

United Nations Development Programme



Maldives

Defining success...

Tsunami Recovery in the Maldives
2004–2006

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FOREWORD

24 months

The anniversary of a disaster is inevitably a time of complex emotions — remembrance, sadness, acknowledgement, and hope. But above all it is a time for the honest reflection of all involved; a time to look back on our challenges, evaluate our responses, and celebrate our progress. Two years after the greatest disaster in recent history swept through the Indian Ocean and the tiny island Republic of the Maldives, this publication captures the UNDP Country Office at an historic crossroads in its 28-year history. Looking back reveals an extraordinary 24 months of recovery efforts; looking forward reveals the need to anchor these achievements in sustainable, long-term development for the Maldives.

No one was prepared for the magnitude and suddenness of the tsunami. Very few were able to foresee the month-by-month, escalating toll of devastation its aftermath would reveal. What did become swiftly apparent was the need to ‘hit the ground running’ harnessing whatever resources were available for early recovery. UNDP’s small office in the Maldives was staffed by just 15 employees running a modest \$1.5 million portfolio of programmes for governance, environment and energy, and poverty reduction. Yet in the face of overwhelming challenge, UNDP nonetheless began galvanizing assistance immediately. A mere 16 days following the tsunami, UNDP sent out the first shipment of materials to begin reconstruction on one of the country’s worst-affected islands.

The weeks and months that followed saw rapid expansion of the Male’ office. Our annual budget leapt to \$20 million, and we welcomed almost 100 new staff, representing 19 nationalities. That these new resources could be so successfully optimized speaks strongly of UNDP’s established links with government partners; to the strong bonds of trust forged through decades of work with communities throughout this island nation; and to the tireless dedication of so many individuals. The achievements highlighted in these pages give some testament to the successes of UNDP’s recovery work on over 100 islands, helping thousands of Maldivians return to their homes, regain their livelihoods, rebuild their infrastructure, and protect their communities against the threat of future disaster. Much ground (and sea) has been covered in returning the Maldives to its pre-tsunami development trajectory and guiding it toward its graduation into the UN’s group of ‘middle-income’ countries.

When reflecting on these accomplishments, we should not forget that the successes of tsunami recovery will continue to play a central role as the Maldives enters an exciting and pivotal time in its history. Addressing climate change, reducing income disparities, and achieving democratic reforms are among the new challenges that will decide the country’s future. In this context, UNDP’s commitment to “building back better” means pledging to continue our support to the people of the Maldives as they complete their transition from recovery toward a secure, sustainable future.

Sincerely,



Patrice Coeur-Bizot

UNDP Resident Representative
Maldives

BACKGROUND

Tsunami: National Impact and Recovery

26 December 2004

The Impact

When the tsunami struck the Asia-Pacific region on 26 December 2004, the Maldives was among the countries most affected by the devastation. Waves up to four meters (12 feet) washed over the low-lying island nation, which has an average elevation of only 1.8 meters above sea level. Homes, basic infrastructure, and livelihoods were swept away by the floodwaters. In this close-knit island nation of approximately 300,000 everyone was touched by this unprecedented disaster.

To the casual observer, the relatively low number of fatalities — approximately 100 people — may give the impression that the Maldives escaped serious harm. Though the loss of life was not as high as in some other countries, the relative impact — both on the economy and the population — was much greater. Fully a third of the population was severely affected by the disaster: Whole islands were rendered uninhabitable, and close to 10 percent of the total population was displaced. Housing was one of the most affected sectors, with over 5,800 houses damaged and more than 3,000 destroyed.

The tsunami's impact on the Maldivian economy was enormous, with a direct loss of more than 60 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) as compared to 3-5 percent in other tsunami-affected countries. Tourism, fisheries, and agriculture, which together comprise more than two-thirds of GDP, were among the hardest hit sectors. Many tourist resorts were damaged and some had to close; large numbers of fishermen lost their boats and women their home-based fish-processing businesses; and some 15,000 farmers lost a year's harvest due to salt water contamination of agricultural land. As a result, a large percentage of government revenues and Maldivian livelihoods disappeared.

The Response

There is no record of a major disaster in Maldivian history prior to the tsunami. Consequently, despite years of concern about climate change and sea level rise, the Maldives was not prepared to respond to a disaster, let alone one of this magnitude. No natural disaster policy, institutional framework, or disaster management expertise was in place.

Within days of the disaster, the government established a National Disaster Management Center (NDMC) to coordinate the response to the tsunami — a body that has come to be recognized as a model for how other governments can effectively coordinate responses to major crises. Through the NDMC, the Maldivian authorities succeeded in leading a rapid relief effort with support from UN agencies, international financial institutions, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the private sector, civil society, and other development and military partners. Emergency food, water, and medicines reached vulnerable people in a timely fashion. No major outbreak of infectious disease occurred, schools were reopened with minimal delay, and temporary shelter was constructed for most internally displaced persons.

The response from both the local and international community was as unprecedented as the disaster itself. Rapid and generous contributions poured in from all over the world. Of the \$375 million in funding needs initially identified in the Joint Needs Assessment prepared by the United Nations, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank, the Maldives has received \$368 million in support from the international community to date, of which more than \$108 million has been channeled through the UN system.

Thanks to strong coordination among all these actors, the emergency relief phase was swift and effective. Within two months of the tsunami, the relief phase was effectively over and the immense task of recovery had begun.

Where We Are Today

Two years after the tsunami, the sustained efforts of the government, development partners, and various humanitarian agencies have helped put the Maldives back on the path to regaining the development momentum that it lost in December 2004. Tourism, the mainstay of the economy, has recovered quickly; community livelihoods are being revitalized; and the economy is rebounding. Challenges remain, but the future looks hopeful.

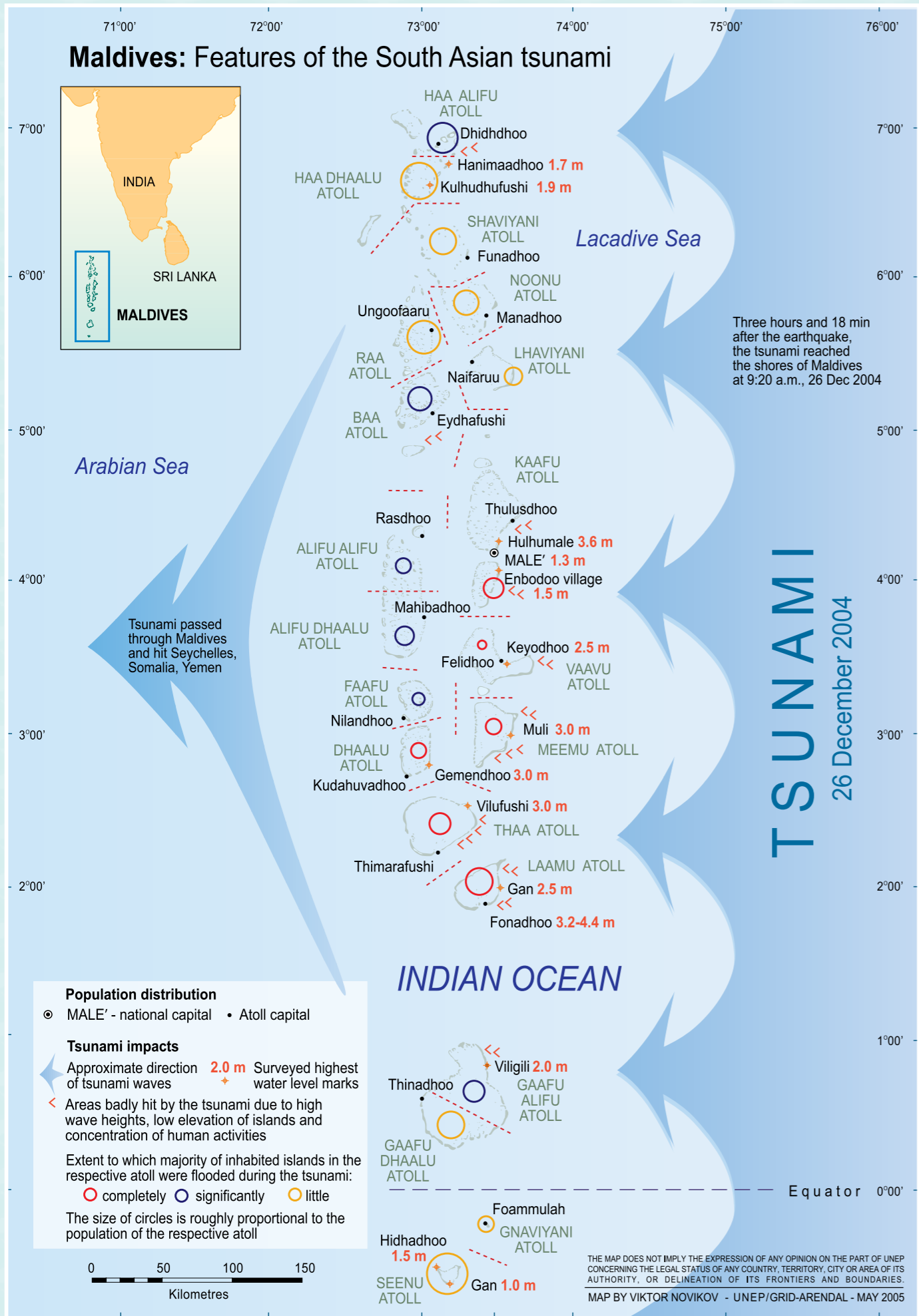
The fragmented geographic nature of the Maldives has posed a huge challenge to the recovery effort. Transporting materials across unpredictable seas to far-flung islands, finding adequate labour from among the small local populations, and coping with limited transportation and communication facilities are among the many difficulties faced. Despite these difficulties, work has progressed rapidly and much has been achieved.

Among the achievements, thousands of homes and many of the key harbours — the social and economic lifeline of all communities in the Maldives — have been repaired or rebuilt. Safe drinking water has been provided to dozens of islands through the installation of desalination plants, and improved sewerage systems are being constructed on several islands. The internally displaced persons are now adequately housed in temporary shelters and are provided with water, sanitation, electricity, and access to essential

services such as schools and health centers. In addition, massive psychological support has been provided to the affected population through Maldivian-trained volunteers; health centers have been upgraded; and at least 25 schools have been built or reconstructed. All these projects closely follow the tsunami recovery slogan of *"building back better"* (a phrase coined by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, former President Bill Clinton), which seeks to ensure that communities are better off following the recovery process than they were prior to the tsunami.

Although much has been done, many challenges remain. More than 10,000 people are still internally displaced, and there is a shortage of funding in many sectors, including the critical areas of shelter, harbours, livelihoods, and water and sanitation. The Maldives is currently the only country in the region facing a continuing funding gap — about \$70 million. This deficit is largely due to high fuel costs (sea transportation is extremely expensive in this island nation) and the increased demand for goods and materials for recovery activities. In the face of such economic challenges, it is essential that development agencies and the wider international community continue to support the Maldives and other affected countries as they struggle to recover from this unprecedented natural disaster.

Maldives: Features of the South Asian tsunami



Sources: Government of Maldives 2005, UNEP Maldives Assessment Team 2005, University of Tokyo 2005, Japan Research Team 2005. Based on best available data as of May 2005

Impact-at-a-Glance:

Peoples and Communities

- 108 fatalities; 1,313 injuries
- 53 islands severely damaged and dozens more affected
- 13 islands completely evacuated, several of which have since been abandoned altogether
- About 30,000 people displaced immediately following the tsunami
- Social fabric of many islands seriously affected by psychological trauma, extensive physical damage, loss of lives and livelihoods, and displacement of people
- More than 8,800 houses damaged or destroyed
- Health clinics, hospitals, and schools damaged on 53 islands
- Harbours, jetties, and communications infrastructure destroyed on a third of inhabited islands

Economy

- \$470 million in physical damage (62 percent of GDP as compared with 4.5 percent in Sri Lanka and 2.6 percent in Indonesia)
- Following average annual growth of 7.5 percent for past 15 years, economy experienced negative growth (5.2 percent) in 2005 for first time in country's history
- In the months following the tsunami, resort occupancy rates dropped sharply in a nation where tourism accounts for a third of national GDP and contributes indirectly to more than 70 percent of GDP, including demand for local agricultural and fisheries products
- The fisheries sector, which provides income to 20 percent of the population, suffered serious losses
- Some 15,000 farmers from 112 islands lost a year's harvest due to increased salinity of soil

Recovery-at-a-Glance:

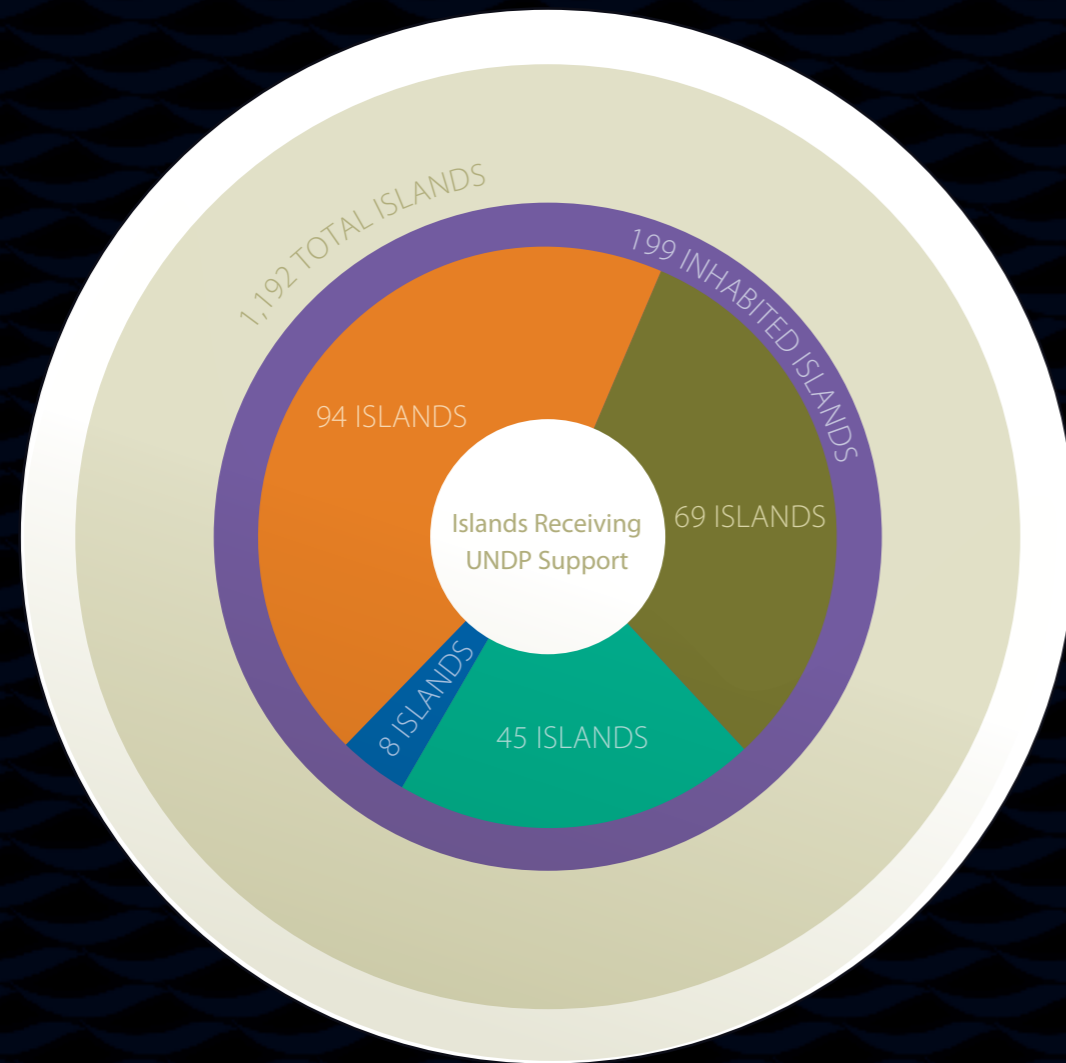
- Reconstruction of more than 1,300 houses and repair of more than 3,600 houses have been completed or are ongoing
- Nearly 11,000 people remain displaced
- All internally displaced persons (IDPs) are adequately housed with access to essential services
- Six islands are being developed to host IDPs
- Six priority harbours have been reconstructed
- The fisheries sector has rebounded strongly
- The tourism sector has fully recovered, with the first quarter of 2006 registering a 97 percent growth in tourist arrivals and April 2006 recording the highest-ever monthly figure
- More than 17,500 fresh water tanks have been distributed to island communities
- Thirty-four desalination units (reverse osmosis) have been installed in 11 atolls
- At least 25 schools have been built or reconstructed
- Key sectors of housing, water and sanitation, livelihoods, and harbours remain under-funded
- Two years following the tsunami, the Maldives requires an additional \$70 million to fully complete the recovery effort

Maldives-at-a-Glance:

- Population approximately 300,000
- 1,192 islands grouped into 26 atolls extending over 900 kilometers in the Indian Ocean
- 199 inhabited islands
- Majority of islands less than 1 square kilometer in size
- Average elevation of 1.8 meters above sea level
- Nearly 60 percent of the population live on islands of less than 1,000 people
- Eighty-eight resort islands currently operating, with plans for more
- Economy based primarily on tourism, fishing, and small-scale agriculture
- Islands surrounded by fragile coral reef systems and lagoons

SECTION 1

UNDP Recovery Programme Overview



Shelter Response and Recovery

Assisting affected families to repair and rebuild safer homes; mobilizing communities to plan and participate in reconstruction efforts; enhancing skills and capacities of local people and institutions.

Harbour Reconstruction

Repairing and reconstructing harbours in order to revitalize island economies; enhancing the capacity of the government to prioritize, plan, and implement marine infrastructure projects in a cost-effective, sustainable, and transparent manner.

Restoration of Livelihoods

Providing communities with tools for vital fishing and agricultural activities; supporting cash-for-work initiatives; providing micro-credits to assist people to restart small family businesses.

Disaster Risk Management

Providing essential training to government partners, NGOs, and island communities to manage and mitigate the impact of natural disasters; strengthening institutional and legal systems for disaster-risk management; conducting multi-hazard disaster preparedness planning.

Aid Coordination

Improving coordination of aid activities; strengthening and streamlining resource management; improving government transparency and accountability; building partnerships with the international development community.

