

National Counter Terrorism Centre



NCTC Newsletter - Volume 54: September - December 2021

UNDP Maldives and NCTC Hold “High-Level Forum on Social Resilience in the Maldives”

16 December 2021



UNDP Maldives in collaboration with NCTC held the “High-Level Forum on Social Resilience in the Maldives”.



The high-level forum was held to present observations and findings from the 4-day

“Stakeholder Roundtable on Building Social Resilience in the Maldives” held at Crossroads Maldives conducted jointly by UNDP Maldives and NCTC. The roundtable discussions identified key areas of focus in P/CVE and challenges in the implementation of the NAP on P/CVE. 23 personnel from 17 government institutions and 2 CSOs participated in the forum.

During his welcoming remarks, DG of NCTC BG (Rtd) Zakariyya Mansoor stated that an action plan was only as strong as its stakeholders and called for cooperation and collaboration to build a cohesive and resilient society.

...continued on page 2



CEO of Local Government Authority Fathimath Afshan Latheef officiated the forum. In her remarks, she highlighted that terrorism and violent extremism was a global problem that required a contextualized local solution with participation from across the nation to address the issue in the Maldives.



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“Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.”

Albert Einstein

DG Retires From the Military After 37 Years of Service

9 December 2021



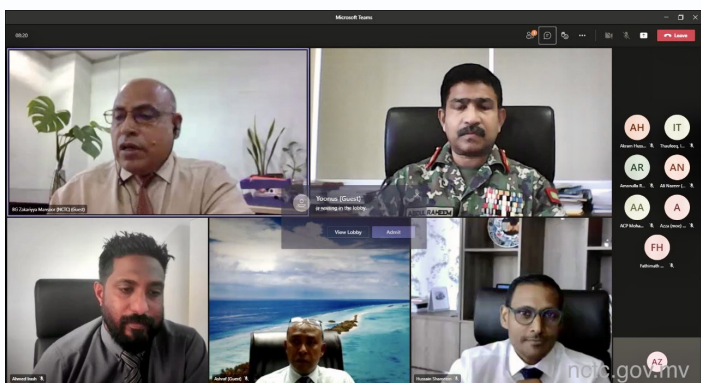
Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor joined the service of MNDF on 13th March 1984. Throughout his illustrious career, Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor has contributed significant service in various appointments in the military before his eventual appointment as the DG of NCTC.

Upon his retirement, Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor was re-appointed as the Director General of NCTC and will continue to serve his appointment as a staff of the Ministry of Defence.

Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor has honorably retired from the Maldives National Defence Force after 37 years of distinguished service at a ceremony held at Ban'daara Koshi.

Counter Radicalization Committee Meets to Discuss Ongoing P/CVE Efforts in the Maldives

9 September 2021



During the meeting, members deliberated upon multiagency P/CVE efforts and enhancing monitoring and reporting mechanisms of the National Action Plan on P/CVE. In addition, officials from Maldives Correctional Service discussed about the Special Management Unit established at Maafushi Prison to segregate violent extremist prisoners.

National Counter Terrorism Centre hosted a meeting of the Counter Radicalization Committee to discuss ongoing P/CVE efforts in the Maldives. The session chaired by the Director General of NCTC.

Bilateral Engagements with Allied Nations and International Organizations



20 September 2021

A delegation of Hedayah led by the Executive Director H.E. Ahmed AlQasimi met with NCTC for a fruitful discussion. He highlighted the importance of an interagency response to CT and P/CVE. Officials also deliberated on areas of assistance and future collaborations.



10-13 October 2021

NCTC officials met with the Commonwealth CVE team visiting the Maldives. The Commonwealth delegation also met P/CVE stakeholders & complimented the CVE framework in the Maldives & reiterated Commonwealth's commitment to assist in creating a peaceful & cohesive society through the NAP on P/CVE.



17 November 2021

High Commissioner of New Zealand to Maldives H.E. Michael Edward Appleton met with Director General of NCTC Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor . During the meeting DG welcomed the High Commissioner to the Maldives and discussed areas of collaboration in CT & P/CVE.

