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## United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

### Country programme document

#### Maldives

#### *Summary*

The country programme document (CPD) for Maldives is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of \$4,037,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$7,625,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period April 2022 to December 2026.

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\* E/ICEF/2022/1.



## Programme rationale

1. Maldives is an upper-middle-income small island developing State. It is among the most geographically dispersed countries in the world, yet has one of the most densely populated capitals.<sup>1</sup> Its population of 557,000 lives across 187 islands, with 40 per cent living in the capital, Malé. Children represent 34 per cent of the total population.
2. Over the past four decades Maldives has witnessed extensive economic development and social transformation. Life expectancy increased by 30 years. Annual real gross domestic product (GDP) growth averaged 5.7 per cent between 2000 and 2019. Universal primary education was achieved by 2000 and child and maternal mortality decreased from 48 to 9 per 1,000 live births and from 200 to 44 per 100,000 live births, respectively. Maldives was the only country that achieved five out of eight Millennium Development Goals in South Asia. The Government has significantly improved child protection and child rights mechanisms, ratifying the 2019 Juvenile Justice Act and 2019 Child Rights Protection Act and appointing a Child Rights Ombudsperson in 2020.
3. Many of the country's remote islands have not benefited from an equal share of its socioeconomic development and considerable disparities persist. While one in three children are multidimensionally poor, 87 per cent of the poor children live in the atolls. Malé presents urban challenges, including inadequate and crowded living spaces. Increasing numbers of children and adolescents migrate without their parents from the outer islands to Malé, often for education and training.
4. The country's policy options for growth and development are limited by a narrow economic base; substantial reliance on imported food, medicine and health equipment; climate vulnerability and high stress on available natural resources; high costs of service delivery due to geographical dispersion; a small national workforce and heavy reliance on migrant workers; and high population density and inadequate urban infrastructure.
5. The country's overreliance on tourism, which represents 65 per cent of economic activities, and its exposure to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards, amplify its vulnerability to external shocks. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic exposed existing socioeconomic vulnerabilities and gaps, notably in health and social protection. Updated poverty estimates based on the 2019 household survey indicate that the poverty increased from 2.1 per cent in 2019 to 7.2 per cent in 2020.<sup>2</sup>
6. Around 80 per cent of Maldivians live on a narrow strip of land about one metre above sea level. Increasing numbers of extreme climate events have led to water shortages and health issues in children. In rural areas, women are disproportionately impacted by climate change. For decades, the Government has actively rallied the international community around climate change and recognized the country's vulnerability to its effects, involving youth in climate action, formulating the national Climate Emergency Act and pledging to reach net zero emissions by 2030 and zero plastic waste by 2023.

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<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise specified, data are taken from UNICEF, Situation analysis of children and youth in the Maldives, Male 2021; Maldives Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of Maldives 2021; National Multidimensional Poverty in the Maldives, Male, 2020; Ministry of Health, Demographic and health survey 2016–2017, Male, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> World Bank, Maldives overview, available at [www.worldbank.org/en/country/maldives/overview#1](https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/maldives/overview#1), accessed on 22 March 2021.

7. Key child survival and development challenges are malnutrition, immunization and early childhood development (ECD). An estimated 15 per cent of children (0–5 years) are stunted and nearly half of children (6–60 months) and two in three women (15–49 years) are anaemic. Obesity and overweight are growing concerns, with 5 per cent of children (0–59 months) overweight. Accessibility and affordability of fresh and healthy food are sporadic, especially on the remote islands. There is inadequate regulation and monitoring of food and beverage quality and marketing that targets children. Nearly half of children (0–2 years) do not receive an adequate diet. Due to social norms, the population tends to give higher status to unhealthy fast food.<sup>3</sup> There are inadequate responsive feeding practices among parents and caregivers, who have limited relevant nutrition-specific knowledge and skills and limited support systems.

8. Although routine immunization is mandatory, 23 per cent of children do not receive all the required shots. Vaccine hesitancy is a growing concern. There is inadequate counselling for parents; weak compliance with immunization schedules; poor follow-up by health facilities; an inadequate information tracking system; gaps in cold chain and supply systems; and capacity limitations in the national immunization programme.

9. Early childhood development services provided by various sectors are fragmented and lack adequate resources and technical capacity. Some families have poor parenting skills and limited awareness and practice of adequate stimulation and nurturing care. Children are exposed to violence, which can affect their mental health.

10. Net enrolment in pre-primary, primary and lower secondary education is almost universal, but the rate drops dramatically (to 37 per cent) at upper secondary level, with a gender parity index of 1.17 advantaging girls. This is due to the insufficient number of upper secondary schools on many islands, poor learning outcomes, limited acquisition of transferable skills and adolescents prioritizing employment. There is limited access to inclusive education and skills development for children with disabilities, who are the largest group of out-of-school children. They are neither systematically provided with community-based learning nor non-formal education options. The 2020 Education Act recognized non-formal education as an alternative to formal education and enabled measures to increase access to quality education for children with disabilities.

