

Country Programme Performance Summary UNFPA Maldives

A. Country Information		
Country name: Maldives		
Category per decision 2013/31: Pink	Current programme period: 2016-2020 with one year extension (2021)	Cycle of assistance: 6

B. Country Programme Outputs Achievement			
Output 1: Increased accountability and responsiveness of duty bearers in Maldives to young people's rights to reproductive health information and services.			
Indicators	Baseline (2016)	Target (2021)	End-line data (2021)
Percentage of health facilities implementing at least 60 percent of recommended action in the National Adolescent and Youth Friendly Service Guidelines	0	10	1% Due to a number health system factors including policy shifts towards curative services and loss of human capacity of public health interventions in health facilities

Percentage of UNESCO topics integrated in life-skills education in national curriculum and resource materials	10	67	47.3% UNFPA supported a review of National curriculums for Key stages 1-3 (2017). Including sensitive topics in the school system had been challenging. In addition, quality and capacity of the educators to deliver CSE topics was limited, in part influence by the religious and cultural perspectives.
Number of UNFPA-supported national policy dialogues, with the participation of young people, that advocate for increased investments in marginalized adolescents and youth	0	4	8 UNFPA annual reports
Existence of a functioning tracking and reporting system to follow up on the implementation of accepted women's rights and reproductive rights recommendations and obligations from the Universal Periodic Review and Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women	No	Yes	Partially achieved. In progress through the National Recommendations Tracking Database
Existence of a costed National Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Strategy	No	Yes	Yes (Maldives National RMNCAH Strategy and action plan (2020-2025)). Costing exercise is in progress and will be completed within December 2021
Number of young people who access the mobile application Siththaa that provides sexual reproductive health information	0 (2019)	15,000	5,399 (UNFPA Annual Reports and OneSignal updates in 2021)
<p><u>Key Achievements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With support from UNFPA, the National Reproductive Health, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) strategy was developed and endorsed in March 2021. Having one comprehensive RMNCAH strategy and action plan led by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Health Protection Agency (HPA), instead of separate strategies and action plans on RMNCAH, will promote a continuum of care in line with the Global 			

Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health and will improve the quality of services, including for young people. With continued advocacy and technical support from UNFPA, the RMNCAH Strategy is being costed and will inform the Social Sector Financing Framework as part of the broader Integrated Financing.

- As a result of UNFPA efforts, culturally adapted life skills based reproductive health education (LSBRHE) topics have been integrated in the roll out of the new curriculum through subjects such as social studies and health and physical education. Forty-seven percent of topics in the UNESCO curriculum have been integrated in the subjects of Key Stages 1 to 3 (Grades 1 to 8). Out of school young people were reached with sexual and reproductive health information through a mobile application "Siththa " since its launch: more than 5,000 users have accessed the application. In addition, alternative approaches to providing sexual and reproductive health information and services continued through civil society organizations under the "Safe Space" sessions. These sessions covered topics on out of school CSE in particular, the menstrual hygiene, complemented by an introduction of eco-friendly menstrual management products such as menstrual cups and cloth pads to participants of the Safe Space sessions.
 - Throughout CP6, UNFPA has supported high level dialogues in bringing together national policy makers and young people, including discussions on evidence generated on population issues. These include the Youth Analysis, Population Projections, Population Policy Advice and National Transfer Accounts. UNFPA provided technical support to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to construct the new set of improved life tables using international best practices by centering life tables on the census years 2006 and 2014 for the periods 2005-07 and 2013-15. These calculations revealed the increase of life expectancy for Maldivian males to 79 and females to 85 years with an age gap of 6 years between the male and female life expectancies. These advocacy efforts resulted in a decision of government and UN Agencies to jointly review policy implications on social protection and health services, especially to address men's health and lifestyles as well as feminization of ageing. As a result of this review, UNFPA will continue to support the government in the incorporation of policy recommendations into the National Planning Bill and other relevant policy documents under the 7th Country Programme.
 - To increase national capacity to calculate population mobility and density of the island population, UNFPA supported a pilot project using Big Data from call record data in partnership with the telecom partners. This led to an improve availability of data and national capacity to conduct analyses in population density for mobility for decision and policy making.
 - UNFPA in partnership with UN Women developed research papers on key areas related to gender equality and women's empowerment in the Maldives. Critical areas covered are women's economic empowerment, access to justice, adolescent sexual and reproductive health and women's rights in Islam. The findings and recommendations from these papers have been utilized to inform national policies including the Gender Equality Action Plan and the National Planning Bill, UN Country Common Analysis, UNSDCF (2022-2026).
 - With the support from UNFPA, the quality and inclusive 7th CEDAW State Report was developed through evidence-based consultations. UNFPA provided assistance to stakeholder consultations between government and civil society organizations to ensure the consultative process with all relevant stakeholders.
 - As a result of UNFPA efforts, understanding of the media has been increased on women's right in Islam. UNFPA supported a media Training on women's rights issues for journalists and social media influencers with support from the MUSAWAH, an international movement to facilitate access to and knowledge creation on women's rights in Islam. The journalists have covered ICPD issues especially women's rights issues as a result on several occasions including on Female Genital Mutilation.
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Output 2: Strengthened capacity of the national government to prevent GBV and to provide multi-sectoral GBV services.

