

# Maldives

This document is a compilation of all questions, justifications, and sources used to determine the 2021 Global Health Security Index scores for Maldives. For a category and indicator-level summary, please see the Country Profile for Maldives.

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## Category 1: Preventing the emergence or release of pathogens with potential for international concern

### 1.1 ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

#### 1.1.1 AMR surveillance, detection, and reporting

##### 1.1.1a

**Is there a national AMR plan for the surveillance, detection, and reporting of priority AMR pathogens?**

Yes, there is evidence of an AMR plan, and it covers surveillance, detection, and reporting = 2, Yes, there is evidence of an AMR plan, but there is insufficient evidence that it covers surveillance, detection, and reporting = 1, No evidence of an AMR plan = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

Maldives has a National Action Plan for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance 2017-2022 which covers the surveillance, detection and reporting of priority AMR pathogens. The government has set up a National AMR Coordinating Committee (NACC) which "will provide the platform for programme planning and implementation through a supporting structure comprising of technical working groups for individual strategic objectives". The roles and responsibilities of the NACC include but are not limited to the advocacy for prevention and containment of AMR, planning, implementing, and monitoring of different strategic interventions and activities of National Action Plan AMR, and the reporting of the implementation status to national agencies and international partners [1]. Under its strategic objective 2 which is Surveillance of AMR, "Maldives will consolidate its strengths in AMR surveillance and develop a high quality AMR surveillance system on a limited scale that will integrate AMR surveillance in laboratories, hospitals, Anti Microbial use (AMU) and surveillance in animal sectors." [1] Furthermore, the development of an AMU Surveillance Committee (AUSC) which "will analyse AMU data in linkage with the resistance profiles reported by the AMR surveillance programme" will aid in detection. [1] Lastly, the National AMR Coordinating Committee (NACC) will be responsible for "reporting implementation status [of the overall strategy and the data collected] to National Multi-Sectoral Steering Committee (NMSC), national agencies and international partners." [1]

[1] Maldives Food and Drug Authority. Ministry of Health. "National Action Plan for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance 2017-2022". [<http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/national-action-plans/library/en>]. Accessed 23 October 2020

##### 1.1.1b

**Is there a national laboratory/laboratory system which tests for priority AMR pathogens?**

All 7 + 1 priority pathogens = 2, Yes, but not all 7+1 pathogens = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that Maldives can test for at least some of the 7+1 AMR priority pathogens. The Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report for the Maldives, conducted in March 2017, states that the country has a plan for the detection and reporting of priority AMR pathogens. According to the report, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH) can test for AMR pathogens such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. The report also mentions the IGMH can test for other AMR pathogens such as Vancomycin resistance in Enterococci and Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae. However, there is not a complete list of the AMR pathogens Maldives can test for in the report. [1] There is also no mention of testing or a list of pathogens tested found on the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, The Indira Gandhi Memorial

Hospital website or in the National AMR plan. [2,3,4,5]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 23 October 2020.

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 23 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 23 October 2020.

[4] The Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 23 October 2020

[5] Maldives Food and Drug Authority. Ministry of Health. "National Action Plan for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance 2017-2022". [<http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/national-action-plans/library/en>]. Accessed 23 October 2020.

### 1.1.1c

**Does the government conduct environmental detection or surveillance activities (e.g., in soil, waterways) for antimicrobial residues or AMR organisms?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Maldives government conducts detection or surveillance activities (e.g. in soil, waterways, etc.) for antimicrobial residues or AMR organisms. Neither the Joint External Evaluation report for the Maldives (conducted in March 2017) nor the Ministry of Environment and Energy or Ministry of Health website mention the carrying out of detection and surveillance activities. [1,2,3] Their National AMR plan gives this responsibility to their ASCU (AMR Surveillance Coordination Unit), "in collaboration with Environment Protection Agency (EPA)" and MoEE (Ministry of Environment and Energy); however, the implementation of this is planned for some time between 2019-2022 according to the plan.[4] There is no evidence that the plan has been implemented yet under the Ministry of Environment and Energy, Ministry of Health [2,3]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>] Accessed 23 October 2020.

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Environment and Energy. [<http://www.environment.gov.mv/v2/en/>]. Accessed 23 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 23 October 2020

[4] Maldives Food and Drug Authority. Ministry of Health. "National Action Plan for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance 2017-2022". [<http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/national-action-plans/library/en>]. Accessed 23 October 2020

## 1.1.2 Antimicrobial control

### 1.1.2a

**Is there national legislation or regulation in place requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for humans?**

Yes = 2 , Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in enforcement = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that Maldives has national legislation or regulation in place requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for humans however there are gaps in the implementation of these regulations. Maldives' "Guideline for the Rational Use of Controlled Drugs" does outline guidelines for prescriptions but not specifically for antibiotics.[1] The Ministry of Health

releases monthly "Approved Drug Lists" and these lists clearly indicate that antibiotics are strictly 'Prescription Only Medicines'. [2] In the "Pharmaceutical Sector Country Profile Questionnaire" for Maldives conducted by the World Health Organization and The Global Fund To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, it is outlined that Maldives "regulation does not allow over-the-counter sale of antibiotics without prescription." [3] According to a situational analysis conducted in the Maldives 'Over the Counter (OTC) and Prescription Only Medicines (POM) drug schedules exist but POM including antibiotics may be bought over-the-counter without a prescription'. [4] According to Maldives' National Action Plan for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance 2017-2022, 'limited evidence exists on the trends of use of Antimicrobials in Maldives. In 2011, a prescription audit was undertaken to evaluate the prescription and consumption patterns of antibiotics. The result showed that 40% of prescriptions contained an antibiotic and 22% is prescribed for flu, cough, and fever. The most frequent antibiotic prescribed was Augmentin'. [5] . 'A fully functional national drug regulatory authority had been set up to oversee regulation and licensing, pharmacovigilance and market authorization. Initiatives are being taken to develop and draft national standards and guidelines, such as the national drug policies, updated essential medicines lists and standard treatment guidelines, including for antibiotic prescription'. [6]

[1] Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Guideline for the Rational Use of Controlled Drugs." April 2000.

[http://www.mfda.gov.mv/DOCS/1365309751.pdf]. Accessed 23 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. 'Approved Drug List October 2020' [http://health.gov.mv/Downloads] Accessed November 06 2020

[3] World Health Organization. "Pharmaceutical Sector Country Profile Questionnaire Maldives". 2011.

[http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/coordination/Maldives\_PSCPQuestionnaire.pdf]. Accessed 23 October 2020.

[4] World Health Organization (WHO). Medicines in Health Care Delivery. Maldives Situational Analysis. 2014. [

http://origin.searo.who.int/entity/medicines/maldives\_situational\_analysis\_2014.pdf] Accessed 18 November 2020

[5] Maldives Food and Drug Authority. Ministry of Health. "National Action Plan for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance 2017-2022". [http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/national-action-plans/library/en]. Accessed 23 October 2020

[6] World Health Organization. AMR in Maldives. 2020. [http://origin.searo.who.int/maldives/antimicrobial-resistance/amr-in-maldives/en/] Accessed 23 October 2020

### 1.1.2b

**Is there national legislation or regulation in place requiring prescriptions for antibiotic use for animals?**

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in enforcement = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

There is evidence that Maldives has regulations requiring prescription for antibiotic use in animals and there is no evidence that the regulations are not enforced. According to the "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives", conducted in March 2017, the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture (MOFA) requires prescriptions for antibiotics for animals. These antibiotics are however, "not available for normal use as the import of these drugs are authorised by the Maldives Food and Drug Authority (MFDA)." [1] However, this could not be corroborated on their MFDA website as animals are not specifically mentioned under their "Guideline for the Rational Use of Controlled Drugs" policy document. [2] No Further evidence of lack of enforcement is found under the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture and Ministry of Health Websites [3,4]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. (https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf). Accessed 23 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Guideline for the Rational Use of Controlled Drugs." April 2000.

(http://www.mfda.gov.mv/DOCS/1365309751.pdf). Accessed 23 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 23 October 2020.

[4]

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 23 October 2020

## 1.2 ZOOBOTIC DISEASE

### 1.2.1 National planning for zoonotic diseases/pathogens

#### 1.2.1a

**Is there national legislation, plans, or equivalent strategy documents on zoonotic disease?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of Maldives having a national law, plan, or equivalent strategy document, on zoonotic disease. There is no mention of any strategy or policy in the "Maldives Health Master Plan 2016-2025" pertaining to Zoonotic diseases. [1] This is reinforced in the March 2017 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives", which specifically calls out the lack of references "made to zoonotic diseases or 'One Health'" approach. [2] The WHO cites a lack of financial resources for this absence in addressal of zoonotic diseases. [2] No information on zoonotic diseases could be found on their Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture or Ministry of Health website. [3,4]

[1] The Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Maldives Health Master Plan 2016-2025". December 2014.

[[http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning\\_cycle\\_repository/maldives/proposed\\_draft\\_health\\_master\\_plan\\_2016-2025.pdf](http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning_cycle_repository/maldives/proposed_draft_health_master_plan_2016-2025.pdf)]. Accessed 23 October 2020.

[2] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 23 October 2020.

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 23 October 2020.

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 23 October 2020

#### 1.2.1b

**Is there national legislation, plans or equivalent strategy document(s) which includes measures for risk identification and reduction for zoonotic disease spillover events from animals to humans?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of national legislation, plans or equivalent strategy document(s) which includes measures for risk identification and reduction for zoonotic disease spillover events from animals to humans in Maldives. Zoonotic diseases have not been given importance in the 'Maldives Health Master Plan 2016-2025'. There is no policy or strategy pertaining to Zoonotic diseases found in this plan.[1] This is further reinforced in the March 2017 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives", which specifically calls out the lack of references "made to zoonotic diseases or 'One Health'" approach. [2]The WHO cites a lack of financial resources for this absence in addressal of zoonotic diseases. [2] No information on zoonotic diseases could be found on their Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture or Ministry of Health website. [3,4]

- [1] The Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Maldives Health Master Plan 2016-2025". December 2014. [[http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning\\_cycle\\_repository/maldives/proposed\\_draft\\_health\\_master\\_plan\\_2016-2025.pdf](http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning_cycle_repository/maldives/proposed_draft_health_master_plan_2016-2025.pdf)]. Accessed 23 October 2020.
- [2] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 23 October 2020.
- [3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 23 October 2020.
- [4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 23 October 2020

### 1.2.1c

**Is there national legislation, plans, or guidelines that account for the surveillance and control of multiple zoonotic pathogens of public health concern?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There are no national plans, guidelines, or laws that account for the surveillance and control of multiple zoonotic pathogens of public health concern in the Republic of Maldives. Their "Maldives Health Master Plan 2016-2025" has no mention of any zoonotic diseases, specifically or otherwise. [1] Furthermore, in the World Health Organization's (WHO) report on the "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives conducted in March 2017" it is mentioned that a "surveillance system for Avian Influenza at farm level exists"; however, it is used irregularly. Other than that there are no other detection methods of any other zoonotic diseases in the country and the WHO recommends increasing resources in order to be able to establish even the most basic operations such as "diagnosis of diseases, surveillance, and disease prevention activities", which are not yet available in the country. [2] The WHO also recommends building "animal health laboratory facilities and an operational Veterinary Service" in order to do so. [2] No evidence of progress towards such a national guideline can be found on their Ministry of Health or Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture.[3,4]

- [1] The Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Maldives Health Master Plan 2016-2025". December 2014. [[http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning\\_cycle\\_repository/maldives/proposed\\_draft\\_health\\_master\\_plan\\_2016-2025.pdf](http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning_cycle_repository/maldives/proposed_draft_health_master_plan_2016-2025.pdf)]. Accessed 23 October 2020
- [2] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 23 October 2020
- [3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 23 October 2020
- [4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 23 October 2020

### 1.2.1d

**Is there a department, agency, or similar unit dedicated to zoonotic disease that functions across ministries?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of Maldives having a department, agency or similar unit dedicated to zoonotic disease that functions across ministries. Neither the Ministry of Health nor the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture dedicate teams or resources to zoonotic diseases. [1,2] According to a March 2017 report by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives", WHO recommends increasing resources in order to be able to establish even the most basic operations such as "diagnosis of diseases, surveillance, and disease prevention activities",

which are not yet available in the country. [3]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 23 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 23 October 2020.

[3] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. (<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>). Accessed 23 October 2020

## 1.2.2 Surveillance systems for zoonotic diseases/pathogens

### 1.2.2a

**Does the country have a national mechanism (either voluntary or mandatory) for owners of livestock to conduct and report on disease surveillance to a central government agency?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

Maldives does not have any national mechanism for owners of livestock to conduct and report on disease surveillance. There is no evidence of a reporting portal nor information about such a mechanism on the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture website.[1] In addition, in the World Health Organization's (WHO) report on the "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives" conducted in March 2017 outlines that "the livestock sector in the Republic of Maldives is very small (estimated 9000 goats and 15000 chickens)" and that no surveillance mechanisms are in place in the Maldives for zoonotic diseases except for avian influenza at the farm level. Some irregular testing is also used on live bird imports in the country. [2] Lastly, there is no further information on the Ministry of Health Website.[3]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 23 October 2020.

[2] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>] Accessed 23 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 23 October 2020

### 1.2.2b

**Is there legislation and/or regulations that safeguard the confidentiality of information generated through surveillance activities for animals (for owners)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of Maldives having laws or guidelines that safeguard the confidentiality of information generated through surveillance activities. Maldives does not have any national mechanism for owners of livestock to conduct and report on disease surveillance. No such portals exist on their Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture or Ministry of Health website.[1,2] Maldives does have a general privacy and personal data protection bill, published in May of 2017 and put forth by the Ministry of Economic Development but there is no mention of safeguarding the confidentiality of information generated through surveillance activities for animals (for owners). [3]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020



[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Economic Development. "Privacy and personal data protection bill translation". May 2017. [<http://www.trade.gov.mv/news/privacy-and-personal-data-protection-bill-translation>]. Accessed 25 October 2020.

### 1.2.2c

**Does the country conduct surveillance of zoonotic disease in wildlife (e.g., wild animals, insects, other disease vectors)?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that Maldives conducts surveillance of zoonotic disease in wildlife. There is no evidence on either their Ministry of Health or Ministry Fisheries and Agriculture websites of having any national mechanism to conduct and report on zoonotic disease surveillance.[1,2]. The Joint External Evaluation report for the Maldives, conducted in March 2017, notes that zoonotic disease surveillance capacity is limited, noting only that surveillance system are in place checks for "avian influenza within live bird imports." There is no mention in the report of surveillance of wild birds or other types of wildlife. [3]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[3] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

## 1.2.3 International reporting of animal disease outbreaks

### 1.2.3a

**Has the country submitted a report to OIE on the incidence of human cases of zoonotic disease for the last calendar year?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

2019

OIE WAHIS database

## 1.2.4 Animal health workforce

### 1.2.4a

**Number of veterinarians per 100,000 people**

Input number

**Current Year Score: -**

No data available

OIE WAHIS database

### 1.2.4b

#### Number of veterinary para-professionals per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: -

No data available

OIE WAHIS database

## 1.2.5 Private sector and zoonotic

### 1.2.5a

#### Does the national plan on zoonotic disease or other legislation, regulations, or plans include mechanisms for working with the private sector in controlling or responding to zoonoses?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of Maldives having a national plan on zoonotic disease or any other legislation, regulation or plan on zoonotic diseases. Therefore there are no mechanisms for working with the private sector in controlling or responding to zoonoses. Neither their Ministry of Health nor their Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture have any evidence of a plan or policy on zoonotic diseases. [1,2] Similarly, zoonotic diseases are not addressed in their " Health Master Plan 2016-2025". [3] Lastly, the "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives" from March 2017 does not have any information on such legislation or regulations either. [4]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[3] The Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Maldives Health Master Plan 2016-2025". December 2014.

[[http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning\\_cycle\\_repository/maldives/proposed\\_draft\\_health\\_master\\_plan\\_2016-2025.pdf](http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning_cycle_repository/maldives/proposed_draft_health_master_plan_2016-2025.pdf)]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[4] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 25 October 2020.

## 1.3 BIOSECURITY

### 1.3.1 Whole-of- government biosecurity systems

#### 1.3.1a

#### Does the country have in place a record, updated within the past five years, of the facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed, including details on inventories and inventory management systems of those facilities?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence of the Republic of Maldives having in place a record of the facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed. According to the March 2017 Joint External Evaluation report of the Republic of Maldives, there was no "multi-agency committee to ensure bio-risk reduction." The JEE report does not include information on the presence of facilities with dangerous pathogens and toxins. [1] There is no evidence that the country maintains a record of dangerous pathogens and toxins via the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, or Ministry of Defence.[2,3,4] Although there is evidence that Maldives submits Confidence Building Measures reports to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal under the United Nations, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter.[5] No evidence of a record was found on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database.[6]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020.

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Defence. [<http://www.defence.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[5] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Maldives. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/maldives>]. Accessed 25 October 2020.

[6] VERTIC.'Maldives'. [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>] Accessed 25 October 2020

### 1.3.1b

**Does the country have in place legislation and/or regulations related to biosecurity which address requirements such as physical containment, operation practices, failure reporting systems, and/or cybersecurity of facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of Maldives having in place legislation and/or regulations related to biosecurity which address requirements such as physical containment, operation practices, failure reporting systems and/or cybersecurity of facilities in which especially dangerous pathogens and toxins are stored or processed. According to the March 2017 Joint External Evaluation report of the Republic of Maldives, the country has passed The Health Services Act (2015) which provides legislative oversight on a progressive agenda to develop capacities on biosecurity and biosafety. The key capabilities being addressed include availability of national laboratory standards, laboratory licensing and monitoring protocol, healthcare waste management, and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC). There is no mention of physical security of laboratories. [1] There is no evidence of biosecurity legislation via the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, or Ministry of Defence. [2,3,4] Although there is evidence that Maldives submits Confidence Building Measures reports to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal under the United Nations, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter.[5] No evidence of a record was found on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database.[6]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Defence [<http://www.defence.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[5] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Maldives. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/maldives>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[6] VERTIC. 'Maldives'. [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>] Accessed 25 October 2020

### 1.3.1c

**Is there an established agency (or agencies) responsible for the enforcement of biosecurity legislation and regulations?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of Maldives having an established agency responsible for the enforcement of biosecurity legislation and regulations. According to the March 2017 Joint External Evaluation report of the Republic of Maldives, the Republic of Maldives does not have a "multi-agency committee to ensure bio-risk reduction." [1] One of WHO's recommendations to the country is for it to "form a biosafety/biosecurity Committee" with representation from various already existing agencies such as Health Protection Agency (HPA), Quality Assurance (QA), Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH), and The Environment Ministry. [1] However, there is no evidence of this committee being formed yet or any other such agencies existing on Maldives' Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture or Ministry of Defence. [2,3,4] The agencies mentioned in the JEE, such as Health Protection Agency (HPA); at the time of research their website was under maintenance and could not be accessed, Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH), and The Environment Ministry also do not have any details on the matter. [5,6,7] Although there is evidence that Maldives submits Confidence Building Measures reports to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal under the United Nations, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter. [8] No evidence of a record was found on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database. [9]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020.

