
Background

This voluntary national survey will provide information on progress regarding the implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development\(^1\) and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Asia and the Pacific.\(^2\) Results from the survey will be reported and discussed at the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference, in 2023.

The ICPD Programme of Action provides an invaluable framework to guide Member States in enhancing the quality of life and well-being of every individual and promoting human development by underscoring the interrelationship between development policies and programmes, human rights, and economic and social development. At the 20-year Asia-Pacific regional review of the Programme of Action, in 2013, ESCAP member States adopted the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. This Declaration serves as region-specific guidance on population and development in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

During the 2018 intergovernmental meeting for the Midterm Review of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration, a monitoring framework was presented to ESCAP members and associated members to monitor progress in implementing the recommendations of both documents in the region. This framework was based on existing SDG indicators and targets to reduce the reporting burden on member States. The ESCAP Committee on Social Development, during its sixth session in 2020, endorsed the monitoring framework, noting that it would serve as an essential tool for voluntary, regular assessment and reporting of progress of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2013 Ministerial Declaration.\(^3\)

At the Committee session, several member States recognized existing data gaps and lack of capacity at the national level in collecting, generating and disseminating reliable sex- and age-disaggregated data. In preparation for the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference, in 2023, ESCAP, with support from UNFPA, has developed a survey based on the monitoring framework to assist member States in collecting data and monitoring the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2013 Ministerial Declaration. The survey is highly qualitative in nature, aiming to understand countries’ progress and achievements in all priority action areas, along with key challenges and lessons learned. Additionally, ESCAP has compiled quantitative information on the SDG indicators identified in the monitoring framework and is providing this information to member States along with the survey. The data are sourced from the Global SDG Indicators Database maintained by the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

\(^1\) [https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Report%20of%20APPC%202013.pdf](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Report%20of%20APPC%202013.pdf).


\(^3\) ESCAP/CSD/2020/3.
Suggestions for completing the Asia-Pacific voluntary national survey
The survey should be completed by countries, through their national focal points on population and development. The survey and attached monitoring framework\(^4\) are structured according to the priority actions identified in the Report of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference.\(^5\) As the Programme of Action of ICPD is a multi-dimensional framework, it is recommended that completion of the survey involves a consultative process with ministries and departments responsible for implementing the priority action areas and reporting the associated SDG indicators, and with the involvement of non-governmental stakeholders.

ESCAP is sending the survey to member States as a Word document and as a PDF document. Member States are invited to respond to it directly in the Word document. For the check boxes, please double click on them to insert a check mark.

The survey and associated documents can be downloaded from the ESCAP website at: www.unescap.org/events/2023/seventh-asian-and-pacific-population-conference.

The survey should be completed (and submitted/returned), together with relevant attachments by 31 March 2023, by email, to: escap-sdd@un.org Please do not hesitate to contact escap-sdd@un.org should you have any questions.

1. Contact information
Please identify the office responsible for coordinating the responses to this survey and completing it and include its contact information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Maldives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry/Office/Agency</td>
<td>Maldives Bureau of Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name contact persons (First and Last)</td>
<td>Title/Position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>Telephone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailing address</td>
<td>Maldives Bureau of Statistics Dhaaruul Eeman building, 9th floor Majeedhee Magu Male, Maldives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please indicate whether the completed survey may be posted on the ESCAP public website of the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference.</td>
<td>Yes: ☒ No: ☐</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

\(^4\) SeeESCAP/CSD/2020/3 (see Annex IV).
II. National coordination mechanism for implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.1</th>
<th>Is there a national coordination mechanism to support implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development? If “yes”, please provide information for the question below. If “no”, please skip section III below.</th>
<th>Yes ☐ No ☒</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Name of the coordination mechanism and website link if available: Please elaborate:</td>
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<td>1.3</td>
<td>Year of establishment: Please elaborate:</td>
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<td>1.4</td>
<td>What level does the coordination mechanism operate at:</td>
<td>Prime minister or highest level of government ☐ Minister ☐ Director ☐ Other: Please elaborate:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Are civil society organizations included as members of the coordination mechanism?</td>
<td>Yes ☐ No ☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>Does the coordination mechanism have formalized Terms of Agreement or other formal operating agreements? If “yes”, please elaborate on the functions of the coordination mechanism:</td>
<td>Yes ☐ No ☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>How often does the coordination mechanism meet?</td>
<td>Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Yearly ☐ Yearly ☐ Ad-hoc, as needed ☐ Ad-hoc, as needed ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>Contact information, including mailing address, telephone/fax, email and website link for members of the coordination mechanism: please elaborate:</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

III. Challenges and successes in achieving progress concerning priority action areas outlined in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development

The following sections cover the 11 priority action areas outlined in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. Please answer the questions in regard to the specific priority area mentioned in the text. This is to help measure which priority areas are characterized by challenges and by progress, as well as identify any achievements, good practices and lessons learned that can be shared with other countries regarding specific areas.
### A. Poverty eradication and employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Overall policy environment</strong></th>
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</table>
| **1.A.** | Are any **priority actions** for poverty eradication and employment included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? _please elaborate_  
If “yes”, please provide:  
(a) the strategy name/link  
(b) date or timeframe of the strategy/plan  
(c) page number that references this action area  
(d) main elements of the action area  
(d) its impact | Yes ☒  
No ☐ |

* **Strategic Action Plan (2019-2023)** – The Policies and Strategies in the MOFMRA strategic Action Plan is developed to address poverty eradication and increase employment in the Fisheries, Mariculture and sectors. Strategic Action Plan also addressed the poverty target programmes under social protection.


* **Zakaath Nafaa Program** implemented by Ministry of Islamic Affairs  

**To further explore how Islamic Ministry assists those registered as Poor for economic minisry** – (faqeerunge dhaftharugai himeney faraitha) Zakat Scheme

* **Social Protection Act** – poverty targeted programs  
* **Social Protection section** –  
  - strengthening and reforming social protection sector and programs  
  - development of the National Social protection framework  
  - development of the unemployment insurance program (by Ministry of Economic Development)

* **National Recovery Resilience Plan** - to build back the country amidst COVID recovery.

  c) section on social protection strategies  
  d) Ahulu voluntary relocation program, provision of financial aid for utilities, financial assistance for stranded families in Male during Covid  
  e) ensuring continuation of basic necessities such as utilities services, temporary shelter for stranded, opportunities to relocate to native islands
2.A. Have there been any **amendments or improvements** to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “poverty eradication and employment” since 2013? *please elaborate*

If “yes”, please provide:

(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislation/Policy</th>
<th>Website Link</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social protection Act and Regulations under that Act</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Regulation on Identification and Certification of PWDs under the Disability Act</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>National Social Protection Framework</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amendment to the Decentralization Act</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(b) date of implementation and time frame

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislation/Policy</th>
<th>Date/Time Frame</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social protection Act and Regulations under that Act</td>
<td>Since 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulation on Identification and Certification of PWDs under the Disability Act</td>
<td>April 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulation on Identification and Certification of PWDs under the Disability Act</td>
<td>January 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amendment to the Decentralization Act</td>
<td>2019</td>
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</table>

(c) its main elements

- Implementation of social assistance programs specified in the Act
- Defining disabilities and identification of PWDs
- Defining Social Protection to cover life cycle approach, and redesigning of social protection programs
- Establishment of vulnerable registry within their jurisdiction and quarterly visitations to identified people

(d) its impact

- Implementation of Poverty targeted programs (Single Parent Allowance, Foster parent Allowance, Food Assistance)
- Establishment of the National Disability Register to enable comprehensive information on PWDs and facilitate services and additional assistances required
- Introduction of Community Based Rehabilitation Program and IBAMA (multisectoral platform to address vulnerable populations)
- Identification of vulnerable populations and enabling timely interventions

**Achievements and good practices**
Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of poverty eradication and employment in the country since 2013? Please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:

Implementation of Minimum Wage
Provision of Income support for unemployed people during Covid
Commencement of Unemployment Insurance program
Establishment of Job Centers
SME loans/hubs
Establishment SME hubs in a central location in the capital city

Implementation of Minimum Wage:
The minimum wage was implemented in November 2021 to promote fair compensation and ensure equal pay for work of equal value to reduce wage inequalities.

At the outset, it was estimated that at least 35,000 employees would benefit from the minimum wage, with around 39% (approximately 13,000) of the employees from the tourism sector benefiting from the minimum wage. Given that the government being one of the largest employers in the Maldives, around 46% (approximately 15,400) of employees will benefit from the minimum wage, though this will directly translate to an increase in the public finances. Further, state-owned-enterprises (SOEs) comprise 15% – third biggest impacted population – of those who are expected to benefit an increase in the wages due to the minimum wage.

Establishment of the SP Act and Regulations to implement the social assistance programs (SP, FP, FS),
Expansion of the National Health care financing mechanism (Aasandha Scheme) and implementation of the Regulation under NSHI Act
Establishment of the National Disability Register
Establishment of IBAMA (multisectoral working group)
Formulation of the National Social Protection Framework

Construction of national Multidimensional Poverty Index:
Maldives Bureau of Statistics published the first ever National multi-dimensional poverty index in 2020 and multi-dimensional vulnerability index in 2021
4.A. Are there any **good practices** the country has developed in operationalizing poverty eradication and employment programmes that other countries may find useful? *please elaborate and provide specific examples:*

NSPA established a delivery mechanisms of social assistance cash transfer programs via bank accounts which ensures the receipt of allowance to actual beneficiaries

Delivery of old age (payouts) and MRPS (collections and payouts) directly to bank accounts to ensure smooth operations

Establishment of multi sectoral working groups (IBAMA) under IBAMA policy

Implementation of CBR for early identification of PWDs

Implementation of the social protection information system and targeting mechanism for social assistance

**Challenges**

In implementing priority actions for poverty eradication and employment, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?

[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>5.A.</strong> Lack of human resources dedicated to poverty eradication and employment</td>
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<td><strong>6.A.</strong> Lack of financial resources dedicated to poverty eradication and employment</td>
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<td><strong>7.A.</strong> Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on poverty eradication and employment</td>
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<td><strong>8.A.</strong> Lack of data on poverty eradication and employment, particularly disaggregated data</td>
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<td><strong>9.A.</strong> Lack of overall political support related to poverty eradication and employment</td>
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<td><strong>10.A.</strong> Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to poverty eradication and employment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>11.A.</strong> Lack of international support related to poverty eradication and employment</td>
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If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? *please elaborate:*

- Efforts have been made to address this issue by continuous dialogues with relevant national and international aid organisations

- Required budget to provide financial assistance has always been provided by Ministry of finance

- Identifying the required skills and training needed by employees. However lack of financial resources to conduct required training programs

- Since poverty is assessed based on self-declared income, proxy means testing has been incorporated to verify the information. However poverty mapping is lacking

- Not enough political commitment given to strengthen data management

- (2) establishment of IBAMA and Madhadhu (by LGA)
| 12.A. | Lack of development partner coordination related to poverty eradication and employment | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | (2) Development of NSPF will enable a better coordinated effort |
| 13.A. | Lack of public awareness and understanding of poverty eradication and employment | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | Some awareness activities on existing social protection programs available IBAMA, CBR training in the atolls and Ranveyla and geveshia guhun campaign to raise awareness on social issues |
| 14.A. | A bottom-up approach to poverty eradication and employment not followed (e.g., involvement of persons in the lowest wealth quintiles, the unemployed, etc.) | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | Public consultations and feedback is sought during design stages of policies |
| 15.A. | COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on poverty eradication and employment | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster(s), emergency, etc. (1) all Social Assistance programs and social Services by MoGFSS were continued |
| 16.A. | Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of poverty eradication and employment programmes? *please elaborate and provide specific examples:* There is no specific Policy focused solely on poverty eradication and difficulties in identification of the poor (currently only self declared information is used) |

**Lessons learned**

| 17.A. | Are there any *lessons learned* in the area of poverty eradication and employment not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? *please elaborate and provide specific examples:* | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | Contextualizing of definitions to local context is required (such as Social Protection, Households, etc) |

**Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring**

| 18.A. | Please select any needs the country may have in order to **implement** the priority actions for poverty eradication and employment. Please check as many as apply. | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | Capacity-building Advocate and awareness raising ☒ Resource mobilization ☒ Engagement with high-level politicians ☒ Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. ☒ South-South cooperation ☒ Public-private partnerships ☒ Data for monitoring and planning ☒ Other (*please elaborate*): |
19.A. Please select any needs the country may have in order to **report on progress regarding** the priority actions for poverty eradication and employment. Please check as many as apply to your country.

