### Country: Maldives

### **COUNTRY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE SUMMARY[[1]](#footnote-1)**

### Reporting period: 2011 - 2015

### **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Maldives 2011-2015 Country Programme Document was designed in 2009/2010 following the country’s first multi-party Presidential Election in 2008. Through 11 outcomes in the areas of poverty reduction, democratic governance, energy and environment, and HIV/AIDS, it aimed to directly respond to priorities articulated in the ambitious 2008 Constitution and the then government’s 5 year Strategic Action Plan (SAP). It also included carried-over projects from the Tsunami recovery period in the areas of livelihood and agriculture.

Over the five year period, the outcome statements, as articulated, became obsolete. The CPD was designed around the priorities articulated by the then government and the SAP, which was not followed by the subsequent governments. The programme cycle went through 3 governments. As such the country office had to continuously realign the CPD with the new priorities of the government. In the course of the programme UNDP consolidated a number of small-size projects and adopted a programme based approach in the governance practice area. In this process, a number of outcomes required readjustments since the CPD had a one or two projects per outcome approach. The country programme also adopted to a flexible approach by responding to the fast changing priorities of the government(s), as well as the UNDP corporate priorities.

UNDP Maldives has been a valuable partner in promoting democratic governance. Traditionally marginalized groups such as women and youth, particularly in the areas of political participation and decision-making, have been specifically targeted under the this area and has resulted in creating spaces for women-led, women-focused as well as youth-led and youth-focused discussions and networking opportunities such as the first ever women local councilors’ forum and a series of youth dialogues on elections.

Furthermore UNDP worked closely with the Local Government Authority (LGA) to review and revise the Decentralisation Act. Based on a comprehensive training needs assessment, UNDP also supported the capacity development of the authority and supported the development of a fiscal formula for fiscal decentralization.

UNDP provided consistent support to the complex presidential elections of 2013 which resulted in a successful conclusion. UNDP worked directly with the Elections Commission (EC) on the voter education programmes and training of polling officials (over 4,000 polling officials).

UNDP Maldives has been a long-time partner of the Government of Maldives in climate change and environmental management since its inception. The Country Office’s work in environment and energy is guided by the overarching goal of ensuring that communities enjoy improved access to environmental services and are more capable of protecting the environment and reducing vulnerability and disaster risks with enhanced disaster management capacity.

During the programme cycle UNDP supported the establishment of policies and frameworks that will guide the efficient management and protection of the country’s environment and natural resources, including the wider use of renewable energy technologies.

To combat the effect of climate change on water supplies, a UNDP-government partnership project, funded through the Adaptation Fund, introduced a first of its kind water supply system, which integrates different water sources. To ensure sustainability and affordability of the system, this project conducted a willingness to pay survey, which established a tariff structure for the water supply system for the three target islands with a total population of 6,700. This is ground breaking since the concept of communities outside the capital paying for water has been absent. UNDP also supported the design of costal management guideline, which is being turned into a government regulation.

In efforts to promote climate adaptation in tourism operations, UNDP has been working closely with the tourism industry. The Tourism Adaptation Project supported new public/private investment partnerships between communities and tourism resorts to showcase the economic and environmental benefits of no-regrets adaptation in tourism operations

UNDP played an important role during the Tsunami recovery period. However, during the first part of the 2011-15 programme cycle, UNDP did not have any portfolio in this area. With support from the then BCPR, a project was established, focusing on the capacity development of the National Centre for Disaster Management and establishing systems for the implementation of the Disaster Bill.

In collaboration with UN agencies, UNDP has been leading efforts in developing and implementing a UN joint programme, Low Emission and Climate Resilient Development (LECReD). The programme is providing support to Laamu Atoll and its islands to realize low emission and climate resilient development and seeks to mainstream LECReD issues into local level development planning and service delivery for greater community-level ownership and sustainability of programme benefits.

Since the Tsunami recovery period, the Country Office has focused on strengthening the economic resilience of island communities and vulnerable groups including women and youth. However since Maldives graduation to Middle Income Status during the programme cycle Poverty Reduction portfolio has gradually moved towards advocacy and policy analysis.

