

Maldivian Red Crescent

Annual Report 2019





**Humanity
Impartiality
Neutrality
Independence
Volunteer Service
Unity
Universality**



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and Secretary
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Foreword by the President and Secretary General of MRC



MRC President Ali Nashid

As the Maldivian Red Crescent celebrates its decennial, we reflect back on our first decade of humanitarian work. A decade that has been about the first formative years, many milestones, overcoming challenges, and emerging stronger. Through its mandate to respond to emergencies and disasters, impartially and neutrally, MRC worked to provide humanitarian services to those affected, as an independent auxiliary organization, by supporting public authorities.

Formed after, and as a legacy of the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, the MRC has contributed to the community in various areas in and around humanitarian work. Disaster risk management has been a key area for the MRC

throughout, given the mandate, and the need for communities to build and bridge capacities that can help prepare for and respond to disasters better. Equipping communities with the skills and knowledge to promote health and wellbeing has also been a consistent area that the MRC has worked in across the years, with initiatives around preventing communicable and non-communicable diseases, and vector-borne diseases, promoting mental health, and promoting healthy ageing. It was also through the area of health that MRC began its targeted social inclusion work to identify and meet the needs of migrants living in the Maldives. Youth empowerment is an area that has been an area of work that has remained relevant in the Maldives, given the youth bulge in the



MRC Secretary General Fathimath Himya

population of the country. This is reflected in the make-up of the volunteer groups in the National Society, and thus making it crucial that youth voices and opinions are heard and taken into consideration, in the work of the MRC.

The current strategic plan of the MRC is based on the many experiences and strengths that MRC has, building up on existing multi-sectoral partnerships and networks. It consolidates strategic priorities that will work towards island and national level resilience, through an approach that connects three crucial streams of work – humanitarian, climate, and development action. This 12-year plan will guide the MRC into the next decade – focusing on strengthening emergency response, strengthening first aid and Psychosocial Support, facilitating resilience-based planning, promoting health and wellbeing in a changing environment, fostering humanitarian values and volunteerism, and organisational development and sustainability - with foresight and anticipation, strategic partners to work with, and ways to adapt as we step into the future

The National Society, since its inception, has been guided by leaders who have brought their expertise and insight to the organization. Without their leadership, the MRC would not be where it is today. Thank you to the first President of MRC, Mr. Ali Shafeeq, for his conviction and commitment, to take on a role that was new and required the resolve that he was able to bring in, with his years of experiences. Thank you to the first Secretary General of MRC, Ms. Rashda Ali for her dedication and determination, when it came to establishing the footing for MRC to take off on, and for her wisdom through the very crucial first few years of the organization. Sincere gratitude to Mr. Abdulla Ali, the second President of the MRC, who brought his perspectives of working with communities that enhanced MRC's outreach work. Gratitude also to Mr. Abdul Razak for his leadership during a time where the MRC was expanding its presence across the country, steering the work in a way that reached as many people affected as possible. We extend our appreciation to the third Secretary General of the MRC, Ms. Aishath Noora Mohamed, for steering the organization through times that were challenging, and

at times unsure. Her tactful diplomacy and clarity has created and ensured spaces at the tables of discussions and decision making, for MRC, across local and global levels. It is noteworthy that the MRC has been led for the most part, by strong and capable women, who have actively advocated for and worked towards gender parity in all levels of the National Society. We would also like to thank the various members who have filled in positions of leadership at the Branch and Unit levels, ensuring decentralized, community-led initiatives are always at the forefront of our work.

The MRC, like other National Societies within the Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement, has been and continues to be guided closely by the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies. The IFRC is an integral part of MRC's journey, first coordinating the relief and recovery for the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004 in the Maldives, then in the formation of the MRC, and then the years that have ensued since. Similarly, the International Committee of the Red Cross has not only guided MRC's work, but has also extended support in ensuring the sustainability of operations. The ICRC also directed MRC's actions during turbulence in the country, helping secure accessibility for humanitarian work during times of need. Over the decade, MRC has been generously supported by a number of National Societies who shaped MRC's work – we extend a heartfelt thank you to the Australian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, and the Italian Red Cross – collaborations across the fraternity epitomizes what the RCRC Movement stands for. We look forward to continuing working together, side by side.

We would also like to take the opportunity to thank the various donors and companies from the corporate sector who have been our partners in humanitarian work – namely our corporate member Dhiraagu, the Universal

Foundation, Ali Fulhu Thuthu Foundation, and Ooredoo Maldives have been businesses that have contributed greatly to our work. Incredible and impactful work happens when businesses step up to amplify the work that gets done in communities, and we are thankful to get to work with companies that have always risen to the occasion and helped serve those in need.

At the core and crux of humanitarian work lies the indomitable spirit of humanity. The underlying values that underpin humanitarian work are many, but impartiality, neutrality, and independence are essential to serve the most vulnerable, in an equitable way, during times of need. The 7 Fundamental Principles of the RCRC Movement enshrine the space that we work in, and prescribe how we work – so that human suffering can be alleviated. The MRC has worked conscientiously and diligently to safeguard this space, and the ways we work, so that we can be there for those who need us the most, when they need us. This has also strengthened the auxiliary role of the National Society, so that the relevant public authorities can depend and rely on the MRC to bridge gaps where needed, and to work in the best interest of everyone.

Our work, in all the little and big ways, reach people for the better, because of our volunteers and members. Nothing describes and embodies the spirit of humanity better than volunteer work – we are so deeply thankful to have a network of volunteers, represented by the many diverse intersections in our society, who are passionate about the work at hand, who are ardent believers of the power of social inclusion in building resilient communities – we entrust you fully.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of the MRC, to all the ways that you have contributed to what we are today – we look ahead as we take on the future, to serve humanity.





Mission

To volunteer, participate, and partner in delivering humanitarian services to the most vulnerable.

Vision

To be a model National Society contributing to overcome humanitarian challenges.

Primary Objective

To prevent and alleviate suffering with complete impartiality, making no discrimination.

WHO WE ARE?

The Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) is an independent, voluntary, humanitarian organization, established on the basis of the Maldivian Red Crescent Law [Law 7/2009]. Our primary objective is to provide humanitarian aid and to prevent and alleviate human suffering in close cooperation with government and local partners working towards the same goal.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) recognised MRC as a full-fledged member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on 9 November 2011. Subsequently, MRC became the 187th member of the IFRC on 23 November 2011.

Since its formation, MRC has been involved in an intensive development process of establishing systems and structures that will enable effective delivery of humanitarian services to those who need it most, across the entire nation.

Our main strategic areas are Strengthen Emergency Response, Strengthen First Aid and Psychosocial Support, Facilitate Planning for Resilience, Promote Health and Wellbeing in a Changing Environment, Foster Humanitarian Values and Volunteerism, and Organizational Development & Sustainability

To date we have established 10 Branches across the country and have successfully rolled out service delivery initiatives in these Branches. Our Branches are our direct links with the Maldivian community.

PRIORITY 1

Strengthen Emergency Response

The first strategic priority area focuses primarily on the institutional aspect of the emergency response role in disaster risk management in the Maldives. The MRC, as an auxiliary organization to public authorities, is mandated by law to respond to emergencies and disasters across the country, and to coordinate the required work with the relevant stakeholders prior to, during, and after events.

This approach to strengthen this priority area builds on MRC's existing capacity, experiences, and strengths in providing emergency response services through the National Society's community based Emergency Response Teams (ERT). The work at hand will focus on increasing and strengthening the outreach of ERTs across MRC Branches, developing capacities of the members, and advocating for the emergency response work to be more sensitive towards inclusion.

MRC has been at the forefront of response work that takes place in the nation. 2019 saw a number of events where MRC's ERTs were deployed to respond to a variety of emergencies and disasters, across the country. Volunteers provide necessary services such as first aid, Psychosocial Support (PSS), shelter set up and coordination for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), relief distribution, and take on other roles in coordinated response efforts, to support the work.

In addition to response work, the MRC also has been working with national stakeholders in carrying out preparedness work such as supporting the facilitation of drills and building the required capacities.



Capacity Building and Expertise

Significant progress was made in strategic level planning of the review process of MRC's existing Emergency Response Mechanism with the technical assistance of the IFRC.

MRC's top priorities in emergency response management, are to save lives, reduce suffering, and uphold human dignity. Emergency response as an integral part of its broader disaster risk management approach, has the ultimate aim to build the resilience of people and communities towards future risks and shocks. MRC is an embedded partner within the Maldivian National Emergency Operations Coordination Framework and works closely with the relevant authorities during crises.

Through the drafting of the MRC Disaster Risk Management Policy and the MRC Emergency Operations Plan (MEOP), MRC aims to enhance its response capacity by reinforcing key humanitarian and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Fundamental Principles. It is a 'living document', providing overarching guidance in a developing framework. It also works towards improving the organizational structure to cater to the response work needs, developing and maintaining sound and adequate response tools, and building the competencies of its volunteers and staff for efficient emergency response.

