

Land Acquisition and Resettlement Due Diligence Report

October 2022

Maldives: Strengthening Gender Inclusive Initiatives Project

Hithadhoo Domestic- and Gender-Based Violence Shelter, Addu 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
FCSC	-	Family and Children Service Center
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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IV. 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.

V. 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 (EA) is the Ministry of Finance, and the Lead Implementing Agency (IA) 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. This will be 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

Subproject	Proposed location
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 component proposed at Addu City under output 5 which is the Domestic Violence / Gender Based Violence (DV/GBV) Shelter proposed at Hithadhoo. The scope of this report is limited to the proposed civil works for construction of DV/GBV Shelter on the island of Hithadhoo, Addu City. This due diligence report (DDR) is prepared based on the information available from several documents and field visit to Hithadhoo Island. 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.

VI. LOCATION AND STUDY AREA

9. The Hithadhoo DV/GBV Shelter is located in the Addu City. Hithadhoo Island is located on the North-West corner of the atoll and is connected to Maradhoo, Maradhoo-Feydhoo, Feydhoo and Gan through the link road. The northern part of Hithadhoo is a Nature Park which is a Mangrove area. Addu is also declared as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve since 2020.

According to the Census 2014 data, Addu City had a population of 21,275 persons and Hithadhoo Island had a population of 11,129 persons.

Figure 1: Location of Hithadhoo in Addu City



Source: Google Earth

A. Proposed project

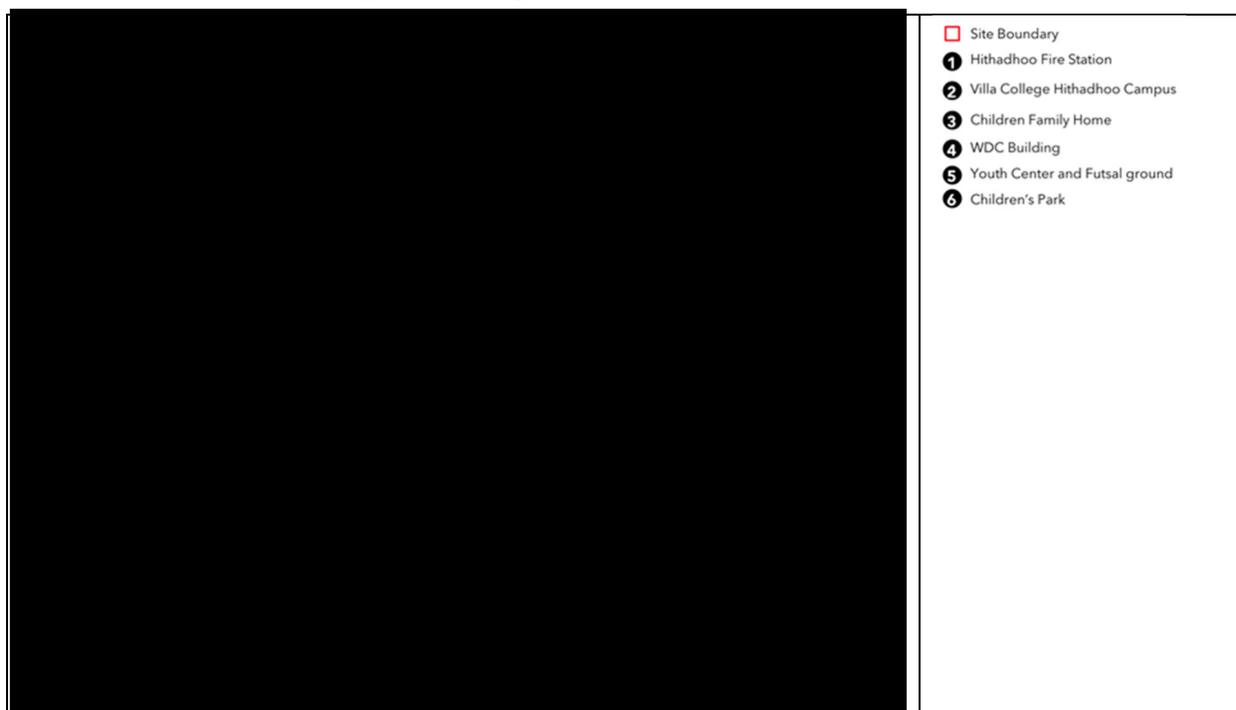
10. The council has identified and allocated a site for the DV/GBV Shelter around the center of the island. The Ministry of Gender Family and Social Services with the financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank proposes to build a DV/GBV shelter on the land proposed by the Addu City Council. The size of the proposed site is 21,032.66 sq. ft. The plot coordinates are:

[REDACTED] The proposed land was previously used as the [REDACTED] for Hithadhoo. However, the Court was relocated, and the existing structures were demolished and cleared by the City Council. The site is surrounded by different buildings [REDACTED]

[REDACTED].¹ The western side is a residential area with few inhabited houses. Figures below shows the location of the site.

