



Maldives

ADOPT AN ISLAND

An International Appeal to Help Communities Rebuild their Lives

A silent disaster is emerging in the Maldives. More than a month since the tsunami devastated one-third of the nation's inhabited islands, thousands of people are still unable to return to their communities, as insufficient funds are available to cover the very basic human need for shelter. News about the extensive devastation of the Maldives has not adequately reached donor countries or the global public opinion— this is being described by those bearing witness as the **silent disaster**.

Recovery begins with a home. Therefore, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with support from the Government of the Maldives, offers private donors an opportunity to directly support communities to rebuild their homes by participating in the ADOPT AN ISLAND initiative.

In the Maldives, building a home takes a lifetime. If, for example, a family has a good fishing season, the extra money is normally used to add more room to their dwelling. In this way, people build their homes: room by room, year by year. The tsunami swept away these decades of progress in a matter of minutes. Shelter on the Maldivian islands is about lives and livelihood. A home kitchen is a productive unit where women process and dry fish for sale or to feed their family. A home's roof is a lifeline – collecting rainwater in dispensers for drinking.

The Government estimates that one-third of the population was severely affected. Of the 199 inhabited islands, 13 were abandoned, while 53 were severely damaged: public buildings ruined, water and sanitation systems gone, livelihoods shattered. Many are without incomes because their boats, nets, and agricultural tools are lost. Tourism, which delivers 33 percent of GDP, has slumped. Luckily the exclusive resort islands were largely unaffected by the tsunami and the majority continue to offer their usual high standard of service. Despite this, occupancy rates have dropped sharply, compared to the full occupancy that is typical for this time of the year.



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ADOPT AN ISLAND is part of a programme to address the immediate and now urgent need for shelter. By adopting one or more of the 22 islands participating under the programme, which are among the worst affected, private donors can directly help people to repair or rebuild their homes.

How to help?

- From the attached you will see the names of some of the hardest hit islands and their need for shelter. You simply select the island you wish to assist.
- Once you have made your selection, please contact us and we will send you a detailed description of the programme activities foreseen.

What do you get in return?

- Due acknowledgement for your support.
- Information on the progress of our efforts.
- Knowledge that you have truly made a difference for those whose lives have been ravaged by the tsunami.

If you would like to adopt an island, please contact:

Ibrahim Rasheed

United Nations Development Programme in the Maldives

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Or

Abdul Bari Abdulla

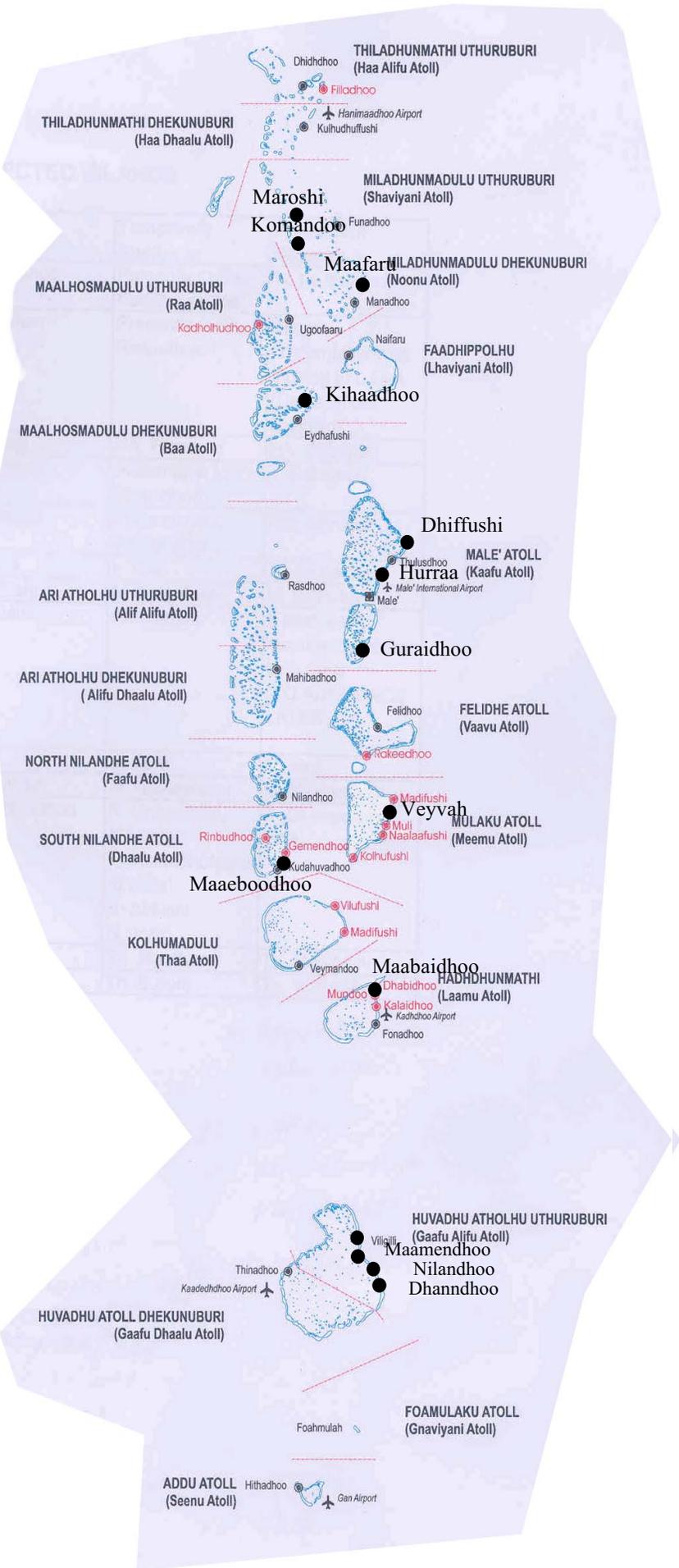
United Nations Development Programme in the Maldives