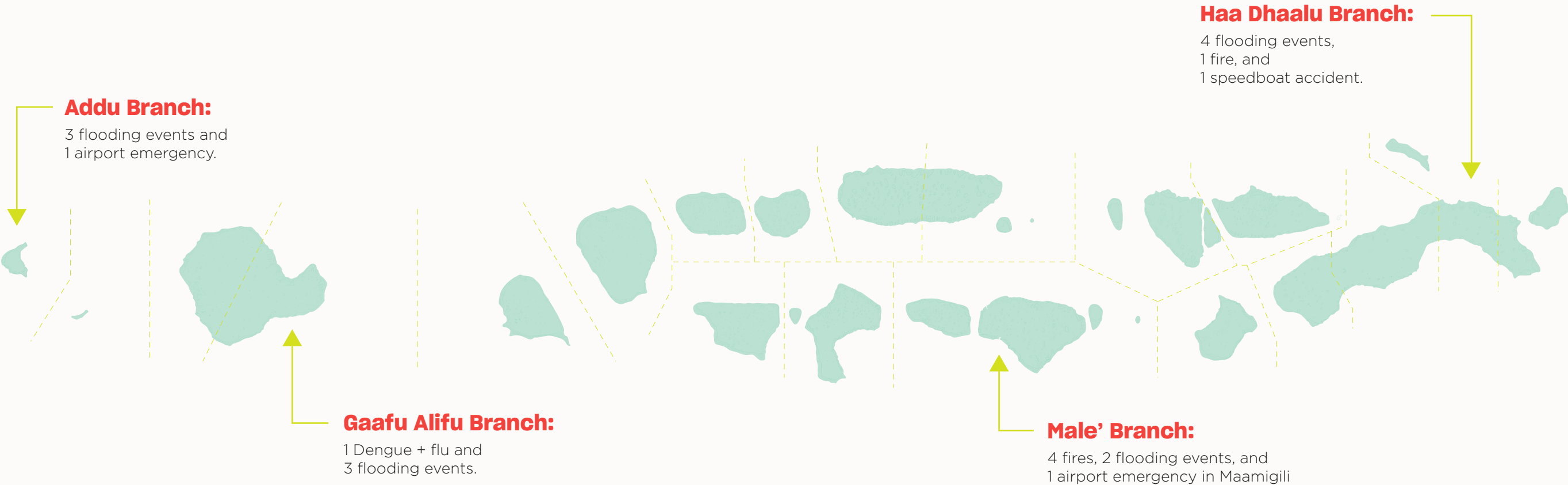


MRC ERT members participated as responders and observers in 7 drills conducted in Male', 2 of these being part of getting acquainted with the School Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. MRC supported the facilitation of other drills conducted by the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF), for various agencies and offices in Male', to gauge readiness of the workplaces, and a tsunami drill, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in Haa Dhaalu Kulhudhuffushi. Male' Branch and Haa Dhaalu Branch also participated in road safety rallies that were organised, helping bystanders learn first aid, and safe moving and lifting techniques, through a simulation.

In Haa Dhaalu Branch diesel pumps were handed over to Kulhudhuffushi Council. This was under the project carried out by MRC to increase the resilience of the islands for flooding disaster. Along with the pump, other accessories, safety boots, rain coats and wheelbarrows to carry the pump were handed over. Done in collaboration with Kulhudhuffushi Council and MNDF Fire and Rescue Service - Kulhudhuffushi Fire Station. In addition to this, training on the SEOP and disaster risk reduction were given to focal points of Haa Dhaalu Atoll schools. MRC facilitated the first aid component of the training and was set to observe and to be on stand-by during the emergency exercise. This was done in collaboration with MNDF and the Ministry of Education.

Emergency Responses and ERT Mobilisation 2019

In 2019 MRC responded to 21 emergencies. This includes: 12 flooding emergencies due to heavy rain, 5 fire incidents, and 2 airport emergencies and 1 speedboat accident.



MRC has also gone on either monitoring or stand-by for a total of 24 emergencies.

HENVEIRU FIRE

On 20 September 2019, around 19:30 local time, a fire broke out in a residential area of the Maldives capital, Male' City, which displaced more than 300 people. According to the Maldives National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), over 700 people were affected, including over 100 migrant workers. Varying degrees of damage were sustained to 24 surrounding buildings, of which 8 were declared uninhabitable.

During the emergency, several evacuations were made and one casualty declared. The MRC worked with other first responders on the scene including MNDF, MNDF Fire and Rescue Services and Maldives Police Service (MPS). MRC assisted with guiding people to safety following evacuations, provided first aid and PSS to the affected, and transported the more seriously injured to the hospitals.

MRC took the lead with NDMA in providing first aid, engaged relief aid distribution, and supported the registration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Temporary accommodations were arranged for some 50 families. MRC responded to the immediate needs of the emergency with the relevant authorities by supporting safe transportation to temporary shelters once people were evacuated from the fire site, providing first aid for 34 affected people, and PSS was provided for 145 affected people.

Thereafter, a PSS helpline was set up and run by MRC volunteers to help support people affected by the fire. Two months post-fire, MRC Male' Branch continued engagement through the established ERTs and through the set-up of a PSS operation team specifically for this operation,

supported by staff as necessary. Key means of engagement include, operating a telephone hotline, which started as a 24-hour service for the first week following the fire and then moved on to a more stable structured plan of targeted PSS interventions, with the support received through the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF).

Financial support of CHF70,103 was provided to the National Society through the IFRC DREF to enhance the overall well-being of the affected families through comprehensive PSS activities to provide assistance and protection, promote rights, dignity and resilience, help identify opportunities, and promote social inclusion. An additional focus of this response was to reach out to the most vulnerable groups affected by the fire, such as the migrant workers, which comprise of 19 per cent of the total affected population. The DREF also facilitated the building of more PSS and Psychological First Aid (PFA) capacities across the country, the development of systems such as Standard Operating Procedures, procuring PSS kits, production of Information Education Communication (IEC) material, and translation of a PFA guide to the local language. To support with the operations, a member from the IFRC Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) was deployed to the Maldives. The operation was set to continue until the end of March 2020.

Furthermore, on 20 September 2019, on 10:48 PM, MRC opened up an appeal through the MRC Emergency Response Fund to help those affected by the fire.

The call for donations closed at 12 PM of 26th September 2019 and the MRC Emergency Response Fund received a grand total of MVR 659,793.41. A significant contribution was through the telethons run by Raajje TV and Channel 13, which collected MVR 216,474 and MVR 146,539.65 respectively, towards the cause. MVR 296,780.03 was donated to the appeal by the public to the MRC Emergency Response Fund.

The funds were distributed to 350 people, including locals and migrants, at the rate of MVR 1742 per person. Bank transfers were made through the support of Bank of Maldives, cheques were issued for whom bank transfers were not applicable, and cash handovers were given.

The MRC's planning and preparation towards the disbursement of the donations as cash based assistance for those affected by the fire was informed by the data collected by NDMA - the relevant public authority. To ensure that support went towards those who need it the most, impartially and without discrimination, all efforts to ensure equitability were put in, bringing transparency and accountability at the forefront. The cash assistance given by the MRC was not a compensation for damages and losses, but was cash given as cash support to individuals in consideration of the challenges in accessing and fulfilling basic needs following the fire. To identify those eligible and in need, the source of information considered was the registration list of IDPs, maintained by the NDMA. All NDMA registered IDPs displaced beyond 4th October 2019, were eligible for the cash assistance. With special consideration given for migrants who were affected by the fire, a community, because of existing vulnerabilities, suffered disproportionately, were eligible for the cash assistance, given that they were registered in the list of IDPs by the NDMA, based on economic losses.

Photo Credit: Mohamed Auzam





Advocacy on Emergency Response

Regular dialogues were held between MRC and key national stakeholders during the year, specifically with the NDMA on strengthening the role of MRC in emergency response. Efforts were made to strengthen recognition of MRC ERTs as first responders across sectors. There exists an overall positive recognition of MRC's role with commitment to stronger and substantial auxiliary support.

Work was undertaken on strengthening emergency information and data sharing with NDMA, including situation updates, needs and damage assessments, and information on relief distribution. Subsequently, role clarity was established in conducting rapid assessments and on the access pertaining to assessing and providing PSS to those affected.

Inclusion in Emergency Response

During the review process of the MRC Emergency Response Mechanism, inclusion was recognized as critical area to be worked on, in all areas of MRC's Emergency Response Mechanism (emergency response personnel, trainings, IEC materials, target groups etc.) by incorporating the standards and guidelines set forth by the Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) policies and practices of the IFRC.

In May, staff member, Mizy Mustafa attended a surge capacity training on Protection, Gender and Inclusion, by the IFRC, and is part of the Asia Pacific regional capacities, developed as part of the surge optimization process of the IFRC. This capacity helps strengthen the National Society's work around mainstreaming and incorporating PGI in emergencies and developing interventions where necessary, along with advocating for good practices and minimum standards adherence across local and national level responses.

A Timeline of MRC Emergency Response Work

2009

Health

Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) was initiated

One of the first ever programmes started by the MRC

Distaster Management Work

MRC positioned in Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP) on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)

2010

Health

Programmes on child protection and violence prevention

Branch Establishment

Establishment of 2 Branches - Noonu and Gnaviyani

Emergency Response

First ever Emergency First Response Team (EFRT) trainings

Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR)

CBDRR was launched. Work done in Haa Hoarafushi, Gaafu Dhaalu Gahdhoo, Lhaviyani Hinnavaru, Kaafu Kaashidhoo, Seenu Feydhoo, and Alif Thohdoo

2011

Major Events & Incidents

Dengue outbreak

Health

Dengue control work

Branch Establishment

Establishment of 4 Branches - Lhaviyani, Meemu, Gaafu Alif, and Gaafu Dhaalu

Emergency Response

48 EFRT

First time providing PSS in an emergency situation, to students of Hiriya School

First PFA training for responders

Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR)

CBDRR DRR and CCA Strategy was adopted

2012

Emergency Response

Adoption of MRC's Emergency Response Mechanism

64 EFRT

Pilot Emergency Response Team (ERT) training

First Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) training

Emergency Response Team (ERT)

33 (20 male, 30 female)

Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR)

Development of Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments Guideline and Toolkit

2013

Emergency Response

Launched MRC's Emergency Response Fund

First international deployment as part of IFRC RDRT to Phillipines

Emergency Response Team (ERT)

105 (65 male, 41 female)

2014

Health

First ever Psycho-Social Support (PSS) Training of Trainers (ToT) 23 Trainers

ECV trainings began. 67 people trained

Emergency Response

800 volunteers mobilised for Male' Water Crisis

Patient Transport Services was launched

Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) training - 3 women

Emergency Response Team (ERT)

84 (50 male, 34 female)

National Emergency Response Team (NERT)

22 (17 male, 5 female)

Major Events & Incidents

Male' Water Crisis

2015

Branch Establishment

CBDRR Project closure

Emergency Response

Raised MVR2.5 million for the Nepal Relief Fund

2 RDRT deployments to Nepal

RDRT deployment to Malawi. First ever South Asian deployment outside region.