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Defence [<http://www.defence.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020.

[5] The Republic of Maldives. Health Protection Agency. October 2020. [<http://hpa.gov.mv/English/>]. Accessed by October 25 2020.

[6] The Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[7] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Environment and Energy. [<http://www.environment.gov.mv/v2/en/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[8] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Maldives. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/maldives>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[9] VERTIC. 'Maldives'. [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>] Accessed 25 October 2020

### 1.3.1d

**Is there public evidence that shows that the country has taken action to consolidate its inventories of especially dangerous pathogens and toxins into a minimum number of facilities?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives has taken action to consolidate its inventories of especially dangerous pathogens and toxins into a minimum number of facilities. There is no evidence of the Maldives having done this in the March 2017 Joint External Evaluation report of the Republic of Maldives [1] Furthermore, there is no evidence of any such inventories on their Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture or Ministry of Defence. [2,3,4] Although there is evidence that Maldives submits Confidence Building Measures reports to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal under the United Nations, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter.[5] No evidence of a record was found on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database.[6]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Defence. [<http://www.defence.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[5] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Maldives. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/maldives>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[6] VERTIC.'Maldives'. [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>] Accessed 25 October 2020

### 1.3.1e

**Is there public evidence of in-country capacity to conduct Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)-based diagnostic testing for anthrax and/or Ebola, which would preclude culturing a live pathogen?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no public evidence of in-country capacity to conduct Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)-based diagnostic testing for anthrax or Ebola in Maldives. However, according to the March 2017 Joint External Evaluation report of the Republic of Maldives, Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing capabilities do exist for influenza and Zika, but no mention is made of Ebola or Anthrax. [1] Recent reports reveal that Maldives is able to conduct Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) tests for COVID-19. [2] Other than this, there is no evidence of such capabilities being available either on their Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Ministry of Defence or The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital websites. [3,4,5,6]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>] Accessed 25 October 2020

[2] World Health Organization. South East Asia. Maldives. 'WHO Helps Maldives Build Laboratory Capacity to test COVID-19'. [<https://www.who.int/maldives/news/detail/09-06-2020-who-helps-maldives-build-laboratory-capacity-to-test-covid-19>] Accessed 25 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020.

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[5] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Defence. [<http://www.defence.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020.

[6] The Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

## 1.3.2 Biosecurity training and practices

### 1.3.2a

**Does the country require biosecurity training, using a standardized, required approach, such as through a common curriculum or a train-the-trainer program, for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives has biosecurity training or protocols in place. The March 2017 Joint External Evaluation report for the Maldives states that there is "no national training capacity of health and laboratory workers or a multi-agency committee to ensure bio-risk reduction." [1] Furthermore, no evidence of biosecurity training or protocols is available on their Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture or The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital website. [2,3,4,5] Although there is evidence that Maldives submits Confidence Building Measures reports to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal under the United Nations, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter.[6] No evidence of a record was found on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database.[7]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Defence. [<http://www.defence.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[5] The Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[6] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Maldives. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/maldives>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[7] VERTIC.'Maldives'. [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>] Accessed 25 October 2020

## 1.3.3 Personnel vetting: regulating access to sensitive locations

### 1.3.3a

**Do regulations or licensing conditions specify that security and other personnel with access to especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential are subject to the following checks: drug testing, background checks, and psychological or mental fitness checks?**

Personnel are subject to all three of these checks = 3, Personnel are subject to two of these checks = 2, Personnel are subject to one of these checks = 1, Personnel are not subject to any of these checks = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of Maldives having regulations or licensing conditions which specify that security and other personnel with access to especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential in Maldives are subject to any of following checks: drug testing, background checks, and psychological or mental fitness checks. Neither the "Health care professional Act (13/2015)" nor the "Maldives Health Master Plan 2016-2025" mention any such licensing requirements. [1,2] The Maldives Health Master Plan 2016-2025 says that there are licensing requirements and protocols present for hiring health professionals; however, no specifics are mentioned. In addition, it states that due to frequent changes in health professionals in service and the high reliance on health professionals from different countries, "maintaining consistent use of the standard guidelines and protocols is a challenge." [2] The March 2017 Joint External Evaluation for the Maldives does not include any information on the licensing of professionals working with dangerous pathogens. [3] Similarly, there is no mention of licensing requirements via the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Ministry of Defence, The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital websites nor the National Health Research Policy. [4,5,6,7,8] Although there is evidence that Maldives submits Confidence Building Measures reports to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal under the United Nations, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter.[9] No evidence of a record was found on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database.[10]

[1] Maldives Medical and Dental Council. "Health care professional Act (13/2015)". 2013. [<http://mmc.gov.mv/ethicals-codes-and-guidelines/health-care-professional-act-132015/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[2] The Republic of Maldives.Ministry of Health. "Maldives Health Master Plan 2016-2025". December 2014. [[http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning\\_cycle\\_repository/maldives/proposed\\_draft\\_health\\_master\\_plan\\_2016-2025.pdf](http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning_cycle_repository/maldives/proposed_draft_health_master_plan_2016-2025.pdf)]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[3] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 25 October 2020.

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020.

[5] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020.

[6] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Defense and National Security. [<http://www.defence.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[7] The Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 25 October 2020.

[8] World Health Organization. "National Health Research Policy Maldives". June 2017. [[http://www.searo.who.int/entity/research\\_policy/documents/national-health-research-policy-maldives-2017.pdf?ua=1](http://www.searo.who.int/entity/research_policy/documents/national-health-research-policy-maldives-2017.pdf?ua=1)]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[9] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Maldives. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/maldives>]. Accessed 25 October 2020

[10] VERTIC.'Maldives'. [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>] Accessed 25 October 2020

### 1.3.4 Transportation security

#### 1.3.4a

Does the country have publicly available information on national regulations on the safe and secure transport of infectious substances (specifically including Categories A and B)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives has publicly available information on national regulations for the safe and secure transport of infectious substances. The March 2017 Joint External Evaluation for the Maldives specifically recommends "training for sample handling and shipment i.e. International Air Transport Association training for every two years." [1] Neither the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Ministry of Defence, Transport Authority or The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital websites have any evidence of adhering to IATA or other similar standards. [2,3,4,5,6] Although there is evidence that Maldives submits Confidence Building Measures reports to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal under the United Nations, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter.[7] No evidence of a record was found on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database.[8]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020.

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Defence [<http://www.defence.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[5] Republic of Maldives. Transport Authority. [<http://transport.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[6] The Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[7] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Maldives. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/maldives>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[8] VERTIC. 'Maldives'. [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>] Accessed 26 October 2020

### 1.3.5 Cross-border transfer and end-user screening

#### 1.3.5a

**Is there legislation and/or regulations in place to oversee the cross-border transfer and end-user screening of especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, and pathogens with pandemic potential?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives has national legislation, regulation, or other guidance in place to oversee the cross-border transfer and end-user screening of especially dangerous pathogens, toxins and pathogens with pandemic potential. There is no mention of regulations on cross-border transfer and end-user screening for dangerous pathogens in the 2017 Joint External Evaluation report for the Maldives. [1] Furthermore, there is no evidence of such guidance on the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Ministry of Economic Development or Ministry of Defence websites. [2,3,4,5] Although there is evidence that Maldives submits Confidence Building Measures reports to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal under the United Nations, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter.[6] No evidence of a record was found on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database.[7]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020



[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Economic Development. [<http://www.trade.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020.

[5] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Defence. [<http://www.defence.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[6] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Maldives. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/maldives>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[7] VERTIC.'Maldives'. [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>] Accessed 26 October 2020

## 1.4 BIOSAFETY

### 1.4.1 Whole-of-government biosafety systems

#### 1.4.1a

**Does the country have in place national biosafety legislation and/or regulations?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that the Maldives has biosafety legislation in place. According to the March 2017 Joint External Evaluation report for the Maldives, the "Health Services Act (2015) provides a legislative oversight and the key capabilities include availability of national laboratory standards, laboratory licensing and monitoring protocol, healthcare waste management and IPC." [1] The Ministry of Health also has "National Standards for Clinical laboratories" in which guidelines have been set forward on how to build a framework for several standards for clinical laboratories. According to the document, the Ministry aims to build a "biosafety programme [that] shall be established and implemented, with regular monitoring and review, to ensure a safe work environment and safe work practices in the laboratory." [2] There are no additional documents or information via the Ministry of Health nor Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture websites on biosafety regulations. [3,4] Although there is evidence that Maldives submits Confidence Building Measures reports to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal under the United Nations, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter.[5] No evidence of a record was found on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database.[6]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[2] Maldives Ministry of Health. "National Standards for Clinical laboratories". 2013. [[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads/Standards//13\\_1362986122\\_National\\_standards\\_for\\_clinical\\_laboratories\\_final.pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads/Standards//13_1362986122_National_standards_for_clinical_laboratories_final.pdf)]. Accessed 26 October 2020.

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[5] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Maldives. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/maldives>]. Accessed 26 October 2020.

[6] VERTIC.'Maldives'. [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>] Accessed 26 October 2020

#### 1.4.1b

**Is there an established agency responsible for the enforcement of biosafety legislation and regulations?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that the Republic of Maldives has an established agency responsible for the enforcement of biosafety legislation and regulations. The Ministry of Health has a document called "National Standards for Clinical laboratories" in which guidelines have been set forward on how to build a framework for several standard in clinical laboratories of which one is biosafety. [1] As the document mentions, they aim to build a "biosafety programme [that] shall be established and implemented, with regular monitoring and review, to ensure a safe work environment and safe work practices in the laboratory." [2] However there is no additional evidence that this program exists and is enforced. Although there is evidence that Maldives submits Confidence Building Measures reports to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal under the United Nations, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter.[3] No evidence of a record was found on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database.[4]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020.

[2] Maldives Ministry of Health. "National Standards for Clinical laboratories". 2013.

[[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads/Standards//13\\_1362986122\\_National\\_standards\\_for\\_clinical\\_laboratories\\_final.pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads/Standards//13_1362986122_National_standards_for_clinical_laboratories_final.pdf)]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[3] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Maldives. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/maldives>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[4] VERTIC. 'Maldives'. [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>] Accessed 26 October 2020

## 1.4.2 Biosafety training and practices

### 1.4.2a

**Does the country require biosafety training, using a standardized, required approach, such as through a common curriculum or a train-the-trainer program, for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives requires biosafety training for personnel working in facilities housing or working with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, or biological materials with pandemic potential. The March 2017 Joint External Evaluation report for the Maldives states that there is "no national training capacity of health and laboratory workers or a multi-agency committee to ensure bio-risk reduction". [1] No such training is offered or mentioned in any of its national health legislations such as their "Health care professional Act (13/2015)" or their "Maldives Health Master Plan 2016-2025." [2,3] In addition, their "National Standards for Clinical laboratories" from 2013 lays out the need to train lab staff "to ensure a safe work environment and safe work practices in the laboratory" under their biosafety programme. [4] However, no evidence of this programme or similar training is forthcoming on their Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture or The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital websites. [5,6,7] Although there is evidence that Maldives submits Confidence Building Measures reports to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal under the United Nations, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter.[8] No evidence of a record was found on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database.[9]

- [1] World Health Organization. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017". [https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf]. Accessed 26 October 2020
- [2] Maldives Medical and Dental Council. "Health care professional Act (13/2015)". 2013. [http://mmc.gov.mv/ethicals-codes-and-guidelines/health-care-professional-act-132015]. Accessed 26 October 2020
- [3] The Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Maldives Health Master Plan 2016-2025". December 2014. [http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning\_cycle\_repository/maldives/proposed\_draft\_health\_master\_plan\_2016-2025.pdf]. Accessed 26 October 2020.
- [4] Maldives Ministry of Health. "National Standards for Clinical laboratories". 2013. [http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads/Standards//13\_1362986122\_National\_standards\_for\_clinical\_laboratories\_final.pdf]. Accessed 26 October 2020
- [5] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [http://www.health.gov.mv/]. Accessed October 2020
- [6] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/]. Accessed 26 October 2020
- [7] The Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [http://igmh.gov.mv]. Accessed 26 October 2020
- [8] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Maldives. [https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/maldives]. Accessed 26 October 2020
- [9] VERTIC. 'Maldives'. [https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/] Accessed 26 October 2020

## 1.5 DUAL-USE RESEARCH AND CULTURE OF RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE

### 1.5.1 Oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research

#### 1.5.1a

Is there publicly available evidence that the country has conducted an assessment to determine whether ongoing research is occurring on especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that the country has conducted an assessment to determine whether ongoing research is occurring on especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research. There is no information on dual use research via the Maldives' Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Ministry of Defence or The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital websites. [1,2,3,4] There is no information on dual use research via the March 2017 Joint External Evaluation report for the Maldives, although the report does state that "budgetary constraint makes regular assessment of Atoll health facilities challenging." [5] Although there is evidence that Maldives submits Confidence Building Measures reports to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal under the United Nations, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter.[6] No evidence of a record was found on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database.[7]

- [1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [http://www.health.gov.mv/]. Accessed 26 October 2020.
- [2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/]. Accessed 26 October 2020.
- [3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Defence. [http://www.defence.gov.mv/]. Accessed 26 October 2020.
- [4] The Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [http://igmh.gov.mv]. Accessed 26 October 2020

2020.

[5] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[6] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Maldives. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/maldives>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[7] VERTIC.'Maldives'. [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>] Accessed 26 October 2020

### 1.5.1b

**Is there legislation and/or regulation requiring oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives has legislation and/or regulation requiring oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use. There is no mention of such a policy via the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Ministry of Defence or The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital website. [1,2,3,4] Similarly, the 2017 Joint External Evaluation report for the Maldives has no information on dual use research. [5] The 2014 "Health Master Plan 2016-2025" proposes establishing an "efficient health system governed by legislation and oversight mechanisms" under their Governance section; however, this is just a guideline and no such policy has yet been drafted. [6] Although there is evidence that Maldives submits Confidence Building Measures reports to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal under the United Nations, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter.[7] No evidence of a record was found on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database.[8]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Defence. [<http://www.defence.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020.

[4] The Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[5] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[6] The Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Maldives Health Master Plan 2016-2025". December 2014. [[http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning\\_cycle\\_repository/maldives/proposed\\_draft\\_health\\_master\\_plan\\_2016-2025.pdf](http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning_cycle_repository/maldives/proposed_draft_health_master_plan_2016-2025.pdf)]. Accessed 26 October 2020.

[7] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Maldives. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/maldives>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[8] VERTIC.'Maldives'. [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>] Accessed 26 October 2020

### 1.5.1c

**Is there an agency responsible for oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, toxins, pathogens with pandemic potential and/or other dual-use research?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives has an agency responsible for oversight of research with especially dangerous pathogens, pathogens with pandemic potential, and/or other dual use research. There is no mention of such an agency via the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Ministry of Defence or The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital websites. [1,2,3,4] Similarly, the 2017 Joint External Evaluation report for the Maldives has no information on dual use research. [5] The 2014 "Health Master Plan 2016-2025" proposes establishing a "National Health Council that is representative of key stakeholders in health," but till date no such agency exists in the country which could take on the responsibility for oversight of research. [6] Although there is evidence that Maldives submits Confidence Building Measures reports to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal under the United Nations, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter.[7]No evidence of a record was found on the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database.[8]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020.