- ☒ Capacity-building – data collection
- ☒ Capacity-building – data analysis
- ☒ Lack of monitoring frameworks
- ☒ Resource mobilization
- ☒ Engagement with high-level politicians
- ☒ Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc.
- ☒ Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities
- ☐ South-South cooperation
- ☒ Public-private partnerships
- ☐ Other (*please elaborate*):
### B. Health

**Overall policy environment**

1.B. Are any priority actions for health included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? *please elaborate*

If “yes”, please provide:

(a) the strategy name/link

3. National Development Plan (previous)

(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan

2. Health Master Plan: 2016-2025

(c) page number that references this action area

1. SAP: 104-124
2. HMP: The entire document

(d) main elements of the action area

Refer to documents

(d) its impact

1. SAP guides the overall development direction of Maldives (including health sector) for the five year period 2019-2023
2. HMP outlines the principles and the national health goals, and provides strategic guidance and direction to the public and the partners in health, to further develop programs and business plans to improve the health of the population and develop the health system in the country.
### 2.B.

Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “health” since 2013? *please elaborate*

If “yes”, please provide:

(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link

1. Health Services Act (29/2015)
2. Act 19/2019 (Child Rights Protection Act)

(b) date of implementation and time frame

- Implemented on 2015
- Amended Act implemented in November 2019

(c) its main elements

- Act related to provision of health services in Maldives. Refer to document
- Act related to the Rights and protection of Women and Children

(d) its impact

- Improvement of the standards and quality of health services
- Strengthened mechanism in place towards attaining rights and protection of Women and Children

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**Achievements and good practices**
Aside from what is listed above, what are some **key achievements** in the area of health in the country since 2013? *Please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:*

- Introduction of Husnuvaa Aasandha in 2014- Universal Health Insurance for all Maldivians without a ceiling protection limit. This facilitates for treatment within the country and referral abroad when indicated.
- Maldives Health Services Act (29/2015)- developed and enacted for the first time, to standardize maintain the health services provided across the country.
- Healthcare decentralization- All essential healthcare available at all levels, establishment of tertiary care in regional hospitals. (not all regions fully established yet)
- A doctor in each island
- Access to medicine for all (pharmacy in each island)
- Access to healthcare for all without any discrimination (women, children, PWDs,etc)
- The National Health Workforce Strategic Plan 2014-2018 and National Health Care Quality Standards, 2018 developed to health workforce challenges and to build and retain a competent, professional health service workforce.
- The National Reproductive Health (RH) Strategy 2014–2018, to ensure quality Reproductive Health service
- The National Child Health Strategy (2016 -2020) based on Every Newborn Action Plan (ENAP) which emphasizes the delivery of packages effective interventions along the continuum of care, along with the new RMNCHA strategy.
- The Multisectoral Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs in Maldives (2016–2020) developed and implemented to address the emerging issues of NCDs in Maldives.
- Establishment of National Center for Mental Health (NCMH)
- Country achieved elimination status of - EMTCT, Measles elimination, Maternal and Neonatal tetanus and lymphatic filariasis
- Decentralization of Mental Health Services to the atolls
- Home visits for Bed ridden elderly
- National cancer control plan
- Some services for cancer treatment strengthened through collaboration with other stakeholders.
- Establishment of multi-sectoral community Social Groups “IBAMA” at island levels for protection of vulnerable groups
4.B. Are there any **good practices** the country has developed in operationalizing health programmes that other countries may find useful? *Please elaborate and provide specific examples:*

1. Revitalizing Primary Health Care
2. Central and regional mental health services
3. Implementing District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2)
4. Capacity building for healthcare professionals
5. Utilization of Rajje Transport Link to facilitate and connect people seeking health services, mobile laboratory services, outreach programs and other medical logistic needs
6. Quality improvement initiatives.
7. Active engagement of private sector and NGOs in complimenting government efforts

### Challenges

In implementing priority actions for health, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?  

[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.B.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Training medical doctors, nurses and other health professionals in the country, salary reformed, task shifting</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.B.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Obtaining and utilizing development partners and UN agency’s funds</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 7.B.       |   |   |   | - Training gaps identified and training requirement compiled by HR Division  
           |   |   |   | - Trainings conducted for capacity building among healthcare workers and other staff |
| 8.B.       |   |   |   | Rollout of DHIS2 Work in progress on health service digitalization and establishing an integrated health information system |
| 9.B.       |   |   |   | |
| 10.B.      |   |   |   | |
| 11.B.      |   |   |   | |
| 12.B.      |   |   |   | |

14 November 2022
| 13.B. | Lack of public awareness and understanding of health |  |  | Public Health awareness campaigns on social media platforms and conventional media, forums, collaboration with national university and other stakeholders, NGOs, island councils Outreach multi-purpose health camps |
| 14.B. | A bottom-up approach to health not followed (e.g., involvement of persons with lowest access to health care, etc.) |  |  |  |
| 15.B. | COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on health |  |  | If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster(s), emergency, etc. Reorganization of services and essential health services were prioritized |
| 16.B. | Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of health programmes? *please elaborate and provide specific examples:* No |

**Lessons learned**

17.B. Are there any lessons learned in the area of health not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? *please elaborate and provide specific examples:*  
- Community participation and engagement to empower to build trust and confidence in the system  
- Importance of implementation and continuous monitoring and coordination  
- Importance of continuity in governance system and operational process.

**Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring**

18.B. Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for health. Please check as many as apply.  
- Capacity-building  
- Advocacy and awareness raising  
- Resource mobilization  
- Engagement with high-level politicians  
- Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc.  
- South-South cooperation  
- Public-private partnerships  
- Data for monitoring and planning  
- Other *(please elaborate):*
19.B. Please select any needs the country may have in order to **report on progress regarding** the priority actions for health. Please check as many as apply to your country.

- Capacity-building – data collection
- Capacity-building – data analysis
- Lack of monitoring frameworks
- Resource mobilization
- Engagement with high-level politicians
- Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc.
- Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities
- South-South cooperation
- Public-private partnerships
- Other (*please elaborate*):
C. Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

### Overall policy environment

| 1.C. | Are any priority actions for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? *please elaborate*  
If “yes”, please provide: |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yes</strong></td>
<td><strong>No</strong></td>
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</table>

(a) the strategy name/link  
Strategic Action Plan 2019-2023  
(https://presidency.gov.mv/SAP/)

Health Master Plan 2016-2025
Maldives National RMNCAH Strategy and Action Plan (2020-2025)  

(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan  
HMP: 2016-2025
RMNCAH strategy: 2020-2025

(c) page number that references this action area  
1. HMP: page 42 and 44  
2. RMNCAH strategy: pages 33-29

(c) main elements of the action area  
Refer to documents

(e) its impact  
Detailed direction for improving RMNCAH over the next five years

| 2.C. | Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights” since 2013? *please elaborate*  
If “yes”, please provide: |
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<td><strong>Yes</strong></td>
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(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link  
(b) date of implementation and time frame  
(c) its main elements  
(d) its impact

### Achievements and good practices
3.C. Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in the country since 2013? Please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:

1. MDHS 2016-17:
   a. 99% of women who had a live birth in the 5 years before the survey received ANC from a skilled provider at least once for their last birth
   b. Exclusive breastfeeding among children under 6 months has increased from 48% in 2009 to 64% in 2016-17.
   c. Over 52% of women who gave birth in 2016-17 received a postnatal check from a gynaecologist.

2. Maldives Health Statistics 2020:
   a. Maternal Mortality Ratio: Overall decrease from 103 in 2017 to 32 in 2020. No maternal deaths were reported in 2019
   b. Neonatal Mortality Rate: Decreased from 7 in 2016 to 5 in 2020 (some fluctuations observed in between)
   c. Infant Mortality Rate: Decreased from 9 in 2016 to 6 in 2020 (some fluctuations observed in between)

4.C. Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights programmes that other countries may find useful? Please elaborate and provide specific examples:

1. Formulation of multi-stakeholder RMNCAH technical advisory group (TAG)
2. Prioritizing SRH as an essential service during emergencies
3. Online consultation, tele consultations and outreach services
4. Active involvement of NGOs in preventive work and service delivery
5. Utilization of mass media to reach out to community

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.C. Lack of human resources dedicated to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights</td>
<td></td>
<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
<td>Task shifting, multi-tasking, capacity building, collaboration with other stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.C. Lack of financial resources dedicated to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights</td>
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<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
<td>Obtaining and utilizing development partners and UN agency’s funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.C. Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights</td>
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<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
<td>Training gaps identified and training requirement compiled by HR Division -Trainings conducted for capacity building among healthcare workers and other staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.C.</td>
<td>Lack of data on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, particularly disaggregated data</td>
<td>☑</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.C.</td>
<td>Lack of overall political support related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.C.</td>
<td>Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.C.</td>
<td>Lack of international support related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.C.</td>
<td>Lack of development partner coordination related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.C.</td>
<td>Lack of public awareness and understanding of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.C.</td>
<td>A bottom-up approach to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights not followed (e.g., involvement of persons with lowest access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, etc.)</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.C.</td>
<td>COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights</td>
<td>☑</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.C.</td>
<td>Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights programmes? please elaborate and provide specific examples: No</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Lessons learned**

17.C. | Are there any lessons learned in the area of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? please elaborate and provide specific examples: No |

**Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring**
| 18.C. | Please select any needs the country may have in order to **implement** the priority actions for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. Please check as many as apply. | ☑️ Capacity-building  
☑️ Advocacy and awareness raising  
☑️ Resource mobilization  
☑️ Engagement with high-level politicians  
☑️ Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc.  
☑️ South-South cooperation  
☑️ Public-private partnerships  
☑️ Data for monitoring and planning  
☑️ Other (please elaborate): |  
| 19.C. | Please select any needs the country may have in order to **report on progress regarding** the priority actions for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. Please check as many as apply to your country. | ☑️ Capacity-building – data collection  
☑️ Capacity-building – data analysis  
☑️ Lack of monitoring frameworks  
☑️ Resource mobilization  
☑️ Engagement with high-level politicians  
☑️ Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc.  
☑️ Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities  
☑️ South-South cooperation  
☑️ Public-private partnerships  
☑️ Other (please elaborate): |
## D. Education

### Overall policy environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.D.</th>
<th>Are any priority actions for education included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <strong>please elaborate</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If “yes”, please provide:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| (a) the strategy name/link | **STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2019 - 2023**  
Higher Education: SAP2019-2023-143-157.pdf - Google Drive |
| (b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan | 2019-2023  
Higher Education: 2019-2023 |
| (c) page number that references this action area | Page 125-142  
Higher Education: 143-157 |
| (d) main elements of the action area | Provision of equitable access and completion from K to 12, especially for girls and boys, children with special education needs (SEN), children at risk, reducing the learning gap, enhancing teaching and leadership qualities, strengthening the administration of the education system, facilitating a learning environment to ensure provision of a holistic education, strengthening education governance and integrating vocational education in the school system |

#### Higher Education

Expanding higher education opportunities, increasing access to student finance, fostering a culture of academic research, facilitating evidence-based policymaking, delivering quality vocational education and aligning such opportunities to the economic sector and industry needs.

(d) its impact **Education/ Higher Education**

- identification of targeted focus areas
- streamlining of key action areas in National Strategic Action Plan to SDG Goals
- easy monitoring and evaluation
2.D. Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “education” since 2013? please elaborate

If “yes”, please provide:

- the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link
  - Education Act (24/2020)
  - Higher Education A (7/2021)
    - gazette-50-162.pdf (mohe.gov.mv)

- date of implementation and time frame
  - Education Act: Effective from August 2020
  - Higher education Act: May 2021

- its main elements
  - establish a system that ensures the educational rights of children and adults and safeguards the rights of educators, in consideration of the Constitution of the Republic of Maldives, the religion of Islam, The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) signed by the Maldives and other pertinent international treaties;
  - establish the responsibilities of the State, parents, guardians and educators in ensuring right to education to children and to establish rules to be followed where such responsibilities are breached;
  - foster an environment in the Maldives which provides quality education, training, and Islamic values in an equal and fair manner;
  - establish an education system which teaches and promotes Islamic creed and values, to respect human rights in a way that does not contradict Islamic Shariah and Islamic values, and the importance of maintaining peace and cordiality within the community; and
  - facilitate the development of pupils who are versed in national duties and ones who are ingenious and capable, who could fulfil a responsible role in the society.