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

Figure 2: Proposed location of DV/GBV Shelter²



B. Components of the proposed project

11. The project proposes to construct a new DV/GBV Shelter in Hithadhoo Island. This shelter will provide 20 accommodation units for the victims of DV/GBV from Addu city. 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. It will also provide vocational and life skills training for clients.

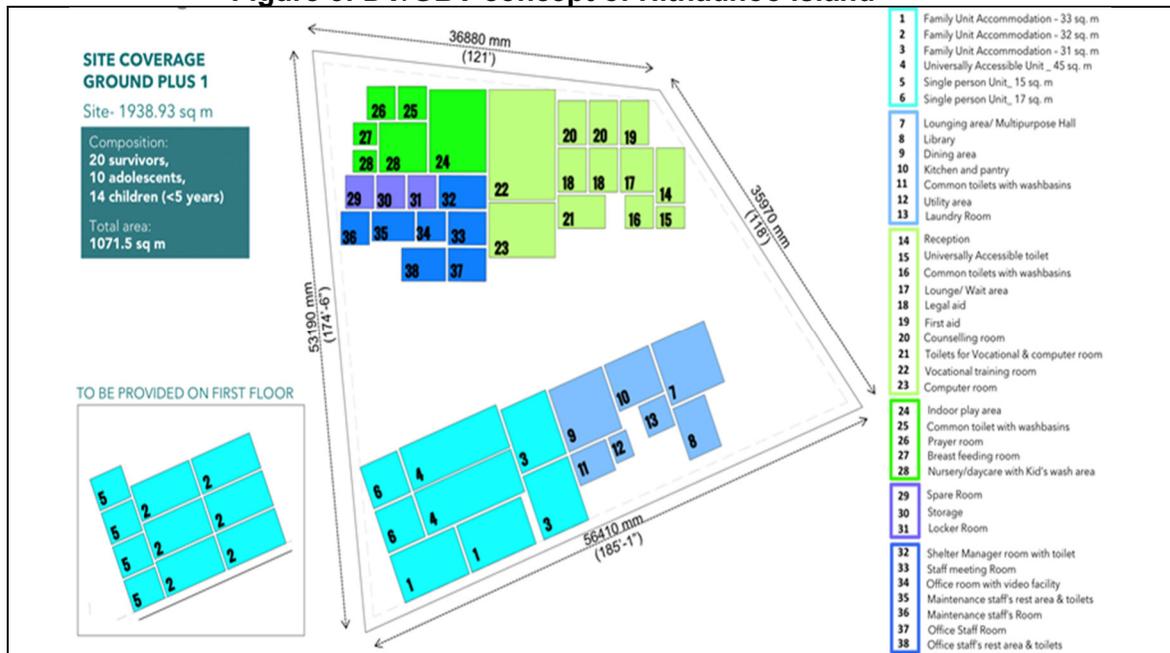
12. The DV/GBV shelter proposed for Hithadhoo will have the following components.

- (i) Public Zone with drop in and common services
- (ii) Semi Public Zone with indoor study/play area, daycare rooms, breast feeding rooms etc.
- (iii) Private Zone with accommodation, services, kitchen and office areas.

13. The following figure shows the main components of the proposed DV/GBV shelter in Hithadhoo.

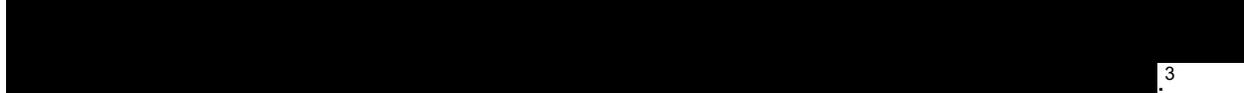
² [This information has been removed as it falls under the exception to disclosure in ADB's Access to Information Policy, para. 17.5.(x)]