### **II: Country Programme Performance Summary**

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| **Country information** | |  | | |
| **Country name: Maldives** | | | | |
| **Current country programme period: 2011 – 2015** | | | | |
| **Outcomes** | | **Total Expenditure** | **Key Indicators of outcome (1-4 per outcome)** | **Progress made against key indicators** |
| **1. *Institutional capacity strengthened to remove barriers to economic diversification and private sector development*** | | $ 1,000,000 | 1. *Implementation of least-developed-country transition roadmap* 2. *Existing trade preferences maintained; new markets gained* 3. *Sectors for which capacity development plans, laws and regulations operationalized to implement purchasing power parity* 4. *Business Development Service facilities that prioritizes women entrepreneurs* | * *Roadmap implemented effectively to enable the smooth transition.* * *Supported the national government to maintain the existing trade preferences together with initiated work on attaining new markets.* * *2 partnerships on business (market linkages) with local communities (for local products) and private sector established through the BDS facilities.* * *Supported the development of Small Medium Enterprise legal framework* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  (Please provide an assessment of the progress made against the CP outputs over the cycle, and indicate their contribution to the outcome. Please indicate each of the main outputs and provide a summary assessment of overall progress)  CP Outputs:   1. National capacity strengthened to implement and monitor smooth transition from least-developed country graduation, including strengthened multi-sector response to address trade and investment related issues and to implement the roadmap for smooth transition. 2. Participation of private sector in selected service provision (waste management, market access for local produce, resource conservation) enhanced at national and decentralized levels. 3. Business development and entrepreneurial capacity of small and medium enterprises strengthened through expanded partnerships with the private sector. 4. Cultured or farmed marine and agri-products piloted and commercialized in selected regions to enhance livelihoods and resilience of communities in a changing climate.   Progress and Achievements:  UNDP supported revisions and drafting of 12 bills to strengthen the legal framework that is required for an environment that is conducive to attracting investments. The absence of a protection and functioning legal regime has been identified as a key deterring factor in securing a steady and robust flow of investors. These revisions are been submitted to the Attorney General office to be tabled for discussion in parliament. When ratified, they would greatly contribute to building investor confidence and developing new service industries.  UNDP supported a comprehensive review of the Maldives Tourism Act of 1999, one of the most important pieces of legislation governing the main economic industry of the country. The review recommends GOM to regulate the sector with better enforcement and to develop human resources needed for the tourism sector.  UNDP’s past support to the Ministry of Economic Development (MED) in strengthening the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector through various studies and assessment (feasibility study of a MSME Bank, MSME mapping study and drafting an MSME Bill & translation) has finally yielded the landmark ratification of the MSME bill in April 2013 which was drafted with UNDP support. UNDP worked with MED to communicate the anticipated results of the work done on MSME and six sessions were shown on national TV with discussion on issues such as Tourism & Livelihoods, SME, Women’s Empowerment, Innovation, Savings and Investment. In mid-2013, 551 MSMEs were registered with the MED. The bill also governs the policies and principles for regulating MSMEs in the Maldives and as stipulated an SME Council is established with 14 members chaired by Minister of MED and soon an SME fund would be established.  Building on the network and partnership established with the tourism sector, UNDP helped the government to organize two resort forums: “Partnering 4 Development” (P4D) in the North and South regions of the Maldives with an aim of linking the private sector (resorts) of that particular region with the communities. Tangible gains from these forums are yet to be measured, but there is a clear indication of a more active and structured dialogue between the two parties. According to the Terminal Evaluation of the Project, work done under the project laid the necessary foundation for strengthening the enabling environment by providing new legislation in trade, investment and tourism and that it provided a greater understanding of the linkages between MSMEs and the tourism sector, particularly the opportunities for supplementary services at the resorts and the need for the government and local communities to develop local tourism in inhabited islands. It was pointed out that work lead by UNDP had allowed the tourism industry players to be more aware of the importance of the connections and partnerships available to the local communities, islands and atolls. Resort managers are more aware of the need to develop local excursions and are increasingly willing to source local produce and other products from local communities, provided they meet their quality standards. Additionally, at the local island and community level, MSMEs, cooperatives and civil society actors had learned important lessons about the opportunities available in the private sector, and the specific needs of resorts in terms of quality, products, pricing and so forth. The Ministry of Tourism benefited greatly through the results of the project in that, the staffs understanding of the connections and partnerships between MSMEs and resorts was enhanced and that the senior management at the ministry appreciated how the tourism industry could provide greater benefits to local communities, not only through direct employment, but also by making the necessary connections to the communities. Also, knowledge on product diversification in the local tourism industry was highlighted, and how important it is to sustain these connections and partnerships through formal linkages such as P4D, BDSCs and so forth (Terminal Evaluation, Employment and Enterprise Development for Women and Youth project, 2013).  UNDP also supported Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture in developing a strategic Human Resource plan, targeting the tourism sector, which was appreciated & endorsed by the private sector. UNDP also supported the Maldives Association for Travel Agents and Tour Operators in coming up with a code of conduct, a draft regulation and standards for tourism operators, which will result in enhancing the Maldivian tourism sector through its professionalization. UNDP is also supported the Ministry of Human Resources, Youth and Sports to develop a National Employment Framework.  MED with the support of ADB, has introduced Business Development Service Centers (BDSC) in Maldives, with two centers established in the two regions (North and South) with the main center in Male’. BDSC has been providing business management training to the beneficiaries of the community projects, which have been implemented under the UNDP supported project 'Support to Integrated Farming project'. | | | | |
| **2. *Enabling environment strengthened creates decent work opportunities for women and men aligned with ILO standards*** | $ 910,000 | | 1. *Operational national framework on women/youth unemployment* 2. *% retrenched employees including women retrained (e.g., entrepreneurial training)* | * *National Employment Action Framework (NEAF, 2011-2015) developed and implemented. Through the NEAF national policies to be developed/revised to cope with and adjust to global/domestic economic shocks.* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  CP Outputs:   1. National framework for decent work addressing female and youth unemployment developed and implemented. 2. Labour market able to cope with macroeconomic adjustments initiated in response to the global and domestic economic crisis.   Progress and Achievements:  UNDP’s 3 year active promotion for policy reform resulted in the formulation of a National Employment Action Framework (2011-2015) which was endorsed as a comprehensive situation analysis forming the basis for the ‘Employment Challenges in the Maldives 2013’ launched by the Government on 9th December 2013. The new Government is actively looking into the recommendations made in the study in formulating policy options to address the challenges in the national employment situation for strengthening of labor relations, capacity building and integration of private sector for creating job opportunities. For example, the study recommended economic diversification and MSME development, and the government already launched a diversification strategy and ratified an MSME bill. The study also recommended revising the employment policy and undertaking a labour force study, which are implemented with the support of ILO.  UNDP developed a user-friendly online database for both jobseekers and employers providing all the necessary statistics for policy makers and key stakeholders. Since October 2013, 238 jobseekers and 31 employers (public/private) have been registered and with the ongoing nation-wide campaign promoting to register to this system, a better job matching can take place and this statistics will be used for evidence based policies on job creation.  UNDP, as an interim secretariat for the Global Compact (GC) Network Maldives has actively supported in encouraging companies to be signatories to GC and supported in developing the constitution for the Maldives network. To date, twenty companies have signed up to GC from Maldives and an interim committee has been formed for the establishment of the Maldives network. This would be a significant step towards promoting the UNGC’s labor principles, derived from the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the human rights principles from the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and creating an enabling environment for decent work in the Maldives. UNDP facilitated the south-south exchange by inviting the UNGC Network India to share experiences in sustainable reporting in December. This would strengthen the companies on reporting to the 10 principles. Such reporting mechanism that will place ownership and accountability on private companies is new in the Maldives and it will set a precedent for other companies to follow.  UNDP through the Integrated Farming project has created opportunities for economic diversification in 8 islands of the Maldives by providing evidence that poultry, hydroponics (autopot) and chilli-sauce can be commercially produced and marketed given the enabling environment (Terminal Evaluation Report, Support to Integrated Farming project, 2013). In addition, UNDP’s support over the past 9 years provided a solid foundation to market mari-culture as a way forward in economic diversification through the agriculture sector and facilitated demonstration and development of the basic mari-culture training course. These initiatives have laid the foundation for the IFAD U$ 7 million Mari-culture project from 2013 to 2018, which would further develop the mari-culture in Maldives as an alternative means of livelihoods (with the decline in fishing industry) and creating employment opportunities. | | | | |