Emergency Response Team (ERT)

99 (57 male, 42 female)

Major Events & Incidents

Nepal earthquake

2016

Emergency Response Team (ERT)

127 (62 male, 65 female)

National Emergency Response Team (NERT)

24 (14 male, 10 female)

Major Events & Incidents

Kafidhooge' Fire

Provision of shelter to IDP

Coastline Fire

G.Dh. Thinadhoo power shortage.

Provision of relief items.

Health

Psychological First Aid Training. 26 Participants

2017

Emergency Response

Raised MVR7 million for refugees fleeing Rakhine State.

Emergency Response Team (ERT)

23 (15 male, 8 female)

Health

MRC led PSS ToT. 24 trainers.

ECV trainings for 69 people

2018

Emergency Response

Conducted a total of 4 tsunami drills across the country, lead by UNDP with other stakeholders

International deployment to Myanmar to assist with those affected by floods.

Health

Celebrate Diversity Fair

The first fair organized with multiple stakeholders to increase access to basic health information and screening, targeted at migrant workers

2019

Emergency Response

Revision of MRC Emergency Response Mechanism, with the support of the IFRC.

Initiating drafting of the MRC Disaster Risk Management Policy and MRC Emergency Operation Plan.

PSS

IFRC DREF support towards helping people affected by fire of September 2019, in Male' City.

PRIORITY 2

Strengthen First Aid and Psychosocial Support Services

This strategic priority area focuses on the provision of emergency services and support, building on MRC's existing role and expertise in providing first aid and PSS, as part of emergency response services.

First aid has long been a strength of MRC, being an organization that has provided first aid training and services, across the country, for over a decade. PSS has been a comparatively recent introduction, but is also recognized as an area that MRC provides support in, with the value addition of having community based volunteers who are trained to provide PSS when and where necessary.

The strategy involves increasing first aid and PSS service availability, strengthening the quality of first aid and PSS services, and increasing overall first aid capacity of communities and service providers through targeted training. While emergency response services typically include a range of actions, this priority area establishes the fact that MRC's lead role and core expertise in emergency services would be in first aid and PSS.

This priority area also factors in the expansion of the MRC's Commercial First Aid initiative.



Capacity Building and Expertise

Two main trainings were conducted in 2019 towards enhancing capacity of MRC volunteers in delivering first aid and PSS. This was the Training of Trainers on Standard First Aid, in which 17 volunteers from 3 MRC Branches were trained by the ICRC, by Felicity Gapes - First Aid Delegate, and Manash Mohan - First Aid Coordinator. The training was primarily aimed at developing strong and interactive facilitation skills and on delivering context-based first aid education and teaching. The overall feedback from the participants were positive with the majority feeling that they learnt new teaching methods particularly with emphasis on practice, key messages and priorities of first aid education. Of the 17 trainers, 10 have been engaged as active volunteers, while 5 have been engaged as regular co-trainers, and 1 as a lead trainer.

Additionally, in July 2019, 17 volunteers of Haa Dhaalu Branch were trained in Standard First Aid. All trainees have been engaged in providing first aid services and in regular activities of the Haa Dhaalu Branch as volunteers.

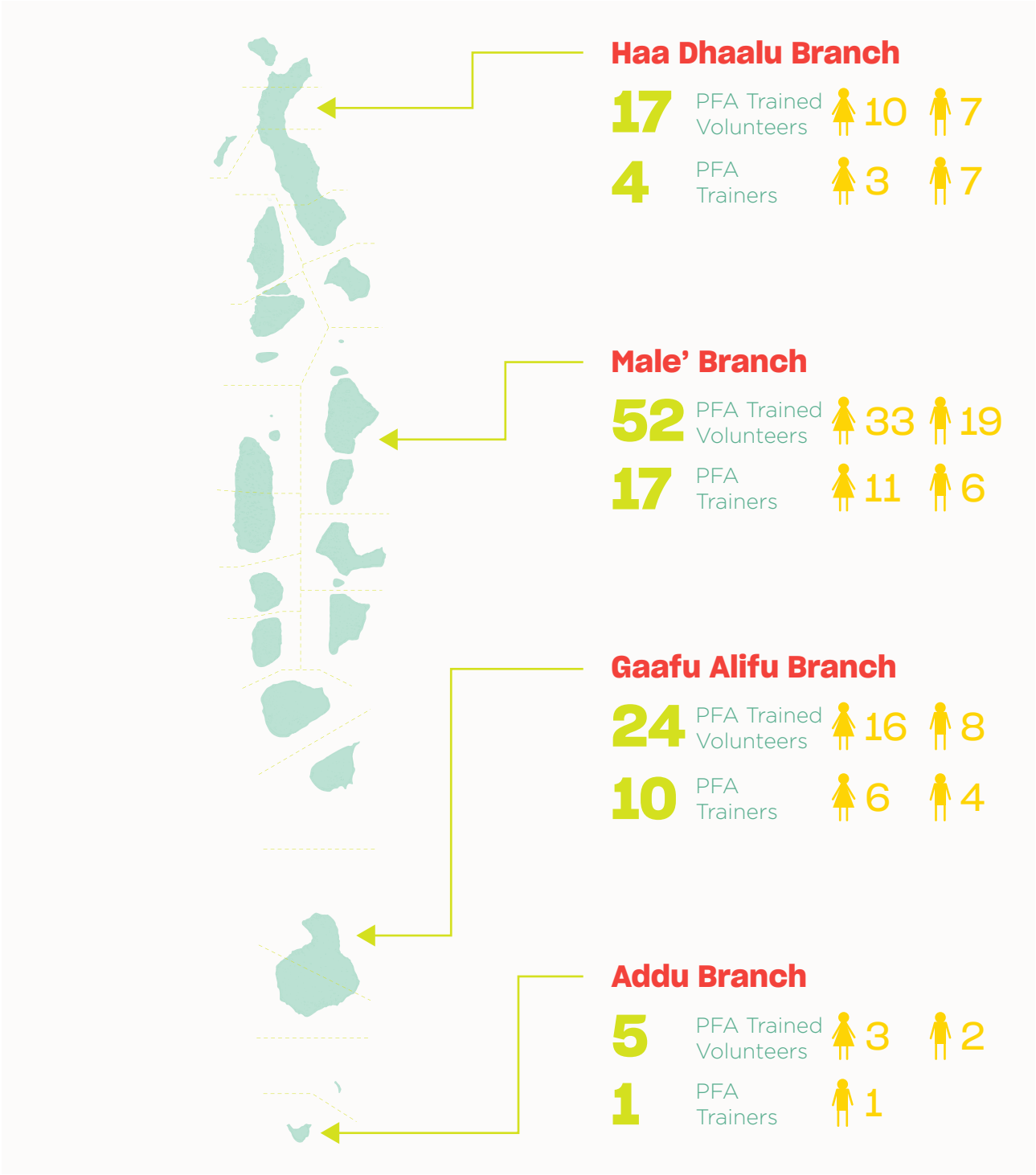
Mobilization of First Aid and PSS Teams

First aid and PSS volunteers were regularly mobilized in times of emergencies and non-emergency services as needed. Some significant events include the TfG Longrun, Ooredoo Colour Run, Dhiraagu Road Race, and the Addu Marathon. Over this period, MRC provided first aid services in 126 events from 4 Branches – Haa Dhaalu Branch, Male’ Branch, Gaafu Alifu Branch, and Addu Branch.

Branches also continued to provide first aid training sessions for communities, with 8 sessions reaching over 179 participants, in 4 Branches.

Under Commercial First Aid, 73 trainings were conducted as a result of which 1417 individuals are now equipped with the knowledge and skills to administer first aid during everyday emergency instances, amounting to a revenue of MVR 803,570.75 during this period.

Under the IFRC DREF Emergency Plan of Action, PFA capacities had been built across the country.



