




## REPORT ON CHEMOPROPHYLAXIS ADMINISTRATION IN MALDIVES 1991-1997

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### Background

- Maldives is located in the Indian Ocean and is made up of 202 inhabited islands with a population of 233,215 in 1990
- Dapsone was first introduced in Maldives in 1959
- BCG coverage remains over 96% since 1988
- Prevalence:
  - > 132 per 10,000 in 1976
  - > 9 per 10,000 in 1991
- Out of 202 inhabited islands 79 reported as having people affected by leprosy in 1990
- Deformity rates among new cases was very low



### Objectives

- To achieve total treatment coverage with MDT in the country
- To achieve zero transmission of leprosy in the islands by 1995



### Implementation

- Chemoprophylaxis trials using single dose Rifampicin started in 1991
- The population in 34 islands that were considered to be high endemic were screened for leprosy at the beginning of the project. This was done during the years 1991 to 1995.
- All non-cases were given a single dose of rifampicin at the dose of 20mg per kg body weight
- Exclusion: children 0-4 years, pregnant women, women breast feeding, patients under MDT, TB patients, people with liver disease and people above 60 years
- Retrospective review of new cases based in clinical charts and records in these 34 islands was done in 1997



### Findings

| Year of survey | Number of islands | Pop. registered | Cases detected during survey | Pop. covered by chemo-prophylaxis |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1991           | 5                 | 10,215          | 51<br>(499.3/100,000)        | 5,759<br>(56.4%)                  |
| 1992           | 10                | 16,115          | 11<br>(68.3/100,000)         | 11,353<br>(70.5%)                 |
| 1994           | 7                 | 8,050           | 2<br>(24.8/100,000)          | 5,911<br>(73.4%)                  |
| 1995           | 12                | 15,355          | 2<br>(13.0/100,000)          | 10,018<br>(65.2%)                 |

### Findings (continued)

| Year of Survey | No. of islands | New cases detected yearly* |      |      |      |      | Total |
|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|
|                |                | 1993                       | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 |       |
| 1991           | 5              | 1                          | -    | 2    | 4    | 2    | 9     |
| 1992           | 10             | 1                          | 4    | 2    | 1    | 3    | 11    |
| 1994           | 7              | -                          | -    | 1    | -    | 1    | 2     |
| 1995           | 12             | -                          | -    | -    | 2    | -    | 2     |
| TOTAL          | 34             | 2                          | 4    | 5    | 7    | 6    | 24    |

\* A total of 44 new cases were reported in the routine reporting system but on review of clinical records 19 were not true new cases and 1 case was doubtful

### Conclusions

- Single dose of rifampicin did not give protection against leprosy
- As leprosy was on the decline the implementation of this zero transmission programme should not have been initiated