| **3. *Equitable access to drug and HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services ensured to most at-risk and vulnerable populations*** | $ 1,537,000 | | 1. *National HIV/AIDS Strategy 2012-2015* 2. *% most at-risk/vulnerable populations correctly identify ways to prevent sexual transmission of HIV* 3. *% most at-risk/vulnerable populations access HIV/STI services* 4. *% service providers trained* 5. *Implementation of National Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for HIV/AIDS* | * *New National Strategy on HIV/AIDS 2012-2016 developed and implemented.* * *Size estimation and Social Mapping of Most-At-Risk Populations (2010) study enhanced effectiveness of target population identification and designing interventions.* * *Programme interventions to enhance M&E at the national level was supplemented through development of the National M&E Plan (2009) and related trainings including the development of a costed-Operational Plan for the National Strategic Plan (for 2010 and 2011) with technical assistance from the AIDS Strategy and Action Plan (ASAP), World Bank, WHO, UNAIDS, UNODC, and UNICEF (2009).* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  CP Outputs:   1. National and local level response to HIV/AIDS strengthened through multi-sector strategy and advocacy targeting policymakers, parliamentarians, judiciary, religious leaders, civil society and private sector. 2. Capacity of service providers enhanced to expand access to services and to deliver comprehensive interventions for HIV/AIDS and STIs. 3. Monitoring and evaluation systems established to collect and disseminate accurate information on HIV/AIDS.   Progress and Achievements:  UNDP is one of the key players working with the government and the civil society organizations to achieve this outcome. One notable contribution was the support provided to the Department of Drug Prevention and Rehabilitation Services (DDPRS) to develop and implement targeted comprehensive outreach programme on HIV prevention and to the drug users (DUs) and injecting drug users (IDUs). During the year 2011, 1624 DUs and 235 IDUs were reached through the UNDP HIV programme.  One of the major milestones achieved under this outcome was the enactment of the Drug Bill in December 2011. The major highlight of this law that would contribute to the achievement of this outcome is the decriminalization of drug users, which would enhance their accessibility to drug and HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services. As a direct result, drug users apprehended will, under this law, have access drug treatment options, as opposed to being incarcerated. Additionally, in 2011, the first national size estimation and social mapping of most at-risk populations (MARPs) in the Maldives. UNDP had played a key role in implementing this research in collaboration with Ministry of Health and Family, The World Bank and the UNAIDS. The results of this research were celebrated as it leads the way to effectively advocate for policies needed to create an enabling environment for an effective response for the MARPs. This research therefore had provided evidence-based data that helped the development of the new National Strategy on HIV/AIDS 2012-2016, for which UNDP has contributed significantly.  UNDP contributed to the establishment of the Department of Drug Prevention and Rehabilitation Services (DDPRS) to develop and initiate targeted minimum comprehensive outreach programmes on HIV prevention for drug users and injecting drug users. This also included the development of tools to record and report on changes in attitudes and behavior to minimize the risks for HIV transmission among this target group. The terminal evaluation (2012) of the project indicated that, through the GF programme, a culture of linking research to intervention was created, namely the focus on monitoring and evaluation within the grant (GFATM) catalyzed the creation of a repository of national and regional data that can guide the development of HIV treatment, care and support activities. Studies and surveys that provided evidence base for informing the development of the National HIV Strategic Plan 2012-2015 include: Biological and Behavioral Survey (BBS) (2008); A Comprehensive Audience Analysis for HIV Risk in the Maldives (2009); BBS in prisons (2012); and Size estimation and social mapping of most-at-risk populations (2010). The latter has been identified as one of the most comprehensive identification/analysis of vulnerable populations which greatly enhanced the targeting done under the HIV programme. Through the network and trusted partnerships built with vulnerable groups and migrant worker communities, UNDP ensured the involvement of MARPs and vulnerable groups in the consultations and focus groups discussion to develop the NSP 2012-2016.  At the start of the grant, eight Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) centres were in existence in the Maldives. Voluntary, informed and confidential testing was National Policy. Provider initiated testing and client initiated testing (with informed consent) were common practices, however the voluntary self-referred clients accessing the services was rare. The HIV programme has supported the development of national protocols on establishment of VCT services and through this established VCT centres outside the health setting. Establishment of VCT Centres outside of the health sector has significantly increased the frequency of client initiated testing. This was one of the biggest successes of the UNDP-lead interventions (Terminal Evaluation, 2012).  Additionally, I had been found that NGO’s working in the field of HIV had become more confident in their abilities to attract and manage donor funding and successfully execute projects owing to the capacity building work done by the programme. One NGO reported that data collection and reporting practices required in the Global Fund (ATM) Program were now being applied to the management of other non-Global Fund projects within the organization, contributing to building of capacity and sustained support rendered by civil society organizations in the area of HIV/AIDS (Terminal Evaluation, 2012). | | | | |
| **4. *Individual and system-wide capacities improved to promote gender equality*** | $ 100,000 | | 1. *Strategy for advocating women’s role in public life with key stakeholders.* 2. *Institutions and organizations provide leadership training for women.* 3. *% women accessing business development services.* | * *Women’s Vision Document developed* * *Local Government Authority Provides training for women councilors* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  CP Outputs:   1. Members of Parliament, religious institutions, civil society, private sector and media capacity strengthened to promote women’s role in public life and address HIV/AIDS and gender-based issues directly impacting women negatively. 2. Women’s political participation and leadership in decision-making enhanced to achieve relevant MDG 3 target. 3. Women’s participation in labour force and economic activities improved.   Progress and Achievements:  While, the CPD has an outcome on Gender Equality, all activities implemented to achieve the results under the outcome were carried out through other outcome areas linked to the Democratic Governance portfolio of UNDP Maldives (hence, no disbursements can be directly attributed to the achievement of this outcome).  UNDP’s Integrated Governance Programme launched in 2012 has identified women as a key target group. With UNDP support through training and small grants, 2012 has seen increased interest by civil society in this area. 50 NGOs were trained in democracy, human rights and gender. An independent assessment panel noted that NGOs who received training showed better understanding of concepts such as gender equality. UNDP support has also increased opportunities for building future women leaders; the Youth Leadership program trained 40 youth leaders, half of whom were girls. It is envisaged that these leaders will take back messages of gender equality to the community. UNDP intends to explore ways to build on this platform to facilitate networking among progressive thinking potential youth leaders in the country. In addition, in collaboration with LGA, UNDP organized the first Women’s Councilors’ forum which enabled women leaders, representing 26 islands, to gain training and an opportunity for networking which are otherwise availed by men. They have formed an informal networking group on Facebook which is intended to become a formal association eventually. Even though outcome level results are not yet evident, UNDP intends to build on this initiative with LGA’s support, to create a platform for women’s leaders to engage in national level dialogue and bring women’s voices to the decision-making process.  The Maldives’ national Constitution (2008) guarantees women and men equal rights is all aspects of public life. While there is some progress in the increase, albeit slow, in the number of women focused NGOs and some strategy development, the general condition for gender equality remains challenging and it is one of the biggest development challenges in the Maldives, with women’s empowerment being one of the three MDGs in which Maldives is lagging behind. In the past year, the situation of women in the Maldives has not improved while anecdotal and statistical evidence show that the situation may even have regressed. The numbers of women in leadership positions have not changed significantly in 2012 with only 5 women Members of Parliament out of the 77, 4 female judges amongst the 200 judicial positions and 58 women out of 1091 local councilors. Many efforts to introduce affirmative action to address this persistent problem have met with resistance from policymakers and lawmakers alike. As the gender quota could not be introduced at the local level, the law on decentralization created the Women's Development Committees or WDCs as an advisory body to local councils. A positive development in 2012 was the establishment and elections of these WDCs. However, it has been criticized as a nominal measure that would have no real impact on women's empowerment. Furthermore, a concerning fact is that 68 out of 190 localities could not hold elections as there were no willing female candidates for the seats.  The recent increase in advocacy by religious conservative groups also shows a negative impact on women’s rights. The Human Rights Survey (2012) indicates a significant drop in support for women’s equality. In all seven areas surveyed (including inheritance, divorces, work, politics, work) fewer respondents than in the 2005 survey considered women should have equal rights with men. Support for women’s right to equality in custody matters, for example, has dropped from 92.1% among the rural population and 91.1% among urban population to 57.1% and 60.9% respectively. Only 57.6% of men now support equality for women to participate in government and be elected compared with 72.9% in 2005. Violence against women, including domestic violence continues to be a concerning issue. There is a need to ensure that the recently enacted Domestic Violence law is translated into action on the ground. Differing interpretations of Sharia’h law also put women especially, at a disadvantage according to increasing anecdotal evidence from some cases involving young women, while several crucial pieces of legislation that could support disadvantaged groups, including women, such as the Legal Aid bill remains to be drafted. | | | | |
| **5*. Policies and institutional capacities at the national and decentralized levels strengthened to realize low-carbon and climate-resilient human development*** | $ 4,850,000 | | 1. *Number of policy instruments on renewable energy and energy efficiency options enforced* 2. *Renewable energy/energy efficient/clean technologies institutionalized by a national authority* 3. *National coordination platform to assess and address climate risk reduction* 4. *Number of islands where adaptation options demonstrated with policy linkages* 5. *Number of sectors in which adaptive mechanisms minimize losses from climate-related impacts* 6. *Centre to guide practical adaptation activities for public/private sector* | * *National Energy Policy which UNDP technically supported, document supported (under the RETDAP project) has been nationally endorsed.* * *Scaling-up Renewable Energy Programme (SREP) has now been endorsed and a renewable energy fund created to provide grants through the Ministry of Environment and Energy.* * *UNDP supported development of Climate Risk Information System to address the existing data gap, which prevented institutions from making evidence-based planning and policy making in regards to institutionalize climate change adaptation.* * *Tourism, Construction, Education and Public Administration.* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  CP Outputs:   1. Implementation of viable renewable energy and energy efficient technologies enabled to promote low-carbon lifestyle. 2. Climate risk management options integrated into land-use planning, coastal zone management and marine resources management at national and decentralized levels to achieve MDG 7 and avoid human and material losses from adverse impacts of climate change.   