26 December 2004 — a date fixed in the minds of people all over the world. It is now two years since the tsunami struck South Asia and the Maldives. While statistics of the disaster have long been publicized, they remain today stark and shocking. Regionally, over 229,000 people are dead or missing; another 1.8 million were forced to evacuate homes and communities. In the Maldives alone, 10 percent of the national population was displaced, and economic losses represented a staggering 62 percent of gross domestic product. Reflected in these figures is a litany of destruction unparalleled in the history of the Maldives. The waves damaged schools, health facilities, transport and communications links, essential water and sanitation systems, fragile island ecosystems, and tourist resorts in which many Maldivians were employed.

Global response to the plight of the nation has been equally unprecedented, with generous donations of funds, services, and equipment. For UNDP Maldives, response has centered on the agency's Tsunami Recovery Programme, set up to provide expertise and funds in the vital areas of shelter, harbours, livelihoods, disaster-risk management, and aid coordination. In just two years the Maldives Country Office has achieved a remarkable expansion of tasks and personnel to support these activities. Operations have been scaled up from a team of just 15 and an annual budget of \$1.5 million to an office of nearly 100 staff managing an annual disbursement of \$20 million.

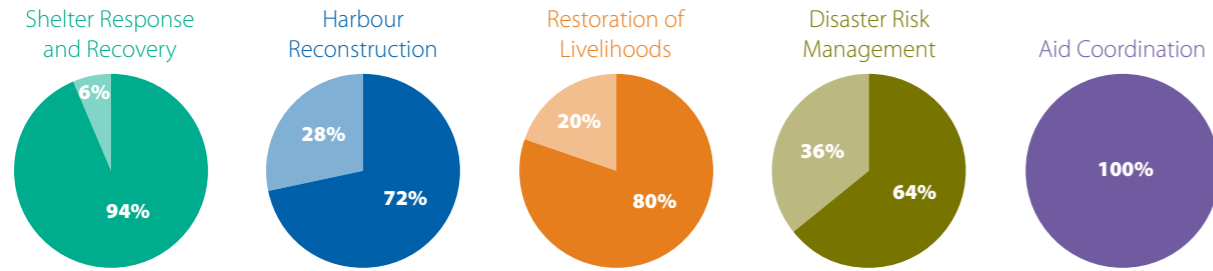
Two years after the tsunami, it is appropriate to pause and take stock. Where were we in December 2004 and where are we today? How successfully have we fulfilled the mandate of "building back better" as called for by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, former President Bill Clinton?

All agencies began reconstruction efforts facing the reality that the tsunami had effectively pushed the country back twenty years in its quest to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Through building back better, UNDP and its partners have committed to helping the Maldives achieve the MDGs and thereby graduate to the ranks of the UN's 'middle-income' countries. Looking at what we have accomplished, it seems fair to say that UNDP has honoured its dedication to help regain lost development momentum and — in the spirit of the Millennium Development Goals — to establish a system that respects and encourages the rights and aspirations of all Maldivians.

Working in close partnership with the rest of the UN system and other multilateral agencies, including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, UNDP has sought to integrate sustainable development reforms into the very process of building back better. This has required innovative thinking and close collaboration both with government authorities in the capital, Male', and local communities at the island level.

If the complexities and challenges of disaster reconstruction work can ever be equated with something called "success," then surely UNDP Maldives' Recovery Programme deserves to be regarded as successful. To cite just one example of progress achieved against the odds, consider a snapshot of UNDP's Shelter Recovery Project. The Project is working with close to 3,000 families on 45 islands dispersed across 12 atolls, providing householders with grants and technical assistance to manage their own recovery. To date, more than 900 homes (repaired and new) have been

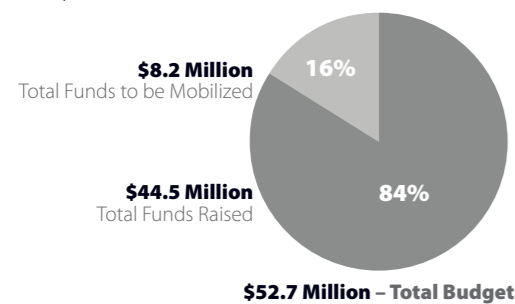
Funding Status by Percentage



% Funds to be Mobilized | % Funds Raised

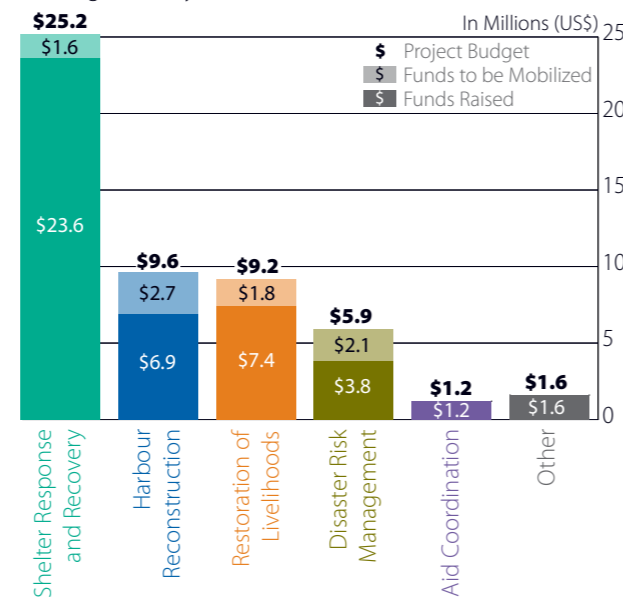
completed, while the remaining houses are expected to be completed by mid-2007. The conditions of work have been, at times, extremely challenging: Only 2 of the 45 islands have banks; all construction materials, to the last nail, have to be imported and transported to remote island locations; and progress is frequently interrupted by uncertain weather conditions and other logistical impediments. Most importantly, UNDP Maldives has never in its history worked on a project of this scale in partnership with such a large number of island communities across the country. There have been few precedents to follow, and thus new policies and procedures have had to be crafted on an ongoing basis.

In each of the project areas the Recovery Programme has sought to propagate strong local ownership built on trust and the empowerment of communities, thus making these communities an integral part of the decision-making process. Similarly, wherever possible, UNDP has sought to work with Island Development Communities to assist homeowners and the entire community to plan and manage recovery efforts in each island. Such an arrangement promotes social cohesiveness and participative planning; fosters initiative and solidarity; and encourages women and vulnerable groups to become part of the reconstruction phase.



The UNDP Tsunami Recovery Programme is expected to achieve its primary objectives by the end of 2007. At that time the Shelter and Harbour projects will be completely phased out while the three other projects — Disaster Risk Management, Livelihoods, and Aid Coordination — will be mainstreamed into the regular Country Programme. This will add an extra dimension to UNDP's work as it prepares to look beyond recovery and assist the Maldives in achieving the development targets that were so close at hand prior to the tsunami.

Funding Status by Dollars



UNDP Recovery Programme Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery: President William J. Clinton



The Asian tsunami presented the international community with an almost unprecedented set of challenges. Affected countries, international donors, and humanitarian and development organizations were suddenly thrown together to coordinate operations at a global level. Compounding the problem was the fact that the disaster was visited largely upon communities that were working hard to leave behind the burden of poverty. Indeed, in the case of the Maldives, the tsunami reversed whole decades of development success. Rectifying the damage has required — and will continue to require — the investment of many millions of dollars over many months and even years. For all parties involved, the most intractable problem has been how to ensure adequate funding and, crucially, sustained recovery support over time.

In February 2005 the United Nations took a vital step toward addressing this challenge with the appointment of former U.S. President William J. Clinton as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery. Over the past two years the Special Envoy has been a formidable force for galvanizing and sustaining global assistance at every level. In contrast to other tsunami-affected nations, such as Indonesia and Sri Lanka, recovery efforts in the Maldives have faced a long-running funding shortfall. Appeals from the Office of the Special Envoy have helped to generate ongoing support from the international donor community. Moreover, the Special Envoy has himself contributed financially to the Maldives: A \$1.8 million donation by

the Bush-Clinton Tsunami Fund,¹ channeled through UNDP's Adopt-An-Island initiative, has enabled full reconstruction of the harbour and damaged housing on the island of Dhiggaru.

The Special Envoy used his May 2005 visit to the Maldives as an opportunity to promote his inspirational theme of "Building Back Better" — to not only replace what was lost, but to seek new opportunities for improved and sustainable development. For the Maldives, this policy has meant helping island communities to rebuild larger, stronger harbours; to construct safer and more environmentally-friendly homes; to explore new ways of preserving fresh water and managing waste; and to adapt proven alternative energy technologies throughout the country.

The Special Envoy's support has drawn much-needed attention to the Maldives — both on the impact of the tsunami and the country's long-term development challenges. His support will leave a lasting contribution to a safer, greener, and more prosperous future for the Maldives.

¹These funds were raised from among dozens of community groups and thousands of individuals in the United States, and were provided to a private fund bearing the names of the two former presidents.

Success

Project Title: Shelter Response and Recovery

Budget: \$25.2 million

Funds Raised: \$23.6 million

Funding to be Mobilized: \$1.6 million

Aim: To address the urgent needs for shelter, while laying the foundation for a longer-term sustainable recovery of the housing sector

Coverage: 45 islands across 12 atolls

Implementing Partners:

UNDP, UN-HABITAT,

Island Development Committees

Local Partners:

Ministry of Atolls Development

Ministry of Construction & Public Infrastructure

Ministry of Finance & Treasury

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Housing & Urban Development

Ministry of Planning & National Development

National Disaster Management Center

United Nations Children's Fund

Donors:

Australia

Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts

Belgium

Bovis Lend Lease

Bush-Clinton Tsunami Fund

Canada

China

The Coca-Cola Company

Deloitte & Touche

European Union

France

Fukuoka Community (Japan)

Japan

Luxembourg

Mauritania

New Zealand

Norway

Portugal

Switzerland

UN Foundation

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

UN Staff Committee

UN Volunteers

UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation

United Kingdom

SECTION 1

UNDP Recovery Programme Shelter Response & Recovery

Since the 2004 tsunami, a top priority for UNDP Maldives has been to ensure that all island residents are properly housed, and that new housing is designed and constructed to be more capable of withstanding the forces of nature.

Tsunami Impact

Most of the houses on the islands, built with simple materials and methods, were no match for the magnitude of the tsunami. Across the country 3,055 houses were destroyed and in need of reconstruction, and another 5,804 were in need of repair.

UNDP Support

Through the UN Flash Appeal, UNDP committed to repairing or rebuilding more than a third of all affected houses in the Maldives, as identified in the National Recovery & Reconstruction Plan (March 2005). Under UNDP's project, 2,767 houses are being repaired and 169 new houses are being constructed on 45 islands nationwide. UNDP, in close collaboration with UN-HABITAT, seeks to ensure that the process is community-led, with householders themselves using local resources and an island work force to plan and manage implementation.

Progress to Date

- Damage surveys carried out on all 45 islands, and householder grant entitlements issued.
- Community participation central to all discussions related to project planning and implementation.
- Grant Agreements signed with 45 Island Development Committees (IDCs) and grants issued to beneficiary householders through IDCs.

- Capacity of island communities enhanced through training of island-based project construction supervisors, accountants, and stock controllers.
- Restoration of shelter completed on 26 islands.
- 881 houses repaired and 22 houses rebuilt.
- More than 50 percent of recovery work completed on a further 817 repairs and 120 reconstructions.
- Supply and installation of rain water harvesting tanks complete on Dhonfanu and Guhli islands.
- Support provided to government in formulating National Housing Policy Framework.

Looking to the Future

- Shelter repairs and reconstructions completed by mid-2007.
- A sustainable, environmentally-friendly sanitation system on Dhambidhoo Island completed.
- Continued emphasis on community ownership and participation in shelter recovery activities through enhanced communication, feedback, and visibility; provision of quality technical support and monitoring; and documentation of best practices and lessons learned.
- Community toolkit, including project manual and technical documentation on future project planning, compiled and disseminated.
- Continued capacity building through provision of policy advice and support to housing authorities.

UNDP Recovery Programme Harbour Reconstruction

success

Without a functioning harbour, island life comes to a halt. Materials for reconstruction cannot be brought in; products from income-generating activities cannot be sold outside; children cannot attend school; the sick cannot get treatment...

Tsunami Impact

The crashing waves of the tsunami caused significant damage to key island infrastructure — most seriously to over a hundred jetties and other vital harbour facilities. Nearly two years since the disaster, the reconstruction of harbours remains one of the most pressing challenges in the recovery and redevelopment phase in the Maldives.

An island's harbour is its economic link with the outside world, enabling trade, fishing, and essential import deliveries such as food and medicine. For many smaller islands, often without secondary schools or advanced health care facilities, the need is even greater. For these communities, a functioning harbour is necessary to access even these most basic human services.

UNDP Support

Although it will take years to fully restore the country's infrastructure network, UNDP is committed to helping the Maldives meet this long-term challenge. Currently, UNDP is assisting in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of harbours on eight islands.

Progress to Date

- Technical surveys and designs for 21 island harbours completed.
- Six harbours have been fully rehabilitated employing technically improved, durable, and more cost-effective harbour designs. These are in: Dhiggaru, Eydafushi, Felidhoo, Kolhufushi, Madifushi, and Muli islands.
- Construction is currently planned for two more harbours: Hinnavaru and Naifaru islands.
- A civil engineer has been added to the staff of the Ministry of Construction and Public Infrastructure to support the development of a National Building Code for the Maldives.
- Training on civil works procurement has been provided to staff of the Tender Evaluation Section of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury and other concerned ministries and offices. The goal is to enhance the capacity of the government to prioritize, plan, and implement marine infrastructure projects in a responsive, cost effective, sustainable, and transparent manner.

Looking to the Future

- The harbour reconstruction project is expected to be completed by mid-2007.

Project Title: Harbour Reconstruction

Budget: \$9.6 million

Funds Raised: \$6.9 million

Funds to be Mobilized: \$2.7 million

Aim: To support the government in the rehabilitation and repair of island harbours in order that island economies can be revitalized

Coverage: Eight islands across five atolls

Implementing Partner: UNDP

Local Partners:

Ministry of Atolls Development

Ministry of Construction & Public Infrastructure

Ministry of Finance & Treasury

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Planning & National Development

Donors:

Australia

Belgium

Bush-Clinton Tsunami Fund

European Union

France

Japan

UN Foundation

UN Volunteers

UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation

success

Project Title: Restoration of Livelihoods

Budget: \$9.2 million

Funds Raised: \$7.4 million

Funds to be Mobilized: \$1.8 million

Aim: To restore livelihoods and food security, and revitalize the most affected families and small enterprises in the fisheries and agriculture sectors

Coverage: 16 atolls across the country

Implementing Partner: UNDP

Local Partners:

Ministry of Atolls Development

Ministry of Environment, Energy & Water

Ministry of Finance & Treasury

Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture & Marine Resources

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Gender & Family

Donors:

Australia

Canada

European Union

Flinders Council (Australia)

Netherlands

New Zealand

Rotary Club of Dubai (United Arab Emirates)

Tomaree Community & Rotary Club of Salamander Bay (Australia)

UN Foundation

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

UN Volunteers

UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation

United Kingdom

SECTION 1

UNDP Recovery Programme Restoration of Livelihoods

The tsunami tore at the heart of the island economies: fishing boats were lost, fish-processing equipment was destroyed, agricultural land was swept away...

Tsunami Impact

As reported above, more than 60 percent of the country's GDP was lost to the tsunami. Many Maldivians lost their livelihoods as fishing boats were destroyed, agricultural land was eroded or inundated with salt water, and life savings were literally washed away.

UNDP Support

Until the recent surge in tourism-related activities in the Maldives, the traditional economic sectors in the country have been fisheries and agriculture, and these continue to be the mainstay of local island communities throughout the country. As such, UNDP has invested considerable resources since the tsunami to restoring livelihoods, especially of women and internally displaced persons, in the fisheries and agriculture areas.

Progress to Date

- Construction of fish markets ongoing in five target islands: Dhaandhoo, Dhambidhoo, Dhiggaru, Kudahuvadhoo, Naifaru.
- Fishing gear provided to 54 islands in 16 atolls.
- Essential agricultural supplies provided to 3,000 families, jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization.
- Training of island Field Officers in agricultural extension.
- Establishment of farmer field schools in Kaashidhoo, Kudahuvadhoo, and Maamigili islands, reaching 250 farmers.
- Community grants for agricultural activities awarded to 12 islands, following consultation with farmers.

- Micro-credit loans of \$570,000 disbursed to five atoll communities; 33 percent of recipients women.
- Enhanced self-reliance of 1,197 tsunami-affected women in 25 islands through cash grants to Women's Island Development Committees and distribution of tools and equipment for home businesses.
- Eighty-six communities trained in project planning and management; skills needs assessments completed on 70 islands.
- South-South grants totalling \$490,000 dispersed to 30 community-based organizations and local NGOs.
- Community waste management plans developed, supported by disbursement of small grants to 16 islands.

Looking to the Future

- Establish six community fish-processing centers with solar drying tents; on-site training provided in drying and processing techniques and small business management.
- Strengthen agricultural extension activities in 20 major agricultural islands through training and on-site support.
- Enable farmers and other community members to undertake overseas studies in advanced farming technologies.
- Provide alternative livelihoods opportunities, especially for women, through development of small and medium enterprises and facilitate access to new markets.
- Construct new waste management sites on 20 islands.
- Provide technical assistance for administrative decentralization to Ministry of Atolls Development.

UNDP Recovery Programme Disaster Risk Management

success

The tsunami taught us the hard way that disasters can come anytime. But we can prepare ourselves, locally and nationally. We can take disaster-risk into account when designing programmes; and we can each learn what to do before, during, and after a disaster strikes.

Tsunami Impact

Although the Maldives often had to deal with storm surges and localized flooding, the country had never faced a natural disaster on the scale of the 2004 Asian tsunami. Thus, despite obvious topographic and socio-economic vulnerabilities, there existed little or no capacity in the country to foresee, respond to, or manage a disaster of such magnitude.

UNDP Support

“Building back better” must be underpinned by the creation of national capacity for disaster management. UNDP’s first hazard assessment in early 2005 indicated that the Maldives is at risk not just from tsunami but also tidal waves, floods, storm-surges, earthquakes, dry spells, and the consequences of climate change. UNDP’s Disaster Risk Management Project builds capacity of national and local institutions; carries out multi-hazard disaster preparedness planning and mitigation activities; supports a new early warning system; and provides essential training to officials and communities.

