



UNITED NATIONS
MALDIVES



UNCT Annual Results Report 2022

Photo: UNDP Maldives/Ashwa Faheem



Table of Contents

Foreword by the Resident Coordinator Ms. Catherine Haswell	3
UN Country Team	4
Key Development Partners of the UN Development System in the Country	5
Chapter 1: Key Developments in the Country and Regional Context	6
Chapter 2: UN Development System Support to National Development Priorities through the Cooperation Framework	8
2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results	8
2.2. Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs	8
2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda	21
2.4. Results of the UN Working More and Better Together: UN Coherence, Effectiveness, and Efficiency	23
2.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned	24
2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization	26
Chapter 3: UNCT Key Focus for Next Year	27



Foreword by the Resident Coordinator

Ms. Catherine Haswell



Ms. Catherine Haswell
Resident Coordinator

It is my great pleasure to present the UN Maldives Annual Results Report for the 2022, which showcases the progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Maldives. This year's report is particularly significant, as it provides an update on the achievements made during the first year of implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022-2026 in the Maldives.

The UNSDCF is the UN's strategic framework for its work in the Maldives over the next five years, and it sets out the joint vision and priorities of the UN system, in partnership with the Government of the Maldives, for achieving the SDGs. The framework reflects the unique development challenges faced by the Maldives and outlines the collective efforts of the UN to support the country's sustainable development agenda.

This year's report highlights the progress made in the priority areas identified in the UNSDCF, which include shared prosperity and inclusive human development for all, sustainable and climate resilient environment, gender-responsive, rights-based and accountable governance and justice. The report also emphasizes the importance of cross-cutting issues, of empowering young people and leveraging innovation, for achieving the SDGs in the Maldives.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of the Maldives and our partners for their ongoing commitment to collaboration with the UN. I am confident that together, we can make significant progress towards creating a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient future for all in the Maldives.



UN Country Team



Photo: UNDP Maldives/Ashwa Faheem



Key Development Partners of the UN Development System in the Country

Government and Public Institutions

Attorney General's Office
Centre for Mental Health (CMH)
Department of Judicial Administration
Environment Protection Agency
Health Protection Agency (HPA)
Home for People with Special Needs
Human Rights Commission
Juvenile Court
Local Councils
Local Government Authority
Maldives Coast Guard
Maldivian Correctional Service
Maldives Customs Services
Maldives Food and Drug Authority
Maldives Immigration
Maldives Marine Research Institute
Maldivian Maritime Law Enforcement Activities
Maldives Police Services
Ministry of Arts, Culture and Heritage
Ministry of Defense
Ministry of Economic Development
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Environment
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture
Ministry of Gender Family and Social Services
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Home Affairs
Ministry of Islamic Affairs
Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Ministry of Transport
Ministry of Tourism
Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment
National Bureau of Statistics
National Centre for Information Technology
National Counter Terrorism Centre
National Drug Agency
National Institute of Education
National Social Protection Agency
Parliament
Presidential Commission to inquire into Childs Rights Violation
President Office
Public Hospitals and Health Centers

Civil Society

Advocating the Rights of Children (ARC)
Beautiful Eyes – for down syndrome
Blind and Visually Impaired Society of Maldives (BVISM)

Care society
Maldives Association of Persons with Disabilities (MAPD)
Maldives Autism Association (MAA)
Maldives Deaf Association
Villijoali
Hope for Women
Maldives Red Crescent
Society of Health Education
Zero waste
Ocean Warriors
Parley
MACCS
Divers Lodge
Moodhu Bulhaa
Alohaa Club

Private Sector and Media

Dhiraagu
Ooredoo
Manta Air
Island Aviation
Pharmacies
Institute for Mental Wellbeing
Family Protection Authority
Journalists and Media

State Owned Enterprises

FENAKA
Housing Development Corporation
MTCC
State trading Organization
Stelco
WAMCO

Academia

Colleges
Schools
Universities

Development Partners and International Donor

ADB
Joint SDG Fund
Joint SIDS Fund
USAID



Chapter 1

Key Developments in the Country and Regional Context

A revival in tourism and an impressive vaccination rollout for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), which saw more than 90% of the eligible population fully vaccinated, enabled Maldives' gross domestic product (GDP) growth to rebound by an estimated 37% in 2021 and 8.2% in 2022, the highest in South Asia. This was a notable turnaround, given the pandemic shut down the tourism industry in 2020, causing the economy to contract by 33.5%, the Maldives' deepest recession on record.

2022 has seen the country bounce back to its pre-pandemic development pathway. Tourism is the main driver of economic growth which was driven by more-than-expected tourist arrivals (1.6million). While the Russia-Ukraine war initially reduced tourists from Russia – one of Maldives' key markets – Russian arrivals have been rising again since the resumption of Aeroflot flights in May 2022. The recovery of arrivals from traditional European

markets and new interest from Middle East countries have further bolstered growth.

This upward trend is expected to continue in the near term on the back of strong tourism growth and associated spill overs to related sectors such as transportation and trade. However, as an economy that is also heavily import-dependent, Maldives is now facing the highest current account deficit in South Asia (29% of GDP in 2022) which is expected to remain elevated due to higher imports; and inflationary pressures (4.2%) due to the sharp rise in global commodity prices, which is also putting pressure on public finances. Although medium-term growth prospects are promising, the short-term outlook remains uncertain. Countries in South Asia are also grappling with rising commodity prices, supply bottlenecks, and vulnerabilities in financial sectors.



Photo: UNFPA Maldives/Sharif Ali 2022



Despite the downside risks, robust growth is expected in the medium term and revenue mobilization measures are projected to help narrow the fiscal deficit. However, according to the IMF, the Maldives remains at a high risk of external debt distress and a high overall risk of debt distress. Public debt is still at unprecedented levels (120% of GDP) while the Maldives Monetary Authority's and banks' exposure to sovereign risk climbed. Medium term debt vulnerabilities remain high, in particular the US dollar 843.3 million external debt servicing in 2026. Sustained fiscal consolidation relying on both expenditure rationalization and domestic revenue mobilization, and supported by conservative debt management, is a priority.

More effective revenue mobilization measures, coupled with reforms to health care systems and existing subsidy programs, and better investment management are critical to bring down the high level of public debt, replenish fiscal buffers against future shocks, and lower the cost of growth-enhancing investments.

The inherent structural constraints facing this small island country remain a challenge. Maldives has a narrow economic base that relies heavily on tourism and fisheries and its economy is extremely vulnerable to external shocks. To promote more sustainable growth, the Maldives is looking to diversify the economy and assessing the potential of other sectors besides tourism, for example fisheries, agriculture, and information and communication technology.

