

## Regularization Programme Status

Ministry of Economic Development initiated the regularization programme on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019. As a part of this programme employee self-registration was conducted to identify an estimate of the number of the undocumented workers in the Maldives. A total of 43,787 expatriate workers initially registered with the Ministry of Economic Development, during the registration phase, while stating that they are currently working in the Maldives without a valid work permit.

Below are the details of the 43,787 expatriate workers registered under the regularization programme (registration phase), grouped by their nationality.

<b>Country</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Bangladesh	43,410
India	246
Sri Lanka	58
Philippines	29
Nepal	27
Indonesia	7
Italy	5
China	2
Pakistan	1
Thailand	1
Uganda	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>43,787</b>

Over the past 3 years Ministry has done an immense effort to regularize the undocumented workers in the Maldives and due to this;

- A total of 16,351 regularization requests have been approved by the Ministry as of 21<sup>st</sup> August 2022. This includes 11,170 expatriate workers who registered with the Ministry during the initial registration phase (out of the 43,787 registered)
- A total of 8,938 has voluntarily returned to their home country, under the voluntary return programme carried out by the Ministry. This includes 8,724 expatriate workers who registered with the Ministry during the initial registration phase (out of the 43,787 registered)

The current data shows that out of the 43,787 expatriate workers registered under the regularization programme (registration phase), 45.43% of applicants have been attended to, either regularized or returned to home country under the voluntary return programme.

Out of the 43,787 expatriate workers registered under the regularization programme (registration phase) 3,828 expatriate workers were unable to provide any identification document at the time of registration and was informed to request for regularization through a prospective new employer.

The regularization programme is currently on-going and new requests are being regularly attended by the Ministry.