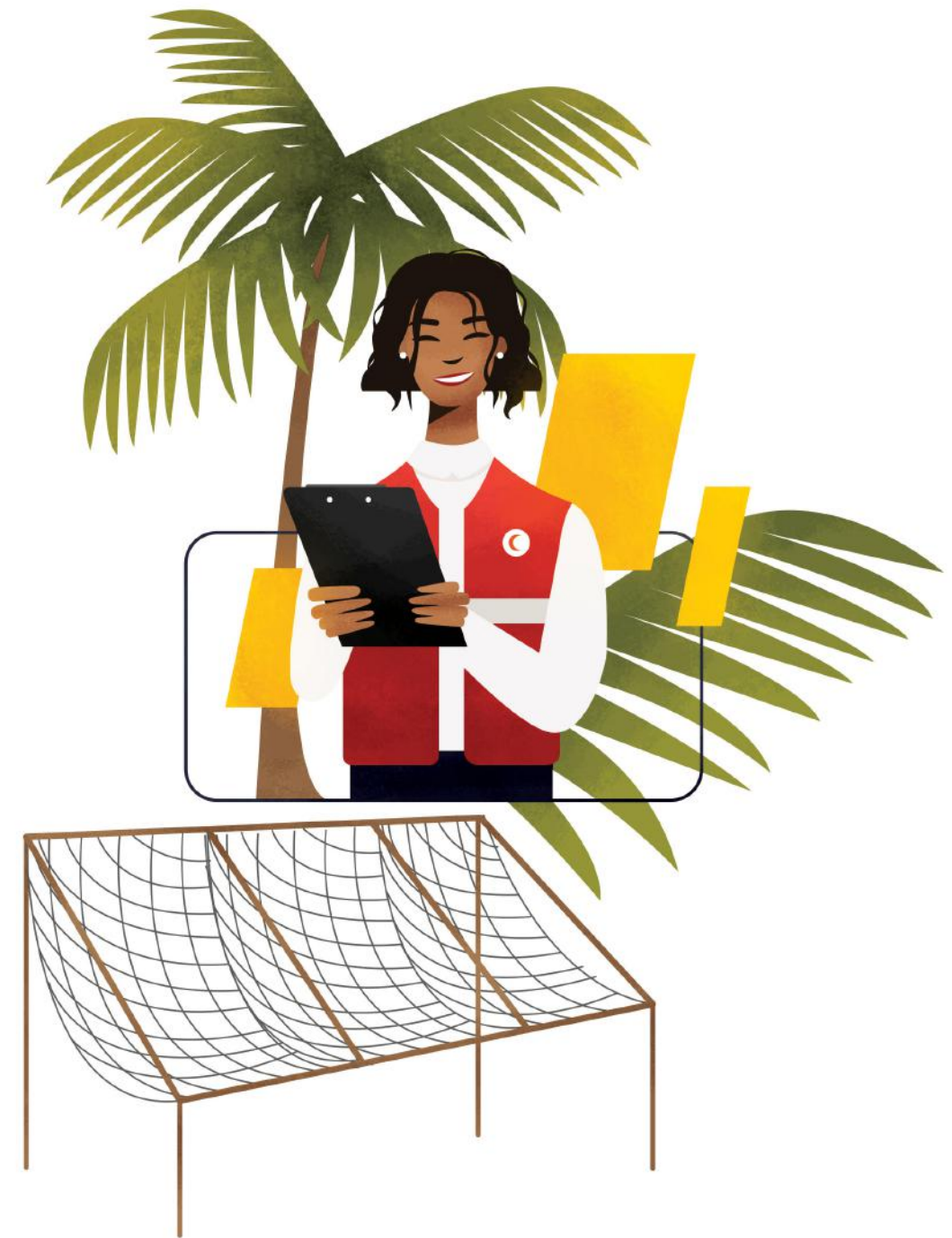
PRIORITY 3

Facilitate Planning for Resilience

This strategic priority area focuses on strengthening risk-based resilience planning at island and city levels. This work builds on MRC's current role in the preparation of risk assessments using the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) tool. The work will entail expansion of MRC's coverage of risk assessments, increasing the utilization of data and information gathered from the assessments in local level planning, and to advocate 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 local development.

The most significant milestone under this priority during 2019 was MRC securing donor funding towards this priority totaling Euro 78,300 (MVR 1.3 million) from the IFRC. The project, while aimed to implement resilience-focused Integrated Risk Management (IRM), directly aligns with the priority outcomes of the MRC Strategic Plan 2019-2030.

The objective of the project is to reduce disaster and climate risks in the Maldives through strengthening integrated risk management capacities and expertise of MRC to facilitate planning for resilience at island, atoll/city and national level.





Outputs in support of this objective are as follows:

1. Output 1. Developed tools and expertise for conducting IRM-VCA in rural and urban island settings, and the systematic management of VCA data.
2. Output 2. Strengthened partnerships with national stakeholders to advocate for and collaborate on programs for strengthening island, atoll/city, and national resilience to disasters and climate change risks.
3. Output 3. Strengthened expertise of atoll/city councils to understand and reduce disaster and climate risks, and prepare for effective emergency/disaster response and recovery at local level.
4. Output 4. Information, Education and Communications (IEC) materials developed and rolled out to enhance community awareness on disasters and climate change related risks and strategies for risk reduction and adaptation.

The project was signed in July 2019 and by the end of the year, following activities were completed:

- Formation of IRM Project Steering Committee, consisting of key national stakeholders including NDMA, Ministry of Planning and Infrastructure, Ministry of Environment, Maldives Meteorological Office, and the Local Government Authority.
- IRM Project implementation kicked off with Training of Trainers on “IRM Approach to Island Planning”. 19 participants, from all active Branches of MRC and key stakeholders in the area of risk based planning participated. Facilitated by IFRC, the objective of this training was to prepare a pool of facilitators able to integrate climate, disasters, and ecosystem-based risks in community risk assessment or VCAs, and train others to do so. During the training, participants practiced hazards, exposure, vulnerability and capacity assessment tools through interactive exercises and games, and learned to converge Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Ecosystem Management and Restoration (EMR) strategies in developing actions for strengthening resilience at different levels. The learnings from this training will be further enhanced through the Enhanced VCA (EVCA) ToT scheduled for 2020. The reviewing and updating of MRC’s VCA guiding documents will follow, with the revised documents to be used in the EVCA Training of Trainers.

Capacity Building and Expertise

In November 2019, staff member, Hawwa Lubna took part in the intensive regional Training of Trainers on the revised ECVA methodology by the IFRC.

The EVCA brings together all the previously published VCA guidelines and toolbox into one easy-to-access place. It has been aligned with the Roadmap to Community Resilience and has been adapted to better analyse the different characteristics of resilient communities.

The EVCA now includes climate change considerations as well as gender and diversity considerations. It also aims to provide a platform for future guidance on how to conduct EVCA's in an urban or conflict context and the utilisation of digital tools.



VCA Implementation and Utilization

MRC partnered with UNDP Maldives on the project “Drones for Resilience” in Addu with Addu Branch. The project was built to achieve the results of preparing and providing key risk and vulnerability data for 6 islands in Addu City, through supporting the drone mapping of these islands. Another aim was to introduce Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) to local councils and the community, with grants awarded to 4 Branches and the National Headquarters towards projects on enhancing community resilience. This project was worth USD30,000, and the duration was December 2019 – January 2020.

VCA and Risk Assessments Advocacy

In 2019, MRC partnered with Addu City Council on the project “Development of Addu City Disaster Management Plan” with Addu Branch. The project objective was to provide the technical support to Addu City Council to conduct stakeholder consultations and draft the Disaster Management Plan, which would establish clear roles and responsibilities for the Addu City Council and relevant stakeholders to effectively coordinate and respond to the impacts of disasters and emergencies at the city level. The project is set to be complete in 2020.

PRIORITY 4

Promote Health and Wellbeing in a Changing Environment

This strategic priority area focuses on promoting an integrated approach to addressing existing and emerging health risks in the Maldives, factoring in climate change related impacts on human health. MRC has worked extensively in the areas of health in the country, in health preparedness and epidemic control including responses to rise in cases of influenza and dengue. With the new MRC Strategic Plan 2019-2030, the approach now emphasises on preparedness and prevention activities, shifting away from just response, particularly with regard to communicable diseases, including vector-borne diseases. This shift stems from the recognition that some disease outbreaks that the Maldives has been experiencing, is induced by weather trends, propelled by climate change.

In addition to this, the focus also factors in the changing demographics of the country and works towards increasing health related outreach and interventions targeting foreign migrant workers, a population that MRC has been closely working with.



Capacity Building and Expertise in Health and Inclusion

In 2019, a training was conducted in partnership with the ICRC and organised by the Male’ Branch, on Patient Transfer Ergonomics. 20 participants took part in the training which included, participants from partners such as MPS, staff from Hulhumale’ Hospital, and Maldives Transport and Contracting Company (MTCC), in addition to MRC volunteers. The moving and lifting of patients during emergency response and first-aid are integral part of MRCs existing training packages. However, transportation of patients under the Patient Transport Service (PTS) has its specific challenges. Often the patients are immobile or have limited mobility, are unwell, or have other specific medical or physical needs. Furthermore, the PTS Team operate in challenging environments in congested buildings, that require careful navigating and manoeuvring. All participants, especially the PTS team at the Male’ Branch attested to the benefits of this training, and agreed that this will contribute to ensuring high-quality service while ensuring the safety of the patients as well as

the transport team members. The PTS generated a revenue of MVR 24,450, in 2019.

Gathering and archiving all health-related IEC materials produced and used by the MRC was also a key activity conducted during 2019. This would enable access to knowledge products on health which increases efficiency and impact of MRC’s health interventions, especially in times of health emergencies and disasters with health impact.

Research and document mapping of available resources within the RCRC Movement pertaining to health, especially around access to health care for vulnerable groups and on healthy ageing were also undertaken in 2019. This exercise will feed into the development of scalable, practical programs on these areas over the years.



Implementation of Health and Inclusion Interventions

In the area of preventing communicable and vector-borne diseases, awareness and information dissemination were carried out as per seasonal needs through conventional means and social media communications. Most notable, community led, innovative interventions were seen in the Haa Dhaalu Branch where biological controls were administered. Fish were introduced to all vacant row houses in Haa Dhaalu Kulhudhuffushi - a total of 146 wells, which were potential mosquito breeding sites. A multi-stakeholder task force decided to carry out early intervention to stop further spreading of dengue and organised an island-level clean up. Furthermore, MRC was assigned to disseminate information on dengue and preventive measures around the island via loud speaker. The task force consisted of government institutions, state-owned companies, public limited companies, and CSOs in Haa Dhaalu Kulhudhuffushi. The Branch also reached out to migrant communities, and places where they work to distribute IEC materials printed in their local languages.

Haa Dhaalu Branch worked through the Madhadhu Programme, to reach the elderly population in Haa Dhaalu Kulhudhuffushi. The programme is based on healthy ageing principles and aims to increase the physical and mental wellness of the elderly population. Height and weight were measured and BMI was calculated during the first activity. Feedback on their health, and information on healthy meal options were provided and different exercises were also taught. The work is funded by Maldives Pension Administration Office (MPAO), and is done in collaboration with Haa Dhaalu Atoll Health Services and Kulhudhuffushi Regional Hospital. 4 volunteers were also provided basic information on taking up healthier habits for an active life.

14 ERT members and volunteers from Villingili travelled with Gaafu Alifu Atoll Hospital team to Gaafu Alifu Dhandhoo on the Health Protection Agency's (HPA) request to respond to increased viral fever (seasonal flu) cases on the island. Volunteers conducted stakeholder discussions, planned and conducted island clean-ups, and conducted awareness activities in the island. The Branch recruited 18 new volunteers from the island, and further inter-island volunteer collaborations were discussed.

