

# Land Acquisition and Resettlement Due Diligence Report

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October 2022

Maldives: Strengthening Gender Inclusive Initiatives Project

Ungoofaaru Domestic- and Gender-Based Violence Shelter, Raa Atoll

Prepared by the Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure of the Republic of Maldives for the Asian Development Bank.

## **CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS**

(as of 3 October 2022)

|               |   |              |
|---------------|---|--------------|
| Currency unit | – | rufiyaa (Rf) |
| Rf1.00        | = | \$0.065      |
| \$1.00        | = | Rf 15.450    |

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

|        |   |   |
|--------|---|---|
| ADB    | - | Asian Development Bank                                    |
| GOM    | - | Government of the Republic of Maldives                    |
| IA     | - | Implementing Agency                                       |
| MNPHI  | - | Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure |
| PMU    | - | Project Management Unit                                   |
| MOF    | - | Ministry of Finance                                       |
| MGFSS  | - | Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services            |
| MNPHI  | - | Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure |
| FPA    | - | Family Protection Agency                                  |
| MBS    | - | Maldives Bureau of Statistics                             |
| MOE    | - | Ministry of Education                                     |
| MOECCT | - | Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology    |
| WDC    | - | Women's Development Committee                             |

## **NOTE**

In this report, "\$" refers to United States dollar.

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. In the Maldives, while gender parity has been achieved in education, gender gaps in other spheres persist. The widest gender gap is in the gross national income (GNI) per capita, where women's GNI of \$7,454 is 48% of men's GNI of \$15,576. This gap could be attributed to gender division in the labour market, apart from the considerable proportion of women outside of the labour force (44% compared to men at 15%). Most women outside the labour force are not seeking jobs due to the need to care for the home and family. On average, women spend 6 hours (men, 3 hours) a day doing household work. Within the home, women have little control over household assets and face risk of domestic violence. Among women aged 15-49 years, 17% have experienced physical abuse and 11% sexual violence. Of these women, only 42% sought help.
2. Overall, 26% of Maldivian women (aged 15-49 years) believe that wife-beating is justified. In 2018, about 383 cases of domestic violence were recorded (347 females and 36 males); and in 2019, 433 cases (378 females and 55 males) with very few cases forwarded to court prosecutors. The alarming economic and social stress coupled with restricted movements and access to services due to novel coronavirus (COVID-19) exacerbates women's situation, particularly of those forced to lockdown with their abusers. Recent observations show that, if left unattended, gender inequalities and gender-based violence (GBV) could worsen because of increasing conservatism, which restricts women's mobility, strengthens expectations of conformity with traditional gender norms, and results in women's acceptance of limited agency.
3. The Maldives has put in place essential laws to promote gender equality, including the elimination of GBV, and to improve the well-being of its growing elderly population. These include the Domestic Violence Prevention Act (2012), which established the Family Protection Authority (FPA), the National Gender Equality Act (2016), the Child Rights' Protection Act (2019), and the Decentralization Act (2010), in particular its 8th amendment (2019) which sets a 33% quota for women's representation in island councils. For the elderly, the government approved a National Elderly Policy in 2017 and developed the National Elderly Action Plan in 2018. However, the implementation of these laws and policies has been hampered by the inadequacy of basic institutional requirements, such as the (i) lack of centralized management information system with sex-disaggregated data; (ii) lack of gender-responsive budgeting at central and decentralized levels; (iii) ineffective functioning of safe homes for abused women and children in 5 of the 19 Family and Children Services Centers (FCSCs) in Haa Dhaalu, Shaviyani, Thaa, Gaafu Dhaalu, and Male atolls; and (iv) lack of affordable child/elderly care services for low to middle-income Maldivians.
4. For these reasons the Government of Maldives with the financial assistance from Asian Development Bank have decided to implement the Strengthening Gender Inclusive Initiatives Project in Maldives, to address the gender equality issues in Maldives.

## **II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT**

5. The Strengthening Gender Inclusive Initiatives Project is a gender equality project which aims to reduce violence against women and reduce women's unpaid care burden by increasing access to sustainable services for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence, children, and the elderly.

6. The project is aligned with the Government's Strategic Action Plan, the Gender Equality Act 2016, the National Elderly Action Plan and the forthcoming Gender Equality Action Plan. The Project is funded by the Government of Maldives and the Asian Development Bank. It is a five-year project due to start in 2022. The Executing Agency is the Ministry of Finance and the Lead Implementing Agency is the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services.
7. SGII is ambitious in scope and supports a number of strategic gender initiatives across a variety of ministries and agencies. This includes:
- (i) **Output 1:** Strengthening access to, the quality and use of sex, age and disability disaggregated data and gender statistics. Led by the Maldives Bureau of Statistics (MBS) and including support to Family Protection Authority (FPA).
  - (ii) **Output 2:** The introduction and piloting of gender responsive budgeting. Led by the Ministry of Finance (MoF).
  - (iii) **Output 3:** Strengthening the capacity of the social sector to deliver and provide sustainable services to survivors of domestic and gender-based violence, the elderly, and early age childcare. Led by the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services (MGFSS).
  - (iv) **Output 4:** Improving the access of domestic and gender-based violence survivors to services through stronger referral and networks. Delivered through partnerships with civil society organisations (CSOs).
  - (v) **Output 5:** Establishing three new stand-alone domestic and gender-based violence shelters. Led by the Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (MNPHI) and in partnership with the MGFSS, and the City and Island Councils where the infrastructure and services will be built and delivered. **Table 1** provides subprojects and locations under Output 5.

**Table 1: Subprojects and location**

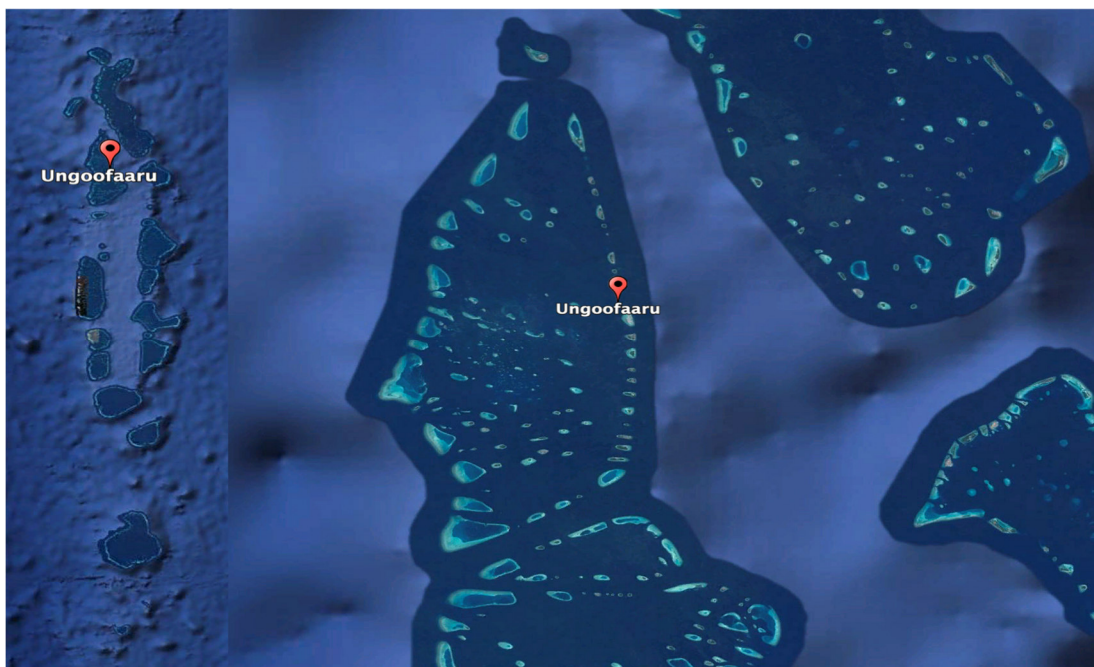
| <b>Subproject</b> | <b>Proposed location</b> |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| DV/GBV shelter    | Ungoofaaru, Raa          |
| DV/GBV shelter    | Hithadhoo, Addu City     |
| DV/GBV Shelter    | Hulhumalé, North Malé    |

8. This land acquisition and resettlement due diligence report is prepared for the civil works components proposed at Raa Atoll under output 5 which is the Domestic Violence / Gender Based Violence (DV/GBV) Shelter proposed at Ungoofaaru. The scope of this report is limited to the proposed civil works for construction of DV/GBV Shelter on the island of Ungoofaaru, Raa Atoll. This due diligence report (DDR) is prepared based on the information available from several documents and field visit to the site. The main objective of due diligence exercise is to confirm that the subproject is free of involuntary resettlement impact such as land acquisition, physical displacement, economic displacement, adverse impact on livelihood, community properties or any other impacts, based on a review of land records, consultations and field visits to proposed project locations. The DDR will be submitted to ADB for review and approval and the final document disclosed on IA and ADB websites. No civil works contract package will be awarded or construction started before the approval of final social safeguards document for the said package by ADB. The IA is responsible to hand over the project land/site to the contractor free of any encumbrance.

