



ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2016

UNITED NATIONS IN MALDIVES



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FOREWORD

Partnerships drive and sustain the work we do at United Nations in the Maldives. I would like to thank our partners from the Government, civil society, and our development partners, including the private sector and the international community. With your continued support, we can together bring transformative and lasting development for the people of Maldives.

For over 50 years, we have worked closely with our partners, and stood for the most vulnerable Maldivian populations. We have fought to end poverty, and curb the dangers posed by climate change. We have assisted with the remarkable strides made in education, and in the introduction of lifesaving health programs, among others. Along this journey, we are helping to build equity and resilience in these fragile islands.

Our partnership towards these goals and outcomes is reinforced through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2016-2020, an agreement signed between the Government of the Maldives and the United Nations. It is the guiding document that enables us to work in support of national priorities, and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) tailored to the local context.

The UNDAF is centered on making a difference in the key areas of: Youth and Children, Gender, Governance and Environment and Climate Change. It also targets the most vulnerable populations in the country, its ratification of various international Conventions, and human rights instruments. I am pleased to bring you this Annual Progress Report for the UNDAF year 2016. It outlines the results and achievements of implementing the UNDAF in the past year.

The successes and lessons highlighted in this Report are attributable to the collective efforts of many. On behalf of the United Nations, I would like to expressly thank the Government of Maldives for the close collaboration over the past year. The establishment of the SDG Division within the Ministry of Environment and Energy is witness to the Government's assurance of our shared cause. As we move forward with the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda, the Government's commitment to achieve the Goals with a special focus on "leaving no one behind" is crucial to ensure that the benefits of development are shared by all.

The United Nations is proud to remain a valued and trusted development partner of the Maldives, not only because of the unique advantages we offer as an organization, but also because of the commitment and support we have received from our partners over the years. Today, we remain steadfast in sustaining these partnerships, and building new ones to advance development on all fronts for the people of Maldives. We are proud to support a nation of people dedicated to finding a better future. We remain with you in this journey towards a peaceful, inclusive and sustainable Maldives.

Shoko Noda

United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Maldives.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ALP	Accelerated Learning Program	MDG	Millennium Development Goals
ANC	Anti-Natal Care	MEE	Ministry of Environment and Energy
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States	MNAP	Model National Action Plan
APLS	Advance Pediatric Life Support	MOE	Ministry of Education
CBDRM	Community Based Disaster Risk Management	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women	MPTF	UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund
COP	Conference of the Parties	NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
CSG	Community Social Group	NCD	Non-Communicable Diseases
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	NDMC	National Disaster Management Centre
DaO	"Delivering as One"	NRA	Non-Resident Agency
DaO SOP	"Delivering as One" Standard Operating Procedures	NSPA	National Social Protection Agency
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey	OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
DVP	Domestic Violence Prevention	OMT	UN Operations Management Team
EMIS	Education Management Information System	OOSC	Out of School Children
EMMP	Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan	PAC	Project Advisory Committee
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
GDI	Gender Development Index	SIDS	Small Island Developing States
GRB	Gender-Responsive Budgeting	SMT	Security Management Team
HDI	Human Development Index	SWM	Solid Waste Management
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey	ToT	Training of the Trainer
HRCM	Human Rights Commission of Maldives	UNCG	United Nations Communications Group
HRuF	Human Rights Up Front	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
ICD	International Classification of Disease	UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
ILO	International Labor Organisation	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IO	Investigating Officers	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
IOM	International Organisation on Migration	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
ISLES	Institute for Law Enforcement Studies	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
LECRd	Low Emission Climate Resilient Development	UNOP	United Nations Office for Project Services
LTA	Long Term Agreement	UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
MCPD	Maldives Child Protection Database	UPR	Universal Periodic Review
		WHO	World Health Organization
		YKAP	Young Key Affected Population

DEVELOPMENT TREND IN 2016

The Maldivian development journey is nothing short of a success story. At independence in 1965, it was among the poorest 20 countries in the world. Today, the country boasts the highest per capita income in South Asia. Maldives is a middle income country and is ranked in the high human development category. According to the Human Development Report of 2016, Maldives has a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.701, Gender Development Index (GDI) of 0.937, and GDP per capita of \$8,587.5 in 2015. Maldives is a young country with 31.9% of its population comprised of the youth (ages 18 to 34). It is also a “MDG-plus” country, having achieved five out of eight Millennium Development Goals ahead of the 2015 deadline. The country is a popular holiday destination with tourists flocking from around the globe with over 1.2 million arriving in 2016.

In 2016, the Maldives was one of the first countries to ratify the historic Paris Agreement to hold global warming to no more than 2°C. The government also introduced significant policy level changes related to commitments under the Paris Agreement and SDGs. These included the rollout of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Energy Policy, as well as establishment of National Ministerial Coordination Committee and SDG Technical Committee for the implementation of SDGs.