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Moez Doraid', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Moez Doraid
UNDP Officer-in-charge

Adopt one of these severely affected islands



Island	TOTAL
Maroshi	US\$ 305,000
Komandoo	US\$ 960,000
Maafaru	US\$ 1,580,000
Kihadhoo/baa atholl	US\$ 180,000
Dhiffushi	US\$ 225,000
Huraa	US\$ 395,000
Guraidhoo	US\$ 945,000
Veyvah	US\$ 95,000
Kolhufushi	US\$ 3,090,000
Muli	US\$ 640,000
Naalaafushi	US\$ 180,000
Rinbudhoo	US\$ 74,000
Gemendhoo	US\$ 1,085,000
Maaeboodhoo	US\$ 340,000
Madifushi	US\$ 2,725,000
Vilufushi	US\$ 4,560,000
Dhabidhoo	US\$ 575,000
Maabaidhoo	US\$ 1,085,000
Maamendhoo	US\$ 695,000
Villingili	US\$ 1,270,000
Dhaandhoo	US\$ 340,000
Nilandhoo	US\$ 760,000

ADOPT AN ISLAND: breakdown of costs to meet shelter needs

People in the Maldives take years to build their homes because construction materials like cement and steel all have to be imported as they can not be produced locally. After the tsunami, the cost of rebuilding/repair is proving prohibitive for many islanders.

Atoll	Island	Total	Displaced	Damaged	Destroyed	TOTAL*
		Population	People	Houses*	Houses*	
Sh	Maroshi	834	228	76	8	US\$ 305,000
Sh	Komandoo	1611	780	113	34	US\$ 960,000
N	Maafaru	991	300	130	60	US\$ 1,580,000
B	Kihaadhoo	388	336	25	6	US\$ 180,000
K	Dhiffushi	1005	228	137	0	US\$ 225,000
K	Huraa	708	373	101	10	US\$ 395,000
K	Guraidhoo	1450	720	75	36	US\$ 945,000
M	Veyvah	272	12	58	0	US\$ 95,000
M	Kolhufushi	1232	1202	35	133	US\$ 3,090,000
M	Muli	764	650	83	22	US\$ 640,000
M	Naalaafushi	465	390	67	3	US\$ 180,000
Dh	Rinbudhoo	710	336	45		US\$ 74,000
Dh	Gemendhoo	500	360	50	44	US\$ 1,085,000
Dh	Maaeoodhoo	859	680	56	11	US\$ 340,000
Th	Madifushi	1017	700	61	115	US\$ 2,725,000
Th	Vilufushi	1882	1156	24	198	US\$ 4,560,000
L	Dhabidhoo	856	464	86	19	US\$ 575,000
L	Maabaidhoo	867	700	35	45	US\$ 1,085,000
GA	Maamendhoo	1260	452	117	22	US\$ 695,000
GA	Villingili	2907	1680	275	36	US\$ 1,270,000
GA	Dhaandhoo	1693	253	109	7	US\$ 340,000
GA	Nilandhoo	923	224	71	28	US\$ 760,000

Table: sourced from Government data (also used for Joint Needs Assessment by World Bank/ ADB/UN)

* To repair a damaged house costs an average of US\$ 1,400. To totally rebuild a house costs an average of US\$ 19,500. Of the total cost, 17% goes towards strengthening the capacity of communities to plan, design and manage reconstruction efforts themselves.