Progress to Date

- First ever geographic information system (GIS)-based disaster-risk profile map, ranking inhabited islands by vulnerability to disaster.
- Early warning system equipment (worth \$1.8 million) currently being procured.
- Tourism sector disaster management framework developed.
- Communications equipment provided to the national and five regional-level Emergency Operations Centers.
- Twenty members of key ministries trained on application of GIS in disaster-risk management.
- National disaster-risk management training held for key ministry officials on concepts, issues, and challenges for strengthening in-country capacity.
- Active community participation in preparation of disaster preparedness plans on all islands in Vaavu Atoll, and seven in Meemu Atoll.
- Training provided to volunteers in Vaavu and Meemu atolls on first aid, psychosocial counselling, and early warning response.
- Disaster simulation exercise held on Felidhoo Island — first in country.
- New national Disaster Management Coordination Group established.
- National disaster management policy currently under ministerial review, prior to submission to the People’s Majlis (Parliament).

Looking to the Future

- Devise and implement disaster management plans for key vulnerable islands and atolls.
- Strengthen institutional mechanisms for disaster-risk management.
- Implement early warning system.
- Provide safe shelters for most vulnerable islands.
- Produce training manual on basic concepts of disaster-risk management in local language (Dhivehi).
- Include disaster-risk management issues in school curricula.
- Review building codes and bylaws for disaster vulnerabilities.
- Create disaster inventory database listing all required resources in event of a disaster.
- Integrate Disaster Risk Management Project into UNDP’s regular programmes in 2007, to continue building national capacity to manage and respond to future natural disasters.

Project Title: Disaster Risk Management

Budget: \$5.9 million

Funds Raised: \$3.8 million

Funds to be Mobilized: \$2.1 million

Aim: To work with government partners, NGOs, and island communities to establish mechanisms to manage and mitigate the impact of natural disasters

Coverage: Male’ and all atolls

Implementing Partner: UNDP

Local Partners:

Ministry of Atolls Development

Ministry of Defence & National Security

Ministry of Education

Ministry of Environment, Energy & Water

Ministry of Planning & National Development

Ministry of Tourism & Civil Aviation

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Community-based organizations and NGOs

Donors:

Australia

Canada

Germany

Huvafen Fushi Resort

Korea

Switzerland

Tuvalu

UN Office for the Coordination of

Humanitarian Affairs

UN Volunteers

UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation

United Kingdom

Success

Project Title: Aid Coordination

Budget: \$1.2 million

Funds Raised: \$1.2 million

Funds to be Mobilized: None

Aim: To improve aid coordination and resource management, ensuring transparency and accountability in the tracking, monitoring, and utilization of external resources

Implementing Partner: UNDP

Local Partners:

Ministry of Finance & Treasury

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Department of External Resources)

Ministry of Planning & National Development

Donors:

Asian Development Bank

Nigeria

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

UNDP Bangkok Regional Center

United Kingdom

SECTION 1

UNDP Recovery Programme Aid Coordination

As pledges of support came in from the international community and the amount of official development assistance grew to more than three times pre-tsunami levels, the government faced the dual challenge of working with a much higher number of partners and of coordinating the delivery of significantly more funds in an efficient and transparent manner.

Tsunami Impact

The international community responded generously to the disaster, pledging contributions for relief, recovery, and reconstruction activities. Prior to the tsunami the country received approximately \$40 million annually in loans and grants; following the disaster the country faced the responsibility of coordinating multi-year commitments of nearly \$500 million.

UNDP Support

The dramatic inflow of funds to the Maldives following the tsunami highlighted the importance of establishing a mechanism to effectively track and monitor the use of external resources and to harmonize these with the government's national budgetary resources. UNDP has assisted the government in establishing such a financial tracking and information management system, located within the Ministry of Finance and Treasury. In addition, UNDP has supported the related issue of improving aid coordination among all key actors in the recovery and reconstruction phases.

Progress to Date

- Launch of Development Assistance Database (DAD) at <http://dad.finance.gov.mv>, which tracks and monitors external resources provided to the Maldives as well as details of relief, recovery, and reconstruction activities. Designed to promote accountability and transparency, the DAD has also helped the government to more effectively identify funding needs in specific sectors and geographic locations.

- Capacity assessments carried out in the ministries of Finance and Treasury, Foreign Affairs, Planning and National Development; most recommendations implemented.

- Inaugural Maldives Partnership Forum held on 26 June 2006 — the 18-month anniversary of the tsunami — with more than 125 participants from the international development community and national organizations. A steering committee has been established to follow up on Forum recommendations; composition includes representatives of the Asian Development Bank, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, United Nations, World Bank, and government ministries.

- Technical Working Groups established in line with the 7th National Development Plan represent significant progress toward improved aid coordination, streamlining decision-making, and strengthening partnerships between the government and international organizations.

- Capacity of key government staff supported through provision of an Aid Coordination Advisor to the Ministry of Finance and Treasury and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Looking to the Future

- Expand the Development Assistance Database beyond a tsunami-recovery tool to include data on the national budget as well as long-term development activities.

- Launch government web-portal capturing all development activities, with links to ministry websites, project activities, DAD, and DevInfo, a comprehensive database that captures key development indicators.

UNDP Recovery Programme Partners in the Maldives

partners

Successful and sustained development can only be achieved through the combined efforts of many stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, civil society, the private sector, the donor community, and most notably the beneficiary communities themselves. In the two years since the tsunami, UNDP Maldives has recognized the importance of establishing strong partnerships in support of the recovery as well as the long-term development of the country. UNDP has relied on many of its established partnerships from its 28-year history in the Maldives, and has forged new relationships with a diverse group of actors. It has sought to harness the capabilities, expertise, and skills of these many partners to ensure the success of its recovery programme.

The following lists include UNDP's key national partners and those international organizations based in the Maldives with whom UNDP has worked closely during the tsunami recovery. A separate list of donor partners is presented in Section 4, *Donor Support*.

National Partners

Government of the Maldives

Ministry of Atolls Development
Ministry of Construction and Public Infrastructure
Ministry of Defence and National Security
Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water
Ministry of Finance and Treasury
Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Gender and Family
Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
Ministry of Planning and National Development
Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation
Ministry of Transport and Communications
National Disaster Management Center

Private Sector

Apollo Holdings
Aviroalhi Construction Company PVT
Bank of Maldives
Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts
Coastline Investments PVT Maldives
Floorplan Design Associates
Freight Links PVT Maldives
Huvafen Fushi Resort
Maldives Association of Construction Industry
Maldives Association of Tourism Industry
Maldives National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Maldives Transport and Contracting Company
Sunwind Maldives PVT
Women Entrepreneurs Council

Civil Society

Association for Development (Hoadedhoo Island)
Boy Scouts Association of Maldives
Care Society Maldives
Cooperative Society (Maaemboodhoo Island)
Fanaaru Isdharivarunge (Kaashidhoo Island)
Girl Guides Association of Maldives
Hespares Sports Club (Hinnavaru Island)
Initiative for Rural Empowerment and Sport (Vaikaradhoo Island)
Isdharivarunge Gulhun (Maabaidhoo Island)
Island Society (Maamigili Island)
Madharussa Isdharivarunge Fanaaru (Kaashidhoo Island)
Naadhil Muthahidheen (Maroshi Island)
Naadu (Hinnavaru Island)
Organization for Development, Edutainment, and Sport (Dhaandhoo Island)
Recreational and Environment Society (Maalhos Island)
Seven Star (Kaashidhoo Island)
Society for Kaashidhoo Improvement (Kaashidhoo Island)
Society for Kurendhoo Youth & Sports (Kurendhoo Island)
Sports Club Juvenile (Naifaru Island)
Thauleemee Marukazu Isdharivarunge Naadu (Hinnavaru Island)
Women Enhancement (Fonadhoo Island)
Youth Club (Thimarafushi Island)
Zuvaanunge Aurooh (Naifaru Island)
Zuvaanunge Club (Magoodhoo Island)
Zuvaanunge Jamiyyaa (Goidhoo Island)
Zuvaanunge Jamiyyaa (Hirilandhoo Island)

United Nations and International Organizations

Asian Development Bank
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
World Bank
World Food Programme (WFP)
World Health Organization (WHO)

SECTION 1

UNDP Recovery Programme List of Recovery Activities

The following is a list of atolls in which UNDP is active, presented geographically from north to south.

Atoll	Island	Recovery Projects*			
		Shelter	Harbours	Livelihoods	Disaster Risk Management
HAA ALIFU					
	Baarah				Planned
	Berinmadhoo				Planned
	Dhiddhoo				Planned
	Filladhoo				Planned
	Hathifushi				Planned
	Hoarafushi				Planned
	Ihavandhoo				Planned
	Kelaa				Planned
	Maarandhoo				Planned
	Mulhadhoo				Planned
	Muraidhoo				Planned
	Thakandhoo				Planned
	Thuraakunu				Planned
	Uligamu				Planned
	Utheemu				Planned
	Vashafaru				Planned
HAA DHAALU					
	Vaikaradhoo			Ongoing	NGO Support
SHAVIYANI					
	Bileffahi			Completed	Microfinance
	Feevah			Completed	Microfinance
	Feydhoo			Completed	Microfinance
	Firubaidhoo			Completed	Microfinance
	Foakaidhoo			Completed	Microfinance
	Funadhoo			Completed	Microfinance
	Kanditheemu			Completed	Microfinance
	Komandoo			Completed	Microfinance
	Lhaimagu			Completed	Microfinance
	Maakandoodhoo			Completed	Microfinance
	Maaungoodhoo			Completed	Microfinance
	Maroshi			Completed	Microfinance
				Ongoing	NGO Support
	Milandhoo			Completed	Microfinance
	Narudhoo			Completed	Microfinance
	Noomaraa			Completed	Microfinance

* This list includes the four field-based recovery projects. The fifth recovery project, Aid Coordination, is implemented at the central government level.

Atoll	Island	Recovery Projects			
		Shelter	Harbours	Livelihoods	Disaster Risk Management
NOONU					
	Foddhoo			Completed	Microfinance
	Henbandhoo			Completed	Microfinance
	Holhudhoo			Completed	Microfinance
				Ongoing	Waste Management
				Completed	Microfinance
				Ongoing	Agriculture
	Kudafaree	Ongoing		Completed	Microfinance
				Ongoing	NGO Support
	Landhoo			Completed	Microfinance
	Lhohi			Completed	Microfinance
	Maafaru			Completed	Microfinance
	Maalhendhoo			Completed	Microfinance
	Magoodhoo			Completed	Microfinance
	Manadhoo			Completed	Microfinance
	Miladhoo			Completed	Microfinance
	Velidhoo			Completed	Microfinance
RAA					
	Alifushi			Ongoing	Agriculture
				Completed	Women's Livelihood
	Inguraidhoo	Completed		Ongoing	Waste Management
	Maduvvaree	Ongoing		Ongoing	Waste Management
	Meedhoo			Completed	Women's Livelihoods
				Ongoing	NGO Support
	Ungoofaaru			Completed	Women's Livelihoods
	Vaadhoo	Completed		Ongoing	Waste Management
BAA					
	Dharavandhoo	Ongoing			
	Dhonfanu	Completed			
	Eydhafushi	Ongoing	Completed		
	Fehendhoo	Completed		Ongoing	Waste Management
	Goidhoo	Completed		Ongoing	Agriculture
				Ongoing	Waste Management
	Hithaadhoo	Completed		Ongoing	Waste Management

Atoll	Island	Recovery Projects			
		Shelter	Harbours	Livelihoods	Disaster Risk Management
BAA	<i>Continued</i>				
	Kamadhoo	Completed		Ongoing Agriculture	
				Ongoing Waste Management	
				Ongoing NGO Support	
	Maalhos	Completed		Ongoing Waste Management	
			Ongoing NGO Support		
LHAVIYANI					
	Hinnavaru		Ongoing	Completed Microfinance	
				Completed (1) Ongoing (1) NGO Support	
	Kurendhoo			Ongoing Agriculture	
				Completed Microfinance	
	Naifaru		Ongoing	Ongoing Fish Market	
				Completed Microfinance	
				Completed NGO Support	
	Olhuvelifushi			Ongoing Agriculture	
				Completed Microfinance	
KAAFU					
	Dhiffushi			Completed Microfinance	
	Gaafaru			Completed Microfinance	
	Gulhi	Ongoing		Ongoing Waste Management	
				Completed Microfinance	
	Guraidhoo	Ongoing		Completed Microfinance	
	Himmafushi			Completed Microfinance	
	Huraa	Ongoing		Completed NGO Support	
				Completed Microfinance	
				Completed (1) Ongoing (1) NGO Support	
	Maafushi	Ongoing		Completed Microfinance	
	Thulusdhoo	Completed		Completed Microfinance	
ALIFU ALIFU					
	Bodufulhadhoo	Ongoing			
	Himandhoo	Completed			
	Mathiveri	Completed			

Atoll	Island	Recovery Projects			
		Shelter	Harbours	Livelihoods	Disaster Risk Management
ALIFU DHAALU					
	Dhangethi			Ongoing Waste Management	
	Maamigili			Ongoing Agriculture	
	Mandhoo			Ongoing Waste Management	
VAAVU					
	Bodumohora			Completed Microfinance	
	Felidhoo	Ongoing	Completed	Completed Microfinance	Completed
	Fulidhoo			Completed Microfinance	Completed
	Keyodhoo	Ongoing		Completed Microfinance	Completed
	Rakedhoo	Ongoing		Completed Microfinance	Completed
	Thinadhoo			Completed Microfinance	Completed
MEEMU					
	Dhiggaru	Ongoing	Completed	Ongoing Fish Market	Completed
	Kolhufushi		Completed		Ongoing
	Madifushi				Completed
	Maduvvaree	Ongoing			Completed
	Mulah				Completed
	Muli	Ongoing	Ongoing		Completed
	Naalaafushi	Completed			Completed
	Raimmandhoo	Ongoing		Ongoing Waste Management	Completed
	Veyvah	Ongoing			Completed
FAAFU					
	Magoodhoo	Ongoing		Ongoing Waste Management	
DHAALU					
	Gemendhoo				Planned
	Hulhudheli	Ongoing		Completed Women's Livelihood	
	Kudahuvadhoo			Ongoing Agriculture	Planned
				Ongoing Fish Market	
				Completed Women's Livelihood	
	Maaenboodhoo	Ongoing		Ongoing Agriculture	Planned
	Meedhoo	Ongoing		Completed Women's Livelihood	
	Rinbudhoo			Completed Women's Livelihood	
	Vaanee	Ongoing		Completed Women's Livelihood	Planned
THAA					
	Burunee	Ongoing			Planned
	Dhiyamingili	Ongoing		Completed Women's Livelihood	Planned

Atoll	Island	Recovery Projects				
		Shelter	Harbours	Livelihoods	Disaster Risk Management	
THAA	<i>Continued</i>					
	Gaadhiffushi	Ongoing		Completed	Women's Livelihood	Planned
	Guraidhoo	Ongoing		Completed	Women's Livelihood	Planned
	Hirilandhoo			Ongoing	NGO Support	
	Kandoodhoo	Completed		Ongoing	Agriculture	
				Ongoing	Waste Management	
	Kinbidhoo	Ongoing		Ongoing	Waste Management	
				Completed	Women's Livelihood	
	Madifushi		Ongoing			Planned
	Omadhoo	Completed		Completed	Women's Livelihood	
	Thimarafushi	Ongoing				Planned
	Vilufushi					Planned
LAAMU						
	Dhambidhoo	Ongoing		Ongoing	Agriculture	
				Ongoing	Fish Market	
				Completed	Microfinance	
	Fonadhoo			Completed	Microfinance	
	Gaadhoo			Ongoing	Agriculture	
				Completed	Microfinance	
	Gan			Ongoing	Agriculture	
				Completed	Microfinance	
	Hithadhoo			Completed	Microfinance	
	Isdhoo			Completed	Microfinance	
	Kalaidhoo			Completed	Microfinance	
	Kunahandhoo			Completed	Microfinance	
	Maabaidhoo			Completed	Microfinance	
				Completed (1) Ongoing (1)	NGO Support	
	Maamendhoo			Completed	Microfinance	
	Maavah			Completed	Microfinance	
	Mundoo			Completed	Microfinance	

Atoll	Island	Recovery Projects				
		Shelter	Harbours	Livelihoods	Disaster Risk Management	
GAAFU ALIFU						
	Dhaandhoo			Ongoing	Fish Market	Planned
				Completed	NGO Support	
	Dhiyadhoo					Planned
	Gemanafushi					Planned
	Kanduhulhudhoo					Planned
	Kondey					Planned
	Maamendhoo					Planned
	Nilandhoo					Planned
	Vilingili					Planned
GAAFU DHAALU						
	Gaddhoo	Completed		Ongoing	Agriculture	
	Maathodaa			Completed	NGO Support	
	Vaadhoo			Ongoing	Agriculture	
SEENU						
	Feydhoo					Planned
	Hithadhoo					Planned
	Hulhudhoo					Planned
	Maradhoo					Planned
	Meedhoo					Planned

Feature Story: There's No Place Like Home



AISHATH SHIUNA IS HAVING A BUSY DAY. At the age of nineteen she is the family's eldest child and is entrusted with baby-sitting duties. Today she is looking after her little brothers and sisters as well as several cousins. What would be considered a tedious errand by most adolescents is actually a source of delight to her. After over a year of waiting, Shiuna and her siblings can now finally relax as a family in the comfort of their own new home.

Two years ago the tsunami crashed through Shiuna's island of Muli in Meemu Atoll. Located on the eastern side of the country, it was one of the worst hit islands. Twenty-nine houses were completely destroyed and over a hundred others were severely damaged in this small island community of less than 800 people. Traditionally, the process of building a house takes many years to complete in the Maldives. As families save, they gradually add rooms to accommodate their growing families. The tsunami washed away decades of hard work in a matter of minutes, leaving the people of Muli with the task of putting together their shattered homes and lives.

Shiuna's house was among those that were completely destroyed, and she still has not recovered totally from the trauma of that day. "It was very, very scary," she explains. "I still think about it every day."

As the national relief and reconstruction efforts got underway, island communities were given the chance to begin the path toward recovery. Muli is one of the islands on which UNDP's community-managed Shelter Project is active. Under the terms of the project, funds are disbursed directly to tsunami victims so that they can organize repair work to a level with which they, the householders, can feel satisfied. On each island a local person experienced in construction work has been

assigned as project supervisor and keeps a watchful eye on the overall pace of the work.