Figure 3: DV/GBV concept of Hithadhoo Island



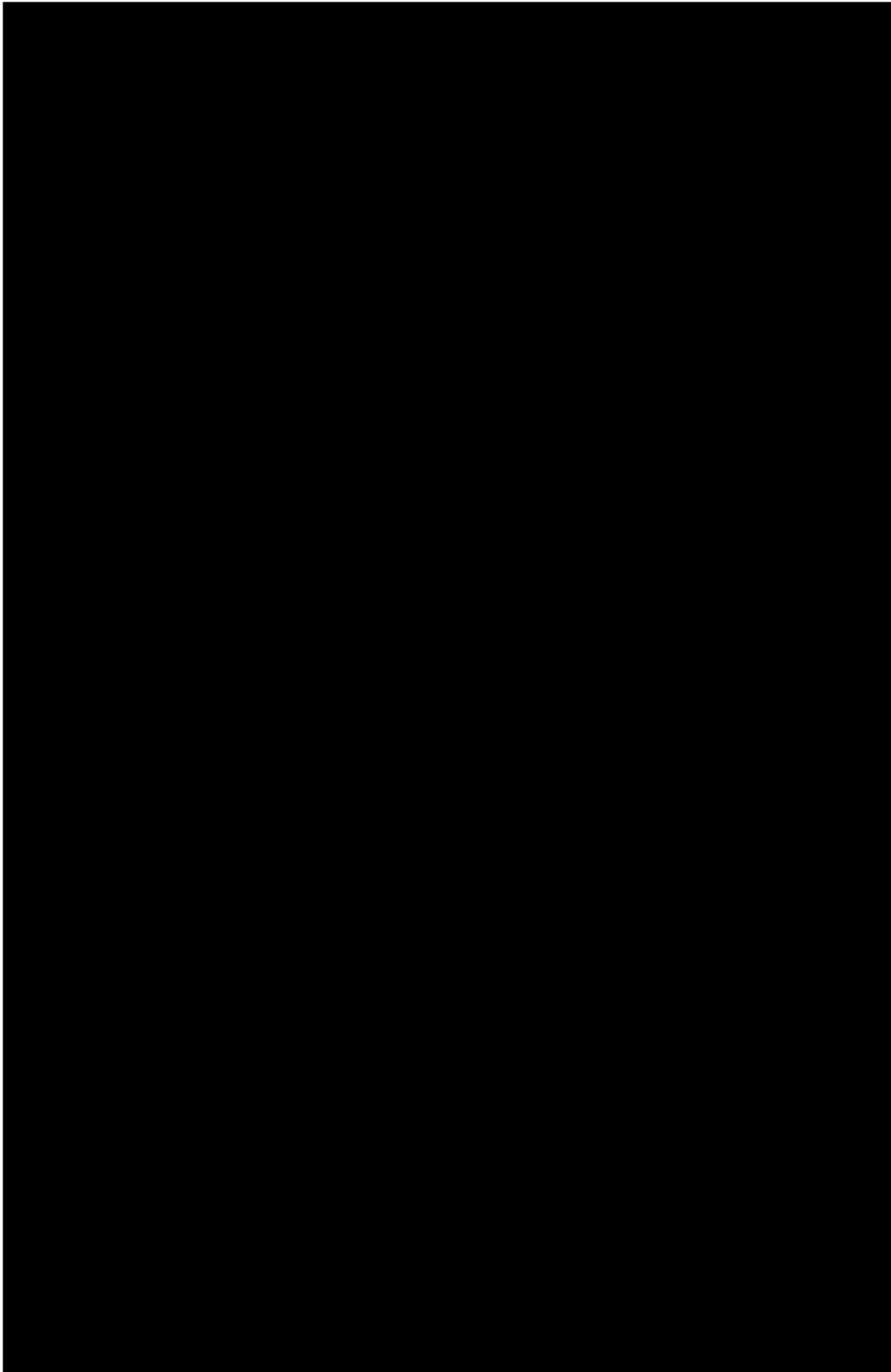
C. Access Road

14. There are three roads adjacent to the site,



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



⁴ [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

15. The proposed location of Hithadhoo 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 Hithadhoo 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

16. The scope of the land acquisition and involuntary resettlement is assessed based on the site visit reports, consultations and in consideration of the design and site location. The photographs of the location and site visit are given in **Appendix 3**.