The country also enacted the Gender Equality Law, which is a positive step to reduce inequalities. Criminal Procedures Code was also adopted to give more clarity to dealings with criminal offences. The Government approved the National Human Rights Framework to implement recommendations of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and other international

human rights reporting mechanisms.

Climate change continues to remain the reality, and sea level rise is an imminent threat in the Maldives, where 80% of land is less than 1 meter above sea level with 42% of its population and more than 70% of its critical infrastructure within 100 meters of the shorelines. Over 45 islands faced water shortages due to significant changes to weather patterns, including the hottest dry season recorded in the past 18 years. The unusually warm temperature due to the El Nino resulted in more than 60% of coral reef bleaching, which adversely impacts underwater life and natural resources vital for the economy and livelihood.

Being a young democracy with its democratic transition in 2009, the political situation in the Maldives continues to remain fluid. The country is currently entering the next electoral cycle with local council elections to be conducted in 2017, and the presidential vote scheduled for the second half 2018. On the multilateral front, the country is taking an active role, especially as a chair of Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) facilitating a unified voice for the small island developing states (SIDS) within the United Nations system.

A major development impact to be seen in the coming years is the population and development consolidation policy aimed to concentrate 60-70% of the population in the greater Male’ region. This vision of the government is supported by mega-infrastructure projects funded mainly through loans from China and Saudi Arabia. It is envisaged that the implementation of the consolidation policy will have a great impact on livelihood and other social development aspects of both Male’ region as well as the outer islands.

THE UN DELIVERING AS ONE IN MALDIVES



Photo: UN Maldives

“Delivering as One (DaO)” is a UN initiative adopted to bring together the UN Agencies in a country to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and coherence. UN Agencies operate under 5 pillars of DaO: 1) One Programme, 2) One Leader, 3) One Fund, 4) Communicating as One and 5) Operating as One. DaO enables the UN agencies to work more cohesively together and coordinate joint efforts to ensure that the resources are used most efficiently and UN and our partners can work together more effectively to support sustainable development for all Maldivians.

ONE PROGRAMME

To jointly deliver development results, implementation of the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework, UNDAF 2016-2020 was commenced in 2016. Ten out of the eleven UN agencies (three Ex-Com and seven specialized agencies) signatory to the UNDAF agreed to develop **rolling joint work plans for 2016-2017** based on the new UNDAF. This process was led by four co-chairs each from UN and Government lead agencies in the UNDAF areas of (1) youth and children, (2) gender, (3) governance and (4) environment and climate change that led respective **outcome or results groups**. This process was advised by a **Joint Steering Committee** led by Foreign Secretary of the Government and the UNRC with strategic support from UNCT and technical advice from a UN Technical Taskforce. Within the first quarter of 2016, all the four rolling joint work plans were signed and the implementation started. The work planning and process was based on the **Delivering as One Standard Operating Procedures (DaO SOP)** and Maldives is one of the first countries to adopt the One UN joint work planning process. As per the DaO SOP communications, operations and other relevant coordinating structures have also been set-up to support the UNDAF implementation. These work

plans have replaced the one-to-one work plans of UN agencies and their government or civil society organizations (CSOs).

In three years since the start of implementation, within the **One UN programme** Low Emission Climate Resilient Development (LECRd), 7 UN agencies, in partnership with local and national authorities and communities, have provided holistic support to build capacities at national and local levels to encourage low carbon life styles, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction. This programme has seen new value-added skills and products developed at local level, women becoming more capable of participating in local development processes, improved access to food security and livelihoods, and improved water safety and security and waste management services – even in some of the most remote areas in Laamu Atoll. Dialogue has improved between islands, national and local partners and the understanding of the cross sector dimensions of climate change and awareness on the importance of ecosystems-based adaptation has improved at both levels. The fundamental integration of low emission and climate resilience aspects into local development planning was achieved both at national and local level, and the linkages between community based disaster risk management and planning were improved. The newly approved guidelines, tools have importantly integrated the SDGs.

COMMUNICATING AS ONE



Photo: UNFPA Maldives

UN visibility and strategic partnerships were enhanced through continued leadership and dialogue by UNRC, UNCT and engagement with Government and key stakeholders. Notably, the UN Day 2016 was celebrated in partnership with the diplomatic community based in Maldives and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This event co-hosted by UNRC and the Minister of Health featured **Member State Corners** of Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and

Maldives hosted by the respective Embassies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This event paved the way for better understanding of UN engagement including the new global goals. Moreover, it opened up avenues for information exchange amongst diplomatic community, NGOs and UN agencies on the role of the UN. Starting from July 2016, each Thursday UN staff, implementing partner or member of the diplomatic community has been featured with their favorite SDGs as part of the #GlobalGoalsThursday campaign on UN Maldives social media.