Shiuna's house was the first to be completed, and she smiles warmly at a visitor as she looks after her siblings and cousins in her new and fully furnished living room. While she waited for the house to be built, Shiuna and her immediate family ate with her grandmother and slept in the home of a relative. Now that their house is finished, Shiuna and her family are happy to reciprocate the hospitality they enjoyed during their time of need.

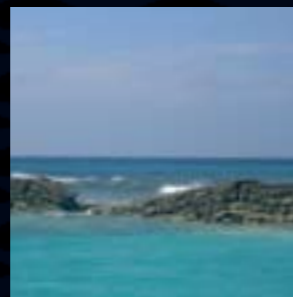
"I am particularly pleased with the new bathroom," says Shiuna as she proudly shows off the modern, clean toilet and shower. Sanitation facilities are relatively fundamental in Muli, as they are in most islands in the country. As part of the concept of building back better, UNDP's Shelter Project seeks to ensure that the new houses are finished to a higher standard both in quality and safety than those that they replace.

The completion of the first new house on Muli was an achievement shared by the whole community. Faced with the enormity of the reconstruction work on the island, the community rallied together to overcome constraints. Three new construction groups were formed; the island's office employees worked part-time shifts on an elderly resident's house; and a 'householders committee' was established to work actively with all stakeholders on the rehabilitation process.

Today the mood on the island is hopeful. Seven families have already moved into their newly reconstructed homes and the remaining families are excited at the prospect of moving into theirs within a few months — a prospect that most would have found difficult to entertain in the initial weeks following the tsunami.



Feature Story: A Tale of Two Harbours



WHEN AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN FACED OFF in the first round of the 2006 World Cup last summer, the usually football-mad island community of Felidhoo was suddenly faced with a major dilemma: which team to support? Unable to solve the problem, the island remained dead silent throughout the match, with not a cheer uttered in support of either side. Felidhoo resident Hassan Rameez explained the strange behaviour:

“Our island has never had a harbour, which has made life very hard for everyone here. But now the Australian and Japanese governments, through UNDP, have donated the money to build a harbour. Some of us used to support Japan; some of us supported Australia. But how can we support one country’s team over the other when they are both family to us now?”

To some football fanatics, giving up allegiance to their club for the sake of a harbour might seem extreme. But in the Maldives, an island’s harbour is its economic and social lifeline. Without a functioning harbour essential items, such as food and medicine, cannot be brought in; and products from income-generating activities cannot be exported for sale. In addition, many smaller islands lack their own schools or health care facilities, and are dependent upon water transport to access these vital services. More than a hundred jetties and harbours were damaged or destroyed by the tsunami; and on some islands the delivery of materials for rebuilding houses and infrastructure has been hampered as a consequence.

The UNDP Role

Recognizing that harbours are the lynchpin of island life and the key to the success or failure of an island’s recovery, UNDP immediately conducted technical surveys and completed harbour designs for 21 islands.

Six islands now have fully rehabilitated harbours and two other islands will shortly see work begun on their harbours. Other islands, however, are not so lucky, including Kurendhoo in Lhaviyani Atoll.

Kurendhoo is a small fishing community with a population of just under two thousand. The island was fortunate in that the tsunami caused only minor flooding, inflicting little damage upon homes and buildings. Nonetheless, the people of Kurendhoo are tsunami victims, too.

“While our island was spared, our harbour took the brunt of nature’s assault,” explains Ibrahim Hussein, the island chief. “Our quay walls have been damaged and our sea walls destroyed.” Sea walls play an important role in protecting an island from the crashing of waves and helping to keep the sea calm inside the harbour. During the Iruvai (east wind) monsoon, travel in and out of the island is manageable but difficult. During the Hulhangu (west wind) monsoon, however, it is considerably more so.

“The sea gets very rough during the Hulhangu monsoon,” explains Hussein. “We find it very hard to moor our boats in the harbour and we are afraid that the quay walls, which are already very fragile, might collapse altogether. We managed to get through the last monsoon, but we may not be so fortunate next time.”

Clearly, challenges remain. Without additional donor support, the residents of Kurendhoo and other similar islands cannot restore this major component of their economy. This is why UNDP and its host of partners and donors are committed to meeting these challenges, island by island, building back better in the Maldives.



Best Practices

Seven Guiding Principles

1. Programming

Effective strategic planning is necessary to ensure sustainable post-crisis recovery within the context of long-term development objectives.

The tsunami created a long-term development reversal, rather than a major humanitarian crisis, in the Maldives. In this context, recovery itself needs to be more than repairing or replacing affected infrastructure and restoring people's livelihoods; it needs to involve the restoration of development momentum that may have been disrupted by the crisis.

In assessing the challenge, it is crucial to resist the tendency to depict the numerous islands of the Maldives as all basically similar. Rather, it is necessary to learn more about the local contexts of each island and, in turn, to adapt programmes to specific situations, thus providing an enabling environment for individual communities to achieve planned results.

All stakeholders — communities, agencies, and government authorities — need to work together in addressing planning issues and agreeing to solutions. Eventually, sectoral programmes need to accommodate more integrated developmental approaches. In addition, the involvement of private businesses in programming and recovery operations needs to be encouraged and maximized. The results of such partnerships can be significant, as shown by the UNDP Shelter Recovery Project's cooperation with Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts in rehabilitating housing on the island of Naalaafushi in Meemu Atoll.

2. Community Empowerment

Communities that take charge of their own recovery programme will make informed decisions, reach sustainable solutions, and achieve better results faster, while at the same time enhancing their own capacity to undertake development initiatives.

Having clearly expressed their desire to manage recovery operations, island communities in the Maldives have shown that, once provided with the necessary resources and know-how, they can competently make decisions and find solutions.

This is more than a programme objective, it is a necessity. For example, islands need to be prepared to competently manage disasters with no external support for the first hours or even days. Similarly, in the context of decentralization in the Maldives, communities need to plan their own development activities and judiciously use their budgetary allocations to achieve agreed results.

In undertaking recovery projects, the feedback and cooperation of communities had to be sought and enlisted at all stages of operations. For example, island-level consultations in the project planning stages allowed communities:

- To identify and authenticate beneficiaries. Sharing information and seeking agreement on beneficiary lists and entitlements was essential in ensuring transparency, preventing community tensions, and reaching the right beneficiaries in a context where the scope of work continued to grow.
- To set realistic goals and timing based on local capacity and perceived priorities. This was crucial in enhancing accountability and facilitating community ownership and participation.

The Shelter Recovery Project uses a community contracting mechanism that enables individual beneficiaries and communities to participate and take responsibility for recovery operations. Moreover, many home owners involved in the shelter project contributed their own funds to the recovery grants, in order to build larger houses for their extended families.

3. Capacity Building

As a key to ensuring sustainability and longer-term development, recovery programmes need to work on building capacity at all levels.

It is important to recognize that opportunities for capacity building in recovery exist on multiple levels: useful knowledge transfer to communities; support to the professional development of staff at island, atoll, and ministry levels (and in UNDP's own team); and private sector capacity building among local contractors on procurement processes and contract management.

Recovery programmes — especially Shelter, Disaster Risk Management (DRM), and Livelihoods — rely heavily on communities for implementation, in the process improving skills and awareness. Shelter projects are implemented mainly by families and local builders, and shelter recovery funds are diligently disbursed by Island Development Committees.

A community's knowledge base and skills are often crucial to managing projects or, in the case of a disaster, making the right decisions. This is why basic-level training is a major part of the DRM and Livelihoods projects, while Shelter field teams work closely with island staff, builders, and home owners to share essential building and management guidelines and practices.

At the higher level, UNDP recovery teams have been working with the Government of the Maldives to strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks for housing, risk reduction, and disaster preparedness. UNDP specialists have made significant contributions to policy formulation, in the process effectively building capacity at the ministerial level. For example, a new National Building Code is currently being finalized with contributions from the Harbour Reconstruction team; while a consultant from UNDP/UN-HABITAT has worked closely with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development on the formulation of a housing strategy.

In UNDP's own office, the post-tsunami demand for additional staff led to the recruitment and training of large numbers of Maldivian high school graduates. These new staff members have added immense value to both the administrative and field work of UNDP. Many have since been able to leverage their UNDP experience to go on to higher education or government employment, strengthening the longer-term human resources of the country.

4. Coordination

Effective coordination of recovery operations maximizes results and benefits, and ensures an efficient use of resources.

There is no doubt that government plays a crucial role in the coordination of relief and recovery operations. Immediately after the tsunami, the Government of the Maldives managed relief operations promptly and effectively by establishing a National Disaster Management Center, seen as a 'best practice' in the critical post-tsunami environment.

The recovery period in the Maldives has remained defined by a need for strong government involvement and coordination at both the local and national levels. It is the role of government to work with implementing partners to ensure that the resources mobilized for recovery operations are used strategically and effectively to:

- reach affected and vulnerable populations;
- meet priority needs; and
- pave the way to longer-term development in line with defined national strategies and development plans.

Recovery activities benefit from pinpointing avenues for cooperation among all stakeholders in all areas (and possible collaboration between programmes) — from planning and information sharing, to staffing and training, to logistical arrangements. Successful cooperation between agencies in the agriculture sector, for instance, demonstrated the complementary nature of local knowledge and experience brought by Care Society, a national NGO, and technical expertise and funding from UNDP and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

To further strengthen inter-sectoral and inter-agency coordination, adequate structures and mechanisms need to be put in place that allow joint planning and implementation of programmes beyond the recovery phase.

5. Cross-cutting Issues

Cross-cutting issues need to be identified and addressed by all recovery programmes, based on agreed common goals and action plans.

The recovery programmes work jointly on the following cross-cutting issues:

- Gender mainstreaming into recovery operations; facilitating women’s contribution to post-tsunami recovery; enhancing their role and participation.
- Inclusion of disaster-risk management in planning, legal frameworks, safety standards, and land use plans. Significantly, the Shelter Project already incorporates risk reduction in its “build back better” principles and technical guidelines.
- Engagement of vulnerable groups in programme activities; building awareness and confidence among vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons.
- Civil society support and coordination; strengthening the role and contribution of NGOs; facilitating communications between civil society organizations and government.

6. Information and Knowledge Sharing

Regular and clear communication with all key actors is essential to ensure effective project implementation and accountability.

Information requirements must be anticipated and met. This necessitates setting up systems for monitoring and recording key data to provide regular updates to government and communities and to meet internal UNDP require-

ments. In the Maldives, the Shelter Project has established an innovative database to track tsunami damage against the number of families re-housed, grants disbursed, and jobs created. At the national level, UNDP support has developed the Development Assistance Database (DAD) to enable the Ministry of Finance to carry out detailed monitoring of donor and government funding across all sectors and agencies involved in the tsunami recovery.

Recovery operations need to establish a clear communications structure with delineated responsibilities for project staff. Examples of successful communications initiatives in the Maldives include public notice boards to convey essential information among affected populations, and user-friendly fact sheets of recovery work translated into Dhivehi, the local language.

Operational tools, including implementation manuals and training options, should be developed early and refined during the course of the programme. This will enable consensus and provide an accurate record of project stakeholders’ roles in the participative process of recovery.

Diligent record keeping in practical and operational areas is an investment for the future. Contact lists, local company profiles, reports on suppliers and shippers, and the tracked history of tenders awarded by UNDP for recovery work provides an important database of essential resources, which can be drawn upon in future disaster responses as well as in regular programming activities.

Setting realistic goals and timeframes with communities — and communicating these clearly — is key to maintaining motivation, enhancing ownership, and creating accountability in recovery activities. Communication must

be recognized as a two-way process and not simply the dissemination of information. A complaints procedure has been established by the Shelter Project, which has proven instrumental in dealing promptly and efficiently with problems and inquiries.

7. Innovative Partnership Strategies

Non-traditional partners have the potential to become key allies in the recovery process, both as donors and as implementing partners.

Recovery projects in the Maldives have benefited from several donations from the private sector. For example, labour provided by Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts — together with UNDP funding for housing construction materials — facilitated the complete rehabilitation of Naalaafushi Island in less than five months. Another supporter, the Brunswick Corporation, donated five ambulance boats to the health sector.

Similarly, the interests of The Coca-Cola Company and the UN Foundation in water issues provided much-needed funding to construct one of the country’s first fully networked sanitation systems on Dhambidhoo Island. Several civil society groups in Australia and the United Arab Emirates supported agricultural extension activities on three islands by pooling resources from their respective communities.

Many other examples of support from private donors exist and the potential for other innovative partnerships should be explored.

Feature Story: Lending a Helping Hand



THE ROOM IS STUFFY, the ceiling fan doing little to move the thick, sluggish air. But the people gathered in the Kudhahuvadho community hall are busy and alert. A small woman at the back raises her hand. “I grow eggplants, watermelons, cucumbers. My main problem is, I don’t really know how to use insecticides and fertilizers, and the instructions on the bags aren’t in Dhivehi.” A man nearby elaborates: “There are also issues about safety. It would be helpful to have a pesticide awareness programme.”

Kamina Ntenda, UNDP’s agriculture specialist, nods. “Good. This is why we are having these meetings. They enable us to identify problems and, even more importantly, identify solutions.”

The farmers of Kudhahuvadho as well as those who have recently relocated to the island as a result of the tsunami are taking part in a UNDP community livelihoods workshop. With the assistance of UNDP’s Livelihoods Project, the farmers have established a community agriculture programme aimed at providing themselves with the skills to enhance crop production and to promote sustainable agricultural practices. A UN Volunteer agriculture specialist has been placed in the community to provide ongoing advice and training.

Given the salination of land and the destruction of crops, fishing boats, essential tools, and stores, restoring the livelihoods of so many tsunami-affected people is a major long-term challenge in the Maldives. UNDP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are supporting the government’s efforts to meet this challenge by providing Maldivians across the country with the necessary tools and skills to rebuild their lives. On islands where farmers lost crops and equipment, FAO

and UNDP are providing replacement seeds and tools. Where fishing is a major activity, FAO and the Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture, and Marine Resources have provided training in modern boat building techniques, enabling communities to build more cost-effective, sea-worthy, and environmentally-sound bakkuras (reef fishing boats).

“This scheme has not only enabled fishermen to replace 89 boats lost in the tsunami but has provided the men with new skills that are still in demand now that the ‘tsunami orders’ have been completed,” says Ibrahim Ali, Project Officer for the Ministry.

Hassan Rameez on Felidhoo island in Vaavu Atoll has benefited from another form of UNDP sustainable livelihoods assistance. Being close to a number of resorts, Felidhoo is visited every week by tourists. The UN has provided funding for people like Rameez to start up or repair their shops and is working to ensure that island entrepreneurs have adequate access to credit facilities — now and in the future. With his loan, Rameez was able to restart his family souvenir business. “I’ve been able to renovate the shop and buy stock,” he declares as he proudly displays a carved turtle. “My brother makes these by hand. The tourists really like them — and my rattan hats, of course!” he adds, plunking one on his head and wiggling his eyebrows rakishly.

These are just some of the ways UNDP and FAO are helping the people of the Maldives to return to their normal way of life. The restoration of livelihoods is the lynchpin to the Maldives’ future. UNDP’s aim is to ensure that communities can actively participate in the social and economic development of their islands and their country. The future belongs to the people of the Maldives. The UN is just lending a hand.



Feature Story: An Entrepreneur Builds Back Better



HASSAN IMAD IS A BUDDING ENTREPRENEUR who lives on the island of Huraa in Kaafu Atoll. A hardware engineer by training, Imad is the owner of two souvenir shops, both of which suffered extensive damage from the tsunami. The waves that crashed through the island swept away most of his wares, and what remained was rendered unusable. “All in all, I lost about MRF 25,000 (\$2,000) worth of goods. This was a terrible loss,” says Imad, who started up his business with a MRF 100,000 (\$7,800) loan from a local bank.

The main sources of income for the 700 people of Huraa are the fishing and tourism sectors — the latter mostly in the form of souvenir shops aimed at tourists who visit the island on day excursions. Located in the midst of a cluster of resorts, the island is ideally placed to benefit from the industry. Indeed, nearby resorts include the up-market Four Seasons, located right next door on the island of Little Huraa.

However, making matters worse for local shop owners is the fact that business suffered a huge decline following the tsunami. As Imad explained, “There are around forty souvenir shops on the island, all competing for the same tourists. Before the tsunami, we used to get between forty and fifty guests a day. In the months after the tsunami, we were lucky if we got forty a week.”

Imad attributes the downturn to two factors: “Several of the resorts in the vicinity suffered extensive damage and had to close for repairs. However, the principal reason for our losses was the state of our harbour, which was damaged during the tsunami. The bigger boats that carry tourists found it difficult to dock

at the island. After a few unsuccessful attempts, many of the resorts decided to take their guests to islands with easier access.”

Imad took his losses on the chin and sought to diversify out of the tourism business. Spotting a niche, he decided to convert one of his shops into a cyber café, providing the people of Huraa with a service hitherto unavailable to them. When he submitted his proposal to the local bank he received another loan, this time for MRF 200,000 (\$15,700). Despite the risk, Imad was confident that it would reap rewards — both for him personally and for the community as a whole.

“There hasn’t been as much demand for the internet as I had initially expected,” admits Imad. “This is partly due to old fashioned thinking among some of the island people. We are working to let them know that there is a world of knowledge out there and that the internet is an incredibly useful and educational tool. Once that message gets through, I am sure that things will pick up.”

Despite the challenges of the past couple years, Imad reports that the people of Huraa are optimistic about the future. “People are not thinking of letting their shops go,” he says assuredly. “We believe there is light at the end of the tunnel. Eventually our harbour will be repaired, and guest arrivals will increase once again.” Imad smiles at the thought of the future — just one of the many hard working people building back better in the Maldives.



Island Profiles

Muli Island, Meemu Atoll

Demographic Profile

Area: 27 hectares

Distance from Male': 140 km

Time from Male': 3 hrs by speedboat

Population: 746

Island Life

Muli, the capital of Meemu Atoll, enjoys regular visits from neighbouring islands, and in recent years it has seen a slow influx of people migrating from elsewhere in the atoll. The island is large and relatively well developed, with the services of government offices, courts, a regional hospital, and a regional bank (the only one in the atoll). There has also been a proliferation of shops and cafés — including a new, modern internet café, which has become a popular haunt for the island's young people.