17. The Hithadhoo DV/GBV Shelter will be constructed on vacant and unused land, owned by the Government of Maldives. The Hithadhoo land plots were issued to the MGFSS. Meaning the land plot is now registered under the Ministry of Gender Family and Social Services (MGFSS) name. The Land Registry document is attached in the **Appendix 2**. No private land acquisition is therefore envisaged for the implementation of the proposed project component.

VII. SITE VISITS AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

18. ADB Mission along with officials from MNPHI and MGFSS visited the site on 12th -13th March 2022 and 1st -3rd June 2022.

19. Consultations took place between ADB staff, representatives of MNPHI and MGFSS and representatives of the island council and WDC 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. Meeting was held with the Family and Children's Service Centre, which is adjoining the proposed site, to understand how the enter works and what is the scope to make it symbiotic with the DV/GBV shelter. Proceeding's of the meetings, attendance sheets and photographs are given in **Appendix 4**.

Table 2: Summary of Consultations

Date	Venue	Participants	Summary of discussions
13/03/2022	Addu City Council Office	Total: 18 Male: 13 Female: 5	Concern regarding the Day Care concept; priority should be on permanent Aged / Elderly Care facility rather than Day Care" Hithadhoo ⁵ site in general gets flooded during episodes of heavy precipitation.

⁵ “[This information has been removed as it falls under the exception to disclosure in ADB's Access to Information Policy, para. 17.5.(x)]”

Date	Venue	Participants	Summary of discussions
13/03/2022	WDC meeting	Total: 12 Male: 5 Female: 7	WDC stressed on the importance of a long-term residential facility for Elderly Care
02/06/2022	Addu City Council Office	Total: 18 Male: 13 Female:5	Discussion on the confirmation of design, flooding impacts, involving the CSOs in awareness creation, functioning of the facility
02/06/2022	Women's Development Committee meeting	Total: 10 Male: 3 Female:7	WDC discussion focussed on the cases of DV/GBV, the need of awareness creation. The WDC stressed the need for and importance of the shelter to address DV/GBV in the island.
01/06/2002	Family and Children Services Center	Total: 14 Male: 7 Female:7	Discussed what services the centre provided and the opportunity for the MGFSS to blend some of the resourcing of the DV/GBV shelter and accommodation block (amaan veshi – children's home), such as security staff and the shelter management position. Whether also the boundary wall of the DV/GBV shelter can be constructed with scope for a section to be removed and repurposed allowing easier access between the two sites.

A. Public Consultation / Meetings with nearby residents and workers

20. The proposed Hithadhoo DV/GBV Shelter site is located around the center of the island and have some residential houses on the western side of the site. Consultations were conducted separately for nearby households on 13 March 2022.

21. 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. A couple of participants mentioned that they understood that any construction work would have sound pollution and dust 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. One participant asked about the project start date and another asked about the project duration. All questions were answered by the team.

Figure 5: Consultations carried out with nearby by households





VIII. CONCLUSION

22. No involuntary resettlement impacts are anticipated due to the proposed civil works for Hithadhoo 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 Hithadhoo DV/GBV Shelter

Location	Component	Land Ownership (Gov./Private)	DV/GBV Shelter Land Area	Existing Land Use	Potential Involuntary Resettlement Impact
Hithadhoo ⁶	DV/GBV Shelter	Government land. Land now owned by MGFSS	21,032.66 ft ²	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 Addu City Council. No land acquisition and involuntary resettlement impacts due to the project are anticipated.

B. Next Step

The DDR will be updated based on the final detailed design. Additional public consultation details will be included.

⁶ “[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 1: Hithadhoo DV/GBV Involuntary Resettlement Impact Screening Checklist

Probable Involuntary Resettlement Effects	Yes	No	Not Known	Remarks
Involuntary Acquisition of Land				
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
Involuntary restrictions on land use or on access to legally designated parks and protected areas				
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 activities?		√		
12. Will access to land and resources owned communally or by the state be restricted?		√		
Information on Displaced Persons:				
Any estimate of the likely number of persons that will be displaced by the Project? Not applicable				
If yes, approximately how many? none Not applicable				
Are any of them poor, female-heads of households, or vulnerable to poverty risks? Not applicable				
Are any displaced persons from indigenous or ethnic minority groups? Not applicable				

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.