Several important **international days** were celebrated led by relevant agency with support from the UNCG: International Women's Day (UNDP), International Youth Day (UNFPA), World Health Day (WHO), World No Tobacco Day (WHO), World Day against Trafficking in Persons (IOM), Environment Day (UNDP), World Population Day (UNFPA). UN agencies also participated and carried out advocacy in several events organized by Government and NGOs such as Murakameehun Event for conservation of coral reefs, Kattihivvaru Festival for youth participation, Turtle festival, etc.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Human Rights Up Front (HRuF) is a Secretary-General's initiative to strengthen prevention of serious concerns that cut across the UN's three pillars of peace and security, development and human rights and it has become the cornerstone of UN's work in human rights in 2016. The UNDAF formulation process provided an opportunity for contextualizing the Human Rights Up Front initiative into the planning process. The new UNDAF embraces the Human Rights Up Front principles, and based on this a concrete monitoring mechanism is being set up following the recommendation of second Universal Periodic Review (UPR) undertaken in 2015 and other international obligations of the country.

Human rights mainstreaming is a pivotal aspect of programme implementation through the engagement of OHCHR. Notably technical support was provided to the Human Rights Commission of Maldives (HRCM) and civil society organizations to submit the reports for the second UPR. UNCT continued to proactively engage with HRCM and civil society actors by establishing platforms for exchange ideas. Both meetings provided useful insight and analysis into emerging trends and systematic gaps that challenges the realization of human rights, and was a useful exercise in strengthening relationship with these important actors.

OPERATING AS ONE

The UN Operations Management Team (OMT) in Maldives contributes in an effective manner in jointly resolving many common issues. The OMT meeting is normally held once per quarter and is chaired by different UN Agencies in the country on a yearly basis. Progress is seen in all areas of operations through this Committee.

This committee pursues efficient and effective administrative operations in the country and sends recommendations to the UNCT for consideration and certification of proposals. In 2016, the committee worked on entering into **Long-term agreements (LTA)** with local vendors to avert competitive bidding exercises and expedite procurement of goods and services. When finalized these LTAs will be applicable to all agencies and hence will convey the benefits to UN agencies and the partners alike.

ONE LEADER

Shoko Noda is the UN Resident Coordinator for the Republic of Maldives since October 2014. UN Country Team (UNCT) in Maldives consists of resident and non-resident members. There are officially four resident agencies in the UNCT: UNDP, UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA. All the other members of UNCT are non-resident agencies (NRAs) including UNOPS, UN Women, IOM, FAO, UNODC, UNESCO, ILO and UNEP, based (primarily) in Colombo, New Delhi and Bangkok. UN Women, UNOPS, IOM and World Bank have staff working in Maldives. Monthly UNCT meetings are held with the attendance of heads of UN Agencies and are chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator. The UNCT meetings function as primary coordination meeting for the UN system in the Maldives and ensures inter-agency coordination and decision-making at the country-level. Similarly, Security Management Team (SMT) meetings are held bi-monthly with the heads of agencies to enhance the safety and security of UN personnel, assets and operations in the country.

In addition, human rights learning sessions with focus on HRuF, UN human rights system and the Maldives UPR recommendations were conducted for all staff. UNCT members are also appraised of their engagement with the human rights.

ONE FUND

The Maldives One UN Fund was established in December 2010 with the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between 7 Participating Organisations and the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) in its capacity as the Administrative Agent (AA) of the Maldives One UN Fund. The Maldives One UN Fund became operational on 1 July 2011 with the first contribution from the Government of Denmark. Key documents regarding the Maldives One UN funds, including annual reports, are found [here](#).

ANALYSIS OF UN IN MALDIVES PROGRAMME

UNDAF OUTCOME AREA 1: YOUTH & CHILDREN



Photo: UNDP Maldives

Inter-agency Outcome: By 2020, Youth and Children access equitable, inclusive and quality social services, and have increased opportunities for skills development.

1. Child and youth-friendly health services, including nutrition, child health, adolescent/youth-sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS

UN's support to the nutrition in 2016 focused on building institutional capacity on maternal and child nutrition among healthcare workers, with a focus on areas of high malnutrition rates. The key outcome of the year was finalization of **Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCF) National Standards**. The standard provides clear guideline to practitioner on recommended intakes of food for children, and enable the health service providers to deliver consistent information and messages to mothers and other caregivers on IYCF. UN conducted Infant Young Child Feeding IYCF trainings for health staff in six health centres from six atolls, including all islands

UN has also supported a National Training of the Trainers on new born nursing care facility to strengthen the child and new born care services.

The **Child Health Strategy and Action Plan** review and validation continued in 2016, and is now endorsed by the Government. The strategy provides strategic guidance and the action plan outlines a road map to implement the strategy, and roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders, with a focus on quality equitable services.

UN supported the **Anti-natal care (ANC)** programme in Raa and Baa Atoll (North Central region), with 73 health providers trained on preconception and ANC interventions. Additionally, UN supported capacity building on Advance Pediatric Life Support (APLS) Training across three trainings. Two APLS trainings were South-to-South regional trainings held in Sri Lanka. The Training of the Trainer course was instrumental as it enabled Maldivian doctors to co-facilitate the subsequent APLS provider course in Maldives to 16 medical staff. The training helped to improve the management of pediatric emergency cases. Development of knowledge and skills necessary to efficiently manage critically ill infants and children is contributing to saving more young lives, including newborns.