Bilateral Engagements with Allied Nations and International Organizations



30 November 2021

Director of NCTC attended “Consultative Meetings with the Maldives on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Effective Criminal Justice Response to Complex Terrorist Cases” held by UNODC. In addition to NCTC, members of the Counter Radicalization Committee attended the meeting..



2 December 2021

DG of NCTC attended the courtesy call by Resident Representative of UNDP Maldives Mr. Enrico Gaveglia on Minister of Defence Uza, Mariya Didi. UNDP Maldives is a close partner in the Ministry's P/CVE programs conducted by NCTC.



21 December 2021

Colonel Muhammad Safdar Khan, Defence Advisor of Pakistan to Sri Lanka and the Maldives called upon DG of NCTC. During the meeting, officials discussed areas of collaboration and importance of multilateralism to counter terrorism and violent extremism.

UNODC Inaugurates South Asian Network on Preventing Violent Extremism

1 December 2021



UNODC inaugurated SAN-PVE, the Regional Network of PVE Practitioners during the third high-level and technical meetings on launching SAN-PVE the regional network of PVE practitioners of South Asia.

SAN-PVE facilitates networking, knowledge-sharing and learning. The network also connects relevant stakeholders and provides training tools, publications, access to events, as well as aims to produce a compendium of good practices and evidence-based initiatives that could inspire other practitioners, as well as other countries, to develop their own similar measures.

Japanese Ambassador to the Maldives H.E. Keiko Yanai officiated the opening session. In her remarks, the Ambassador commended the

cooperation between South Asian countries and called upon member countries to fully utilize the network.

The 2-day hybrid meetings were attended by delegations from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Participants from Maldives included government stakeholders and CSOs. The network was established by generous assistance from the government of Japan and will be first hosted by the Maldives for the first 2 years.



Regional cooperation is vital to tackle the threat of terrorism and violent extremism to attain a sustainable solution in today's security environment.



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



This activity was made possible thanks to the support of the Government of Japan

COVID-19 LOCAL UPDATES

Latest Update

24/01/2022 - 06:00 PM



2707

New Cases
Today

120,168

Total Number
of Cases

15,721

Active
Cases

7,681

Samples (tested in
the last 24 hrs)

52

In Hospitals

104,164

Recoveries

270

Deaths

1,420

Greater Male'
Area

761

Inhabited
Islands

94

Operational
Resorts

00

Non-operational
Resorts

03

Live
Aboards

00

Islands under
development

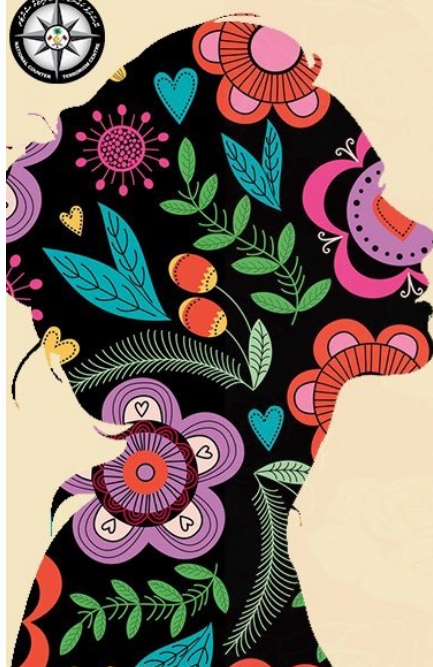
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Industrial/islands
used for other
purposes

429 Location to be determined

- From the total samples tested today, 4,273 samples are from the Greater Male' Area.
- Greater Male' area sample positivity is at 33%.
- Total cases include 13 deceased positives whose cause of death is not directly due to COVID-19.

from @hpa_mv



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Acknowledging the crucial role played by women in society and giving them the cooperation and respect that they deserve is essential for the peace and progress of the country.

Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment Conducts “Hafthaa Res” in Collaboration with NCTC

September, November, and December 2021



Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment in collaboration with NCTC conducted a series of “Hafthaa Res” programs in Baa, Dhaalu, and Laamu Atolls. The program in Baa Atoll was held in B. Eydhafushi in September, while the program in Dhaalu Atoll was conducted in Dh. Kudahuvadhoo in November, and the event in Laamu Atoll was held in L. Fonadhoo in December.

In addition to Youth Ministry, NCTC partnered with Ministry of Education, Ministry of Islamic Affairs, and Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services to conduct the sessions for their respective sectors.



The four-day program included sessions for students, teachers, caretakers, parents, youth, local leaders, and CSOs in each respective region. The objective of these sessions is to foster community cohesion, friendliness, and build a harmonious society, as well as to address societal issues and raise awareness among citizens and youths and improve psychosocial wellbeing of the community. In addition to the awareness sessions, refreshments with entertainment events were hosted by the island community.

Establishing social cohesion through community engagement and outreach is vital for spreading awareness, empowering communities, and developing and maintaining a well-informed, cohesive and resilient society.



NCTC Conducts Workshop on “The Role of Local Leaders for Sustainable Development and Resilient and Cohesive Society”

28 September 2021



NCTC in collaboration with Local Government Authority (LGA) conducted a workshop for members of City, Atoll, and Island Councils and Women Development Committee on “The Role of Local Leaders for Sustainable Development and Resilient and Cohesive Society.”



The one-day session was held for members of the councils and Women Development Committees (WDC) of Kaafu Atoll with assistance from UNDP Maldives under the funding from the EU. 18 council members and 27 representatives from 8 islands participated in the event in addition to 8 officials from the LGA.



Delivering the opening remarks, DG of NCTC highlighted the importance of council members to establish unity and peace through a decentralized system and the importance of family for a cohesive society.

Similarly, Director of Policy Planning and International Relations Section of LGA Hawwa Izwath stated that members of councils and WDCs were vital to empower the community and maintain cohesiveness.



The workshop was held as local governments were a fundamental stakeholder of the NAP on P/CVE and their empowerment is vital to build a cohesive and resilient society.



NCTC Conducts “The International Program for Combating Extremism and Terrorism” in Collaboration with Naif Arab University for Security Sciences

4-7 October 2021



NCTC in collaboration with Saudi Arabia’s Naif Arab University for Security Sciences conducted “The International Program for Combating Extremism and Terrorism”.

The four-day program was held to explore the role of religious scholars, educators, and CSOs in preventing terrorism and violent extremism and developing a tolerant and cohesive society. The program was designed and conducted to address vital areas in P/CVE as outlined in the NAP on P/CVE.



Minister of Higher Education Dr. Ibrahim Hassan delivered the keynote speech of the first program.

In his remarks, the Minister called for vigilance as terrorist organizations used the internet and social media to recruit and plan acts of terror. He also highlighted the importance of utilizing the education system to impart critical thinking skills and teach youth to refrain from violence and respect rule of law and human rights.



Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage Yumna Maumoon delivered the keynote speech at the opening sessions of the second part of the workshop. In her remarks, she stressed the importance of arts, culture and heritage in fostering a stable and resilient youth.

As part of the program, a public forum was held in collaboration with Islamic University of Maldives.

This is the second collaboration with Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, with the first being a similar program held in 2019 targeted for government institutions, religious scholars, and CSOs.

NCTC Conducts A Session on “The Role of CSOs in Promoting Peace and Tolerance” for Participants of the CSO Forums Conducted by Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment

October and December 2021



NCTC officials conducted a session on “The Role of CSOs in Promoting Peace and Tolerance” for participants of the CSO Forums conducted by Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment. The first forum was held from 24th to 27th October in HA. Ihavandhoo for CSOs based in HA., HDh., and Sh. Atolls. The second forum was held from 7th to 12th December in Lh. Hinnavaru for CSOs based in N, R, B, and Lh Atolls.



In addition to the session for participants of the forum, NCTC officials also conducted awareness sessions for teachers of HA. Ihavandhoo, HA. Hoarafushi, and HA. Dhidhoo on the role of educators in preventing violent extremism and child maltreatment.