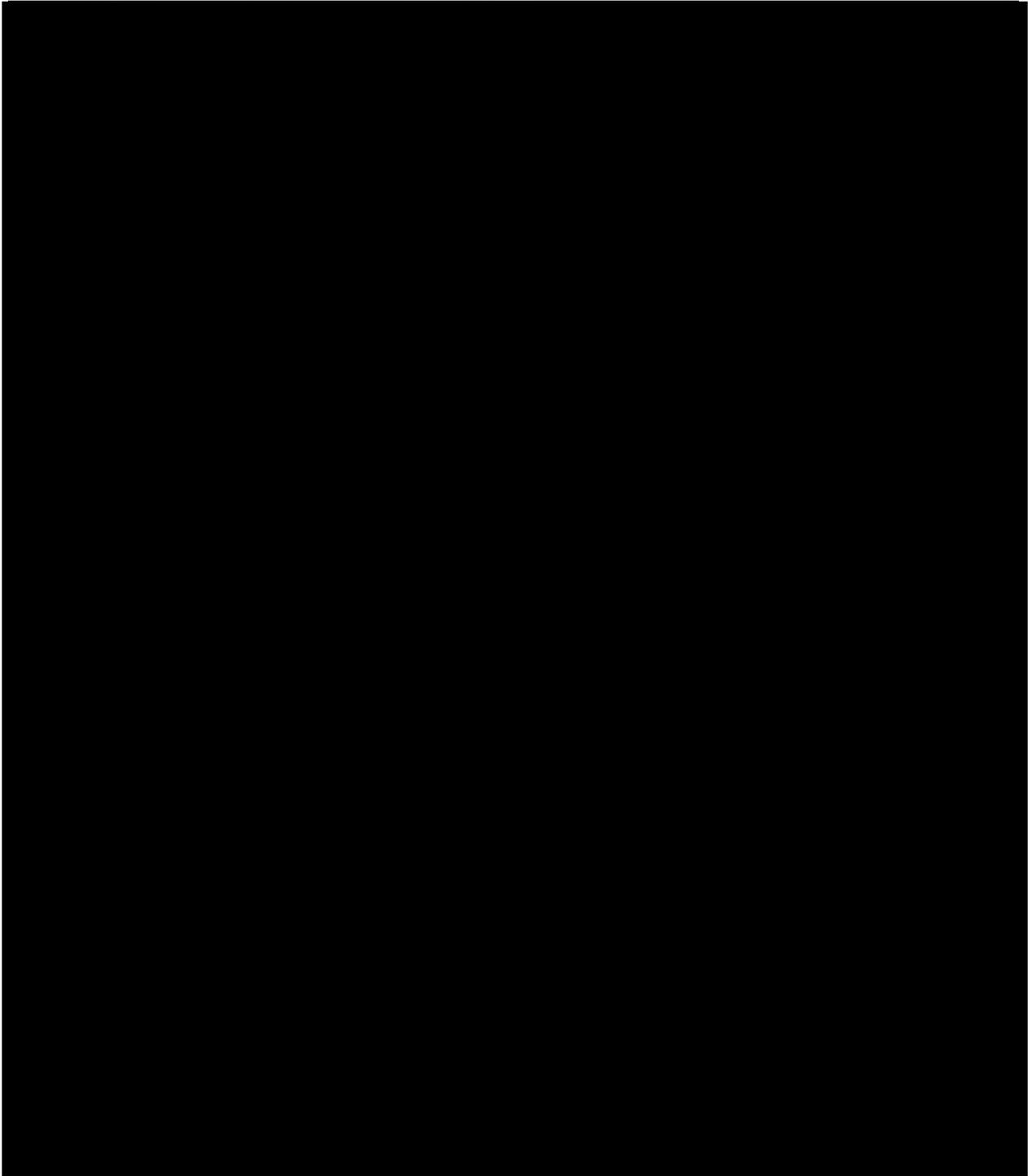
Appendix 2: Land Ownership Record (Hithadhoo DV/GBV Shelter)

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

⁸Appendix 3: Field Visit Photos (Hithadhoo DV/GBV Shelter)



⁸ [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 Consultations

1. Addu City Council Meeting

Location: Secretariat of the Addu City Council (Office)

Date: 13th March 2022

Time: 10:30am

ADB Project officer (Charlene) made a presentation to the Addu City Council including the Dy Mayor and other members of the Addu City Council and representatives of Ministry of Gender and National Planning. All outputs under MLD SGII were discussed with corresponding responsibilities and implementation arrangements. The timelines for grant processing were also discussed with emphasis on abiding with the proposed schedule.