### III. LOCATION AND STUDY AREA

9. The Ungoofaaru DV/GBV Shelter is located in Raa Atoll. Ungoofaaru Island is located on the eastern edge of the atoll. [REDACTED] The total area of the island is 28 hectares with 815m in length and 486m in width. The total population of Ungoofaaru is 1503 and it is the capital of Raa Atoll since 1953.

**Figure 1: Location of Ungoofaaru in Raa. Atoll**



#### A. Proposed project

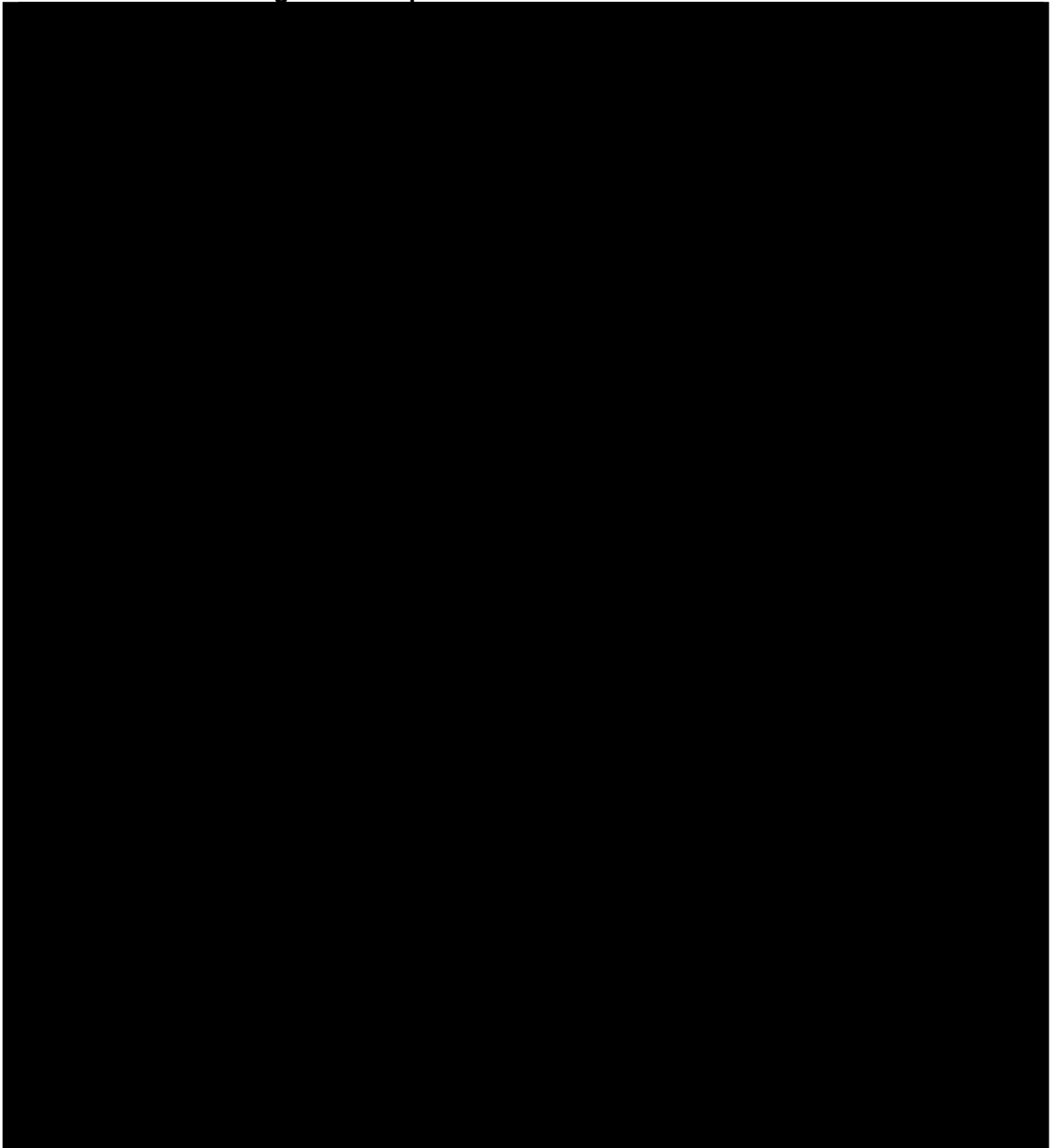
10. The council has identified and allocated a site for the DV/GBV Shelter around the center of the island. The Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services with the financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank proposes to build a DV/GBV shelter on the land proposed by the Council. The size of the proposed site is 9926.28 sqft. The proposed land was previously used as the Powerhouse for Ungoofaru. However, the Powerhouse was relocated, and the existing structures were demolished and cleared by the Council. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **Figures 3-4** below shows the location of the site and the surrounding facilities.

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<sup>1</sup> This information has been removed as it falls under the exception to disclosure in ADB's Access to Information Policy, para. 17.5.(x)

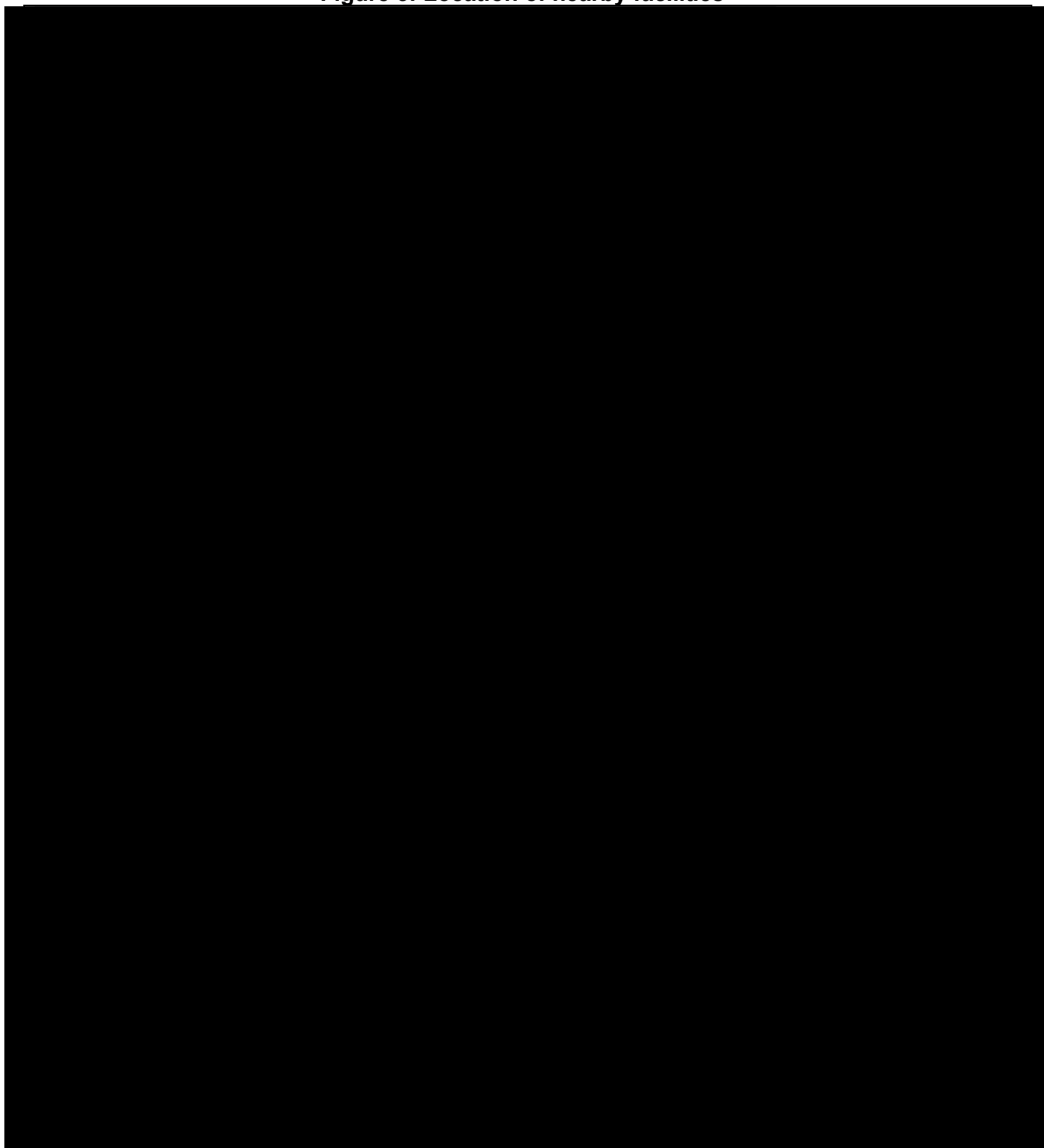
<sup>2</sup>Figure 2: Proposed location of DV/GBV Shelter



