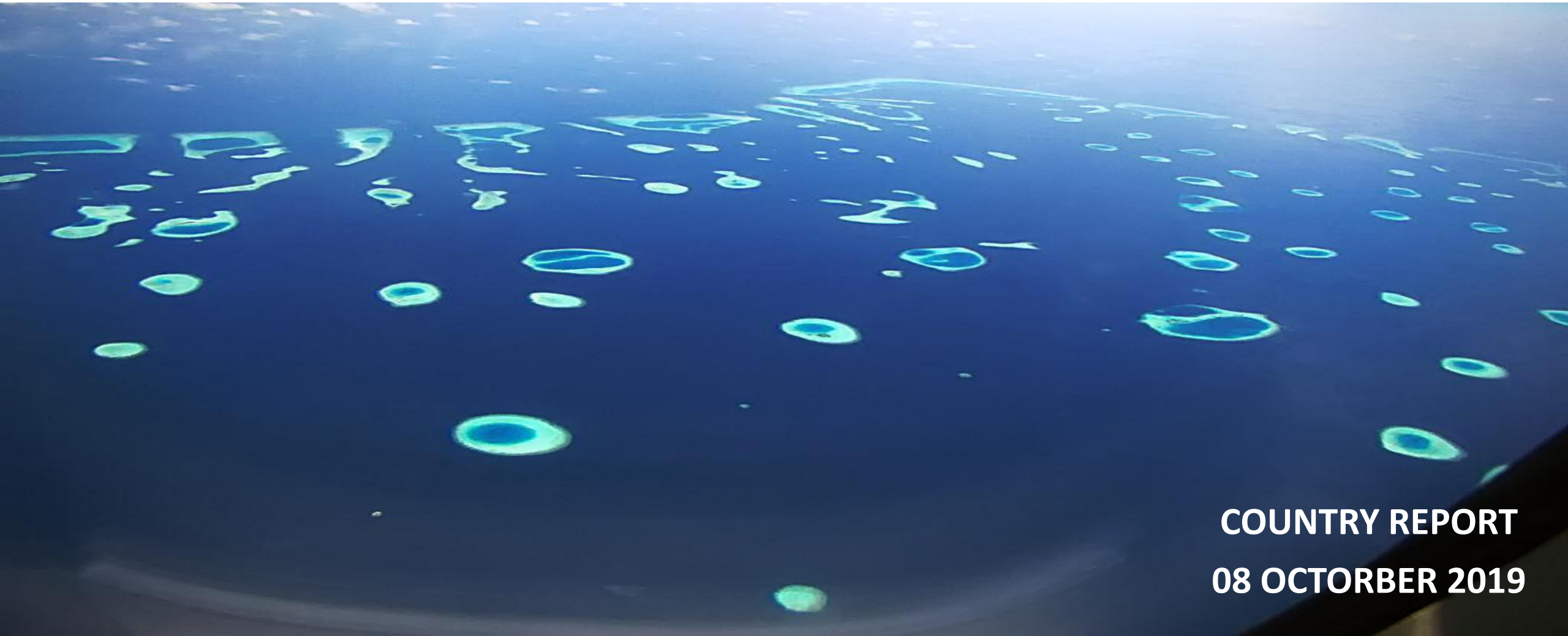
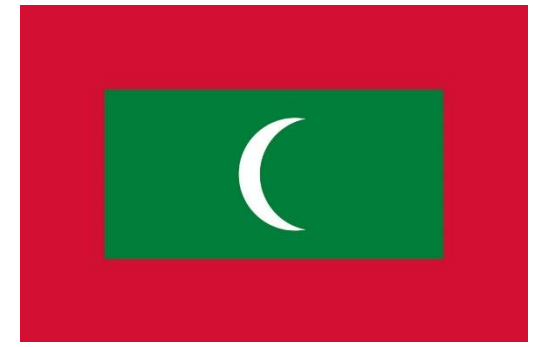


MALDIVES



COUNTRY REPORT
08 OCTOBER 2019

Basic Information

Name: Mariyam Seeza

Country: Maldives

Title: Public Health Program
Manager for Environmental and
Occupational Health And safety