The **HIV/AIDS Biological and Behavioral Survey** was also conducted with UN supporting designing of the survey, development of training materials, training of data collectors, and data collection including adolescent Young Key Affected Population (YKAP) in the survey. The findings will be instrumental for developing targeted interventions for YKAP in the future.

2. Quality inclusive education

The Ministry of Education has initiated upgrading of teachers and ensuring that all teachers are qualified and licensed by end of 2017. UNI initiated the operationalization of the **School Quality Assurance and Accountability Mechanism**. This mechanism includes development of a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the new national curriculum at the national and subnational level, development of an e-learning platform for training of teachers for the curriculum roll-out. Further, support was provided for the development of a school health strategy and action plan to strengthen school health. Additionally, through a partnership with the local NGO, support was provided to develop a behavior change communication strategy and to address social cultural attitudes that exclude children from education, especially children with disabilities. UN also provided support to develop a policy and framework for provision of **alternative and flexible learning options** for children who are out of school or at risk of dropping out of school.

UN also enhanced capacity of MOE officials on education statistics in Male', and facilitated participation in the regional workshop in 2016. Based on the evaluation of the Education Management Information System (EMIS) in 2014, UN is continually providing support to enhance evidence-based planning and monitoring. UN supported the mapping of **Comprehensive Reproductive Health Curriculum** and technical support on the roll out of Key Stage 3 (Grade 7 and 8 subjects) has been completed. A curriculum monitoring strategy and package of procedures and tools were developed and are currently being finalized.

3. Prevention, protection and response to violence against children and adolescents, and to children in conflict with law

The Child Protection Programme activities for 2016 focused on system strengthening and supported improving institutional capacity at national and community levels and developing capacities of the communities to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children, including child sexual abuse and Children in Conflict with the Law.

UN conducted a refresher **training on violence against children and adolescents** for 28 social workers. The social workers' skills were enhanced in risk assessments, report writing, development of intervention plans, and interviewing techniques (covering both children and adults). In order to enhance the capacity for investigation, 33 Investigating Officers (IOs) from Maldives Police Service were trained on **Advanced Child Interviewing Techniques Course**. 60 cases of child abuse have been investigated by some of the trained IOs. In addition, support was provided for the orientation of 49 government stakeholders on the emerging issue of on-line sexual exploitation and sex tourism. Key areas such as screening of persons with sexual abuse reports during visa approval process, sensitization of the Immigration Officers at the airport, and training of police offices and social workers on the issues were identified and included in the 2017 sectoral plans.

Support for the establishment and capacity building of the **Community Social Groups (CSGs)** continued in 2016. 26 CSGs across 3 atolls have been initiated. The CSGs have started bringing sectors together and improved coordination for discussion and interventions on issues, such as child abuse, where multi-sectoral responses are required. 6 out of the 26 CSGs have initiated the identification of vulnerable children and families.

Support was provided to establish a model for the **community based juvenile crime prevention programme and diversion programmes for children in conflict with law**. 30 Police Offices from selected atolls and Male' were trained as Community Engagement Officers. These officers will work closely with the CSGs and other community mechanisms for the prevention of juvenile crimes and violence against children. In addition, a total of 19 adolescents with criminal records are now under the diversion programme, while also engaged in an internship programme, building vocational skills for future employability.

UN supported the roll-out the **Child Protection Policy for Educational Settings**. Currently, 63 schools across 8 atolls and Male' schools have developed school level policy.

Work continued for the expansion of the **Maldives Child Protection Database**. It had been made easier with the conversion to a web based application. 50 percent of the 19 Family and Children Service Centers in the atolls have been linked to the MCPD. Training of MCPD Users have been completed to all police units in the atolls, to the Ministry of Gender and Family, Juvenile Justice Unit of Ministry of Home Affairs. Currently work is in progress for the development of the mobile application for reporting of violence against children. In addition, work has also been initiated to establish a call centre. These will be linked to the database for efficiency to respond to reports.

4. Prevention of substance abuse

In 2016, UN supported the government in the drafting the **National Strategy for Drug Abuse Prevention, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Children and Adolescents**. Substance abuse is also key component of Non-communicable Disease control plan.

5. Skills development of young people

An **assessment of the educational needs of Out of School Children (OOSC)** was conducted with support from the UN to supplement the EMIS data on OOSC. Also, a policy framework for provision of Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) for OOSC was developed. A Concept paper on the ALPs for the Maldives was developed.

UNDAF OUTCOME AREA 2: GENDER



Photo: IOM Maldives

Inter-agency Outcome: By 2020, gender equality is advanced and women are empowered to enjoy equal rights and opportunities in access to social, economic and political opportunities.