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<sup>2</sup> This information has been removed as it falls under the exception to disclosure in ADB's Access to Information Policy, para. 17.5.(x)

<sup>3</sup>Figure 3: Location of nearby facilities



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<sup>3</sup> This information has been removed as it falls under the exception to disclosure in ADB's Access to Information Policy, para. 17.5.(x)

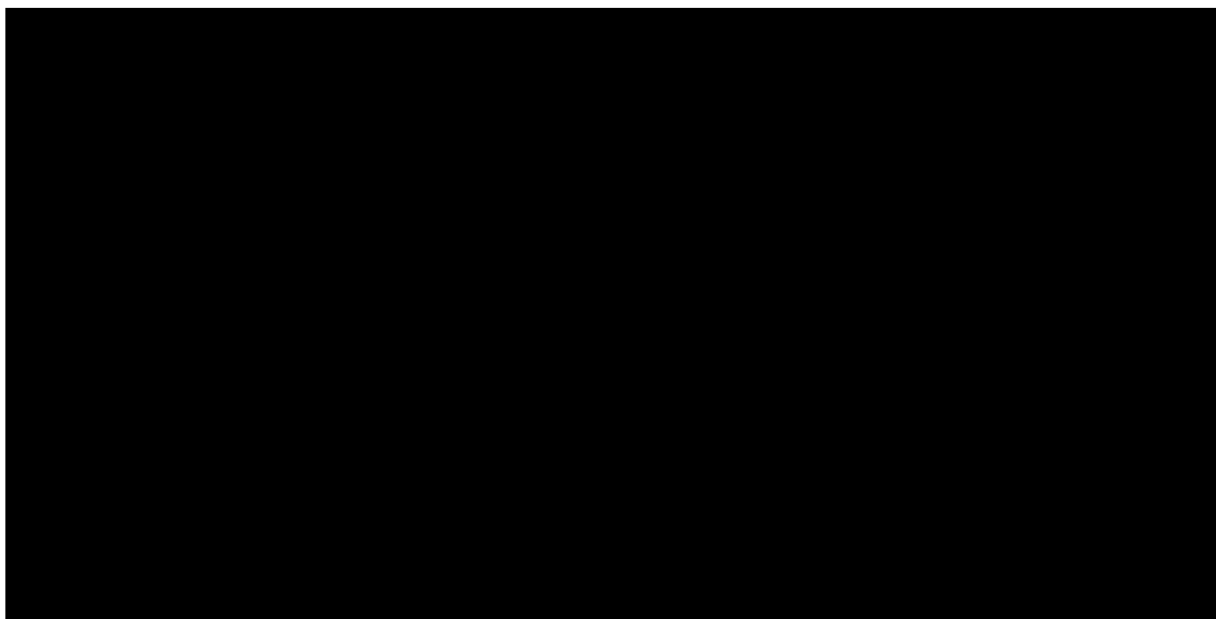


## B. Components of the proposed project

11. The project proposes to construct a new DV/GBV Shelter in Ungoofaaru Island. This shelter will be used to house victims of DV/GBV from Raa Atoll and nearby islands. Raa shelter will have a multifunctional purpose with DV/GBV services and empowerment activities for women and adolescent girls in the community. The shelter will provide a drop-in service which gives women access to information on their rights, DV/GBV services offered by government and non-government organisations, and entitlement to social protection. The shelter will also provide vocational and life skills training for clients.
12. The DV/GBV shelter proposed for Ungoofaaru will have the following components:
  - (i) Public Zone with drop in and common services;
  - (ii) Semi Public Zone with indoor study/play area, daycare rooms, breast feeding rooms etc; and
  - (iii) Private Zone with accommodation, services, kitchen and office areas. Accommodation with 10 units is proposed.

## C. Access Road

13.  The site has easy access to vehicles from all three sides. **Figure 5** shows the access roads around the site.




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<sup>4</sup> This information has been removed as it falls under the exception to disclosure in ADB's Access to Information Policy, para. 17.5.(x)



#### **D. Screening of Project**

14. The proposed location of Ungoofaaru DV/GBV Shelter was screened using ADB's Involuntary Resettlement Impacts Checklist. The exact location of the proposed facility has been finalized during the ADB Mission, the screening and due diligence reveals that the entire available government site for Ungoofaaru DV/GBV meets the following involuntary resettlement related criteria – of no private land acquisition, no physical displacement, and no permanent livelihood loss or temporary impacts. The filled up Involuntary Resettlement checklist is given in **Appendix 1**.

#### **E. Land Availability and Resettlement Impacts**

15. The scope of the land acquisition and involuntary resettlement is assessed based on the site visits, consultations and review of the design and site location. No land acquisition and/or involuntary resettlement impacts are anticipated. The photographs of the location and site visit are given in **Appendix 3**.
16. The Ungoofaaru DV/GBV Shelter will be constructed on currently unused land, owned by the Government of Maldives. The Ungoofaaru land plot were issued to the MGFSS, and the land plot is now registered under the MGFSS. The Land Registry document is attached in the Appendix 2. No private land acquisition is therefore envisaged for the implementation of the proposed project components.

#### **IV. SITE VISIT AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION**

17. Officials from MNPHI and MGFSS and ADB Mission visited the site on 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and 31 May 2022.

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<sup>5</sup> This information has been removed as it falls under the exception to disclosure in ADB's Access to Information Policy, para. 17.5.(x)

18. Consultations took place between ADB staff, representatives of MNPHI and MGFSS and representatives of the island council during the visit. These consultations enabled the ADB, MNPHI and MGFSS to understand the condition of the site, and the willingness and enthusiasm of the council and WDC to establish the DV/GBV Shelter on the Island. Proceedings of the meetings, attendance sheets and photographs are given in **Appendix 4**.

**Table 2: Summary of Consultations**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Venue</b>                             | <b>Participants</b>                 | <b>Summary of discussions</b>   |
|-------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| 27/03/2022  | Ungoofaaru Council Office                | Total: 9<br>Male: 9<br>Female: 0    | The council said that this is a very welcome development for the island, and the only concern they have is the delay in taking physical construction work.  |
| 27/03/2022  | WDC meeting                              | Total: 7<br>Male: 1<br>Female: 6    | Expressed the importance of having an incident reporting mechanism that is designed in such a way that the victim can report discreetly.  |
| 27/03/2022  | Meeting with Civil Society Organisations | Total: 9<br>Male: 9<br>Female: 0    | Expressed concerns regarding the lack of involvement of CSOs in development projects in the Island.   |
| 01/06/2022  | Ungoofaaru Council Office                | Total: 20<br>Male: 10<br>Female: 10 | The technical details of the proposed DV/GBV shelter, including the program, design principals, and staffing etc was discussed. The Council Office members reiterated their support for the project. They said that the centre is necessary not only for the island people but also those in the surrounding atolls. They stated that they are engaging with CSOs and will be planning to create awareness on DV/GBV. It was highlighted that a very good working relationship already exists with the police and FCSC and other sectors. At the moment also the police helps on DV/GBV cases |
| 01/06/2022  | WDC Meeting                              | Total: 20<br>Male: 10<br>Female: 10 | Discussions were held on how women and children from other atolls will access the centre at Raa atoll. They mentioned that the Island Council and WDC of Ugoofaaru can coordinate with the FCSC centre to create awareness programs on DV/GBV. The role IBAMA or community groups were discussed.   |

## F. Stakeholder Consultation Meetings

19. The proposed Ungoofaaru DV/GBV Shelter site is located around the center of the island and have some residential houses on the eastern side of the site. Consultations were conducted separately for nearby households on 27 March 2022.
20. Participants were briefed about the project, its objectives, scope of works and the Grievance Redress Mechanism. Everyone consulted expressed their gratitude and excitement for this project.
21. All participants were informed about possible sound and dust pollution which may occur in the construction phase however they mentioned that they understood that any construction work would have pollution issues around the vicinity of the site, and they would have no issues about it and said that any sort of development project and social welfare project on their island is welcomed as they were interested in the development of the island. Participants were informed about the grievance redress mechanism of the project.
22. One participant asked about the DV/GBV incident reporting and how discreet the process is. They were informed that the project will ensure that the victims or relatives can report discreetly, and the reporting process and operational aspects will be designed and prepared by experts in the field and will be shared with the community at the project implementation stage.
23. Another participant asked about the security of the shelter and if victims will be safe in there. They were assured that the facility will be designed in a way that all the victims will be safe inside and that there will be security guards working 24/7 and the staff at the shelter will make sure of this too.