Progress and Achievements:  Bringing together lessons from the UNDP-supported pilot project on Atoll-based Ecosystem Conservation for Biological Diversity in the Maldives (GEF-funded project contributing to Outcome 6) and other developmental efforts, UNDP together with other UN agencies developing a Low-Emission Carbon Resilient Development (LECReD) programme focused on Laamu Atoll. The ongoing programme aims to connect intelligent, inclusive development, introducing a transformation in how energy is generated and used. It takes a geographically focused, climate-resilient, low-carbon development approach for Laamu Atoll, as a way of reducing its vulnerability in a visible and meaningful way. The programme will integrate approaches related to energy security, rising sea levels, water, sanitation, livelihoods, food security, human health, governance, disaster risk reduction and natural resources. UNDP has been successful in advocating this approach for development and now is currently leading the implementation of the programme.  Under the oversight of the Ministry of Environment and Energy, work on Scaling-up Renewable Energy Programme (SREP) Investment Plan had been re-analysed submitted to the SREP, late 2012. SREP has now been endorsed and a renewable energy fund created to provide grants. The Government maintains the broader policies on energy, upheld the previous administration, including the policy of the country becoming a Carbon Neutral nation by 2020. In 2013, assessments were done to establish baselines on power generators, grid, electricity usage and maintenance of the systems in 5 islands. By end of 2013, the government distributed 70,000 energy efficient lights to various institutions of the government across the nation bringing down the energy consumption by a third for these lighting, and reducing the CO2 emission by about 3000kg for every month. Additionally as part of increasing low-carbon energy production in the capital , 675kW generating solar photovoltaic (PV) systems were connected to the main power grid. Maldives is yet to develop a national climate change policy that will solidify the Maldivian efforts in addressing climate change, both locally and internationally. The 4th MDG report highlighted the absence of data collection, analysis and reporting mechanisms in the government against its international obligations on climate change. The Ministry of Environment Energy (MEE) had implemented 30% of its allocated resources in 2013, highlighting critical capacity gaps in implementation. One of the most felt impacts of climate change in the country is the increasing scarcity of safe water.  In 2013, to combat the effect of climate change on water supplies, a UNDP-government partnership project, funded through the Adaptation Fund, introduced a first of its kind water supply system, which integrates different water sources. To ensure sustainability and affordability of the system, this project conducted a willingness to pay survey, which established a tariff structure for the water supply system for the three target islands with a total population of 6700 (extrapolated for 2011 from 2006 census data). This is ground breaking since the concept of communities outside Male’ paying for water has been absent. The water supply systems will be fully established in 2014, and the replication work of the design and fee structure model will be launched by the government in 2014 (verified by speech by Minister at the groundbreaking ceremony). In order to address the existing data gap, which prevents institutions from making evidence-based planning and policy making, UNDP supported development of Climate Risk Information System. It has enabled universal access to meteorological and oceanographic data needed for adaptation planning process. The cabinet reviewed the UNDP supported coastal protection guidelines and decided to make it a regulation. The guideline will enable future designs of coastal protection measures to be more-climate resilient. Its enforcement as a regulation will ensure better protection to communities from flooding. Also, designs to demonstrate more climate-resilient drainage options have been prepared this year and once implemented in 2014, it will demonstrate a more effect way to combat inundation (MTR of the project). To identify mal-adaptation practices in tourism, UNDP commissioned a baseline survey. Its findings resulted in the development of technical guidelines on waste management, water and waste water management for the industry. These will together with the study on legal incentives and disincentives for investment in climate change adaptation in Maldives, will feed into formulation of necessary regulations and monitoring systems for the sector.  UNDP supported the revision of the national building code. When finalized and implemented in 2014, it will ensure that infrastructure in tourism is more resilient to the impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels and coastal erosion. UNDP conducted institutional capacity assessment of MEE. It identified the need to develop a centralized M&E unit in response to lack of capacity in the ministry in providing information on progress towards international commitments and localized results and to institutionalize results based planning in the ministry. The newly appointed Minister has already taken concrete steps in incorporating the findings and recommendations, such as the strengthening of the programme management and implementation unit and the establishment of a policy unit (verified by the MEE 100 day plan). UNDP also conducted a similar assessment for the National Disaster Management Center (NDMC,) in order to support existing institutional and coordination gaps in addressing the impact of climate change in the form of natural disasters. The report recommends increasing its partnerships with other ministries and international organization. These recommendations have already been taken up by the agency through the existing UNDP project with NDMC. | | | | |
| **6. *Sustainable management of environment enhanced at decentralized levels to increase livelihoods resilience in a changing climate*** | $ 1,125,000 | | 1. *Islands with participatory gender sensitive plans for sustainable environment management* 2. *Number of community-level partnerships with private sector for sustainable environment management* 3. *Risk transfer mechanisms* 4. *Number of communities with adaptation and disaster risk reduction plans differentiating impact on women and men* | * *9 private-sector partners have committed their contribution to the conservation fund (2012) to finance community-level livelihood and conservations activities.* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  CP Outputs:   1. Institutional plans developed to implement environmental management initiatives at decentralized levels that increase ecosystem benefits for sustainable livelihoods. 2. Ability of vulnerable communities enhanced to evaluate and select appropriate options to adapt to climate and related vulnerabilities and to reduce disaster risks.   Progress and Achievements:  Some of the major milestones that determine the progress under this Outcome include the work done through the Sustainable Land Management in the Maldives project (GEF-funded), where UNDP had worked with the government at the upstream-level to support the development of the National Action Plan on land degradation. Similarly, UNDP supported the development of a Land Information System. Additionally, UNDP supported the development of guidelines for the construction and maintenance of harbours (Life-Cycle Management of Vessel Safe Shelter facilities), which have been developed, tested, and communicated with end-users in the pilot islands. To complement the guidelines, a database for efficient and effective life-cycle management of vessel safe shelter facilities had also been developed. These 2 outputs together contribute to the establishment of a critical system to ensure the safety level of harbours, as well as the determination of the optimal Life Cycle Cost (LCC) of harbours. The guideline will set up the national technical standard for design, construction and maintenance, while also taking into account the livelihoods of the individual islands.  As the key milestone under this Outcome, In 2011, through work done under the GEF-funded Atoll-based Ecosystem Conversation (AEC) project, Baa Atoll (as the dedicated project site) was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The government announced the establishment of a conservation fund in mid-2012, for the Biosphere Reserve in Baa Atoll, which showcased a successful public-private sector partnership. Nine private sector partners have committed their contribution to the conservation fund to finance community-level livelihood and conservations activities. At the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2012, the government announced its intention to make the entire Maldives a biosphere reserve. This was based on the experience of attaining the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status in 2011 to the Baa Atoll. In 2012, the government pursued the establishment of a National Green Fund for Maldives to support national efforts on environmental protection and it will be launched next year. With a capital of 3 million Rufiyaa (approx. USD 200,000) government established a Green Fund Company in October as a government enterprise to raise the funds needed to address challenges in the area of environment protection, water and sanitation management, renewable energy, and waste management and planned activities of the company were initiated in 2014.  Challenges regarding waste management continue to be present, and attracted international attention through global media (CNN and Al Jazeera aired a documentary about the country’s garbage island - Thilafushi). As a key milestone, the Waste Management Regulation was gazetted on 5 August 2013, based on the earlier draft supported by UNDP through technical assistance and consultancies through various projects. It is meant to standardize the waste management practices and sector in terms of transportation of waste, and roles and responsibilities in inhabited islands and resorts. In March 2013, the government contracted out the construction of the first ever regional waste management facility in the Maldives. This is one component (USD 6.5 million) of the larger, 13.8 million USD project, which started in 2008 under a World Bank loan. If successful, this model is likely to be replicated to cover other regional hubs.  Building on this Maldives' Biosphere Reserve Implementation Plan and the success of UNDP-supported ‘Hanifaru Management Plan’ (a protected reef in Baa atoll; UNDP with the government through the Atoll Ecosystem Conservation project developed management plans for 5 additional protected areas in Baa Atoll for sustainable long term ecosystem benefits. Effective implementation of these plans will ensure sustainable utilization of the marine and terrestrial resources in Baa Atoll and protection of ecosystems, such as one of the only two islands in the Maldives with regular roosting of Frigate Bird and one of the globally significant manta ray & whale shark hotspots (Hanifaru Area).  As highlighted in the terminal evaluation (2012) of the Atoll-based Ecosystem Conservation (AEC) project, the project was highly satisfactory in effectively mainstreaming ecosystem conservation and demonstrating a system of environmental conservation and through the gains of the project, the government is aiming to replicate these activities in other atolls as part of the Biosphere Reserve roll out plan. The evaluation confirmed that the 8 year long UNDP supported AEC project established and solidified public private partnerships to ensure sustainability of results - the private companies continue to contribute 20,000 USD annually to the Conservation Fund established under the project (AEC website). In 2013, in addition to its start-up funds of 500,000 USD, these partnerships generated about 40,000 USD to the conservation fund, which is currently being used to fund community livelihoods and conservation projects in the Atoll. There is anecdotal evidence of an increase of young Manta rays in the atoll which could be linked to the conservation efforts of the AEC project (verified by AEC supported Rangers).  Additionally, as a first concrete step towards implementing the national Waste Regulations at the community level, UNDP supported establishment of a waste management center in the island of Faresmaathoda (G.Dh. Atoll) through a community-based waste management plan. In addition, through the small grants programmes (GEF Small Grants Programme & Mangroves for the Future), UNDP supported 3 additional communities in 2013 to improve their waste management facilities and their capacity to implement waste management regulations. These local level interventions have already proven to be effective in operationalizing the region-based waste management set-up as community-level waste is being consolidated at the regional level (verified by video documentary interviews). | | | | |
