk reduction capacity of the Maldives by supporting resilience building activities across target islands.
- United States Agency for International Development Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID BHA) to increase the disaster risk reduction capacity of the Maldives by supporting resilience building activities across target islands.
- UNFPA Maldives Women's self-help group activities for prevention of gender-based violence in Maldives
- Ali Fulhu Thuthu Foundation Healthy Ageing Programmme
- Transparency Maldives YABC Programme Italian Red Cross Strengthening Migrant Support Services
- Australian Red Cross Participation in Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Migration leadership Turkish Red Crescent National Societies Support Fund (NSSF) – Development of MRC Hub

Total income for the year 2024 is MVR 16,051,103 and expenses are at MVR 16,331,460 resulting in a deficit of MVR 280,357 for the year.

Revenue and Gains



Emergency Response Fund

MVR 1,233,607 MVR 31,440.42 MVR 1,202,166

ERF Reserve as of Fund Utilized ERF Reserve as of January 01, 2024 from ERF December 31, 2024

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