Most of Muli's inhabitants are employed in government offices, business, and construction trades. The Women's Island Development Committee is home to a dynamic team of budding entrepreneurs who have built up a variety of small business interests, including a children's nursery and daycare center. Finance generated from these enterprises

has enabled the Committee to construct a block of accommodations, which they rent to visiting teachers and nurses working for short periods on the island. Occasionally, the men of Muli supplement their income by providing entertainment, such as Bodu Beru (traditional drumming), to the tourists at nearby resorts. While Muli has no commercial agricultural ventures, many families maintain a small home garden, growing chili peppers and eggplants, among other vegetables.

Tsunami Impact

- Five lives were lost, including 4 children, and several residents were injured.
- Twenty-nine houses were completely destroyed and 106 suffered structural damage.
- The island's harbour, quay wall, and breakwater were partially damaged.
- The island's electricity network was completely destroyed and its sewage system partially damaged. However, within three days the community had restored basic electric and sanitation services. This was a clear example of the benefits of strong local capacity: The provision of electricity in Muli is a community-driven and community-run initiative.
- Saltwater from the tsunami contaminated the island's groundwater lens, destroying many home gardens. Heavy monsoon rains have since recharged this important source of fresh water.



Recovery Projects

Shelter

UNDP is reconstructing 29 homes and repairing an additional 106. The island's Shelter Committee has received assistance from UNDP to provide temporary shelters for the most vulnerable families, which have been constructed on the site of their former homes. Meanwhile, construction work is proceeding speedily, with 7 reconstructions and approximately 50 percent of repairs complete. All families are expected to be back in their homes by the middle of 2007.

Harbours

The Muli harbour rehabilitation project was awarded to an international firm, MT Hojgaard, in December 2005. The project included the design and construction of a new quay wall and breakwater, which are now complete. Muli Island was also the site for the fabrication of concrete quay wall "L" sections for the three harbours of Dhiggaru, Kolhufushi, and Muli.

Disaster Risk Management

UNDP has helped Muli formulate one of the country's first community-based Island Disaster Preparedness Plans and establish an Island Emergency Management Committee. The Committee, which includes local government officials and volunteers from the Island Development Committee and Women's Island Development Committee, is responsible for coordinating emergency response and disaster preparedness activities at the island level. Many Muli residents have participated in an atoll-wide first-aid training programme, and more training is planned on early warning responses.



Donor Support

Donors	Recovery Projects
Belgium	Harbours
European Union	Shelter
Japan	Harbours
Korea	Disaster Risk Management
Norway	Shelter
Switzerland	Disaster Risk Management
UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation	Disaster Risk Management

Island Profiles

Dhiggaru Island, Meemu Atoll

Demographic Profile

Area: 4.6 hectares

Distance from Male': 118 km

Time from Male': 3.5 hrs by speedboat

Population: 911

Island Life

Dhiggaru is a small but lively fishing community ideally located near some of the finest fishing areas on the eastern side of Meemu Atoll. The majority of its families depend on the fisheries industry, and Dhiggaru is renowned throughout the country for the traditional Maldivian fish paste, *Rihaakuru*. Production of the delicacy involves a painstaking process in which local women spend days slowly boiling down choice cuts of tuna to their essence. The resultant richly brown, sticky paste has a distinctive salty flavour and is a favourite condiment not only in the Maldives but at dinner tables in Japan, Sri Lanka, and throughout South East Asia. Dhiggaru is also home to skilled masons and carpenters, many of whom have been working on the island's tsunami recovery projects. Women in Dhiggaru supplement the family diet and income through home gardening, selling their produce primarily within the local community.

With no public transportation or ferry links, residents find it extremely difficult to sell and trade goods or to access medical and other services located on other islands. Physically isolated, the island is a 12-hour trip to the capital by traditional *dhoni* or 3.5 hours by speedboat, although no such boats exist on the island. In addition, the island has only

one school and one doctor and community health worker tending to the needs of a population of over 900. Not surprisingly, isolation has fostered a strong spirit of cooperation and self-sufficiency on Dhiggaru. The community is very proud of its little island, and the local soccer team is known as a formidable opponent in the bi-annual inter-atoll championships.

Tsunami Impact

- An infant was tragically lost and several residents were injured.
- Some 98 percent of the island's housing stock was affected: 18 houses were destroyed and 143 suffered moderate to severe structural damage.
- Approximately 35 families were displaced and forced to seek refuge with relatives or friends.
- The island's harbour, quay wall, and breakwater were all severely damaged as were fishing vessels and equipment — the lifeblood of the island economy.
- The tsunami disrupted the island's electricity network, destroying one generator and eighteen distribution boxes. With the help of the State Electric Company, the community has repaired the network, which proudly hosts three generators supplying electricity twenty-four hours a day.
- The island's sewage system suffered considerable damage, which has been temporarily repaired by the community until a more permanent solution can be found.
- The tsunami waves left a swathe of damage and debris in their wake. At a loss with what to do with all the rubbish,



the community improvised by using most of it to reclaim land on the northern side of the island, a section of which the tsunami had washed away.

- For six months following the tsunami, the groundwater was so contaminated by saltwater intrusion that women were unable to tend to their home gardens.

Recovery Projects

Shelter

The Shelter Project is assisting the local community of Dhiggaru to rehabilitate the 161 houses that were damaged or destroyed. Approximately 50% of all work is now complete. All home owners are expected to move back into their homes by mid-2007.

Harbours

The Dhiggaru harbour rehabilitation project was awarded to an international firm, MT Hojgaard, in December 2005. The project, which is now complete, included construction of a new quay wall and breakwater. The community is now able to engage more easily in commercial activities and to travel to neighboring islands for essential services.

Disaster Risk Management

UNDP has facilitated the development of an Island Disaster Preparedness Plan for Dhiggaru and helped form an Island Emergency Management Committee. The Plan is a simple document that lists the people and assets at risk in the event of future disasters, and identifies appropriate risk-reduction and protection measures. It details the roles and responsibilities of various institutions and officials before,

during, and after a disaster to ensure a planned response — with or without external support. Thirty people from across Meemu Atoll have received first-aid training; and future training will instruct island communities on how to respond to national early warning calls, including possible evacuation of vulnerable people to safe shelters.

Livelihoods — Fisheries Sector

In addition to replacing essential fishing equipment, UNDP is constructing a fish market and offering training to the community to boost the production of alternative, value-added fish products. The market will be managed by a fisheries cooperative once it is operational in early 2007.

Donor Support

Donors	Recovery Projects
Bush-Clinton Tsunami Fund	Harbours, Shelter
Japan	Harbours
Korea	Disaster Risk Management
Netherlands	Livelihoods
New Zealand	Shelter
Switzerland	Disaster Risk Management
UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation	Disaster Risk Management

Island Profiles

Felidhoo Island, Vaavu Atoll

Demographic Profile

Area: 11.8 hectares

Distance from Male': 79 km

Time from Male': 1.5 hrs by speedboat

Population: 448

Island Life

Felidhoo is an example of a community that was severely affected by the tsunami but has "built back better" for the benefit of all its residents. Although this tiny island is a relatively short distance from the Maldivian capital, the lack of adequate public transportation makes it difficult for residents to gain access to basic services on nearby islands, including medical treatment. The island has long been hampered by inadequate marine infrastructure, including one small concrete jetty, which was nearly destroyed by the tsunami. The Felidhoo economy is primarily dependent on fishing; those who do not work in the fishing industry are employed in local government jobs or at nearby resorts. Many women earn a living by processing fish or by tending small home gardens.

Better times have now arrived for the community of Felidhoo. A new harbour and regional hospital are having an immediate and tangible benefit on the quality of life, and a new recreation field is providing a much-needed outlet for the island's youth, who are particularly avid soccer fans. The community is also beginning to understand the importance of effective waste management practices, providing an example to other neighbouring islands.

Tsunami Impact

- No lives were lost, although several residents were injured.
- Five houses were completely destroyed and 68 suffered structural damage.
- Saltwater contamination destroyed home gardens, affecting health and nutrition and rendering the island completely dependent on food imports.
- The island's electricity network was seriously damaged.
- Felidhoo experienced serious waste management problems following the tsunami due to the accumulation of debris and lack of funds to transport waste to the landfill island near Male'.

Recovery Projects

Shelter

UNDP has helped reconstruct or repair 73 houses. All home owners have received the majority of the grants to which they are entitled and 21 families have moved back into their newly repaired homes. All work will be completed by mid-2007.

Harbours

The Felidhoo harbour construction project, including the dredging of a new harbour and the construction of a new quay wall and breakwater, was awarded to the Maldives Transport and Contracting Company in November 2005. The Government of Maldives co-funded an extension of the harbour because of the vital need for adequate marine infrastructure on the island. All harbour construction is now complete.



Disaster Risk Management

Felidhoo was the pilot site for UNDP's Community-based Disaster Risk Management Programme, which includes formulation of a disaster preparedness plan for the island and related training and capacity building activities. Felidhoo's Island Disaster Preparedness Plan is particularly significant in the context of the island's isolation following the tsunami, which forced the community to rely on its limited resources for several days. The Ministry of Defense and National Security, the Vaavu Atoll Office, and UNDP conducted a simulation exercise to test and refine the island response plan. UNDP also supported the upgrading of Felidhoo's electrical network, which was one of the disaster mitigation measures identified in the Preparedness Plan.

Livelihoods — Capacity Building

Six participants from different community-based organizations were trained on project cycle management, including project proposal formulation, financial management, and project monitoring and evaluation. A skills need assessment has also been completed on Felidhoo.

Livelihoods — Micro-credits

Six beneficiaries (5 male and 1 female) received small grants for sustainable income-generating activities, including tailoring, fish processing, home gardening, and repairing and building fishing vessels.

Donor Support

Donors	Recovery Projects
Australia	Disaster Risk Management, Harbours, Shelter
Brunswick Corporation ¹	Health Sector
European Union	Livelihoods
Huvafen Fushi Resort ²	Electricity Network
Japan	Harbours
New Zealand	Livelihoods
Norway	Shelter
United Kingdom	Livelihoods
UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation	Disaster Risk Management

¹The Brunswick Corporation donated five ambulance boats to the Ministry of Health to support regional hospitals across the atolls.

²Huvafen Fushi Resort, which is located near Felidhoo, financed a new electric distribution panel board, which was central to upgrading the island's electricity network.



Feature Story: Catching Up to the Information Age



ABOUT 26 KILOMETERS FROM THE CAPITAL, Male', lies the small island of Maafushi, home to just over 1,800 people. The island's educational needs are served by Maafushi School, the only school on the island. The children in grade 2 are excited, and they have good reason to be. It is the inaugural day of the school's new computer lab and this is their first computer studies class. The students crowd around the twenty new PCs — ten of which were donated by UNDP — and set about discovering the opportunities that they offer. The Information Age has truly arrived in Maafushi!

A quick walk around the classroom reveals many different activities going on. Mohamed Jabir is eagerly opening the various programmes installed on the Windows XP system. When asked if this is the first time he has used a computer, Mohamed turns and manages a quick nod before returning to his PC and an absorbing game of solitaire.

Aishath Ifaa explains that she has a computer at home. Her familiarity with the software is evident as she uses the Paint programme to create a little girl with bright red hair and colourful attire. What does Aishath most like to do on the computer? She replies without hesitation: "Paint!"

Zaya Zaki smiles shyly when she realizes she is being observed. She is busy designing name labels to stick on her books. She has developed a real feel for using this application, and she has discovered how to place her

name at the top of a background of her choice. A flowery pattern catches her eye, and she chooses to go with it.

P. K. Raju, the school principal, is proud of this new development. "We are starting to hold classes for students from grades 1 to 10. We have hired a full-time computer teacher, and our aim is to help students attain basic computer literacy during the course of this year." As Raju explains, he is already looking to the future. "We hope to introduce computer studies as an academic subject in the coming year for students in grade 8." The children of Maafushi recognize how fortunate they are, given that even in schools in Male' only a few students get the opportunity to study computer science.



Feature Story:

Protecting the Future – Community-based Disaster Risk Management



THE HOUSES ON THIS END OF THE ISLAND FLOOD even in a heavy rain,” Ali Shujau explains, waving an arm in the general direction. “During monsoon rains we’re wading in water just below the knees. So you can imagine what it was like during the tsunami.” Shujau points to a house in the process of being rebuilt. “That’s why the community decided when they were working on the disaster-risk management plan that all the houses should be built higher off the ground.”

Shujau is the Community Development Officer of the Atoll Development Unit in Vaavu Atoll. With other fellow residents of Felidhoo Island, he took part in UNDP’s pilot Community-based Disaster Risk Management Programme. Like the rest of the Maldives, this tiny 11.8 hectare island faces three major disaster-risks: storm surges, tsunami, and the threat of rising sea levels due to climate change. The average island in the Maldives is only 1.8 meters above sea level. Felidhoo sits even lower and suffered considerable tsunami damage, losing five houses outright and a further 68 requiring extensive repairs. Essential infrastructure was also severely damaged — all on an island with a population of less than 500.

As residents continue to “build back better,” UNDP is helping them to prepare for and respond to future disasters and to minimize the possible physical, economic, and ecological damage to their communities. The initiative consists of three main activities: constructing multi-purpose safe shelters, formulating community-based disaster preparedness plans, and training individual residents to respond to disasters. This integrated

plan is based on the underlying philosophy of empowering communities to create a safer and more secure environment — and the recognition that to be successful, the plan must utilize their unique knowledge and understanding of the environment and community in which they live.

The Felidhoo residents identified numerous threats to which their island was particularly vulnerable. For example, not only was one end of the island susceptible to submersion but, as demonstrated during the tsunami, elsewhere houses were built too close to the sea, drainage designed to deal with flood waters was ineffective, and few people had first-aid training. All these issues were factored into the Island Disaster Preparedness Plan, which, among other things, includes the construction of a safe shelter on elevated land, the formation and training of disaster response teams, first-aid training, and the creation of a protected harbour with breakwaters. The initial plan was further refined following its testing during a mock island disaster.

Man Thapa, UNDP Disaster Risk Management Manager, is pleased with the results. “I believe that the sense of ownership that the island community has over these plans will ensure their sustainability. I also hope that it will enable the community to link disaster preparedness with the broader theme of sustainable development.” Following the success of the initiative on Felidhoo, the Community-based Disaster Risk Management Programme and related training modules have been rolled out across Vaavu Atoll and will eventually be implemented throughout the Maldives.



Island Profiles

Dhambidhoo Island, Laamu Atoll

Demographic Profile

Area: 46.6 hectares

Distance from Male': 228 km

Time from Male': 6 hrs by speedboat

Population: 526

Island Life

Dhambidhoo Island is located on the northernmost tip of Laamu Atoll, one of the most tsunami-affected regions in the Maldives. Dhambidhoo's economy depends on fisheries and, to a lesser extent, agricultural activities. Many varieties of fruit and vegetables can be found on the island, including watermelon, cucumber, papaya, yam, banana, and pumpkin. Fishermen sell part of their daily catch to families who process them into dried fish and then sell them in the markets of Male'. The women of Dhambidhoo also play a role in securing income, working in agricultural activities and fish processing. A few women also tend home gardens. The lack of reliable or, indeed, available transportation remains the biggest obstacle to expanding these businesses.

The island is extremely remote — a 16-hour boat ride by traditional *dhoni* from the capital. The island has no harbour, making do with just a quay wall and outer breakwater. Erosion is a major problem on Dhambidhoo, with beaches being gradually washed away. The island has a basic health post staffed by one doctor. For advanced treatment, island residents must secure travel — at their own expense — to the nearby island of Gan. Furthermore, in the absence of a proper sewage system, the ground water is often contaminated, which in turn affects the island's agricultural produce and contributes to waterborne and vector-led diseases.

Tsunami Impact

- Two lives were lost and several residents were seriously injured.
- Twenty-nine houses were completely destroyed and 84 suffered structural damage.
- Thirty-five families had to move into the homes of relatives or friends, and 24 families were relocated to temporary shelters built by the government.
- Agricultural plots were inundated, and the soil badly contaminated by salt water.
- The island's electricity network was damaged.



Recovery Projects

Shelter

UNDP is reconstructing all 29 houses that were destroyed in the tsunami and the Government of the Maldives is repairing those houses that were damaged. UNDP's recovery work, which will be completed by the end of 2006, has progressed well under the leadership of an energetic community-led Shelter Recovery Committee, which holds weekly meetings to discuss progress and relevant programme issues with all householders. Furthermore, a sustainable sanitation network — one of the first in the country outside the capital and resorts — is being built with the direct participation of island residents. Once complete, it will be operated and maintained by the community.



Livelihoods — Agriculture Sector

UNDP is working on a joint sustainable agriculture programme on Dhambidhoo with Care Society, a local NGO that is also implementing a livelihood programme on the island. The initiative, targeted at displaced persons, seeks to increase income and improve family nutrition by providing practical training and technical assistance for small-scale farming.



Livelihoods — Capacity Building

Under the capacity-building component of the Livelihoods Project, nine participants from various community-based organizations were trained on project cycle management, which involves project proposal formulation, financial management, and project monitoring and evaluation. A skills need assessment has also been completed on the island.

Livelihoods — Fisheries Sector

Fishing gear was provided to those community members who lost equipment in the disaster. A fish market is planned to support the local fishermen, and is expected to be managed by a fisheries cooperative.

Donor Support

Donors	Recovery Projects
Australia	Livelihoods, Shelter
Belgium	Shelter
The Coca-Cola Company	Shelter (Water & Sanitation)
Netherlands	Livelihoods
New Zealand	Livelihoods, Shelter
Norway	Shelter
UN Foundation	Shelter (Water & Sanitation)
United Kingdom	Livelihoods

Island Profiles

Kaashidhoo Island, Kaafu Atoll

Demographic Profile

Area: 276 hectares

Distance from Male': 88 km

Time from Male': 1.5 hrs by speedboat

Population: 1,694

Island Life

Kaashidhoo is the fifth largest island in the Maldivian archipelago and is located in isolation on the northern-most tip of Kaafu Atoll, outside the atoll reef in the turbulent waters of the Kaashidhoo Sea. Unique in the Maldives, the people of Kaashidhoo rely primarily on agriculture for their livelihoods; there are almost no fishermen on the island. Produce, including chilies, cucumber, watermelon, banana, and papaya, are sold to other islands, while all other basic necessities such as fish, rice, flour, and sugar are imported from the capital. In addition to farming, some of the men work as carpenters, repairing boats and undertaking construction work at nearby resorts.