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Defence [<http://www.defence.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[4] The Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. (<http://igmh.gov.mv>). Accessed 26 October 2020

[5] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[6] The Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. "Maldives Health Master Plan 2016-2025". December 2014. [[http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning\\_cycle\\_repository/maldives/proposed\\_draft\\_health\\_master\\_plan\\_2016-2025.pdf](http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning_cycle_repository/maldives/proposed_draft_health_master_plan_2016-2025.pdf)]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[7] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Maldives. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/maldives>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[8] VERTIC.'Maldives'. [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>] Accessed 26 October 2020

## 1.5.2 Screening guidance for providers of genetic material

### 1.5.2a

**Is there legislation and/or regulation requiring the screening of synthesized DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) against lists of known pathogens and toxins before it is sold?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives has legislation and/or regulation requiring the screening of synthesized DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) against lists of known pathogens and toxins before it is sold .There is no evidence under the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Ministry of Defence, Transport Authority, The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital websites or in their policies such as their 2014 "Health Master Plan 2016-2025." [1,2,3,4,5,6] No regulations are put forth on synthesized DNA in the "National Biosafety Framework for The Republic of Maldives" from 2006 either. [7] Although there is evidence that Maldives submits Confidence Building Measures reports to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal under the United Nations, access to the reports is restricted to the public, and it is unknown if they contain information on this matter.[8]No evidence of a record was found on

the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) database.[9]

- [1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020.
- [2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020
- [3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Defence. [<http://www.defence.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020.
- [4] Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv>]. Accessed 26 October 2020.
- [5] Republic of Maldives. Transport Authority. [<http://transport.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020.
- [6] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. "Maldives Health Master Plan 2016-2025". December 2014. [[http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning\\_cycle\\_repository/maldives/proposed\\_draft\\_health\\_master\\_plan\\_2016-2025.pdf](http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning_cycle_repository/maldives/proposed_draft_health_master_plan_2016-2025.pdf)]. Accessed 26 October 2020
- [7] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water. "National Biosafety Framework for The Republic of Maldives." 2006. [<http://bch.biodiv.org/database/attachedfile.aspx?id=1350>]. Accessed 26 October 2020
- [8] United Nations Office at Geneva. BWC Electronic Confidence Building Measures Portal. Maldives. [<https://bwc-ecbm.unog.ch/state/maldives>]. Accessed October 26 2020.
- [9] VERTIC.'Maldives'. [<https://www.vertic.org/programmes/biological-weapons-and-materials/bwc-legislation-database/m/>] Accessed 26 October 2020

## 1.6 IMMUNIZATION

### 1.6.1 Vaccination rates

#### 1.6.1a

##### Immunization rate (measles/MCV2)

Immunization rate (measles/MCV2), 95% or greater = 2, 80-94.9% = 1, Less than 80%, or no data = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

2019

World Health Organization

#### 1.6.1b

##### Are official foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccination figures for livestock publicly available through the OIE database?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

2020

OIE WAHIS database

## Category 2: Early detection and reporting for epidemics of potential international concern

### 2.1 LABORATORY SYSTEMS STRENGTH AND QUALITY

#### 2.1.1 Laboratory testing for detection of priority diseases

##### 2.1.1a

**Does the national laboratory system have the capacity to conduct diagnostic tests for at least 5 of the 10 WHO-defined core tests?**

Evidence they can conduct 5 of the 10 core tests and these tests are named = 2, Evidence they can conduct 5 of the 10 core tests and the tests are not named = 1, No evidence they can conduct 5 of the 10 core tests = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives' national laboratory system has the capacity to conduct diagnostic tests for at least 5 of the 10 WHO-defined core tests. Although the March 2017 Joint External Evaluation report for the Maldives states that the country is "capable of testing WHO recommended ten core tests", the country scores a 3 on indicator D.1.1 (Laboratory testing for detection of priority diseases), which corresponds to the ability to test 3-4 core tests. The JEE report does not include details on which tests the country can conduct, although the report does mention it can conduct PCR testing for influenza. The report also states that in general, Maldives can test for "influenza, tuberculosis (TB), HIV, bacterial culture, salmonella, plasmodium, Zika, dengue and Scrub typhus." [1,2] Furthermore, there is no evidence of capabilities of these diagnostic tests on their Ministry of Health or the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital websites. [3,4]

[1] World Health Organization. "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017". [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[2] World Health Organization. "Joint External Evaluation Tool: International Health Regulations (2005)". [[http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/204368/9789241510172\\_eng.pdf;jsessionid=E6458699B4219EE890C4D1AEBCC793EB?sequence=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/204368/9789241510172_eng.pdf;jsessionid=E6458699B4219EE890C4D1AEBCC793EB?sequence=1)]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

##### 2.1.1b

**Is there a national plan, strategy or similar document for conducting testing during a public health emergency, which includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing?**

Yes, there is evidence of a plan, and it includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing = 2, Yes, there is evidence of a plan, but there is insufficient evidence that it includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing = 1, No evidence of a plan = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the republic of Maldives has a national plan, strategy or similar document for conducting testing during a public health emergency, which includes considerations for testing for novel pathogens, scaling capacity, and defining goals for testing. There is no evidence under the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture or under

the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital websites.[1,2,3]. This is further reinforced in the current COVID-19 pandemic, when Maldives had to ship samples out of the country for COVID-19 testing until the World Health Organization stepped in and helped Maldives scale up the capacity of the laboratories to test for COVID-19 within the country. [4]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020.

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 26 October 2020

[4] World Health Organization. South East Asia. Maldives. 'WHO Helps Maldives Build Laboratory Capacity to test COVID-19'. [<https://www.who.int/maldives/news/detail/09-06-2020-who-helps-maldives-build-laboratory-capacity-to-test-covid-19>] Accessed 26 October 2020

## 2.1.2 Laboratory quality systems

### 2.1.2a

**Is there a national laboratory that serves as a reference facility which is accredited (e.g., International Organization for Standardization [ISO] 15189:2003, U.S. Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments [CLIA])?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence of the national laboratory that serves as a reference facility being accredited. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH) Laboratory is the National Public Health Reference Laboratory in the Maldives. No information on accreditation is available via its website, but according to the Joint External Evaluation for Maldives, conducted in March 2017, "accreditation of National laboratory for disease specific testing" is one of the strengths and best practices of the Maldives. [1,2] However, the type of accreditation is not mentioned.

[1] The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH), "About Us", 2018, (<http://igmh.gov.mv/about-us/>), Accessed 27 October 2020

[2] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. (<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>). Accessed 27 October 2020

### 2.1.2b

**Is there a national laboratory that serves as a reference facility which is subject to external quality assurance review?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that the national laboratory that serves as a reference facility in the Republic of Maldives is subject to external quality assurance review . The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH) Laboratory is the National Public Health Reference Laboratory in the Maldives. According to the March 2017 Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives, it mentions that "the laboratory methods are verified and quality monitored using kits and in-house controls" and that external quality assurance is conducted for Zika and Influenza. [1] However, the JEE does not specify who conducts the EQA or any other details on it. Furthermore, no details of the EQA can be found on their Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, or the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital websites.[2,3,4]



[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 27 October 2020.

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[4] The Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

## 2.2 LABORATORY SUPPLY CHAINS

### 2.2.1 Specimen referral and transport system

#### 2.2.1a

**Is there a nationwide specimen transport system?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that the Republic of Maldives has a nationwide specimen transport system in place to transport samples from the site of collection to a laboratory for testing. According the March 2017 Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives, "transportation of samples is a challenge due to the nature of the islands and dependency on overseas countries for diagnostic purposes" which is why DHL courier service is currently contracted for the transportation of samples overseas. However there is no evidence that this is a nationwide system. [1] The JEE scores Maldives as a 3 on the JEE for D.1.2, indicating that "System is in place to transport specimens to national laboratories from 50-80% of intermediate level/districts within the country for advanced diagnostics." [1,2] This is corroborated by the Maldives Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan from November 2009 which mentions that not only does Maldives have an agreement with DHL for "transporting specimens to the respective reference laboratories" but is also "engaged in talks with the Island Aviation regarding transport of specimens within the country." [3] No further evidence is found under the Health Emergency Plan.[4] It is noteworthy, however, in light of the present pandemic COVID-19 a specimen collection, packaging and transport guideline has been developed. It is unclear if these guidelines intend to cover at least 80% of the country.[5]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[2] World Health Organisation (WHO). 2016. "Joint External Evaluation Tool".

[[https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/204368/9789241510172\\_eng.pdf?sequence=1](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/204368/9789241510172_eng.pdf?sequence=1)]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. "National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan". November 2009, [[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads/Publications//Maldives%20Pandemic%20Preparedness%20Plan\\_%20November%202009%20update.pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads/Publications//Maldives%20Pandemic%20Preparedness%20Plan_%20November%202009%20update.pdf)]. Accessed 27 October 2020.

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. 'Health Emergency Operations Plan'.

[<http://origin.searo.who.int/maldives/documents/health-emergency-operations-plan-maldives-2018.pdf>] Accessed 27 October 2020.

[5] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health.'COVID-19 Quick Reference SOP'. [<https://covid19.health.gov.mv/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/COVID-19-QR-SOPs-v10.pdf>] Accessed 27 October 2020

## 2.2.2 Laboratory cooperation and coordination

### 2.2.2a

**Is there a plan in place to rapidly authorize or license laboratories to supplement the capacity of the national public health laboratory system to scale-up testing during an outbreak?**

Yes = 2 , Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in implementation = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives has a plan in place to rapidly authorize or license laboratories to supplement the capacity of the national public health laboratory system to scale-up testing during an outbreak. No evidence is found in the Health Emergency Plan under the Ministry of Health or under the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital or the National Disaster Management Authority Websites.[1,2,3,4]. It is noteworthy that in the present COVID-19 pandemic, under the initiatives of Ministry of Health, at the highest level the President of Maldives HE Mr Ibrahim Mohamed Solih along with the World Health Organization the capacity of the laboratories in Maldives along with the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital was scaled up to test for COVID-19. 'Joint efforts by WHO and Ministry of Health, proactive measures and critical technology transfer by WHO to strengthen laboratories have helped Maldives manage COVID-19 infections. Going forward, medical teams and labs will be even better equipped to learn from their initial experience and continue to ensure speedy identification of cases and their treatment as per protocols'.[5]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. 'Health Emergency Operations Plan'. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/Downloads>] Accessed 27 October 2020.

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv>]. Accessed 27 October 2020.

[4] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. [<http://ndmc.gov.mv/downloads-2/publications/national/>] Accessed 27 October 2020

[5] World Health Organization. South East Asia. Maldives. 'WHO Helps Maldives Build Laboratory Capacity to test COVID-19'. [<https://www.who.int/maldives/news/detail/09-06-2020-who-helps-maldives-build-laboratory-capacity-to-test-covid-19>] Accessed 27 October 2020

## 2.3 REAL-TIME SURVEILLANCE AND REPORTING

### 2.3.1 Indicator and event-based surveillance and reporting systems

#### 2.3.1a

**Is there evidence that the country is conducting ongoing event-based surveillance and analysis for infectious disease?**

Yes, there is evidence of ongoing event-based surveillance and evidence that the data is being analyzed on a daily basis = 2,  
Yes, there is evidence of ongoing event-based surveillance, but no evidence that the data are being analyzed on a daily basis = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives is conducting ongoing event-based surveillance and analysis for infectious disease. The March 2017 Joint External Evaluation for the Maldives does mention that data recording for event-based surveillance in general is "minimal" and recommends actions for improvement. [1] Maldives' Health Emergency Operations Center was launched in 2018 and is still in its early stages. The Health Emergency Operations plan has a section on Disease Surveillance and Epidemiology which focuses on indicator-based surveillance rather than event based surveillance. 'Data

analysis is routinely carried out, generating weekly reports on the number of cases, overlaying them on a time-trend graph of the same weeks in the past 2 years. This is useful for early detection of outbreaks by comparison with previous years' trends'. [2,3] No evidence of such an ongoing event-based surveillance was found on their Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture or The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital website. [4,5,6]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. (<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>). Accessed 27 October 2020.

[2] World Health Organization. "Launching of the Health Emergency Operations Center in the Maldives." 2018. [<http://www.searo.who.int/maldives/mediacentre/health-emergency-operations-center/en/#>]. Accessed 27 October 2020.

[3] Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan." May 2018. [[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations\(124\).pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations(124).pdf)]. Accessed 27 October 2020.

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020.

[5] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020.

[6] Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

### 2.3.1b

**Is there publicly available evidence that the country reported a potential public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) to the WHO within the last two years?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no publicly available evidence that the Republic of Maldives reported a potential public health emergency (with the disease origin in Maldives) of international concern (PHEIC) to the World Health Organization (WHO) within the last two years. According to the World Health Organization's "Emergencies preparedness, response" page for the Maldives, "no outbreaks, from this country have been posted to Disease Outbreak News recently." [1] In addition, neither their Ministry of Health website nor any press conferences reveal evidence of Maldives reporting a potential PHEIC within the last two years. [2,3] Maldives reported its first case of COVID-19 on March 07, 2020. At present the country is battling the pandemic and public alert, surveillance and updates on the outbreak in the country are provided on the websites of Ministry of Health, WHO websites. [4,5] After the disease was confirmed in the country as an imported case, it was reported to the WHO and at present daily updates on the number of new cases, total number of active cases and the total number of deaths can be noted on the WHO website.[5]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO), "Emergencies preparedness, response".2020.

[<http://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/country/mdv/en/>].Accessed 27 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020.

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. 'Latest News' [<http://health.gov.mv/>].Accessed by October 27 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. COVID 19 Local Updates.[ <https://covid19.health.gov.mv/en/?c=0>]. Accessed 18 November 2020

[5] World Health Organization (WHO). Maldives.[<https://www.who.int/countries/mdv/>] Accessed 18 November 2020

## 2.3.2 Interoperable, interconnected, electronic real-time reporting systems

### 2.3.2a

**Does the government operate an electronic reporting surveillance system at both the national and the sub-national level?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

The Republic of Maldives' government does operate an electronic reporting surveillance system at the central level. According to the March 2017 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives", an electronic reporting (web based surveillance system) system is available in the Maldives; however, the WHO recommends that this system be updated. [1] This call to action is echoed by the Ministry of Health's Health Protection Agency which although does not mention the electronic nature of the surveillance system, still calls for a major reform and improvement to its surveillance system overall. [2] Further, the Health Emergency Plan states that 'framework for communication needs to be established in the health sector and in Maldives as a whole that can be efficient, cost effective and easy to use during emergencies. The Emergency Communications Framework should describe the communication and IT protocols and coordination procedures between response functions as per this plan during public health emergencies. It shall discuss the mechanism for delivering communications support and its development including hardware, set-up and resources allocation to effectively and strategically communicate during disasters and emergencies'. [3]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/259823/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>]. Accessed 27 October 2020.

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Maldives Health Protection Agency. "Communicable Disease Reporting Guidelines for Healthcare Professionals". January 2015. [[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Communicable\\_Disease\\_Reporting\\_Guidelines2015.pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Communicable_Disease_Reporting_Guidelines2015.pdf)]. Accessed 27 October 2020.

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan." May 2018. [[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations\(124\).pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations(124).pdf)]. Accessed 27 October 2020

### 2.3.2b

**Does the electronic reporting surveillance system collect ongoing or real-time laboratory data?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that The Republic of Maldives collects real time laboratory data. According to the March 2017 "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives", an electronic and real time reporting (web based surveillance system) system is available in the Maldives, but "there is no direct data entry from the laboratory to the surveillance system". Laboratories instead use an alternate reporting format. [1] Furthermore, there is no public evidence of such a real time laboratory data collecting system being available on their Ministry of Health or the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital websites. [2,3,4]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 27 October 2020.

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Maldives Health Protection Agency. "Communicable Disease Reporting Guidelines for Healthcare Professionals". January 2015.

[[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Communicable\\_Disease\\_Reporting\\_Guidelines2015.pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Communicable_Disease_Reporting_Guidelines2015.pdf)]. Accessed October 27, 2020.

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

## 2.4 SURVEILLANCE DATA ACCESSIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

### 2.4.1 Coverage and use of electronic health records

#### 2.4.1a

##### Are electronic health records commonly in use?

Electronic health records are commonly in use = 2, Electronic health records are not commonly in use, but there is evidence they are used = 1, No evidence electronic health records are in use = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that The Republic of Maldives uses electronic health records commonly. No explicit mentions of electronic health records being used commonly can be found on their Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture or The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital websites [1,2,3] The 2015 WHO Atlas of eHealth country profiles found that there was no evidence of a national EHR system.[4]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[4] World Health Organisation. 2015. "Atlas of eHealth country profiles".

[[http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/204523/9789241565219\\_eng.pdf?sequence=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/204523/9789241565219_eng.pdf?sequence=1)]. Accessed 27 October 2020

#### 2.4.1b

##### Does the national public health system have access to electronic health records of individuals in their country?

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that The Republic of Maldives uses electronic health records, and therefore no evidence that the public health system has access to them. No explicit mentions of electronic health records (EHR) and their use can be found on their Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture or The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital websites [1,2,3] The 2015 WHO Atlas of eHealth country profiles found that there was no evidence of a national EHR system. [4]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[4] World Health Organisation. 2015. "Atlas of eHealth country profiles".

[[http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/204523/9789241565219\\_eng.pdf?sequence=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/204523/9789241565219_eng.pdf?sequence=1)]. Accessed 27 October

2020

### 2.4.1c

**Are there data standards to ensure data is comparable (e.g., ISO standards)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that The Republic of Maldives uses electronic health records, and therefore no evidence about data standards. No mentions of policy standards for electronic health records can be found on their Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture or The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital websites [1,2,3] The 2015 WHO Atlas of eHealth country profiles found that there was no evidence of a national EHR system. [4]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[4] World Health Organisation. 2015. "Atlas of eHealth country profiles".

[[http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/204523/9789241565219\\_eng.pdf?sequence=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/204523/9789241565219_eng.pdf?sequence=1)]. Accessed 27 October 2020.

## 2.4.2 Data integration between human, animal, and environmental health sectors

### 2.4.2a

**Is there evidence of established mechanisms at the relevant ministries responsible for animal, human, and wildlife surveillance to share data (e.g., through mosquito surveillance, brucellosis surveillance)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of the Republic of Maldives having established mechanisms at the relevant ministries responsible for animal, human and wildlife surveillance to share data. Neither their Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Ministry of Environment or The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital websites have evidence of any type of surveillance such as mosquito surveillance, brucellosis surveillance, etc. on their websites. [1,2,3,4] In addition, the vector control unit page on the Health Protection Agency's website has plenty of information on dengue and malaria causing mosquitos; however, no evidence of releasing survey results. [5] Furthermore, the Joint External Evaluation for the Maldives, conducted in March 2017, states that the dengue surveillance system is separate from the electronic health surveillance system. The report also notes that there is no animal and wildlife surveillance system in place in the Maldives, due to the small animal population size. [6]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Environment. [<http://www.environment.gov.mv/v2/en/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[4] The Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[5] Republic of Maldives. Health Protection Agency. "Vector control unit". 2012.

[<http://hpa.gov.mv/English/content/?page=Environment&id=389>]. Accessed 27 October 2020.