1. Strengthened capacity of gender responsive frameworks and mechanisms

Several preparatory activities to build capacity to undertake **Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB)** was undertaken. Gender Focal Points and selected staff from all units of the Ministry of Gender and Family were trained on the basics of GRB and on to incorporate GRB in planning and policy making. Furthermore, the Ministry of Finance and Treasury has committed to partner in taking the GRB agenda forward including the sectoral analysis that is scheduled to take place in 2017. The Gender Equality Law which was passed did not mandate affirmative action. Nevertheless several advocacy initiatives were carried out to promote affirmative action in political and economic sectors through policy formulation.

2. Full stakeholder participation and monitoring of CEDAW and other gender relevant intergovernmental processes

The **National Human Rights Action Plan** drafted in 2016 will strengthen the implementation of CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women) through domestication of international obligations as key national-level actions. The plan once finalised will also ensure mainstreaming and monitoring of the progress on implementation of CEDAW recommendations, through establishment of the national-coordination mechanism. The Framework takes into consideration the accepted recommendations of the human rights mechanisms as well as a mapping of SDG 3.

3. Strengthened Institutions and legislations implemented to effectively prevent and respond to Gender-based Violence

The UN contributed towards strengthening the implementation of the **Domestic Violence Prevention (DVP) Act** through the development of the DVP general regulation, increasing knowledge and understanding of sexual and domestic violence amongst public and service providers at local level.

The UN also supported two major analyses, namely: **Maldives Population Dynamics: Policy Prospects for Human Growth and Opportunity** and **Thematic Analysis on Youth in the Maldives**. The findings bring out the evidence to advocate for the necessary policies to address gender inequalities. In addition, integration of **Comprehensive Reproductive Health Education** continued for Key Stage 3 subjects. This includes integration of values to promote gender equality and information to recognize and prevent gender based violence.

With an aim of creating a holistic child system for child protection at national and community level that prevents, protect and respond to cases of violence against children, including gender-based violence, the UN, together with the Government, focused on building capacity of the communities and the institutions. As such, case-workers were reached with refresher training, leading to improved capacity for risk assessments, report writing, development of intervention plan, and interviewing techniques. Further, investigating Officers received training, **increasing their capacity to lead investigation of child victims of abuse and exploitation**. The UN worked closely with the Ministry of Gender and Family as a lead agency to establish the **Community Social Groups**, comprising of sectors relevant and directly responsible for child protection, expected to provide support at community level for prevention and response to child protection issues, including gender based violence. Work is in progress for the development of the mobile application for reporting that will be linked to the call centre and the Maldives Child Protection Database. This will enable easier access and facilitate easier reporting of cases of violence against children from remote islands. The information from both the calls and SMS would be centrally captured, analysed and used for timely response and action.

UNDAF OUTCOME AREA 3: GOVERNANCE



Photo: Miyaheli/UNDP

Inter-agency Outcome: By 2020, citizen expectations for voice, sustainable development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance.

1. Institutional capacities strengthened for implementation of legislative reform, oversight and local and national level evidenced based inclusive equitable and sustainable policies and planning

In 2016, the UN supported strengthening of the **legal aid framework** through the development of the draft Legal Aid Bill through consultative processes. The Bill will be submitted to the Majlis in the first session of 2017. In addition, national level dialogue was carried with all key stakeholders to discuss a localised model for providing pro-bono services through the legal aid framework.

MaldivInfo database was updated with administrative data from sectoral databases and data from census 2014 with CensusInfo. This overall database provides disaggregated data on children which is now used for policy planning and decision making for children and refinement of the Equity profiles. In addition, the UN supported the NBS to finalize and launch LaamuInfo, which is currently used for island level policy making and local planning process. With the training on LaamuInfo, 16 island

Councils members from 11 islands of Laamu Atoll, are now able to use LaamuInfo to support island level planning.

The UN also continued supporting the development of **Education Management Information System (EMIS)** which started in 2015. Support in 2016 was geared towards development of a module on tracking vulnerabilities among students, identifying students at risk of dropping out and inclusion of children with disabilities. This module is being developed and will be incorporated into the core module that was developed in 2015. EMIS data is currently used by the Ministry of Education to monitor student's attendance and appropriate actions are taken by the schools and the Ministry. With technical assistance from the UN, the NBS developed and refined **Equity profiles on Education, Nutrition and Child Protection**, which were disseminated and used for evidence-based policy making and policy interventions. Further refinement is expected with the release of the DHS and HIES in 2017. Their publication are expected in 2017. The Census Chapter on Children, initiated in 2015, was completed, providing socio economic data on children to planners and policy makers. Additionally, initial inter-ministerial diagnostic consultations were held to inform the development of a comprehensive and integrated Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks for the key social sectors, including Education, Health, Gender & Family and Social Protection and Environment and Energy in 2017. This initiative has the endorsement of the Ministry of Finance, with commitment to link child deprivations to the quality of public expenditure and budgetary decisions that leaves no child behind.