Virtually present ADB consultants – Camilla and Justine (aged care specialists)

Island council representative (Adala): expressed concern regarding the Day Care concept; priority should be on permanent Aged / Elderly Care facility rather than Day Care. Also, building a Day Care Center in Feydhoo may not be practical since the population is largely concentrated in Hithadhoo.

ADB (Charlene) expressed that a long-term policy / strategy approach may be thought of that emphasized long term residential care.

The Dy Mayor suggested that the Aged / Elderly Care Center can operate 5 days a week; that there is a demand for such a Center, but Day Care is a new concept and transportation is an issue. Therefore, we need to come to a consensus on where to establish such a Center.

Questions on how the concept may be promoted were posed to the meeting participants by ADB Consultant (Camilla)

Island council representative (Adala): expressed that this is a new concept in the area; therefore, all stakeholders must work hand in hand to promote the concept among the local community and relevant stakeholders such as engagement and dialogue with primary care givers to the Aged / Elderly, employing the use of social media, conducting in person or focus group discussions, engagement with school heads, Council, health centers / hospitals.

Concerns were raised (Akram, PMU MGFSS) regarding the location of the proposed Aged / Elderly Day Care center specifically to the lack of access to associated infrastructure, e.g., health care centers, recreational activities, transportation network, etc. 50% of the Aged / Elderly persons have diabetics, hyper-tension – some requiring dialysis; hence it is important to have access to health care.

ADB Consultant (Camilla) stressed on the need to ensure that there are established linkages between existing services with the proposed Aged / Elderly Care Center as well (Saswati) build a care ecosystem that not only provides care to Aged / Elderly but also enables outreach.

State Minister elaborated on the proposed three components: Aged / Elderly Day Care Center, Aged Community Center, and Other Services (on total 30,000 sq.ft land allocation); and on building a “care ecosystem”.

Fenaka (utility provider) said that they have already started some network connections in the tourism development zone; and the same can be extended to the Aged / Elderly Care Center. Sewerage, water supply, electricity UG cables – envisioned in six months’ time from March 2022. Fenaka will provide general schematic of the network connections after a request is placed by the PMU including the acknowledgement letter for provision of services to the said subproject sites.

It is understood (Dy Mayor) that the Hithadhoo site in general gets flooded during episodes of heavy precipitation; There is an existing plan for implementing a stormwater drainage network by end of the year 2022.

Island Council representative (Adala) mentioned that there is a need to empower local NGOs through workshops and /or financial incentives as such these aspects need to be discussed with the Dy Mayor.

ADB consultant (Seetha) required the Ministry representatives for the fire codes as relevant to MLD; 750 mm setback is typical but we need SOPs for evacuation, ERPs, etc. Concept design will be provided, with preliminary costing to be provided by the PMU MNPHI.

PMU MGFSS (Muru) indicated that the building permit is issued by the Island council/ Housing Development Corporation (HDC) while the Structural and engineering approach is conducted by the design engineer.

Signed Attendance Sheets

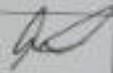

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 Addu City Council

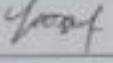
MEETING ATTENDANCE SHEET

Date: 13 March 2022 Start time: 10:30 AM
 Location: Addu City Council Finish time: 12:30 PM

Topic: SG11 PROJECT,
 Hithadhoo CV, Feydhoo ACC

Attendee Details:

#	NAME	ORGANIZATION	DESIGNATION	SIGN
1	M. Mohamed Ghaliq	MNPHE	Engineer	
2	Akram Hussain	MOGFSS	DDG	
3	Mohamed Asif	ADB	Social Subjunct Specialist	
4	Mahmood Riyaz	ADB	Subjunct Specialist	
5	Sanobar Jureeni	ADB	Safeguards Specialist	SD
6	Sanwath Ghosh Belliappa	ADB	Senior Safeguards Specialist	SG
7	Charlene Lian	ADB	Urban Local Council Specialist	
8	Mohamed Shihab	MOGFSS	State Trin.	
9	Mohamed Ghassan	City Council	Deputy Mayor	
10	Aminath Athala	City Council	Council Member	
11	Hussain Farooq	City Council	Council Member	
12	Ahmed Saad	"	S	

13	AMINOTH SALMA	ADDU CITY COUNCIL	CITY COUNCILOR	
14	IBRAHIM FAREED	FENAKA	S-ENGINEER	
15	Mohamed Juman	FENAKA	A. Engineer	
16	Raahiz Ali	RSC	Social Service Officer	
17	ISMAIL MURUSHIP	PMU, MOGESS	ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANT	
18	YOUSUF VISAM LATIEFF	PMU, MOGESS	PROCUREMENT OFFICER	
19				
20				
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Photographs during Addu City Council Meeting



WDC Meeting Minutes

Location: Secretariat of the Addu City Council (Office)

Date: 13th March 2022

Time: 1:00pm

Meeting was conducted in local language Dhivehi, to ensure better participation of the members and remove the language barrier.