A key challenge for the Maldives is to balance the large investments needed in infrastructure gaps (to boost tourism, increase resilience to climate change and improve service delivery) and the rapid accumulation of

public debt. Overall indebtedness is high and reserves are low. The Maldives continues to face challenges in making growth more socially inclusive and regionally balanced. Economic disparities have increased between Malé and the other islands and between groups of different socioeconomic status. The wide dispersion of the population, coupled with limited transport infrastructure, hampers the creation of sizeable domestic markets, and presents a formidable challenge in sustaining growth and providing equitable and adequate public services. The benefits of growth have not spread evenly across sectors, across segments of the population, and across regions. Many remote atolls continue to be marginalized and cut-off from the mainstream growth trajectory.

Ensuring the stable growth of the economy and sharing its benefits in an equitable manner will be difficult unless the Maldives diversifies economically, fosters private sector job creation, builds human capital and skills, renews efforts to ensure economic and social inclusion of all regions across the country, and reduces vulnerability by enhancing disaster risk preparedness.

The socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the limited reserves and capacity that the country has available to tackle the recovery for a more resilient society, in line with the 2030 Agenda. In the absence of a meaningful international agreement for supporting countries such as the Maldives to access affordable debt alleviation, and to finance a green and inclusive recovery, the country will face significant obstacles in meeting its international obligations.

The entire UN system stands ready to support the Maldives on the road to recovery. The UN will continue to advise the government on the economic and social measures that can establish and support the conditions for ending poverty and achieving the SDGs.

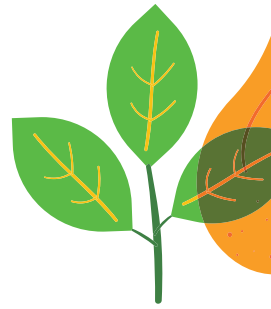


Photo: UNDP Maldives/Ashwa Faheem



Chapter 2

UN Development System Support to National Development Priorities through the Cooperation Framework



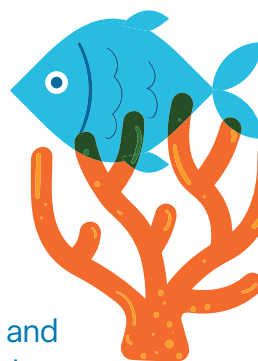
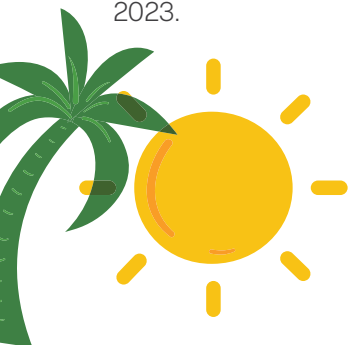
2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the Maldives for the period 2022 – 2026 outlines the strategic cooperation between the Government of Maldives and the United Nations (UN) system that will support the country's efforts to achieve sustainable development. The Cooperation Framework embodies the comprehensive and coherent response of the UN to development priorities in Maldives and commitment to support the country in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The document provides the foundation for the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Joint Work Plan (JWP). The 2022 JWP was structured around the three strategic priorities, and their corresponding four outcomes and fourteen outputs. All fourteen United Nations entities signatory to the Cooperation Framework contributed their planned activities to the document, which were consolidated into 136 sub-outputs. The document also included Cooperation Framework outcome and output indicators to allow for progress to be measured in its implementation.

During the year, the United Nations in Maldives achieved significant results in the implementation of the plan across all its outcomes and outputs. Most of these activities focused on capacity development and the provision of policy advice and thought leadership, closely matching national priorities.

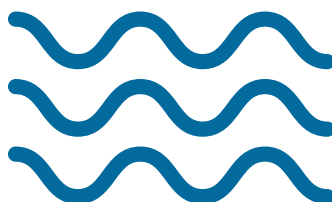
An account of the results of the United Nations in Maldives under each priority area of the Cooperation Framework and a financial overview follow in this report. The progress made by the UNCT in strengthening its coordination, coherence, and efficiency, as well as the challenges and lessons learned during the year, are also discussed along with the priorities for 2023.



Chapter 2.2. Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs

Outcome 1: By 2026, youth, women, and others at risk of being left behind, contribute to and benefit for more inclusive, resilient, sustainable economic and human capital development, fostering innovation, entrepreneurship and decent work.

Strengthening the policy environment and capacity for economic diversification, employment creation and human capital development remained high on the United Nations agenda in 2022, with several noteworthy results being achieved.



Increasing economic diversification

The year 2022 was marked by progress in the field of economic diversification and transformation with a focus on increased opportunities for decent jobs and livelihoods for farmer in outer islands, as well as for women-led businesses across the country.

Capacity building for farmers and farming organizations was delivered with United Nations support in the islands of HA. Utheemu, HDh. Makunudhoo, and Dh. Meedhoo to empower farmers with knowledge and skills in good agricultural practices, and horticulture production. A total of 77 farmers were trained, of which 69% (53 farmers) were women. These farmers have upgraded their traditional farming skills, resulting in improved cultivation practices and reduced toll of commercial agriculture on the environment. They are also trained in the appropriate utilization of locally available horticulture produce.

These efforts were supplemented by United Nations support for a mobile-compatible web application to ensure easy dissemination of agriculture advisory information to farmers in both English and Dhivehi. The web application is currently



in the testing phase and is expected to be launched in the first half of 2023. Training has been held for the technical staff at the Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture (MoFMRA), who will manage the application. An end-user feedback session was held for 26 farmers to garner their feedback on the application. Once launched, the application will enhance and extend the reach of the extension services provided by MoFMRA and facilitate easy dissemination of agriculture advisory information to farmers.

For Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), the United Nations prioritized support to women and youth-led businesses, helping to diversify their sources of income and facilitating connections to wider local and global markets through platforms such as the Authentic Maldives website. Events and online courses and aimed at stimulating the growth of women-led MSMEs and increasing their inclusion in international supply chains were also held during the year with the support of the United Nations.

Promoting development-oriented and gender-responsive policies and tools

Through the Maldives Accelerator Lab, the United Nations is implementing Social Innovation Platforms with a focus on the future of work, meaning a future where all youth, women, and others at risk of being left behind, contribute to and benefit from inclusive, resilient, and sustainable livelihood activities.

During 2022, women played a key role in the development of this platform through their participation and extensive inputs and feedback by working on identifying solutions for meaningful, productive and full employment including addressing gender gaps in the labour force. Engaging female members of Island Councils, Women's Development Committees, and schools ensured that the design of the Social Innovations Platform was informed by substantive gender analysis and a strong understanding of the needs, capacities and priorities of young women, women, and young men. Integration of youth and gender equality perspectives gathered during 2022 will be used to inform the Platform's development in 2023.