As CSOs are an integral component of the NAP on P/CVE, their empowerment is vital to building a cohesive and resilient community.

The objective of the forum is to enhance cooperation and collaboration among CSOs and to empower CSOs to make a difference in the community and assist participants in administration of their respective CSOs.

NCTC Conducts “The Role of Women in Peacebuilding” Workshop

8 November 2021



NCTC conducted a workshop titled “The Role of Women in Peacebuilding” for female officers working in security and law enforcement agencies.

The one-day workshop was held in collaboration with Maldives Police Service and UNDP Maldives. The aim of the workshop is to discuss the role of women in building a cohesive and resilient society, empower women against extremism, and explore measures that can be taken to mitigate the threat of terrorism and violent extremism.



Minister of Defence Uza. Mariya Didi officiated the event. In her remarks, she called upon participants to make good use of such workshops and highlighted the importance of learning and exchanging ideas in these forums.

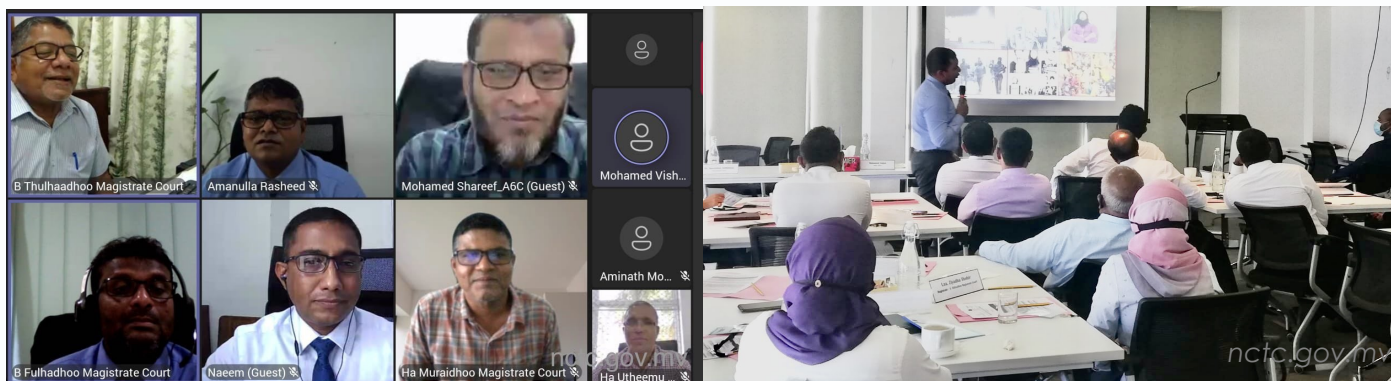


A total of 56 participants from all the security and law enforcement agencies participated in the workshop. The sessions were conducted by local and international subject matter experts.



Since its inception in 2016, NCTC has provided 662 training opportunities for women from 66 programs as women empowerment is vital to a whole-of-society approach to P/CVE. The NAP on P/CVE also heavily focuses on gender perspectives in the preventive process.

Awareness Sessions Conducted by NCTC



September & December: NCTC conducted a series of awareness sessions for judges and magistrates in partnership with Department of Judicial Administration. The first program was attended by 46 judges from 46 courts and was held online. The second session was attended by judges and magistrates from GA and GDh Atolls and Fuvahmulah and Addu City.



10 November 2021: NCTC conducted a session for students of Aviation Security Basic Course. Sessions covered various aspects of terrorism including building resilience in the aviation industry against terrorist threats including a session on psychosocial well-being of personnel.



14 December 2021: NCTC conducted a session for participants of "Exercise Ekuverin 2021" conducted jointly by MNDF and the Indian Army. The session focused on emerging trends of terrorism and violent extremism in the local and international context.

28 December 2021: NCTC conducted a session for students of 13th Bodyguard Course. The session covered various aspects of terrorism, including terrorism and violent extremism in the local context along with group discussions.

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