Indicators	Baseline (2019)	Target (2021)	End-line data (2021)
Number of reproductive health centres providing integrated sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services with strengthened Covid-19 infection control	0	2	2 (UNFPA Asia and the Pacific COVID-19 Humanitarian Response Plan - final report 2021)
Approval of a national multi sectoral referral protocol for GBV services in line with the Essential Service Package across development and humanitarian continuum	No	Yes	Partially achieved. The protocol is under development
Availability of a national communication strategy to promote social norm change for prevention of gender based violence	No	Yes	Partially achieved UNFPA led strategy is available

Key Achievements

- With UNFPA support and leadership the communication strategy to promote positive social norm changes to prevent GBV in the country was developed based on evidence and stakeholder consultations and input. The strategy includes the development of a TV dialogue series highlighting these negative social norm issues. The strategy aims to respond to the social changes that the Maldives is undergoing - including increasing cultural and religious sensitivities - by exploring avenues where the issues can be packaged so they are culturally relevant without compromising on quality. As a result of the strategy development process, understanding of stakeholders in particular the government relevant line ministries on addressing social norms to prevent GBV has been improved. The strategy will be implemented as part of the new Country Programme.
- With financial and technical support from UNFPA, two reproductive health centres were established in hospitals that can provide further support to health centres in the northern and central regions of Maldives to expand the availability of integrated SRH and GBV services, including adolescent and youth friendly services, integrated reproductive health services, including family planning, and response and referral services for survivors of GBV.
- As a result of UNFPA technical support and policy advocacy, the establishment of a multi-sectoral referral mechanism led by the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services to provide services to GBV survivors is currently under development at the national level, including development of a mobile platform for service seeking, reporting and referral.

C. National Progress on Strategic Plan Outcomes ¹	Start value	Year	End value	Year	Comments
Outcome 1: Increased availability and use of integrated sexual and reproductive health services (including family planning, maternal health and HIV) that are gender-responsive and meet human rights standards for quality of care and equity in access					
Percentage in which at least 95% of service delivery points in the country have seven life-saving maternal/reproductive health medicines from the WHO priority list	n/a	n/a	n/a	2021	MoH/MFDA
Contraceptive prevalence rate (total)	19%	2016/17	n/a	2021	MDHS
Proportion of demand for contraception satisfied (total)	37%	2016/17	n/a	2021	MDHS
Percentage in which at least 60% of service delivery points in the country have no stock-out of contraceptives in the last six months	100%	2016	n/a	2021	HPA/MOH
Percentage in which at least 80% of live births in the country are attended by skilled health personnel	90%	2016/17	n/a	2021	MDHS
Number of adapted and implemented protocols for family planning services in the country that meet human rights standards including freedom from discrimination, coercion and violence	n/a	2016	1 Family Planning Guidelines under revision	2021	HPA/MOH
Has the country increased the national budget for sexual and reproductive health by at least 5 per cent?	Yes (MVR 876.6 million)	2011	No data available	2021	NHA/MOH
<p>Summary of National Progress</p> <p>The Government of the Maldives has endorsed the first national RMNCAH Strategy and action plan for 2020-2025. This shows that the government is committed to improving the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health outcomes in Maldives. This strategy and action plan are aligned with and informed by key national documents and processes, such as the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) and the Health Master Plan, and the new Child Health Policy and the 2018 Review of the National RH Strategy. The Strategy and Action Plan are also aligned with, and support achievement and reporting for the SDGs, the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health 2016-2030, and other global and regional strategies related to RMNCAH. This strategy</p>					