Photo: UN Maldives

Strengthening research and data capacities

In partnership with the Ministry of Economic Development, the United Nations supported the establishment of an Economic Research Center (ERC) to provide analysis, policy advice, and assistance to government. Areas of focus include increasing the labor force participation rate, particularly among marginalized groups of women and men, supporting the development of a national insurance market, and promoting implementation of a Tax4SDGs initiative. By the end of

2022 the ERC had contributed to evidence-based policymaking through new analysis of labor market movements in the Maldives. Labor statistics published by the Maldives Bureau of Statistics in their periodic (every 4-5 years) Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) includes employment statistics, unemployment rate, employment by occupation and informal sector employment. The labor research conducted by the ERC provides analysis of employment stock, employment growth, wage growth at the job level for each active year during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to the trend of the employment development, the research explores labor market dynamics from the perspectives of job movement between sectors as well as movement entering and exiting the labour market, which are new areas of analyses not available in other similar statistical reports. Furthermore, the Maldives does not operate an unemployment insurance system, nor systematic data on the unemployment rate is available. The ERC is currently developing a novel proxy measure of unemployment for the Maldives and uses it to forecast labor market trends.

In 2022, the United Nations continued to work closely with the Maldives Bureau of Statistics (MBS) delivering technical assistance to expand research and data capacities to better understand the recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of monthly income earned in country. Technical assistance from the United Nations led to the introduction of the Recruitment Cost module to the Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2022 with the aim of preventing and reducing abusive and fraudulent recruitment practices and maximizing the protection of migrant workers in the recruitment process, and their positive contribution to sustainable development in the Maldives.



Photo: UN Maldives





Photo: UNFPA Maldives/Sharif Ali 2022

Outcome 2: By 2026, people in the Maldives especially the most vulnerable and marginalized benefit from increased access to and use of quality, equitable, inclusive, and resilient social and protection service and have enhanced relevant skills and live fulfilled lives and wellbeing and dignity.

In 2022, United Nations support to strengthening social sector policies and systems to deliver quality, equitable inclusive social services resulted in several achievements in the fields of health, education, and social protection. Greater protections for vulnerable populations of women, girls, men, and boys and especially those with disabilities, was an important focus of these efforts.

Promoting equitable, high-quality essential health services

In the field of health, the United Nations continued to support the implementation of the National Reproductive, Maternal Newborn Child Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) strategy (2020 – 2025) in close partnership with the Ministry of Health and other institutions. Technical inputs were provided in areas of monitoring and evaluation and improved RMNCAH coverage and indicators in the Health Management Information System (HMIS), and inclusion of RMNCAH indicators in annual health reporting and statistical compilation. These inputs will help to increase the quality and efficiency of health care services while also monitoring progress towards health targets, including SDG 3 and SDG 5.



Complementing these efforts was United Nations support for the creation of a multisectoral RMNCAH Technical Advisory Committee. This provided a new forum for the delivery of integrated policy advice, strengthened convening and better coordination to help the Maldives realize national and international commitments related to RMNCAH. By the end of 2022, the Committee had identified areas of focus for 2023, including the negative public health and economic impact of unintended pregnancies on women and girls. Benefitting from the Committee's multisectoral representation, efforts are underway to develop coherent advocacy initiatives and strengthen programs to reduce unintended pregnancies, with a focus on improving the quality and access of sexual and reproduction health information and services for women and girls. This initiative directly contributes to closing gaps in family planning needs and addressing gender- and age-related barriers in accessing RMNCAH services.

The capacity of health care professionals to deliver gender-responsive health services was also strengthened through targeted trainings that addressed the different health needs of women and men. With

United Nations support, trainings for health care providers covered diverse topics such as hormonal implants and intrauterine devices to meet women's contraceptive needs, to health care information and provision for predominately male migrant workers.

Additional notable results included capacity strengthening of health care providers as part of a revitalization of Primary Health Care services in one selected Atoll, Faafu Atoll in the central region. The United Nations provided technical expertise in conducting assessments, identifying gaps, developing implementation plans, identifying referral pathways, and monitoring and evaluation for the integration of non-communicable diseases, as well as early identification and referral for common cancers, and early identification and referral of certain mental health conditions.

United Nations support for essential services in Faafu Atoll were complemented by technical assistance and capacity development across other aspects of the country's health system. In 2022, this included trainings on patient safety incident reporting and safe medication administration, developing a roadmap for mental health services and



Photo: UNFPA Maldives



suicide prevention, and providing support for drug treatment facilities, and the prevention and control of vector-borne diseases and neglected tropical diseases.

Enhancing lifelong learning and skills development

In the field of education, the United Nations has provided support to a youth social innovation and social entrepreneurship programme, designed to build transferable skills and opportunities for students in school and young people who are out of school and in vulnerable circumstances such as adolescents who are disadvantaged due to poverty, gender, disability, or other factors in the Maldives. The UPSHIFT programme enables the development of skills for life and livelihood and supports adolescents and young people to positively engage with their local communities as change-makers. UPSHIFT centers around the Human Centered Design Methodology and empowers young men and women, and adolescent girls and boys, with the skills and resources they need to identify problems in their own communities and design solutions for them. With United Nations support, the programme was integrated into the national curriculum and will be piloted in 53 Government schools in 2023, using an online platform that is shared with Maldives, Bhutan and India. As such, in preparation for the pilot, a total of 1,100 teachers (474 males; 626 females) were trained for the 53 schools on the UPSHIFT methodology, and in the use of the online platform for UPSHIFT. To further contextualize the program for Maldives, a total of three UPSHIFT bootcamps were held with a total of 96 adolescents (54 girls and 42 boys) that provided constructive feedback on how UPSHIFT can be implemented face-to-face methods, especially for the most vulnerable adolescents who are out of school.

In line with the Cooperation Framework's focus on investing in youth, the United Nations provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Community Empowerment to develop a comprehensive Youth Development Policy for the Maldives, which aims to address the diverse needs and aspirations of young people. The Policy provides a framework for promoting meaningful youth engagement, enhancing their socio-economic status, and ensuring their access to quality education, health, and social services. The policy was officially launched by the Minister of Youth, Sports, and Community Empowerment in September 2022. In addition, the United Nations collaborated with the Ministry to provide 31 young men and women from different islands and atolls, aged between 18–30, with the opportunity to champion issues that are important to them and their peers and to become peer educators within their communities. The issues championed by these peer educators (referred to as the Y-PEER community) can include physical and mental health, sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based

violence, youth participation, civic engagement, and development of a culture of citizenship, preparedness and emergency response. These change makers are expected to empower young people within their communities/islands through Peer led initiatives. It is expected to create an enabling platform for youth engagement and empowerment to ensure they are part of the decision-making processes.

Efforts to strengthen out of school comprehensive sexuality education benefitted from a new partnership between the United Nations and the Maldives National University. In 2022, this collaborative approach resulted in a new module on Life Skills Based Reproductive Health Education (LSBRHE) for educators at tertiary institutions. The 18-hour training module is based on international best practice and UNESCO programmatic guidance for rights-based out of school comprehensive sexuality education. In 2023, the Maldives National University will pilot and expand the roll out of the curriculum to other tertiary institutions resulting in developing capacity of preservice and in service teacher educators to deliver rights-based LSBRHE in their respective schools or institutions. These modules will be used by the MNU to build capacity of educators on LSBRHE.

Preventing and responding to gender-based violence, abuse, and neglect

With registered cases of gender-based violence, domestic violence, and violence against children showing a significant increase compared to pre-pandemic years, the United Nations continued its support for the establishment of a comprehensive referral mechanism for survivors of violence.