2. Civil society and vulnerable groups have enhanced capacities to engage, contribute & participate in national development processes

Civil Society organisations (CSOs) were better able to engage in constructive dialogue with the Ministry of Home Affairs on relevant issues. Most notably, the **National NGO Forum 2016** was an avenue for more than 100 local CSOs to share their concerns regarding civic space and legal framework directly with the Registrar. The Government committed to looking into all these concerns and showed willingness to revise the legal framework of Associations in consultation with civil society. This will be carried out in 2017.

Through the **social innovation camp**, Miyaheli, the UN provided a platform for youth from across the country to engage in the development process by developing 'untraditional solutions' to their everyday development challenges. The three winning ideas received seed funding to make their ideas into a reality. These will test their solutions for the challenges that they identified.

To support increased number of women in the political sphere and public arena, the UN conducted **trainings for aspiring female leaders and women actively engaged in political parties**. The trainings were designed based on the mapping study conducted on the women's wings of political parties. ToTs will be conducted in 2017 to support women's wings to further train female candidates outside Male'.

3. Mechanisms and frameworks developed to promote inclusive and sustainable growth, economic diversification, social protection and improved employment conditions for vulnerable groups

The UN has been engaging with communities to develop activities that can bring positive changes to livelihoods of vulnerable groups. Through the current programme cycle, the majority of this support was through small grants. To ensure that livelihood works initiated through **small grants** are sustainable and business linkages are developed, the UN supported the establishment of partnerships between Business Development Centres based at sub-national level and grant proponents.

National Curriculum on Trafficking in Persons for Law Enforcement Agencies (Police, Immigration and Labour Relations Authority) was developed and finalised. A ToT was conducted on the curriculum and this curriculum will be incorporated into the formal training mechanisms of each agency (ie: Institute for Law Enforcement Studies, ISLES, new recruits training and refresher courses). 8 out of 13 trainings on trafficking in persons were completed for island and atoll level stakeholders to build their capacity.

The Migration Profile for the Maldives was launched in 2016 which will contribute to migration management framework of the country, including recommendations on existing legislative, regulatory and policy frameworks and determining primary and secondary data in relation to both external and internal migration. Initial national individual consultations between Government, civil society and independent experts were also held. A study on “Measures to increase employment of Nationals in expatriate dominated occupations and promote decent work among all workers” was completed and handed over to the Government on 16th September 2016. The objective was to provide options to review the quota system for foreign employees in the Maldives with recommendations to reach full employment of nationals with better migration governance.

With support from the UN, the National Social Protection Agency (NSPA) increased its capacity to **strengthen data management and monitoring systems**. This enabled NSPA to improve the targeting criteria and mechanism of social protection programmes, which has now increased coverage of the social schemes to vulnerable children. Similarly, the UN supported NSPA to conduct regular monitoring of the programmes to track changes in eligibility criteria of beneficiaries and to assess effects of the programmes on children. In this regard, three monitoring trips were supported in Raa Atoll, Gaafu Alif Atoll and Gnaviyani Atoll, during which the status of 1307 beneficiaries (including 244 children, 648 adults with disability and 476 children of single parents) have been reviewed through the existing targeting mechanisms and included in the registry. In absence of systematic collection of data to track inclusion and exclusion errors, the monitoring visits were determinant in correcting inclusion and exclusion errors from misinterpreted and fraudulent cases.

The UN also supported the **Social Protection Management Information System review**, which now includes disability information from 6,224 beneficiaries including 1,795 children eligible for the disability allowance. The review was based on the WHO International Classification of Disease (ICD) criteria. The review generated a refined database which is currently used to manage the information of the person with disabilities eligible for the disability allowance.

The UN continued its advocacy to a more coordinated **child sensitive Social Protection** with a functional monitoring framework to respond to the existing fragmented and inefficient social protection programme. In this regard, the UN supported 3 joint coordination meetings with NSPA to discuss progress related to implementation, major bottlenecks and mitigation measures to fast track achievement of planned results.

4. State institutions and civil society have enhanced capacities to participate in intergovernmental & intragovernmental processes, harmonize international obligations into national policy framework and monitor and report progress

The capacity needs assessment of CSOs will be conducted in 2017.

5. Governance systems enhanced for improved performance in health care delivery

Control of communicable diseases has been further strengthened. In 2016, the country attained another important milestone in public health. Maldives was certified by the Regional Director of the WHO South East Asia Region, Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, for elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis (Elephantiasis).

With high level of commitment to strengthen the national core capacity, the Maldives has requested for a Joint External Evaluation of the **International Health Regulations**. To augment the surveillance capacity, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital Lab has been provided with new Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Machine to detect Pandemic Influenza, Zika and other emerging pathogens.

The Multi Sectoral National Action Plan, a guiding document for **Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) program and interventions**, was endorsed and released by HE Minister of Health. **Tobacco cessation guidelines/package** was launched to initiate support services in urban health centres in Male. A high level advocacy forum attended by HE Vice President, several cabinet ministers, MPs and senior officials of several ministries on Tobacco Control was organized on the heels of Pre Conference of the Parties (COP) meeting in Maldives which laid the evidence based ground for bringing in 40% increase in tax on tobacco and tobacco products and 15% increase in energy and fizzy drinks.