¹ The format is aligned to the UNFPA Strategic Plan outcomes, 2014-2017.

when implemented will be integral in addressing the high unmet need compounded with the declining contraceptive prevalence rate in the Maldives.

UNFPA’s Contributions

- UNFPA coordinated with WHO and UNICEF and supported the Government to develop the RMNCAH Strategy and action plan (2020-2025). UNFPA is currently undertaking a costing exercise and estimating the financial resources required to implement the recently endorsed Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2025 of the Ministry of Health. This costing study will inform the implementation of the strategy by providing the estimation of financial resources required to achieve the objectives and targets identified in the strategic document. It will also inform the development of a financing strategy for social service reforms that are necessary to achieve quality, equity and sustainability to achieve the SDGs and close the gender financing gap. The costed RMNCAH Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2025 will be integral to the overall social sector financing strategy.
- With a contribution from UNFPA, two service delivery points have been fully supported to operationalize and provide SRHR services that serves as one stop shop for all SRHR related services with a focus on youth friendly health services and responding to GBV. The two centres will also be used by the government as a model for future replication and scaling up. In order to strengthen the services and facilities in these two centers all essential supplies have been procured and handed over to both Kulhudufushi Regional Hospital and Hulhumale Hospital. Minor structural changes to the existing structure have been made and completed.

Outcome 2: Increased priority on adolescents, especially on very young adolescent girls, in national development policies and programmes, particularly increased availability of comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health

Percentage of young women and men aged 15-24 who correctly identify ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV and who reject major misconceptions about HIV transmission (female/male)	W:42.3%; M: 34.9%	2016/17	n/a	2021	MDHS
Does the country have laws and policies that allow adolescents (regardless of marital status) access to sexual and reproductive health services?	No	2016	Yes	2019	The Gender Equality Act (2016)

Summary of National Progress

The Gender Equality Act was endorsed by the Government of Maldives, which includes adolescent health information and services. The Gender Equality Action Plan has detailed out the roll out of the policy priorities and is currently awaiting endorsement by the Cabinet. The RMNCAH strategy also includes adolescent health including covering HIV/AIDS and STIs in addition to comprehensive SRH services. The Strategic Action Plan (SAP) of the current administration identifies policy directions and strategic actions for ASRH. The education curriculum has CSE components integrated in the Key Stages 1 to 5 for grades 1 to 12.

UNFPA’s Contributions

- CPD was focused on improving SRH services and information to adolescents and youth. UNFPA contributed to the reach of young people with SRH services and information using alternative modalities through mobile app Siththaa and by engaging an NGO platform, ZeroWaste Maldives, to promote eco-friendly menstrual

management. UNFPA has continued to advocate with policy makers and other actors to ensure CSE and SRH services to unmarried young people.

- UNFPA played a major role in advocating for the inclusion of ASRH in all the policy documents mentioned above.

Outcome 3: Advanced gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment, and reproductive rights, including for the most vulnerable and marginalized women, adolescents and youth					
Does the country have the gender equality national action plans that integrate reproductive rights with specific targets and national public budget allocations?	No	2016	Yes	2021	The Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) integrates RR with target. The GEAP is awaiting endorsement
Proportion of taken actions by the country on all of the Universal Periodical Review (UPR) accepted recommendations on reproductive rights from the previous reporting cycle	n/a	2016	71%	2020	Maldives received 126 recommendations of which the Government fully accepted 89, partially accepted 11, took note of 6 and rejected 20 (with reasons). Out of these, the Maldives has fully implemented 58 recommendations and partially implemented 32.
Percentage of women aged 15–49 who think that a husband/partner is justified in hitting or beating his wife/partner under certain circumstances	25.8	2016/17	n/a	2021	MDHS