11. Approximately 38 per cent of students in grade 4 and 43 per cent of students in grade 7 fail to achieve passing grades,<sup>4</sup> with girls outperforming boys and considerable grade differences between the atolls and Malé. Approximately 26 per cent of government schools are in urgent need of interventions,<sup>5</sup> as acute shortages of classrooms and essential facilities hamper effective learning. Many schools have trouble recruiting trained local teachers, especially for secondary grades, as teaching professions are insufficiently attractive to young people. Bottlenecks in improving the quality of education include weak enforcement of gender-transformative education policies; inequitable distribution of facilities; limited capacity for implementation of the new national curriculum; limited teacher capacities; insufficient child participation mechanisms; weak monitoring for compliance with policies and quality standards; poor use of evidence to improve learning outcomes; and limited engagement of parents and communities to demand improvements.

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<sup>3</sup> UNICEF, Rapid assessment on infant and young child feeding, Male, 2018.

<sup>4</sup> Ministry of Education, National Assessment of Learning Outcomes, 2015–2017.

<sup>5</sup> Ministry of Education, Situation analysis of the 55 most disadvantaged schools, 2019.

12. Nationwide, 25 per cent of males and 30 per cent of females (15–24 years) are not in employment, education or training,<sup>6</sup> compared to 33 per cent of males and 35 per cent of females (15–24 years) in the atolls. Challenges include the lack of career guidance and work-readiness programmes, and insufficient resource allocation for developing labour market-relevant skills, including technical and vocational training and skills for a green and blue economy. Social norms influencing gender roles impact the skills and employability of girls and young women. While formal labour force participation among women has declined in recent decades,<sup>7</sup> informal labour force participation is significantly higher among women than men.

13. Adolescent-led climate action is undermined by their limited knowledge of climate change and disaster risk reduction; insufficient recognition of the impact of climate change on their lives; and the prioritization by the Government and other stakeholders of physical adaptation measures, while the design of critical infrastructure like schools and medical facilities is not climate resilient. The participation of girls and young women in community-level climate action is limited due to social norms related to their roles in communities. Bottlenecks include scarce evidence on climate-related child deprivations; inadequate local capacity to conduct community-based disaster management programmes; and insufficient conversion of climate awareness into action.

14. Major child protection concerns include violence against children, including gender-based violence, sexual violence, exploitation and neglect. Around 70 per cent of sexual violence cases reported in 2020 involved girl victims.<sup>8</sup> Most cases occurred at home, although some happened in educational settings. Increasing online exploitation and tolerance of violence against women are concerning.<sup>9</sup> The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated child protection challenges, increasing the rates of violence, online exploitation, bullying and mental health issues. Bottlenecks concern delayed reporting and responses to violence cases; social norms that blame victims, justify corporal punishment, or perpetuate harmful gender beliefs and practices; and limited parental knowledge and normative framework to prevent online abuse. Fully implementing policies and ensuring adequate resources and cross-sectoral coordination for violence prevention remain a challenge.

15. Approximately 95 per cent of children in conflict with the law are boys, 44 per cent of whom are not in school; 87 per cent are adolescents (15–17 years); and 36 per cent have been victims of sexual violence and neglect. Challenges include limited access to alternative learning and skills development pathways or non-formal education; insufficient options for diversion, recreation, expression and engagement; and children growing up in unsafe or unstable home environments. Despite measures being taken, abuse, discrimination and violence against children in alternative care institutions remain a concern. Family and community-based alternative care modalities are needed. Bottlenecks include insufficient support to vulnerable families, social norms that stigmatize certain children, insufficient financial resources, limited intersectoral coordination and limited human resource capacities in the alternative care system.

16. Mental health issues among adolescents and caregivers increased during the pandemic. As a result of increased knowledge and awareness, the demand for

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<sup>6</sup> Maldives Bureau of Statistics, Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2019.

<sup>7</sup> International Labor Organization, ILOSTAT database, 15 June 2021.

<sup>8</sup> Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services, Cases reported to and attended by the Ministry in May 2021.

<sup>9</sup> Human Rights Commission of Maldives, Family Protection Authority and United Nations Development Programme in the Maldives, The “rights” side of life 2020.

mental health services increased. A centre for mental health was established by the Government and services expanded at subnational levels. Yet, psychosocial support services, especially for children, including those using drugs, remain limited and inadequately funded and lack intersectoral coordination.

