



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

UN IN ACTION

Release Date: May 2010

Programme No. 1239

Length: 5'17"

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian

MALDIVES: SAFER ISLANDS

VIDEO

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE TSUNAMI

GAYOOM ON CAMERA

GAYOOM IN SPEED BOAT TO
KANDHOLHUDHOO

MAP

PAN SHOTS OF RISING WATER
AGAINST ISLAND

AUDIO

NARRATION

In 2004, one of the largest natural disasters in recent history swept across the Indian Ocean. In its wake, 200,000 people died or disappeared. (10.8)

GAYOOM: (Dhivehi) **M**

"I was never this scared in my life. I am sure that the waves swelled up to 20 feet, then came crashing down." (7.6)

NARRATION

The devastating tsunami forced Abdul Gayoom, now 81 years old, to abandon the island where he had spent his entire life. (7)

Located off the coast of India, Maldives is an archipelago made up of nearly 1,200 low-lying coral islands. (7)

With an average height of no more than six feet above sea level, this tiny nation faces a grim prospect of disappearing under rising

waters if global warming continues uncurbed, and sea levels continue to rise. (12.7)

To meet the daunting challenges, the government is taking steps to protect its vulnerable populations. (5.1)

BULLDOZERS

ARIALMALDIVES

BEACHE/CORAL/FISH

Known for its sandy coral beaches, crystal blue lagoons, exotic live corals and tropical fish, the Maldives has drawn people from around the world, bringing in billions of tourist dollars. (11)

MALE

In Male the capital, the government built a massive sea wall made of concrete tetrapods to surround the island. Started in 1987, it was an expensive project, taking 14 years to construct and some 60 million US dollars donated by the Japanese government. It has helped reduce the vulnerability of the city during the Tsunami. (21.6)

MAP

But, Male, an island so small that one can walk around it in half an hour, is already home to 110,000 people, nearly one third of the nation's population. (9.8)

FISHING TUNA

The rest of the islanders are mostly fishermen living on 200 other islands dispersed in the vast ocean where fish are abundant. (6.8)

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE SURGES

They are under constant threat of storm

surges and flooding. The tsunami, which destroyed Gayoom's Island, Kandholhudoo was a wake up call to their vulnerability.

MAP KANDHOLHUDHOO

(10.3)

GAYOOM LOOKING AT
DESTRUCTION

A tiny speck of land floating in the ocean, Kandholhudhoo was once a thriving fishing village of nearly 4,000 people. (7.3)

MAP RELOCATION

Now it's a ghost town. With most buildings in ruins and ground water contaminated by sea water, no one can live there. (8.1)

CONSTRUCTION

In 2005, an experiment was undertaken to relocate the entire community to an uninhabited island, Dhuvaafaru. Protected by a large reef, it's about 10 times the size of Kandholhudhoo. (13.7)

GAYOOM

After spending three years and some 35 million US dollars donated by international relief groups, the government built up Dhuvaafaru from scratch. (9.1)

GAYOOM ON CAMERA

In 2009, Gayoom's family moved into their new home after living in temporary shelters on other islands. (7.5)

GAYOOM: (Dhivehi) **M**

"This is the refrigerator in my kitchen. The rooms are bigger and more spacious...I was thrilled." (10.2)

SHAIG ON CAMERA

SHAIG	<p><u>SHAIG:</u> (English) M</p> <p><i>“This was obviously one of the largest relocations undertaken in Maldives...” (4)</i></p>
SHAIG ON CAMERA	<p><u>NARRATION</u></p> <p>Dr. Ahmed Shaig, co-author of the UN Development Programme Report & Climate Change adaptation. (5.2)</p>
AERIAL OF ISLAND	<p><u>SHAIG:</u> (English) M</p> <p><i>“A lot of islands actually requested the government to relocate them following the examples of Dhuvaafaru and some of the other islands.” (8.2)</i></p>
WAHEED ON CAMERA	<p><u>NARRATION</u></p> <p>But moving people to safer islands has many challenges, says Dr. Mohammed Waheed Hassan, the Vice President of the Maldives. (7.1)</p>
BOAT AT SEA	<p><u>WAHEED:</u> (English) M</p> <p><i>‘The problem is developing a large island also means putting more investments in infrastructure...they are all expensive.’ (8.3)</i></p>
WAHEED ON CAMERA	<p><u>NARRATION</u></p> <p>And no island in the Maldives can escape the effects of global warming. (2.7)</p>
	<p><u>WAHEED:</u> (English) M</p> <p><i>“Unless we make progress with climate change negotiations, there is really no entirely safe island.” (10.5)</i></p>

FISHERMEN

NARRATION

People in the Maldives have survived three thousand years on these islands. But will they be able to survive this century? (6.9)

GAYOOM AT BEACH

GAYOOM: (Dhivehi) **M**

"I hope that the disaster that struck Kandholhudhoo doesn't happen to Dhuvaafaru..." (4.1)

WAHEED ON CAMERA

WAHEED: (English) **M**

"Obviously we are not packing our suitcases to leave. We have a very long history. We want to stay on these islands and live here as long as we can" (8.9)

UN LOGO

NARRATION

This report was produced by Patricia Chan for the United Nations.