## V. CONCLUSION

24. No involuntary resettlement impacts are anticipated due to the proposed civil works for Ungoofaaru DV/GBV Shelter as per the due diligence review conducted. The civil works will be undertaken on land owned by Government of Maldives. The assessed subproject components in this DDR are not anticipated to require acquisition of private land or involuntary resettlement impacts, permanent or temporary.

**Table 3: Summary of Involuntary Resettlement Impacts of Ungoofaaru DV/GBV Shelter**

| Location   | Component      | Land Ownership (Gov./Private)       | DV/GBV Shelter Land Area | Existing Land Use | Potential Involuntary Resettlement Impact   |
|------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Ungoofaaru | DV/GBV Shelter | Govt. land. Land now owned by MGFSS | 9926.28 ft <sup>2</sup>  | Unused plot       | The proposed plot is presently a vacant and unused land area and is owned by the Government of Maldives and managed by the Ungoofaaru Council. No land acquisition and involuntary resettlement impacts due to the project are anticipated. |

**G. Next Steps**

25. Documents required to update the DDR are as follows.

- (i) Approval for the concept drawing of the construction of the proposed facilities project from Ungoofaaru Council.
- (ii) The DDR will be updated based on the final detailed design. Additional public consultation details will be included.

## Appendix 1: Involuntary Resettlement Impact Assessment with COVID-19 Screening Checklist

### A. Introduction

1. Each subsection/section needs to be screened for any involuntary resettlement impacts which will occur or have already occurred. This screening determines the necessary action to be taken by the project team.

### B. Information on subsection/section:

- a. District/administrative name: Ungoofaru Atoll
- b. Location (km): Ungoofaru Atoll
- c. Civil work dates (proposed): December 2023
- d. Technical description: Construction of DV/GBV shelter

### C. Screening Questions for Involuntary Resettlement Impact

2. Below is the initial screening for involuntary resettlement impacts and due diligence exercise. Both permanent and temporary impacts must be considered and reported in the screening process.

| Probable Involuntary Resettlement Effects  | Yes | No | Not Known | Remarks  |
|--|-----|----|-----------|--|
| <b>Involuntary Acquisition of Land</b>   |     |    |           |  |
| 1. Will there be land acquisition?   |     | √  |           | The proposed plot is a vacant and unused land area and is government land. |
| 2. Is the site for land acquisition known?   |     |    |           | Not applicable   |
| 3. Is the ownership status and current usage of land to be acquired known?                               |     |    |           | Not applicable. Owned by GOM   |
| 4. Will easement be utilized within an existing Right of Way (ROW)?                                      |     |    |           | Not applicable   |
| 5. Will there be loss of shelter and residential land due to land acquisition?                           |     |    |           | Not applicable   |
| 6. Will there be loss of agricultural and other productive assets due to land acquisition?               |     |    |           | Not applicable   |
| 7. Will there be losses of crops, trees, and fixed assets due to land acquisition?                       |     |    |           | Not applicable   |
| 8. Will there be loss of businesses or enterprises due to land acquisition?                              |     |    |           | Not applicable   |
| 9. Will there be loss of income sources and means of livelihoods due to land acquisition?                |     |    |           | Not applicable   |
| <b>Involuntary restrictions on land use or on access to legally designated parks and protected areas</b> |     |    |           |  |
| 10. Will people lose access to natural resources, communal facilities and services?                      |     | √  |           |  |
| 11. If land use is changed, will it have an adverse impact on social and economic                        |     | √  |           |  |

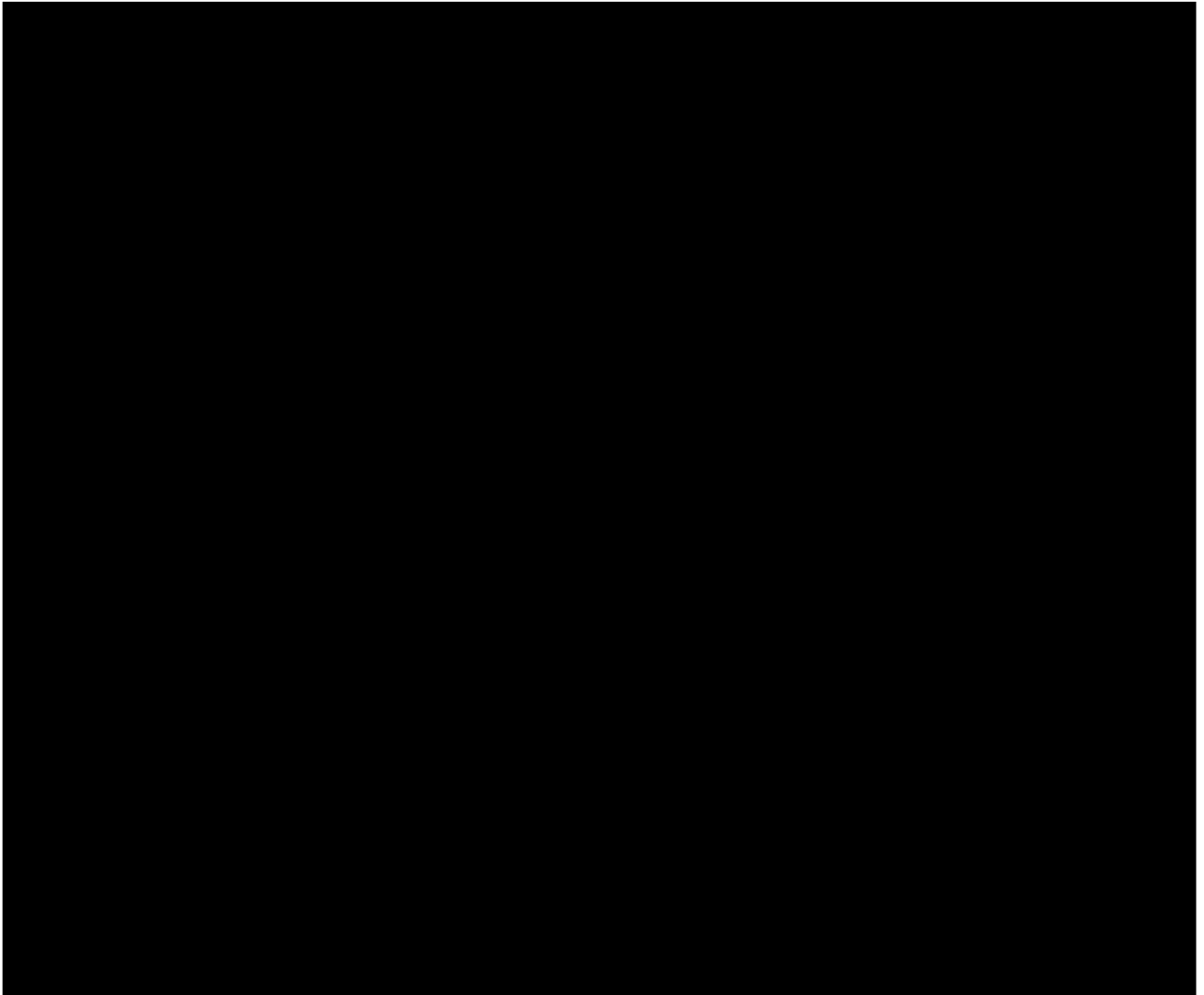
| Probable Involuntary Resettlement Effects   | Yes | No | Not Known | Remarks |
|---|-----|----|-----------|---------|
| activities?   |     |    |           |         |
| 12. Will access to land and resources owned communally or by the state be restricted?                     |     | √  |           |         |
| <b>Information on Displaced Persons:</b>  |     |    |           |         |
| <b>Any estimate of the likely number of persons that will be displaced by the Project? Not applicable</b> |     |    |           |         |
| If yes, approximately how many? ..... None<br>Not applicable  |     |    |           |         |
| <b>Are any of them poor, female-heads of households, or vulnerable to poverty risks? Not applicable</b>   |     |    |           |         |
| <b>Are any displaced persons from indigenous or ethnic minority groups? Not applicable</b>                |     |    |           |         |