A flu camp was organised by Male' Branch targeted at migrant workers, towards creating awareness and prevention. A defining feature of the flu camp was that it brought together migrant volunteers, both in the organising team and in the doctors' team, which created an enabling inclusive environment for efficient and safe exchange of information.

In December 2019, the Celebrate Diversity Health Camp was held by MRC Male' Branch. This was a combined marking of AIDS Day and Migrant Day as MRC Male' Branch conducted a health camp targeted at migrant workers in Hulhumale'. This camp was funded by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Maldives. Over 200 people received health screening and general doctor consultations. 1 migrant doctor and 4 migrant volunteers led the screening component, along with over 12 additional volunteers from Male' Branch.

Through the Madhadhu Programme run in Haa Dhaalu Branch, run in support with MPAO, Patient Transport Service run by Male' Branch, run in support with Universal Foundation, and outreach programmes on Non Communicable Diseases and communicable diseases, MRC was able to closely engage with communities and especially vulnerable groups such as the elderly, people with disabilities, and migrant workers.



Advocacy on Health and Inclusion

In May 2019, MRC was approached and recognized as the implementing partner to develop, lead, and execute the Mental Health Promotion Action Plan of the government, in partnership with the HPA. To this end, MRC lead the process of conducting a series of stakeholder consultations for the development of the one-year action plan, which was later endorsed and launched on the World Mental Health Day. The Action Plan was designed to achieve 3 main outputs:

1. Capacities strengthened for impactful and sustained community interventions on mental health promotion and prevention.
1. Enhanced awareness and positive attitude towards mental health and mental disorders.
1. Policy advocacy towards promotion of mental health.

HUMANITARIAN DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION



The MRC and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), supported by the Italian Red Cross (ItRC) and the IFRC co-organised the Humanitarian Dialogue on Migration from November 9th to 10th 2019.

The Dialogue was aimed at providing a platform for MRC, BDRCS, and key government and non-government actors in the Maldives to discuss the migration context in the Maldives and Bangladesh, and the humanitarian role of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in supporting the needs of migrants and all those affected by migration. The Dialogue also provided an opportunity for exchange between MRC and BDRCS, on collaboration and cooperation between the two National Societies, given that the largest number of migrants in the Maldives comes from Bangladesh.

Day 1 consisted of the high level dialogue between the Government of the Maldives (GoM) and the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), MRC, BDRCS, UN agencies, and the

NGO Transparency Maldives. Supported by the IFRC, ICRC, and the ItRC.

The chief guest for the event was the Minister of Economic Development. The event was also attended by the Minister of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture, high level representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Immigration Maldives, UN in Maldives, Human Rights Commission of Maldives, and NGO Transparency Maldives. The National Societies were joined by delegates of the ICRC.

The Minister of Economic Development in his opening remarks stated reassurance to work with all the relevant stakeholders to ensure that the challenges faced by migrants are addressed, for their wellbeing. The WHO Representative to Maldives spoke on migration and health, significant public health concerns connected to health of migrants. These concerns are also related to living and working conditions for migrants. WHO offered support for collective action, emphasising the need for holistic, rights-based, multi-sectoral action.

The United Nations International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Chief of Mission spoke on the Global Compact on Migration and the development of a policy on migrants' health for the GoM. MRC is a member of the Ministry of Health's technical committee (only non-government member) and values this opportunity to engage in a principled manner.

The second half of the day focused on understanding the context and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's approach to migration with sessions on Bangladesh as a country of origin, Maldives as a country of destination, Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's approach to migration and displacement, and ICRC's migration approach, by BDRCS, Ministry of Economic Development, IFRC, and the ICRC respectively. This was followed by the segment based on National Society programmes related to migration facilitated by MRC, BDRCS, and ItRC.

The last segment of the day was based on the topic of humanitarian needs in the context of migration with sessions on health and wellbeing of migrants (facilitated by Ministry of Health), migrants and social inclusion (facilitated by MRC volunteer Dr. Zeba, a migrant living in the Maldives), and the rights of migrants (facilitated by Transparency Maldives).

A session was also delivered by the Bangladesh Embassy in Maldives, giving information about the services provided and the challenges faced.

At the end of Day 1, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between MRC and BDRCS. MRC strives to ensure neutrality whilst providing a convening role to bring parties together, e.g. through this Dialogue and the MoU signed between MRC and BDRCS.

Day 2 was for closed-door discussions for Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners, convened in a safe space for constructive dialogue, with the objective of developing a joint work plan.

PRIORITY 5

Foster Humanitarian Values and Volunteerism

This strategic priority area is centred on inclusivity and partnership building. It involves work towards building social capital through building meaningful partnerships between MRC Branches, and local actors, with a focus on increasing the integration of vulnerable groups in community development activities. This approach stems from the understanding that communities are more resilient and are able to bounce back from disasters and crises, when there is better social inclusion, that involves everyone. It also involves actions such as institutionalising and localising a community engagement framework that promotes inclusivity and partnerships reflecting on the experiences of MRC.



Capacity Building on Humanitarian Values and Volunteerism

As part of the Out-of School Children – Alternative Learning Program (OOSC-ALP) project, with Addu City Council and UNICEF, MRC conducted the “Situational Assessment of Out-of-School-Children in Addu City” through an independent consultancy. The research was crucial to understand the situation of OOSC in Addu City and was also a means to obtain information that eventually led to the development of an alternative-learning programme in Addu City.

Following the successful implementation of the partnership with UNICEF on taking forward the situational assessment, which was implemented by the Addu Branch, UNICEF reached out to expand the partnership into an integrated programme. The new project was signed in 2019, with the aim to implement a comprehensive learning and skills development programme for vulnerable and at-risk young people in partnership with Addu City Council and key stakeholders in Addu City.

The 7 major learning areas are - literacy and numeracy, life skills, health and well-being, basic legal awareness, religious awareness, vocational training, and developing skills of the parents and guardians.

The main areas covered in the training include building confidence of the participants, and allowed them to practice and provide feedback on the effectiveness of performance. Hence, a substantial part of the training was allocated for the practice and feedback on the performance of the participants. A variety of training methodology was used including experiential learning, group work and discussions, sharing experiences, visual aids, and role play.

11 MRC volunteers (7 females & 4 males) participated in a Training of Trainers on Life-Skills towards capacity building of Branch volunteers to effectively work with OOSC which will guide the development of an alternative-learning programme in Addu City.

The Life Skills Training of Trainers workshop was held from 9-13 May 2019, with a total of 6 sessions (5 days).

This training was part of the UNICEF Project Partnership that the MRC Addu Branch was undertaking in working with young people who were at-risk.





Advocacy on Humanitarian Values and Volunteerism

MRC’s involvement in the national Strategic Action Plan played a significant role in ensuring inclusion of vulnerable groups in the Plan. MRC is stated as an implementing agency in the Plan, in areas relevant to the National Society.

Commemorating Days and Special Events

Clean Up Events

Addu Branch – Nalafehi Addu/Raalhugudi/Twitsaafu/Addu City Council

Haa Dhaalu Branch – Kudamoodhu/Bandaara Magu/Kulhudhuffushi Beach

Male’ Branch – Raalhugandu

Commemorating Days

1. Earth Day (Addu, Gaafu Alifu, and Haa Dhaalu Branches)
2. Women’s Day (Addu Branch)
3. World Health Day (Addu Branch and Gaafu Alifu)
4. Senior Citizens’ Day (Addu and Haa Dhaalu Branches)
5. World Heart Day (Addu Branch)
6. Autism Awareness Day (Haa Dhaalu Branch)
7. World Thalassaemia Day (Haa Dhaalu Branch)
8. Coastal Clean Up Day (Haa Dhaalu Branch)
9. World Diabetes Day (Gaafu Alifu Branch)
10. World First Aid Day (Gaafu Alifu Branch)

Festivals and Other Events

1. Hinmala Festival (Addu Branch)
2. Hithadhoo Dhiyege Havi Community Event (Addu Branch)
3. Hankede Beach Event (Addu Branch)
4. Haveli Fair (Male’ Branch)
5. Hafthaares (Male’ Branch)
6. Dhiraagu Road Race – Fridays for the Future (Male’ Branch)
7. Human Rights Session for Afeefuddin School (Haa Dhaalu Branch)

Other volunteer events such as picnics, “Maahefun”, and celebrations for International Volunteer Day 2019 were also organised by Branches.

In Solidarity with Sri Lanka

On Easter Sunday in 2019, bombings killed some 269 people in Sri Lanka. This horrific act of violence left the country in the wake of insurmountable loss. Maldives too had felt this, given the close ties both the countries have, and the many shared cultures as neighbouring nations. Maldives also has many Sri Lankan migrants who live in the community, who needed support in coping and a stronger sense of community, while away from their homes.

The MRC organised an event to express solidarity with Sri Lankans, welcoming everyone who wanted to be a part of it. Volunteers trained in PSS provided PFA to anyone who had concerns and wanted to share their experiences. The event was attended by the Sri Lankan High Commission, and numerous other key figures.



Unity Run 2019

Haa Dhaalu Branch's Unity Day Run is held every year on 26th December, and aims to raise awareness on disaster risk reduction, through an activity that also promotes healthier lifestyles. The 26th of December in Maldives is commemorated as National Unity Day, to reflect back on the spirit of humanity and compassion shown during the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004.

The event had over 200 participants in 2019, with 14 volunteers (7 male, 7 female) who were on standby to provide first aid service. The event also is a means of raising funds for the Haa Dhaalu Branch, through selling runners' bibs. The Branch raised MVR24,878 through the event.

For National Unity Day celebrations, Branch staff took part in the solidarity event hosted by Kulhudhuffushi Council to commemorate the day.