| **7. *Institutional capacities strengthened to ensure transparency and accountability of public institutions with emphasis on decentralized bodies*** | $ 755,000 | | 1. *Number of inhabited islands/atolls with gender sensitive climate resilient development plans and budgets utilized* 2. *World Bank VAI ranking* 3. *Number of public sector reform bills ratified/amended* 4. *United Nations Convention Against Corruption self-assessment recommendations implemented* 5. *Civil Service Capacity study recommendations implemented* | * *Development of curriculum and standard training programme for civil service* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  CP Outputs:   1. Local development and service delivery enhanced through fully functional decentralized bodies (with adequate institutional and human resource capacities). 2. Increased participation and female representation ensured in public sector reform and decentralization through institutionalized mechanisms. 3. Legislative and regulatory frameworks for public sector reforms and public institutions (including the Parliament, Anti-Corruption Commission and Civil Service Commission) at national and decentralized levels, established and capacities for implementation strengthened. 4. Strategic interventions to address capacity gap in civil service and public sector implemented. 5. Enabling environment for responsible and free media improved through strengthened national and local institutional frameworks.   Progress and Achievements:  The most notable milestone under this Outcome was the successful holding of the first ever multi-party local elections in February 2011 with UNDPs support to the Elections Commission. The elections established 209 local councils (city, atoll, island level) and the election of 1098 (5% women). Decentralization brought sweeping changes to governance of the country, and but did pose many challenges: such as the huge financial burden of paying the salaries of all elected councilors.  UNDPs support to the achievement of the Outcome was defined by the technical expertise, financial resources; advisory services rendered to the partners and how the organisation utilized its strength as a trusted neutral partner and convener to bring together different stakeholders for discussion and dialogue. UNDP secured funds to support the national decentralization process through DGTTF for 2011 and 2012. UNDP supported in strengthening the newly established local governance system and decentralisation process through support to building human resource and technical capacity of the newly formed Local Government Authority (LGA) and local councils (island/atoll)– an orientation was conducted for LGA staff, local Councillors, council staff of 19 atolls and two cities, which contributed towards establishing a common understanding of local democracy and governance, change management, and local development planning across the country covering 209 local councils. UNDP supported in laying the groundwork for developing a local government training curriculum. To increase representation of women in politics, UNDP supported training of women contestants for Local Council elections - 46% of women elected had participated in this training.  UNDPs support had contributed towards laying the groundwork for increased institutional capacity of the LGA as well as the new councils through conducting of a comprehensive Training Needs Assessment of local councils - this formed the basis for developing a training curriculum and modules. SOPS were drafted in 2011 for the LGA and councils as well as Women’s Development Committees (WDCs) through UNDP support. UNDP also played a convening role in bringing the key stakeholders together for the round table discussion on local governance in the Maldives, with technical support from the Commonwealth. The round table brought together key stakeholder institutions for the first time for a discussion around key issues and recommendations for addressing the challenges in decentralisation in the country.  Also, UNDP supported a capacity assessment of the Parliament; and formulation of a project on electoral cycle support. UNDP contributed towards strengthening the transparency and efficiency of the civil service through support to the establishment of systems and procedures (such as job evaluation, Human Resources Management decentralisation system): civil servants have been trained in specialized areas (Job evaluation, performance management), who will lead in establishing these changes. UNDP also supported the Maldives Media Council to finalize the Code of Ethics for responsible journalism, which would contribute towards holding public institutions accountable. UNDP’s support has been catalytic in increasing awareness and dissemination of information on public institutions, the new constitution, and decentralization including the laws, regulations and functions of Civil Service, advocacy programmes on anti-corruption, information dissemination on local governance and conducting consultations on decentralisation including utilising civil society groups such as the Human Rights Defenders Network.  UNDP through the LGA supported to develop local level skills in planning. Training workshops on participatory development-planning and budgeting had resulted in the submission of island level annual plans and budgets by 75% of local councils in 2011. Two local councils have received international funding following trainings provided in project cycle management. With UNDP guidance, good governance modules had also been incorporated into the training programmes offered by LGA. UNDP supported developing the SOPs for local councils, LGA and WDCs through a consultative process. The SOPs which define service delivery standards and framework for local councils had been adopted in 2012. Competency framework for 2 job families in the Civil service has been completed with UNDP support, which will contribute to competency based recruitment and performance assessment of civil service. Additional support was provided to developing the curriculum and standard training programmes for the Civil Service Training Institute (CSTI) - 1148 staffs were trained in CSTI in 2012.  From the work initiated in 2012, a fiscal formula which would pave the way for fiscal autonomy for the local councils in regards to the allocation of resource was drafted and discussed at a roundtable for high level policy makers. The development of the formula was a groundbreaking initiative, since there is no system of evidence-based application of data in allocation of resources to local councils. The fiscal formula has been put into effect and the 2015 local council budgets had been developed through the use of the formula. Unfortunately, when the Parliament allocated the resources to the councils, the provisions of the formula were not considered. | | | | |
| **8. *Equitable access to justice and rule of law improved through strengthened legislative frameworks and institutional capacities*** | $ 400,000 | | 1. *Number of AGO, PGO, employment tribunal branches outside Malé* 2. *Number of islands with community ADR mechanisms* 3. *Number of communities, including women, with access to legal aid* 4. *Number of institutions in the justice sector that received training on human rights and gender* | 1. *A total of 89 Magistrates trained on human rights* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  CP Outputs:   1. Legal frameworks and judicial redress enhanced nationally and at local levels and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in place which are gender-just and gender-sensitive. 2. Professional skills in law enforcement, legal and judicial sectors strengthened in courts, government and state authorities, especially in relation to criminal justice, human rights, gender and HIV.   Progress and Achievements:  2011 had seen the Maldivian judiciary move forward from the ‘judicial' and ‘political' crises of mid 2010 with the appointment of judges and the establishment of the Supreme Court becoming politicized and triggered major tensions, in which the Executive, the Parliament and the Judiciary, had confronted each other. Nonetheless, amid high political tensions, the Judges Act was passed in August 2010. The Act required serving judges to meet certain standards within seven years, or face dismissal.  In response to the Government’s expression of urgency to support the judicial sector, international development partners (German, UK and AusAID funds) decided to direct their support through UNDP’s existing Access to Justice Programme. Although the work towards achievement of the Outcome has been challenging and limited, UNDP advocated at the highest level of government policy makers, parliamentarians and politicians to push forward pending legislations related to human rights, particularly penal code and evidence bill. UNDP played a key role in collaborating with civil society to advocate against the Bill on curbing the rise of crime in Maldives since the initial draft had several contradictions to international human rights standards. UNDP worked with the drafters of the legislation, civil society and politicians to provide comments on the draft and based on the recommendations, the bill was withdrawn.  In 2011, UNDP acquired the support of a retired Judge of the High Court of Pakistan to work with the Supreme Court bench to assist in efforts to plan for and build a strong and independent judiciary, contributing to south-south experience sharing. UNDP supported convening of three main institutions, Supreme Court, Judicial Services Commission (JSC) and Department of Judicial Administration (DJA) to conduct dialogue on issues relating to roles and co-ordination. Additionally, through co-ordination of regular project initiatives, UNDP was able to convene meetings of justice sector institutions, contributing to improved relationships between them through information sharing and jointly-run programmes (this is a major achievement since UNDP built on its trusted convening power to bring these parties who would not do so, otherwise). As a result, communications had been strengthened between JSC and the Supreme Court and they started coordinating the training schedules for judges and magistrates where previously they had not been able to collaborate at all due to severe differences in opinions.  UNDP contributed to strengthening the Faculty of Shariah and Law of the Maldives National University, through support to revision of course outlines, and building capacity of lecturers on modern teaching methods. A nationwide awareness campaign on human rights and the Constitution was rolled out, with activities that included door-to-door information visits and distribution of leaflets to 1500 households in the capital Male’ and 80 islands from 20 Atolls. As a result of the campaign, UNDP was approached by several NGOs in the islands as they believed it was a very useful campaign and wanted to be part of it on a volunteer basis. As a result, in 2012, the ‘Did You Know’ (awareness on citizens’ rights & institutional mandates) campaign was continued in partnership with volunteer NGOs in selected islands. UNDP supported the training of prison staff and 89 magistrates on human rights and the constitution. This was the first such training of its kind in the Maldives.  As result of political rhetoric and the resistance to see themselves as inter-dependent links in a chain, justice institutions, particularly judiciary became increasingly isolated. Concerted efforts were made by UNDP to bring justice-sector institutions together for dialogue and four informal forums were held on issues such as Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), strengthening legal profession, legal aid options, and victim support, which, for the first time, brought the relevant stakeholders together for discussion. The sector wide approach introduced by UNDP’s new Integrated Governance Programme, brought together relevant institutions for programmatic consultations through the multi-stakeholder Technical committee for future directions and priorities, resulting in unprecedented agreements to collaborate in 2013 on areas; conducting a justice sector audit, police integrity mechanism, crime statistics management and data collection. UNDP focused on promoting diagnostic work done together with partners in areas of Police discipline system, legal aid, ADR, data collection, crime prevention and community policing, in order to identify priorities in improving the justice sector performance to meet the needs of Access to Justice, without being influenced by politics and personalities. The limited diagnostic work and lack of coordinated data collection efforts so far make it difficult to report on substantive changes in access to justice situation in the country.  