17. The multidimensional poverty rate is higher in the atolls (40 per cent) than in Malé (10 per cent) and is 34 per cent nationwide in households with children. The pandemic has doubled child poverty levels. While essential for reducing child poverty and deprivation, social protection programmes benefiting children and adolescents are fragmented. Bottlenecks include poor data and inadequate systems to support effective social protection for the most vulnerable; and poor targeting that has resulted in low coverage rates, with existing schemes benefiting less than 4 per cent of children. The pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities in existing social protection systems, which were not designed to respond to shocks. A real-time, comprehensive database of the at-risk population and online data management systems are needed.

18. A lesson learned from the previous cooperation programme is that partnerships with the private sector and multilateral actors around joint advocacy, technology, innovation and business for children's rights lay a strong foundation that can be leveraged to create learning opportunities, develop skills and empower children's participation in mitigating the impacts of climate change. Engagement with the private sector will therefore be embedded in all programmatic priorities.

19. UNICEF will support the Government and its partners to achieve the child-related Sustainable Development Goals and address the unfinished business of ensuring inclusive and coordinated quality services and equitable development for all children, including adolescents. The country programme will focus on the following priorities:

- (a) Young girls and boys develop and thrive.
- (b) Girls and boys, with a particular focus on adolescents, learn, are protected from harm and meaningfully participate.
- (c) Sustainable environment policy and financing for children.

## **Programme priorities and partnerships**

20. The country programme will support the Government's Strategic Action Plan 2019–2023 and vision of transforming Maldives into an equitable, prosperous, inclusive and connected island nation. The programme will directly support advancements towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the progressive realization of child rights, while being aligned with the priorities of the UNICEF Strategic Plan and Gender Action Plan for 2022–2025.

21. Built on lessons from the pandemic response and opportunities to strengthen resilient systems, the programme's theory of change proposes that if children and adolescents across Maldives have access to risk-responsive, climate-resilient, well-coordinated and inclusive quality social services and referral pathways; if adolescents acquire relevant twenty-first century skills, are protected and offered opportunities to actively participate in their communities' development; and if innovative partnerships, legislation and adequately-financed systems provide an enabling environment, then children and adolescent girls and boys will have opportunities to fulfil their potential and be agents of change to drive the country's sustainable socioeconomic development.

22. UNICEF will enhance its joint and complementary work within the United Nations, contributing to all four outcomes of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), 2022–2026.

23. Derived from the UNSDCF, the country programme was elaborated in close consultation with the Government and other key stakeholders. It is informed by the recommendations of a gender programmatic review to strengthen efforts in evidence generation and gender-transformative approaches to the continuum of care, and to address gender-based violence and gendered social norms. The programme adopts a comprehensive view of the child and an integrated approach to address the remaining challenges, break down barriers and reach those left behind, while developing innovative solutions to tackle emerging challenges and opportunities, including those related to climate change.

24. Cross-cutting strategies include inter-agency collaboration, evidence-based advocacy, capacity-building, innovation, and social and behaviour change. A key priority will be engaging the private sector as a provider of goods and services and an employer, as a source of technology and finance, and an advocate for children's rights, considering its impact on the environment and climate. Disability-inclusive and gender-transformative development, together with a focus on parenting and addressing mental health, will cut across all components. Programmatic convergence in Malé and islands, selected based on existing deprivations and Government priorities, will focus on reaching those left behind.

#### **Young girls and boys develop and thrive**

25. UNICEF proposes to increase the focus on helping children to thrive, including in the first 1,000 days of life. The programme will build on strategic partnerships to address remaining gaps and challenges in reducing malnutrition, particularly among the most marginalized young children, increasing immunization coverage and promoting nurturing care. This will require quality, integrated ECD interventions backed by an enabling policy environment and leadership, system strengthening and reinforcing parental skills.

26. Particular attention will be given to strengthening the primary health-care system with a focus on prevention at the community level, increasing emergency preparedness, and recovering from setbacks caused by the pandemic, including by addressing vaccine hesitancy.

27. UNICEF will advocate for policies that promote healthy food environments and feeding practices, particularly in early childhood. It will generate evidence on ECD, immunization and positive parenting skills, promoting positive gender norms while undertaking research on emerging issues like childhood overweight and obesity, maternal mental health and quality of essential health services. It will support the Government to develop a costed national multisectoral ECD policy and improve primary-health-care platforms, focusing on cross-sectoral programming to link efforts on immunization, nutrition, early stimulation and responsible caregiving, early learning, mental health and child protection.

28. UNICEF will contribute to develop evidence-based, costed multisectoral interventions. Institutional capacity will be strengthened to deliver quality essential services to pregnant women, children and caregivers, addressing the early identification of and interventions for disabilities in young children. To address violence against children and their mental health needs, front-line service providers will be trained to detect risks in children and to use intersectoral referral mechanisms.

29. Working with stakeholders in health, education, child protection, the media and civil society, UNICEF and its partners will leverage social and behaviour change strategies to increase the demand for quality services and healthy nutrition, including among adolescents; and foster optimal infant and young child feeding skills, timely completion of routine vaccination, nurturing care and positive parenting, sensitizing parents and communities on child safety and violence prevention.