Work experience in the field of
OSH: 4 years

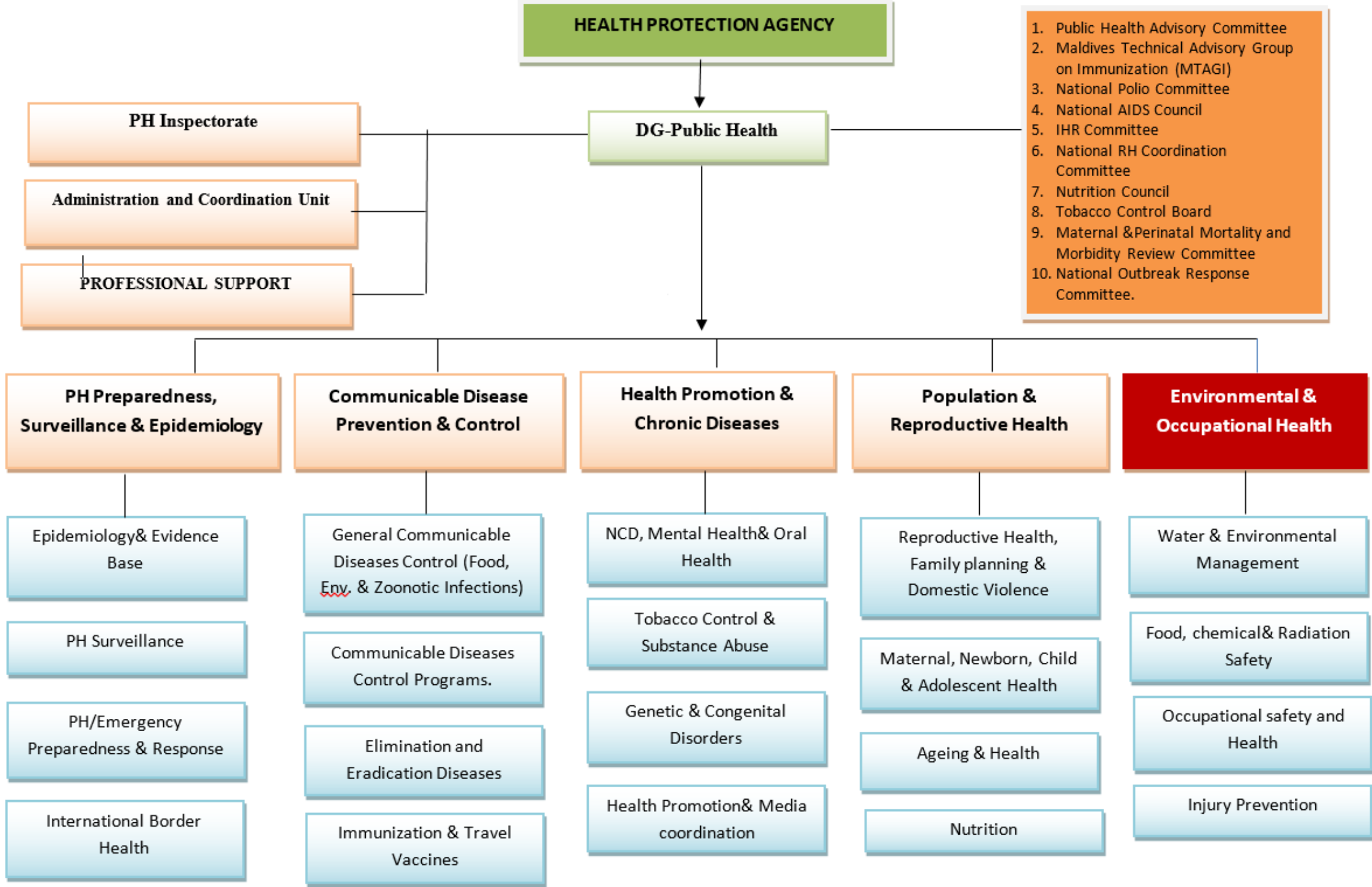


Ministry of Health

Health Protection Agency

Environmental and Occupational Health and
Safety Division

Organization chart



Maldives

- Maldives consist of 1192 tiny coral islands and is located in the Indian Ocean. 200 islands are inhabited and the rest of the islands are used for various activities the most important of which is tourism.
- Total population of the country is 344,023 (*Census 2014, National Bureau of Statistics*)
- Economy is mainly based on tourism and fishing.