Strategic policy advice and technical inputs were provided to the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services to develop and implement the National Action Plan on Ending Child Marriage and Addressing Gender-Based Violence. As part of this initiative, the United Nations supported the Ministry to conduct a national consultation to inform its development, and a comprehensive training programme was designed and implemented for social workers, health care providers, and law enforcement officials to enhance their capacity to respond to cases, or suspected cases, of gender-based violence.

In 2022, the United Nations in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services and in consultation with the Ministry of Health provided technical and financial resources to undertake a sectoral analysis of the health and social sectors. The analysis assessed existing services, referral pathways and their coordination according to established GBV minimum standards and best practice. These standards provided the basis for the development of the Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs). This analysis highlighted the individual

processes within the sectors that require aligning and linkages to inform the development of a functional referral system to ensure holistic and comprehensive support for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). Insights and analysis generated through this study have been utilized by the Government – with United Nations support – to develop rights-based, gender-responsive and disability-include standard operating procedures (SOPs) across both the health and social sectors. The draft SOPs will be finalized and validated by the Government in 2023, and the United Nations remains committed to supporting the Ministry of Health and institutional partners in their operationalization.

Strengthening the protection of men, women, girls, and boys with disabilities

The protection of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups is a top priority for the United Nations globally, and disability inclusion is a priority for the United Nations in the

Maldives. In June 2019, the UN Secretary-General launched the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy as part of his commitment to make the United Nations an inclusive organization for all. The United Nations in the Maldives developed a UN Disability Inclusion Strategy and continues to support the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other international human rights instruments, as well as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Agenda for Humanity and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

In 2022, the United Nations has dedicated significant efforts to promote disability inclusion in the country, particularly in the three smallest and most unreachable atolls of Meemu, Faafu, and Noonu. These efforts have involved engaging with various stakeholders to increase awareness and improve access to services for men, women, girls, and boys with disabilities. Through community engagement activities, the United Nations has reached a total of 291 stakeholders, including 176 males and 115 females. These stakeholders include



Photo: UNDP Maldives/Ashwa Faheem

individuals with disabilities, their families and caregivers, community leaders, health workers, educators, and government officials. The goal of these engagements is to promote disability inclusion by better understanding and addressing the specific barriers that people with disabilities, of different ages and genders, face in the Maldives. This includes physical and social barriers to accessing education, healthcare, and other services and recognizing how multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination on the basis of gender and disability result in pervasive barriers to the full realization of human rights.

In addition to community engagement, the United Nations supported the Government in developing policies and programmes to promote disability inclusion. Technical assistance to the Government in 2022 contributed to development of the rights-based and gender-responsive National Disability Policy that aims to ensure the rights of women, girls, men, and boys with disabilities are respected, protected, and fulfilled. Noting a lack of available statistics regarding people with disabilities, the United Nations supported the Government to conduct a survey on disability prevalence, providing valuable data on the number and types of disabilities in the country This



data helped inform the development and implementation of the National Disability Policy in 2022 and will ensure future policies, programmes and services are more responsive to the specific needs of women, girls, men and boys with disabilities in 2023 and beyond.

Outcome 3: By 2026, national and sub-national institutions and communities in Maldives, particularly at risk populations are better able to manage natural resources and achieve enhanced resilience to climate change and disaster impacts, natural and human-induced hazards, and environmental degradation, inclusively and in a sustainable manner.



Photo: UNFPA Maldives/Ashwa Faheem 2020

In 2022, the United Nations made progress towards strengthening climate change adaptation and mitigation capacities, improving environmentally sustainable practices in the country through specialized technical assistance and policy advice, and increasing youth engagement in climate action.

Strengthening climate change adaptation and mitigation capacities

Strengthening climate change adaptation and mitigation capacities remained a priority for the United Nations in Maldives during the year, with concrete steps being taken to this end.

A key deliverable of the Integrated National Financing

Framework (INFF) joint programme, a Climate Financing Strategy provides Maldives an approach to achieve its climate ambitions through use of innovative financing instruments. The United Nations also uses a range of implementing strategies, such as policy advice, technical assistance, and capacity development to contribute to the achievement Outcome 3 of the Cooperation Framework.



In 2022, the United Nations used its convening power to bring together government ministries responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change, local governance, planning, and finance to help build the capacity of government officials on systemic risk. The United Nations supported capacity development of government officials and partners in undertaking and utilizing risk assessments and facilitated discussion on climate-informed risk, combining issues of Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into a proposed joint plan for the first time.



Photo: UNICEF Maldives/Shari Ali 2022

The United Nations partnership with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) continued throughout the year, resulting in several successful initiatives contributing directly to the achievement of SDG 11 and other global frameworks including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement. This included strengthening of national climate and disaster risk assessment processes, tools, and systems with the aim of improving capacities for disaster-related data disaggregation (for example, by geography, hazard, income, sex, age, and disability) and revising standard operational procedures for disaster management.

Responding to a request by the NDMA, the United Nations also supported a scoping mission by the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) in October 2022. The mission consulted with Government, civil society, academia, and development partners on national priorities and current capabilities of the Maldives to manage disaster and climate change risks. As a result, the groundwork for a national integrated DRR strategy and adaptation plan is now in place with further consultations due in 2023 to finalize both documents. These efforts will make a significant contribution to creating a comprehensive risk management approach across DRR and CCA, identifying areas for further need for risk reduction across sectors, and enabling joint programming across UN entities, government ministries, and other partners to increase resilience. This contributes to linkages between SDG Goal 11 and 13.

At local level, the NDMA partnered with the United Nations to improve urban resilience under the auspices of the global Making Cities Resilient (MCR2030) cross-stakeholder initiative. In 2022, HDh. Kulhudhuffushi became the first city in the Maldives to sign up to MCR2030 with the NDMA. The Local Government Authority and the United Nations will continue its support in 2023 as HDh. Kulhudhuffushi Council develops its DRR strategy, which will be incorporated into the City Development Plan. HDh. Kulhudhuffushi is assessing their current capacities for resilience and beginning to consider actions to implement for greater resilience for those on the islands. HDh. Kulhudhuffushi City is illustrating the power of this program and urban resilience through peer-to-peer learning with other cities such as Fuvahmulah City, across Maldives on how to begin their own resilience journey.

Supporting environmentally sustainable practices

In 2022, the United Nations supported the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology in strengthening legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemical waste management. The United Nations contributed to expanding public expenditure in the water sector, enabling access to safe drinking water for 10,705 residents in 14 critical water-stressed islands, enabling communities to have uninterrupted year-round safe and secure source of drinking water, especially during the dry seasons. Through provision of technical and financial support, the United Nations enabled the launch of a new update for the Maldives Meteorological Service's Moosun app to provide real time alerts on probable rainfall. This is assisting in rainwater harvesting and water management, helping to improve water security in all communities across the country.