Summary of National Progress

The Gender Equality Act was enacted (2016) ensuring equal rights for women and prohibits gender discriminations. Following the endorsement of the Act, the National Gender Equality Action plan was developed and is in the process of being endorsed by the cabinet. The Government has initiated the development of a National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD) to monitor human rights commitments. Maldives received 126 recommendations from the UPR process of which the Government fully accepted 89, partially accepted 11, took note of 6 and rejected 20 (with reasons). Out of these, the Maldives has fully implemented 58 recommendations and partially implemented 32. The government has taken initiative to include ICPD National Voluntary Commitments in the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD).

UNFPA's Contributions

- UNFPA convened national stakeholders including CSO to provide inputs to the draft bill including in terms of integration of SRHR and adolescent health in the bill
- UNFPA supported the government on CEDAW reporting, subsequent lobby and advocacy through normative frameworks on commitments to SRH. The government integrates several recommendations to the national framework documents.
- UNFPA successfully advocated to include national voluntary commitments at the Nairobi Summit in the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD), an initiative led by OHCHR. This is the first time these voluntary commitments are being included and monitored in the NRTD.
- Using the Human Rights mechanisms, UNFPA played an important role in inclusion of ICPD25 voluntary commitments through the UPR and CEDAW process. Additionally, UNFPA played a major role in creating platforms for young gender advocates to participate in the processes through video statements highlighting the importance of CSE.

Outcome 4: Strengthened national policies and international development agendas through integration of evidence-based analysis on population dynamics and their links to sustainable development, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, HIV and gender equality

Has the country had at least one census of good quality that was processed, analyzed and disseminated following internationally agreed recommendations (during the last 10 years)?	yes	2014	No	2021	Census was originally planned for 2021 but has been postponed to 2022
Has the country collected, analyzed and disseminated a national household survey that allows for the estimation of key population and reproductive health indicators (in the last 5 years)?	yes	2016	yes	2019	DHS 2016 and Household income and expenditure Survey 2019
Proportion of new national development plans that address population dynamics by accounting for population trends and projections in setting development targets	0	2016	0	2021	Population dynamics has been recommended for integration

					into the National Planning Bill under development
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Summary of National Progress

The Government has successfully implemented population data collection exercises including two rounds of Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) in 2016 and 2019 which obtains information on household characteristics, demographic and socio-economic characteristics. Data from the survey has been used for the construction of the National Transfer Accounts. Several population related analyses were also undertaken including Population projections based on the 2014 Census. A multidimensional poverty index study was undertaken to identify vulnerabilities of the population to inform relevant policies in addressing inequalities in the country. A draft National Planning Bill which will include population policy is underway.

UNFPA’s Contributions

- UNFPA supported the exercise on population projections, National Transfer Accounts and Youth Analysis, which provided solid evidence for policy engagement. The findings from these exercises have been used in the National Strategic Action Plan (SAP) and all sectoral plans developed after the availability of these analyses. UNFPA has provided technical advice on mainstreaming population dynamics through a lifecycle approach into the National Planning Bill.
- UNFPA contributed to strengthen capacity of the National Bureau of Statistics in census operation. It has provided support to the Government in preparing for the next round of Census scheduled in 2022 especially by introducing computer assisted personal interview (CAPI) methodologies in the data collection including GIS mapping, geographical information system strengthening.

D. Country Programme Resources							
Strategic plan outcome areas		Regular resources		Other resources		Total	
		Budget	Utilized	Budget	Utilized	Budget	Utilized
Outcome 2	Adolescents and youth	1,550,000	1,800,035	350,000	608,519	1,900,000	2,408,554
Outcome 3	GBV prevention and multi-sectoral GBV services provision	55,000	391	150,000	127,500	205,000	127,891
Programme coordination and assistance		195,000	232,419	-	-	195,000	232,419
Total		1,800,000	2,032,845	500,000	736,019	2,300,000	2,768,864

** budget utilization estimated as of 31 Dec 2021*