Data collection methods for statistics

- The occurrence of occupational accidents and diseases are common in Maldives.
- The burden of occupational accidents and diseases is unknown as Injury surveillance data collection system has not been established.

Safety and health related laws and regulations

- No Occupational Health and Safety Act. The act has been drafted for some two years but it has been caught in a legislative backlog.
- Regulation on Construction Safety Standards (Ministry of National Planning and Infrastructure, February 2019)
- Public Health Protection Act 7/2012 (Health Protection Agency)
- Employment Act - refers only to notification of work-related injuries requiring medical attention. However, there is no provision for punitive action for non compliance

Labor inspection System

- Labor Relation Authority of the Maldives conduct random inspection.
- Health protection agency conducts random inspection regarding vector control and investigates and handles public complaints regarding Occupational health and safety.

Workers accident compensation insurance

- Not regulated as due to non existence of OSH act
- All locals are covered under Assandha medica insurance
- For migrants workers there is no medical insurance
- Private industries that hire expatriate are registered under the “Expatriate Medical Insurance” issued from Allied insurance

Safety of equipment's and facilities

- Currently there is no system to monitor and ensure the safety of industry/ facilities or the safety of the equipment's used at that workplace.
- There are no set standards established for boat building dockyards, motor vehicle repairing garages, fuel stations etc.

Training and Educational Programs

- In March 2019 training of trainers program for OSH was conducted to health professionals.
- July 2019 training was conducted on air pollution



Activities of industrial/occupational safety and health organizations other than government

The Maldives Association of Construction Industry (MACI) act as a National association creating a platform to improve the occupational safety and health standards of the Maldivian construction industry.

OSHMS and Risk Assessment

- Few industries have their own OSHMS established.
- Some outsource risk assessment to identify the risks and bring necessary improvements
- Upon complaints that Health Protection Agency receives in regard to OHS, HPA conducts risk assessments.

Campaigns/ Events/National Convention/ Exhibition

There are no recent campaigns, events or national convention on this area as OHS is greatly neglected in the country there are little or no funding received for this

Three major initiatives (strategies) by the government

- Strengthening injury surveillance system in the country
- Development of OHS Act and related regulations and standards
- Capacity building through training

Major issues and challenges on occupational safety and health

- Nonexistence of Occupational health and safety Act and other OHS related policies, regulations, standards and guidelines.
- Absence of mechanism for reporting works related injuries and diseases and lack of statistical data.
- Air quality of the work place is another concern in occupations such as fiber boat building, carpentry, auto mobile garages etc. The indoor air quality of the workplace is unknown as scientific instruments or sample collection devices that would allow identifying, characterizing or quantifying the nature of air pollution is not available.

Major issues and challenges on occupational safety and health

- Lack of effective legislation on import and use of hazardous chemicals
- Lack of awareness among the relevant stakeholders
- Lack of formal mechanism for coordination between stakeholders and issues in in coordination among different sectors (ministries)
- Lack/ confusion among which sector to take ownership in OHS in workplace
- Lack of public advocacy

Suggestions/ counter Measures

- Ministry of health to reinforce the draft OHS bill through the necessary parliamentary process and develop regulation and OSH related standards and guidelines
- Allocate adequate funds and strengthen national capacities for regulatory and monitoring mechanism
- Conduct advocacy forum and bring OHS to political attention.
- Develop Action plan with budget to identify areas of urgent needs and prioritize accordingly

Suggestions/ counter Measures

- Establish government occupational health and safety committee/ board to support development and implementation of OSH action Plan
- Strengthen integrated national surveillance system for injury surveillance including all occupational injuries. (Establish reporting system, conduct training and collection and dissemination of surveillance data.)
- Strengthen national OHS program through capacity building programs
- Ensure health insurance and good working and living conditions for all the foreign workers
- Conducting OSH Public awareness campaigns/ events



Any Questions?

THANKYOU