



Australian Government

# AUSTRALIA'S SUPPORT FOR COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY IN MALDIVES

**AUD 660,000**

**AUSTRALIA HAS COMMITTED AUD 660,000 TO SUPPORT MALDIVES' RESPONSE TO COVID-19.**

As Indian Ocean neighbours, Australia and Maldives share a long-standing and growing bilateral relationship. In the unprecedented global crisis unfolding as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it's more important than ever that friends continue to support each other.



## SUMMARY OF SUPPORT

### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR FRONTLINE WORKERS



Australia's Department of Defence is supporting Maldives National Defence Force frontline in Maldives to respond to, and minimise further transmission of, COVID-19 through the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).



PPE included **12,000 high quality coveralls** and **200,000 gloves** with a value of **AUD 200,000**, manufactured in Sri Lanka by Australian company Ansell.

### SUPPORT FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Australia has committed **AUD 460,000 to UNFPA to support women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic in Maldives**. Globally, experience shows that domestic, **sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) increases during crises and disasters**. It is important that support services for women and girls are maintained and continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



Australia's support aims to:

- **Strengthen the health system capacity** to ensure continuity of sexual and reproductive health information and services, **including protection of the health workforce**; and
- Ensure continuity of **GBV risk mitigation** and life-saving **GBV response services**



Activities include capacity building for frontline workers on psychological first aid, the provision of PPE to ensure continuity of services, and the development of digitalised platforms and communications materials on available services for women.

### ENSURING ACCESS TO COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED



Access to timely information on COVID-19 for all is crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic. **In partnership with UNDP, Australia's support for the development of the Thaana Mallow application has connected the blind and visually impaired community to information on COVID-19 in the Maldivian language online**, and has supported children to continue their studies online during the lockdown period.



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