Through support to three integrated water resource management systems, and 11 rainwater harvesting



systems, the United Nations contributed to annual savings of USD 97,724 (MVR 1.5million) on dry period water supply costs, representing a 30 per cent water production cost saving. These cost efficiencies have resulted in the model's full adoption by the Government of Maldives with an increased public expenditure of MVR 954 million in the water sector. This lays the foundation for a nationwide scale-up, making it possible for the Government of Maldives to meet its pledge to provide water networks to all inhabited islands by 2023.

As part of efforts to support the Government of Maldives in meeting its net-zero emissions target and advancing progress on SDG 7, the United Nations promoted renewable energy innovations through several initiatives in 2022. In G.Dh. Nadella the installation of a solar panel system contributed to savings of USD 4253.15 (MVR 65,541) in oil costs, providing economic and social

benefits to the local community, including a reduction in pollution. In preparation for a pilot low emission electric vehicle based public transport system in Greater Male' region, the United Nations further supported the installation of three charging stations and a solar PV power offset system in Male' City and Villimale' to advance a clean power generating infrastructure. This EV transport system is expected to benefit the population of Greater Male' region (approximately 252,768 people) and is seen as proof of concept with potential to garner additional investment. The 2030 Agenda is committed to reducing the negative impacts of urban activities and of chemicals which are hazardous for human health and the environment. To this end, and in line with Outcome 3 of the Cooperation Framework, the United Nations supported various initiatives contributing to SDG 3,SDG 6 and SDG 12.



Photo: UNDP Maldives/Ashwa Faheem

During 2022, the United Nations provided resources to conduct a national baseline assessment to understand trends and risks in chemical usage. The assessment identified key industries, sectors, and stakeholders based on their chemical usage, the main challenges to effective chemical management in the Maldives, and the current status of relevant legislation and institutional frameworks. This assessment is being used to inform policy, operation and cooperation between Government stakeholders with the objective to improve the accuracy and efficiency of data on chemicals entering the country, and to propose national guidelines on how these can be best managed such that the economic activities that rely on these chemicals continue without posing dangers to human and environmental health.



Working in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology and FENAKA Corporation the construction of an upgraded Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) storage facility was 70 per cent complete by the end of 2022, and is expected to be fully operational by May 2023. Additionally, 24 tonnes of PCB contaminated materials are expected to be exported to a quality disposal facility by April 2023, made possible through contracts issued by the United Nations for environmentally sound packaging, shipment, and disposal.

Promoting meaningful youth engagement in climate action

The Cooperation Framework emphasizes the importance of engaging youth in promoting solutions to address the impact of climate change. Throughout 2022, the United Nations used its partnerships and convening role to connect young men and women with decision-makers and leaders to amplify the voices of youth and vulnerable communities who are impacted by climate change across the Maldives.

Highlights from the year include the pre-Climate Change Conference (COP27) event organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology, Ministry of Education, and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs). With United Nations support, young people and activists across the country were able to meet and discuss their concerns and priorities with high-level government authorities and officials, development partners, and civil society organizations. The event provided an important platform for young men and women to share their perspectives and advocate on issues ranging from a plastic-free Maldives, environmental protection and conservation to energy and innovation. The resulting Youth Declaration from this event was subsequently taken by the Ministry of Environment to the COP27 in Egypt.

Outcome 4: By 2026, Maldives has strengthened decentralized and accountable governance under the rule of law where people are empowered, meaningfully participate in transparent and transformative processes for public policy and fully enjoy access to justice, public services, human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment in a tolerant and peaceful society.

In 2022, a significant proportion of United Nations support to the Maldives was delivered under Outcome 4 of the Cooperation Framework. This support encompassed strategic policy advice, evidence-based analysis, technical assistance, and capacity development, and spanning issues of democratic governance, rule of law, access to justice, gender equality, and human rights.



Photo: UNFPA Maldives/Shari 2022

Supporting democratic governance

The United Nations continues to support the President's Office and Local Government Authority in strengthening decentralization and improving good governance. In 2022, examples include provision of technical and financial resources for the Human Rights Action Plan, Human Rights Defenders' Manual of the National Human Rights Commission of Maldives, and the National Gender Equality Action Plan developed by the Ministry of Gender, Family, and Social Services. The United Nations further contributed to decentralization reforms through updates to local governance planning processes and guidelines to support the effective functioning of Local Councils and Women's Development Committees.

The Cooperation Framework emphasizes the need to enhance the meaningful participation of women and youth in politics. To this end, the United Nations continued to promote women's political participation, as well as the participation of youth and persons with disabilities. Using its partnerships and convening role, the United Nations held a Women's Practice Parliament and a Youth Practice Parliament, ensuring the participation of Maldivians with disabilities. As a result of United Nations support, 75 per cent of participants reported an increased understanding of parliamentary proceedings. Additionally, the United Nations conducted a Judiciary for Juniors Programme with the aim of building interest towards the judiciary and judgeship among prospective law students in general and increase their knowledge on the justice sector and access to justice. Moreover, it aims to attract young people towards career ambitions available to the younger generation of stakeholders who will be newly introduced to the judicial system.

In the Judiciary for Juniors Programme a total of 40 participants participated. The selected participants were invited to a week-long workshop with various sessions covering the thematic areas of the judiciary. The sessions were conducted by a team of facilitators comprising of Judges, Lawyers, Judicial Services Commission staff, Department of Judicial Administration staff, and United Nations staff. During these 7 days, the participants learned about the direct and indirect aspects that comprise of the judicial sector. The sequencing of sessions was developed in such a way that participants followed a case from being lodged in a court until the end of the sentencing process. This process culminated in a practice court session undertaken by all participants on the final day. The case for the practice court session was shared with all participants during the workshop, and they spent dedicated time assigning roles between themselves; including defense lawyers, prosecutors, judges, and court administrators. Participants received direct support from judges, legal experts from Prosecutor General's Office, defense lawyers, and staff from the United Nations, Judicial Service Commission and Department for Judicial Administration in preparing for the moot court sessions on the final day. The evaluation



Photo: UNFPA Maldives/Mohamed Zayan Ismail 2022

shows that 84 per cent of participants demonstrated significant improvements in their knowledge as the result of this programme.

Supporting government efforts to strengthen the rule of law.

Ensuring the independence of the judiciary is a priority of the United Nations in the Maldives, with capacity building support provided to 155 judges and 305 legal staff in 2022, covering all atolls, and resulting in more effective application of the Civil Procedure Code.

To address ongoing challenges within the justice system, the Ministry of Home Affairs collaborated with the United Nations to deliver workshops and trainings on a range of topics for officials. Areas of focus in 2022 included the Maldivian juvenile justice system and application of non-custodial measures. System-strengthening and capacity-building initiatives for the rollout of the Child Rights Protection Act (CRPA) and Juvenile Justice Act (JJA) and accompanied by trainings for police officers to advance child rights and child protection. By the end of 2022, United Nations support had trained 443 officers at regional and island level to sensitize officers to the system changes brought about by the new legislation and equip them with the necessary skills to establish more child-friendly protection and justice systems. Regarding non-custodial measures, United Nations support helped to standardize approaches to application of Sentencing Guidelines of the Supreme Court of Maldives.