[6] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

### 2.4.3 Transparency of surveillance data

#### 2.4.3a

**Does the country make de-identified health surveillance data on infectious diseases publicly available via reports (or other format) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, or similar)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is evidence that the Republic of Maldives makes de-identified health surveillance data on infectious diseases publicly available via reports on the Ministry of Health website, however, this data is on a monthly basis rather than on a weekly basis. On the Ministry of Health Website Monthly Communicable Disease Reports are available which gives de-identified statistics on the trends of diseases like viral fever, dengue fever, Acute Respiratory Infections.[1] No other evidence is found under the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture and The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital websites.[2,3] In light of the present COVID-19 pandemic, however, the Health Protection Agency under the Ministry of Health provides daily surveillance data on its COVID-19 Statistics dashboard. [4]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://health.gov.mv/Downloads>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Health Protection Agency. COVID-19 Statistics Dashboard.[<https://covid19.health.gov.mv/dashboard/?c=0>] Accessed 27 October 2020

#### 2.4.3b

**Does the country make de-identified COVID-19 surveillance data (including details such as daily case count, mortality rate, etc) available via daily reports (or other formats) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, or similar)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that the Republic of Maldives makes de-identified COVID-19 surveillance data (including details such as daily case count, mortality rate, active cases, recovered cases etc) available via daily reports on the Health Protection Agency website under the Ministry of Health. The data also includes case count in the atolls and distribution of case clusters. [1]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Health Protection Agency. COVID-19 Statistics Dashboard.[<https://covid19.health.gov.mv/dashboard/?c=0>] Accessed 27 October 2020.

## 2.4.4 Ethical considerations during surveillance

### 2.4.4a

**Is there legislation and/or regulations that safeguard the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that The Republic of Maldives has laws, regulations, or guidelines that safeguard the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities. No such laws or regulations are readily available on their Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture or The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital websites. [1,2,3]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [[http://igmh.gov.mv](http://igmh.gov.mv/)]. Accessed 27 October 2020

### 2.4.4b

**Is there legislation and/or regulations safeguarding the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities, include mention of protections from cyber attacks (e.g., ransomware)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that The Republic of Maldives has laws, regulations, or guidelines safeguarding the confidentiality of identifiable health information for individuals, such as that generated through health surveillance activities, pertaining to cyber attacks or otherwise. There is no mention of any such laws or regulations on their Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture or The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital websites. [1,2,3]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>] Accessed 27 October 2020.

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [[http://igmh.gov.mv](http://igmh.gov.mv/)]. Accessed 27 October 2020

## 2.4.5 International data sharing

### 2.4.5a

**Has the government made a commitment via public statements, legislation and/or a cooperative agreement to share surveillance data during a public health emergency with other countries in the region?**

Yes, commitments have been made to share data for more than one disease, Yes, commitments have been made to share data only for one disease = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**



There is no evidence that The Republic of Maldives' government has made a commitment via public statements, legislation, and/or a cooperative agreement to share surveillance data during a public health emergency with other countries in the region for one or more than one disease. There is no evidence of any such commitments on their Ministry of Health or The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital website in the form of press releases or otherwise. [1,2,3] No further evidence is found under the Health Emergency Operations Plan published in 2018.[4]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. "News". [<http://www.health.gov.mv/News>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv>]. Accessed by 27 October 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan." May 2018.

[[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations\(124\).pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations(124).pdf)]. Accessed 27 October 2020

## 2.5 CASE-BASED INVESTIGATION

### 2.5.1 Case investigation and contact tracing

#### 2.5.1a

**Is there a national system in place to provide support at the sub-national level (e.g. training, metrics standardization and/or financial resources) to conduct contact tracing in the event of a public health emergency?**

Yes, there is evidence that the national government supports sub-national systems to prepare for future public health emergencies = 2, Yes, there is evidence that the national government supports sub-national systems, but only in response to active public health emergencies = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of a national system in place to provide support at the sub-national level (e.g. training, metrics standardization and/or financial resources) to conduct contact tracing in the event of a public health emergency. No evidence is found under the Ministry of Health, The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital or the National Disaster Management Authority Websites.[1,2,3] No further evidence is found in the Health Emergency Operations Plan released in 2018.[4] It is noteworthy that guidelines are available on Contract Tracing in the present COVID-19 pandemic and the role of Public Health Units and Border Health Units have been outlined but there is no mention of a system in place to provide support at the sub-national level (e.g. training, metrics standardization and/or financial resources) to conduct contact tracing. [5] Further, according to the World Health Organization, there is evidence that the government of Maldives had set up the National Emergency Operations Center which 'has been effectively using Go.Data, a WHO software tool for outbreak investigation and contact tracing, in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. [6] Hence, there is evidence that contact tracing was applied for the present COVID-19 pandemic but there is no evidence of a national system in place to provide support at the sub national level to conduct contact tracing.

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority.[<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>] Accessed 27 October 2020

[4] Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan." May 2018.

[[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations\(124\).pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations(124).pdf)]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[5] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Downloads. 'Contact Tracing Guideline for Ncov 2020'. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/Downloads>] Accessed 27 October 2020

[6] World Health Organization(WHO). South East Asia. 03 July 2020. 'WHO Software Helps Maldives In Tracing COVID-19 Patients & Their Contacts'. [ <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/news/feature-stories/detail/who-software-helps-maldives-in-tracing-covid-19-patients-and-their-contacts>] Accessed 27 October 2020

### 2.5.1b

**Does the country provide wraparound services to enable infected people and their contacts to self-isolate or quarantine as recommended, particularly economic support (paycheck, job security) and medical attention?**

Yes, both economic support and medical attention are provided = 2, Yes, but only economic support or medical attention is provided = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives provides wraparound services to enable infected people and their contacts to self-isolate or quarantine as recommended. No evidence of services to provide economic support (paycheck, job security) or medical attention is seen. In the present Covid-19 pandemic, although self isolation and quarantining of infected people and their contacts has been stressed and medical attention to these cases has been given importance, the other services particularly economic support etc has not been mentioned.[1]No further evidence for aforementioned wraparound services is found under the Ministry of Health, The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital or the National Disaster Management Authority Websites.[2,3,4] No further evidence is found in the Health Emergency Operations Plan released in 2018. [5]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Downloads. COVID-19 Quick Reference SOPs. [ <http://www.health.gov.mv/Downloads>] Accessed 27 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [ <http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [ <http://igmh.gov.mv>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. [ <http://ndmc.gov.mv/>] Accessed 27 October 2020

[5] Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan." May 2018.

[ [http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations\(124\).pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations(124).pdf)]. Accessed 27 October 2020.

### 2.5.1c

**Does the country make de-identified data on contact tracing efforts for COVID-19 (including the percentage of new cases from identified contacts) available via daily reports (or other format) on government websites (such as the Ministry of Health, or similar)?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives makes de-identified data on contact tracing efforts for COVID-19 (including the percentage of new cases from identified contacts) available via daily reports on government websites. No evidence is found on the Ministry of Health, Health Protection Agency-COVID-19 Statistics Dashboard, The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital or the National Disaster Management Authority websites [1,2,3,4]. There is evidence that Contact tracing for the present COVID-19 pandemic was introduced in Maldives and according to the World Health Organization, there is evidence that the government of Maldives had set up the National Emergency Operations Center which 'has been effectively using Go.Data, a WHO software tool for outbreak investigation and contact tracing, in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Maldives has been effectively using Go.Data, a WHO software tool for outbreak investigation and contact tracing, in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.' [5,6] However, there is de-identified data on the number of cases, active cases, discharged cases, number of deaths updated daily on the Health Protection Agency- COVID-19 Statistics Dashboard. The data also

includes case count in the atolls and distribution of case clusters.[2]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 28 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Health Protection Agency. COVID-19 Statistics Dashboard.[<https://covid19.health.gov.mv/dashboard/?c=0>] Accessed 28 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv>]. Accessed 28 October 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority.[<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>]Accessed 28 October 2020

[5] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Downloads. 'Contact Tracing Guideline for Ncov 2020'. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/Downloads>] Accessed 28 October 2020

[6] World Health Organization(WHO). South East Asia. 03 July 2020. 'WHO Software Helps Maldives In Tracing COVID-19 Patients & Their Contacts'. [<https://www.who.int/southeastasia/news/feature-stories/detail/who-software-helps-maldives-in-tracing-covid-19-patients-and-their-contacts>] Accessed 27 October 2020

## 2.5.2 Point of entry management

### 2.5.2a

**Is there a joint plan or cooperative agreement between the public health system and border control authorities to identify suspected and potential cases in international travelers and trace and quarantine their contacts in the event of a public health emergency?**

Yes, plan(s)/agreement(s) are in place to prepare for future public health emergencies = 2, Yes, but plan(s)/agreement(s) are in place only in response to active public health emergencies = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that there is a joint plan or cooperative agreement between the public health system and border control authorities to identify suspected and potential cases in international travelers and trace and quarantine their contacts only in the event of an active public health emergency. In light of the present COVID-19 pandemic, the COVID-19 'Contact Tracing Guideline for Ncov 2020' published by the Ministry of Health provides evidence of a plan to identify suspected and potential cases in international travellers and trace and quarantine their contacts in specific isolation/quarantine facilities by the Public Health Units or the Border Health Units in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.[1,2] No evidence of a such a plan to prepare for future public health emergencies is found in the Maldives Health Master Plan 2016-2025 or the Health Emergency Operations Plan.[3,4] No further evidence is found under the Ministry of Health, Health Protection Agency, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital or the Maldives Immigration websites [2,5,6,7]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Downloads. 'Contact Tracing Guideline for Ncov 2020'. [[http://health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations\(243\).pdf](http://health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations(243).pdf)] Accessed 27 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Health Protection Agency. COVID-19 local updates.[<https://covid19.health.gov.mv/en/?c=0>] Accessed 28 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. "Maldives Health Master Plan 2016-2025". December 2014. [[http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning\\_cycle\\_repository/maldives/proposed\\_draft\\_health\\_master\\_plan\\_2016-2025.pdf](http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning_cycle_repository/maldives/proposed_draft_health_master_plan_2016-2025.pdf)]. Accessed 28 October 2020

[4] Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan." May 2018. [[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations\(124\).pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations(124).pdf)].Accessed 27 October 2020

[5] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 28 October 2020

[6] Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv>]. Accessed 28 October 2020

[7] Republic of Maldives. Maldives Immigration. [ <https://immigration.gov.mv/downloads/>] Accessed 18 November 2020

## 2.6 EPIDEMIOLOGY WORKFORCE

### 2.6.1 Applied epidemiology training program, such as the field epidemiology training program, for public health professionals and veterinarians (e.g., Field Epidemiology Training Program [FETP] and Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians [FETPV])

#### 2.6.1a

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Applied epidemiology training program (such as FETP) is available in country
- Resources are provided by the government to send citizens to another country to participate in applied epidemiology training programs (such as FETP)

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure. , Yes for both = 1 , Yes for one = 1 , No for both = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence of a national-level FETP programme, but insufficient evidence to determine if the country provides resources to send citizens to training outside the country. The country provides courses such as Public Health in their local universities and this includes a Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP) under Faculty of Health Sciences. According to the March 2017 Joint External Evaluation for the Maldives, "medical staff members have been trained in short term FETP within the last five years and training requirements are forecast every three years." [1] Furthermore, some epidemiology training is given in India and Thailand while the rest is given in Maldives at the central level and is conducted by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). [1] This is corroborated by India's National Centre for Disease Control as Maldives took part in their Regional Field Epidemiology Training Programme in 2008. [2] There is no specific evidence that the Maldivian government provides resources to send citizens to another country to participate in applied epidemiology training programs on their Ministry of Health website. [3]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [ <https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 28 October 2020

[2] "National Centre for Disease Control" Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. "Regional Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP)". October 2020.

( <https://ncdc.gov.in/index1.php?lang=1&level=1&sublinkid=186&lid=100>). Accessed October 28 2020.

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [ <http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 28 October 2020

#### 2.6.1b

Are the available field epidemiology training programs explicitly inclusive of animal health professionals or is there a specific animal health field epidemiology training program offered (such as FETPV)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the available field epidemiology training programs in Maldives are explicitly inclusive of animal health professionals or if there is a specific animal health field epidemiology training program offered (such as FETPV). According to the March 2017 Joint External Evaluation report for the Maldives, the WHO recommends "additional training on

zoonotic diseases for human and animal health professionals as continued professional education." However, the JEE report makes no specific mention of field epidemiology training for animal health professionals specifically. [1] Furthermore, there is no public evidence of such FETP training programs for animal health professions on their Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, or TEPHINET websites. [2,3,4]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 28 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 28 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 28 October 2020

[4] TEPHINET. "Training Programs." 2020. [<https://www.tephinet.org/training-programs>]. Accessed 28 October 2020

## 2.6.2 Epidemiology workforce capacity

### 2.6.2a

**Is there public evidence that the country has at least 1 trained field epidemiologist per 200,000 people?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

2020

Completed JEE assessments; Economist Impact analyst qualitative assessment based on official national sources, which vary by country

## Category 3: Rapid response to and mitigation of the spread of an epidemic

### 3.1 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLANNING

#### 3.1.1 National public health emergency preparedness and response plan

##### 3.1.1a

**Does the country have an overarching national public health emergency response plan in place which addresses planning for multiple communicable diseases with epidemic or pandemic potential?**

Evidence that there is a plan in place, and the plan is publicly available = 2, Evidence that the plan is in place, but the plan is not publicly available OR, Disease-specific plans are in place, but there is no evidence of an overarching plan = 1, No evidence that such a plan or plans are in place = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

The Republic of Maldives does have a publicly available overarching national public health emergency response plan in place which addresses planning for multiple communicable diseases with pandemic potential. According to a March 2017 report by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives", there are some "detailed operational plans sitting underneath the Health Emergency Risk Management Framework, including

an Emergency Response Plan (ERP)." [1] Following the completion of the JEE for the Maldives, the country published a "Health Emergency Operations Plan" in May of 2018. [2] It was put together by Maldives' Ministry of Health under the WHO's guidance and has been sponsored by UNICEF. It serves as a "strategic framework of actions, policies, and regulations that contain a blueprint of how to elaborate, implement, and execute a response operation for public health emergencies and disasters with public health impacts." [2]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. (<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>). Accessed 28 October 2020.

[2] Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan." May 2018. [[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations\(124\).pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations(124).pdf)]. Accessed 28 October 2020.

### 3.1.1b

**If an overarching plan is in place, has it been updated in the last 3 years?**

Yes = 1 , No /no plan in place= 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

The Republic of Maldives does have a publicly available overarching national public health emergency preparedness and response plan which was put forth within the last 3 years. More specifically, their "Health Emergency Operations Plan" was published in May of 2018. It was put together by Maldives' Ministry of Health under the WHO's guidance and has been sponsored by UNICEF. It serves as a "strategic framework of actions, policies, and regulations that contain a blueprint of how to elaborate, implement, and execute a response operation for public health emergencies and disasters with public health impacts." [1]

[1] Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan." May 2018. [[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations\(124\).pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations(124).pdf)]. Accessed 28 October 2020

### 3.1.1c

**If an overarching plan is in place, does it include considerations for pediatric and/or other vulnerable populations?**

Yes = 1 , No /no plan in place= 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

The Republic of Maldives has a publicly available overarching national public health emergency response plan in place which addresses planning for multiple communicable diseases with pandemic potential. It was published in 2018 as the 'Health Emergency Operations Plan'. However, there is insufficient evidence that this plan includes considerations for paediatric and other vulnerable populations. The plan does call upon the National Disaster Management Center (NDMC) and Maldives Red Crescent (MRC) to "coordinate special care requirements for disaster victims such as children, pregnant women, aged, disabled, special needs individuals, and others." [1] However, there is no mention of how the needs of vulnerable groups will be addressed during an emergency. No further evidence is found via the Ministry of Health. [2]

[1] Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan." May 2018. [[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations\(124\).pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations(124).pdf)]. Accessed 28 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 28 October 2020

### 3.1.1d

Does the country have a publicly available plan in place specifically for pandemic influenza preparedness that has been updated since 2009?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2020

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH)

## 3.1.2 Private sector involvement in response planning

### 3.1.2a

Does the country have a specific mechanism(s) for engaging with the private sector to assist with outbreak emergency preparedness and response?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives has a specific mechanism for engaging with the private sector to assist with outbreak emergency preparedness and response. Although the Health Emergency Operations Plan states that it provides the framework "for the guidance, direction and coordination of timely and effective mobilization" of multiple sectors, including the private sector, it does not go into detail about any specific mechanisms for engagement. [1] There is also no public evidence of a partnership or agreement with the private sector on their Ministry of Health website. [2]

[1] Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan." May 2018.

[[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations\(124\).pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations(124).pdf)]. Accessed 28 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 28 October 2020

## 3.1.3 Non-pharmaceutical interventions planning

### 3.1.3a

Does the country have a policy, plan and/or guidelines in place to implement non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) during an epidemic or pandemic?

Yes, a policy, plan and/or guidelines are in place for more than one disease = 2, Yes, but the policy, plan and/or guidelines exist only for one disease = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence of a policy, plan and/or guidelines in place to implement non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) during the current Covid-19 pandemic, but insufficient evidence for other diseases. In light of the present COVID-19 pandemic, Standard Operating Procedures have been released by the Ministry of Health which highlight contact tracing, screening, isolation, quarantine measures, work place safety and environmental management to control the spread of the disease. Travel advisories have also been issued. [1] There are emergency management guidelines outlined in the Roles and Responsibilities of the Health Emergency and Coordination Committee, during a Health Emergency, found in the 'Health Emergency Operations Plan'. This includes issuance of travel advisories, isolation and quarantine recommendations in the event of an outbreak of an infectious disease. However, NPIs are not sufficiently addressed in the plan. [2] No other evidence

was found via the Ministry of Health. [3]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Downloads. Guidelines.[ <https://covid19.health.gov.mv/downloads/?c=2>] Accessed 28 October 2020.

[2] Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan." May 2018.

[[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations\(124\).pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations(124).pdf)]. Accessed 28 October 2020.

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 27 October 2020

## 3.2 EXERCISING RESPONSE PLANS

### 3.2.1 Activating response plans

#### 3.2.1a

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there evidence that the country has activated their national emergency response plan for an infectious disease outbreak in the past year?