Fact sheet

At a glance.....

Key target: *Emergency shelter response for tsunami affected people of the Maldives*

Beneficiaries: *Families whose homes were partly or completely destroyed.*

Commencing: *February 2005*

Duration: *Six months*

Partners on the ground: The Government of the Maldives, UN-Habitat, Maldives Housing and Urban Development Board, Local Level Atoll Administration units, NGOs, Private Sector and communities.



Recovery begins with a home

It took only seconds for the most powerful tsunami in living memory to wash away decades of progress on a third of the 199 inhabited islands of the Maldives.

Spread over 900 kilometres, the Maldives is a country of 1,190 islands. Dotted throughout this vast archipelago are close-knit communities of 500 to 1,000 people who normally earn a living through fishing, agriculture, or by working on resort islands.

The people of the Maldives need help now to rebuild their shattered communities and regain their incomes. This critical recovery can begin when families are once again able to live in their homes.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), in partnership with the Government, have drawn a comprehensive plan that will enable hundreds of communities to reconstruct and repair their homes.

Through three sub-offices, based in the north, central and south of the archipelago, UNDP will work with hundreds of Island Development Committees to identify those families most in need.

These committees will also help to map local skills and resources on affected and neighbouring islands.

Materials that need to be sourced elsewhere will be procured by UNDP through local companies, and delivered to the communities. On each island, rebuilding teams will be established to carry out the reconstruction work.

The emphasis on using local skills, resources and labour is designed to kick-start local economies and provide people, who have lost their livelihoods, a short-term income opportunity.

Meanwhile, at the national level, UNDP has agreed to assist the Government in developing strategies and plans for ensuring that building codes apply to both public and private structures, making everyone safer in the future.

Project targets

- Thousands of families assisted to rebuild/ repair their homes
- Hundreds of communities assisted to plan, prioritize and manage local rebuilding efforts
- Local economies revitalized
- Strengthened government capacity for land use planning and risk reduction.



UNDP would like to thank the following groups for their support:



Maldives National Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Maldives Association of Tourism Industries



United Nations Human Settlements Programme

For further information, please contact the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Maldives: UN Building, Buruzu Magu, Male. Ph: +960 324501, email: adoptanisland@undp.org, www.mv.undp.org



Background note: tsunami

A silent disaster in the Maldives

The Maldives was among the worst hit countries when the December 26 tsunami thundered through the Asia-Pacific region. The low-lying nation of islands was swamped by waves up to four meters. Considering that the average island reaches an elevation of only 1.5 meters above sea level, it is easy to imagine that the tsunami left little standing on those islands hit.

Luckily, the majority of the nation's valuable resort islands (tourism accounts for 33% of GDP) were spared. However, the industry has slumped as tourists' numbers fell dramatically following the tsunami.

The impact of the tsunami severely affected one third of the Maldivian population, washing away their homes, incomes and even some people's way of life. 13 islands had to be abandoned, rendering entire communities displaced. The scale of this disaster is unprecedented in the Maldives.

Yet, to the casual observer, the low fatalities, when compared to other countries hit by the tsunami, leaves the impression that the Maldives had escaped the worst. This is simply not the case. The Asian Development Bank concluded

The Maldives at a glance:

- Pop. 290,000
- 1,190 islands extending over 900 kilometers
- 199 inhabited islands
- Main income: tourism, fishing and small scale agriculture



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The impact at a glance:

- One third of the population severely affected, losing their homes, water/ food supplies, and livelihoods
- Entire communities uprooted and displaced
- No physical capital left standing on many islands
- Vegetation and top soil washed away from agricultural plots
- Fresh water sources contaminated by sea water
- Main industries (tourism, fisheries) badly affected

that the economy of the Maldives and Sri Lanka were the worst affected as a result of the tsunami. Fisheries and tourism comprise about half of the national GDP. The tsunami severely crippled both these industries.

It is clear that external assistance will be required to help this nation overcome the impact of this disaster. Until now, only half the funds requested by the UN Flash Appeal for immediate relief and recovery have been secured. More funds are needed urgently, so that people can return to their communities and rebuild their lives. This is especially the case in the area of shelter where nothing so far has been committed.

Though demographically dispersed, the Maldives is a closely-knit nation of determined people. The World Bank ranked the country among the top five for effective aid utilization. There is no doubt the nation can recover if outside assistance is provided.