Higher Education Act

- Establishing a system of higher education and training equally to all citizens of the country.
- to sustain the quality of higher education and training services provided in the Maldives.
- explaining the rules for registration and operation higher education and training institutes in the country
- Determining the rights and responsibilities of higher education trainers, employees and students.
- ensuring the quality of higher education provided in the country and of the certificates issued by higher education and training institutions. legal status to carry out quality-building activities creation of a separate agency that has been received.
- system formulation and technically skilled labour overseeing the education and training process and government, which has the legal status to implement the Setting up an institution.
- Explaining other rules and regulations on the development and development of education and training.
• its impact
• legal regulatory framework for education
• legal authority to ensure;
• lifelong learning
• rights to education
• inclusivity
• access and equity to education

Higher Education
• legal regulatory framework for higher education
• Legal authority to ensure the quality of higher education and training provided by higher education institutions.

### Achievements and good practices

#### 3.D.
Aside from what is listed above, what are some **key achievements** in the area of education in the country since 2013? **please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:**

- formal and compulsory free two years of pre-primary education
- access to higher secondary education in all the Atoll in Maldives
- provision of free breakfast to needy students
- access to education through satellite schools and multi grade teaching
- establishment of a separate department of inclusive education
- equitable access and completion from K to 12 (free textbooks and stationeries to all the students)
- enhancing teaching and leadership qualities, strengthening the administration of the education system (Salary increment of Teachers, Leading Teachers, Deputy Principals, Principals and technical staff)
- establishment of online educational repository
- provision tablets and internet in all the schools
- establishment of Maldives Education Management and Information System (MEMIS)
- Initiation of comprehensive school health education program

#### 4.D.
Are there any **good practices** the country has developed in operationalizing education programmes that other countries may find useful? **please elaborate and provide specific examples:**

- Educational Institution Registration policy (to ensure safe and hygienic condition in educational institution for children below 18 years)
- Multi-grade teaching
- Satellite Schools
- Maldives Education Response Plan (MERP)  

### Challenges
In implementing priority actions for education, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? 
([1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always])

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.D. Lack of human resources dedicated to education</td>
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<td>☒</td>
<td>It is a challenge to recruit quality teachers for all the schools, especially for schools in remote islands</td>
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<td>6.D. Lack of financial resources dedicated to education</td>
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<td>7.D. Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on education</td>
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<td>8.D. Lack of data on education, particularly disaggregated data</td>
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<td>9.D. Lack of overall political support related to education</td>
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<td>10.D. Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to education</td>
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<td>12.D. Lack of development partner coordination related to education</td>
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<td>13.D. Lack of public awareness and understanding of education</td>
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<td>15.D. COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on education</td>
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<td></td>
<td>If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster(s), emergency, etc. seasonal flooding at regional level, seasonal flu at regional level</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.D. Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of education programmes? please elaborate and provide specific examples:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- financial challenges</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>- population size suppresses equity to education</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Lessons learned

17.D. Are there any lessons learned in the area of education not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? please elaborate and provide specific examples: No

Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring
### E. Gender equality and women’s empowerment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Overall policy environment</strong></th>
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<td>1.E.</td>
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**Yes ✓**

**No ☐**
2.E. Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Gender equality and women’s empowerment” since 2013? Please elaborate.

If “yes”, please provide:
(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link
   National Gender Equality Action Plan (2022-2026)
(b) date of implementation and time frame
(c) its main elements
(d) its impact

Amendment to Sexual Offences Act which recognize Marital Rape, The family Law is being reviewed and will be amended in the coming year

Civil society organizations such as Uthema, Hope for Women, and FLC worked towards Sexual Violence amendments to the current law. CSO saw the action and result of amendments being brought to the law. We also conducted workshop on analysing the current referral mechanism and ways on moving forward

Maldives Polices Services have a target of increasing female officers in police workforce to 20 percent by end of 2024 (currently it is 17%)

The Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2019-2023 includes priority actions to promote gender equality and women’s employment. Of which, improving access to credit and financial mechanisms for female entrepreneurs has been one of the key actions assigned to the Ministry of Economic Development.

**Achievements and good practices**
Aside from what is listed above, what are some **key achievements** in the area of gender equality and women’s empowerment in the country since 2013? Please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:

Removal of reservations to Article 16 on Family in the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW):

- With regard to the continued reservations on Article 16 (1) and (2), the Government has made recent efforts to assess how Article 16 may contradict the country’s Constitution. While the Constitution ensures the equality of men and women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations, it stipulates, “without prejudice to the provisions of the Islamic Shari’ah, which govern all marital and family relations of the 100 percent Muslim population of the Maldives”. Following the assumption of office by the newly elected Government in November 2018, the President, upon recommendations from the Cabinet, has lifted reservations on sections (b), (e), (g), and (h) of Clause 1 and Clause 2 of Article 16 of CEDAW on 24th December 2019.

Since 2013, there has been significant advances in aligning the country’s national legal and regulatory frameworks with obligations in the CEDAW:

- Law Number 18/2016 (Gender Equality Act) was enacted on 23rd August 2016, and came into force 6 months thereafter. This Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender and promotes gender equality in all aspects of public and family life. A historic law, long-awaited by the women’s movement, the Act outlines explicit duties and responsibilities on State and private parties, prohibits victimization and introduces remedies for gender-based discrimination.

- Law Number 17/2014 (Sexual Offences Act) was enacted on 13th May 2014 and came into force 6 months thereafter. This Act provides for the protection of children and adults from all forms of sexual violence, and includes an aspect to prevent rape within marriage. Additionally, sexual offenders engaging children are subjected to a specific regime of law established pursuant to Law Number 12/2009 (Special Provisions Act to Deal with Child Sex Abuse Offenders).

- Law Number 16/2014 (Sexual Harassment Act) provides protection from all forms of sexual harassment at the place of employment and in public spaces. The Act further allows for investigation to be conducted within the organisation where a special committee is required to be established, and allows for redress mechanisms to be employed;

- Adoption of an overhauled penal code, Law Number 9/2014 (Penal Code of Maldives) in 2015, which along with Law Number 12/2016 (Criminal Procedure Act) enacted on 2nd May 2016, introduced a modern and more cohesive criminal justice system to the Maldives. Adoption of the said Criminal Procedure Act set forth a comprehensive set of rules to be adhered to by all the institutions involved in investigation and prosecution within the criminal justice system of Maldives.

- Law Number 19/2019 (Child Rights Protection Act), ratified on 20th November 2019, marks significant changes in the legal protection of children, as it prohibits marrying any child below the age of 18.
- The Second Amendment to the Family Act (9/2016) now provides for the equal distribution of matrimonial property after divorce. The 8th Amendment to the Decentralization Act (7/2010) now provides local councils with more fiscal and legal autonomy and allocates a third of council seats for female councillors.

The national Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP, 2022 – 2026), comprising of 5 main goals; Leadership and Governance, Economic Empowerment, Institutional Gender Mainstreaming, Elimination of Gender Based Violence and Access to Justice, was approved by the ministerial cabinet on 22nd February 2022, and launched on 22nd March 2022. A high-level steering committee chaired by HEP has been established on 21st March 2023, to oversee the implementation of the action plan. Additionally, a technical committee has been formed comprising of the lead agencies of the 5 main goals.

Establishment of multi-sectoral community Social Groups “IBAMA” at island levels for protection of vulnerable groups

Reflection on Fisheries and Agricultural sector:
- 51% of total registered farmers are women
- Loan programs and grant programs are structured to reserve a certain percentage for women. Eg: 30% of the Nafaa Loan program (started in 2019) is for reserved for Women

Others:
- Allocation of quota of 30% for WDCs - has resulted in more women in the political arena however, sad to say their voices are still subdued and don’t often contest beyond their own quota

- Sexual Offences Act amendments

- Presidential appointment of Women Judges for the Supreme, High and Civil courts

- More momentum with young people calling out Sexual Violence

Employment:
- As part of this, an entrepreneur program (W.I.S.E – Women in Sustainable Entrepreneurship) was introduced in September 2022. The program aims to improve technical capacity and train primarily Women Development Committee (WDC) members and female entrepreneurs on generating viable business ideas and preparation of business plans based on the ideas to source financing and operationalize their business venture. As of today, 37 sessions have been conducted and a total of 1, 324 entrepreneurs (1,156 female and 168 male) have successfully completed the program.
Are there any **good practices** the country has developed in operationalizing gender equality and women’s empowerment programmes that other countries may find useful?

*please elaborate and provide specific examples*:

- The GEAP is a multi-sectoral framework, with an objective to mainstream gender, which included 84 implementing partners including State Owned Agencies, NGOs and International bodies.
- Creating the GEAP and steering committee to involve all CSOs and other stakeholders within the process and road map
- Maldives Police Service has established a women in policing Network, an endorsed body of female police officers for the development of female officers and empowering them providing them opportunities to contribute to policy
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.E. Lack of human resources dedicated to gender equality and women’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>empowerment</td>
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<td>Skills training, Salary reformed, task shifting and collaboration with</td>
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<td>other stakeholder and NGOs</td>
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<td>Not enough funding or training still for the ministry as well as Gender</td>
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<td>CSOs and movements</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.E. Lack of financial resources dedicated to gender equality and women’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>empowerment</td>
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<td>Obtaining and utilizing development partners and UN agency’s funds and</td>
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<td>mobilization of trust fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.E. Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on</td>
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<tr>
<td>gender equality and women’s empowerment</td>
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<td>Training gaps identified and training requirement compiled by HR Division</td>
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<td>-Trainings conducted for capacity building both internally and for</td>
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<td>trainings organized by other stakeholders</td>
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<td>CSOs collaborate with ministry and stakeholders to build capacity</td>
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<td>8.E. Lack of data on gender equality and women’s empowerment, particularly</td>
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<tr>
<td>disaggregated data</td>
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<td>With the assistance of Maldives Bureau of Statistics (MBS) and PARIS</td>
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<td>21, we are in the process of formulating a Gender Statistics Strategy</td>
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<td>which would strengthen gender data production and use, mainstreaming</td>
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<td>gender data in the national strategy for the development of statistics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.E. Lack of overall political support related to gender equality and</td>
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<td>women’s empowerment</td>
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<td>Capacity building for Women contesting for parliament and local councils</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to gender equality and women’s empowerment</td>
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<td>To some extent, there is cross-ministerial coordination. With the implementation of GEAP, the cross-ministerial coordination will be further strengthened. Coordination has been hard especially on FGM issue with health ministry and Islamic Ministry</td>
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<td>Lack of international support related to gender equality and women’s empowerment</td>
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<td>Lack of development partner coordination related to gender equality and women’s empowerment</td>
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<td>Better coordination</td>
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<td>Lack of public awareness and understanding of gender equality and women’s empowerment</td>
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<td>Awareness raising programs are being conducted continuously. However, the ingrained patriarchal understanding of Women’s role and responsibility is widely believed in communities. Continuous awareness raising programs are held in collaboration with NGOs such Society for Health Education (SHE) and Hope for Women. CSOs are active advocates for the rights of women and girls and move forward with progressive values in all our work</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A bottom-up approach to gender equality and women’s empowerment not followed (e.g., involvement of women, particularly those most marginalized, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Women’s participation is seen across all sectors. However, meaningful participation of marginalised women is limited. CSOs such as Uthema is currently trying roll out more activities in the island and community level participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.E.</td>
<td>COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on gender equality and women’s empowerment</td>
<td>☐ ☊ ☒</td>
<td>If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster(s), emergency, etc. After COVID-19 pandemic, National Disaster Authority, gender equitable guideline has been developed which will address gender related issues during disasters and emergencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.E.</td>
<td>Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of gender equality and women’s empowerment programmes? Please elaborate and provide specific examples. There is growing extremist ideologies which impedes efforts to attain gender equality. These ideologies promote gender roles and stereotypes, including the idea that a woman’s role is limited to the domestic sphere and the home. Some of these extremist beliefs also justify gender-based violence, on the basis that women are subordinate to men. According to CSOs, the rise of religious or political conservatism has severely hindered the gender rights movement amongst many other things in the Maldives. We find that most CSOs work in fear and the state often takes a vague or silent approach to handling these things - we may not know sometimes if authorities side with CSOs or ban them.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lessons learned</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.E.</td>
<td>Are there any lessons learned in the area of gender equality and women’s empowerment not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <em>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>To work together and have solidarity in all sectors</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18.E.</td>
<td>Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for gender equality and women’s empowerment. Please check as many as apply.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| | ☒ Capacity-building  
| | ☒ Advocacy and awareness raising  
| | ☒ Resource mobilization  
| | ☒ Engagement with high-level politicians  
| | ☒ Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc.  
| | ☐ South-South cooperation  
| | ☒ Public-private partnerships  
| | ☒ Data for monitoring and planning  
| | ☒ Other (*please elaborate*): More women in decision making |