#### D. COVID-19 Risk Screening for Involuntary Resettlement Impact Assessments

| Risk screening questions  | Yes | No | Not sure | Remarks   |
|---|-----|----|----------|---|
| 1. Will project preparation be affected by the inability of experts/consultants, to visit the project site because of the pandemic?   |     | √  |          | On-site consultations and field visits were undertaken during project processing. ADB staff, consultants and representatives from the EA and IA took part during the site visits. For future consultations, project consultants, EA and IA will ensure that the up-to-date COVID-19 health and safety protocols will be strictly observed during activities in the field. |
| 2. Is the project likely to face challenges in achieving meaningful consultation because of the pandemic? If yes, please clarify the types of consultations to be affected and at what stages in social safeguards planning and implementation. |     | √  |          |   |
| 3. Is the project likely to face challenges in preparing safeguards assessments/planning instruments and/or implementing social safeguards plans because of the pandemic? Please be as specific as you can in the remarks section.              |     | √  |          |   |
|   |     |    |          | It is envisaged that holding consultations will not face difficulty, particularly virtual and small group meetings and individual meetings. The PMU will ensure that consultations, meetings, focus group discussions, surveys and field visits to conduct safeguards activities, etc. will be undertaken with adherence to the latest COVID-19 protocols.                |

Note: The project team may attach additional information on the project, as necessary.

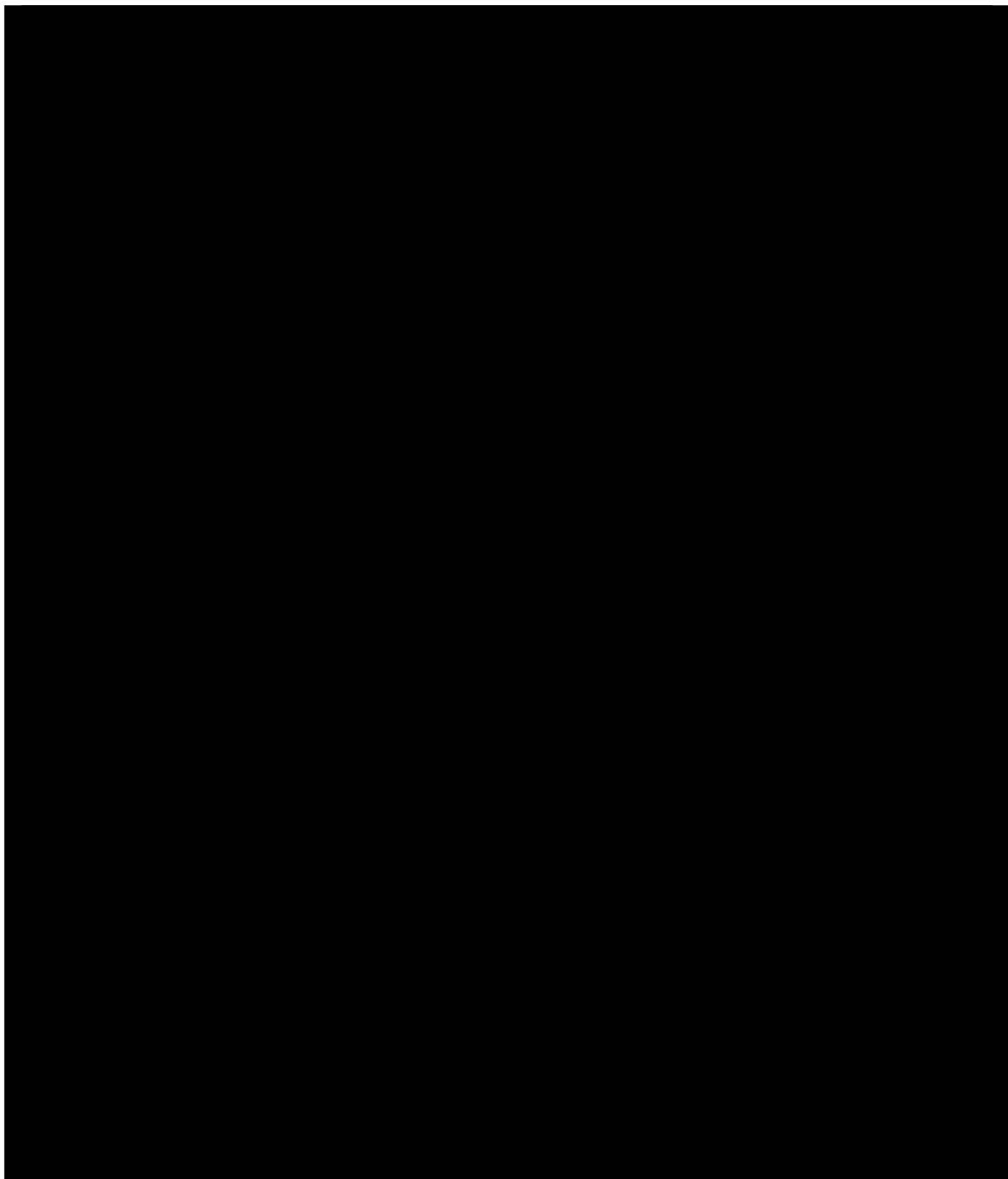
**Appendix 2: Land Ownership Document (Ungoofaaru DV/GBV Shelter)**



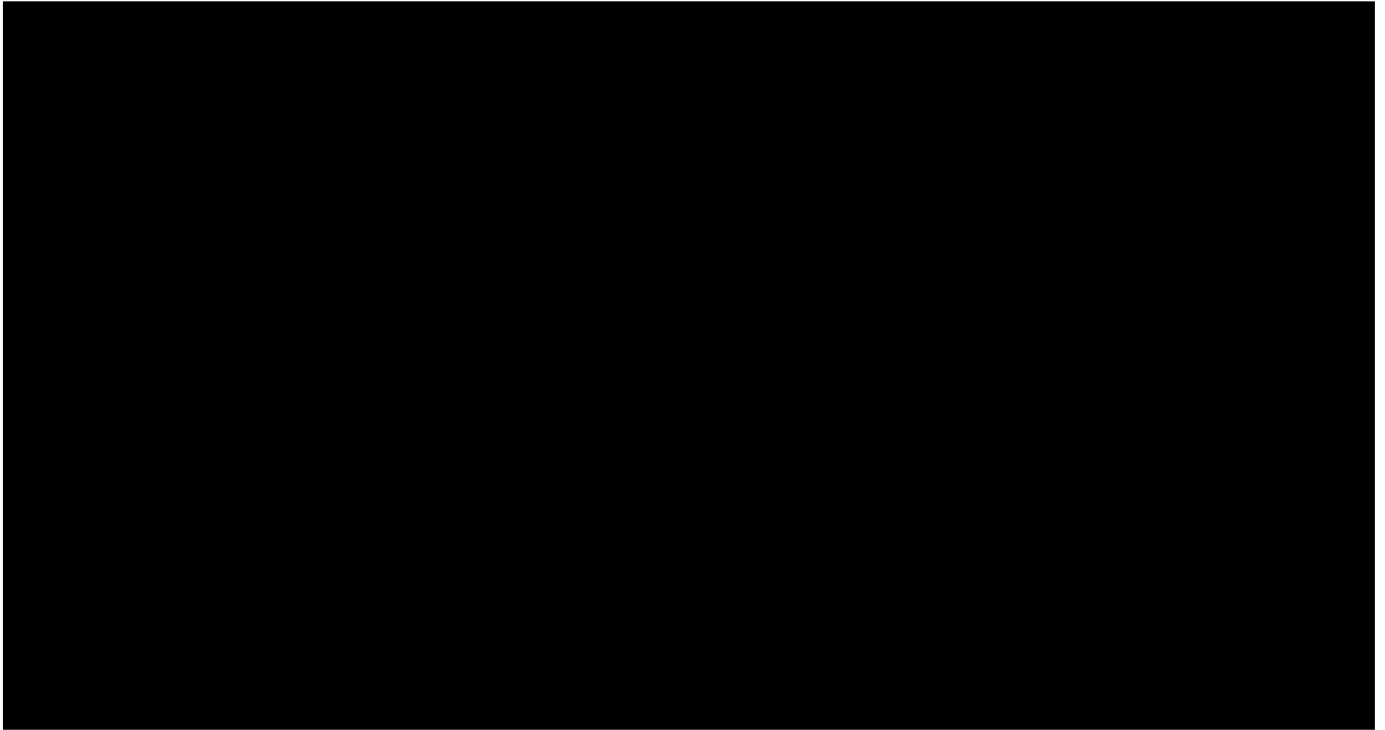
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<sup>6</sup> This information has been removed as it falls under the exception to disclosure in ADB's Access to Information Policy, para. 17.5.(x)