ADB (Athifa) gave a presentation to the WDC members virtually. Representatives of MoGFSS and MoNPHI were present. All outputs under the project were discussed and the roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders were also explained.

Pres. of WDC Nusrath stressed on the importance of a long-term residential facility for Elderly Care. ADB (Asif) explained even though the scope of the ADB project includes an Aged Community Center, that there were plans at a later stage to develop an Elderly Care residential facility in the same plot boundary by the government.

Concerns were raised (Nusrath) about the newness of the concept of Aged Community Center and concerns about the public perception and awareness.

ADB (Asif) elaborated on the other 4 outputs of the project, and how they would complement the output 5 which is the infrastructure related component of the project.

WDC Member Mariyam Naseera emphasized on the importance of the Aged Community Center to be open for service all days of the week and raised concerns regarding the possibility of staff shortage issues which could arise while operation of both DV/GBV shelter and Aged Community Center.

Concerns were also raised (Nusrath) regarding the access of the facility by Hulhumeedhoo and other distant districts.

Discussions were also conducted regarding some incidents related to GBV and Elderly Care negligence cases in Addu. DDG Akram from MGFSS addressed their concerns by informing the WDC on the currently established mechanisms to address these issues.

WDC President and all members reassured that the WDC is willing to provide their full support to ensure the success of the project.

Photographs during Women's Development Committee Meeting



Signed Attendance Sheet

Name	Position/Office	Date	Signature
Aminath Nuzuha	Council Officer/ Addu City Council	13/03/2022	
Maryam Zaidan Neseen Sajwa Samir	Administrative officer WDC	13/03/2022	
Musrath Rasheed	WDC president	13/03/2022	
Khadheega Ibrahim Didi	WDC member	13-03-2022	
Maryam Naseera	WDC member	"	
Fathimath Heena	WDC member	"	
Anusha Mufeedh.	WDC Member - 9.		
Abram Hussein	MGFSS ODG		
Charlene Lian	ADB - Urban Development Specialist	13/3/22	
Saswathi Belliappa	ADB Senior Safeguards Specialist	13.3.2022	
Mohamed Asif.	ADB Safeguards Specialist	13.3.2022	
Yousuf Vizam Latheef	Procurement officer PMU, MGFSS	13.3.2022	

2. Minutes of the Meeting: Secretariat of the Addu City Council (Office)

Date: 1st June 2022; Time: 1:00pm

Discussions with Council

The Mayor and the Council members welcomed the Mission. He stated that the DV/GBV shelter is of importance to the people of the island. He said at present there are not many options to address DV/GBV. Once the shelter is functional it will be a good opportunity to offer similar facilities in other locations also. He stated currently DV/GBV is handled by the Ministry, and this shelter will be a good example of decentralization. The Mayor and the council members appreciated the design of shelter and wanted to know about the construction timelines. The Council members also indicated that drainage works were being implemented on the island to address flooding problem and stated the facility would not be subjected to the risk of flooding.

He also mentioned that CSOs are supportive of the program and it will be necessary to engage them in spreading awareness.

Discussion with WDC

- GBV cases - Cases normally are reported to the Police and FCSC and very few cases are referred at the moment through the Addu WDC.
- Hospital admitted survivors of GBV/DV – At the moment support is being provided by WDC when members go as hospital attendants of the survivors during admission and hospital medical checkups.
- There are many cases of GBV/DV that WDC is aware of. Eg: there is a case in Maradhoo Feydhoo of Addu City, PWD – 1 child.
- Elderly – children of the elderly sometimes use the bank cards and get the pension allowance, and elderly abuse and vulnerability is increasing.
- Planned activities: in collaboration with Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) they are planning to identify social problems in the society. VAW day – coming up November, they have planned for advocacy billboards of messages on the prevention of DV/GBV. People need to be trained. Addu lacks Trainers. They have planned to engage with CSOs.
- Challenges: With the election of WDC, due to the pandemic many challenges. Awareness programs are planned for next year. At the moment WDC has 1 admin staff, 10 members, 1 staff as the security.
- WDC office is physically close to the proposed DV/shelter, as it is a small space, cannot physically hold trainings.
- WDC members after the election have undergone only the trainings from LGA which was more focused as an orientation after their election.
- Future planning: WDC consulted relevant stakeholders (CBOs) + women from the community. They have budgeted day care center, plus children's parks (over 1 million). To empower women economically, they have planned and are consulting with council to get land. Council has agreed to give land in Hithadhoo.
- Initially, planned to get a building to renovate, but council was not able to give the building that they wanted due to some legal issues.
- Targeting to employed families, most of the women has said that affordable childcare is a priority.
- Other areas: Women from the society requested - beauty and sewing course, and fitness courses.
- Still women are reluctant, often find it difficult to express specially with a male audience.