A **cancer registry** was supported with an incremental approach to cover the entire health system. In order to address the NCD issues; MOH is preparing to launch a “NCD prevention and Management Campaign”. Birth defects surveillance has been rolled out to all regions of the country and personnel in the regions have been trained on surveillance.

UNDAF OUTCOME AREA 4: ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE



Photo: LECReD/UNICEF Maldives

Inter-agency Outcome: By 2020, growth and development are inclusive, sustainable, increase resilience to climate change and disasters, and contribute to enhanced food, energy and water security and natural resource management.

1. Strengthened, effective and accessible knowledge-based mechanisms that incorporate relevant sector data

Waste management presents a major issue in the Maldives, in particular in Laamu Atoll, especially due to the absence or limited plans on handling waste adequately. Given that women are involved in waste management at a number of levels including handling day-to-day household waste and waste generated from sweeping and cleaning the islands, they are disproportionately exposed to risks associated with exposure to harmful waste products related to improper and inefficient handling of waste. This further leads to health issues which also negatively impacts on women's livelihoods and lives in general. The UN conducted the **first round of trainings for women of three islands of Laamu atoll on Solid Waste Management (SWM)** with a focus on waste segregation at household level. The main objective of these training is to equip women with the skills to manage waste effectively at the same time becoming agents of change by passing down the information and knowledge they have acquired whilst advocating for proper SWM plans to reduce the impact of climate change and improve the lives of island communities. Medical wastes are source of chemicals and infections which are

dangerous to human and animal health. UN supported development of National Medical Waste Management Strategy in the 2016. The strategy will be piloted in Laamu Atoll.

The UN have carried out relevant assessments required for the development of the **integrated water management system** in Hinnavaru Island. With execution of Environmental Impact Assessment, an Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) was developed. The UN monitored activities during its implementation phases through pre-construction and construction phases, and ensured timely reporting of data based on the EPA requirement monitoring parameters to EPA and the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE). Such information are used to monitor impacts of the project implementation on the island and also monitors various environmental aspects such as quality of groundwater, sea water, management of construction waste, noise and air pollution etc. UN also conducted an analysis of the quality of water in Maldives including in Laamu Atoll.

2. Key tools are introduced so that development issues are effectively coordinated, and promote ecosystem-based environmental and economic sustainability

Women's limited access to resources and decision-making processes increases their vulnerability to climate change. They have a strong body of knowledge and expertise that can be used in climate change mitigation, disaster reduction and adaptation strategies and it is necessary to recognize that women are effective agents of change in relation to both mitigation and adaptation. Integrating a gender dimension is important to realize the government's commitment in responding to the impacts of climate change, especially by recognizing women's vulnerability and potential as agents of change. As part of the LECReD programme, **ToT manual on gender and climate change** specific to Laamu atoll and its islands has been completed. This manual will be guiding local trainers to sensitize local programme stakeholders and partners, such as Atoll and Island Council members, to the gender dimension of climate change and provide a starting point in building their capacity to effectively mainstreaming gender into programme activities and beyond their five-year island and atoll development plans. The manual is a guiding document to identify and address the structural factors for the continued disempowerment and hopefully leads to an attitudinal change from both the men and women in the island communities and ensures that gender-responsive climate change and resilience planning and budgeting are integrated in the implementation of the LECReD program in Laamu atoll.

The UN introduced key tools for monitoring of the environmental impacts on the island. This included proper handling and **management of construction waste**, monitoring of various environment related aspects such as **quality of groundwater, sea water, noise and air pollution**. To address sustainability, the UN ensured that the local operators were trained on various technical aspects of the project and on the overall operations and maintenance of the systems. In order to manage the ground works and the issues arising from the community, the project together with the island council has developed and implemented a mechanism for managing public complaints.

The UN supported a pilot mechanism in Laamu Atoll to manage administrative data at island and atoll levels. "Laamu Koshaaru", a **data portal**, has been launched. This was based on the initial assessment conducted in 2015 to review data availability, quality and capacity of the island based institutions for

collection, analysis and use of the data. The data portal incorporates data needs of different sectors and was built up on the previous efforts made by National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to formulate a data collection system for the island councils. The UN has been closely working with NBS and local governance authorities in leading the population data revolution in Maldives. The UN took initiative to facilitate a training course of participants from NBS, National Centre for Information Technology, Local Government Authority, Island Councils and Atoll Councils. The two day program during December 2016, familiarized participants with Laamu Koshaaru. Participants also learnt how to navigate the data entry, queries, reports and analysis. The training also included discussions with senior experts on structures of data indicators and how the platform can be used to visualize various types of data.