**Appendix 3: Field Visit Photos <sup>7</sup>**

<sup>7</sup> This information has been removed as it falls under the exception to disclosure in ADB's Access to Information Policy, para. 17.5.(x)



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<sup>8</sup> “[This information has been removed as it falls under the exception to disclosure in ADB’s Access to Information Policy, para. 17.5.(x)]”

## Appendix 4: Stakeholder Consultation

### 1. Ungoofaaru Council Meeting

Location: Secretariat of the ungoofaaru Council (Office)

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Time: 12:15 pm

- ADB local consultants briefed about the project and the purpose of the site visit, he said that this field visit will concentrate mainly on the output 5 of the project where development infrastructure is related. In this regard he said that under this component DB/GBV shelter will be constructed in the land plot allocated for MFGSS and asked if the council have any concerns or issues they may like to bring to the attention.
- The council said that this is a very welcome development for the island, and the only concern they have is the delay in taking physical construction work. To this ADB local consultant and MFGSS/PMU responded that the process of design and gathering documents and collecting necessary data is ongoing and tentatively the project can be contracted out early next year. At the moment the preparation of necessary documents for the bidding and preliminary concept development work is going on.
- The council reiterated its earlier commitment to give their utmost cooperation for the project and they think that this is an important issue not only for Ungoofaaru but also for the whole region. They also said that Ungoofaaru has very low crime rate and the island is extremely peaceful hence DV and GBV cases are handful on the Ungoofaaru Island but there might be more in the region.
- One of the concerns council raised is the issue of looking after the land plot and maintaining it orderly manner as people may dump garbage leave unwanted vehicles etc. They proposed MFGSS's help for the council to maintain the land plot. During the trip we noticed that the discarded vehicles were still lying there and raised the issues to the council and while we were there, they have now removed them from the land plot boundaries.
- According to council the first face of drainage and road development project in Ungoofaaru has already completed pending commissioning from MPH. All the road surrounding the land plot is not paved but according to the Council Road on the north of the plot boundary [REDACTED] will be paved in the second phase. The council is expecting commencement of second phase of road development project soon after the commissioning of the first phase.
- Ungoofaaru already has a sewerage network, house-to-house water network and electricity network. The council also provides door-to-door waste collection service for the island. All these services will be available for the facility once it's developed.

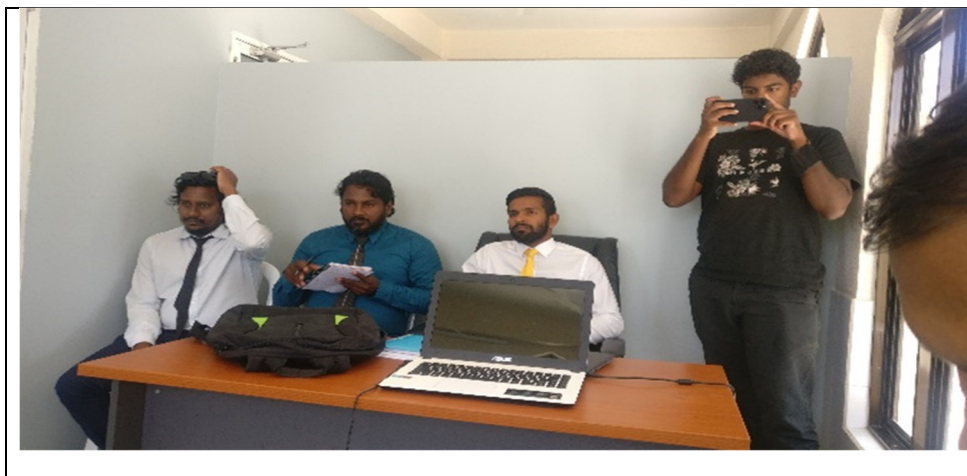
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<sup>9</sup> [This information has been removed as it falls under the exception to disclosure in ADB's Access to Information Policy, para. 17.5.(x)]"

- The council is in the view that the present location of DV/GBV shelter is good as it is surrounded by the residential areas. And they think that this will not impede the privacy of clients in the shelter but it will give a feeling that they are still within the community and among the community. They also suggested that the clients in the DV/GBV shelter should not feel that they are behind closed doors (jail like) and suggested that it should look into providing security not by raising the boundary walls and heavily guarded security in the compound.
- They also think that the DV/GBV shelter should consider in the design all the necessary facilities such as kitchen administrative office, security guard room, dining and recreational areas prayer rooms etc.

### Photographs of Council Meeting





Attendance sheet

**ATTENDANCE SHEET**

Meeting/Consultation: R. Ungoofaru Council Meeting

Date: 27/3/22 Time: 12:15

| #  | Name                       | Gender | Contact | Address                   | Signature   |
|----|----------------------------|--------|---------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 1  | Abdulla Rashed (President) | M      | 7793662 | Muraka / R. Ungoofaru     | [Signature] |
| 2  | Youshan Nuseem             | M      | 7848488 | 2efim / R. Ungoofaru      | [Signature] |
| 3  | <del>Mohamed Muneer</del>  | M      |         |                           |             |
| 4  | Thaha Hamel                | M      | 7924151 | Athamagge / R. Ungoofaru  | [Signature] |
| 5  | Ahmed Thauver              | M      | 9950996 | Thimelhuze / R. Ungoofaru | [Signature] |
| 6  | Mohamed Muneer             | M      | 7848426 | Munanz / R. Ungoofaru     | [Signature] |
| 7  | ISMAIL MURUSTID            | M      | 7826260 | Rinikuni - Hulhumale      | [Signature] |
| 8  | Sayyaf Ahmed Ashraf        | M      | 7911089 | G. Vaivani - Male'        | [Signature] |
| 9  | Mahmood Riza               | M      | 7890307 | ADB Consultant            | [Signature] |
| 10 | Mohamed Arif               | M      | 785277  | ADB Consultant            | [Signature] |
| 11 |                            |        |         |                           |             |
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## **2. Women's Development Committee Meeting**

Location: Secretariat of the Ungoofaaru Council (Office)

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Time: 1:15pm – 2:15pm

- ADB local consultants briefed about the project and the purpose of the site visit, he said that this field visit will concentrate mainly on the output 5 of the project where development infrastructure is related. In this regard he said that under this component DB/GBV shelter will be constructed in the land plot allocated for MFGSS and asked if the WDC have any concerns or issues they may like to bring to the attention.
- The WDC expressed their gratitude and excitement for this upcoming new project. And have concern they have is the delay in taking physical construction work. To this ADB local consultant and MFGSS/PMU responded that the process of design and gathering documents and collecting necessary data is ongoing and tentatively the project can be contracted out early next year. At the moment the preparation of necessary documents for the bidding and preliminary concept development work is going on.
- The WDC reiterated its earlier commitment to give their utmost cooperation for the project and they think that this is an important issue not only for Ungoofaaru but also for the whole region. WDC also expressed the importance of having an incident reporting mechanism that is designed in such a way that the victim can report discreetly.
- ADB National Consultants then informed and explained to the WDCs about the small-scale grant scheme opportunity which is being designed by the project.
- The WDC also requested to ensure that the victims feel safe at the shelter by arranging security at the shelter at all times. The ADB consultants answered that the shelter will not start operating without ensuring all necessary facilities and arrangements are in place.
- When asked about what their opinion is on the design of the DV/GBV shelter they mentioned that all the necessary facilities such as kitchen, security guard room, administrative office, dining and recreational areas, prayer rooms etc. to be included. Also, they expressed the importance of having access to and arrangements for children of DV victims while they are there. Furthermore the WDC reiterated that they would give their utmost cooperation for the project and they think that this is a very important project for the whole region.