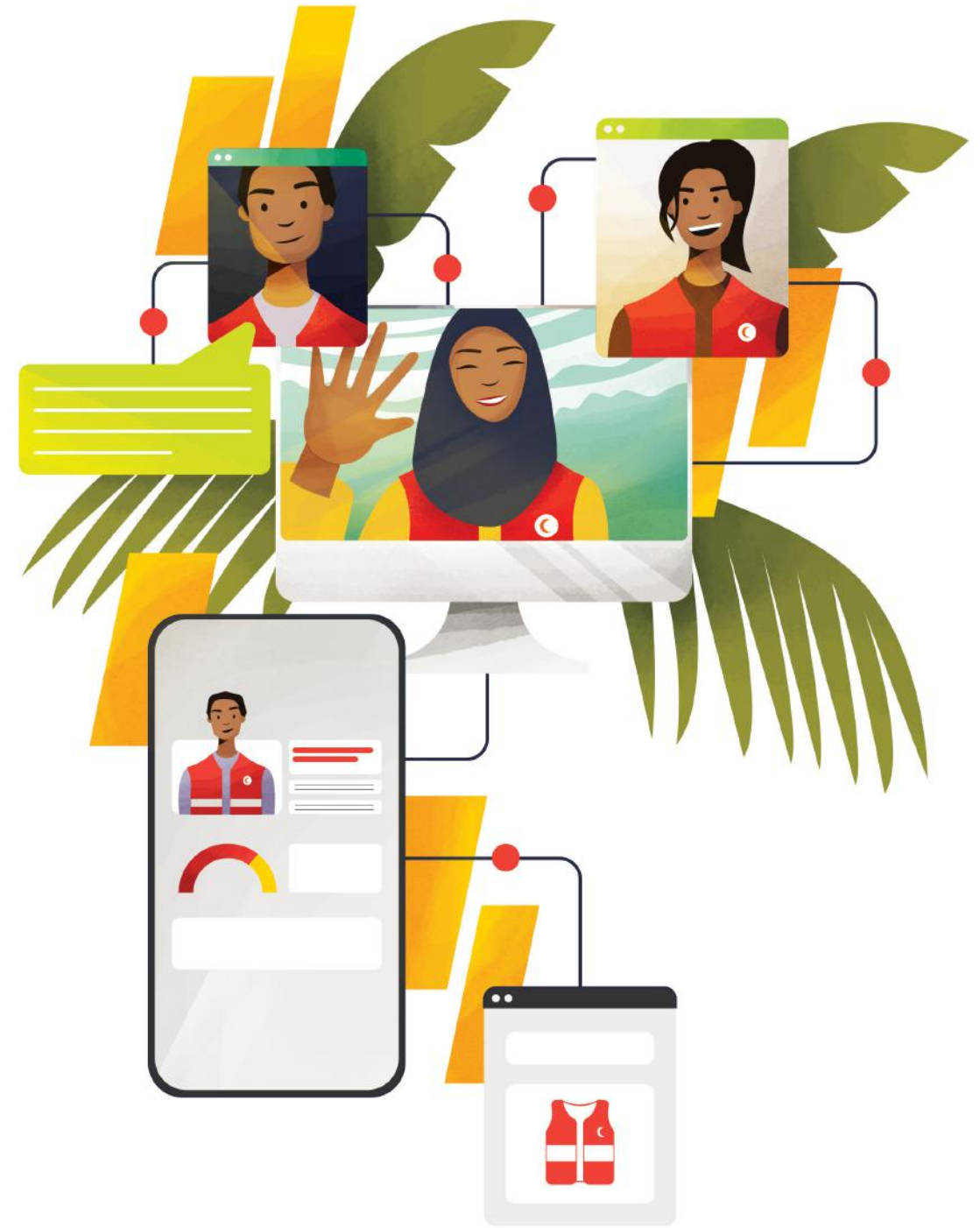


PRIORITY 6

Organisational Development and Sustainability

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

These interventions areas are intended to improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the proposed resilience programme. The strategy focuses on expanding MRC's outreach and operation in the country, through increasing Units and Branches. It also focuses on better streamlining the internal governance and management structure, and increasing the diversity and representation of population groups, within the member and volunteer groups. Self-sustainability is an important aspect of this priority area, through regular and unrestricted income, along with increasing revenue generation. The work also focuses on increasing the visibility and outreach of MRC, and strengthening the internal workflow and data management systems.



Governance and Membership

The MRC operates across the country through its 10 Branches and Units. Of these, 3 Branches (Haa Dhaalu, Male’, and Addu Branches) have staff members who run programmatic interventions in the communities, in 3 of the biggest population centres in Maldives – in the north, the capital, and the south.

Gaafu Alifu Branch has been engaged in running regular activities, and timely emergency response work, given the need, especially during rainy season, when Villingili, an island prone to inundation, gets flooded.

The Branch boards of Haa Dhaalu Branch and Addu Branch had new members that got elected. Both Branches reached gender parity and have members of different ages being represented, with Haa Dhaalu Branch electing a woman as a chairperson.

Volunteer Management

As a volunteer-led humanitarian organisation, volunteer management is an essential part of the work of the National Society. Work around volunteer management currently focuses on a range of important issues such as keeping up with volunteer recognition, volunteer capacity building, and increasing diversity in the pool of members and volunteers.

To mark International Volunteer Day, various Branches of MRC carried out activities within the communities to celebrate the special occasion.

MRC was supported by the Ali Fulhu Thuthu Foundation in the creation of an app to help with volunteer management work. This app was launched during the 10th MRC General Assembly on 27th April 2019. The app is currently in its trial run, and is set to be ready for public use in 2020. The app has features of logging volunteer hours, notifying volunteers of opportunities, and to create a personal portfolio with the relevant details.

Resource Mobilisation

The work around resource mobilisation is based on enhancing the sustainability of the work of MRC, through diversifying the various sources of available funding, so that humanitarian efforts can continue. Working towards unrestricted funding is highlighted, in addition to reviewing the donor landscape regularly.

One of the biggest achievements of the year was the confirmation of allocation of funds for MRC in the approved National Budget for 2020, a huge milestone achieved to ensure sustainability by the National Society. Through many meetings – including meetings with His Excellency President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, Vice President Faisal Naseem, and Honourable Speaker of the Parliament Mohamed Nasheed – the MRC advocated for and voiced the need for having unrestricted funding for the National Society’s operations, and programmes and services. In November 2019, the MRC met with the 19th Parliament Committee in Social Affairs, and the Budget Committee, to make the case.

January 2019 – December 2019

Income	Amount (MVR)
Membership Fees	115,430
Donation Income	5,105,760
Commercial First Aid Trainings	803,571
First Aid Service	429,425
Merchandise sales	22,924
Rental Income	528,000
Patient Transport Service	24,450
Other Income	148,769
Total	7,178,329

Partnerships and Outreach

The MRC's humanitarian work is supported by a number of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Partners, and agencies and organisations who collaborate through meaningful partnerships to further outreach and impact, strengthening MRC's humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy.

1. RCRC Movement Partners

- a. ICRC – under the Partnership Agreement between the MRC and the ICRC, the National Society was supported by ICRC, in the organisation's sustainability, and in various programmatic work that was done throughout the year, based on the strategic priority areas.
- b. IFRC – the IFRC is a Movement partner that has supported the MRC through its formation, and formative years, across the decade. As such, in 2019, the IFRC supported key programmatic work, including a project on Integrated Risk Management.
- c. Singapore Red Cross – the Singapore Red Cross and the MRC have had a long standing relationship, through which, the Singapore Red Cross has contributed generously to the organisational development of the MRC, ensuring sustainability of the work being done.
- d. Italian Red Cross – the Italian Red Cross supported the facilitation of the Humanitarian Dialogue on Migration, a meeting that convened various government stakeholders, civil society members, bilateral agencies, and Movement partners, to discuss humanitarian issues in migration, in Maldives.

e. Turkish Red Crescent – the Turkish Red Crescent visited the Maldives to distribute Ramadan aid, under its iftar meal programme that is carried out across many countries. As such, meals were provided in a children's home, and groceries for meals were provided to the centre in Kaafu Guraidhoo that take care of persons with disabilities, and the elderly. The Turkish Red Crescent has also extended financial support to the MRC, to facilitate MRC's presence in critical meetings, held out of the country.

2. UN Agencies

a. UNICEF – the MRC supported the UNICEF in implementing the Alternative Learning Programme in Addu City. Through this work, children out of school, and other young adults who were particularly at risk, were supported through building capacities, following a needs analysis. The UNICEF also supported in recruiting a dedicated staff for this programme, working under the MRC.

3. Universal Foundation – the Universal Foundation has consistently supported the MRC in over the years, in the Patient Transport Service's operational costs. The Patient Transport Service in 2019 generated a revenue of MVR24,450.

Management and Service Delivery

The work on strengthening management and service delivery is around ensuring quality and effective work, creating an agile and forward-looking organisation, and maintaining transparency and accountability. In order to achieve this, monitoring and reporting work, both internally and to the public, is made regularly.

4. **Dhiraagu** – Dhiraagu has for consecutive years been a corporate member of the MRC, supporting the MRC financially through donations made under the MRC Corporate Membership scheme. Beyond this membership, Dhiraagu has supported the MRC during emergencies, to help set up connectivity and telecommunication, in three Branches, allowing for effective relief operations when required.
5. **Ali Fulhu Thuthu Foundation** – the Ali Fulhu Thuthu Foundation supported the creation of a volunteer management app, a crucial area for a humanitarian organisation such as the MRC. The app allows volunteers across the country to keep up to speed with opportunities to volunteer, maintain an updated profile with details of their expertise, and will help lessen the administrative work that comes with logging volunteer hours, which can now be done on the app.
6. **MPAO** – the MPAO supported the MRC in carrying out activities promoting healthy ageing, through the Haa Dhaalu Branch. Through the Madhadhu programme, the elderly in the community of Haa Dhaalu Kulhudhuffushi are encouraged to pick up and practice healthier habits, which in turn also promote better independence, during the later stages of life.

SPECIAL EVENTS



Statutory Meetings 2019

The highlights include key engagements by the MRC delegation attending the 22nd Session of the IFRC General Assembly (5-7 December 2019) the 2019 Council of Delegates (8 December 2019), and the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (9-12 December 2019).