| 19.E. | Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for gender equality and women’s empowerment. Please check as many as apply to your country. |
| | ☒ Capacity-building – data collection  
| | ☒ Capacity-building – data analysis  
| | ☒ Lack of monitoring frameworks  
| | ☒ Resource mobilization  
| | ☒ Engagement with high-level politicians  
| | ☒ Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc.  
| | ☒ Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities  
| | ☐ South-South cooperation  
| | ☒ Public-private partnerships  
| | ☒ Other (*please elaborate*): Better reporting to the CEDAW committee |
### F. Adolescents and young people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall policy environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>I.F.</strong> Are any priority actions for adolescents and young people included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? Please elaborate. If “yes”, please provide:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) the strategy name/link</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is included in Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2019-2023 [<a href="https://presidency.gov.mv/SAP/">https://presidency.gov.mv/SAP/</a>]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) page number that references this action area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) main elements of the action area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) its impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Improvements in legislative and institutional arrangements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Enacting new laws, and revising existing laws on social protection of children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Strong focus on improving lives of vulnerable children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Inclusive and effective learning environments for all children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Under the strategic priority of partnership for community safety in Maldives Police Service strategic plan 2019-2024 there is a focused work being carried out on crime prevention for adolescent and young people [Strategic_Plan_2019_2024_0c71235978.pdf (police.gov.mv)]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.F. Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Adolescents and young people” since 2013? *please elaborate*

If “yes”, please provide:

(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link

Act 19/2019 (Child Rights Protection Act)
https://gazette.gov.mv/gazette/5624

(b) date of implementation and time frame

(c) its main elements

- According to Article number 5 and 6 of this act, all rights stated in the act are provided without any discrimination based on their or their guardian’s race, or colour, or sex, or language, political or other opinion, or national origin, or related family, or native island, or related social status, or any disability, or financial well-being, or any other factor.

- According to Article number 49 of this act, the state is required to seek children’s opinions and ensure participation of Children as much as possible, where the State makes decision in matters related to Children.

(d) its impact

Improvements in legislative and institutional arrangements based on Convention on the Rights of the Child

- Enacting new regulations and policies, and revising existing regulations and policies related to children

- Focused on reducing inequalities, and discrimination

- Child participation is given a significant emphasis

- Strong focus on improving lives of vulnerable children
### Achievements and good practices

#### 3.F.
Aside from what is listed above, what are some **key achievements** in the area of adolescents and young people in the country since 2013?

*Please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:*

- According to Act Number 19/2019 (Child Rights Protection Act), Article 25, marriages shall not be contracted for children under 18 years of age. As per this article, child marriage has been criminalized. Since then, there has been no case of child marriages reported in the Maldives.
- According to Act Number 19/2019 (Child Rights Protection Act), Article 19 (d), it is the duty of the parents to vaccinate children, and parents do not have the right to refuse to vaccinate their children.
- Development of foster and alternative care mechanism for children
- Improving access to children with special needs
- Creating awareness on Act Number 19/2019 (Child Rights Protection Act), and other relevant areas, in collaboration with multi stakeholders
- Establishment of multi-sectoral community Social Groups “IBAMA” at island levels for protection of vulnerable groups

#### 4.F.
Are there any **good practices** the country has developed in operationalizing adolescent and young people programmes that other countries may find useful?

*Please elaborate and provide specific examples:*

- **Youth Resilience Program**: A program aimed to provide young vulnerable individuals the necessary knowledge and skills to achieve a self-sufficient and financially secure future.
- **Keeping Our Children Safe and Well Program**: In collaboration with Civil Service Training Institute, Child and Family Protection Service (CFPS) has introduced an awareness program on child rights and related topics. The program is aimed towards:
  1. Education sector
  2. Health sector
  3. Social services
  4. Atolls and island councils

**Police**

Maldives police service has established a policing model for local communities based on community policing, but contextualized to the local needs of Maldives under the name Avvatteri Fuluhun (meaning neighbourhood police). The model allows young people to be engaged in panels and sit with police to identify problems and solve crime and disorder problems. The model is providing to bring significant involvement of young people in matters that relate to them and contribute to solutions owned by them.

Crime prevention programs are held for adolescents and community members. **100th program is being held in 2023**

### Challenges

In implementing priority actions for adolescents and young people, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?

*1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3 If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.F. Lack of human resources dedicated to adolescents and young people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The social work force is increased by creating opportunities through a decentralization concept. <em>Police, lack of experienced crime prevention practitioners</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.F. Lack of financial resources dedicated to adolescents and young people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Funding for some of the programs secured in collaboration with UN bodies. <em>Police. Crime prevention programs are held largely with assistance from sponsorship and CSR. Dedicated funding is limited.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.F. Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on adolescents and young people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Multi-stakeholder collaborations are obtained on areas that lacks technical capacity for implementation of programs targeted towards children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.F. Lack of data on adolescents and young people, particularly disaggregated data</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Currently working on establishing a digitalized case management system <em>Police; very strong support from local councilors to hold crime prevention programs.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.F. Lack of overall political support related to adolescents and young people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Currently working on establishing a multi-stakeholder case conferencing mechanism to address issues faced by young people <em>Police. Strong support from youth ministry and NGOs</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.F. Lack of international support related to adolescents and young people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Police</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.F.</td>
<td>Lack of development partner coordination related to adolescents and young people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.F.</td>
<td>Lack of public awareness and understanding of adolescents and young people</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.F.</td>
<td>A bottom-up approach to adolescents and young people not followed (e.g., involvement of adolescents and young people, particularly those most marginalized, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.F.</td>
<td>COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on adolescents and young people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 16.F. | Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of adolescent and young people programmes? Please elaborate and provide specific examples: |  |  |  |  |  | Geographically isolated: Atolls in Maldives are geographically isolated, hence it is difficult to reach certain population due to travel restrictions.  
Currently we are observing different issues that are faced and prevalent amongst young people. We lack technical capacity to address issues that are emerging.  
Reaching public: Different populations in the country uses different platforms exhibiting different issues. Increase in technical capacity is required to develop programs targeted for each population.  
Due to COVID 19 travel restrictions contributed to limit the number of and type of programs that conducted to adolescents in local islands. |

**Lessons learned**

**Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>18.F.</th>
<th>Please select any needs the country may have in order to <strong>implement</strong> the priority actions for adolescents and young people. Please check as many as apply.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|       | ☒ Capacity-building  
|       | ☒ Advocacy and awareness raising  
|       | ☒ Resource mobilization  
|       | ☐ Engagement with high-level politicians  
|       | ☒ Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc.  
|       | ☐ South-South cooperation  
|       | ☒ Public-private partnerships  
|       | ☒ Data for monitoring and planning  
|       | ☐ Other (*please elaborate*): |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>19.F.</th>
<th>Please select any needs the country may have in order to <strong>report on progress regarding</strong> the priority actions for adolescents and young people. Please check as many as apply to your country.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|       | ☒ Capacity-building – data collection  
|       | ☒ Capacity-building – data analysis  
|       | ☒ Lack of monitoring frameworks  
|       | ☒ Resource mobilization  
|       | ☐ Engagement with high-level politicians  
|       | ☒ Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc.  
|       | ☒ Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities  
|       | ☐ South-South cooperation  
|       | ☒ Public-private partnerships  
|       | ☐ Other (*please elaborate*): |
## G. Ageing

### Overall policy environment

1.G. Are any priority actions for ageing included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? Please elaborate.
   - If “yes”, please provide:
     - To ensure the rights of elderly, several strategies and policies are included in the National Strategic Action Plan (SAP 2019-2023). Under Caring State priority goal include:
       - **Strategy 1.1. Strengthen the Mechanisms for prevention of non-communicable disease.**
       - Action 1.1e, even though elderly is not specified in other actions under this strategy, elderly is also cover in Action 1.1a, and 1.1d.
       - **Strategy 3.6: strengthen policies and programs to provide better access to medical treatments and other relevant assistance for persons with disabilities, elderly and people with long-term illnesses.**

     (a) **the strategy name/link**
     - Health Master Plan 2016-2025
     - SAP Strategy 3.5

     (b) **date or time frame of the strategy plan**
     - 2016-2025
     - 2019-2022

     (c) **page number that references this action area**
     - Page 10
     - Page 194

     (d) **main elements of the action area**
     - Improve the legal framework to support the elderly
     - Not assessed yet - Ongoing (Government Pension Review)

### Achievements and good practices

2.G. Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Ageing” since 2013? Please elaborate.
   - If “yes”, please provide:
     - (a) **the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link**
       - The bill on National Elderly Act has been drafted and sent to Attorney General’s Office. The aim of this Act is to ensure the rights of Elderly are protected, socially and economically

     (b) **date of implementation and time frame**

     (c) **its main elements**

     (d) **its impact**
Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of ageing in the country since 2013? Please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:

The Elderly Village is going to be established in Addu City Feydhoo. It aims in providing residential home facilities, aged day care and nursing care home facilities respectively for both male and females. Residential Home (both female and male wards separately) enables voluntary registration whereas nursing care home and enables registration for elderly bedridden by their family members. The Elderly Village also aims to minimize the number of older people taken under state care.

The home would provide residential, aged day care and nursing care under one umbrella, which would enhance individual quality of life, providing unique person-centred care plan. The facility would also aim to foster independence, while also providing a well-balanced nutritional diet meeting individual requirements and recreational activities to develop a healthy lifestyle.

Elderly Community Center is going to be established in Male City to cater for older persons to provide social interaction, mental stimulation, physical activities and health services, in addition, improve their well-being and participation in society. This would enable caregivers a break from caregiving duties and enable them to continue work. The Elderly Community Center will also give opportunity for private sectors and NGOs to engage with elderly people to improve the welfare and to actively seek their partnership.

National Elderly Policy developed in 2017 was enacted in 2018 followed by an Action Plan in 2019. The policy was guided by the basic principle protected in constitute of the Maldives, UN principles for older persons, SDGs and WHO’s plan of Action on Aging and Health 2016-2020. There are four main policy areas; care and protection, independence and participation, health and wellbeing and preparation for old age.

“Ranveyla” campaign was launched nationwide in August 2016, to promote participation, protection and wellbeing of older persons. It also aims to increase the participation of elderly within their family and community and to improve their health and emotional well-being. It also included awareness sessions on healthy ageing, nutrition, mental health, exercise, and pension schemes.

To implement National Elderly Policy, National Elderly Action Plan (2019-2021) was developed. This Action plan outlines ways to improve the life of elderly and their protection and it recognize socio economic challenges faced by older persons. The plan also encourages their participation in the community. However, the policy and Action plan came before a legislation and there are some gaps in action plan. To align Action Plan with the new drafted bill and other international obligations (MIPPA document & WHO’s Decades of Healthy Ageing) it is being under review.

Protection and provision of Elderly care is a priority and to ensure quality care services, MoGFSS have developed certificate 3 in elderly care course with the help of Polytechnique. First batch of training is scheduled to be started on April 2023 to care givers in Home for Person’s with Special Needs (HPSN).

