

Health Care Support



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BY SIX SENSES

Thalassaemia Prevention and Relief

In the 1990s, the Society for Health Education (SHE), a non-governmental organisation in the Maldives, established that the prevalence rate of thalassaemia in the country was around 18 % – the highest in the world. Patients carrying the genetic blood disease depend on blood transfusions all their life. Thalassaemia can only be diagnosed and prevented through the screening of parents-to-be. SHE therefore launched a nationwide awareness and population screening programme, visiting each island in the Maldives. The programme successes include effective advocacy, resource mobilisation, motivation for screening, voluntary blood donations and thalassaemia becoming a household word in the country. Both Soneva Fushi and Soneva Gili have financially contributed to the ongoing success of the programme and hosted blood donation days at its resorts.



Blood transfusion

Helping Disabled People

The Maldivian Care Society seeks to provide education, awareness and rehabilitation services for both children and adults with a disability in the Maldives. Its aim is to show them their potential and to create



Body work carried out by trained staff

public awareness about the special needs of people living with disabilities. It has training sessions for families and also provides an open forum for dialogue within the community. The

Care Society's long-term objective is to "make every person with a disability an able bodied person", or to "able the disabled". Both Soneva resorts support the organisation and help to fund the training of teachers, the provision of equipment and the further improvement of the services offered by the Care Development Centre.



Playground

Medical Support for Neighbouring Islands

As a health insurance system does not exist in the Maldives and medical treatments are often needed to be sought abroad, Soneva Fushi and Soneva Gili utilise their Social and Environmental Responsibility Fund to support our hosts' family members in need. Additionally, visiting ophthalmologists sponsored by Soneva Fushi have in the past checked islanders for eye problems and enabled operations. Islands with dense mosquito populations have been given insect-fogging equipment and training, so that the spreading of mosquito-borne diseases like dengue fever is prevented.