In 2013, UNDP facilitated stakeholder discussion and consensus building on issues related to the judiciary through a series of multi-stakeholder justice sector dialogue forums. They resulted in rare partnerships between institutions such as the Prosecutor General’s Office and the Maldives Police Service to standardize the Victim Support Mechanism. The Victim Support Unit became operational in January 2013 and during the year attended to 40 cases supporting victims of various crimes. UNDP in partnership with the recently formed Bar Association NGO held the first discussion session on the Legal Profession Act. The drafted legal professions bill was discussed in detail and the recommendations will be presented to the parliament for consideration in finalizing the Bill. UNDP worked to increase coordination among the key rule of law institutions in the areas of community policing, which resulted in the first ever human rights based elections security training for the police. The training curriculum has been incorporated into standard police training and has ensured exemplary police conduct and behavior in respecting and protecting human rights during the 2013 Presidential Elections (reported election observers). The election which was observed to be peaceful, free and fair by local and international observers. Accountability was further increased through UNDP’s support in the implementation of the Community Policing Strategy and the development of Standard Operating Procedure and restructuring of the Professional Standards Command (PSC). With the increase in public awareness of the PSC the number of cases filed at PSC increase from 210 in 2012 to 300 in 2013. The number of completed investigation however fell from 249 to 236, with police citing the staff deployment for presidential election as the cause for this (police data). A coordinated effort led by UNDP in collaboration with the Police Integrity Commission sought ways to increase efficiency in the area of handling complaints against the police and making the police service more accountable. Qualitative feedback from the institutions confirms that the informal resolution mechanism in handling complaints against the police (introduced through UNDP support) has enabled maximization of resources between the three key complaints recipient organizations. Concrete data would be made available in 2014. In the post-election period, the Parliament spearheaded the enactment of pending bills such as Anti-human trafficking Act, Anti-Torture Act, and the Prisons and Parole Act in December alone. Therefore, there is a greater scope for the support provided by UNDP so far to bear fruits in 2014. | | | | |
| **9. *Enabling environment created and strengthened for civil society to thrive and to engage in public dialogue*** | $ 800,000 | | 1. *Number of atolls with training targeting NGOs* 2. *Number of volunteers in the National Volunteers Programme (disaggregated by gender, age, area)* 3. *Existence of mechanisms for inclusive dialogue* 4. *Existence of a not-for-profit law* |  |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  CP Outputs:   1. Policies and legislative frameworks established to foster civil society development, including trade unions and media. 2. Increase in volunteers and increased engagement of citizens, including women and youth, in community development. 3. Mechanisms for inclusive communication and democratic dialogue established, with a focus on creating space for progressive discourse on issues of human rights and gender.   Progress and Achievements:  In response to the growing need for more strategic support to strengthening civil society in the Maldives, for the first time a specific UNDAF/CPD Outcome on strengthening civil society was developed, led by UNDP. In 2011 UNDP utilised a multi-pronged approach towards achieving this outcome: firstly, through support to the Government in strengthening the environment for civic engagement through the project on Strengthening and Enhancing Civic Engagement in the Maldives (initiated in 2010). Under the project, a comprehensive study on Maldivian Civil Society has been completed, which formed the basis for revising the then existing Associations Act. The Act had been drafted with UNDPs support where UNDP had ensured stakeholder consultation and acted as the convener and facilitator among the key groups such as government bodies and NGOs whose relations are often tense. UNDP also supported the design of a methodology to conduct public forums which was piloted in one island in the North of Maldives. The forum, coordinated by a local NGO, provided a platform for discussion and the recommendations were incorporated into the island development plan by the local government.  Secondly, in 2011, UNDP engaged with and supported civil society by adding weight and voice to advocacy campaigns on specific issues – for example, in advocating with high level politicians and government officials in revising the highly controversial Bill to reduce crimes in the Maldives, providing technical and active support in the Domestic Violence Bill campaign. Also in the same year, through UNDP’s technical support and partnership, a local NGO -Transparency Maldives had started to successfully in access UNDEF funds for a project on promoting Access to Information - a two year project of approximately USD 250,000.  Thirdly, direct support to building capacity of NGOs through training and grant support was provided in 2011, through the Small Grants Facility (SGF), under the Support to Civil Society Development project. The project had overseen the disbursement of approximately USD 250, 000 worth of grants to 22 different NGOs within the atolls and in the capital Male’. In addition, over 50 NGOs from across the country were trained in project management, planning and budgeting as well as on the role of civil society in a democracy, human rights and gender equality. It was observed through monitoring efforts, that the project designs and proposals had seen a marked improvement since the trainings were conducted. 80% of the grants given were for NGOs based in the atolls where resources and capacity were most needed. The project’s Grants Coordination Committee, chaired by UNDP, convenes the different UN agencies and HRCM in an effort to coordinate the support to the civil society. UNDP also supported groundbreaking civil society initiatives on electoral violence monitoring and establishment of a regional NGO human rights network.  It should be noted that in 2012, UNDPs expected results for this Outcome area had been refocused through the new Integrated Governance Programme (IGP), identifying new indicators to better capture results. Efforts to streamline and strengthen small grants co-ordination and monitoring through piloting a three-tier multi-stakeholder evaluation mechanism has begun to show increased accountability and results focus in managing the grants. Collaborative monitoring was introduced to increase efficient monitoring through inter-unit field visits under the consolidated M&E Plan of the CO.  Also in 2012, an exercise to map civil society was initiated and will help in shaping future support by UNDP to the strengthening of civil society actors and lay the foundation for a more robust start for 2013. Continued UNDP trainings for NGOs had resulted in 46% of grantees selected by an independent evaluation panel under UNDP's governance programme being submitted by UNDP-trained NGOs. UNDP contributed towards creating a more conducive environment for civil society through supporting amendment of existing NGO Act, and facilitated government and civil society partnership, dialogue and collaboration to convene the National NGO Forum. NGO knowledge base on new issues was enhanced for example on RTI. Space for dialogue on sensitive issues was created by low key discussion forums. UNDP also facilitated participation of civil society and government actors on sensitive and timely topics under other outcome areas such as political party dialogue and justice sector forums.  In 2013, UNDP focused on 3 areas under this outcome area: creation of space for conflict resolution and prevention, institutional capacity building of civil society organizations and capacity building of media in ‘does no harm’ (respecting people’s rights and privacy) journalism. UNDP promoted dialogue to enable institutions, communities and individuals to peacefully manage tensions prior to and during the Presidential election of 2013. Facilitators were trained in conflict resolution skills, and 11 dialogue forums were held in three island communities and in Male’ which contributed to the first time discussions on common concerns between hostile groups in two island communities. There was anecdotal evidence (interview with communities) to show that dialogue between the two communities that had a history of conflict have improved their relationship.  Reflecting on the recommendations from the Outcome Evaluation in 2012, UNDP launched a year-long capacity development programme to which 15 selected NGOs signed up. The programme aimed to enhance the capacity to effectively participate in the deepening democracy and national development. Pre and post-tests during training workshops had shown that the understanding of concepts increased by 82%, and 100% (respectively) of the participants and that participants found the training very useful. These NGOs are expected to go through a series of training sessions, supported by ongoing coaching and mentoring from an expert and UNDP IGP staff. The programme culminated through access to a small grants facility where they could apply their acquired skills. In 2014, six NGOs which had received UNDPs support and training, submitted very strong proposals scoring 30% more than other NGOs, when evaluated for the small grants (Grants committee's analysis).  Also in 2013, UNDP supported the 4th Youth Leadership Program (YLP) implemented by the NGO - Democracy House. More than 90% of the 40 participants indicated a strong level of satisfaction and enthusiasm for the programme (YLP Evaluation Report, 2013). Alumni of the UNDP supported Youth leadership programme played a lead role in promoting youth voice with the DhiYouth Movemement - an NGO created by the alumni, who participated in drafting the youth policies of all the presidential candidates in 2013 election (cited in link to FB page/ magazine of DYM). Additionally, building the media’s capacity for professional reporting and election coverage was supported through providing technical inputs and training. UNDP supported establishment of the first ever media monitoring mechanism of the Maldives Broadcasting Cooperation to monitor the election as evident by the official annual report of the Maldives Broadcasting Corporation. For the first time, this resulted in some TV stations running stories of how candidates where doing their campaigning. UNDP created avenues for constructive dialogue and debate on issues around elections through social media and facilitated discussion by means of trained facilitators. More than 30% of eligible voters were reached just through social media and online news sites during the voter education campaign and as of December 2013, there were 45000 ‘views’ of election related messages on participation, voter rights and inclusivity. More than 400 youth from different backgrounds and affiliations participated in the dialogue forums which were positively accepted and promoted by NGOs. This was evident by the adaptation of such initiatives by local NGOs. | | | | |