The older population of Maldives above 65 years of age are entitled to monthly payment of MVR 5000 Maldivian rufiyaa as a basic pension and if they have any disabilities they will receive additional MVR 2000 as disability allowance. Asanda also provides universal health coverage for older persons in the Maldives.
Bedridden program was initiated in 2014 to ease the difficulties burden face by caretakers and the bedridden elderly persons requiring medical services. This is a basic home healthcare service, where medical officers’ visits to their home to do routing checkups and provide medical assistance. This program was initiated throughout the country, however due to some challenges, this program in sustained mostly in the greater Male area and some of the islands.

Establishment of multi-sectoral community Social Groups “IBAMA” at island levels for protection of vulnerable groups

Pension Office has been collaborating with the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services in conducting the “Ranveyla Campaign” aimed at increasing participation of senior citizens in society, enhancing care and assistance, and improving health and wellbeing of senior citizens.

Pension Office also collaborates with NGOs to promote health and well-being of the elderly.

A partnership engagement is ongoing with the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Service to establish an Elderly Community Centre. The Centre is aimed at providing senior citizens an avenue to enrich their participation in social activities, engage in programs that promote active and healthy lifestyles and provide a one stop for key services.

4.G. Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing programmes on ageing that other countries may find useful?
Please elaborate and provide specific examples:

The community policing program by MPS has created the opportunities for elderly to be part of a group and contribute to problem solving in local communities. The program is strongly linked to ‘ibama’ that is being done by gender ministry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.G. Lack of human resources dedicated to ageing</td>
<td></td>
<td>☒</td>
<td></td>
<td>Salary reformed, task shifting and collaboration with other stakeholder and NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.G. Lack of financial resources dedicated to ageing</td>
<td></td>
<td>☒</td>
<td></td>
<td>Obtaining and utilizing development partners and UN agency’s funds 2, contribute in data sharing efforts with other agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.G.</td>
<td>Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on ageing</td>
<td>Training gaps identified and training requirement compiled by HR Division. Trainings conducted for capacity building both internally and for trainings organized by other stakeholders.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8.G.</td>
<td>Lack of data on ageing, particularly disaggregated data</td>
<td>Basic pension data is collected from Pension Administration Office. And this data is maintained in every Island Council. 2. contribute in data sharing efforts with other agencies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.G.</td>
<td>Lack of overall political support related to ageing</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10.G.</td>
<td>Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to ageing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11.G.</td>
<td>Lack of international support related to ageing</td>
<td>1. international support received from development partners in developing policies and programs.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.G.</td>
<td>Lack of development partner coordination related to ageing</td>
<td>Better coordination</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13.G.</td>
<td>Lack of public awareness and understanding of ageing</td>
<td>collaborative work with MoGFSS</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.G.</td>
<td>A bottom-up approach to ageing not followed (e.g., involvement of older persons, particularly those most marginalized, etc.)</td>
<td>collaborative work with MoGFSS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.G.</td>
<td>COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on ageing</td>
<td>If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc. Essential services were prioritised. Specially services given through online was a huge change, since most of the elderly were not equipped to use technologies.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16.G.</td>
<td>Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of programmes on ageing? Please elaborate and provide specific examples. Harmonisation of pensions is a major challenge as the present defined benefits would continue to add to the state’s fiscal liabilities.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Lessons learned**

**17.G.** Are there any lessons learned in the area of ageing not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? Please elaborate and provide specific examples.

N/A
### Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
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</table>
| 18.G. | Please select any needs the country may have in order to **implement** the priority actions for ageing. Please check as many as apply. | ☒ Capacity-building  
☑ Advocacy and awareness raising  
☑ Resource mobilization  
☑ Engagement with high-level politicians  
☑ Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc.  
☐ South-South cooperation  
☐ Public-private partnerships  
☐ Data for monitoring and planning  
☐ Other (please elaborate): |
| 19.G. | Please select any needs the country may have in order to **report on progress regarding** the priority actions for ageing. Please check as many as apply to your country. | ☒ Capacity-building – data collection  
☑ Capacity-building – data analysis  
☑ Lack of monitoring frameworks  
☑ Resource mobilization  
☑ Engagement with high-level politicians  
☑ Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc.  
☐ Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities  
☐ South-South cooperation  
☐ Public-private partnerships  
☐ Other (please elaborate): |

### H. International migration

#### Overall policy environment

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
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</table>
| 1.H. | Are any priority actions for international migration included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? *please elaborate* | Yes ☒  
No ☐ |

If “yes”, please provide:

- (a) the strategy name/link  
  SAP 2019-2023
- (b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan  
  2019-2023
- (c) page number that references this action area  
  page 81, 82
- (d) main elements of the action area  
  Policy 5: Strengthen the framework on addressing the issue of irregular expatriate workers in line with international standards
- (e) its impact  
  Manage expatriates’ workers / aim to give rights to expatriates/reduce illegal (undocumented) migrants
2.H. Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “International migration” since 2013? Please elaborate

If “yes”, please provide:

(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link
   Employment Act and Immigration Act
(b) date of implementation and time frame
   Ongoing
(c) its main elements
   **Employment Act** - rights and obligations of employers and employees, establishes a Labour Relations Authority and an Employment Tribunal to protect such rights, and makes provision for all other matters related to employment.
   **Immigration Act** – This Act lays down the rules for the departure and entry of Maldivian nationals, and entry, departure and deportation of foreign nationals.

(d) its impact
   Manage expatriates’ workers / aim to give rights to expatriates/ reduce illegal (undocumented) migrants

Yes ☑️
No ☐️
### Achievements and lessons learned

3.H. Aside from what is listed above, what are some **key achievements** in the area of international migration in the country since 2013?  
*please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact.*

Works undertaken to legalize many undocumented migrants

4.H. Are there any **good practices** the country has developed in operationalizing international migration programmes that other countries may find useful?  
*please elaborate and provide specific examples.*

Services were given during covid-19 to migrant workers, both documented and undocumented workers which was same as locals (vaccination, Health care, awareness, relief assistance etc) which resulted to overcome the pandemic with minimal casualties and low death rate.

### Challenges

In implementing priority actions for international migration, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?  
*[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th><em>If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.H. Lack of human resources dedicated to international migration</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6.H. Lack of financial resources dedicated to international migration</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.H. Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on international migration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.H. Lack of data on international migration, particularly disaggregated data</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- No proper mechanism for integration of the available data by sectors Available data is not used to make any decision making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.H. Lack of overall political support related to international migration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prevention of Human trafficking/exploitation of international migrants are not perceived as political priorities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|   | 10.H. | Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to international migration |  |  | - Lack of coordination among state agencies  
- Lack of coordination between private sector and Civil Society, International partners, development agencies.  
- Outdated regulations and Acts.  
- Not aligned with international best practices  
- Limited information sharing and communication between the institution  
- Poor implementation of existing laws and regulations.  
- Rights based approach is not used to address the existing issues  
- Duplication of resources |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 11.H. | Lack of international support related to international migration | ✗ |  | - Lack of coordination between private sector and Civil Society, International partners, development agencies and state agencies.  
- Duplication of resources |
- Duplication of resources |
|   | 13.H. | Lack of public awareness and understanding of international migration |  | ✗ | - Relevant information is not shared with the Immigrants |
|   | 14.H. | A bottom-up approach to international migration not followed (e.g., involvement of international migrants, etc.) | ✗ |  |  |
|   | 15.H. | COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on international migration | ✗ |  | If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster(s), emergency, etc.  
Covid 19 |
|   | 16.H. | Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of international migration programmes? Please elaborate and provide specific examples:  
No |
| 17.H. | Are there any **lessons learned** in the area of international migration not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? **Please elaborate and provide specific examples:**  
No |
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.H.</td>
<td>Please select any needs the country may have in order to <strong>implement</strong> the priority actions for international migration. Please check as many as apply.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| | ☒ Capacity-building  
| | ☒ Advocacy and awareness raising  
| | ☒ Resource mobilization  
| | ☒ Engagement with high-level politicians  
| | ☒ Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc.  
| | ☒ South-South cooperation  
| | ☒ Public-private partnerships  
| | ☒ Data for monitoring and planning  
| | ☐ Other (**please elaborate**): |
| 19.H. | Please select any needs the country may have in order to **report on progress regarding** the priority actions for international migration. Please check as many as apply to your country. |
| | ☒ Capacity-building – data collection  
| | ☒ Capacity-building – data analysis  
| | ☒ Lack of monitoring frameworks  
| | ☒ Resource mobilization  
| | ☒ Engagement with high-level politicians  
| | ☒ Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc.  
| | ☒ Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities  
| | ☒ South-South cooperation  
| | ☒ Public-private partnerships  
| | ☐ Other (**please elaborate**): |
I. Urbanization and internal migration

We do not have any relevant work regarding Urbanisation and internal Migration. Hence, we do not have information to comment on this.

### Overall policy environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are any priority actions for urbanization and internal migration included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <em>Please elaborate</em></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If “yes”, please provide:

(a) the strategy name/link


(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan

1. Land use planning regulation
2. National Spatial Plan 2021–2040
3. Amendment to Decentralization Act 2019, 2020 and 2022
5. Strategic Action Plan 2019-2023

(c) page number that references this action area

1. National Spatial Plan, page 10, Strategic Action Plan 2019-2023 Section 3.2 & Section 4.1 & Section 4.2

(d) main elements of the action area

1. regional development, resource distribution and allocation, decentralization, increase accessibility to housing, Increase affordability of housing, Promote decentralized housing provision and land accessibility, establishment of transport network across the nation.

(e) its impact

1. intended impact to reduce disparity of capital male and atolls, equitable development across country

### 2.1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Urbanization and internal migration” since 2013? <em>Please elaborate</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If “yes”, please provide:

(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link

(b) date of implementation and time frame

(c) its main elements

(d) its impact

### Achievements and good practices
3.I. Aside from what is listed above, what are some **key achievements** in the area of urbanization and internal migration in the country since 2013? *Please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact.*

Initiatives for social housing and housing stock across country.

4.I. Are there any **good practices** the country has developed in operationalizing urbanization and internal migration programmes that other countries may find useful? *Please elaborate and provide specific examples.*

### Challenges

In implementing priority actions for urbanization and internal migration, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? 

*1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of human resources dedicated to urbanization and internal migration</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Limited Capacity at Central Level and newly formed local governments lack the capacity immensely</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of financial resources dedicated to urbanization and internal migration</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sectors/local governments do this in an uncoordinated manner hence resources are not used optimally</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on urbanization and internal migration</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>local governments lack the capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of data on urbanization and internal migration, particularly disaggregated data</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>some data is not available at local level hence local level planning is limited and not based on needs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Lack of overall political support related to urbanization and internal migration |   | X |   | - swinging policies  
- unclear directions  
- no long term plan |
| Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to urbanization and internal migration |   | X |   | - need to strengthen interagency coordination  
- lack coordination central and local governments |
| Lack of international support related to urbanization and internal migration |   | X |   | - financing available  
- better resource management at central level |
| Lack of development partner coordination related to urbanization and internal migration |   | X |   | This area need improvement |
| Lack of public awareness and understanding of urbanization and internal migration |   | X |   | Further work needed in this area |
| 14.I. | A bottom-up approach to urbanization and internal migration not followed (e.g., involvement of urban migrants, etc.) | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | There Room for improvement |
| 15.I. | COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on urbanization and internal migration | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster(s), emergency, etc. Covid 19 |

**Lessons learned**

| 17.I. | Are there any *lessons learned* in the area of urbanization and internal migration not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? *please elaborate and provide specific examples.* |
| | - Regional development is crucial to ensure sustainable development. |
| | - Transportation is an accelerator for development and ensuring accessibility especially for countries such as Maldives where communities are highly dispersed. |
| | - Digital tools can be leveraged to provide quality services across dispersed population. |
| | - Data collection mechanisms need to be incorporated in to programs to ensure evidence based informed decisions. |

**Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring**

| 18.I. | Please select any needs the country may have in order to *implement* the priority actions for urbanization and internal migration. Please check as many as apply. |
| | ☒ Capacity-building |
| | ☒ Advocacy and awareness raising |
| | ☒ Resource mobilization |
| | ☒ Engagement with high-level politicians |
| | ☒ Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. |
| | ☒ South-South cooperation |
| | ☒ Public-private partnerships |
| | ☒ Data for monitoring and planning |
| | ☐ Other (*please elaborate*): |
19.I. Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for urbanization and internal migration. Please check as many as apply to your country.

