

## Maldives



<http://www.who.int/countries/en/>

WHO region	South-East Asia
World Bank income group	Upper-middle-income
<b>Child health</b>	
Infants exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life (%) (2009)	47.8
Diphtheria tetanus toxoid and pertussis (DTP3) immunization coverage among 1-year-olds (%) (2016)	99.5
<b>Demographic and socioeconomic statistics</b>	
Life expectancy at birth (years) (2015)	78.5 (Both sexes) 80.2 (Female) 76.9 (Male)
Population (in thousands) total (2015)	363.7
% Population under 15 (2015)	27.5
% Population over 60 (2015)	6.8
Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.25 a day (PPP) (% of population) ()	
Literacy rate among adults aged >= 15 years (%) ()	
Gender Inequality Index rank (2016)	115
Human Development Index rank (2015)	105
<b>Health systems</b>	
Total expenditure on health as a percentage of gross domestic product (2014)	9.1
Private expenditure on health as a percentage of total expenditure on health (2014)	31.8
General government expenditure on health as a percentage of total government expenditure (2014)	26.59
Physicians density (per 1000 population) (2010)	1.415
Nursing and midwifery personnel density (per 1000 population) (2010)	5.035
<b>Mortality and global health estimates</b>	
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1000 live births) (2016)	4.9 [3.6-6.3]
Under-five mortality rate (probability of dying by age 5 per 1000 live births) (2016)	8 [7.1-10.6]
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100 000 live births) (2016)	45 [45 - 108]
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%) (2011)	98.8
<b>Public health and environment</b>	
Population using safely managed sanitation services (%) (GLASS 2017)	98 (Total) 98 (Rural) 98 (Urban)
Population using safely managed drinking water services (%) (GLASS 2017)	99 (Total) 98 (Total) 99 (Urban)

Sources of data:  
Global Health Observatory May 2017  
<http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.cco>

### HEALTH SITUATION

The Republic of Maldives continues to experience rapid development and economic growth. Poverty level in the country has declined from 31% in 2003 to 24% in 2010 (World Bank, 2014). According to Census 2014, total population of Maldives is 402, 071 of which the Maldivians represent 84% while 16% are migrant population. Majority of these migrant populations are from SAARC countries. 40 percent of the population is under the age of 25.

The country has registered an impressive record in improving health outcomes. The Immunization coverage against all antigens has been sustained about 98% for decades and incidence of vaccine preventable diseases are extremely low. The country has attained all MDG Health targets. Communicable disease persist at local transmission level and the country has celebrated elimination of malaria, lymphatic filariasis and Measles from 2015-2017. The prevalence of HIV and TB is very low.

Against this record of success, the country's health sector faces significant challenges, from the growing rates of noncommunicable diseases, now accounting for more than 80% of total deaths, to the rising demands of an ageing population, for quality health services, a heavy reliance on expatriate health professionals, and the country's vulnerability to the impact of climate change. Dengue is a major public health problem. Adolescent health is a concern and efforts to improve practices on reproductive health, dietary practices and physical activities, tobacco use and substance abuse and mental health are a priority.

### HEALTH POLICIES AND SYSTEMS

Government of the Republic of Maldives spends 9% of its GDP on health, the highest in the South East Asia Region. Health services in Maldives are currently delivered by a four tier referral system comprising of island, atoll/regional and central level services. The Indira Gandhi memorial Hospital in Male' serves as the tertiary referral hospital. Six regional and 14 atoll hospitals in strategic locations across the country serve as the first referral while each of the inhabitant islands has a fully functional health centre. Maldives continues to rely heavily on expatriate health professionals, who accounted for 82% of physicians and 55% of nurses and faces the challenges of not only high turnover but assuring the quality of health workforce. Managing logistics and supplies across the islands centres and hospitals is challenging and optimal use of information and communication technology is continuously explored.

National Master Health Plan (2016-2025) guides the health work in the country. It supports the Sustainable Development Goals and is being implemented through a multisectoral and one health approach. With access to health care for everyone, everywhere realized in the country, attention has shifted to quality of care. Quality of Care Framework for assessing and improving health facilities have been rolled out, another key step to ensuring universal health coverage. The multi-sectoral NCD prevention and management plan and Mental Health Strategic and costed action plan are part of the strategic agenda. Through multisectoral strategies all health outcomes are being perused. Improving access to health care for the migrants and prevent resurgence of diseases is a major area of work that is being undertaken. The country has made major strides to address emergencies and progress to IHR 2005 compliance is satisfactory. A number of recent policy initiatives fructified with promulgation of National Mental Health Policy, Strategic and costed action plan, Health Care Waste Management Policy and plan and National Food Safety Policy by MOH.

### COOPERATION FOR HEALTH

From the time of being the first UN agency to establish its office in the Maldives WHO continues to be a reliable and trusted partner in the national health development. To address many of the complex health issues and support the SDG agenda, WHO country office recognizes the need to collaborate with partners beyond the Ministry of Health. The drive towards achieving SDGs and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is greatly enhanced by collaboration within the government bodies' as well as multi-stakeholder collaboration amongst partner agencies, UN organizations and NGOs. To accomplish health targets "health beyond health sector" approach is practiced. In addition, to relish the goal of the Country Cooperation Strategy for 2018-2022 and Health Master Plan 2016-2025, major focus of the cooperation for health includes ensuring political commitment at the highest level, engaging multiple stakeholders, working with media and partners, working with non-state actors, partnership with academia, and fostering new partnerships.