Across these and other rule of law initiatives, the United Nations effectively advocated for greater female participation across the activities it supported throughout the year. This resulted in increased female nominations and participation from law enforcement agencies in a wide range of capacity development activities, including those with the Maldives Police Service.

The United Nations in Maldives has continually been supporting various activities to promote South-South and North-South Cooperation in the form of policy support and capacity-building activities among others. In 2022, this included a study tour with relevant authorities in Kenya on best practices in prison security, prisoner management and rehabilitation, cross-regional trainings on preventing violent extremism, and an exchange trip to Uzbekistan to learn best practices in repatriation and reintegration of children and women from conflict zones. With United Nations support these initiatives promoted knowledge and expertise exchanges designed to help solve specific challenges facing the Maldives.

Ensuring access to justice for all

In relation to child rights, the United Nations continues to support the Office of the Children's Ombudsperson to strengthen its child rights monitoring and child participation, with a short-term plan put in place by the end of 2022 to address critical gaps in the current system.

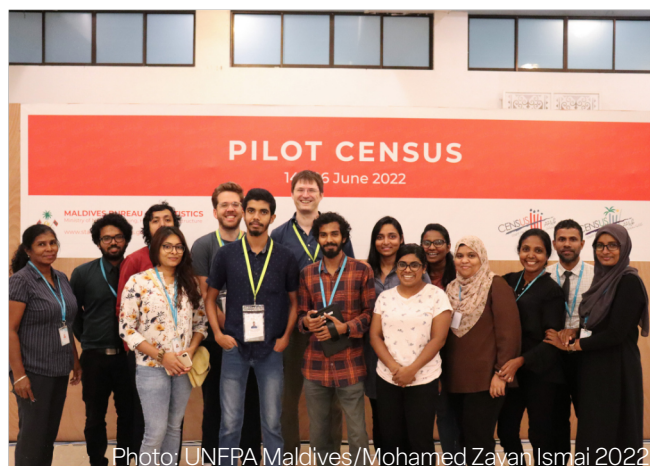
Collaboration with civil society is critical to promoting access to justice, especially for women. The United Nations' partnership with the Family Legal Clinic enabled 83 individuals, 60 per cent of whom were female, to access legal aid support in family-related matters. Through this partnership, the United Nations was able to provide over 200 free legal consultations and offer support to 63 clients for preparation of claims and case submissions, with pro-bono court representation secured for 37 clients.

The rights of migrant workers are emphasized throughout the Cooperation Framework and in 2022 were promoted by the United Nations through several initiatives. This included a rights-based diagnostic assessment of the current labor migration situation and existing governance systems, providing the foundation for a long-term labor migration governance framework that places the human rights of migrants at its center. Based on assessment findings, United Nations provided strategic policy advice to the Ministry of Economic Development aimed at enhancing rights-based approaches to the governance of labor migration in Maldives. For example, through elimination of corrupt recruitment practices, establishment of a minimum wage, skills development, ensuring occupational health and safety of workers, and enacting policy and legislative changes to improve labor market conditions. Additionally, the United Nations provided technical inputs referencing international labor standards and human rights treaties on the draft Industrial Relations (IR) Bill and draft Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Bill, due for publication in early 2023. The United Nations continued its engagement with the Government of Maldives and judicial authorities to deliver a comprehensive, coordinated approach to human trafficking which is gender and age-sensitive and grounded in human rights.

Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women

Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women is identified as a priority of the United Nations in the Cooperation Framework. In 2022, the United Nations continued to advocate for the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and to increase Government efforts to eliminate harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting.

The launch of the Government's Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) 2022 – 2026 lays the groundwork for accelerating action on SDG 5 and, with United Nations support, the first two years of the plan are now fully costed. The GEAP also provided the United Nations with a framework to ensure its own activities in the Maldives are closely aligned to national priorities, helping to identify



new opportunities for joint programming in areas of social norm change and gender-based violence, and furthering discussions among development partners regarding support to SDG 5.

Provision of strategic policy advice on SDG 5 included United Nations support to identify duplications, overlaps and contradictions in legislation related to gender-based violence, including the Penal Code and Family Law. United Nations support in this area will continue in 2023 and aims to ensure greater adherence to international human rights standards and commitments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The United Nations recognizes that increased support to women's organizations is crucial to address the needs and vulnerabilities of women furthest behind in Maldives. In 2022, the United Nations supported efforts to establish a women's peer-help group in the northern most province in the country, HDh Kulhudhuffushi. This support is helping civil society reach women in island communities who may

experience specific social and economic vulnerabilities, and who may have less access to health and social protection services, including support services for gender-based violence.

Disaggregated data for SDGs and raising awareness on Agenda 2030

The United Nations amplified its normative role to mainstream disability data into the Maldives 2022 Census, in line with the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which makes the collection of data on disability the responsibility of the Government, which ratified the Convention in 2010. Technical inputs and financial support to the Maldives Bureau of Statistics (MBS) further enabled the United Nations to increase the reliability and validity of information on other population groups, including migrants. The UN support for the Census included all the preparations for the Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI) enabling the availability of the results in the virtual database real-time, communication support to Census operations as well as piloting the whole operation. Beyond the Census, the United Nations continued its partnership with the MBS to support the production and use of disaggregated data for the SDGs. Complementing these efforts were several advocacy and awareness interventions designed to raise awareness among parliamentarians to prioritize the SDGs in legislative business in response to local needs and national development priorities.

2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

Partnerships

The United Nations has made a dedicated strong effort to explore new partnerships, and strengthening relationships with existing partners in 2022.

During the year, the United Nations held its first ever engagement with three prominent academic institutions in the Maldives: the Maldives National University (MNU), Islamic University of Maldives (IUM) and Villa College (VC). This was the first time all three academic institutions had come together, and was realised through the initiative and convening power of the UN Resident Coordinator. The priority areas of the Cooperation Framework were discussed with the keynote presentation delivered by the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) which connected SDGs to the



Photo: UN Maldives

research agenda and highlighted opportunities for further engagement by the academic community in the Maldives. Notably, this partnership aims to help fill data gaps for SDG monitoring by teaming up with research academics in line with furthering the 2030 Agenda.

Throughout 2022, the United Nations used its campaigning, convening and normative role to elevate various international days and promote the human rights of women, girls, men, and boys. Examples include International Women's Day, International Youth Day, Human Rights Day and the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. Furthermore, UN Maldives also organized two significant events around persons with disabilities where constructive conversations were held with the NGOs supporting the persons with disabilities. This work also supported the UN Maldives Disability Inclusion Strategy (2021).