- Is there evidence that the country has completed a national-level biological threat-focused exercise (either with WHO or separately) in the past year?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure. , Yes for both = 1 , Yes for one = 1 , No for both = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that the Republic of Maldives has activated their national emergency response plan for an infectious disease outbreak in the past year but there is no evidence that the country has completed a national-level biological threat-focused exercise (either with WHO or separately) in the past year. Maldives published their 'Health Emergency Operations Plan' in 2018. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Health Emergency Operations Plan was activated.[1] Further, under the Ministry of Health various guidelines and advisories were released to control the spread of the disease in the country.[2]There is no evidence that a national-level biological threat-focused exercise (either with WHO or separately) in the past year under the World Health Organization, Ministry of Health, or the National Disaster Management Authority websites. [3,4,5]

[1] Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan." May 2018.

[[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations\(124\).pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations(124).pdf)]. Accessed 28 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Downloads. Guidelines.[ <https://covid19.health.gov.mv/downloads/?c=2>] Accessed 28 October 2020

[3] World Health Organization (WHO). Strategic Partnership For International Health Regulations (2005) and Health Security (SPH). 'Maldives'. [[https://extranet.who.int/sph/simulation-exercise-list?field\\_region\\_tid=All&tid=324&field\\_simulation\\_status\\_tid=1790&field\\_simulation\\_type\\_tid=All&title=](https://extranet.who.int/sph/simulation-exercise-list?field_region_tid=All&tid=324&field_simulation_status_tid=1790&field_simulation_type_tid=All&title=)] Accessed 28 October 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 28 October 2020

[5] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority.[<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>] Accessed 28 October 2020



### 3.2.1b

**Is there evidence that the country in the past year has identified a list of gaps and best practices in response (either through an infectious disease response or a biological-threat focused exercise) and developed a plan to improve response capabilities?**

Yes, the country has developed and published a plan to improve response capacity = 2 , Yes, the country has developed a plan to improve response capacity, but has not published the plan = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives in the past year has identified a list of gaps and best practices in response (either through an infectious disease response or a biological-threat focused exercise) and developed a plan to improve response capabilities. There is also no evidence of an exercise to identify a list of gaps and best practices through either an after action review (post emergency response) with the WHO. No evidence of such an exercise is seen on the World Health Organization's After Action Review database or the Maldives page.[1,2] There is no further information from the National Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture websites.[3,4,5]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO) Strategic Partnership for International Health Regulations (2005) and Health Security (SPH). "After Action Review". 2020, (<https://extranet.who.int/sph/after-action-review>). Accessed 30 October 2020.

[2] World Health Organization. 'Maldives'. [<https://www.who.int/maldives/>] Accessed 30 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. [<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>] Accessed 30 October 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 30 October 2020

[5] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 30 October 2020

## 3.2.2 Private sector engagement in exercises

### 3.2.2a

**Is there evidence that the country in the past year has undergone a national-level biological threat-focused exercise that has included private sector representatives?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives in the past year has undergone a national-level biological threat-focused exercise that has included private sector representatives. No evidence of such an exercise is seen on the World Health Organization's (WHO) websites or the Maldives page.[1,2,3] Furthermore, no evidence of such exercises are found under the Ministry of Health and National Disaster Management Authority.[4,5]

[1] World Health Organization (WHO) Strategic Partnership for International Health Regulations (2005) and Health Security (SPH). "After Action Review". 2020, (<https://extranet.who.int/sph/after-action-review>). Accessed 30 October 2020.

[2] World Health Organization (WHO). Strategic Partnership For International Health Regulations (2005) and Health Security (SPH). 'Maldives' [[https://extranet.who.int/sph/simulation-exercise-list?field\\_region\\_tid=All&tid=328&field\\_simulation\\_status\\_tid=All&field\\_simulation\\_type\\_tid=All&title=](https://extranet.who.int/sph/simulation-exercise-list?field_region_tid=All&tid=328&field_simulation_status_tid=All&field_simulation_type_tid=All&title=)] Accessed 18 November 2020

[3] World Health Organization. 'Maldives'. [<https://www.who.int/maldives/>] Accessed 30 October 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 30 October 2020

[5] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. [<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>] Accessed 30 October 2020

## 3.3 EMERGENCY RESPONSE OPERATION

### 3.3.1 Emergency response operation

#### 3.3.1a

Does the country have in place an Emergency Operations Center (EOC)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

The Republic of Maldives does have an Emergency Operations Center in place. Their "Health Emergency Operations Center" was launched recently in 2018. [1] In addition, the generalized Emergency Operations Center (EOC) also plays a pivotal role in coordinating with several agencies such as their National Disaster Management Center, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Environment and Energy in the case of an emergency. [2]

[1] World Health Organization. "Launching of the Health Emergency Operations Center in the Maldives." 2018.

[<http://www.searo.who.int/maldives/mediacentre/health-emergency-operations-center/en/#>]. Accessed 30 October 2020.

[2] Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan." May 2018.

[[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations\(124\).pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations(124).pdf)]. Accessed 30 October 2020

#### 3.3.1b

Is the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) required to conduct a drill for a public health emergency scenario at least once per year or is there evidence that they conduct a drill at least once per year?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of Maldives' Emergency Operations Center (EOC) being required to conduct a drill at least once per year or that an annual health focused drill is conducted. Although the "Health Emergency Operations Plan" from May 2018 does mention that one of the goals of the HEOC in the Maldives is to "conduct regular drills to maintain necessary skills and effectiveness of the response", the frequency of these drills are not explicitly stated. [1] The plan also outlines that hospitals and ministries such as the Ministry of Health are required to carry out drills as well; however, no public evidence of the frequency for these drills are evident on the Ministry of Health or the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital website. [2,3] Lastly, although the Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives was published in March 2017, it too indicates the main EOC does not have a requirement to conduct drills annually. [4]

[1] Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan." May 2018.

[[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations\(124\).pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations(124).pdf)]. Accessed 28 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 28 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. [<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>] Accessed 28 October 2020

[4] World Health Organization (WHO). Strategic Partnership For International Health Regulations (2005) and Health Security (SPH). 'Maldives'. [[https://extranet.who.int/sph/simulation-exercise-list?field\\_region\\_tid=All&tid=324&field\\_simulation\\_status\\_tid=1790&field\\_simulation\\_type\\_tid=All&title=](https://extranet.who.int/sph/simulation-exercise-list?field_region_tid=All&tid=324&field_simulation_status_tid=1790&field_simulation_type_tid=All&title=)] Accessed 28 October 2020

### 3.3.1c

Is there public evidence to show that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has conducted within the last year a coordinated emergency response or emergency response exercise activated within 120 minutes of the identification of the public health emergency/scenario?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence to show that the Maldives' Emergency Operations Center (EOC) can conduct, or has conducted within the last year, a coordinated emergency response or emergency response exercise activated within 120 minutes of the identification of the public health emergency/scenario. Although their "Health Emergency Operations Plan, 2018" does outline that "drills were conducted for public health emergencies", it is unclear whether these drills were or are capable of running within 120 minutes of the identification of the public health emergency/scenario. [1] There is no information in the Joint External Evaluation for Maldives, conducted in March 2017, about the ability of the EOC to launch a response to an event or exercise within 120 minutes. [2] In addition, no other evidence of these drills or their duration could be found on their Ministry of Health or their National Disaster Management Authority websites. [3,4]

[1] Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan." May 2018.

[[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations\(124\).pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations(124).pdf)]. Accessed 30 October 2020.

[2] World Health Organization(WHO). Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 30 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 30 October 2020.

[4] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. 2020. [<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 30 October 2020

## 3.4 LINKING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SECURITY AUTHORITIES

### 3.4.1 Public health and security authorities are linked for rapid response during a biological event

#### 3.4.1a

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there public evidence that public health and national security authorities have carried out an exercise to respond to a potential deliberate biological event (i.e., bioterrorism attack)?

- Are there publicly available standard operating procedures, guidelines, memorandums of understanding (MOUs), or other agreements between the public health and security authorities to respond to a potential deliberate biological event (i.e., bioterrorism attack)?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no public evidence that public health and national security authorities in the Republic of Maldives have carried out any exercises to respond to potential deliberate biological events (i.e. bioterrorism attack). Neither are there any publicly available standard operating procedures, guidelines, MOUs or other agreements between the public health and security authorities of the Republic of Maldives to respond to a potential deliberate biological event (i.e. bioterrorism attack). The March 2017 Joint External Evaluation report for the Maldives notes that linkages between the security sector and public health agencies is informal and no codified legislation or policies on cooperation exist. The report also makes no mention of procedures for deliberate biological events. [1] Furthermore, there is no evidence of any such exercises or publicly available

standard operating procedures on their Ministry of Health or the National Disaster Management Authority websites.[2,3]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 30 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 30 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. 2020. [<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 30 October 2020

## 3.5 RISK COMMUNICATIONS

### 3.5.1 Public communication

#### 3.5.1b

**Does the risk communication plan (or other legislation, regulation or strategy document used to guide national public health response) outline how messages will reach populations and sectors with different communications needs (eg different languages, location within the country, media reach)?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Maldives has a strategy for public health response which outlines how messages will reach populations and sectors with different communications needs. According to the March 2017 Joint External Evaluation report for the Maldives, there is some information on communications. It states that public communication is "tailored according to geographic location and language." [1] Certain tweets from their official Ministry of Health twitter handle are also in Dhivehi, their local language. [2] However, their "Health Emergency Operations Plan" states that a risk communication plan has yet to be developed and does not include strategies for reaching out to populations with different communications needs. [3] There is also no evidence through the Ministry of Health or National Disaster Management Centre website. [4,5]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 30 October 2020

[2] Min of Health\_mv Twitter. "#WorldFoodDay". October 2020. [<https://twitter.com/mohmv?lang=en>]. Accessed October 30 2020.

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan." May 2018.

[[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations\(124\).pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations(124).pdf)]. Accessed 30 October 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 30 October 2020

[5] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. 2020 [<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 30 October 2020

### 3.5.1 Risk communication planning

#### 3.5.1a

**Does the country have in place, either in the national public health emergency response plan or in other legislation, regulation, or strategy documents, a section detailing a risk communication plan that is specifically intended for use during a public health emergency?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that The Republic of Maldives has either in the national public health emergency response plan or in other legislation, regulation or strategy documents, a section detailing a risk communication plan that is specifically intended for use during a public health emergency. According to a March 2017 report by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives", a key gap is a lack of a risk communication plan to formalize processes in the country. [1] To this effect, the WHO recommends that Maldives "develop a risk communications plan." [1] In addition, their "Health Emergency Operations Plan, 2018" specifically cites that "risk communication is a lifesaving tool [but] the Ministry does not have such a plan but one is expected in near future." [2] Lastly, no such plan or strategy can be found on their Ministry of Health or National Disaster Management Authority websites.[3,4]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 30 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan." May 2018.

[[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations\(124\).pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations(124).pdf)]. Accessed 30 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>] Accessed 30 October 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. [<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 30 October 2020

### 3.5.1c

**Does the risk communication plan (or other legislation, regulation or strategy document used to guide national public health response) designate a specific position within the government to serve as the primary spokesperson to the public during a public health emergency?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that The Republic of Maldives has either in the national public health emergency response plan or in other legislation, regulation or strategy documents, a section detailing a risk communication plan that is specifically intended for use during a public health emergency. According to a March 2017 report by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives" (JEE) a key gap is a lack of a risk communication plan to formalize processes in the country. [1] To this effect, the WHO recommends that Maldives "develop a risk communications plan." [1] In addition, their "Health Emergency Operations Plan, 2018" specifically cites that "risk communication is a lifesaving tool [but] the Ministry does not have such a plan but one is expected in near future." [2] Lastly, no such plan or strategy can be found on their Ministry of Health or National Disaster Management Authority websites.[3,4] However, there are documents to support that the Government of the Republic of Maldives' designates a specific position within the government to serve as the primary spokesperson to the public during a public health emergency. The Health Protection Agency (HPA) under the Ministry of Health (MoH) is responsible in dealing with public health emergency in the country. According to the March 2017 JEE report on Maldives 'MoH has a designated and trained public spokesperson'. The report further affirms that 'The Maldives has a number of capabilities and processes that it uses regularly to respond to public health events. There are staff and spokespeople in the HPA the and Maldives Food and Drug Authority(MFDA) that respond to public information needs. There are procedures for clearance of public messaging and to coordinate messaging with other parts of the health sector and with other agencies. Information can reach the target population and messages are fine tuned to the respective audience and adjusted according to feedback received.'[1]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 30 October 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan." May 2018.

[[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations\(124\).pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Informations/Informations(124).pdf)]. Accessed 30 October 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>] Accessed 30 October 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. [<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 30 October 2020

## 3.5.2 Public communication

### 3.5.2a

**In the past year, is there evidence that the public health system has actively shared messages via online media platforms (e.g. social media, website) to inform the public about ongoing public health concerns and/or dispel rumors, misinformation or disinformation?**

Public health system regularly shares information on health concerns = 2, Public health system shares information only during active emergencies, but does not regularly utilize online media platforms = 1, Public health system does not regularly utilize online media platforms, either during emergencies or otherwise = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

The Republic of Maldives regularly utilizes media platforms to inform the public on health concerns . According to a March 2017 report by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives", public communication is one of the strengths of the Maldives and proactive communications about seasonal issues such as dengue are in place and the messaging is tailored to geography and language needs. [1] In addition, "regular media briefings and updates through mass and social media are provided during emergencies as needed." [1] This is corroborated by the fact that their Ministry of Health has their very own active Twitter and Facebook accounts.[2,3] In light of the present COVID-19 pandemic the government of Maldives is active on its Ministry of Health : Twitter and Facebook accounts and have regular updates and advisories on the COVID-19 pandemic.[4,2,3]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 30 October 2020

[2] Twitter. Ministry of Health. Maldives. October 2020.[ <https://twitter.com/mohmv?lang=en>] Accessed 30 October 2020

[3] Facebook. Ministry of Health. Maldives. October 2020.[ <https://www.facebook.com/MinistryOfHealthMV>] Accessed 30 October 2020.

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>] Accessed 30 October 2020

### 3.5.2b

**Is there evidence that senior leaders (president or ministers) have shared misinformation or disinformation on infectious diseases in the past two years?**

No = 1, Yes = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is no evidence that senior leaders (president or ministers) have shared misinformation or disinformation on infectious diseases in the past two years. In light of the present pandemic, COVID-19, the Ministry of Health has been sharing information about the situation in the country and also safety measures, protocols in order to fight the pandemic on its official website and also on its Facebook and Twitter pages. [1,2,3] There has been no misinformation or disinformation from any of the leaders in these sites and also no evidence is found in the national newspapers like The Edition and Maldives Times or BBC news on Maldives.[4,5,6]

- [1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health.[ <https://covid19.health.gov.mv/en/?c=0>] Accessed 02 November 2020
- [2] Facebook. Ministry of Health. Maldives. November 2020.[ <https://www.facebook.com/MinistryOfHealthMV>] Accessed 02 November 2020.
- [3] Twitter. Ministry of Health. Maldives. November 2020.[ <https://twitter.com/mohmv?lang=en>] Accessed 02 November 2020
- [4] The Edition.[ <https://edition.mv/>] Accessed 02 November 2020
- [5] Maldives Times.[ <https://maldivestimes.com/>] Accessed 02 November 2020
- [6] BBC News. 'Maldives'. [ <https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/cq23pdgvgnxt/maldives>] Accessed 02 November 2020

## 3.6 ACCESS TO COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

### 3.6.1 Internet users

#### 3.6.1a

Percentage of households with Internet

Input number

Current Year Score: 63.19

2019

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

### 3.6.2 Mobile subscribers

#### 3.6.2a

Mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

Input number

Current Year Score: 155.95

2019

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

### 3.6.3 Female access to a mobile phone

#### 3.6.3a

Percentage point gap between males and females whose home has access to a mobile phone

Input number

Current Year Score: 21.5

2018-2019

Gallup; Economist Impact calculation

### 3.6.4 Female access to the Internet

#### 3.6.4a

Percentage point gap between males and females whose home has access to the Internet

Input number

Current Year Score: 16

2018-2019

Gallup; Economist Impact calculation

## 3.7 TRADE AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

### 3.7.1 Trade restrictions

#### 3.7.1a

In the past year, has the country issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of medical goods (e.g. medicines, oxygen, medical supplies, PPE) due to an infectious disease outbreak?

Yes = 0 , No = 1

Current Year Score: 1

There is no evidence that in the past year, the Republic of Maldives has issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of medical goods (e.g. medicines, oxygen, medical supplies, PPE) due to an infectious disease outbreak. No evidence is found under the Ministry of Health or Ministry of Foreign Affairs websites [1,2]. In light of COVID-19, no evidence of any restrictions on the import and export of medical goods is found under the International Trade Center Website[3]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [ <https://covid19.health.gov.mv/downloads/?c=2>] Accessed 02 November 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [ <https://www.foreign.gov.mv/index.php/en/>] Accessed 02 November 2020

[3] International Trade Center. Market Access Map.'Covid-19 Temporary Trade Measures'. Maldives'. [ <https://www.macmap.org/covid19>]. Accessed on 02 November 2020

#### 3.7.1b

In the past year, has the country issued a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of non-medical goods (e.g. food, textiles, etc) due to an infectious disease outbreak?

Yes = 0 , No = 1

Current Year Score: 1

There is no evidence that in the past year, the Republic of Maldives has a restriction, without international/bilateral support, on the export/import of non-medical goods (e.g. food, textiles, etc) due to an infectious disease outbreak. No evidence is found under the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture or Ministry of Foreign Affairs websites [1,2,3]. In light of COVID-19, no evidence of any restrictions on the import and export of non-medical goods is found under the International Trade Center Website.[4]



[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [ <https://covid19.health.gov.mv/downloads/?c=2>] Accessed 02 November 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [ <http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 02 November 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [ <https://www.foreign.gov.mv/index.php/en/>] Accessed 02 November 2020

[4] International Trade Center. Market Access Map. 'Covid-19 Temporary Trade Measures'. Maldives'. [ <https://www.macmap.org/covid19>]. Accessed on 02 November 2020

## 3.7.2 Travel restrictions

### 3.7.2a

In the past year, has the country implemented a ban, without international/bilateral support, on travelers arriving from a specific country or countries due to an infectious disease outbreak?