### Photographs of WDC Meeting



## Attendance Sheet

## ATTENDANCE SHEET

Meeting/Consultation: Meeting with Women's Development Committee

Date: 27/3/22

Time: 13:00

| #  | Name                         | Gender | Contact  | Address                   | Signature          |
|----|------------------------------|--------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1  | Nazrana Hussain (Consultant) | F      | 7667690  | Najaf Rana Ungooferu      | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 2  | Maryam Nadeem                | F      | 7597562  | Toblines / Rana Ungooferu | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 3  | Shahina Nadeem               | F      | 7909881  | Aafas / Rana Ungooferu    | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 4  | Mizra Fiaz                   | F      | 7621250  | Faza / Rana Ungooferu     | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 5  | Ammar Baily                  | F      | 7349553  | Zilkyhan / Rana Ungooferu | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 6  | Ahmed Thameer                | F      | 7650996  | Thameer / Rana Ungooferu  | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 7  | Mohamed Asif                 | M      | 77785277 | POB Consultant            | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 8  |                              |        |          |                           |                    |
| 9  |                              |        |          |                           |                    |
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### **3. Stakeholder Meeting with Civil Society Organizations**

Location: Office of Jamiyyathussaif

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Time: 2:30pm-4:30pm

- Before the meeting started all participants were introduced and ADB national consultants briefed about the project and the purpose of the site visit, he said that this field visit will concentrate mainly on the output 5 of the project where development infra structure is related. In this regard he said that under this component DB/GBV shelter will be constructed in the land plot allocated for MFGSS and asked if the council have any concerns or issues they may like to bring to the attention.
- The CSOs expressed their gratitude and excitement for this upcoming new project. And have concern they have is the delay in taking physical construction work. To this ADB local consultant responded that the process of design and gathering documents and collecting necessary data is ongoing and tentatively the project can be contracted out early next year. And mentioned that works are ongoing to prepare necessary documents for the bidding and concept development.
- The CSOs then expressed further concerns regarding the lack of involvement of CSOs in development projects in the Island. And thanked the ADB for involving them in the design stage of this project. The ADB national consultant expressed his appreciation for the remarkable works conducted by all CSOs in the Island and advised the CSOs to continue their valuable service to the community.
- ADB National Consultants then informed an explained to the CSOs about the small-scale grant scheme opportunity which is being designed by the project.
- The CSOs mentioned that they would give their utmost cooperation for the project and they think that this is an important issue not only for Ungoofaaru but also for the whole region.

### Photographs of CSO meeting



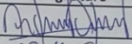
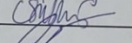
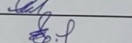
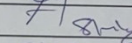
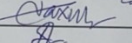
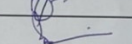
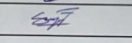


## Attendance Sheet

### ATTENDANCE SHEET

Meeting/Consultation: Meeting with Civil Service Organizations

Date: 27/3/22

Time: 13:30

| #  | Name               | Gender | Contact | Address           | Signature   |
|----|--------------------|--------|---------|-------------------|---|
| 1  | MUHAMMAD HAMMED    | MALE   | 7909880 | JamiyyaMusaif.    |  |
| 2  | GHUZZAR KASSAN     | "      | 7556336 | "                 |  |
| 3  | Khaled Shaleeq     | "      | 9819137 | CYS               |  |
| 4  | M. M. Malik        | "      | 9881370 | CYS               |  |
| 5  | Thaha Hussain      | M      | 9999854 | UFAA              |  |
| 6  | Hassan Fazeel      | male   | 7609567 | USAA              |  |
| 7  | Mahmood Rigan      | M      | 789037  | ADB Consultant.   |  |
| 8  | Mohamed Asif       | M      | 7785277 | ADB Consultant    |  |
| 9  | Sayyaf Ahmed Asraf | M      | 7711089 | Planning Ministry |  |
| 10 |                    |        |         |                   |   |
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#### 4. Public Consultation / Meetings with nearby residents and workers

- The proposed Ungoofaaru DV/GBV Shelter site is located around the center of the island and have some residential houses on the eastern side of the site. Consultations were conducted separately for nearby households on 27<sup>h</sup> March 2022.
- Participants were briefed about the project, its objectives, scope of works and the Grievance Redress Mechanism. Everyone consulted expressed their gratitude and excitement for this project.
- All participants were informed about possible sound and dust pollution which may occur in the construction phase however they mentioned that they understood that any construction work would have pollution issues around the vicinity of the site, and they would have no issues about it and said that any sort of project on their island is welcomed as they were interested in the development of the island. Participants were informed about the grievance redress mechanism of the project.
- One participant asked about the incident reporting and how discreet the process is. They were informed that the project will ensure that the victims or relatives can report discreetly, and the reporting process and operational aspects will be designed and prepared by experts in the field and will be shared with the community at the project implementation stage.
- Another participant asked about the security of the shelter and if victims will be safe in there. They were assured that the facility will be designed in a way that all the victims will be safe inside and that there will be security guards working 24/7 and the staff at the shelter will make sure of this too.

#### Photographs of consultations with residents







#### 4.1. Second Ungoofaaru Council Meeting

Location: Secretariat of the Ungoofaaru Council (Office)

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022

Time: 2:00 pm

##### **Summary of discussion Island Council**

Objectives of the meeting:

1. To present an overview of Strengthening Gender Inclusive Initiatives (SGII project
2. To present an overview of the planned climate resilient DV/GBV shelter in R. Ugoofaaru
3. To discuss and receive input on some of the key programmatic areas related to DV/GBV shelters and SGII project areas

The President of the Council and members welcomed the Mission and acknowledged the importance and need of the DV/GBV Shelter for the Island. He emphasized the need to spread awareness on DV/GBV not only amongst the women but also the men need to be sensitized.

The President stated that Raa Atoll has the Regional Hospital for which people from the surrounding islands come. The DV/GBV shelter will be easily accessible to people in the surrounding island.

The President of WDC emphasized that there is a need of awareness to make people understand what domestic violence is. She said most people who are abused do not understand that they are being subject to domestic/gender violence.

The Council stated that they have been engaging with the CSOs on the shelter and have their support for the facility. Similarly, the police will be informed on the facility and to safe access to

those wishing to come to the shelter. The council mentioned that they will engage with the CSOs to create awareness on DV/GBV. The President mentioned that the Council will take ownership of the project.

#### **4.2. Summary of discussion with Women's Development Committee**

**Time and Date:** 15.00 to 16.45, 31 May 2022, Tuesday

##### **Summary of discussions:**

- Athifa Ibrahim, National Gender consultant, gave a presentation with an overview of the project Strengthening Gender Inclusive Initiatives (SGII), Theory of Change, processing timeline, briefing the consultations that have been carried out thus far, and the technical details of the proposed DV/GBV shelter, including the program, design principals, and staffing etc. She further briefed on the proposed partnerships for DV/GBV and the small grants mechanism.
- The island council and the Ugoofaaruu community had a slight mis-understanding on the scope of the proposed DV/GBV shelter, as the official names for children's home and DV/GBV shelters adopted by MGFSS in Dhivehi has some similarities. Hence, State Minister Shihab and DG Leena further clarified that under the proposed ADB project: SGII, the shelter established will be a DV/GBV shelter in line with the scope and technical program that has been presented.

##### **Key decisions and Action points**

##### **Geographical coverage of DV/GBV shelter**

- How will women access the shelter from other islands in the atoll? What will be the challenges and how can these be overcome?

Ugoofaaruu Island has a regional hospital that is planned to be upgraded to a tertiary facility, there is an existing ferry system whereby people from the neighbouring islands of Raa Atoll and R atoll region (N atoll, Raa atoll, Baa atoll and Lhaviyani atoll) together with a population of 68,000 access the health facility. At the moment there are regular transport ferries available every Saturday and Thursday with an average hospital visit of 500 individuals. As Raa Ugoofaaruu is strategically located with existing transport networks, women from other islands will be able to access.

- How will the Island Council and WDC in Ungafaroo coordinate with the other councils and WDCs in Raa Atoll to support awareness of the shelter and coordinate access? Is there a mechanism for this, are there challenges and opportunities for the project to be aware of?
- FCSC located in Raa atoll Dhuvaaafaru has recently conducted awareness programs on Gender Equality Action Plan. Island Council and WDC of Ugoofaaruu can coordinate with FCSC and run awareness programs of the shelter. R atoll IBAMA has been established and through IBAMA also awareness of the shelter can be coordinated. IBAMA or Community Social Groups (CSGs) is a multi-sectoral support mechanism formed at the community level for prevention and responding to violence against children and other vulnerable groups. As such IBAMA focuses on providing protection for the vulnerable children, elderly, people with disabilities, women and men. Under the IBAMA concept

State authorities such as MGFSS, Local Councils, Local Government Authority, WDCs work together holistically, as a cohesive group, for the social protection of each community. MGFSS with the technical assistance of UNICEF Maldives has been working on the operationalization of the IBAMA concept at island level, orientation and capacity development of the members to assist in carrying out the tasks and responsibilities in the protection of the vulnerable groups.