These events focused on effective and innovative ways of working in partnership to highlight critical development issues, human rights, and gender equality. For World Ocean Day, rather than a regular UN celebration of the international day, the United Nations flipped the switch by providing the credible and recognizable UN platform for a motivated group of young people to highlight and educate Maldivians on the issues affecting the health of our Oceans. This major initiative brought together the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology, private sector partners, local councils, and civil society to raise awareness and advocate for greater protection and conservation of the ocean environment. Meaningful inclusion of different groups of men, women, girls, and boys was a recurring theme across other international days with a strong focus on human rights, gender equality, and women's empowerment.

Effective engagement with civil society continues to be a cornerstone of the United Nations work in the Maldives, particularly on issues of human rights. Examples include collaborations with Society for Health Education (SHE) to protect and promote the sexual and reproductive health and rights of those with disabilities and a partnership with Zero Waste Maldives to break the taboo around menstruation and deliver gender-sensitive and rights-based information to a wider range of the adolescent and youth population across the country. The Maldives Red Crescent continues to be an important partner for the United Nations and in 2022 this collaboration was expanded to include a focus on disability inclusion.

Financing

United Nations support to financing the 2030 Agenda was central to the joint programme on the Integrated Financing Framework and several other initiatives in 2022.

An ongoing and long-term partnership between the United Nations and the Maldives Monetary Authority continues to strengthen the links between public policy and financing, as well as laying the foundation for accelerated and focused development cooperation. Highlights from 2022 include an insurance sector diagnostic study, which informed policy decisions on national insurance market development.



Photo: UNDP Maldives/Yujuan Jing

Strategic policy advice and technical inputs from the United Nations have further enhanced climate budget tagging and climate modelling capabilities within the Maldives Inland Revenue Authority. This partnership provided capacity development opportunities for tax auditors through Tax4SDGs, which will assist the Government of Maldives in revenue mobilization and audit compliance. New engagements with the Ministry of Finance and Housing Development Corporation have enabled the Government of Maldives to co-finance high level technical advisory services regarding urban development and climate financing.

The year also saw the creation of the Economic Research Center (ERC), co-financed with the Government of Maldives, which has enabled the United Nations to engage in new policy spaces and strengthen evidence-based policy making and investments in the SDGs.

2.4. Results of the UN Working More and Better Together: UN Coherence, Effectiveness, and Efficiency

The year saw the continuation of two joint United Nations programmes, namely the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), and the rollout of an electronic immunization registry across the health sector.

Under the INFF joint programme, the United Nations assisted the Government of Maldives through a Development Finance Assessment (DFA) which supported the financing of the Maldives Strategic Action Plan (2019 – 2023), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other national and sectoral development plans to enable the achievement of the national and international climate and sustainable development commitments made by the country. The accompanying Gender-Responsive Integrated Climate Financing Strategy endorsed by the Government of Maldives includes specific recommendations to unlock climate finance for improved gender equality outcomes, which has now become the foundation for the INFF and its corresponding roadmap, opening up a diverse portfolio of SDG financing initiatives.

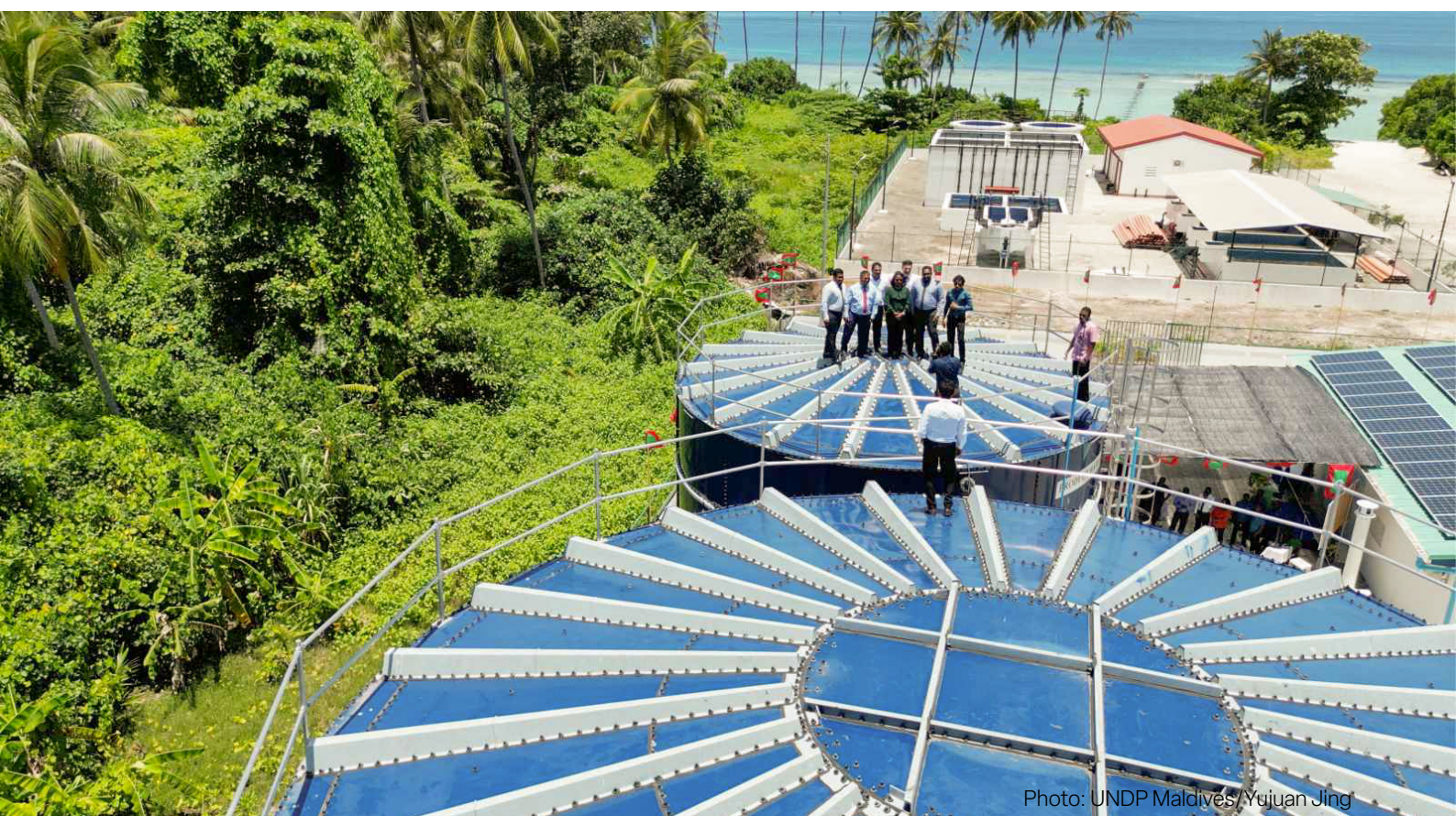


Photo: UNDP Maldives/Yujuan Jing

The second joint programme reflects the continued partnership between WHO and UNICEF which has been instrumental to the successful roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine in the Maldives. The absence of a digital health information system remains a significant challenge for the health sector and the joint programme is supporting the development of an electronic immunization registry. In partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Health Protection Agency, two private hospitals, and public health staff based in the islands, the joint programme has supported 90 facilities – including all Greater Male region facilities, atoll and regional facilities – to add almost 50 per cent of children born in 2022 to the registry, with 9,200 children being tracked in the system by the end of 2022. The electronic immunization registry will contribute to real-time data tracking, informing decision-making for vaccination campaigns and improving immunization programming and response in support of SDG 3.

better alignment of activities, and minimized the duplication of resources. Further, the UN Resident Coordinator has been furthering coordination and partnership between resident and non-resident Ambassadors, as well as efforts to establish a Development Partners' Forum for donors to the Maldives.