## WHO COUNTRY COOPERATION STRATEGIC AGENDA (2018–2022)

Strategic Priorities	Main Focus Areas for WHO Cooperation
<b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1:</b> <b>Transforming Health Systems:</b> Ensuring universal health coverage (UHC) and towards achieving the health related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>'Health beyond health sector':</b> Advocate for primary prevention of diseases by providing support to enhance intra ministerial and the multisectoral collaboration. Strengthen government's oversight functions to adopt a broader view of different risk factors and diseases related to environmental and social determinants of health.</li> <li>• <b>Strengthen governance:</b> Scaling up capacities of the national regulatory authorities to develop and implement more efficient, equitable, evidence –based and gender sensitive policies and procedures.</li> <li>• <b>Local stewardship:</b> Support in improving local stewardships for health, to ensure effective delivery of essential service package and implement Quality of Care Framework</li> <li>• <b>Human Resources for Health (HRH):</b> Provide support to strengthen skill development process of different cadre of health professionals within the country and advocate for equitable distribution of the health workforce.</li> <li>• <b>Data for Decision Making:</b> Support use of appropriate digital platforms/tools for strengthening HMIS and facilitate informed policy decisions</li> <li>• <b>Research &amp; Knowledge management:</b> Support to generate, utilize and disseminate local knowledge using innovative technologies on knowledge management and effective implementation of the NHRP.</li> <li>• <b>Financial protection:</b> Advocate and support strengthening national capacity to develop equitable and efficient social, economic and health protection policies and frameworks.</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2:</b> <b>Promote wellbeing</b> - Empower people to lead healthy lives and enjoy responsive health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NCD prevention and management:</b> Reduce burden of noncommunicable diseases through promotion of life style change interventions, early detection, prevention and effective management through inter sectoral collaboration. Provide support and advocate effective implementation of the national "Multi-sectoral Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (2016-2020)"</li> <li>• <b>Tobacco Control:</b> Support effective implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)</li> <li>• <b>Mental Health:</b> Strengthen national capacities to prevent, diagnose, treat and rehabilitate mental disorders</li> <li>• <b>Migrant health:</b> Increases access of migrants to health services and prevent introduction of noble or reintroduction of eliminated disease transmission in the country.</li> <li>• <b>New Vaccines:</b> Support government to generate evidence on benefits of new vaccines and advocate introducing them for the well-being of peoples of the Maldives.</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3:</b> <b>Ready to respond</b> - addressing the emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Emergency preparedness:</b> Support the national and sub-national level capacity building process on emergency preparedness by considering that the community will be first responders and implementation of the Emergency Response Framework.</li> <li>• <b>Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):</b> Support implementation of National Action Plan on AMR:2017-2022 including advocating for implementation of one health approach</li> <li>• <b>Vector borne diseases:</b> Intensify prevention, control and treatment of vector borne and neglected tropical diseases through generating local evidences including introduction of new and integrated tools and approaches.</li> <li>• <b>IHR:</b> Support implementation of recommendations of JEE and build national capacity to attain and sustain IHR core capacity.</li> <li>• <b>Food Safety:</b> Support to strengthen institutional capacity to implementation of the National Food Safety Policy:2017-2026.</li> <li>• <b>Blood safety :</b> Provide support to build capacity to increase access to safe blood and blood products and quality transfusion practices including comprehensive laboratory facilities</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4:</b> <b>Protecting what matters the most:</b> Create an enabling environment for safe and healthy living and address specific health issues of children, adolescents and women during reproductive age and beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Climate Resilience:</b> Raise public and policy awareness on the health impacts of climate change across the entire society, and strengthen national capacity in building health systems resilience to climate change. Advocate and initiate greening of the health sector by adopting environment-friendly technologies, and using energy-efficient services;</li> <li>• <b>Health of young people:</b> Increase health awareness; improve health seeking behaviour and support preconception care and scaling up of adolescent and youth friendly health services through multi-sectoral approach.</li> <li>• <b>Reproductive, maternal and newborn health:</b> Advocate and support quality of care through implementation of MPDSR, ENAP and sustaining birth defects surveillance, prevention and management. Enable reproductive choices for all women and men by supporting the implementation of the reproductive health policy and facilitating the provision of appropriate reproductive health services and information</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5 :</b> <b>Fast tracking disease elimination:</b> Accelerate efforts to eliminate priority diseases, sustain it and promote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling advocacy platforms for disease elimination through accelerating progress towards the targeted elimination of Rubella, TB, Hepatitis, Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis.</li> <li>• Strengthen national capacity for integrated diseases surveillance with enhanced laboratory Systems.</li> <li>• Provide technical support to mobilize resources and implement strategic plans.</li> <li>• Articulating evidence-based policy options and innovations; and providing technical support for implementation, monitoring and assessment of epidemiological and programmatic trends.</li> </ul>

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