

Maldives: Taking Action for Sustainable Development



Calling for "Every Child: No Child Left Behind" with child-friendly SDG posters at UNICEF event © UN Maldives

What are the bold actions taken by the Government to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the Maldives?

The successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relies on each country's own sustainable development policies, plans and programmes.

In the Maldives, the Government has been moving to take the actions that are needed to achieve the 17 SDGs in the following actions:

- Establishment of the SDG Division under the Ministry of Environment and Energy in May 2016 that acts as a Secretariat for all SDGs-related activities.
- Establishment of the National Ministerial Coordination Committee and the SDGs Technical Committee for the implementation of the SDGs.
- Organization of the National Workshop on the SDG Core Health Indicators to discuss the national target setting in January 2017.
- Launch of the [Five Year Development Plan \(2017-2021\)](#) formulated by the Local Government Authority, integrating the SDGs into local development strategy.
- Launch of the awareness raising campaign on Goal 3 on Good Health and Well-Being, Goal 4 on Gender Equality, Goal 5 on Gender Equality, Goal 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, and Goal 13 on Climate Action in partnership with

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Despite our unique vulnerabilities as a Small Island Developing State, we constantly strive to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development through innovative strategies and empowering people. Building resilience and adapting to the impacts of climate change on our fragile environment depends on the holistic engagement of all national stakeholders and global partners.

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Thoriq Ibrahim
Minister of Environment and Energy
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Ooredoo, a telecom company.

- Identification and assessment of the data gaps led by the National Bureau of Statistics, and organization of meetings with the sectors to discuss the localisation of the SDG indicators.
- Organization of a series of the awareness raising sessions for the State owned enterprises and the creation of the SDGs-related materials for raising public awareness.
- Translation of the SDGs into the local language.

Why do the above actions matter to the people in the Maldives?

During the era of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from 2000 to 2015, there was remarkable progress in achieving the goals. For example, the Maldives celebrated the elimination of communicable diseases, such as lymphatic filariasis and malaria. The Government currently focuses on addressing non-communicable diseases as the major cause of mortality in the country.

On the other hand, three goals of the MDGs—Gender Equality, Environmental Sustainability and



Environment Minister, Mr. Thoriq Ibrahim and UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Shoko Noda pose with SDG 17 at the SDG Technical Committee inauguration workshop. © UN Maldives

Partnerships—were not fully achieved by the end of 2015.

Regarding gender equality, representation of women in the political sphere and in the labour market still remains low. Women constitute only 5% of the Island Councils and women's unemployment rate is 31%. The Maldives has recently enacted the gender equality law, which is a positive step towards reducing gender inequalities.

In addition, climate change continues to remain the reality, and the sea level rise is an imminent threat in the Maldives, where 80% of land is less than 1

meter above the sea 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. Further efforts, therefore, are ongoing.

What SDGs have been particularly advanced in the Maldives?

The Government is implementing policies and programmes relevant to all 17 SDGs.



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17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

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