Yes = 0, No = 1

Current Year Score: 0

In the past year, Republic of Maldives has implemented a ban, without international/bilateral support, on travelers arriving from a specific country or countries due to an infectious disease outbreak. This measure has been taken in light of the present Covid-19 pandemic by the Government of the Republic of Maldives. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maldives Immigration temporarily suspended on-arrival visa for all passengers arriving to Maldives by air and sea, effective from 27 March 2020. Individuals with special permission granted by the government were exempted from this suspension. [1]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [ <https://www.foreign.gov.mv/index.php/en/covid-19>] Accessed November 02, 2020

## Category 4: Sufficient and robust health sector to treat the sick and protect health workers

### 4.1 HEALTH CAPACITY IN CLINICS, HOSPITALS, AND COMMUNITY CARE CENTERS

#### 4.1.1 Available human resources for the broader healthcare system

##### 4.1.1a

Doctors per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 456.27

2018

WHO; national sources

#### 4.1.1b

##### Nurses and midwives per 100,000 people

Input number

**Current Year Score: 642.82**

2018

WHO; national sources

#### 4.1.1c

##### Does the country have a health workforce strategy in place (which has been updated in the past five years) to identify fields where there is an insufficient workforce and strategies to address these shortcomings?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

The Republic of Maldives does not have a public workforce strategy in place to identify fields where there is an insufficient workforce and strategies to address these shortcomings. Although, the country has a "Health care professional Act (13/2015)", it is for training purposes and does not identify fields where there is insufficient workforce. [1] Furthermore, their "Maldives Health Master Plan 2016-2025" makes multiple mentions of investing in "training and retention of professional and ethical standards of the health workforce"; however, being a master plan, it does not outline specific actions to address these shortcomings. [2] According to a March 2017 report by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives", outlines the "formulation of a designated workforce comprising of trained staff" for contingencies as an area that needs strengthening. [3] The WHO also declares that the Republic of Maldives is in the process "of developing a reliable and timely Health Workforce information system"; however, such a strategy is not yet available. [3] Furthermore, there is no evidence of such a public workforce strategy on their Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education or Labour Relations Authority website. [4,5,6]

[1] Maldives Medical and Dental Council, "Health care professional Act (13/2015)", [<http://mmc.gov.mv/ethicals-codes-and-guidelines/health-care-professional-act-132015/>] Accessed 02 November 2020

[2] The Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Maldives Health Master Plan 2016-2025". December 2014. [[http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning\\_cycle\\_repository/maldives/proposed\\_draft\\_health\\_master\\_plan\\_2016-2025.pdf](http://www.nationalplanningcycles.org/sites/default/files/planning_cycle_repository/maldives/proposed_draft_health_master_plan_2016-2025.pdf)]. Accessed 02 November 2020.

[3] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 02 November 2020.

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 02 November 2020.

[5] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Education. [<https://www.moe.gov.mv/en/page>]. Accessed 02 November 2020.

[6] The Republic of Maldives Labour Relations Authority. "Laws and Regulation". 2020. [[http://www.lra.gov.mv/en/download-category/laws\\_and\\_regulation](http://www.lra.gov.mv/en/download-category/laws_and_regulation)]. Accessed 02 November 2020.

## 4.1.2 Facilities capacity

### 4.1.2a

#### Hospital beds per 100,000 people

Input number

Current Year Score: 430

2009

WHO/World Bank; national sources

### 4.1.2b

#### Does the country have the capacity to isolate patients with highly communicable diseases in a biocontainment patient care unit and/or patient isolation room/unit located within the country?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives has the capacity to isolate patients with highly communicable diseases in a biocontainment patient care unit and/or patient isolation room/unit located within the country. No evidence is found under the Ministry of Health website or the websites of tertiary hospitals like the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital and ADK Hospital.[1,2,3] However, in light of the present COVID-19 pandemic, there is evidence that Quarantine facilities were set up in the country to isolate, test, treat and transport these patients to higher centers in case of emergency. This is outlined in the handbook on 'Quarantine Facility Management' under the Ministry of Health.[4] According to the World Health Organization response on 'Maldives' response to COVID-19', Expansion of quarantine and isolation facilities has been a priority with the government. Majority of quarantined cases and uncomplicated confirmed cases have been managed at resorts of the country, the expense of which is entirely funded by the government. More than 3000 rooms have been identified for quarantine and 2000 for Isolation of cases.[5] However, there is no evidence that these are permanent quarantine facilities that could be used for similar public health emergencies in the future under the Ministry of Health or the WHO.[4,5]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 19 November 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 19 November 2020

[3] ADK Hospital. 2020.[ <http://www.adkhospital.mv/>] Accessed 19 November 2020

[4] Ministry of Health. Downloads.'Quarantine Facility Management'. [<https://covid19.health.gov.mv/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Handbook-COVID-19-QUARANTINE-2020.pdf>] Accessed 02 November 2020

[5] World Health Organization(WHO). 'Maldives' Response to COVID-19'. [[https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/maldives/covid-19-sitrep-14-june-2020.pdf?sfvrsn=a9ee4c83\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/maldives/covid-19-sitrep-14-june-2020.pdf?sfvrsn=a9ee4c83_2)]. Accessed 02 November 2020.

### 4.1.2c

#### Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there evidence that the country has demonstrated capacity to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years?
- Is there evidence that the country has developed, updated or tested a plan to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years?

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is evidence that in the past two years Maldives has demonstrated the capacity to expand isolation facility in the country. In light of the present COVID-19 pandemic Maldives has demonstrated the capacity to expand isolation facility in the country. There is also evidence that the country has developed, updated or tested a plan to expand isolation capacity in response to an infectious disease outbreak in the past two years. Although there is no evidence that Maldives had the capacity to isolate patients with highly communicable diseases in a biocontainment patient care unit located within the country prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the present pandemic has seen an expansion of isolation centers for patients being set up throughout the country. There is evidence that quarantine facilities were set up in the country to isolate, test, treat and transport these patients to higher centers in case of emergency. This is outlined in the handbook on 'Quarantine Facility Management' under the Ministry of Health, which includes a comprehensive strategy to expand and manage quarantine and isolation facilities for COVID-19. [1] According to the World Health Organization response on 'Maldives' response to COVID-19', expansion of quarantine and isolation facilities has been a priority with the government. Majority of quarantined cases and uncomplicated confirmed cases have been managed at resorts of the country, the expense of which is entirely funded by the government. More than 3000 rooms have been identified for quarantine and 2000 for isolation of cases.' [2] However, there is no evidence that these are permanent quarantine facilities that could be used for similar public health emergencies in the future under the Ministry of Health or the WHO. [1,2]

[1] Ministry of Health. Downloads.'Quarantine Facility Management'. [ <https://covid19.health.gov.mv/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Handbook-COVID-19-QUARANTINE-2020.pdf>] Accessed 27 April 2021

[2] World Health Organization(WHO).'Maldives' Response to COVID-19'. [ [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/maldives/covid-19-sitrep-14-june-2020.pdf?sfvrsn=a9ee4c83\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/maldives/covid-19-sitrep-14-june-2020.pdf?sfvrsn=a9ee4c83_2)]. Accessed 27 April 2021

## 4.2 SUPPLY CHAIN FOR HEALTH SYSTEM AND HEALTHCARE WORKERS

### 4.2.1 Routine health care and laboratory system supply

#### 4.2.1a

**Is there a national procurement protocol in place which can be utilized by the Ministries of Health and Agriculture for the acquisition of laboratory supplies (e.g. equipment, reagents and media) and medical supplies (e.g. equipment, PPE) for routine needs?**

Yes for both laboratory and medical supply needs = 2, Yes, but only for one = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives has a national procurement protocol in place which can be utilized by the Ministries of Health and Agriculture for the acquisition of laboratory supplies (e.g. equipment, reagents and media) and medical supplies (e.g. equipment, PPE) for routine needs. Although the March 2017 Joint External Evaluation for the Republic of Maldives, states that the "procurement policy for laboratory reagents" is one of the strengths of the Republic of Maldives, no public evidence of this procurement system or a procurement policy for acquisition of laboratory reagents and medical equipment cannot be found on their Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, or the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital websites. [1,2,3,4]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [ <https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 02

November 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 02 November 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 02 November 2020

[4] The Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv>]. Accessed 02 November 2020

## 4.2.2 Stockpiling for emergencies

### 4.2.2a

**Does the country have a stockpile of medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, medical equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency?**

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is limited evidence about what the stockpile contains = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

There is evidence that the Republic of Maldives maintains a stockpile of medical supplies (e.g. MCMs, medicines, vaccines, medical equipment, PPE) for national use during a public health emergency. According to a March 2017 report by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives", the Maldives holds "some stockpiles of countermeasures" within the country.[1] These countermeasures include: Interagency Emergency Health Kits, "enough for 30,000 people for two months for national use during a public health emergency", chlorine stock, updated monthly, used as needed for disinfecting water supplies when there is an annual peak in acute gastroenteritis cases (and occasional clusters), Personal Protective Equipment and Essential medicines. [1]The emergency health kits contain medicines, devices and equipment needed for large scale emergencies. It also includes the necessary equipment for minor surgeries during such events.[2] However, this could not be corroborated from their Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defence, National Disaster Management Authority website or the Maldives' Food and Drug Authority websites.[3,4,5,6] No more information on stockpile of medical supplies is found in the Health Emergency Operations Plan or the Maldives Pandemic Preparedness Plan [7,8]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 02 November 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. News. 13 July 2017. 'WHO donates Interagency Emergency Health Kits to the Health sector of Maldives' [<http://health.gov.mv/News/4172>] Accessed 19 November 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://health.gov.mv/Downloads>]. Accessed 02 November 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Defence. [<http://www.defence.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 02 November 2020.

[5] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. [<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 02 November 2020

[6] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Maldives Food and Drug Authority. [<http://health.gov.mv/GetDepartmentDetails/1005>] Accessed 02 November 2020

[7] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Health Emergency Preparedness Plan. [<http://origin.searo.who.int/maldives/documents/health-emergency-operations-plan-maldives-2018.pdf>] Accessed 19 November 2020

[8] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Maldives Pandemic Preparedness Plan.2009. [[http://health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Publications/Maldives%20Pandemic%20Preparedness%20Plan\\_%20November%202009%20update.pdf](http://health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Publications/Maldives%20Pandemic%20Preparedness%20Plan_%20November%202009%20update.pdf)] Accessed 19 November 2020

#### 4.2.2b

**Does the country have a stockpile of laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency?**

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is limited evidence about what the stockpile contains = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives has a stockpile of laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency. The March 2017 report by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives does not mention a stockpile of laboratory supplies .[1] No evidence is found in the Health Emergency Operations Plan released by the Ministry of Health in 2018 or in the Maldives Pandemic Preparedness Plan from 2009 [2,3 ] No further evidence is found under their Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defence, National Disaster Management Authority or the Maldives' Food and Drug Authority websites.[4,5,6,7]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 02 November 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. 'Health Emergency Operations Plan'.2018.[<http://origin.searo.who.int/maldives/documents/health-emergency-operations-plan-maldives-2018.pdf>] Accessed 02 November 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Maldives Pandemic Preparedness Plan.2009 [[http://health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Publications/Maldives%20Pandemic%20Preparedness%20Plan\\_%20November%202009%20update.pdf](http://health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads//Publications/Maldives%20Pandemic%20Preparedness%20Plan_%20November%202009%20update.pdf)] Accessed 19 November 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 02 November 2020

[5] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Defence. [<http://www.defence.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 02 November 2020.

[6] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. [<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 02 November 2020

[7] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Maldives Food and Drug Authority. [<http://health.gov.mv/GetDepartmentDetails/1005>] Accessed 02 November 2020

#### 4.2.2c

**Is there evidence that the country conducts or requires an annual review of the national stockpile to ensure the supply is sufficient for a public health emergency?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

Although there is evidence that Maldives maintains a stockpile of medical supplies for use during a public health emergency as evidenced in the March 2017 report by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives, there is no evidence that it conducts or requires an annual review of the national stockpile to ensure the supply is sufficient for a public health emergency.[1] No evidence is found in the Health Emergency Operations Plan released by the Ministry of Health in 2018 or in the Maldives Pandemic Preparedness Plan from 2009 [2,3 ] No further evidence is found under their Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defence, National Disaster Management Authority or the Maldives' Food and Drug Authority websites.[4,5,6,7]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 02 November 2020



<http://health.gov.mv/GetDepartmentDetails/1005>] Accessed 02 November 2020

#### 4.2.3b

Does the country meet one of the following criteria?

- Is there evidence of a plan/agreement to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity to produce laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency?

- Is there evidence of a plan/mechanism to procure laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of a plan/agreement to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity to produce laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency nor is there evidence of a plan/mechanism to procure laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency. According to the March 2017 report by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives", one of the strengths of the Maldives is a procurement policy for laboratory reagents that is in place. However, there is no evidence of a plan/agreement to leverage domestic manufacturing capacity to produce laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency nor is there evidence of a plan/mechanism to procure laboratory supplies (e.g. reagents, media) for national use during a public health emergency.[1] No evidence is found in the Health Emergency Operations Plan from 2018.[2] No further evidence is found in the Ministry of Health. Ministry of Defence or the National Disaster Management Authority websites [3,4,5]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 02 November 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. 'Health Emergency Operations Plan'.2018. [

<http://origin.searq.who.int/maldives/documents/health-emergency-operations-plan-maldives-2018.pdf>] Accessed 02 November 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 02 November 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Defence. [<http://www.defence.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 02 November 2020.

[5] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. [<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 02 November 2020

## 4.3 MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES AND PERSONNEL DEPLOYMENT

### 4.3.1 System for dispensing medical countermeasures (MCM) during a public health emergency

#### 4.3.1a

Does the country have a plan, program, or guidelines in place for dispensing medical countermeasures (MCM) for national use during a public health emergency (i.e., antibiotics, vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is not enough evidence that the Republic of Maldives has a plan or guideline in place for dispensing medical countermeasures for national use during a public health emergency. The Maldives Ministry of Health has released a "Health



Emergency Operations Plan" in 2018 under the guidelines of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization. This is a multi-hazard response plan that acts as a framework for multiple medical emergency situations and outlines the training, dispensing, and logistics of medical countermeasures. [1] In addition to this, the Maldives Ministry of Health and Family has a "National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan" which was updated in November 2009 which also outlines medical countermeasures but specific to influenza pandemics such as in the case of H1N1 outbreak. [2] This plan also considers the ethics of dispensing countermeasures knowing that supply will be short, and rationing will be required. [2] According to the "Health Emergency Operations Plan", "the supply and provision of medicines are managed by the STO (a state-owned company), and the private sector." [1] However, there are no details about the dispensing of these countermeasures and according to the Joint External Evaluation for Maldives, conducted in March 2017, "specific plans for countermeasures that establish systems both domestically and from overseas have not been developed." [3] No further evidence is found under the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defence or the National Disaster Management Authority websites [4,5,6].

[1] The Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health, "Health Emergency Operations Plan", May 2018, [<http://origin.searo.who.int/maldives/documents/health-emergency-operations-plan-maldives-2018.pdf>] Accessed 02 November 2020

[2] The Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health and Family, "National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan", November 2009. [[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads/Publications//Maldives%20Pandemic%20Preparedness%20Plan\\_%20November%202009%20update.pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads/Publications//Maldives%20Pandemic%20Preparedness%20Plan_%20November%202009%20update.pdf)] Accessed 02 November 2020.

[3] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 02 November 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 02 November 2020

[5] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Defence. [<http://www.defence.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 02 November 2020.

[6] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. [<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 02 November 2020

## 4.3.2 System for receiving foreign health personnel during a public health emergency

### 4.3.2a

**Is there a public plan in place to receive health personnel from other countries to respond to a public health emergency?**

Yes = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

The Republic of Maldives does not have a public plan in place to receive health personnel from other countries to respond to a public health emergency. Although, their 2018 "Health Emergency Operations Plan" outlines the need to "establish agreements with foreign countries or agencies to protect public health and conduct programs in association with such countries and agencies", it does not specifically plan to receive any health personnel from these countries. [1] Their "National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan" also does not plan to receive any health personnel from other countries but it does outline the training of any personnel within the nation. [2] According to a March 2017 report by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives", there is a national (domestic) system in place for sending and receiving health personnel within the Maldives during public health emergencies. However, 'Specific plans for health personnel that establish systems both domestically and receiving personnel from overseas have not been developed. Future plans should address Procedures for decision making, sending, and receiving health personnel; Dedicated resources/staffing for coordination related to health personnel; How international personnel will be quickly integrated into a national/local response; Some outstanding details relating to sending or receiving health personnel

(regulatory and licensure concerns, training criteria and standards, liability concerns, safety concerns, triggers for requesting personnel from other countries); Agreements, as appropriate, with other countries, and/or international agencies and groups (e.g. WHO-Global Outbreak Alert & Response Network) for expert support and additional personnel.' [3] Furthermore, there is no evidence of such a plan on their Ministry of Health, National Disaster Management Authority or Ministry of Defence websites. [4,5,6]

[1] The Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health, "Health Emergency Operations Plan", May 2018, [http://origin.searo.who.int/maldives/documents/health-emergency-operations-plan-maldives-2018.pdf] Accessed 03 November 2020

[2] The Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health and Family, "National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan", November 2009, [http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads/Publications//Maldives%20Pandemic%20Preparedness%20Plan\_%20November%202009%20update.pdf] Accessed 03 November 2020.

[3] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf]. Accessed 03 November 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [http://www.health.gov.mv/]. Accessed 03 November 2020

[5] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. [http://ndmc.gov.mv/]. Accessed 03 November 2020

[6] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Defence. [http://www.defence.gov.mv/]. Accessed 03 November 2020

## 4.4 HEALTHCARE ACCESS

### 4.4.1 Access to healthcare

#### 4.4.1a

**Does the constitution explicitly guarantee citizens' right to medical care?**

Guaranteed free = 4, Guaranteed right = 3, Aspirational or subject to progressive realization = 2, Guaranteed for some groups, not universally = 1, No specific provision = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

2020

World Policy Analysis Center

#### 4.4.1b

**Access to skilled birth attendants (% of population)**

Input number

**Current Year Score: 99.5**

2017

WHO/World Bank/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

#### 4.4.1c

Out-of-pocket health expenditures per capita, purchasing power parity (PPP; current international \$)

Input number

Current Year Score: 311.14

2017

WHO Global Health Expenditure database

#### 4.4.2 Paid medical leave

##### 4.4.2a

Are workers guaranteed paid sick leave?