The island has one school to grade 10, two pre-schools, and a health center, with plans for a secondary school to begin in 2007. The island enjoys particular fame among

Maldivians for its coconut trees, which cover large tracts of land all the way down to the edge of the lagoon. In fact, Kaashidhoo means "coconut island" in the local language, Dhivehi, and the island is among the largest suppliers of coconut to the capital and resorts. In 1998, Kaashidhoo was chosen as the pilot site for an Indian Ocean climate observatory established to record and monitor long-term patterns of climatic change in the Maldives. The island is also home to the ruins of a Buddhist temple, one of only a handful to be found in the Maldives.

Tsunami Impact

- There were no fatalities.
- Severe damage was inflicted on 119 houses, which have required significant repairs.
- Extensive damage to the island's large harbour has rendered it only partially functional, affecting essential trade — notably the export of fruit and vegetables to other islands.
- Agriculture was severely affected, with ocean water contaminating the soil and washing away agricultural equipment.
- The decline in income led to a decrease in the import of food, which in turn led to a general fall in nutrition.



Recovery Projects

Shelter

UNDP is committed to repairing the 119 damaged homes. To date, all houses have received nearly all of their entitled grants. Seventy-four of the most severely damaged homes have now been repaired and the families re-housed, with the remaining houses expected to be completed by April 2007.

Livelihoods — Agriculture Sector

Seeds, organic fertilizers, and tools were delivered to 233 tsunami-affected households as part of UNDP's agricultural assistance extended to Kaashidhoo. A demonstration nursery has been established to showcase improved cultivation methods, and green peppers, hot bell peppers, and leaf cabbage have already been harvested by the farmers. Other varieties of fruit and vegetables, including papaya, cucumber, watermelon, and tomatoes, to name a few, have also been planted. To complement agricultural activities, 24 goats have been purchased and distributed to 6 farmers on the island. Encouraged by early success, these and other farmers have purchased additional goats with their own funds. The Livelihoods Project is now planning to provide training on goat rearing.

Livelihoods — Capacity Building

Nine participants from different community-based organizations were trained on project cycle management, which involved project proposal formulation, financial management, and project monitoring and evaluation. A skills need assessment has also been completed on the island.



Livelihoods — Micro-credit Loans and South-South Grants

Eleven beneficiaries (10 male and 1 female) have received micro-credit loans for small enterprise projects. In addition, UNDP's South-South Grant Facility has funded two NGO-based projects, both of which successfully completed their scope of work in Kaashidhoo in October 2006. The NGO *Isdharivarunge Fanaaru* used its grant to open a shop selling fertilizers, pesticides, and other agricultural implements to the many farming families on the island. This project directly complements the agricultural activities carried out by UNDP's Livelihoods Project to revitalize the island's economy. The Society for Kaashidhoo Improvement used its funds to work on the restoration of their cable television network, one of Kaashidhoo's few links to the outside world. It took two months to complete the project, and the network now provides cable programming to 194 happy customers.

Donor Support

Donors	Recovery Projects
Canada	Livelihoods
European Union	Livelihoods
New Zealand	Livelihoods
Norway	Shelter
UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation	Livelihoods
United Kingdom	Livelihoods, Shelter

Island Profiles

Magoodhoo Island, Faafu Atoll

Demographic Profile**Area:** 17.1 hectares**Distance from Male':** 134 km**Time from Male':** 3 hrs by speedboat**Population:** 520**Island Life**

Magoodhoo is one of the five islands of Faafu Atoll, and epitomizes the closely-knit and self-sufficient populations characteristic of this region. Despite its small size, the Magoodhoo community has energetically spearheaded various initiatives to develop their little island. One example is the operation of a cooperative store known as *Raiyuthunge Fihaara*, which stocks ample supplies of all household essentials. The shop duty and supervision is rotated every two weeks to promote full community ownership, and profits go toward initiatives that benefit all residents, such as installation of community water tanks, tree planting, island clean-up, and jetty repair. Other monies are put away in a collective savings fund should any member of the community require financial assistance in an emergency.

Although primarily a fishing community, many of Magoodhoo's inhabitants are also employed in government offices or in the tourism sector in the nearby resorts

of Filitheyo, Velavaru, and Vilu Reef. Home gardening for domestic use or local sale is also a popular practice. Island locals have the rare good fortune to be able to travel to Male' two times a week for a modest fee of MRF 100 (US\$8) on a traditional *dhoni* ferry organized by the community. Thus, instead of traveling to larger islands for services in neighbouring Dhaalu and Meemu atolls, the community enjoys access to the unique range of medical, banking, and shopping facilities available in the capital.

Tsunami Impact

- There were no fatalities, but several residents were injured.
- Eighty-five houses were affected, ranging from minor cracks to severe structural damage.
- The concrete jetty was completely destroyed. The community is currently using a makeshift wooden jetty until a more permanent solution can be found.
- Although the island's nine fishing boats escaped major damage, the generators used on the vessels were destroyed. In addition, most of the equipment and gear stored in a communal shed on the beach was swept away.
- Magoodhoo's electrical network and most of its distribution boxes were destroyed. The community pulled together to restore its electrical needs, and had the system up and running within a few days of the tsunami.
- Heavy monsoon rains have been recharging the ground water lens, which was inundated by saltwater and further contaminated by a flooded sewage system.

**Recovery Projects****Shelter**

Despite starting work somewhat later than on other islands, steady progress is being made on the 85 houses under repair. To date, 21 houses are complete and 60% of repair work is finished on the remaining 64. All home owners will have moved back into their houses by April 2007. As is the case on most islands, the repairs have brought additional benefits to the entire community. For example, roof-top rainwater harvesting systems are able to provide a regular supply of drinking water, and home-based fish-processing activities have resumed in newly completed kitchen areas.

Livelihoods — Capacity Building

Nine participants from a variety of community-based organizations were trained on project cycle management, which involved project proposal formulation, financial management, and project monitoring and evaluation. A skills need assessment has also been completed on the island.

Livelihoods — Waste Management

Magoodhoo was one of 16 islands selected for waste management assistance through a cash-for-work project. A grant of \$20,000 enabled the community to clear up debris that had washed ashore and to address the ongoing problem of island waste. As a waste management plan had already been formulated by the island community prior to the initiation of the project, construction of a waste storage facility proceeded very quickly.

**Donor Support**

Donors	Recovery Projects
European Union	Livelihoods
France	Shelter
Netherlands	Livelihoods
New Zealand	Livelihoods
United Kingdom	Livelihoods

Feature Story: Bringing Waste Management to Small, Fragile Islands



IT IS DUSK ON THE ISLAND OF GOIDHOO, in Baa Atoll. Bari, a 23-year old fisherman, has just finished landing the final catch of the day. He surveys the island's empty beach. "Immediately after the tsunami there was so much rubbish washed up here that we couldn't even get to the water," he explains. "It is certainly a lot cleaner now than it was!" Smiling with satisfaction, he adds: "I'd say we've done a pretty good job."

Bari and his fellow community members certainly have grounds to be proud. On Goidhoo, a depressing trail of debris left an unwelcome monument to the devastation of the tsunami. For weeks afterwards, heaps of stagnant waste remained along the shoreline, creating an unsightly environmental hazard. Faced with the choice of polluting the lagoon or losing time and much-needed income on organizing a large-scale clearance, the community was at a loss what to do.

That's why UNDP's offer to fund a 'cash-for-work' scheme for debris clearance came along at such a good time. Members of the local community were employed to transport tsunami debris to a central site for sorting into different components. Glass, plastics, hazardous materials, and organic waste were diligently separated and placed within fenced compounds at the far end of the island.

Despite the aesthetic improvement, Goidhoo residents are aware that a longer-term problem still remains — the everyday waste generated by their community. As well as leaving huge volumes of rubble, scrap metal, plastics, and tree branches throughout the island, the tsunami raised difficult questions about the environmental and health implications of the country's limited waste management practices. This is why UNDP, as part of its commitment to build back better and greener, has initiated a pioneering process of community waste management planning on 16 tsunami-affected islands through its Livelihoods Recovery Project.

By their nature, small low-lying islands represent fragile ecosystems where pollution can take a particularly heavy toll. Rubbish thrown into the lagoon floats among playing children; chemical waste from discarded household products quickly poisons the shallow ground-water lens that supplies precious drinking water. Communities in the Maldives have been grappling with the consequences of these problems for years, and many are now facing up to the waste management challenges for the first time. Whereas residents traditionally dumped everything from rotten fish to rubber tires at an uncontained beach site, UNDP is now financing ecologically sensitive waste management plans on Goidhoo and 15 other islands; and its ongoing consultations are involving whole communities in identifying and prioritizing their problems, and working together to generate short and long-term solutions.

Residents have been quick to voice their enthusiasm for the consultative process; and despite the novelty of community planning, many have become deeply

engaged in the debate. Ali, a young salesperson working at one of the island's retail shops, speaks passionately on behalf of his discussion group. "We know there is a lack of waste management awareness among the community," he acknowledges. "It is obvious — we lack any waste disposal and recycling facilities and, most importantly, there has been a complete absence of information sharing or even discussion on the topic before now."

Ali's fellow discussion group members raise concerns about the sustainability of a waste management project on the island. Many propose a market-based system of cost recovery and maintenance fees for the long term. The Women's Island Development Committee, traditionally charged with responsibility for keeping the island clean, are particularly keen to express their views.

The dialogue on Goidhoo is more than just talk — it represents the first step in a longer-term government plan to provide sustainable waste management facilities to all islands in the Maldives. In line with decentralization efforts, local communities and authorities are set to take the lead in this process. Goidhoo is paving the way for the rest of the country.



Donor Support UNDP Maldives Engages Public and Private Sectors through Adopt-An-Island

UN Flash Appeal

When the tsunami struck the nations of the Indian Ocean in December 2004, the United Nations responded with a UN Flash Appeal — an emergency funding mechanism designed to address such extraordinary disasters through ad hoc government contributions. However, it was soon apparent that the situation in the Maldives was unique, and that additional funding would be necessary if the nation was to “build back better,” in the words of former US President Bill Clinton, the Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery.

The Maldives, and UNDP in particular, faced two significant challenges. In the first instance, no major donors or international NGOs, and few multinational corporations, have a physical presence in the country, making it extremely difficult to directly engage potential partners. Secondly, the plight of the Maldives was largely overlooked in the immediate aftermath of the tsunami due to far greater death tolls and, thus, greater media coverage in other affected countries.

UNDP Maldives Response — Adopt-An-Island

In response to the country’s needs, UNDP Maldives created “Adopt-An-Island” — a unique initiative designed to raise awareness and promote partnerships among the international donor community. Its uniqueness lies in the fact that donor support is matched directly to a specific recovery project, such as rebuilding homes and harbours, or restoring livelihoods or damaged water and sanitation systems. Following its launch in early 2005, Adopt-An-Island proved to have far greater appeal than UNDP could have hoped or

anticipated. To date, the initiative has attracted more than 20 major supporters from governments, civil society, and the private sector.

In a country of 199 small, isolated, inhabited islands spread out across 900 kilometers of the Indian Ocean, the Adopt-An-Island concept was a perfect fit. The initiative has provided UNDP’s partners with a tangible means of supporting the people most affected by the tsunami, and has helped communities to build new and better lives for themselves.

Public & Private Partners

As of the end of 2006, the international community has donated \$44.49 million in support of UNDP’s tsunami recovery work in the Maldives. This includes \$21.44 million mobilized through the UN Flash Appeal¹ and \$20.42 million through Adopt-An-Island. Significantly, private donors provided \$3.47 million in cash and in-kind contributions, demonstrating the appeal of packaging development projects in a manner that clearly links support to measurable results.

The following pages include donor profiles for each and every partner of the UNDP Maldives Tsunami Recovery Programme — from the \$10,000 contribution of the tiny island nation of Tuvalu to the \$11 million support of the United Kingdom.

¹\$11.17 million through the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and a further \$10.27 million through UNDP’s Thematic Trust Fund for Crisis Prevention and Recovery.

Donor Support UNDP Recovery Programme Funding Summary

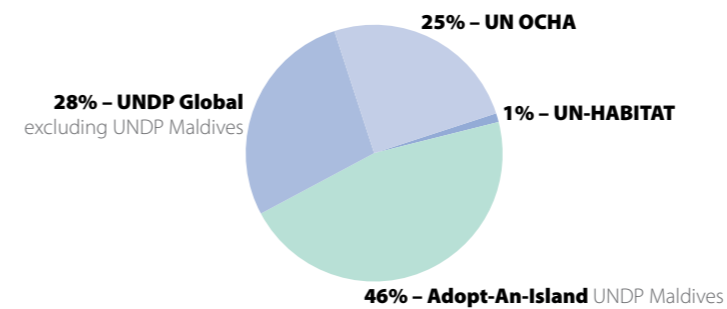
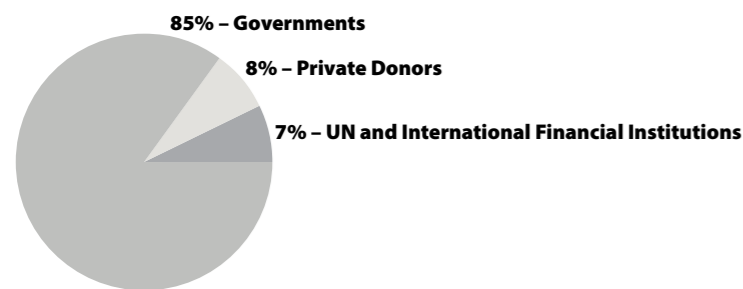
Donors	Funds Raised (US\$)	Projects	Funds Through:				
			UN-HABITAT ¹	UN OCHA ²	UNDP CPR Trust Fund ³	UN Foundation	Adopt-An-Island ⁴
Governments							
Australia	2,193,333	Disaster ⁵ , Harbours, Livelihoods, Shelter					2,193,333
Belgium	2,097,365	Harbours, Shelter					2,097,365
Canada	1,168,238	Disaster, Livelihoods, Shelter					1,168,238
China	321,545	Shelter	321,545				
European Union	4,728,680	Harbours, Livelihoods, Shelter					4,728,680
France	1,193,585	Harbours, Shelter					1,193,585
Germany	1,356,852	Disaster			1,356,852		
Japan	4,000,000	Harbours, Shelter			4,000,000		
Korea	100,000	Disaster			100,000		
Luxembourg	257,380	Shelter					257,380
Mauritania	100,336	Shelter			100,336		
Netherlands	602,410	Livelihoods					602,410
New Zealand	4,656,328	Livelihoods, Shelter	282,570		4,373,758		
Nigeria	200,000	Aid Coordination		200,000			
Norway	3,327,611	Shelter					3,327,611
Portugal	227,943	Shelter			227,943		
Switzerland	198,000	Disaster, Shelter					198,000
Tuvalu⁶	10,000	Disaster					
United Kingdom	10,954,000	Aid Coordination, Disaster, Livelihoods, Shelter		10,000,000			954,000
Sub-total	37,693,606		604,115	10,200,000	10,158,889	0	16,720,602
Private Donors							
Anonymous	109,664	Shelter			109,664		
Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts	100,000	Shelter					100,000
	(in-kind personnel)						
Bovis Lend Lease	(in-kind personnel)	Shelter	(in-kind)				
Brunswick Corporation	330,000	Health				330,000	330,000
	(5 in-kind boats)						
Bush-Clinton Tsunami Fund	1,809,707	Harbours, Shelter				1,809,707	1,809,707
The Coca-Cola Company	225,000	Shelter				225,000	225,000
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	(in-kind personnel)	Shelter					
Flinders Council, Australia	10,868	Livelihoods					10,868

Continued on next page

¹UN Human Settlements Programme²UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Tsunami Trust Fund³UNDP Thematic Trust Fund for Crisis Prevention and Recovery⁴UNDP Maldives established the Adopt-An-Island initiative to mobilize resources above and beyond the UN Flash Appeal⁵Disaster Risk Management⁶This contribution came through the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation

Donors	Funds Raised (US\$)	Projects	Funds Through:				
			UN-HABITAT ¹	UN OCHA ²	UNDP CPR Trust Fund ³	UN Foundation	Adopt-An-Island ⁴
Private Donors (continued)							
Fukuoka Community, Japan	50,000	Shelter	50,000				
Huvafen Fushi Resort	15,000	Disaster					15,000
Rotary Club of Dubai, UAE	96,978	Livelihoods					96,978
Tomaree Community and Rotary Club of Salamander Bay, Australia	22,598	Livelihoods					22,598
UN Foundation	638,888	Harbours, Livelihoods				638,888	638,888
UN Staff Committee	61,369	Shelter				61,369	61,369
Sub-total	3,470,072		50,000	0	109,664	3,064,964	3,310,408
United Nations and International Financial Institutions							
Asian Development Bank	132,213	Aid Coordination					132,213
UN OCHA	969,573	Aid Coordination, Disaster, Shelter		969,573			
UN Volunteers (in-kind personnel)		Disaster, Harbours, Livelihoods, Shelter					
UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery ⁷	581,500	Disaster, Livelihoods, Shelter					
UNDP Bureau of Management	309,235	Recovery Management					
UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia-Pacific	370,980	Recovery Management					
UNDP Regional Center in Bangkok	260,000	Communication, Disaster					260,000
UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation	699,781	Disaster, Harbours, Livelihoods, Shelter					
Sub-total	3,323,282		0	969,573	0	0	392,213
Total	44,486,960		654,115	11,169,573	10,268,553	3,064,964	20,423,223

⁷Trac 1.1.3 core resources



Donor Support Donor Profiles



Asian Development Bank

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is one of the largest sources of public funding for development worldwide. The Bank places a premium on efficiency, accountability, and transparency. To this end, it has contributed over \$130,000 to UNDP's Aid Coordination Project, ensuring that information regarding the national tsunami recovery effort is shared with all key actors, including beneficiary communities and international donors. Among the specific initiatives supported through the project is the Development Assistance Database, which was initially set up to track the allocation of donor funds to specific projects, and which will be used in the long-term to capture all elements of the national budget. In addition, ADB funds are being used to support the work of the four Thematic Working Groups (Economic Development; Infrastructure Development and Environment Management; Social Development; and Good Governance) that have been established to guide implementation of the Maldives' 7th National Development Plan (2006-2010).