The MRC delegation included President Ali Nashid, Secretary General Noora Mohamed, Vice President Aisha Niyaz, Youth Member Masha Midhath, and Communications and Resource Mobilisation Officer Mizy Musthafa.

The IFRC Youth Forum was held prior to the Red Cross Red Crescent Statutory Meetings, with its first ever election of the members to the Youth Commission.

In addition to the plenaries of the Statutory Meetings, the delegation of MRC attended various side events based on the topics of discussion, and met with National Societies to discuss partnerships and ways to work together. A meeting of the South Asian National Societies was also organised, as a follow up to the South Asia Leadership Meeting, held in Maldives, in June 2019.

A constitutional review also took place through the proposals of the Governing Board of the

IFRC, to amend the statutory texts of the IFRC. The proposals were classified into six groups -

1. Gender Balance Proposals
2. Governance Excellence Proposals
3. Compliance, Integrity and Sanctions Proposals
4. Finance Proposals
5. Logo Proposals
6. Streamlining Proposals

In the 22nd Session of the IFRC General Assembly, the Bhutan Red Cross Society and the Marshall Islands Red Cross formally gained recognition and officially became members of the IFRC during the General Assembly, bringing the total to 192 members.

MRC President Ali Nashid was appointed as a member of the IFRC Compliance and Mediation Committee.

MRC President Ali Nashid made an intervention



with a statement on women leadership during the discussion on the amendments in the constitution of the IFRC and related statutory texts. This was part of 1 of 6 groups of proposed amendments by the Governing Board of the IFRC. The gender balance proposal aims to enhance gender balance in the Governing Board, adopt safeguards to maintain gender balance, and promote diversity by having one list per Statutory Region with candidates split by gender.

MRC participated in roundtable discussions on the implementation of IFRC Strategy 2030.

MRC Secretary General Noora Mohamed facilitated a workshop session on the IFRC Health and Care Framework, aimed at discussing the critical elements of the Framework, its links to the IFRC Strategy 2030, and the SDGs, and its value for National Societies. The input and feedback from this workshop guided its review prior to its approval in 2020.

In the Council of Delegates 2019, MRC Secretary General Noora Mohamed made an intervention, delivering a joint statement on migration, on behalf of the South Asian National Societies, during the discussion on Movement Statement on Migrants and our Common Humanity, after which the resolution CD/19/R8 was adopted in the Council of Delegates.

In the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the three-day conference looked into humanitarian challenges and way forward from three lenses- International Humanitarian Law (day 1), shifting vulnerabilities (day 2) and trust in humanitarian action (day 3).

Members of the Maldives Mission in Geneva, headed by the Deputy Permanent Representative Ms. Hawla Ahmed Didi, took part and represented the Government of Maldives during the International Conference, with MRC. Seats were reserved for both the



National Society, and the State.

MRC President Ali Nashid delivered a joint statement on behalf of the government of Maldives and MRC at the “For the Record: Voices from the Conference.” The statement highlighted key issues around the climate crisis, especially to a coralline small island nation like the Maldives, and a call to action towards better climate action.

MRC Secretary General Noora Mohamed participated as a panelist in the side event “Red Talk – 100 Voices: The Strength of Women in the RCRC Movement.” She also moderated a Spotlight Session on “Volunteers in Community Health”. The discussion with a panel focused on the changing and vital role of volunteers in community health, especially in addressing emerging health needs. The debate was also directly related to the proposed resolution “Time to Act: Working Together to Prevent and Respond to Epidemics and Pandemics.” In addition to this, MRC Secretary General Noora Mohamed moderated a side event by the IFRC National Society Investment Alliance, on “Investing in National Society Development”. The discussion highlighted the critical issues of meeting the evolving and escalating humanitarian needs, and financing and supporting National Society development.

MRC Vice President Aisha Niyaz gave a live interview on Twitter via the IFRC Asia Pacific Twitter handle. The interview highlighted the humanitarian implications of the climate crisis, and the importance of urgent and bold climate action.

MRC leadership with the representatives of the Government of Maldives voted during the election of the Standing Commission.

MRC delegation with the representatives of the Government of Maldives participated in the adoption of resolutions. The adopted resolutions are –

Resolution 1:

Bringing IHL home: A road map for better national implementation of International Humanitarian Law (33IC/19/R1).

Resolution 2:

Addressing mental health and psychosocial needs of people affected by armed conflicts, natural disasters and other emergencies (33IC/19/R2).

Resolution 3:

Time to act: Tackling epidemics and pandemics together (33IC/19/R3).

Resolution 4:

Restoring Family Links while respecting privacy, including as it relates to personal data protection (33IC/19/R4).

Resolution 5:

Women and leadership in the humanitarian action of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (33IC/19/R5).

Resolution 6:

Act today, shape tomorrow (33IC/19/R6).

Resolution 7:

Disaster laws and policies that leave no one behind (33IC/19/R7).

Resolution 8:

Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement on Operational Arrangements dated 28 November 2005 between Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent Society (33IC/19/R8).

South Asia Leadership Meeting 2019

The Annual South Asia Leadership Meeting 2019 was held in Male, Maldives 29-30 of June 2019, with the participation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies leaders of Afghanistan Red Crescent, Bangladesh Red Crescent, Bhutan Red Cross, Indian Red Cross, Maldivian Red Crescent, Pakistan Red Crescent, and Sri Lanka Red Cross. The meeting was hosted by the MRC and supported by the ICRC and IFRC.

The meeting welcomed Mr. Francisco Rocca, the President of the IFRC, who participated in the meeting and delivered a key note address as well as held a special session dedicated to an open dialogue between the President of IFRC and the leaders of the National Society. During this open dialogue the President and the National Society leaders addressed the preparations for the substantive discussions and resolutions at the Statutory meetings, including the review of the IFRC Constitution, the Seville Agreement, the gender parity and women leadership, the engagement and empowerment of youth and volunteers, strengthening integrity, and climate change among other issues. The dialogue highlighted the importance of the engagement of the leaders of NS in the preparations and deliberations of the Statutory Meetings.

The NS leaders shared some of their unique experiences, success stories as well as key trends and challenges. The presentations by National Society leaders showed the extent of the richness of such experience as well as the scope of knowledge sharing and potential for deeper regional exchanges and learning.



The leaders of National Society addressed a number of important issues relevant to the strengthening of the regional cooperation and readiness to prepare for and respond to disasters and emergencies, as well as a number of important thematic issues including climate change, social inclusion and building tolerance, protection, gender and inclusion, migration and good governance. Furthermore, the National Society leaders addressed the preparations for the RCRC Statutory Meetings to be held in December 2019, including the General Assembly of IFRC, Movement's Council of Delegates, and the 33rd International Conference.

A session on the key trends, good practices and feedback from the Governing Board perspective took place where the leaders addressed relevant issues being discussed at the Governing Board. The National Society suggested that the Governing Board members have a greater interaction with National Society especially by the Governing Board members from the region; ensure the participation of women in leadership position; and encourage greater transparency of information sharing as well as the provision of technical assistance and resource allocation.

Youth Member of the MRC Governing Board, Aminath Masha, presented on the various work done by the youth across South Asia and presented future plans, as part of the IFRC South Asia Youth Network.

Furthermore, an engaging exercise related to the follow up to the Manila Declaration and the AP Regional Conference held in Manila, the Philippines in November 2018 took place where NS feedback indicated a significant progress has already been made and/or integrated in plans for 2019 and 2020.



10th MRC General Assembly

On April 27 2019, the MRC had its 10th General Assembly.

It was attended by 81 members from 8 Branches of the National Society.

The General Assembly elected new members to the Governing Board of the MRC –

- First Vice President – Ms. Aisha Niyaz
- Treasurer – Ms. Fathimath Rukshana
- Youth Member – Ms. Aminath Masha
- Regional Member – South – Mr. Ahmed Jawad
- Regional Member – South – Mr. Ali Mohamed

The MRC Governing Board currently has the most number of women it has had in the National Society's history, with near parity.

During the 10th General Assembly, the Annual Report 2018 was approved, along with the Audit Report 2018. The budget for the next two years was also approved.

A key highlight of the 10th General Assembly was the launch and adoption of the MRC Strategic Plan 2019-2030. This is the third strategic plan for the MRC. The plan will run from 2019-2030. These 12 years are condensed into 3 periodical reviews of 4 years each. The current plan will run from 2019-2022, and has 5 key programmatic priority areas, and one on organisational development, and sustainability. A number of consultation meetings both internally and externally took place, along with meetings for technical experts for consultations, as well as endorsement and validation.



MRC DECENNIAL CELEBRATIONS AND WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY 2019

Haa Dhaalu Branch

Dissemination of dengue awareness information: As a part of MRC's Decennial and Humanitarian Day celebrations, volunteers in Nolhivaram Unit went door-to-door to disseminate information and IEC materials on dengue.

Visiting senior citizens and persons with disabilities: As a part of MRC's Decennial and Humanitarian Day celebrations, volunteers in Nolhivaram Unit visited senior citizens and persons with disabilities and spent time with them.





Male' Branch

Decennial celebration with migrants was carried out in Hulhumale' City. Hospital visits were organised to visit the patients who were staying in. The Humanitarian Festival 2019 was also held, where the closing was a dialogue with HDC called "The Future of Volunteerism".



Addu Branch

Acts of kindness - planting trees with the students of the Alternative Learning Programme, and sessions for migrants on hygiene and wellbeing.



Gaafu Alif Branch

Gaafu Alif Branch organised an activity where volunteers planted trees in specific spots of the community. The Branch also organised a family evening where many from the communities came in to see and be part of the celebrations. Information about the MRC was given, in

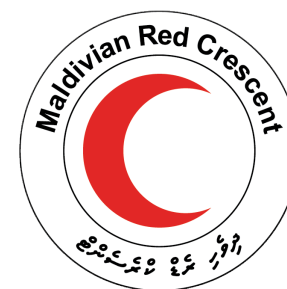
addition to having a volunteer drive where interested people could sign up to join. A road show was planned, in collaboration with the local police station of Gaafu Alif Villingili, to raise awareness on the importance of road safety and traffic rules, to the local community.