- Capacity-building – data collection
- Capacity-building – data analysis
- Lack of monitoring frameworks
- Resource mobilization
- Engagement with high-level politicians
- Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc.
- Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities
- South-South cooperation
- Public-private partnerships
- Other (*please elaborate*):

---

**J. Population and sustainable development**

*Overall policy environment*
1. Are any priority actions for population and sustainable development included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? *please elaborate*

   If “yes”, please provide:
   
   (a) the strategy name/link
      - Strategic Action Plan
      - National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
      - Waste Management Policy
      - Energy Road Map
      - Single use plastic phase out plan
      - Water and Sanitation Framework
      - National Implementation Plan on Chemicals
      - HCFC HFC phase out plan

   (b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan

   (c) page number that references this action area

   (d) main elements of the action area

   (d) its impact

Incorporating SDGs into our plans and policies are given utmost importance. We encourage local councils to include SDG related activities in Local Development plans. Hence, for the past 2 planning cycles of councils (2017-2021 & 2022-2026), the areas in island/city development plan template are included in a way that all SDGs are also reflected.

- Trainings have been provided to prepare local Development plans
- Awareness on SDGs through social media

Foreign training and awareness opportunities related to SDGs has been sent to local councils and LGA staffs

National Spatial Plan (waiting for cabinet endorsement) /2019-2023

**SAP 2019-2023**

#1

(a) (1.3 Tourism) Strategy 2.6: Integrate eco-tourism to existing and upcoming products [MM2.1.9]

(b) SAP 2019-2023

(c) pg. 56

(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)

(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)

#2

(a) (4.1 Decentralization) Strategy 2.5: Empower local councils to exercise their power and discretion to establish a safe and secure environment in their communities

(b) SAP 2019-2023

(c) pg. 258

(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)

(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)

#3

(a) (4.3 Environmental & Preservation) Strategy 1.1: Strengthen the legal and regulatory framework for environmental
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>management to ensure protection and conservation of the environment [P143]</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(b)</td>
<td>SAP 2019-2023</td>
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<td>(c)</td>
<td>Pg. 277</td>
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<td>(d)</td>
<td>(corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)</td>
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<td>(e)</td>
<td>(corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#4

(a) (4.3 Environmental & Preservation) Strategy 1.2: Streamline institutional arrangements to ensure effective and coherent environmental management and government response to environmental protection and preservation
(b) SAP 2019-2023
(c) Pg. 279
(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document) e
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document) e

#5

(a) (4.3 Environmental & Preservation) Strategy 1.3: Enhance national policy framework on environmental protection and conservation [To be coordinated and implemented with Action 1.1h of Waste as a Resource subsector matrix]
(b) SAP 2019-2023
(c) Pg. 279
(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)

#6

(a) (4.3 Environmental & Preservation) Strategy 1.5: Strengthen national human resource capacity on research, environmental governance, environmental management and monitoring to facilitate effective environmental protection and sustainable practices
(b) SAP 2019-2023
(c) Pg. 281
(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)

#7

(a) (4.3 Environmental & Preservation) Strategy 2.1: Establish a comprehensive and functional protected areas system in the Maldives in accordance with the international standards [A19, P140]
(b) SAP 2019-2023
(c) Pg. 282
(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)

#8

(a) (4.3 Environmental & Preservation) Strategy 2.2: Promote market-based and non-market based instruments for biodiversity conservation
(a) SAP 2019-2023
(b) Pg. 283
(c) corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)
(d) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
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<th>Document References</th>
<th>Corresponding Action</th>
<th>Corresponding Target</th>
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<td>#10</td>
<td>(4.3 Environmental &amp; Preservation) Strategy 2.3: Enhance the protected area network in the Maldives</td>
<td>SAP 2019-2023</td>
<td>Pg. 283</td>
<td>(corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)</td>
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<td>#11</td>
<td>Strategy 2.5: Strengthen response mechanisms relating to chemical spills, fires and poisoning</td>
<td>SAP 2019-2023</td>
<td>Pg. 284</td>
<td>(corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)</td>
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<tr>
<td>#12</td>
<td>Strategy 2.5: Strengthen response mechanisms relating to chemical spills, fires and poisoning</td>
<td>SAP 2019-2023</td>
<td>Pg. 284</td>
<td>(corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>(4.4 Clean Energy) Strategy 1.1: Increase affordability of electricity to reduce economic burden on all citizens [M52, A19, P156]</td>
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<td>(c) Pg. 293</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>(4.4 Clean Energy) Strategy 1.2: Develop electricity infrastructure on the islands to ensure uninterrupted and efficient supply of electricity [P154, P155]</td>
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<td>(4.4 Clean Energy) Strategy 2.2: Create an enabling environment for domestic users to adopt renewable energy</td>
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<td>(4.4 Clean Energy) Strategy 2.3: Strategy 2.4: Enable the transportation industry to adopt vehicles that use renewable energy</td>
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<td>(c) Pg. 296</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>(4.4 Clean Energy) Strategy 2.3: Strategy 4.1: Provide electricity through an integrated utility service provision model and decentralise the utilities to ensure cost-effectiveness [To be coordinated and implemented with Strategy 2.1 of Decentralisation and Strategy 2.1 of Water and Sanitation subsector matrix]</td>
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<td>(c) Pg. 298</td>
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<td>(4.4 Clean Energy) Strategy 2.3: Strategy 4.3: Develop institutional and human resource capacity of the energy sector</td>
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<td>#23</td>
<td>(a) (4.4 Clean Energy) Strategy 5.1: Increase demand side energy efficiency and conservation</td>
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<td>#24</td>
<td>(a) (4.5 Waste as a Resource) Strategy 1.3: Establish a mechanism for waste collection, storage and management at the island level [P139]</td>
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<td>#25</td>
<td>(a) (4.5 Waste as a Resource) Strategy 1.6: Establish Regional Waste Management and Treatment Facilities (RWMT Facilities)</td>
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<tr>
<td>#26</td>
<td>(a) (4.5 Waste as a Resource) Strategy 1.8: Increase employment and entrepreneurship potential in the waste management sector through support mechanisms for SME start-ups and existing businesses to encourage innovative solutions for waste reduction, reuse, recovery, and management</td>
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<td>(c) Pg. 306</td>
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<td>#27</td>
<td>(a) (4.5 Waste as a Resource) Strategy 4.1: Develop and conduct a nation-wide awareness programme that engages and informs the government institutions, businesses, and the general public on proper waste management practices</td>
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<td>(a) (4.5 Waste as a Resource) Strategy 4.1: Develop and conduct a nation-wide awareness programme that engages and informs the government institutions, businesses, and the general public on proper waste management practices</td>
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<td>(b) SAP 2019-2023</td>
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</table>
| #29  | (a) (4.5 Waste as a Resource) Strategy 4.2: Initiate programmes to incentivise the public to adopt an environmental-friendly lifestyle  
|      | (b) SAP 2019-2023  
|      | (c) Pg. 310  
|      | (d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)  
|      | (e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document) |
| #30  | (a) (4.6 Waste & Sanitation) Strategy 1.2: Provide Water and Sewerage services through an integrated utility service provision model and decentralise the utilities to ensure costeffectiveness [A19] [To be coordinated and implemented with Strategy 2.1 of Decentralisation and Strategy 4.1 of Clean Energy subsector matrix]  
|      | (b) SAP 2019-2023  
|      | (c) Pg. 313  
|      | (d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)  
|      | (e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document) |
| #31  | (a) (4.6 Waste & Sanitation) Strategy 1.4: Strengthen operation, maintenance and management of water supply and sewerage systems through compliance monitoring and safety planning  
|      | (b) SAP 2019-2023  
|      | (c) Pg. 313  
|      | (d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)  
|      | (e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document) |
| #32  | (a) (4.6 Waste & Sanitation) Strategy 2.1: Ensure climate resilient and cost-effective water supply and sewerage systems [To be coordinated and implemented with Strategy 4.1 of Clean Energy subsector matrix]  
|      | (b) SAP 2019-2023  
|      | (c) Pg. 315  
|      | (d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)  
|      | (e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document) |
| #32  | (a) (4.6 Waste & Sanitation) Strategy 4.1: Promote awareness on water resources management, water supply, and sewerage service operations and maintenance  
|      | (b) SAP 2019-2023  
|      | (c) Pg. 318  
|      | (d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)  
|      | (e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document) |
| #33  | (a) (4.6 Waste & Sanitation) Strategy 5.1: Reduce vulnerability of the island freshwater resources  
|      | (b) SAP 2019-2023 |
| # | (a) | (4.7 Resilient Islands) Strategy 1.7: Implement large-scale and innovative tree planting programmes on coastal areas, roads, public areas, and buildings to reduce effects of increase in temperatures  
(b) SAP 2019-2023  
(c) Pg. 326  
(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document  
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)
| #34 |
| -- | (a) | (4.7 Resilient Islands) Strategy 1.8: Develop localised coastal protection and flood mitigation mechanisms, and infrastructure in the islands identified as most vulnerable to disaster and climate risk [P136, P137, P144]  
(b) SAP 2019-2023  
(c) Pg. 326  
(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document  
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)
| #35 |
| -- | (a) | (4.7 Resilient Islands) Strategy 2.3: Increase capacity of vulnerable groups to adapt to climate impacts and disasters  
(b) SAP 2019-2023  
(c) Pg. 326  
(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document  
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)
| #36 |
| -- | (a) | (4.7 Resilient Islands) Strategy 3.1: Conduct ‘National Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction’ on regular basis to improve and mobilise knowledge, skills and resources required for mainstreaming DRR into development policies, planning and programmes  
(b) SAP 2019-2023  
(c) Pg. 329  
(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document  
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)
| #37 |
| -- | (a) | (4.7 Resilient Islands) Strategy 3.2: Advocate and lead SIDS effort at international level on issues relating to climate change and disaster resilience  
(b) SAP 2019-2023  
(c) Pg. 329  
(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document  
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)
| #38 |
| -- | (a) | (4.7 Resilient Islands) Strategy 3.3: Establish an effective advocacy and outreach communication mechanism on climate change issues national wide  
(b) SAP 2019-2023  
(c) Pg. 330 |
| #40 | (d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)  
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)  
(a) (4.7 Resilient Islands) Strategy 6.2: Leverage finance for start-ups, CMOs and SMES to develop climate resilient solutions  
(b) SAP 2019-2023  
(c) Pg. 333  
(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)  
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document) |
|---|---|
| **NBSAP 2016-2025**  
**#1** | (a) Strategy 1: Strengthen governance, policies and strategies for biodiversity  
(b) NBSAP 2016-2025  
(c) Pg. 20-23  
(d) (corresponding ‘Suggested Actions’ detailed in document)  
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)  
(a) Strategy 2: Enhancing Communication and outreach through awareness programs and capacity building  
(b) NBSAP 2016-2025  
(c) Pg. 26-29  
(d) (corresponding ‘Suggested Action’ detailed in document)  
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document) |
### 2.J.

Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Population and sustainable development” since 2013? *please elaborate*

If “yes”, please provide:
- (a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link
- (b) date of implementation and time frame
- (c) its main elements
- (d) its impact

*areas in island/city development plan template are included in a way that SDGs are also reflected.*

**Environment**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>#1</th>
<th>Water and Sewerage Act (8/2020)</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tr>
<td>(c)</td>
<td>The Act focuses on the rights, role of institutions, water resources, protection of the environment, service providers of the water and sewerage, registrations and issuance of licence, investigations, penalties and miscellaneous topics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d)</td>
<td>Ensures the delivery of safe and clean water to all persons in the country, The Act stipulates the guidelines and procedures for the protection of water resources, and to enable the establishment of a suitable water sewerage network for all inhabited islands, along with other relevant guidelines.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#2</th>
<th>National Water and Sewerage Strategic Plan (2021 - 2025)</th>
<th>2021 - 2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(c)</td>
<td>The action plan focuses on six major policies, including ensuring access for all, development of sustainable and low-cost systems, training and raising awareness in regard to the sector, protecting water and sewerage systems as well as creating a resilient society to safeguard against natural disasters such as floods.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d)</td>
<td>Ensures the delivery of safe and clean water to all people in the country.</td>
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<tr>
<th>#5</th>
<th>Utility Regulatory Authority Act (26/2020)</th>
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<tr>
<th>#6</th>
<th>National Action Plan on Air Pollutants (2019)</th>
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<tr>
<th>#9</th>
<th>Climate Emergency Act 9/2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a)</td>
<td>2021</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

10. Energy act 2021
### Achievements and good practices

3.J. Aside from what is listed above, what are some **key achievements** in the area of population and sustainable development in the country since 2013? **Please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:**

#### Environment

1. Ratification of Water and Sewerage Act (8/2020)
2. Formation of a functional Utility Regulatory Authority (URA) for integrated utility services in 2020
3. Development and enforcement of water and sewerage regulations, policies, standards, specifications and guidelines required under the Water and Sewerage Act
4. Commencement of Maldives Red List and completing assessments for all species of turtles found in the Maldives and 39 species of corals
5. Ratification of CITES Act
7. Ratification of Protected Species Regulation
9. Maldives becoming a Party to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation
10. Maldives becoming a member of the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership
11. Maldives becoming a member of the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People and the Global Ocean Alliance
12. Under the ‘one island, one reef and one wetland from each atoll’ conservation policy we have been able to establish 32 protected sites since the implementation of the policy in 2018/2019. This adds up to a total of 79 sites protected under the Environmental Protection and Preservation Act.
13. Out of the 20 administrative atolls, 3 atolls have the designation of UNESCO MAN and Biosphere Reserves
14. Guidelines have been established on recognising Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the areas leased for tourism operations in the Maldives
15. Establishment of energy efficiency programme (Hakathari labelling)
16. Improvement of quality of electricity service through upgraded infrastructure
Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing population and sustainable development programmes that other countries may find useful? Please elaborate and provide specific examples:

1. To manage and operate the Water and Sewerage services in the islands state owned enterprises - Utility companies were formed.
2. Development of Water and Sewerage tariff model
3. Separated regulatory entity has been developed to monitor the Water and Sewerage services
4. Monitoring and management of the Water and Sewerage services in the islands is decentralized and mandated upon the island councils
5. Environmental and Social Management Plan for upgrading island waste management centres
6. Step by step approach addressing production to disposal incorporated in the single use plastic phase out plan and HCFC phase out plan
7. Net metering regulation to encourage renewable energy
8. Green tax as a financial mechanism

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for population and sustainable development, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?

[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 5.J. Lack of human resources dedicated to population and sustainable development | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | Limited Capacity at Central Level and newly formed local governments lack the capacity immensely
| | | | | Development of skill-level training programmes within the field of water and sewerage |
| 6.J. Lack of financial resources dedicated to population and sustainable development | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | Sectors/local governments do this in an uncoordinated manner hence resources are not used optimally
| | | | | Development of water and sewerage tariff model |
| 7.J. | Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on population and sustainable development | | local governments lack the capacity Specific training programmes targeted for personals involved in diff sectors such as policy, governance and awareness has been set |
| 8.J. | Lack of data on population and sustainable development, particularly disaggregated data | | Sometimes Administrative Data Collected is not used Ministry has started to coordinate with relevant stakeholders and compile data on the implementation of the policies and the service provision of the islands |
| 9.J. | Lack of overall political support related to population and sustainable development | | - swinging policies - unclear directions - no long term plan |
| 10.J. | Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to population and sustainable development | | - need to strengthen interagency coordination - lack coordination central and local governments |
| 11.J. | Lack of international support related to population and sustainable development | | - financing available - better resource management at central level |
| 12.J. | Lack of development partner coordination related to population and sustainable development | | This area need improvement |
| 13.J. | Lack of public awareness and understanding of population and sustainable development | | - Various awareness programs are conducted as part of different projects/works the ministry does - Stakeholder consultation meetings with councils |
| 14.J. | A bottom-up approach to population and sustainable development not followed (e.g., involvement of those most affected, or most marginalized populations, etc.) | | most vulnerable is left behind, mostly a top-down approach is followed. |
15.J. COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on population and sustainable development

If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster(s), emergency, etc. overall Covid-19 hindered the implementation of all planned programs

16.J. Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of population and sustainable development programmes? **please elaborate and provide specific examples:**
- Lack of awareness on SDGs
- National level localization of SDG is not formalized and adopted in local level plans. This also leads to a gap in the monitoring of SDG implementation
- Lack of technical capacity

Budget constraints to implement programs

Digital transformation, innovative solutions and technology available or used by other countries are in accessible to the Maldives.

**Lessons learned**

17.J. Are there any **lessons learned** in the area of population and sustainable development not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? **please elaborate and provide specific examples:**

#1 Maldives Green Fund:
#2 Baa Atoll Conservation Fund

1. Importance of public engagement during all stages of policy development to implementation to ensure success
2. Economic valuation and natural capital accounting to make a case for conservation and sustainable development

Untapped financial resources and opportunities available in the private sector esp philanthropic donors

**Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring**

18.J. Please select any needs the country may have in order to **implement** the priority actions for population and sustainable development. Please check as many as apply.

- Capacity-building
- Advocacy and awareness raising
- Resource mobilization
- Engagement with high-level politicians
- Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc.
- South-South cooperation
- Public-private partnerships
- Data for monitoring and planning

**Other (please elaborate):**
19.J. Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for population and sustainable development. Please check as many as apply to your country.

- [ ] Capacity-building – data collection
- [ ] Capacity-building – data analysis
- [ ] Lack of monitoring frameworks
- [ ] Resource mobilization
- [ ] Engagement with high-level politicians
- [ ] Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc.
- [ ] Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities
- [ ] South-South cooperation
- [ ] Public-private partnerships
- [ ] Other (please elaborate):

**K. Data and statistics**

**Overall policy environment**
1.K. Are any priority actions for data and statistics included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? *please elaborate*

If “yes”, please provide:

- (a) the strategy name/link:

- (b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan
  2021-2030

- (c) page number that references this action area

- (d) main elements of the action area

- (d) its impact

---

Digitalization of council services and administration have been a priority of Local Government Authority. Therefore, an online portal has been developed through which some of the local level statistics (such as land registry of islands, registry of people with special needs etc) are being collected.

**Health**

If “yes”, please provide:

- (a) the strategy name/link:

- (b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan
  SAP: 2019-2023
  HMP: 2016-2025
  NSDS 2021 – 2030

- (c) page number that references this action area:
  1. SAP: page 120
  2. HMP: page 47
  3. NSDS: page 51

- (d) main elements of the action area
  1. SAP: Strategy 6.3 under Policy 6: Develop and integrate health data management systems within health network to enable timely surveillance of diseases, births and deaths, morbidity patterns as well as social determinants of health
  2. HMP: strategic input 3.3
  3. NSDS: Strategic Objective 3: On Core Statistics and Statistical Programmes

- (d) its impact
  - Enable timely collection and analysis of health data for planning and decision making
  - Periodic update of Designated Statistics is available and produced by the Maldives Statistical System
If “yes”, please provide:
(a) the strategy name/link: National Statistical Act/Regulation

NSPA
(a) the strategy name/link: Strategic Action Plan
(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan: 2019 - 2023
(c) page number that references this action area: page 163, etc
(d) main elements of the action area: Establish an interoperable and integrated data management system

Env
SAP 2019-2023

#1
(a) (4.3 Environmental & Preservation) Strategy 1.5: Strengthen national human resource capacity on research, environmental governance, environmental management and monitoring to facilitate effective environmental protection and sustainable practices
(b) SAP 2019-2023
(c) Pg. 281
(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)

#2
(a) (4.3 Environmental & Preservation) Strategy 2.1: Establish a comprehensive and functional protected areas system in the Maldives in accordance with the international standards [A19, P140]
(b) SAP 2019-2023
(c) Pg. 282
(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)

#3
(a) (4.3 Environmental & Preservation) Strategy 2.5: Strengthen response mechanisms relating to chemical spills, fires and poisoning
(b) SAP 2019-2023
(c) Pg. 284
(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)

#4
(a) (4.3 Environmental & Preservation) Strategy 2.5: Strategy 2.6: Maintain an acceptable level of ambient air quality in the Maldives through low emission development by shifting towards cleaner, efficient technologies, fuels and practices
(b) SAP 2019-2023
(c) Pg. 284
(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)

#5
(a) (4.3 Environmental & Preservation) Strategy 2.7: Strengthen mechanism for biodiversity conservation and protection
(b) SAP 2019-2023
(c) Pg. 284 & 285
| #6 | (d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)  
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)  
(a) (4.3 Environmental & Preservation) Strategy 3.1: Increase research on environmental protection and conservation to minimise pressures on ecosystems and biodiversity from anthropogenic and climate change related stresses [To be coordinated and implemented with Action 1.3b of Resilient Communities and Policy 2 of Fisheries and Marine Resources subsector matrices]  
(b) SAP 2019-2023  
(c) Pg. 286  
(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)  
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)  
  |  |
| #7 | (a) (4.3 Environmental & Preservation) Strategy 3.1: Strategy 5.1:  
Strengthen national data management of environmental protection and preservation  
(b) SAP 2019-2023  
(c) Pg. 288  
(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)  
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)  
  |  |
| #8 | (a) (4.3 Environmental & Preservation) Strategy 3.1: Strategy 5.2:  
Establish natural capital accounting systems, monitoring and dissemination  
(b) SAP 2019-2023  
(c) Pg. 289  
(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)  
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)  
  |  |
| #9 | (a) (4.4 Clean Energy) Strategy 4.4: Develop a mechanism for reliable energy data collection and access  
(b) SAP 2019-2023  
(c) Pg. 300  
(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)  
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)  
  |  |
| #10 | (a) (4.5 Waste as a Resource) Strategy 1.5: Strengthen waste management through evidence based policies  
(b) SAP 2019-2023  
(c) Pg. 306  
(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)  
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)  
  |  |
| #11 | (a) (4.6 Waster & Sanitation) Strategy 1.3: Improve research and evidence on water and sewerage sector to support policy making  
(b) SAP 2019-2023  
(c) Pg. 313  
(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)  
(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)  
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| #12 |  |</p>
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<tr>
<th>#12</th>
<th>Strategy 5.2: Improve fresh water quality testing and monitoring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) (4.6 Water &amp; Sanitation)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) SAP 2019-2023</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) Pg. 319</td>
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<td>(d) (corresponding ‘Action’ detailed in document)</td>
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<td>(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)</td>
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<td>NBSAP 2016-2025</td>
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<td>#1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(a) Strategy 6: Strengthen information management and resource mobilization</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(b) NBSAP 2016-2025</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(c) Pg. 52-55</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(d) (corresponding ‘Suggested Actions’ detailed in document)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(e) (corresponding ‘Target’ detailed in document)</td>
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</table>
2.K. Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Data and statistics” since 2013? please elaborate
If “yes”, please provide:
Health
(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link 1.
Health Services Act (29/2015)
2. Act related to birth and death registration, birth certification and creation of national identity card (23/2022)

(b) date of implementation and time frame
2. Act related to birth and death registration, birth certification and creation of national identity card (23/2022): implemented on 2022

(c) its main elements
1. Act related to provision of health services in Maldives. Clause 44 states that all health facilities must share health statistics with the Ministry of Health for the purpose of monitoring, analysis and publication of health statistics
2. Act provides standards for birth and death registration, birth certification and ID card creation
3. The Maldives Statistics Act defines and governs the national statistical system—the Maldives Statistical System (MSS) -- and outlines the procedures for the collection, processing, analysis, dissemination and use of official statistics, under an established national standard.

(d) its impact
1. All health facilities are mandated to share health statistics with the Ministry of Health, allowing MoH to collect relevant health data and monitor healthcare indicators required for policy decisions and plans.
2. Strengthen vital registration system to capture population data, allowing to identify trends in mortality and fertility and the factors associated.

Env #3
(a) National Action Plan on Air Pollutants (2019)

#4

#6
(a) Climate Emergency Act 9/2021

7. Energy act 2021
3. Strengthen the national statistical system to produce reliable national statistics on the situation of the economy, society, environment and make it available to all citizens with equal and simultaneous access
Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of data and statistics in the country since 2013? Please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact.