Australia

Both Felidhoo and Dhambidhoo islands were severely damaged by the tsunami, but thanks to two generous contributions from the Australian Government — totaling US\$2.2 million — the two island communities are making

a remarkable recovery, and are once again returning to their normal day-to-day lives. On Dhambidhoo, 29 new houses are nearing completion, and agriculture and fisheries activities have resumed. In addition, the Australian funds are supporting the development of a new water and sanitation system for the island's 526 residents and public buildings. On Felidhoo, 73 houses are being repaired or reconstructed, a new harbour has been built, and several community disaster-risk management activities have been undertaken. During a visit to the Maldives in July 2006, the Australian High Commissioner, H.E. Dr. Gregory French, was a witness to developments on both islands. Said Dr. French, "It's wonderful to see the enormous progress that is being made, and especially to see the effect that it is having on the people of these islands."



Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts

Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts, operating in the Maldives, was one of the first to collaborate with UNDP in response to the tsunami. Just 16 days following the disaster, rehabilitation of houses began on the island of Naalaafushi. On 11 January 2005 a boat load of construction materials from UNDP arrived on the island along with 15 associates from two Banyan Tree Resorts — *Banyan Tree Maldives Vabbinfaru* and *Angsana Maldives Ihuru*. Within five months of the tsunami, work on 67 houses was complete, and families who had lost their homes had moved into new ones. In addition to restoring all housing, Banyan Tree and UNDP helped to replace the agricultural tools and fishing equipment

that had been swept away by the flood waters, enabling the island's 456 residents to return to their normal livelihoods. It has been nearly two years since the disaster, and Naalaafushi's island chief, Mr. Abdul Razzaq Hassan, confirms that "people are very content with their new houses. They are much stronger than those that they replaced, and we are once again generating a good income from fishing and fish processing."



Belgium

Belgium is one of the donors that has provided multiple grants to UNDP's recovery programme. In 2005, the Government of Belgium provided \$780,000 to help rebuild the damaged harbour and quay wall of Muli, the vibrant capital of Meemu Atoll. Restoration of the harbour has enabled local residents to restart their commercial activities and has allowed families from neighbouring islands to again access the regional banking and hospital facilities on Muli. Demonstrating its continued commitment to ensuring the full recovery of the Maldives from the tsunami, the Belgian Government returned in late 2006 with a second contribution of \$1.3 million. These funds will allow residents of Maaenboodhoo and Meedhoo islands to finish rebuilding their homes, and enable the residents of Dhambidhoo to realize their goal of constructing a sustainable sanitation system to service their entire community.



Bovis Lend Lease

Money is not the only resource of value after a disaster. Inevitably, it is "people power" — harnessing the right kind of expertise, dedication, and commitment — that makes or breaks the success of disaster recovery operations. In the Maldives, the scale of devastation created a demand for technical professionals far in excess of avail-

able national capacity. Australia-based Bovis Lend Lease, one of the world's leading project management and construction companies, seconded an experienced logistics manager through UN-HABITAT to UNDP for six months. The logistician trained several new recruits, leaving a legacy of enhanced national capacity to continue his good work.



Brunswick Corporation

"Getting away from it all" may sound like a prescription for paradise, but the tsunami showed that isolation can come with a heavy price. Even in daily life, many island communities struggle to access essential health facilities. In an extraordinary gesture of corporate generosity and civic involvement, the Brunswick Corporation, one of the world's leading boat and marine engine manufacturers, has donated five twin-engine ambulance vessels valued at \$330,000 to the Government of the Maldives. Donated through the UN Foundation and UNDP, the boats have been assigned to regional hospitals in five remote atolls and are being used as part of an outreach service whereby doctors travel to islands that have only limited medical facilities to conduct day clinics. They are also being used in medical emergencies to transfer patients to hospitals capable of providing the necessary treatment. The boats were officially handed over to the government at a ceremony in July 2006 by Mr. Edwin Lim, General Manager of Brunswick's Asia Operations. In his remarks, Mr. Lim said, "We were incredibly moved by the images of the devastation in the tsunami-affected countries and felt that we had to play our part. These boats are a gift from the heart, and we are sure that they will be of immense value to the communities that receive them."



Bush-Clinton Tsunami Fund

The tireless work of former Presidents Bush and Clinton has brought hope to tsunami victims throughout the region, as the 911 residents of Dhiggaru Island can testify. The Bush-Clinton Tsunami Fund provided \$1.8 million through the UN Foundation and UNDP's Adopt-An-Island initiative to help the resourceful inhabitants of Dhiggaru rebuild their houses and reconstruct their precious harbour — the lifeblood of their close-knit community. Over 95 percent of all housing stock on the island sustained serious damages. The generous donation has enabled 18 families to reconstruct new homes and a further 143 families to carry out extensive structural repairs. News that a new harbour would be constructed brought joy and hope to the entire island, whose prosperous economy relies heavily on exporting fish products — in particular, the delicious fish paste *rihakarau*, a popular local delicacy. The funds were raised from among dozens of community groups and thousands of individuals in the United States, and were provided to a private fund bearing the names of the two presidents.



Canada

In the months following the tsunami, Canada provided US\$115,000 to support the restoration of people's livelihoods on five islands in three atolls. In Feevah and Narudhoo islands, Shaviyani Atoll, more than half of all farm plots were destroyed. Cash grants were provided to farmers to support soil regeneration and harvesting. In Kaashidhoo Island, Kaafu Atoll, agricultural support included regeneration of more than 150 home gardens. On Hinnavaru and Naifaru islands, Lhaviyani Atoll, Canadian funds were used to support small enterprises, including home-based businesses, in such areas as carpentry and masonry, fish processing, and sewing and tailoring. In late 2006, the Canadian

Government responded to an appeal to help bridge the tsunami funding gap in the Maldives — the only significant deficit in the region — and provided over US\$1 million to support the rehabilitation of several hundred houses as well as the development and implementation of multi-hazard response and disaster preparedness plans in Thaa Atoll.



China

Links between China, one of the world's largest and most populous countries, and the Maldives, one of the smallest, have flourished in recent years, including a significant rise in Chinese visitors to this island nation. In addition to providing funding directly to the Maldives Government for tsunami recovery, China has provided UNDP's Shelter Recovery Project over \$320,000 through UN-HABITAT, UNDP's partner in shelter recovery. The donation has funded the repair of 27 houses and the reconstruction of 2 others on Vanee, and the repair of 20 homes on Meedhoo — two of the worst-affected islands in remote Dhaalu Atoll. This support of far-flung island communities devastated by the tsunami has further cemented the special bond between China and the Maldives.

The Coca-Cola Company

The Coca-Cola Company

The Coca-Cola Company is the world's largest beverage company, working with bottling partners in over 200 countries, including the Maldives. The company is involved in an array of partnerships around the world to protect and preserve water resources and to enable expanded access to clean water in under-served communities. In the context of the tsunami, The Coca-Cola Company's commitment to the long-term recovery effort has been highlighted by its collaborative partnership with the UN Foundation to support water and sanitation reconstruction activities in four tsunami-affected countries. In the Maldives, these two global

icons provided \$450,000 to construct a sanitation network on Dhambidhoo Island, home to 526 people in the southern Laamu Atoll. When completed, Dhambidhoo will be one of the first islands other than the capital, Male', and the resort islands to provide sustainable sanitation services to all its residents.

Deloitte.

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

In the hectic aftermath of disaster, it is important that the drive to distribute emergency funding and to commence recovery efforts is matched by the equally important need to put in place adequate systems of financial management and accounting. To address this important concern, member firms of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu fielded two missions of professionals to UNDP Maldives — in May 2005 and again in early 2006. The experience of this global management and accounting organization helped design and monitor key operational aspects of UNDP's Shelter Recovery Project, including finance and procurement. This project is unique in that it provides grants, administered through local Island Development Committees, directly to affected householders, who then manage their own recovery with the assistance of UNDP.



European Union

The European Union has provided UNDP Maldives with \$4.7 million to support shelter recovery and restoration of livelihoods on more than 30 islands, making this the second largest contribution to UNDP's Tsunami Recovery Programme. The first contribution of \$1.3 million was made by the Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO) two months after the tsunami, in February 2005. These funds have been used to repair over 500 houses and reconstruct several new homes as well as to support livelihoods among affected communities.

The second contribution of \$1.1 million was provided by the European Commission (EC) in mid-2005 to repair 106 houses and reconstruct a further 29 on Muli Island, one of the worst-affected communities in the country. The shelter recovery work on Muli has helped to unify the community around a common goal — to help *all* affected residents reclaim their lives and livelihoods. Even the staff of the municipal government's Island Office has formed a band of volunteers, operating in shifts to rebuild and repair the houses of elderly residents during their free time. The final contribution of \$2.3 million, also from the EC, is supporting livelihoods activities such as fisheries and agriculture on several islands, with a particular focus on the needs of women.



Flinders Council, Australia

The picturesque archipelago of Flinders in Tasmania, Australia, is known as the "mountains in the sea," and its small community of 900 residents is well aware of the need to protect the fragile beauty of their island ecosystem. Consequently, the plight of the Maldives struck a particular chord with the Flinders Council, and more than US\$10,000 was raised by the local community to fund agricultural extension activities on the island of Maaenboodhoo in Dhaalu Atoll. UNDP's Livelihoods Recovery Project, to which these funds have been earmarked, recognizes the importance of sustainability in fragile island ecosystems, made painfully clear by the tsunami when top soil, crops, and seedlings were washed away or poisoned by salt water incursion. One aspect of the project supported by the Flinders Council involves producing cost-effective, environmentally-friendly fertilizer based on composting organic waste. Not only does this help solve chronic problems of island-based waste management, but it also enhances the quality of the agricultural produce that provides vital income and nutrition for recovering island communities such as Maaenboodhoo.



France

Of all the islands in the Maldives, Magoodhoo must have a claim to be one of the most beautiful. In the aftermath of the tsunami, Magoodhoo's closely knit and entrepreneurial residents were brought together by a collective pride in their island and a desire to restore the damages they suffered. The French donation of \$600,000 has provided a much-needed boost to Magoodhoo's morale. Residents have lost no time in putting the money to good use, buying materials and working hard to complete the reconstruction of many of the 85 houses that were damaged by the tsunami. This contribution represents the second for France — the first donation, also for \$600,000, is supporting the reconstruction of the harbour on Hinnavaru Island. Like all harbours in the Maldives, Hinnavaru's is a lifeline for the local community, enabling them to undertake basic social and economic activities.



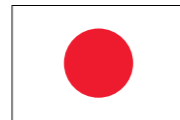
Germany

UNDP received \$1.4 million from Germany to support UNDP's Disaster Risk Management Project in the Maldives. In this nation of 1,200 islands in an ecologically fragile archipelago, UNDP has been providing key support to the government and local communities to assess their vulnerability to natural disasters and to better prepare themselves in the event of another. In this regard, the German contribution has helped the most vulnerable communities plan and train for future emergencies; assisted the government to formulate national disaster preparedness policies and revise existing laws; and established a high-tech early warning system.



Huvafen Fushi Resort

Following the tsunami, UNDP appealed to the resorts in the Maldives to extend any possible assistance to neighbouring communities. Huvafen Fushi — literally translated as "island of dreams" — responded with a \$15,000 contribution to the island community of Felidhoo. The money helped to pay for a new electric distribution panel board, which is an integral part of the Island Electrification Plan, first developed in 2003. The plan proved extremely useful in helping the community return to normal after the old powerhouse was seriously damaged by the tsunami. The assistance from Huvafen Fushi Resort helped to fast-track the process of upgrading the island's electricity network.



Japan

Before the tsunami there were over 150 Japanese expatriate workers in the Maldives. Fisheries exports to the Japanese markets exceeded \$4 million a year, and at least one Maldivian Government delegate had visited Tokyo every year for the past decade. Following the disaster, the Japanese Government was one of the first to come forward with assistance, donating over \$4 million in support of tsunami recovery. This money was provided to UNDP to help rebuild eight harbours, restoring the lifelines of these fishing-based island economies. Six harbours have been rebuilt and a further two are planned for 2007. In addition, the citizens of Fukuoka Prefecture in Japan donated a heartfelt \$50,000 through UN-HABITAT to fund a small center for women's livelihood activities on the island of Guraidhoo.



Korea

Korea donated \$100,000 to support efforts to strengthen national disaster-risk management capacities in the Maldives. Addressing the country's ability to respond to future disasters is a concern that is being addressed by the Government of the Maldives, communities throughout the archipelago, and UNDP. The Korea funds have contributed to raising awareness of potential threats of future disasters; training programmes within the Ministry of Education; and development of community-based preparedness plans in Addu Atoll, the most southerly and remote region in the Maldives.



Luxembourg

Though a small country like the Maldives, with a population of only 100,000 more than this island nation, Luxembourg responded to UNDP's appeal for additional support in 2006 by providing two grants totaling more than \$250,000 to its Shelter Recovery Project. These funds have been transferred to the careful custodianship of Island Development Committees, which in turn provide grants to individual householders who then purchase their own construction materials to repair their damaged homes. Shelter recovery work has been completed on 26 islands, with all 45 designated islands slated for completion by mid-2007.



Mauritania

Located on the coastal fringes of the Western Sahara, Mauritania represents a new generation of donor nations pioneering a new approach to bilateral development aid: "South-South" cooperation. Although endowed with significant mineral and natural resource wealth, Mauritania has faced its own serious environmental challenges in recent years, including deforestation, land degradation, and drought. In spite of its domestic concerns, the Government of Mauritania made a gift of over \$100,000 to assist the Maldives in its effort to rebuild the homes of disaster-stricken families nationwide.



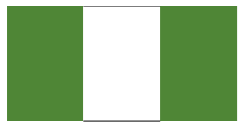
Netherlands

The tsunami devastated simple island economies throughout the Maldives, leaving in its wake a trail of broken fishing gear, ruined crops, lost savings, damaged equipment, and shattered dreams in many communities. On 16 far-flung islands, a \$600,000 contribution from the Netherlands has allowed communities to slowly reclaim their lives and livelihoods. A cash-for-work programme has helped to clear away tsunami debris, and financing has been provided to solve chronic problems of waste management. On the island of Dhiggaru a new fish-processing center, complete with a solar drier, has given a big boost to the community's economic fortunes, adding significant value to the hard-earned catches of the local fishermen. Recognizing the importance of agriculture in providing income and nutrition, Dutch funds have also paid for 13 community agricultural officers from 9 islands to undertake training at Sri Lanka's leading agricultural college. Armed with new knowledge and improved techniques, these officers have returned to their islands to develop demonstration nurseries and to share their new skills with friends and neighbours.



New Zealand

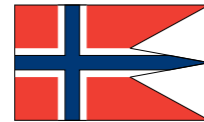
New Zealand's donation of US\$4.7 million represents the third largest contribution to UNDP's Tsunami Recovery Programme in the Maldives. The funds have supported two of the most critical elements of the recovery work — shelter and livelihoods — and have had a meaningful impact on the lives of thousands of Maldivians. New Zealand has helped to rebuild the houses of 288 families, representing 3,196 men, women, and children whose homes were left shattered in the wake of the tsunami. It has also helped to replace lost fishing gear, to restore women's home-based income-generating activities (supplying equipment for fish processing and sewing machines for tailoring), and to purchase essential agricultural inputs such as tools and fertilizers to help restart local agricultural production. In a recent visit to the Maldives, the New Zealand High Commissioner, Dr. Richard Grant, traveled to Gulhi Island, where, with the aid of New Zealand funds, damaged houses are being repaired and a sustainable waste management system is under construction. He also toured the local school, where New Zealand funding is helping to build a new school library.



Nigeria

Transparency is a powerful word in Nigeria, particularly in light of the government's recent efforts to implement reforms to stamp out corruption. Accordingly, it seems appropriate that Nigeria's \$200,000 donation to the Maldives through the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has been directed to support UNDP's Aid Coordination Project. At the core of this project is an

effort to ensure that all tsunami funds are properly recorded and tracked in the Development Assistance Database, which is shared with national and international partners, ensuring the greatest possible transparency and accountability. The project also aims to coordinate the work of the many actors in the field as well as to allocate donor funds in the most constructive and effective manner possible. Nigeria's support has ensured that these principles are incorporated into the National Recovery and Reconstruction Plan of the Maldives.



Norway

The Government of Norway has demonstrated its generosity by making two significant grants in support of shelter recovery in the Maldives. In 2005, the Norwegian Government made an initial grant of \$2.3 million, which greatly helped to address the country's critical housing needs. More recently, in mid-2006, Norway extended an additional \$1 million at a time when essential shelter work was threatened by a serious budget shortfall. This support has ensured continued progress on the repair and reconstruction of a large number of houses on many of the 45 islands where UNDP is implementing its Shelter Recovery Project. Norway has been especially supportive of UNDP's participatory approach, whereby householders and local Island Development Committees are actively engaged in the process of identifying housing needs, receiving and managing their allotted funds, and overseeing the recovery of their own homes. In all, several thousand people will benefit from Norway's commitment to the Maldives.



Portugal

The Government of Portugal provided over \$225,000 to support UNDP's Shelter Recovery Project. In doing so, Portugal has joined the community of international donors committed to helping the Maldives to "build back better," a phrase coined by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, former President Bill Clinton. Reflecting the preference of Maldivians to manage their own recovery, UNDP's community-led approach has promoted improved construction quality on the 45 islands where it is undertaking shelter work. Communities are left not only with new homes, but with enhanced construction knowledge and the organizational know-how to successfully manage local development initiatives.



Rotary Club of Dubai, UAE

Renowned worldwide for their philanthropy, Rotarian communities of business and professional leaders embody the commitment of their motto: "Service Above Self." The Rotary Club of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates chose to extend this ethic all the way across the Indian Ocean, contributing nearly \$100,000 raised by private individuals toward an innovative project to aid agricultural recovery in the Maldives. Through UNDP's Adopt-An-Island initiative, the Rotary Club adopted the island of Kudahuvadho and funded pilot agricultural extension activities for this tsunami-affected farming community. A component of this exciting pilot scheme is to bring together island farmers with international experts — UN Volunteers with years of experience in the agricultural sector — thus providing access to the

knowledge, funds, and key inputs required for farmers to truly "build back better." The farmers of Kudahuvadho are working together with their UN Volunteer specialist to construct a demonstration nursery — a living, breathing workshop for canvassing new techniques, experimenting with new crop varieties, and sharing the benefits of new knowledge among the entire farming community.