Paid sick leave = 2, Unpaid sick leave = 1, No sick leave = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2020

World Policy Analysis Center

#### 4.4.3 Healthcare worker access to healthcare

##### 4.4.3a

Has the government issued legislation, a policy, or a public statement committing to provide prioritized healthcare services to healthcare workers who become sick as a result of responding to a public health emergency?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that The Republic of Maldives has issued legislation, a policy or a public statement committing to provide prioritized health care services to healthcare workers who become sick because of responding to a public health emergency. Neither their 2018 "Health Emergency Operations Plan" nor their 2009 "National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan" addresses priority health care to any public health emergency respondents. [1,2] In addition, neither their Ministry of Health nor the National Disaster Management Authority websites have any evidence of such a policy or public statement. [3,4] In light of the present COVID-19 guidelines on Workplace Safety and Standard Operating Procedures have been released but these do not mention provision of prioritized health care services to healthcare workers who become sick because of responding to the ongoing public health emergency.[5]

[1] The Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan". May 2018.

[[<http://origin.searo.who.int/maldives/documents/health-emergency-operations-plan-maldives-2018.pdf>] Accessed 03 November 2020

[2] The Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health and Family. "National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan". November 2009.

[[http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads/Publications//Maldives%20Pandemic%20Preparedness%20Plan\\_%20November%202009%20update.pdf](http://www.health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads/Publications//Maldives%20Pandemic%20Preparedness%20Plan_%20November%202009%20update.pdf)] Accessed 03 November 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 03 November 2020.

[4] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. [<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 03 November 2020

[5] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Downloads-Guideline.[ <https://covid19.health.gov.mv/downloads/?c=2>]

Accessed 03 November 2020

## 4.5 COMMUNICATIONS WITH HEALTHCARE WORKERS DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

### 4.5.1 Communication with healthcare workers

#### 4.5.1a

**Is there a system in place for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during a public health emergency?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of a system in place for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during a public health emergency. There is evidence that The Republic of Maldives has a framework in place for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during a public health emergency however a clear plan for how the communication takes place seems to be lacking. In its "Health Emergency Operations Plan" The Health Protection Agency under the Ministry of Health (MoH) has the authority and primary responsibility to manage public health emergencies in the Maldives. The Health Emergency Coordination Committee (HECC) serves as the executive body for strategic decision making and providing direction and guidance to the Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) and Incident Management Team (IMT) in operationalizing emergency response activities. In addition, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) could be formed based on the requirement to offer and provide technical advice and expertise to the HECC and HEOC. However, the government admits that a clear plan for communication between "health services agencies, healthcare providers, support agencies, emergency operations centres, community based organizations, the general public, and the media" is needed. [1] The Health Ministry does not have such a plan yet, but one is expected soon according to the Health Emergency Operations Plan. [1] In addition, neither their National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan nor their Ministry of Health or National Disaster Management Authority websites have mentions of such a system being in place. [2,3,4]

[1] The Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan". May 2018.

[<http://origin.searo.who.int/maldives/documents/health-emergency-operations-plan-maldives-2018.pdf>] Accessed 03 November 2020

[2] The Republic of Maldives.Ministry of Health. "National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan". November 2009.

[[http://health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads/Publications//Maldives%20Pandemic%20Preparedness%20Plan\\_%20November%202009%20update.pdf](http://health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads/Publications//Maldives%20Pandemic%20Preparedness%20Plan_%20November%202009%20update.pdf)] Accessed 03 November 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 03 November 2020.

[4] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. [<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 03 November 2020

#### 4.5.1b

**Does the system for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during an emergency encompass healthcare workers in both the public and private sector?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of a system in place for public health officials and healthcare workers to communicate during a public health emergency but there is evidence that the Republic of Maldives has a framework in place for public health officials and healthcare workers (inclusive of both the public and the private sector) to communicate during a public health emergency. However a clear plan for how the communication takes place seems to be lacking. In its "Health Emergency Operations Plan" The Health Protection Agency under the Ministry of Health (MoH) has the authority and primary responsibility to manage public health emergencies in the Maldives. Upon detection of suspected public health event or reception of disaster emergency early warning from various sources ( which includes public and private hospitals and health care facilities, laboratories, port health, media, WHO) the respective designated focal points notify the senior management of the MoH and conduct an assessment of the situation. However, the government admits that a clear plan for communication between "health services agencies, healthcare providers, support agencies, emergency operations centres, community based organizations, the general public, and the media" is needed. [1] The Health Ministry does not have such a plan yet, but one is expected soon according to the Health Emergency Operations Plan. [1] In addition, neither their National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan nor their Ministry of Health or National Disaster Management Authority websites have mentions of such a system being in place. [2,3,4]

- [1] The Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan". May 2018. [<http://origin.searo.who.int/maldives/documents/health-emergency-operations-plan-maldives-2018.pdf>] Accessed 03 November 2020
- [2] The Republic of Maldives.Ministry of Health. "National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan". November 2009. [[http://health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads/Publications//Maldives%20Pandemic%20Preparedness%20Plan\\_%20November%202009%20update.pdf](http://health.gov.mv/Uploads/Downloads/Publications//Maldives%20Pandemic%20Preparedness%20Plan_%20November%202009%20update.pdf)] Accessed 03 November 2020
- [3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 03 November 2020.
- [4] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. [<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 03 November 2020

## 4.6 INFECTION CONTROL PRACTICES AND AVAILABILITY OF EQUIPMENT

### 4.6.1 Healthcare associated infection (HCAI) prevention and control programs

#### 4.6.1a

**Is there evidence that the national public health system is monitoring for and tracking the number of healthcare associated infections (HCAI) that take place in healthcare facilities?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives' national public health system monitors for and tracks the number of health care associated infections that take place in healthcare facilities. According to a March 2017 report on the "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives", Maldives has a national infection control guideline prepared in 2008 in which Health Care Associated Infections (HCAI) and their prevention are outlined. [1] Infections which have been specifically named in the guidelines are "Intra Venous (IV) associated infections, ventilator associated pneumonia and needle prick injury." [1] However, there is no evidence on their Ministry of Health or their Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital websites that these infections are purposefully tracked. [2,3] In light of the current covid-19 pandemic, the government websites do not have evidence of a public system to monitor or track the number of health care workers who have been affected by Covid-19 through their work.[2,3]

[1] World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 29 April 2021.

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 29 April 2021

[3] The Republic of Maldives. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). 2020. [<http://igmh.gov.mv>] Accessed 29 April 2021

## 4.7 CAPACITY TO TEST AND APPROVE NEW MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES

### 4.7.1 Regulatory process for conducting clinical trials of unregistered interventions

#### 4.7.1a

**Is there a national requirement for ethical review (e.g., from an ethics committee or via Institutional Review Board approval) before beginning a clinical trial?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives has a national requirement for ethical review (e.g. from an ethics committee or via Institutional Review Board approval) before beginning a clinical trial. According to a 2011 World Health Organization (WHO) report, the Maldives does not allow clinical trials in the country. [1] In addition, no evidence of an ethics committee or guidelines on ethical reviews of a clinical trial can be found on their Ministry of Health website [2]

[1] World Health Organization. "Pharmaceutical Sector Country Profile Questionnaire Maldives". 2011.

[[http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/coordination/Maldives\\_PSCPQuestionnaire.pdf](http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/coordination/Maldives_PSCPQuestionnaire.pdf)]. Accessed 03 November 2020.

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 03 November 2020.

#### 4.7.1b

**Is there an expedited process for approving clinical trials for unregistered medical countermeasures (MCM) to treat ongoing epidemics?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence of an expedited process for approving clinical trials for unregistered medical countermeasures to treat ongoing pandemics in The Republic of Maldives. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), clinical trials are not allowed in Maldives. [1] In addition, no evidence of an expedited procedure for clinical trials can be found on their Ministry of Health website. [2]

[1] World Health Organization. "Pharmaceutical Sector Country Profile Questionnaire Maldives". 2011.

[[http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/coordination/Maldives\\_PSCPQuestionnaire.pdf](http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/coordination/Maldives_PSCPQuestionnaire.pdf)]. Accessed 04 November 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 04 November 2020

## 4.7.2 Regulatory process for approving medical countermeasures

### 4.7.2a

**Is there a government agency responsible for approving new medical countermeasures (MCM) for humans?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

The Republic of Maldives has a government agency responsible for approving new medical countermeasures for humans. The Maldives Food and Drug Authority is the government agency primarily responsible for approving new medical countermeasures for humans. There is little detail about its functions via its website, but it does publish lists of approved medicines for the country. It does not specifically mention medical countermeasures. [1]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Maldives Food and Drug Authority. "Approved Drug List, 2020 September." [http://health.gov.mv/GetDepartmentDetails/1005]. Accessed 04 November 2020.

### 4.7.2b

**Is there an expedited process for approving medical countermeasures (MCM) for human use during public health emergencies?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that The Republic of Maldives has an expedited process for approving medical countermeasures for human use during public health emergencies. The Maldives Food and Drug Authority is the government agency primarily responsible for approving new medical countermeasures for humans; however, they do not have any public evidence of an expedited process on their website. [1] In addition, no evidence of an expedited process for approving medical countermeasures for human use during public health emergencies can be found on their Ministry of Health website. [2]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Maldives Food and Drug Authority. "Approved Drug List 2020 September [http://health.gov.mv/GetDepartmentDetails/1005]. Accessed 04 November 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [http://www.health.gov.mv/]. Accessed 04 November 2020.

## Category 5: Commitments to improving national capacity, financing plans to address gaps, and adhering to global norms

### 5.1 INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (IHR) REPORTING COMPLIANCE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

#### 5.1.1 Official IHR reporting

##### 5.1.1a

Has the country submitted IHR reports to the WHO for the previous calendar year?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2020

World Health Organization

#### 5.1.2 Integration of health into disaster risk reduction

##### 5.1.2a

Are epidemics and pandemics integrated into the national risk reduction strategy or is there a standalone national disaster risk reduction strategy for epidemics and pandemics?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that the Republic of Maldives has pandemics integrated into the national risk reduction strategy or has a standalone national disaster risk reduction strategy for pandemics. Maldives' most recent disaster risk reduction strategy is its "Strategic National Action Plan For Disaster Risk Reduction And Climate Change Adaption 2010-2020" and although it cites pandemics and epidemics as serious issues which need to be addressed, it does not specifically outline any strategies to reduce pandemic risk. [1] This may be because this is still a provisional draft. In addition, there is no public evidence of any such pandemic risk reduction strategies on their Ministry of Health or National Disaster Management Centre websites. [2,3] In light of the present Covid-19 pandemic a standalone COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which includes risk reduction strategies was released by the Ministry of Health.[4]

[1] Republic of Maldives. "Strategic National Action Plan For Disaster Risk Reduction And Climate Change Adaption 2010-2020." [[https://www.preventionweb.net/files/60595\\_maldivesstrategicnationalactionplan.pdf](https://www.preventionweb.net/files/60595_maldivesstrategicnationalactionplan.pdf)]. Accessed 04 November 2020.

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 04 November 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. 2020. [<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 04 November 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<https://covid19.health.gov.mv/downloads/?c=2>] Accessed 04 November 2020



## 5.2 CROSS-BORDER AGREEMENTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE

### 5.2.1 Cross-border agreements

#### 5.2.1a

**Does the country have cross-border agreements, protocols, or MOUs with neighboring countries, or as part of a regional group, with regards to public health emergencies?**

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in implementation = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that the Republic of Maldives has cross-border agreements as part of a regional group, with regards to public health emergencies.

According to a March 2017 report on the "Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives" recommends to 'consider regional and international arrangements for sharing resources and support, including possible agreements with manufacturers and distributors of medical supplies, other countries, and international agencies' and calls for 'agreements, as appropriate, with other countries, and/or international agencies and groups (e.g. WHO-Global Outbreak Alert & Response Network) for expert support and additional personnel.'<sup>[1]</sup> Maldives is a part of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which among other issues, hold multilateral meetings about health and population issues. <sup>[2]</sup> The first meeting was, in the "wake of widespread threats brought about by the emergence of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), an Emergency Meeting of SAARC Health Ministers was convened in Male' in April 2003 to develop a regional strategy to deal with the deadly epidemic." <sup>[2]</sup> At the meeting, member states adopted the "Male' Declaration on a Collective SAARC Response to SARS." However, it is not clear this has been implemented in cases of other public health emergencies. <sup>[2]</sup> In a 2006 meeting, it was decided that there should be a SAARC Disease Surveillance Centre set up in order "to develop a comprehensive and multi-sectoral strategy covering both animal and human health in the context of pandemic preparedness but there is no evidence that this plan has been implemented. <sup>[2]</sup> Lastly, there is no evidence of such cross-border agreements on their National Disaster Management Authority or Ministry of Health websites.<sup>[3,4]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> World Health Organization. Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of the Republic of Maldives. Mission report: 5-9 March 2017. [<https://extranet.who.int/sph/sites/default/files/jeeta/WHO-WHE-CPI-2017.30.report-eng.pdf>]. Accessed 04 November 2020.

<sup>[2]</sup> South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Areas of Cooperation."Social Affairs". [<https://saarc-sec.org/index.php/areas-of-cooperation/social-affairs>]. Accessed 04 November 2020.

<sup>[3]</sup> Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. 2020. [<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 04 November 2020

<sup>[4]</sup> Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<https://covid19.health.gov.mv/downloads/?c=2>] Accessed 04 November 2020

#### 5.2.1b

**Does the country have cross-border agreements, protocols, or MOUs with neighboring countries, or as part of a regional group, with regards to animal health emergencies?**

Yes = 2, Yes, but there is evidence of gaps in implementation = 1, No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is insufficient evidence that the Republic of Maldives has cross-border agreements as part of a regional group with regards to animal health emergencies.

The country is part of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation which among other topics, deals with issues related to health and population. [1] In a 2006 meeting, it was decided that there should be a SAARC Disease Surveillance Centre set up in order "to develop a comprehensive and multi-sectoral strategy covering both animal and human health in the context of pandemic preparedness". [1] In addition, the "SAARC Chief Veterinary Officers' (CVOs) Forum is one of the regular Forums of SAARC dealing with controlling trans-boundary animal diseases, capacity building on epidemiology activities, networking among the veterinarians, regional laboratories and other veterinary institutions." The Seventh Meeting of the CVOs Forum was held on 23-24 July 2019 in Islamabad. The Seventh Meeting of the SAARC Chief Veterinary Officers' (CVOs) Forum reviewed the status of implementation of its earlier decisions, ongoing collaborations and activities as well as discussed various priority issues related to livestock, including disease information sharing and management, epidemiology, laboratory matters, controlling priority diseases like Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Avian Influenza (AI) and Anti-microbial Use (AMU) stewardship. The Meeting recommended to add Rabies, Brucellosis, and Newcastle diseases as the new diseases affecting the region. The Meeting also recommended that ASF (African Swine Fever), Nipah and IBR may be considered as emerging threats. [2] The Regional Support Unit of SAARC provides "support to the Member States for Laboratory Information and Management System (LIMS) and SAC [SAARC Agricultural Centre] is organizing one Field Epidemiology Training Programme for the Veterinarians (FETPV)." [2] However, it is not clear if these agreements have been implemented by Maldives. No further evidence is found under National Disaster Management Authority or Ministry of Health websites.[3,4]

[1] South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Areas of Cooperation."Social Affairs". [<https://saarc-sec.org/index.php/areas-of-cooperation/social-affairs>]. Accessed 04 November 2020.

[2] South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. Areas of Cooperation. 'Agriculture and Rural Development'. [<https://saarc-sec.org/index.php/areas-of-cooperation/agriculture-rural-development>]. Accessed 04 November 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. 2020. [<http://ndmc.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 04 November 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<https://covid19.health.gov.mv/downloads/?c=2>] Accessed 04 November 2020

## 5.3 INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

### 5.3.1 Participation in international agreements

#### 5.3.1a

**Does the county have signatory and ratification (or same legal effect) status to the Biological Weapons Convention?**

Signed and ratified (or action having the same legal effect) = 2, Signed = 1, Non-compliant or not a member = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

#### 5.3.1b

**Has the country submitted confidence building measures for the Biological Weapons Convention in the past three years?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

### 5.3.1c

Has the state provided the required United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 report to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (1540 Committee)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

### 5.3.1d

Extent of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 implementation related to legal frameworks and enforcement for countering biological weapons:

Very good (60+ points) = 4, Good (45–59 points) = 3, Moderate (30–44 points) = 2, Weak (15–29 points) = 1, Very weak (0–14 points) or no matrix exists/country is not party to the BWC = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

2021

Biological Weapons Convention

## 5.3.2 Voluntary memberships

### 5.3.2a

Does the country meet at least 2 of the following criteria?