- WDC want to collaborate, also see that as an opportunity for women to get employed in the shelter.
- WDC can collaborate on providing training, they can even budget for trainings, also find people from Addu city to be trained as trainers.
- Women's unpaid care burden – to reduce and bring a dignified life what do you think are the activities that MGFSS (GoM) and WDC can collaborate?
- Flexible training programs
- Male engagement in awareness programs and training
- Family problems, divorce, drugs and other social problems, addiction to smart phones – need to address to the root causes of these issues – records of training programs at the moment will show very low numbers of men, it's always women. Hence more focus on orienting and raising awareness of men and boys on social issues.
- MGFSS informed that this year's family day – a special programme focusing on men has been launched. "Men's role in strengthening family as an institution".
- There is a great opportunity to learn from Addu, WDC.
- MGFSS further informed the focus areas under decentralization & dignified family and dignified individual – related to policy of Strategic Action Plan (SAP) of the Government.
- 1) roll out of IBAMA, 2) Community Based Rehabilitation (mapping community vulnerabilities within what is available in the community)3) Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP).
- Gang violence issues and drug addiction is a social problem, lack of job opportunities. GoM has opened a drug rehabilitation center in Addu. After completing the drug rehabilitation program, there is a high rate of relapse, need to focus more on community re-integration. Sometimes families also do not accept their own kids.
- Housing and love of family 2 social needs.
- Last week, one member from WDC encountered a case in Maafushi while in trip there, family problem (husband and wife), displaced anger onto the kid, eg: put chemical in the child's eye. This is the level of DV/GBV in the society. Hence, WDC, City Council and FCSC and MGFSS and all relevant agencies have to partner to address and tackle this huge issue.

Discussion with Family and Children's Service Centre

Venue: FCSC center, Addu, Date: 02/06/2022

The discussion with FCSC was to understand the how FCSC operates and what service it provides to the women and children of the island. The mission wanted to understand how the women and children access the centre.

It was mentioned that MGFSS plans to renovate an accommodation block to temporarily house children under state care at a neighbouring site to the DV/GBV shelter. There may be possibility for the MGFSS to combine the resources of the DV/GBV shelter and accommodation block (amaan veshi – children's home), such as security staff and the shelter management position. It was discussed that the boundary wall of the DV/GBV shelter will be constructed with scope for a section to be removed and repurposed allowing easier access between the two sites later. MGFSS will make alterations to the boundary wall and decide on sharing of resources between the two sites when they progress the construction of the accommodation block.

Meeting Photographs



Addu Council Meeting 1st June 2022



Addu Council Meeting 1st June 2022



Addu WDC Meeting 1st June 2022



Addu FCSC meeting 2nd June 2022

Women's Development Committee – Attendance Sheet

2.06.2022 ADDU CITY - WDC MEETING

NAME	ORGANISATION	CONTACT NO.
Anusha	WDC	9992415-
FATHIMATH HEGNA	WDC (CHITRADUWA)	7888161
SALMANA MOOSA	WDC	9668729
KHADHEETA IBRAHIM BIDI	WDC	7916427
NUSRATH RASHEED	WDC PRESIDENT	9843282

Family and Children Service Center Meeting – Attendance Sheet

Attendance					
Name	Address	Office	Designation	E-mail ID	Contact NO
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ACRYUTHA SAHU		ADD	FRU-SP		
Suyat Amel Ashof		MNPHI	Engineer		
MATTEO MOPE		ADB	CLIMATE CHANGE		
MATTARRED SITHAS		MOGFSS	State Minister	shihab@gender.gov.in	7715976
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Charlene Liao		ADB	Urban Development Specialist		
Dels Thomas		ADB	Gender Specialist		
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