Switzerland

Landlocked at the heart of vast mountain ranges in central Europe, Switzerland is as geographically remote from the threat of tsunami as it is possible to be. However, the December 2004 tragedy was powerfully brought home when tidal waves swept through holiday resorts all over the Indian Ocean, many of which are regularly frequented by Swiss travelers. In recent years, the Swiss have been among the largest number of tourists to the Maldives. Recognizing its connections with this island nation, the Government of Switzerland donated \$200,000 to UNDP for tsunami recovery, enabling 80 families to return to their reconstructed homes on Kudafaree Island, in Noonu Atoll. In addition, these funds have facilitated the formulation of comprehensive community-based disaster preparedness plans for eight island communities in Meemu Atoll.



Tomaree Community and Rotary Club of Salamander Bay, Australia

Nestled in the coastal sunshine of suburban New South Wales, Salamander Bay is home to the kindhearted community of Tomaree — and to an energetic, charitable Rotary Club. Both groups raised over US\$22,500 to adopt the tsunami-affected community of Maamigilli, where years of careful planting by local residents had built up a proliferation of small gardens and cultivated plots prior to the disaster. At less than two meters above sea level and lacking any protection in the face of the oncoming tsunami waves, Maamigili suffered serious agricultural losses. One important need was to replace the lost tools and equipment that are essential for agricultural activities. Thanks to the generosity of the Tomaree Community and Rotary Club of Salamander Bay, the island's farming community has resumed cultivation with gratitude and renewed determination.



Tuvalu

Thousands of miles away across the Pacific Ocean, the tiny nation of Tuvalu shares many of the challenges facing small island developing states like the Maldives. With similar vulnerabilities to tidal surges and tsunamis, Tuvalu understands the importance of good planning to mitigate the consequences of natural disasters. As such, the Government of Tuvalu provided a \$10,000 donation to support UNDP's Disaster Risk Management Project, which includes the formulation of national and community-level disaster preparedness plans, and the training of citizens on how better to prepare for and respond to future disasters. This contribution represents a compassionate, long-term investment in the safety and security of the Maldivian people.



United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has provided \$11 million, which represents the largest donation to UNDP's Tsunami Recovery Programme in the Maldives — \$10 million of which came through the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and a further \$954,000 directly to UNDP Maldives. The funds have supported four of UNDP's five tsunami recovery projects: shelter, livelihoods, disaster-risk management, and aid coordination. The contribution of the United Kingdom has helped to rebuild homes for 1,312 families on 18 islands throughout the archipelago; it has enabled UNDP to provide grants and equipment to women on 25 islands and kits of essential agricultural tools and seeds to more than 3,900 farmers nationwide; and it has supported the production of the country's first-ever disaster-risk profile and establishment of a national early warning system. Furthermore, the funds have supported the launch of the Development Assistance Database, which has been instrumental in ensuring transparency and accountability of all donor funds.



United Nations Development Programme

Following the tsunami, the United Nations Development Programme became a key partner in the recovery effort throughout Asia. As in other countries, UNDP mobilized significant human and financial resources to support the Maldives. The following six offices provided invaluable assistance to UNDP Maldives and to the country as a whole.

Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) is the Organization's focal point for addressing the development dimension of crisis situations. In addition to providing technical support to the Maldives, BCPR channeled \$10.3 million through its Thematic Trust Fund for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, which is a tool primarily used to mobilize non-core resources. These funds include contributions from six bilateral donors — Germany, Japan, Korea, Mauritania, New Zealand, and Portugal — and a handful of private donors. In addition, BCPR provided UNDP Maldives with \$580,000 in Trac 1.1.3 resources, which are UNDP core resources available to finance initiatives to reduce the severity of crisis situations such as the Asian tsunami. These Trac resources were particularly useful to the Country Office in the days and weeks immediately following the tsunami, before other donor funds became available, and made it possible to start shelter recovery work on the island of Naalaafushi two weeks after the disaster (see *Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts* profile, above).

Bureau for Development Policy

UNDP's Bureau for Development Policy provides policy support in the Organization's five key practice areas, including crisis prevention and recovery. Following the tsunami, the Bureau took the lead in forging a UN partnership with The Coca-Cola Company and the UN Foundation to support water and sanitation activities in affected countries. In

the Maldives, this collaboration led to a \$450,000 contribution — co-shared by the Bureau's two partners — to construct a sanitation network on Dhambidhoo Island, in the south of the country. Once complete in 2007, Dhambidhoo will be one of the first islands other than the capital and the resort islands to provide sustainable sanitation services to all its residents.

Bureau of Management

UNDP's Bureau of Management (BOM), located at UN Headquarters in New York, is responsible for overseeing the Organization's operations, including human resources, procurement, finance, and legal services. Following the tsunami, BOM provided UNDP Maldives with over \$300,000 in emergency funding. The support was critical during the first few weeks and months, as it enabled the Country Office to establish its Recovery Unit, paying for capital assets and technical staff and managers.

Regional Bureau for Asia-Pacific

UNDP's Regional Bureau for Asia-Pacific (RBAP) is responsible for overseeing the work of 25 country offices and two regional centers in Asia-Pacific. Its mission is to empower people and organizations to achieve sustainable human development. In the context of the tsunami, RBAP's response was immediate and profound. As UNDP's key interlocutor between administrative Headquarters in New York and the Country Offices affected by the disaster, RBAP played a central role in tsunami recovery throughout the region. It supported the deployment of several managers and staff, served as a primary contact with other development and humanitarian agencies, and facilitated negotiations with several major donor partners. The Regional Bureau provided the UNDP Maldives office with a contribution of \$370,000 soon after the tsunami, which proved a crucial boost to early recovery operations.

Regional Center in Bangkok

The Regional Center in Bangkok provides UNDP Country Offices in the Asia-Pacific region with a range of advisory services, particularly in the areas of democratic governance, energy and environment, and crisis prevention and recovery. In the context of the tsunami, it has provided \$250,000

for the Disaster Risk Management Project; it has lent technical support to the Aid Coordination Project; it has supported the efforts of UNDP's Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (*see next profile*); and it has helped to engage the private sector in the recovery effort. Furthermore, the Maldives office was delighted to receive a \$10,000 award from the Regional Center in recognition of its innovative Adopt-An-Island programme.

Special Unit for South-South Cooperation

In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, physical devastation and lives lost dominate headlines. However, for longer-term security and prosperity, it is economic viability that will make or break survival in remote island communities. UNDP's Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, which promotes technical cooperation among developing countries, provided \$700,000 to support UNDP's Tsunami Recovery Programme. These funds form part of a larger pool of contributions by Algeria, Brazil, and China. Of this amount, \$490,000 has been distributed to 30 local NGOs and business cooperatives to support vital livelihoods activities on tsunami-affected islands, and \$50,000 has supported UNDP's Disaster Risk Management Project. The remainder has made available to UNDP the services of 11 staff from 6 developing countries — Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, India, the Maldives, Nepal, and the Philippines — to support the tsunami recovery effort, representing the true spirit of South-South cooperation.



United Nations Foundation

The United Nations Foundation, founded by entrepreneur and philanthropist Ted Turner, was created to help forge public-private partnerships to support UN causes and to broaden support for the UN system through advocacy and public outreach. It has been an active and important supporter of UNDP's tsunami recovery in the Maldives,

leveraging \$3.1 million for the rehabilitation of this island nation. The UN Foundation has contributed financially to the recovery programme, matched several donations from the business community and private individuals, and provided a mechanism for other donors to channel their contributions to the UN. The projects and donors that it has supported include the Bush-Clinton Tsunami Fund's generous donation to the recovery of Dhiggaru Island; The Coca-Cola Company's sanitation project on Dhambidhoo Island; the Brunswick Corporation's in-kind contribution of five ambulance boats to the health sector; support to an innovative handicrafts initiative designed to restore this nearly lost art; and reconstruction of harbour facilities on Kolhufushi Island.



United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme is the UN agency responsible for promoting socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development. With access to leading expertise in all areas of settlement management, from urban planning research to post-disaster shelter recovery, UN-HABITAT was UNDP's chosen implementing partner for its Shelter Recovery Project in the Maldives. Together, UNDP and UN-HABITAT have taken on the daunting challenge of rehabilitating a third of all houses damaged or destroyed in the country. In addition to its technical expertise, UN-HABITAT has also provided an important channel for mobilizing much-needed funding from external donors. In all, UN-HABITAT has provided the recovery project with more than \$650,000 from China, New Zealand, and the citizens of Fukuoka Prefecture in Japan. These funds have helped families return to safer, stronger homes in three islands — Hulhudeli, Meedhoo, and Vanee — and provided a much-needed facility for the women of Guraidhoo Island to undertake a range of income-generating activities.



United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

As the body responsible for coordinating the UN's response to humanitarian disasters, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs was one of the first agencies to send personnel to the Maldives to support UNDP and the other resident UN agencies in responding to the tsunami. From the very earliest relief efforts to the one-year commemoration, OCHA personnel energetically supported the UN's engagement with the government and coordination among agencies to ensure that the needs of affected communities were addressed across all sectors. Particular attention was paid to the thousands of Maldivians displaced by the disaster. OCHA also played a lead role in coordinating the international appeal for funds to support the regional recovery through the UN Flash Appeal, which mobilized an unprecedented \$1.1 billion. Of this amount, \$11.2 million was channeled to the Maldives through the OCHA Tsunami Trust Fund, including a \$10 million donation from the United Kingdom, a \$200,000 contribution from Nigeria, and a further \$970,000 from other donors. In all, these funds represent approximately a quarter of all funds raised for UNDP's Tsunami Recovery Programme in the Maldives.



United Nations Staff Committee

The tsunami had a profound effect on the entire United Nations family — from colleagues working in the tsunami-affected countries, to those in other Country Offices, to the staff at UN Headquarters. As a show of their solidarity, the UN Staff Committee in New York raised \$250,000 for recovery in the region, including more than \$60,000 for the Maldives. These funds were matched dollar for dollar by the UN Foundation to support the recovery of 65 homes on Mathiveri Island. Lying on the westerly side of the garland-shaped island chain of the Maldives, most of the atoll

of Alif Alif was fortunate to escape the profound devastation experienced by atolls further to the east. Mathiveri, however, was not as fortunate as its neighbours; and the small community of 470 people is enormously grateful for the UN Staff Committee donation. Despite the significant workload and lack of local construction workers, reconstruction has progressed well under the energetic direction of one of UNDP's best local construction supervisors.



United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

Each year some 8,000 United Nations Volunteers from 168 countries work all over the world in support of sustainable development, peace, and relief initiatives. Following the tsunami, the UN Volunteers Programme and the Government of the Maldives agreed on a Tsunami Response Framework whereby the UNVs would support the recovery work of the government, UNDP, UN agencies, and civil society organizations. This \$1 million project has been funded by the governments of Germany and Japan, and has included the deployment of 31 international volunteers to the Maldives, 24 of whom have been seconded to UNDP. Working across all sectors, these UNVs have lent a diverse and valuable breadth of experience to help Maldivian communities get back on their feet. Three dedicated UNV engineers have supervised construction of three island harbours and they have invested considerable energy in drafting a National Building Code for the Maldives in collaboration with the Ministry of Construction and Public Infrastructure. The communities of Kudahuvadho, Maaenboodho, and Maamingilli have benefited from the direct mentoring of three island-based UNV agricultural specialists. On the island of Felidhoo, under the careful direction of a resident UNV, a full simulation of the community's new disaster response plan was declared a resounding success. These examples only hint at the extensive and invaluable contributions of UN Volunteers in the tsunami recovery.

SECTION 5

Looking Ahead Meeting the Long-term Development Challenges

Convening at UN Headquarters in September 2000, nearly every world leader pledged to work toward achieving eight specific Millennium Development Goals, with the overarching goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015. Prior to the tsunami, UNDP and other UN agencies had worked with the Government and people of the Maldives to make excellent progress toward attaining these goals. Less than 1 percent of the population lived below the poverty line, enrollment in primary schools stood close to 100 percent, and literacy rates were above 98 percent. On the health front, infant and maternal mortality were rapidly declining, there was low prevalence of HIV/AIDS, and malaria had been eradicated. Two years of UNDP recovery operations have helped enormously to restore some of the gains that were lost in the disaster. However, many important development targets still remain to be addressed, their urgency exacerbated by the legacy of the tsunami. For UNDP Maldives, the road ahead is littered with challenges, but also with opportunities and promise.

Crisis Prevention and Recovery

One of the most significant recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's recent report on UN reforms¹ has been the designation of UNDP as lead agency in the critical area of crisis prevention and recovery — one of UNDP's five global practice areas. Within its mandate for 'early recovery,' UNDP has been conferred primary responsibility for integrating vulnerability and risk reduction into all phases of recovery and development planning. In countries such as the Maldives, where natural disasters and extreme weather pose a serious hazard, UNDP is committed to building local

and national capacity to prepare for, mitigate, and respond to such potential threats.

Clearly, the tsunami has exposed the extreme vulnerability of the Maldives and has highlighted the importance of disaster-risk preparedness. UNDP's initial hazard assessment in early 2005 indicated that the Maldives is at risk not just from tsunami but also tidal waves, floods, storm-surges, earthquakes, dry spells, and the consequences of climate change. Given these realities, all efforts to "build back better" have been underpinned by the creation of a national capacity for disaster management. Specifically, UNDP's Disaster Risk Management Project builds capacity of national and local institutions; carries out multi-hazard disaster preparedness planning and mitigation activities; supports a new early warning system; and provides essential training to officials and communities.

UNDP has established a strong foundation for crisis prevention and recovery in the Maldives, and this vital work will continue to occupy a central place in UNDP's portfolio long after recovery activities come to a close at the end of 2007.

Governance

Over the past two years the political environment in the Maldives has been a dynamic stage for many exciting developments. The government's ambitious "Agenda for Democracy, Human Rights, and Reform" includes the introduction of political parties; the establishment of a Human Rights Commission; changes to the legislative framework, including the Constitution; greater transparency and accountability in government; and more freedom for the media and civil society.

¹Delivering as One, Report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and the Environment (November 2006)

UNDP is supporting the Government and people of the Maldives in the promotion of good governance at three levels. First, the revision of the Constitution is an essential process in achieving democratic reform, and UNDP is supporting this process through the provision of legal expertise and capacity building within the Parliament and associated institutions. Second, UNDP has assisted the government in reforming the criminal justice system, including drafting a new Penal Code. Finally, UNDP is developing national and local capacities in the areas of community empowerment, decentralization in the atolls, and social justice. UNDP has also facilitated the establishment of the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives, and is currently working with the Commission to strengthen the human rights culture in the country.

Transparency and accountability are key components of good governance. The Aid Coordination Project that was established following the tsunami laid the groundwork for more effective management of government funds. This project has now been incorporated into UNDP's Governance Programme and will continue to further enhance transparency in the handling of both the national budget and future development activities.

Poverty Reduction

Since 2001, UNDP's Atoll Development for Sustainable Livelihoods (ADSL) project has sought to build the capacity of island communities to raise their standard of living through income-generating activities. The project supports

government initiatives to achieve growth with equity and to minimize disparities between the urban capital and the outer-islands. The project's main objectives are to achieve sustainable livelihoods through increased decentralization; stronger local governance; and more effective social mobilization at the national, atoll, and island level. UNDP has supported the government in drafting a decentralization plan, which will not only foster greater political representation and participation in local governance but will provide a crucial framework for economic empowerment. This will result in more equity and greater ownership of resources, which is key to reducing the development disparities that exist in the country.

UNDP also advocates mainstreaming poverty reduction programmes into the national development agenda. In this regard, UNDP has supported the government in the formulation of its 7th National Development Plan (2006-2010). Working with other core UN agencies, UNDP has also assisted the government in developing an Integrated Framework for Trade-related Assistance, which will allow the Maldives to mainstream development-oriented trade into the National Development Plan. The project addresses many of the challenges facing the Maldives as it prepares for graduation from Least Developed Country status to that of a Middle Income Country in 2011, including improving its access to international trade, development financing, and technical assistance.

UNDP has supported the government in undertaking poverty assessment studies to better understand the socio-economic conditions and challenges facing the Maldives, including such contributing factors as employment, social

services, environment, gender, housing, and infrastructure. This information has provided a detailed picture of each atoll, and will be a key tool in targeting development programmes in those atolls with the highest levels of poverty and vulnerability.

Environment & Energy

The Maldives consists of over a thousand small coral islands with an average height of just 1.8 meters above sea level. Given the country's geographic vulnerability, environmental concerns such as climate change and sea-level rise have long been high on the government's agenda. UNDP is helping to establish policies and frameworks that will guide the efficient management and protection of the country's environment and natural resources, including the wider use of renewable energy technologies such as wind and solar power.

Another key area in which UNDP is making a difference is in the management of waste. The small size of the islands, rapid growth in population, changing consumption patterns, and transportation difficulties have all compounded the waste management problem throughout the Maldives, leading to increased levels of pollution and a deterioration of public health. Left unchecked, the problem could ultimately threaten the economic development of the country, which is intrinsically linked to the tourism and fishing industries. UNDP is helping by addressing the key challenges of insufficient funding for infrastructure; absence of appropriate cost-recovery mechanisms; inadequate institutional capacity; weak legislative and regulatory frameworks; and limited opportunities for private sector involvement in service delivery.

The Disaster Risk Management Project, which was established following the tsunami and which will form the core of UNDP's long-term crisis prevention and recovery portfolio, is also closely linked with the Organization's environment and energy practice area.

Conclusion

As 2006 comes to a close, the Maldives finds itself at a critical juncture. The country has had its first encounter with a major disaster, dramatically reversing long-term development trends and leaving a legacy that will continue to challenge this archipelago for the foreseeable future. At the same time, the struggle to implement democratic reforms and to mitigate the effects of climate change represent a new generation of development concerns in the Maldives. It is therefore timely that the various UN agencies, including UNDP, are currently working with the government to formulate the UN Development Assistance Framework, which will guide development assistance in the Maldives for the period 2008-2011.

Throughout the recovery process UNDP has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to adapt and align its activities with the development needs of the country. As we go forward, UNDP will continue to build strategic partnerships and to leverage its comparative advantages, maximizing its development impact on all the people of this unique and dynamic island nation.

Copyright and Acknowledgments

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Designer.....Douglas Tait

Photo Credits.....Umair Badeeu, Eskinder Debebe, Veronica Wijaya, UNDP Maldives

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