- Membership in Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA)
- Membership in the Alliance for Country Assessments for Global Health Security and IHR Implementation (JEE Alliance)
- Membership in the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP)
- Membership in the Australia Group (AG)
- Membership in the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI)

Needs to meet at least two of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure. , Yes for five = 1 , Yes for four = 1 , Yes for three = 1 , Yes for two = 1 , Yes for one = 0 , No for all = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

2021

Global Health Security Agenda; JE Alliance; Global Partnership; Australia Group; PSI

## 5.4 JOINT EXTERNAL EVALUATION (JEE) AND PERFORMANCE OF VETERINARY SERVICES PATHWAY (PVS)

### 5.4.1 Completion and publication of a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) assessment and gap analysis

#### 5.4.1a

Has the country completed a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) or precursor external evaluation (e.g., GHSA pilot external assessment) and published a full public report in the last five years?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH); Global Health Security Agenda

#### 5.4.1b

Has the country completed and published, within the last five years, either a National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) to address gaps identified through the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) assessment or a national GHSA roadmap that sets milestones for achieving each of the GHSA targets?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH); Global Health Security Agenda

### 5.4.2 Completion and publication of a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) assessment and gap analysis

#### 5.4.2a

Has the country completed and published a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) assessment in the last five years?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

OIE PVS assessments

#### 5.4.2b

Has the country completed and published a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) gap analysis in the last five years?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

OIE PVS assessments

## 5.5 FINANCING

### 5.5.1 National financing for epidemic preparedness

#### 5.5.1a

**Is there evidence that the country has allocated national funds to improve capacity to address epidemic threats within the past three years?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 0

There is no evidence that the country has allocated national funds to improve capacity to address epidemic threats within the past three years. The Maldives' 'Health Emergency Operations Plan, 2018' states that ' the Ministry of Health (MoH) has a statutory responsibility to establish public health emergency fund which will be used during any threatening medical disaster situation or disaster.' Further, it states that 'an amount must be included in the government budget every year to be used in the event of a public health emergency. The defined amount must be estimated by the Minister and the Director General considering what actions need to be taken in the event of an emergency and estimated cost for these actions. The money allocated for public health emergencies cannot be used for any other purposes. Islands, Atolls and Cities will be allocated and provided an adequate amount of immediate funding that should be readily available for local level emergencies and national level emergency in the relevant territory in local administration based on the situation and response required. The Ministry of Health shall also seek support from national and international development partners; civil society; the private sector; and all organizations, private and public, involved in emergency preparedness and response for capacity development within the health sector and nation as a whole. Gaps in the funding may also be obtained through the mechanisms of Public Private Partnerships and Corporate Social Responsibility.' [1] However there is no evidence of a such funds under the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance or National Disaster Management Authority websites. [2,3,4]

[1] The Republic of Maldives Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan". May 2018.

[http://origin.searo.who.int/maldives/documents/health-emergency-operations-plan-maldives-2018.pdf] Accessed 04 November 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health [http://www.health.gov.mv/] Accessed 04 November 2020.

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Finance. [ https://www.finance.gov.mv/public-finance/national-budget] Accessed 04 November 2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. 2020. [http://ndmc.gov.mv/]. Accessed 04 November 2020

## 5.5.2 Financing under Joint External Evaluation (JEE) and Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) reports and gap analyses

### 5.5.2a

Does the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) report, National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS), and/or national GHSA roadmap allocate or describe specific funding from the national budget (covering a time-period either in the future or within the past five years) to address the identified gaps?

Yes = 1 , No/country has not conducted a JEE = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

WHO Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security (SPH); Global Health Security Agenda

### 5.5.2b

Does the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) gap analysis and/or PVS assessment allocate or describe specific funding from the national budget (covering a time-period either in the future or within the past five years) to address the identified gaps?

Yes = 1 , No/country has not conducted a PVS = 0

Current Year Score: 0

2021

OIE PVS assessments

## 5.5.3 Financing for emergency response

### 5.5.3a

Is there a publicly identified special emergency public financing mechanism and funds which the country can access in the face of a public health emergency (such as through a dedicated national reserve fund, an established agreement with the World Bank pandemic financing facility/other multilateral emergency funding mechanism, or other pathway identified through a public health or state of emergency act)?

Yes = 1 , No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

There is evidence that there is a publicly identified special emergency public financing mechanism and funds which The Republic of Maldives can access in the face of a public health emergency. Maldives is eligible for the World Bank pandemic financing facility under the International Development Association (IDA) funding, [1] There is no other evidence of any other emergency funding mechanisms on their Ministry of Health, National Disaster Management Centre websites or their "Health Emergency Operations Plan." [2,3,4]

[1] World Bank Group International Development Association. "Borrowing Countries". 2020

[http://ida.worldbank.org/about/borrowing-countries]. Accessed 04 November 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [http://www.health.gov.mv/]. Accessed 04 November 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. National Disaster Management Authority. 2020. [http://ndmc.gov.mv/]. Accessed 04 November

2020

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. "Health Emergency Operations Plan." May 2018.

[<http://origin.searo.who.int/maldives/documents/health-emergency-operations-plan-maldives-2018.pdf>]. Accessed 04 November 2020

## 5.5.4 Accountability for commitments made at the international stage for addressing epidemic threats

### 5.5.4a

Is there evidence that senior leaders (president or ministers), in the past three years, have made a public commitment either to:

- Support other countries to improve capacity to address epidemic threats by providing financing or support?
- Improve the country's domestic capacity to address epidemic threats by expanding financing or requesting support to improve capacity?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that senior leaders in Maldives have made a public commitment either to support other countries to improve capacity to address epidemic threats by providing financing or support in the past three years or to improve its own domestic capacity to address epidemic threats by expanding financing or requesting support to improve capacity in the past three years. No press releases or policy documents outlining this can be found on their Ministry of Health or Ministry of Foreign Affairs websites. [1,2] There is no evidence on the World Health Organization, Maldives' country page.[3]

[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 04 November 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [<http://www.foreign.gov.mv/index.php/en/>]. Accessed 04 November 2020.

[3] World Health Organization. Maldives.[<https://www.who.int/maldives>] Accessed 04 November 2020

### 5.5.4b

Is there evidence that the country has, in the past three years, either:

- Provided other countries with financing or technical support to improve capacity to address epidemic threats?
- Requested financing or technical support from donors to improve the country's domestic capacity to address epidemic threats?

Needs to meet at least one of the criteria to be scored a 1 on this measure., Yes for both = 1, Yes for one = 1, No for both = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is no evidence that the country has, in the past three years provided other countries with financing or technical support to improve capacity to address epidemic threats but there is evidence that Maldives has requested financing or technical support from donors to improve the country's domestic capacity to address epidemic threats. There is evidence via the Global Health Security Funding Tracker that Maldives has invested donor financed to improve domestic capacity to address epidemic threats. The tracker notes that Maldives has received funding from multiple donors e.g From the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for Improving Primary Health Care to Support Innovative Service Delivery from 2014 to 2020, from Canada for Micronutrient Programs for the Survival and Health of Mothers and their Children between 2014 to 2020, also Global Polio Eradication through the Introduction of the Inactivated Polio Vaccine between 2014 to 2020, from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for Policies and Strategies for Child Health between 2014 to 2020, also Child and

Adolescent Nutrition between 2014 to 2020.[1]Further, in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Maldives has received international aid for 'Maldives COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project'. [1] In addition, the country has received technical support from the World Health Organization in the present pandemic; Maldives had to ship samples out of the country for COVID-19 testing until the World Health Organization stepped in and helped Maldives scale up the capacity of the laboratories to test for COVID-19 within the country [2] However, there is no evidence that the country has, in the past three years provided other countries with financing or technical support to improve capacity to address epidemic threats. No evidence is found on their Ministry of Health or Ministry of Foreign Affairs websites or the World Health Organization (WHO) Maldives' country page. [3,4,5]

[1] Global Health Security Funding Tracker. 2021 [https://tracking.ghscosting.org/#/data]. Accessed 29 April 2021

[2] World Health Organization. South East Asia. Maldives. 'WHO Helps Maldives Build Laboratory Capacity to test COVID-19'. [https://www.who.int/maldives/news/detail/09-06-2020-who-helps-maldives-build-laboratory-capacity-to-test-covid-19] Accessed 04 November 2020

[3] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [http://www.health.gov.mv/]. Accessed 29 April 2021

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [http://www.foreign.gov.mv/index.php/en/]. Accessed 29 April 2021

[5] World Health Organization. 2021. Maldives.[https://www.who.int/maldives] Accessed 29 April 2021

### 5.5.4c

**Is there evidence that the country has fulfilled its full contribution to the WHO within the past two years?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

2021

Economist Impact analyst qualitative assessment based on official national sources, which vary by country

## 5.6 COMMITMENT TO SHARING OF GENETIC AND BIOLOGICAL DATA AND SPECIMENS

### 5.6.1 Commitment to sharing genetic data, clinical specimens, and/or isolated specimens (biological materials) in both emergency and nonemergency research

#### 5.6.1a

**Is there a publicly available plan or policy for sharing genetic data, clinical specimens, and/or isolated specimens (biological materials) along with the associated epidemiological data with international organizations and/or other countries that goes beyond influenza?**

Yes = 1 , No = 0

**Current Year Score: 0**

There is no evidence that The Republic of Maldives has a publicly available plan or policy for sharing genetic data, epidemiological data, clinical specimens, and/or isolated specimens (biological materials) with international organizations and/or other countries that goes beyond influenza. No such plan exists on either their Ministry of Health or Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture websites. [1,2]



[1] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. [<http://www.health.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 05 November 2020

[2] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture. [<http://www.fishagri.gov.mv/>]. Accessed 05 November 2020

### 5.6.1b

**Is there public evidence that the country has not shared samples in accordance with the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) framework in the past two years?**

Yes = 0 , No = 1

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is no public evidence that The Republic of Maldives has not shared samples in accordance with the PIP framework in the past two years. The World Health Organisation has not reported any non-compliance in the past two years by Maldives either on their website or as a press release. [1] In addition, there were no reports by the media on this matter.

[1] World Health Organization (WHO). "Virus Sharing". 2020. [[http://www.who.int/influenza/pip/virus\\_sharing/en/](http://www.who.int/influenza/pip/virus_sharing/en/)]. Accessed 05 November 2020.

[2] World Health Organization. Maldives. [<https://www.who.int/Maldives>] Accessed 05 November 2020.

[3] World Health Organization. Influenza. [<https://www.who.int/influenza/en/>] Accessed 05 November 2020

### 5.6.1c

**Is there public evidence that the country has not shared pandemic pathogen samples during an outbreak in the past two years?**

Yes = 0 , No = 1

**Current Year Score: 1**

There is no public evidence that the Republic of Maldives' has not shared pandemic pathogen samples during an outbreak in the past two years. No evidence is found via World Health Organization (WHO) resources as well as media reports. [1,2,3]. There is no evidence that in light of the ongoing pandemic Covid-19 Maldives' has not shared pathogen samples.[2,3,4]

[1] World Health Organization. "Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework Annual Progress Report. 1 January -31 December, 2018. 2019. [<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/311901/WHO-WHE-IHM-PIP-2019.1-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>]. Accessed 05 November 2020.

[2] World Health Organization. Maldives. [<https://www.who.int/Maldives>] Accessed 05 November 2020.

[3] World Health Organization. Influenza. [<https://www.who.int/influenza/en/>] Accessed 05 November 2020.

[4] Republic of Maldives. Ministry of Health. Covid-19 Local Updates. [<https://covid19.health.gov.mv/en/?c=0>] Accessed 05 November 2020

## Category 6: Overall risk environment and vulnerability to biological threats

### 6.1 POLITICAL AND SECURITY RISK

#### 6.1.1 Government effectiveness

##### 6.1.1a

Policy formation (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 2

2020

Economist Intelligence

##### 6.1.1b

Quality of bureaucracy (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 2

2020

Economist Intelligence

##### 6.1.1c

Excessive bureaucracy/red tape (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 2

2020

Economist Intelligence

##### 6.1.1d

Vested interests/cronyism (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 2

2020

Economist Intelligence

### 6.1.1e

Country score on Corruption Perception Index (0-100, where 100=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 43

2020

Transparency International

### 6.1.1f

Accountability of public officials (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 2

2020

Economist Intelligence

### 6.1.1g

Human rights risk (Economist Intelligence score; 0-4, where 4=best)

Input number

Current Year Score: 2

2020

Economist Intelligence

## 6.1.2 Orderly transfers of power

### 6.1.2a

How clear, established, and accepted are constitutional mechanisms for the orderly transfer of power from one government to another?

Very clear, established and accepted = 4, Clear, established and accepted = 3, One of the three criteria (clear, established, accepted) is missing = 2, Two of the three criteria (clear, established, accepted) are missing = 1, Not clear, not established, not accepted = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Economist Intelligence

### 6.1.3 Risk of social unrest

#### 6.1.3a

**What is the risk of disruptive social unrest?**

Very low: Social unrest is very unlikely = 4, Low: There is some prospect of social unrest, but disruption would be very limited = 3, Moderate: There is a considerable chance of social unrest, but disruption would be limited = 2, High: Major social unrest is likely, and would cause considerable disruption = 1, Very high: Large-scale social unrest on such a level as to seriously challenge government control of the country is very likely = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

2021

Economist Intelligence

### 6.1.4 Illicit activities by non-state actors

#### 6.1.4a

**How likely is it that domestic or foreign terrorists will attack with a frequency or severity that causes substantial disruption?**

No threat = 4, Low threat = 3, Moderate threat = 2, High threat = 1, Very high threat = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

2021

Economist Intelligence

#### 6.1.4b

**What is the level of illicit arms flows within the country?**

4 = Very high, 3 = High, 2 = Moderate, 1 = Low, 0 = Very low

**Current Year Score: 2**

2020

UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

#### 6.1.4c

**How high is the risk of organized criminal activity to the government or businesses in the country?**

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

**Current Year Score: 2**

2021

Economist Intelligence

## 6.1.5 Armed conflict

### 6.1.5a

Is this country presently subject to an armed conflict, or is there at least a moderate risk of such conflict in the future?

No armed conflict exists = 4, Yes; sporadic conflict = 3, Yes; incursional conflict = 2, Yes, low-level insurgency = 1, Yes; territorial conflict = 0

Current Year Score: 3

2021

Economist Intelligence

## 6.1.6 Government territorial control

### 6.1.6a

Does the government's authority extend over the full territory of the country?

Yes = 1, No = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence

## 6.1.7 International tensions

### 6.1.7a

Is there a threat that international disputes/tensions could have a negative effect?

No threat = 4, Low threat = 3, Moderate threat = 2, High threat = 1, Very high threat = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Economist Intelligence

## 6.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

### 6.2.1 Literacy

#### 6.2.1a

Adult literacy rate, population 15+ years, both sexes (%)

Input number

Current Year Score: 98.6

2014

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);  
The Economist Intelligence Unit

## 6.2.2 Gender equality

### 6.2.2a

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Gender Inequality Index score

Input number

**Current Year Score: 0.63**

2018

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); The Economist Intelligence Unit

## 6.2.3 Social inclusion

### 6.2.3a

Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90 a day (2011 PPP) (% of population)

Input number

**Current Year Score: 0**

2016

World Bank; Economist Impact

### 6.2.3b

Share of employment in the informal sector

Greater than 50% = 2, Between 25-50% = 1, Less than 25% = 0

**Current Year Score: 1**

According to the World Bank, the most recent data for share of informal employment in Maldives stands at 47%. The data is from 2016.

[1] The World Bank. Data. Informal Employment. 2020.[ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.ISV.IFRM.ZS>] Accessed 05 November 2020

### 6.2.3c

Coverage of social insurance programs (% of population)

Scored in quartiles (0-3, where 3=best)

**Current Year Score: 0**

2016, or latest available

World Bank; Economist Impact calculations

## 6.2.4 Public confidence in government

### 6.2.4a

Level of confidence in public institutions

Input number

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence Democracy Index

## 6.2.5 Local media and reporting

### 6.2.5a

Is media coverage robust? Is there open and free discussion of public issues, with a reasonable diversity of opinions?

Input number

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence Democracy Index

## 6.2.6 Inequality

### 6.2.6a

Gini coefficient

Scored 0-1, where 0=best

Current Year Score: 0.31

Latest available.

World Bank; Economist Impact calculations

## 6.3 INFRASTRUCTURE ADEQUACY

### 6.3.1 Adequacy of road network

#### 6.3.1a

What is the risk that the road network will prove inadequate to meet needs?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2021

Economist Intelligence

### 6.3.2 Adequacy of airports

#### 6.3.2a

What is the risk that air transport will prove inadequate to meet needs?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Economist Intelligence

### 6.3.3 Adequacy of power network

#### 6.3.3a

What is the risk that power shortages could be disruptive?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 3

2021

Economist Intelligence

## 6.4 ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

### 6.4.1 Urbanization

#### 6.4.1a

Urban population (% of total population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 40.24

2019

World Bank

### 6.4.2 Land use

#### 6.4.2a

Percentage point change in forest area between 2006–2016

Input number



Current Year Score: 0

2008-2018

World Bank; Economist Impact

### 6.4.3 Natural disaster risk

#### 6.4.3a

What is the risk that the economy will suffer a major disruption owing to a natural disaster?

Very low = 4, Low = 3, Moderate = 2, High = 1, Very high = 0

Current Year Score: 2

2021

Economist Intelligence

## 6.5 PUBLIC HEALTH VULNERABILITIES

### 6.5.1 Access to quality healthcare

#### 6.5.1a

Total life expectancy (years)

Input number

Current Year Score: 78.63

2018

United Nations; World Bank, UNICEF; Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME); Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)  
World Factbook

#### 6.5.1b

Age-standardized NCD mortality rate (per 100 000 population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 402

2019

WHO

#### 6.5.1c

Population ages 65 and above (% of total population)

Input number

Current Year Score: 3.64

2019

World Bank

### **6.5.1d**

Prevalence of current tobacco use (% of adults)

Input number

Current Year Score: 28.18

2018

World Bank

### **6.5.1e**

Prevalence of obesity among adults

Input number

Current Year Score: 8.6

2016

WHO

## **6.5.2 Access to potable water and sanitation**

### **6.5.2a**

Percentage of homes with access to at least basic water infrastructure

Input number

Current Year Score: 99

2017

UNICEF; Economist Impact

### **6.5.2b**

Percentage of homes with access to at least basic sanitation facilities

Input number

Current Year Score: 99

2017

UNICEF; Economist Impact

### 6.5.3 Public healthcare spending levels per capita

#### 6.5.3a

Domestic general government health expenditure per capita, PPP (current international \$)

Input number

Current Year Score: 1018.78

2018

WHO Global Health Expenditure database

### 6.5.4 Trust in medical and health advice

#### 6.5.4a

Trust medical and health advice from the government

Share of population that trust medical and health advice from the government , More than 80% = 2, Between 60-80%, or no data available = 1, Less than 60% = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2018

Wellcome Trust Global Monitor 2018

#### 6.5.4b

Trust medical and health advice from medical workers

Share of population that trust medical and health advice from health professionals , More than 80% = 2, Between 60-80%, or no data available = 1, Less than 60% = 0

Current Year Score: 1

2018

Wellcome Trust Global Monitor 2018