Major achievements in the areas of data and statistics at local council level includes digitalizing population and house registration at local level, voters registry, death and birth registration process, local migrant information, council asset registration, digitalizing the finance management system of local councils and also digitalizing the social protection management system of local councils.

The digitalization of these data helps to ensure that the collected data are readily available and collected in a sustainable way. And also, it helps reduce the repetition of data requests by other institutions at central level by making these data readily available for viewing to the relevant institutions.

**Health**
- Establishment of DHIS2, an online platform used to collect and manage health statistics from health facilities
- Establishment of GEMEN, an online birth and death certification and registration system

**NSPA**
Development of the Social Protection Information System and National Disability Registry

**Env**
- Establishment of Air Quality Monitoring Systems

**MBS**
- On 20 July 2021, President ratified the Maldives Statistics Act which was passed by the Parliament on 8 July 2021 which facilitates and pave the way towards increased usage of data collected by the government and public institutions for administrative purposes as well as other sources of data collected
- National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) 2021-2030, the 10 year plan for the development of statistics in the country was recognized which forms the basis for the development of an Integrated National Statistical System that will result in improved data availability for government policy and planning needs, and other user needs. The NSDS was developed, taking into consideration the current Strategic Action Plan of the government (SAP), Sectoral Master plans, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other important international commitments
4.K. Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing data and statistics programmes that other countries may find useful? Please elaborate and provide specific examples:

Collecting data from local level helps to get the most up to date information rather than an organisation based at central level collecting the data. Integration of these system to relevant central level organization who requires the information reduced repetition in data collection and administrative work by local councils with limited human resource.

**Env**

- Using low-cost air quality monitoring sensors to broadcast real time Air Quality data to people in urban hotspots.
- Initiation of the Digital Maldives for Adaptation, decentralization and diversification project – through which a one-stop-shop database of all environmental data will be available.

As part of the efforts to strengthen data and digital infrastructure in the social security and economic sectors, during 2022, Pension Office contributed to the development of applications for Government Agencies. Utilising the in-house technical capacity, Pension Office assisted to develop the Census 2022 application for the Maldives Bureau of Statistics, and an API for the Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure facilitating access to employment information.

Work is underway to establish a data warehouse, and development of data-centric digital services will be carried out; paving the way forward for introducing business intelligence (BI) based applications and processes in the coming years.

**Challenges**

In implementing priority actions for data and statistics, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? Please elaborate:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.K.</td>
<td>Lack of human resources dedicated to data and statistics</td>
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- The Health Information Management and Research Division of MoH has a Statistics and Publication section. However, all health facilities do not have a designated staff for data management.

- Funding and willingness of staff to train specifically on data and statistics has to be addressed.

- by outsourcing or hiring by retainer for technical development

- Within MPS, a department was established to deal with data and statistics.
  - However, the department still lacks the Human resources as required.

Pension

- increase hiring and training of employees for data services at.

Human resource development needs for production and use of statistics identified in assessments are not prioritized and funded.
| 6.K. | Lack of financial resources dedicated to data and statistics |  |  | - Limited government budget available. However, funds are obtained from development partners such as WHO for work related to data and statistics.
- The department lacks the necessary data analysis tools due to a lack of financial resources.
- Pension secure project financing towards developing data warehousing and data analytics
- Insufficient local funding for major statistical activities
- Dependence on additional financial support from donors for major censuses and surveys |
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<tr>
<th>7.K.</th>
<th>Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on data and statistics</th>
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- Trainings related to capacity building in data and statistics added to training requirement of MoH.
- Means of collecting data is difficult at different levels Police
- Capacity development on data and statistics programs have not been addressed.
- Ongoing efforts for establishment of data warehousing capacity at
- There are insufficient training and career development opportunities for statistical staff.
- Lack of higher education in the field of statistics hampers meeting human resources needs of MSS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>8.K.</th>
<th>Lack of information for tracking of progress on data and statistics</th>
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- MoH collaborates with other relevant institutions, such as the Department of National Registration, to check completeness of reporting.
- Sustainable systemic approaches need to be in place to track progress (need to address this area)
- The amount of information required for data analytics purposes is not recorded and maintained because the information is handled by various departments.
- Huge data gaps on the National Priority indicators list identified in the NSDS 2021-2030
| 9.K. | Lack of overall political support related to data and statistics | ☐ | ☒ | ☑ | - Enactment of statistics law  
- Politicians have given minimal attention to data and statistics.  
- Lacks Data literacy at policy level and the priority given to data and statistics is very low |
| 10.K. | Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to data and statistics | ☐ | ☒ | ☒ | - Data sharing between agencies need to be considered  
- There is some cross-ministerial coordination of data, and MPS responds to requests from ministries for crime-related statistics.  
data sharing agreements and API access given to requesting agencies  
- There are inter-agency trust issues to be addressed.  
- The MBS lacks general access to unit-level data from other data producers. |
| 11.K. | Lack of international support related to data and statistics | ☐ | ☒ | ☒ | Needs to be addressed  
MPS provide statistics to international organizations, however, due to the nature of our work, the international organizations are unable to provide us with proper support in terms of data and statistics  
Pension  
1 (international and donor support received for developing data services capacity) |
| 12.K. | Lack of development partner coordination related to data and statistics | Sometimes localization of data not accepted globally
Due to the nature of our work, the department does not get proper support in terms of data and statistics from development partners |
| 13.K. | Lack of public awareness and understanding of data and statistics | Public is sometimes unaware of published statistics and where to access it. Publications from MoH are regularly uploaded to the MoH website and launching of such publications are covered by media.
Public not educated on where to get data and also don’t understand how to use data available
While students, researchers, and new respondents are aware and have an understanding of data and statistics, the general public is do not have the awareness regarding data and statistics.
statistical literacy of the general public and users and their understanding of social, economic and environmental issues at national and local levels is low |
| Q. 14.K | A bottom-up approach to data and statistics not followed (e.g., involvement of those collecting, disseminating and analysing data and statistics.) | | Data is collected at the facility level and analysis and dissemination is done at the central level. During the process of data cleaning and verification, central level staff contacts health facility staff. Needs improvement more multi stakeholder involvement is required Majority of the Nationally Prioritized indicators are not available at island level where it’s the root level for better decision making |
| Q. 15.K | COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on data and statistics | | If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster(s), emergency etc. COVID-19 affected collection and entry of data at health facilities. Analysis and publication of health statistics were delayed. Covid 19 Training and other opportunities were put to a hold due to COVID-19 COVID-19 affected data collection on national survey conducted and the coverage of the survey was affected |
16.K. Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of data and statistics programmes? *please elaborate and provide specific examples:*
- Duplication of data collection (more than 1 agency collecting the same data) this leads to duplication of resources
- Hesitancy in data sharing which hinders the development of digitized data collection systems at local level and integrating the data of local systems with central institutions and data driven decision making at local level
- Lack of capacity in data and statistical analysis
- Lack of an integrated health information system- this work currently in progress
- In the case of the GIS Unit within the ministry. Challenge in not having enough human resource that have the technical capacity or access to technology.
- Even the hardware that will save time in processing data is not available in the Ministry
- No dedicated staff for data management
- Data sharing between institutions is challenging with no open source data available. Each data is collected on adhoc activity / project basis
- Limited human and financial capacity at all agencies under the Maldives Statistical System
- Lacks the clear technical and methodological guidance at agencies under the Maldives Statistical System
- Lacks Data sharing and Data integration across the agencies under the Maldives Statistical System

**Lessons learned**

17.K. Are there any *lessons learned* in the area of data and statistics not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? *please elaborate and provide specific examples:*

Many databases have been established but not sustained.

**Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring**

18.K. Please select any needs the country may have in order to *implement* the priority actions for data and statistics. Please check as many as apply.

- Capacity-building
- Advocacy and awareness raising
- Resource mobilization
- Engagement with high-level politicians
- Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc.
- South-South cooperation
- Public-private partnerships
- Data for monitoring and planning
- Other (*please elaborate*): □
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>19.K.</th>
<th>Please select any needs the country may have in order to <strong>report on progress regarding</strong> the priority actions for data and statistics. Please check as many as apply to your country.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|       | ☒ Capacity-building – data collection  
|       | ☒ Capacity-building – data analysis  
|       | ☒ Lack of monitoring frameworks  
|       | ☒ Resource mobilization  
|       | ☒ Engagement with high-level politicians  
|       | ☒ Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc.  
|       | ☒ Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities  
|       | ☒ South-South cooperation  
|       | ☒ Public-private partnerships  
|       | ☐ Other (**please elaborate**):                                                                                                                                                     |
### IV. Summary questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extraneous influences</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Has the COVID-19 pandemic, or other national emergencies, disasters, or crises, resulted in:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1 Building in more resilience when developing population programmes?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Experience from 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) (now National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)) was set up and institutionalized</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>When Covid-19 surfaced the Law and institution was effective which enabled the government to take action effectively</td>
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<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Developed a National Resilience and Recovery Plan as a response to COVID-19.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Increased prioritization (or mainstreaming) of population issues in policymaking?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>More focus is now given on vulnerable population in terms of accessibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>Policies are not made reflecting on people perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Increased emphasis on addressing environmental determinants of health (eg. Air pollution, microplastics, etc.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.3 Diversion of funds or resources from population programmes to support other programmes?
- Yes
- Somewhat
- No
If “yes” or “somewhat”, please elaborate:

**Priority areas for further action**

2.4 Please rank the priority action areas outlined in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development from highest to lowest priority in the country at the current point in time. Please use ‘1’ as the highest priority and ‘11’ the lowest priority.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Poverty eradication and employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Population and sustainable development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Urbanization and internal migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>2 Urbanization and internal migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Gender equality and women’s empowerment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>International migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Adolescents and young people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Ageing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional comments**

2.5 Are there any topics that are not covered in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development that have become critically significant in the country since 2013? For example: food security, climate change or digital transformation? Please elaborate:

- Crime Prevention, and Organized Crime Management
- Digital Transformation
- Disaster Resilience
- Skills, and Job Creation
- Climate change
- Digital transformation
- Pollution
- Housing
- Disability

2.6 Are there any other lessons learned, achievements, challenges or needs that can be shared in regard to priority action areas outlined in the 2013 Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development that have not already been addressed in this survey? Please elaborate:
V. Overall achievements/challenges in population and development

The Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference will be held from 16 to 18 November 2023. The intergovernmental meeting will coincide with the 60-year commemoration of the first Asian Population Conference, which was held from 10 to 20 December 1963 in New Delhi, India, the 30-year regional review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. It will also mark the half-way point in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>With the above in mind, please share the country’s biggest achievement and challenge in the area of population and development:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Over the last 60 years (since the first Population Conference)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. Achievement please elaborate:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improvement in HDI in different regions (MNPHI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MDG all goals except 1 achieved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Challenge please elaborate:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resource (Human, finance, etc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geographical dispersion of islands and limited land area</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Over the last 30 years (since the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. Achievement please elaborate:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enactment of Decentralization Act 2010 (MNPHI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Designated 79 protected areas, 3 atolls have been designated as UNESCO Biosphere reserves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Challenge please elaborate:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of Capacity in the Islands for Developing LUPs and Island Development Plans (MNPHI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prioritization of development sectors over conservation, lack of capacity and monitoring which results in under management. Lack of awareness and resources to carry out awareness. Waste management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Over the last 7 years since adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. Achievement please elaborate:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Strong Population Development Consolidation Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Focus on Regional Development and Decentralization Plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Narrow down of disparities between Central and Rural region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provide affordable social housing to the people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provided universal health coverage without a ceiling cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improvement to social cash transfers to most needy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women empowerment in the local governance by reserving 33% minimum allocation for women in local council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>More roles and responsibilities together with financial resources provided to local councils through the decentralization act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Challenge please elaborate:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| | No long-term National Development plan for Maldives has developed even though 5-year strategic action plans have been followed by governments, managing regional development at local level has been inconsistent as there is no officially published spatial plan, lack of technical and human capacity specially at local levels

Not able to address the change in population dynamics.
Benefits of Regional Development in its full form is not achieved
Institutions are not mature and lacks capacity to fully execute and implement its mandate
No long-term Vision/Plan
No mechanism to address urban poverty

Climate change and increased extreme and unpredictable weather events and disasters increased.|

THANK YOU!