Fuvahmulah Branch

Decennial Logo

A logo for the decennial celebrations was launched. “Heyohithun” translates into or can be interpreted as doing something “with heart”. The logo symbolizes a volunteer, raising their hand, taking the opportunity to serve someone in need. This logo was planned to be in use for following year.



Other
Events

- IFRC Global Health Reference Group Meeting, Geneva. This meeting was attended by Manager – Programmes and Services, Yasmin Rasheed. The meeting was held to discuss and provide technical inputs on the key documents on IFRC Strategy 2030 and the IFRC Framework for Health. It also gave the opportunity to share National Societies’ experience on the most impactful health and care programmes, and to review health policy and advocacy agenda for upcoming international meetings: World Health Assembly, Women Deliver Conference, UN General Assembly.
- International Women’s Day 2019 – live panel discussion, Geneva. This event was attended by MRC Secretary General Aishath Noora. She was joined by IFRC SG Elhadj As Sy, ICRC Director General Yves Daccord, and IFRC Head of Policy Cecile Aptel. The discussion was on how gender balance can strengthen our humanitarian impact.
- Universal Health Coverage (UHC): Reaching the Most Left Behind Through Community Based Health Programs, by IFRC, IOM, WHO and UNAID, held in New York. This meeting was attended by MRC Secretary General Aishath Noora. This event was organised in parallel to the intergovernmental negotiations on the Political Declaration on UHC, and aims to provide an in-depth exploration of community-based health programmes as one of the most promising aspects of the work.
- International Youth Meeting, held in Solferino, Italy, from 17-23 June 2019, gathered over 10,000 volunteers across National Societies, to celebrate the centennial of the IFRC, and to learn from workshops and peer exchange opportunities with discussions themed around some of the most pressing current humanitarian issues such as climate change, and some of the world’s protracted crises. The annual “Fiaccolata”, a candle-lit march with thousands of volunteers walking between Solferino and Castiglione delle Stiviere, took place as well. This event was attended by Youth Member of the MRC Governing Board, Aminath Masha and volunteer of Addu Branch Mazka Ahmed.
- Friends of North Cyprus Turkish Red Crescent (FNCTRC) Meeting in Kyrenia, North Cyprus. This meeting was attended by MRC President Ali Nashid, Executive Secretary Mohamed Hood Ibrahim, and Disaster Risk Management Officer Hawwa Lubna. This meeting brought together members of the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent to discuss areas of concern.
- The South Asia Forum on Preparedness for Regional Disaster Response held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 4-6 November 2019. The forum co-hosted by IFRC and SAARC Secretariat convened National Societies and government officials of SAARC member states and development partners from the UN and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center where participants

reflected on the current status of the implementation of the SAARC Agreement on Rapid Response to Natural Disasters and discussed the way forward to accelerate its implementation. The Maldives delegation consisted of MRC Vice President Aisha Niyaz, MRC Treasurer Fathimath Rukshana and Abdulla Rafeeu from NDMA.

- The Turkish Red Crescent visited the Maldives, during Ramadan, to carry out activities under their programme to provide iftar meals to the vulnerable, across many countries. In Maldives, the Turkish Red Crescent provided a meal to 110 children and staff at the shelter for children, Kudakudhinge’ Hiyaa. Groceries for meals were provided to the home for the elderly and persons with disabilities, in Guraidhoo, run by the Ministry of Gender, Family, and Social Services.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



Annual Audit 2019

The accounts for the year 2019 were audited by Ernst & Young Global Limited. The financial statements of MRC for the period ending 31 December 2019 were prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities (“IFRS for SMEs”).

MRC’s activities were mainly funded through both local and international donors. Other donors such as International Committee of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and partner NS’s s also supported towards the overall organizational capacity building and strengthening of governance support.

Total income for the year 2019 is MVR 7,178,329 and expenses are at MVR 11,618,975 resulting in an expenditure over income amounting to MVR 4,440,646 for the year-end. MRC holds total assets worth of MVR 15,031,019 of which MVR 9,796,736 is Non – Current Assets. Current Assets stands at MVR 5,234,283 of which 52% are unexpended advances received from donors. Thus, because of these unexpended funds MRC’s current liabilities stand at MVR 3,505,173. The reserves of Maldivian Red Crescent stand at MVR 11,525,846 at the end of the year 2019.

Sources of Financial Support

Maldivian Red Crescent operating funds comes from three main funding sources; membership fees, revenue from products and services and other sources. Total MRC operating revenues for fiscal year 2019 were MVR 3,100,231. Total operating expenses were MVR 3,285,390.

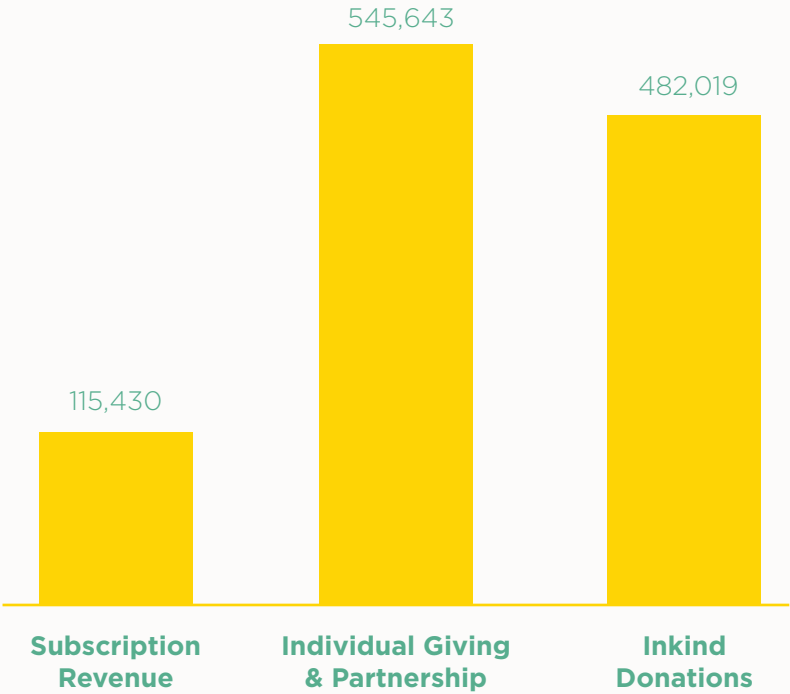
Net assets were MVR 15,031,019.

Operating Revenues & Gains

MVR 3,100,231

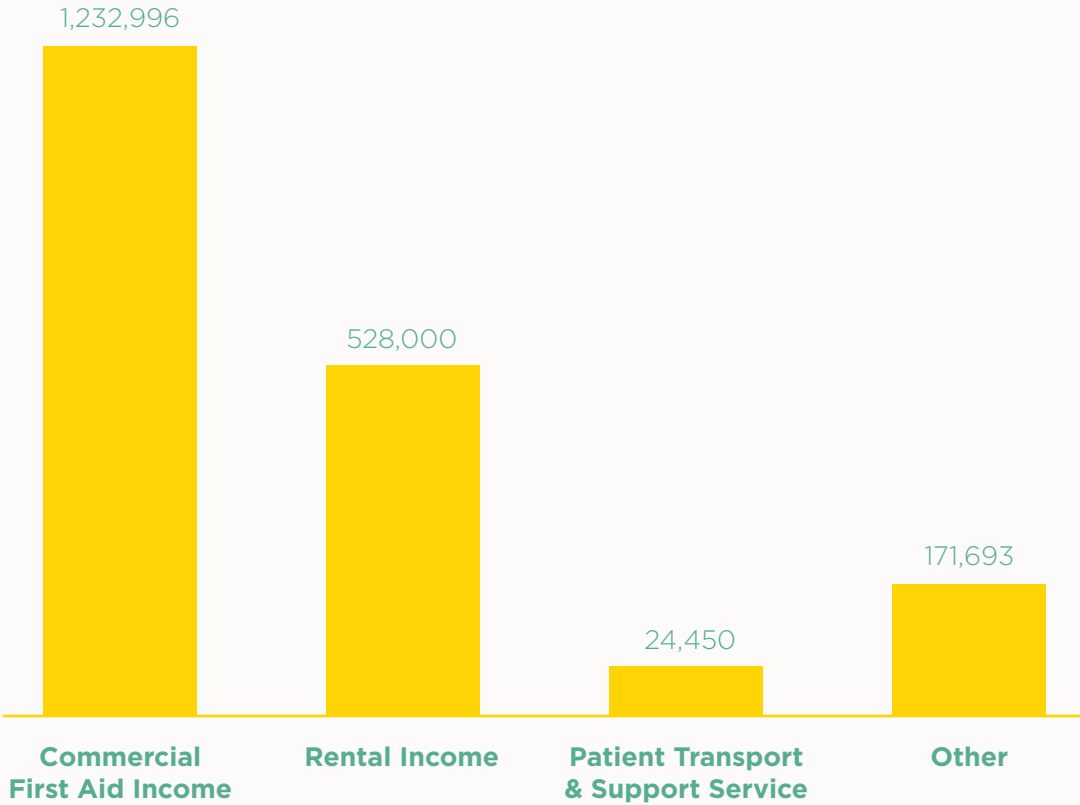
Contributions (MVR)

1,143,092



Products and Services (MVR)

1,957,139



Operating Expenses

MVR 3,285,390

Management & General Admin	MVR 2,819,150
Organisational Development	MVR 107,993
Travel Expenses	MVR 180,869
Programmes, Workshops & Trainings	MVR 93,236
Comms, & RM	MVR 84,142

Emergency Response Fund

MVR 681,694.88

Received in contribution for ERF

MVR 479,125.92

Disbursed funds for relief operations

MVR 345,342.96

ER fund reserve at 2019 end



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