3. National and local-level systems are enhanced to prepare for, respond to and be resilient to natural and human-induced disasters, including climate change, and benefit from enhanced dialogue among relevant stakeholders in all sectors, with a special focus on vulnerable groups and women

Through the LECReD programme, the UN had supported the NDMC to conduct **community based disaster risk management** (CBDRM) exercises in all 11 inhabited islands in Laamu atoll. The anticipated result is to build capacity of island communities to identify climate risks (and island-level risk profiles), understand capacities available, and address those risks through the trainings provided. Through the CBDRM process, a vulnerability and capacity assessment and a disaster management plans was developed for each island through a consultative process. These documents also compliment the island development planning process, enabling decision makers to understand risks faced by the islands and utilise this knowledge for future island-level planning.

The **model national action plan** (MNAP) on the nexus between migration, environmental degradation and climate change was drafted and endorsed by the Government and national stakeholders. The MNAP was developed at a national consultative workshop and a series of follow up meetings with relevant stakeholders. Based on the series of meetings held with the Ministry of Environment and Energy, the MNAP was drafted to suit the priorities and needs of the government and the country. It also was developed incorporating the results of the findings conducted during the report, as well as directed by the Project Advisory Committee (PAC). The regional report “Assessing the Climate Change Environmental Degradation and Migration Nexus in South Asia” of which the Maldives was a key study focus country (along with Bangladesh and Nepal), was launched on January 15 2017 in Bangladesh where key findings from the Maldives was shared amongst regional stakeholders. Key aspects included vulnerability of certain island communities as well as natural disasters and climate resilience. Awareness raising on climate change and human mobility at the local level was found to be critical.

A national Health **Emergency Preparedness framework** has been finalized. All Atoll level focal points have been trained in management of all hazard emergencies. Rapid response teams at each inhabited island have been identified and reference for the mobilization of the teams has been prepared. UN has prepositioned 2 IEHK kits in the country that can meet the health needs of 20000 people for 3 months.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE: ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES IN 2016

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Outcome Area	UN Agency	Budget For 2016	Fund Utilization (Jan-Dec 2016)	Implementation Rate (100*Utilization/Budget)
Outcome 1: Youth & Children	UNICEF	\$868,689	\$779,111.89	89.69%
	UNFPA	\$141,322	\$113,398	80.24%
	WHO	-	-	-
	UNESCO	-	-	-
Outcome 2: Gender	UN Women	\$61,104	\$51,126.30	84%
	UNICEF	\$20,000	\$20,000.00	100%
	UNFPA	\$175,417	\$159,135.02	91%
	UNDP	\$125,600	\$85,536.00	68%
	WHO	\$7,000	\$0.00	0%
	RCO	\$50,000	\$50,000.00	100%
Outcome 3: Governance	UNDP	\$220,600	\$167,100.00	\$75.75
	UNICEF	\$106,953	\$107,972.44	\$100.95
	WHO	\$104,625	\$193,302.00	\$184.76
	IOM	\$117,000	\$117,000.00	100%
	ILO	\$40,000	\$8,004	20%
Outcome 4: Environment & Climate Change	UNDP	\$5,522,042	\$2,838,278.93	51%
	UNFPA	\$153,601	\$144,786.98	94%
	UN Women	\$146,058	\$57,378.70	39%
	UNICEF	\$115,877	\$57,199.35	49%
	WHO	\$282,304	\$297,300.00	105%
	FAO	\$75,000	\$130,332.00	175%
	UNOPS	\$4,938,319	\$4,903,307.34	99%
	IOM	\$26,000	\$21,200	82%
TOTAL		\$10,010,740	\$10,301,469	82%

CHALLENGES IN 2016, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

The UN in Maldives conducted diverse programming by utilizing expertise of the UN agencies in 2016. However, there are some common challenges we faced. Below are some of the challenges in 2016 and our strategies in overcoming them.

Data

Lack of data, research and capacity to undertake data analysis remained a challenge, especially in the area of governance and environment. The UN plans to continue working with the National Bureau of Statistics as well as other relevant government institutions to build their capacity to obtain and analyze the data necessary.

Logistical challenges

Since the materials required for implementation are not readily available in the country and must be imported, procurement and logistics planning require considerable effort. This is also given the logistical challenges to deliver materials to the outer islands.

Participation from diverse groups

There is a room for improvement to increase participation from diverse group of citizens, particularly women and children. Efforts to 'leave no one behind' should be maximized by ensuring participation of women, civil society actors, young people, children, residents of rural areas and migrants into the development planning process. This can be addressed by establishing platforms to ensure the participation of these groups. Simple actions, such as arranging the timing of such meetings to be held in the evenings, could allow more women to participate.

Gaps between policy development and on-the-ground implementation of development activities

Policy implementation can be ensured by the UN linking upstream policy engagement with implementation to ensure mutual enforcement whenever possible. Public education on laws and policies should also be strengthened to address this issue.

Institutional changes

Frequent changes in public institutions, especially in the leadership roles, caused challenges to timely implementation of the programmes. This can be addressed by supporting the Government to institutionalizing the programme outcomes to enhance institutional memory.

Communication

Communication between the UN Agencies as well as between the government sectors and agencies could have been improved. This can be addressed by planning for more collaboration between sectors and agencies, particularly when implementing a similar programme.



Front Cover Photo: UNDP Maldives