The United Nations harnessed its partnership role to promote inter-regional exchange on new and emerging issues. For example, study visits to Georgia on de-institutionalization provided an opportunity for a multi-sectoral high level Government delegation from the Maldives, chaired by the Minister of Gender, Family and Social Services, to learn best practices in transitioning from institutional care to family and community-based care options. The delegation, comprising representatives from the Ministry of Education, Maldives Police Service, Children's Ombudspersons Office, among others, enabled learning of a child-centered and multi-disciplinary approach to services and programming to further improve the situation of children in alternative care. Participation in these study visits helped facilitate advocacy and initiate dialogues with relevant stakeholders including, but not limited to, the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services, Ministry of Education, Maldives Police Service, and Office of the Children's Ombudspersons on sensitive and challenging issues.






Key learnings for the United Nations during 2022 relate to youth engagement, tailoring communications to specific population groups (particularly youth, women, and girls, and those with disabilities), and improved programme planning that sufficiently takes into account the likelihood of administrative delays, capacity issues, and staff turnover within implementing partners. By way of example, capacity gaps and high staff turnover with official government bodies meant that some project outcomes, especially those pertaining to local governance strengthening, were not achieved in 2022. To cite one example, the United Nations had limited scope to work with electoral institutions, and as such worked with civil society, local councils, and political parties without the engagement of the Election Commission.



Photo: UNDP Maldives/Ashwa Faheem

2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

UN Agencies Financial Contribution for the Year 2022

Agency	Outcome 1 Livelihoods and Productivity	Outcome 2 Human Development and Wellbeing	Outcome 3 Natural Resource Management, Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability	Outcome 4 Transformative Governance, Justice and Human Rights
				
FAO	59,333.00		64,082.00	
ILO	6,250.00			45,301.00
IOM	134,945.00	17,815.00		280,878.00
UNDP	731,152.00		5,828,659.00	2,305,489.00
UNDRR			72,000.00	
UNFPA	57,660.23	135,276.02	57,660.23	502,728.70
UNICEF		1,502,157.85	374,415.46	366,902.60
UNHCR			36,196.00	36,196.00
UNODC				1,701,334.00
WHO	84,657.00	2,003,419.00	150,310.00	
Total per Outcome Area (in USD)	1,073,997.23	3,658,667.87	6,583,322.69	5,238,829.30



Chapter 3

UNCT Key Focus for Next Year

A priority for the United Nations in 2023 is the submission of the Maldives' Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report to the High-Level Political Forum in July 2023. This would be the second VNR of the Maldives and will be prepared by the Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (MNPHI) with support from the United Nations. The 2023 VNR will explore the theme 'socio-economic integration through connectivity as an accelerator to achieving SDGs in the Maldives.

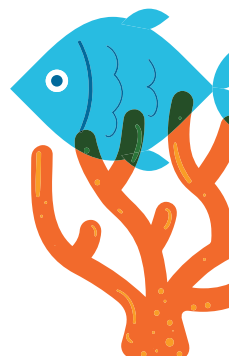
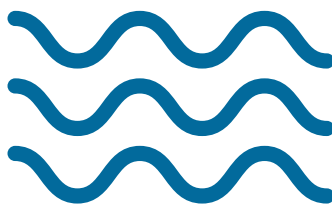
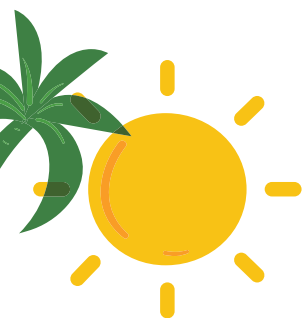
From the United Nations, international expertise if provided through a regional consultancy and local expertise for drafting the report and conducting the consultations have been facilitated through funding support. The United Nations in Maldives through its convening role is bringing together the resident and non-resident UN entities in the Maldives to provide their substantive input to the VNR, especially in terms of strengthening the data and evidence for the qualitative tracking of the SDG indicators. While the work is ongoing, the SDG tracker being developed for the Maldives will also be utilized for the VNR report. The United Nations will advocate for ensuring extensive consultation from the LNOB lens with a participatory approach that includes NGOs, private sector and vulnerable groups.

As the theme for the High-Level Political Forum is 'Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels', the VNR Report will reflect on the impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the country, including measures undertaken in the Maldives for a sustainable and greener recovery. The 2023 VNR Report will use preliminary data of the 2022 Census and offer policy recommendations to overcome obstacles and respond to emerging challenges.

Presidential Elections are scheduled to be held in 2023. Similar to previous Presidential Elections in the Maldives, the United Nations will focus efforts on supporting a free and fair electoral process and working closely with partners to coordinate messaging in this regard. This includes support to conduct the Electoral Needs Assessment Report and the National Awareness Campaign for the Presidential Elections of 2023.

In 2023, the Maldives Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) will be finalized and would deliver a comprehensive financing strategy on climate action and provide a set of highly action-oriented strategies to unlock both domestic and external resources; from the private sector, international financing institutions, philanthropic, and impact and cause-driven sources of financing, to augment and scale-up existing public sources of financing towards climate and social sector financing needs. The strategy will render support the achievement of the national and international climate and sustainable development commitments made by the country. The financing strategy will put achieving gender-equality at the heart of all financing actions as an important cross-cutting theme and provides specific policy options to ensure that the actions proposed under the strategy are gender-sensitive. Following the launch of the INFF, Ministry of Finance plans to establish the Maldives Climate Finance Hub (MCFH) within the Ministry of Finance, with the technical assistance of UN in Maldives, as the primary mechanism to implement the financing strategy and provide overall technical expertise to the Ministry of Finance and other relevant sector ministries and agencies on climate finance matters.

The United Nations will prioritize human rights, youth engagement, gender equality and women's empowerment across all its work in 2023, with a renewed focus on the needs and rights of those with disabilities, through the implementation of the UN Maldives Disability Strategy and the UN Maldives Youth Strategy and closer attention to emerging issues of mental health in addition to existing areas of focus set out in the Cooperation Framework.



United Nations in Maldives

4th Floor, H. Aage (Bank of Ceylon Building)

Boduthakurufaanu Magu

Male, Maldives

Tel: (960) 3324501

Email: rcs-info-unmaldives@un.org



**UNITED NATIONS
MALDIVES**



[@UNMaldives](https://www.facebook.com/UNMaldives)
maldives.un.org