| **10. *Culture of respect for human rights including women’s rights advocated, fulfilled, protected***  ***and fostered at all levels*** | $ 300,000 | | 1. *Existence of a consultative mechanism to provide human rights commentary on legislation and policies* 2. *Number of human rights laws enacted* | * *Consultative mechanism to provide human rights commentary on legislation and policies established through the support provided to HRCM and HRDs* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  CP Outputs:   1. Regular human rights and gender-sensitive analysis on new legislation/policies. 2. Government, state institutions and civil society have enhanced capacities to promote and protect human rights. 3. Increased awareness of human rights, including women’s rights and ability to exercise rights enhanced.   Progress and Achievements:  UNDP is the main international organisation supporting the upholding of Human Rights in the Maldives. In 2011, UNDP through the Joint Project on Capacity Development of the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM) initiated the 2nd National Survey on Human Rights (NSHR) - a follow-up on the baseline survey of 2005, provided crucial information to track progress on the public perception and knowledge of human rights in the Maldives. The 2nd NSHR showed decreasing levels of awareness of basic human rights: 44.5% of respondents were not able to name any human rights at all which is 2.5% higher than in 2005. In a report released in September 2012, Amnesty International stated that there is a “human rights crisis” in the Maldives with incidents of police brutality and politically motivated violence going uninvestigated. The Commission of National Inquiry’s (CoNI) report, of August 2012 also provided recommendations for improving the human rights situation in the country, including investigations into Police conduct in the aftermath of the transfer of power early this year. The HRCM and the Police Integrity Commission had also called for investigations into excessive use of force by the Police in that period.  In support of the policy decision to conduct an annual budget analysis by the HRCM, UNDP had supported the development of national expertise in this area through the UNDP-HRCM project to implement the national policy. UNDP advocated at the highest level of government and with parliamentarians to push forward pending human rights legislation, particularly the Penal Code (the current Penal Code was enacted in 1960) and the Evidence Bill. Technical expertise was provided in reviewing criminal justice legislation and recommendations were provided, and while, not all the recommendations had been taken up, the intervention generated increased dialogue on the issue.  UNDP played a key role in collaborating with civil society to advocate against a regressive and damaging Bill on curbing the rise of crime in the Maldives – the initial draft had several clauses contradicting international human rights principles and accepted practice. As a result, the bill was withdrawn.  In 2011, UNDP supported the monitoring of political violence for the first time in the Maldives, with a methodology developed for use in future elections. UNDP also supported training of female candidates for local elections - 46% of women who were elected had received the training. UNDP played a catalytic role in engaging civil society in the area of human rights. UNDP supported the Maldivian Democracy Network (MDN) to establish a Human Rights Defenders’ (HRD) network in the Maldives – in 2011, there were 120 active defenders. The HRDs act as focal points in generating public feedback on national policies and laws. With UNDPs support, two reports were published in 2011, which were based on public consultations and feedback on pending laws and processes of law-making - Human Rights in the Work of the People’s Majlis Report (Parliament) and Parliament Watch Report. UNDP facilitated recruitment of a specialist, who developed two preliminary training modules on conflict management and dispute resolution, and conducted training-of-trainers for MDN staff. The network was also utilised by MDN to disseminate information about decentralisation and on local councils prior to the local council elections in February 2011. Under the Small Grants Facility administered by UNDP (2011), support was provided for seven projects which contributed to the promotion of human rights - areas supported include women’s empowerment, human rights awareness and human rights mainstreaming. The grants have resulted in increased levels of NGOs advocating on particular rights issues.  In 2012, under UNDP’s new Integrated Governance programme (IGP), human rights was determined a key focal area in supporting all areas including local governance, social cohesion, justice and civil society. With UNDPs support, crucial factual data on the human rights situation in the country had been generated this year which will enable evidence based policy dialogue and policymaking, as well as elevated public discourse. For example, the findings from the UNDP supported 2nd Human Rights Survey had highlighted several human rights issues which had been taken up by the media and was considered by HRCM leadership to set their future priorities such as increased focus on women’s rights in 2013. In addition, the first ever national inquiry is underway and will provide data on access to education to disabled people. The findings will inform government policy and priority setting. UNDP interventions had also contributed to increased civil society activity in the area of human rights. In 2012, UNDP trained 50 NGOs from Male’ and islands in democracy, human rights and gender. An independent assessment panel (Grants evaluation committee) noted that NGOs who received training showed better understanding of issues and small grants were provided for 15 human rights projects by NGOs in Male and in outer islands. UNDPs partnerships with national level NGOs had also strengthened the public discourse on key human rights issues such as Right to Information and women’s political participation.  Since HRCMs inception in 2008, UNDP has been working closely with the commission to strengthen its technical capacity and profile as a Human Rights watchdog. This included support to develop programs such as the one on courts’ monitoring, a program on rights based budget analysis and support in conducting a national inquiry into access to education for children with disabilities. As a result, the study done by HRCM in 2012 showed that public awareness of HRCM has increased from 40.8% in 2005 to 72.8% in 2012. With over 50 observers deployed to 25 areas of Maldives, the Presidential Election was closely monitored by the commission. HRCM was seen to frequently release strong statements and at press briefings called out to protect the rights of the voters (HRCM Press Release 12/2013 to 21/2013, http://hrcm.org.mv/news/pressreleasearchives.aspx). Violations of constitutional rights and election procedures were readily identified and addressed in a timely fashion by the commission demonstrated by their advocacy work to revise and define the election guidelines (verified by the HRCM webpage and press releases).  UNDP utilized its unique convening power to bring together lawyers from different background to discuss the legal professions act and the need for pro bono services in order to provide legal aid in the Maldivian context. The draft of the legal profession act was finalized with UNDP support. Civil society has been very active in advocating for human rights especially at the community level. HFW with UNDP’s financial support has been heavily involved in advocating for women’s participation and GBV through forums, workshops and dissemination of materials (http://hopeforwomen.org.mv/news/). Furthermore, 53% of the UNDP small grants were awarded to projects with the primary objective of promoting human rights. In partnership with HRCM and local community, UNDP supported in conducting the first human rights clinic in Laamu Atoll with over 100 community members participating. The post-workshop survey demonstrated their enhanced understanding on various human rights conventions, issues, possible remedies and the role of the HRCM in respecting and protecting their rights. | | | | |
| **11. *Development effectiveness and harmonization achieved in***  ***implementing the Strategic Action Plan through strengthened***  ***coordination and capacity at the***  ***national and decentralized levels*** | $ 155,000 | | 1. *Level of utilization of development, census, national databases for policymaking and Strategic Action Plan reporting* 2. *Institutionalized coordination mechanism for results-based management, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, policy and gender-responsive policymaking, planning, monitoring and budgeting at national and local levels,* 3. *Number of sectors receive training to implement results-based management, policymaking, planning, implementing, monitoring and budgeting in provinces,* 4. *Existence of operational international cooperation strategy based on Paris Principles* 5. *Regional Democracy Forum held* | * *Coordination mechanism established through the Ministry of Finance and Treasury in 2011* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  CP Outputs:   1. Development planning systems strengthened and better utilized for decision-making. 2. Institutional and technical capacity for results-based and gender-responsive policymaking, planning, monitoring and evaluation and budgeting strengthened at national and decentralized levels. 3. Institutional capacity strengthened to implement the international cooperation strategy, inter alia, based on Paris Principles to support the achievement of MDG 7. 4. South-South partnerships and regional networking strengthened to contribute towards consolidation of democracy.   Progress and Achievements:  In regards to the results under the Outcome, UNDP and other UN agencies, supported the Government of the Maldives to develop a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2009-2013, which operationised the priorities of the 2008 election manifesto of Maldivian Democratic Party. The SAP replaced the National Development Plan (in its 7th version in 2008), and was considered to be the next national development plan that highlighted the national priorities up till 2013. Additionally, the SAP was expected to (i) guide the development processes of the country, (ii) be an instrument of allocation of budgetary and fiscal responsibilities to various sectors and government ministries, and (iii) serve as a mechanism of accountability to the citizens of the country towards achievements of the SAP goals. Accordingly, this national document was expected to be applied by all stakeholders, including state institutions, civil society, private sector, local/ international development partners and the public to steer their collective action. The Government of the Maldives had demonstrated clear commitment to putting in place a robust results-based management framework to implement the SAP. This involved setting up of mechanisms and platforms to achieve greater harmonisation and improved accountability and transparency in delivering results. The Government had endorsed the framework of Managing for Development Results (MfDR), the principles of which will be institutionalised into the national planning, reporting, monitoring, budgeting and aid coordination processes. The primary emphasis will be placed on results and impact rather than on inputs and activities. The framework which UNDP supported development of also included feedback systems that could support evidence-based decision making and improve future programming based on lessons learnt. The 2012 national budget was results-based and was formulated with MfDR principles and modalities of implementation kept in mind, which has been subsequently approved by the parliament.  In 2012, UNDP through the Local Government Authority (LGA) supported to develop local councils’ skills in planning, and training workshops on participatory development, planning and budgeting had resulted in the submission (by the local councils) of island level annual plans and budgets by 75% of local councils to the LGA. Since the political turmoil and change of government in February 2012, UNDP's engagement with national partners in this Outcome area had dwindled, and efforts were picked up in latter half of the year, with focus on setting up systems and basis for supporting the culture of Results-Based Management (RBM). Additionally, UNDP assisted the Maldives National University (MNU) to create the country's first ever independent body with a research mandate with the aim to increase national capacity for conducting research, analysis and utilization of information for informed debate, public policy making and development planning. With close involvement from the government and civil society, UNDP also initiated the revival of the National Human Development Report (NHDR), which was last produced in 2001. A high-level, multi-sectoral steering committee was established to provide policy guidance for taking decisions on different milestones of the preparation and publication of NHDR. The NHDR drew attention to critical issues affecting the Maldives and was designed to inform the development of the next long-term development Plan for the country. | | | | |