- The shelter will include a local multisector oversight mechanism to 'oversee and enable the functioning of each shelter, and support coordination and leveraging of local resources. It is expected that the new body will include City/Island Council, local Health Board, police, MGFSS, and FPA. The ToR and membership to be finalized by MGFSS during implementation.
  - What are your perspectives from the council and WDC on your participation? Do you foresee any challenges/issues; e.g. should the committee include other councils/WDCs in the atoll?
  - Local council and WDC expressed interest to participate in the local governance oversight committee. They also expressed that it will be useful to find a mechanism to involve other institutions such as hospital and schools other councils from the region.

### **Linkages with FCSC, health and police**

- How does FCSC connect and work with Ungafaroo council and WDC? What will be the issues in terms of referral between the referral hospital and the shelter?

R atoll FCSC has a good working relationship with Ugoofaaru council and WDC. They have collaborated in the past to raise awareness and jointly work together on social issues for the betterment of R atoll island communities. They don't foresee any issues in terms of referral between the hospital and the shelter. If properly communicated and official referral mechanism can be established with the shelter there will be smooth referral.

Police: how are police and council and WDC currently working in coordination on DV/GBV and family protection. Are there some good working relationships to build on or issues to be aware of?

It was highlighted that a very good working relationship already exists with the police and FCSC and other sectors. At the moment also the police helps on DV/GBV cases, and with the planned shelter, and planned capacity building and awareness raising activities this relationship can be further nurtured and strengthened. A concern was raised on the safety of travel of women survivors from other islands in Raa atoll to the shelter through established public transport (ferries and speed boats). It was suggested that in such highly sensitive cases police security can be sought for protection of the survivor.

### **Women and adolescent girl empowerment program**

- Your perspectives on the planned program.

- How many women and adolescent girls are in Ungafaroo? Is it feasible to think that women and girls from other parts of atoll could join? Are there any similar activities or programs, any experience to learn from or programs to coordinate with them?

R. Ungoofaaru has a registered population of about 3000, with over 1500 women. When the program is established in coordination with island councils and WDCs it will be feasible to expand the program to women and girls from other islands. There are no similar activities at the moment.

Any problems/issues that stakeholders foresee. E.g., will women and girls be allowed to participate? Will they need family permission, how can WDCs and councils facilitate this? Any suggestions on factors to make this more attractive and successful?

Women and girls will be allowed to participate. WDC and council expressed their commitment to coordinating with FCSC and the shelter in raising awareness and facilitating a conducive environment to run the program. Specifically, the president of the Ugoofaaru council expressed that under his leadership, he will facilitate a conducive environment for this to foster.

- Vocational skills training: any MoED/Job Centre activities in Ungafaroo or Raa Atoll? Any experience or challenges to bear in mind.

There is a job center established in Ugoofaaru. But at the moment not sure of the programs that are being run.

- Is there any risk that the focus on women and girls will lead to any backlash in the community? How can council and WDC help to manage and counter this?

FCSC felt that there might be a risk that the exclusive focus on women might have a backlash in the community. Even with the ongoing gender related initiatives, some community members especially men have a pre-conceived notion that any program organized by MGFSS and FCSC are solely targeting women. An example was shared by FCSC, with the recent meetings held at the islands on the roll out of the Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) 2022-2026, some men who attended the meetings at the very initial stage have shown disinterest. However, when FCSC was able to convey the message and the plan to come up with a local island level work plan to implement the GEAP with targeted activities for men and women, girls and boys, island communities have shown their interest and commitment to coordinate with the FCSC and work together. MGFSS in this regard, shared that the ministry has plans to introduce targeted programs for men and boys in the near future. Hence, once the DV/GBV shelter comes into operation, there will be other parallel tracks of programs for male engagement as well.

#### **Output 4: partnerships**

- Do you think there will be interest in the small grants scheme and partnerships? Which CSOs are active in Ungafaroo? How is council and WDC currently working with CSOs? What is the experience? Do you think CSOs will be interested to work with Output 4 on partnerships?

There will definitely be interest for such a small grants program. There are active CSOs in Ugoofaaru as well as many active CSOs in some islands in Raa atoll such Dhuvaafaru



and Meedhoo. These CSOs will definitely be interested to work on this. The biggest challenge is usually the funding. If small grants are disbursed many CSOs will express interest to partner on such causes.

- Is IBAMA active in Ungafaroo and/or Raa Atoll? What is the experience? How do councils/WDCs think CSGs can engage and work with the shelter and CSOs?  
IBAMA has been established in Ugoofaaru. They can be part of the local oversight multi-sectoral committee of the shelter and works towards prevention of violence and be the focal points for coordination and advocacy related work.

### Photographs of Island Council and WDC Meeting



## Attendance Sheet

### Raa Ugoofaaru Island Council and WDC Meeting

| Name                | Designation                             | Office         |
|---------------------|---|----------------|
| Mahmood Riyaz       | Environmental; Safeguard ADB (Local)    | ADB            |
| Rupa Banerjee       | Social Safeguard                        | ADB            |
| Matteo Mode         | Climate Change Specialist               | ADB            |
| Sanobar Durani      | Environmental Safeguard (international) | ADB            |
| Achutya Rao         | Environmental Safeguard                 | ADB            |
| Sayyaf Ahmed Ashraf | Engineer                                | MPHI           |
| Mohamed Shihab      | State Minister                          | MFGSS          |
| Ismail Murshid      | Project Architect (local)               | MFGSS PMU      |
| Fatima Leena        | Director General                        | MFGSS          |
| Charlene Liau       | Project Manager                         | ADB            |
| Athifa Ibrahim      | Gender Specialist (local)               | ADB            |
| Aminath Nazlee      | Member WDC                              | Ungoofaaru WDC |
| Miznaa Firaq        | Member WDC                              | Ungoofaaru WDC |
| Nazimaa Hussain     | Member WDC                              | Ungoofaaru WDC |
| Ahmed Fasah         | Senior Social Service Officer (FCSC)    | FCSC           |
| Mariyam Hassna      | Vice President WDC                      | Ungoofaaru WDC |
| Aishath Labeena     | Council Secretary General               | Island Council |
| Nazeeraa Rasheed    | Council Member                          | Island Council |
| Youshau Naeem       | Vice president Ungoofaaru Council       | Island Council |
| Abdulla Rasheed     | President Ungoofaaru Council            | Island Council |
| Ahmed Fayaz         | Council Office                          | Island Council |

Attendance Sheet 31st May 2022

Meeting Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Venue: \_\_\_\_\_

| Name             | Designation                       | Office         | Signature |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Mahmood Riyaz    | Environmental Safeguard           | ADB            |           |
| MATTEO MODE      | CLIMATE CHANGE SPEC               | ADB            |           |
| Achutya Rao      | ENV. SPECIALIST                   | ADB            |           |
| Ismail Murshid   | PROJECT ARCHITECT                 | PMU - MFGSS    |           |
| Charlene Liau    | PROJECT MANAGER                   | ADB            |           |
| Athifa Ibrahim   | GENDER SPECIALIST                 | ADB            |           |
| Aminath Nazlee   | WDC MEMBER                        | Ungoofaaru WDC |           |
| Miznaa Firaq     | WDC MEMBER                        | Ungoofaaru WDC |           |
| Nazimaa Hussain  | WDC MEMBER                        | Ungoofaaru WDC |           |
| Ahmed Fasah      | SENIOR SOCIAL SERVICE OFFICER     | FCSC           |           |
| Mariyam Hassna   | VICE PRESIDENT WDC                | Ungoofaaru WDC |           |
| Aishath Labeena  | COUNCIL SECRETARY GENERAL         | Island Council |           |
| Nazeeraa Rasheed | COUNCIL MEMBER                    | Island Council |           |
| Youshau Naeem    | VICE PRESIDENT Ungoofaaru Council | Island Council |           |
| Abdulla Rasheed  | PRESIDENT Ungoofaaru Council      | Island Council |           |
| Ahmed Fayaz      | COUNCIL OFFICE                    | Island Council |           |