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| Summary of evaluation findings (e.g. from outcome and project evaluations, UNDAF reviews, and other assessments)  *Based on the evaluation s and/or assessments undertaken please provide a brief summary of the overall findings on the CP for the 4 year period in terms of performance effectiveness and efficiency and key achievements and lessons learned. Maximum 500 words.*  Key Achievements:   * The evaluation of enhancing the response to HIV/AIDS found that the programmed achieved all that it was designed to achieve and was coherent with the national Health Master Plan. * The evaluation on UNDP’s engagement with Civil Society found that the Leadership role of UNDP to be highly relevant to pursue intended development results and work with civil society due to its long term presence in the country as compared to UN and other agencies and consequent understanding of local context. Furthermore UNDP’s partnership strategy and mechanisms adopted such as use of various modalities to engage civil society allowing engagement with CSOs of varying capacities and expertise were also found to be very relevant * Global importance and innovations of the tourism adaptation project (TAP) was identified. * The AEC Project’s evaluation noted it as the first large soft environmental project the country had and the most successful one in the environmental area, having achieved concrete results and international recognition, with the declaration of the UNESCO Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve in June 2011.   Major Lessons Learnt:   * Need to improve efficiency and have mechanisms in place to easily begin implementation were highlighted in all the evaluations * Improvement to projects designs were recommended such that projects are not seen as an ad-hoc one off activity. * The importance of increasing visibility and having clear communication and information strategies were also noted during evaluation. * In livelihoods areas of the importance of UNDP’s engagement in support to policy development and decreasing UNDP field level engagement was a key recommendation. * Integrating quality control procedures to project workplans * Reducing the number of outcomes in the country programme |

III. Country Programme Resources[[2]](#footnote-2)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Focus Area** | **Programme Expenditure ($)** | | | **% of Total** |
|  | Regular (TRAC) | Other | Total |  |
| Policy and Inclusive Growth | 633,513 | 630,177 | 1,263,690 | 6.7% |
| Democratic Governance | 1,256,644 | 4,823,813 | 6,080,457 | 32.5% |
| Environment and Energy | 125,843 | 11,253,010 | 11,378,853 | 60.8% |
| **Total** | **2,016,000** | **16,707,000** | **18,723,000** | **100%** |

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| **Data sources: (please indicate the main sources from which data were obtained for this report.)** |
| **Result Oriented Annual Report 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014**  **Atlas**  **UNDP evaluations resource centre** |

1. This assessment of results is to be prepared only in the absence of a completed Assessment of Development Results (ADR) for the cycle. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Programme expenditure as shown is taken from the UNDP executive snapshot and shows expenditure between 2012 and 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)