30. Work with the private sector will promote family-friendly workplaces and healthy food environments. UNICEF will coordinate with other United Nations entities, notably the World Health Organization (WHO), to ensure complementarity of its engagement.

**Girls and boys, with a particular focus on adolescents, learn, are protected from harm and meaningfully participate**

31. The programme will adopt a holistic approach to adolescent development and participation to help to maximize their physical, mental and social well-being. The programme will also seek to prevent violence, especially sexual violence, with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged girls and boys, including children with disabilities, without adequate family care, not in education, employment or training, or impacted by negative gender norms. This is aligned with the Government's approach to strengthen multisectoral work at all levels, reinforcing referral pathways to support vulnerable adolescents and work on climate action.

32. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Education, UNICEF will engage with civil society organizations and international cooperation and financial institutions to strengthen capacities to deliver inclusive, equitable, adaptive, safe and quality learning and twenty-first century skills development. This will include developing and implementing competency-based curricula and strengthening the capacities of teachers and schools, including in flexible and alternative modalities, while ensuring equitable access to learning and skills and employability opportunities for girls and boys, including through distance learning. Addressing learning losses resulting from pandemic-related school closures and improving early grade literacy and numeracy are priorities. UNICEF will advocate and build partnerships for the adoption of technology for learning, including distance and disability-inclusive learning and skills development, and foster South-South cooperation for knowledge exchange on scalable innovations. Strategies will include the generation and use of evidence on vulnerable children, including gender sensitization; system strengthening for disability-inclusive education; building school capacities for alternative learning pathways, and the provision of school-based support for vulnerable and at-risk children; developing partnerships to support school-to-work transition; and capacity-building for climate-resilient and risk-informed education sector planning.

33. With the Ministries of Education and Environment, Climate Change and Technology, UNICEF will leverage partnerships to build climate-resilient schools, incorporating renewable energy sources and rainwater harvesting, promoting sustainable water and waste management and environmentally-sustainable practices in schools and communities, and supporting the implementation of the national curriculum on climate change, environmental sustainability and green skills. UNICEF will generate evidence and advocate for safe water, hygiene and sanitation services in schools.

34. Efforts will focus on strengthening capacities within the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services, key ministries and social service workforce partners, and judiciary and law enforcement agencies to implement effective child protection, juvenile justice and alternative care systems. Attention will be paid to the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act and the Child Rights Protection Act.

35. To address violence against children, UNICEF will support the Government to strengthen intersectoral coordination and capacities at the local and central levels, implement social and behaviour change strategies to prevent violence and address stigma towards adolescents and harmful gender norms, and build an enabling social and legal environment to sustain positive social norms. This includes scaling up universal and targeted prevention interventions, strengthening response and preventing recurrence, and reinforcing linkages between humanitarian and development programming. UNICEF will establish partnerships with civil society and the private sector, including on alternative care; foster the use of technology to increase reach; and promote knowledge exchange through South-South cooperation.

36. UNICEF will support the Government to restructure and strengthen the alternative care system towards a family-based system aligned with national laws and international standards enshrined in the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children. With the Child Rights Ombudsperson, UNICEF will support capacity strengthening in child rights monitoring. Social and behaviour change strategies will address harmful social and gender norms and encourage communities to promote violence prevention. A pivotal strategy will be leveraging partnerships with communities, local councils, civil society and the private sector to achieve results through advocacy, business practices and funding. Innovation and technology will serve to increase access to reporting, service delivery, data collection and supervision services.

37. Under the Government's leadership, interventions will improve capacities to design and implement mental health and psychosocial support programmes to promote healthy lifestyles and the well-being of adolescents, parents and caregivers. This includes strengthening life skills programmes and behaviour change communication, including in schools where healthy dietary practices will be promoted to curb the rising rate of overweight among children. With partners, UNICEF will support community-based systems and community support groups, and build the social services workforce, including health, education and child protection, particularly for case management and referrals, and provide mental health and psychosocial support.

38. Another priority is improving the skills of adolescents, including those with disabilities, and their access to platforms to meaningfully engage as agents of change on issues that concern them, including climate change, disaster risk reduction and violence prevention. UNICEF will support the development of a cohort of young people to participate in global environmental forums as future climate change negotiators. UNICEF will build on previous experience working with girls and boys from island communities to create equal opportunities to learn about climate change adaptation and violence prevention strategies and develop local solutions.

39. Innovation and partnerships will be key as UNICEF engages with the private sector and other United Nations entities, including the United Nations Development Programme, on climate resilience and innovation; the International Labour Organization on employability; the United Nations Population Fund on sexual and reproductive health; and WHO on adolescent obesity and mental health.

#### **Sustainable environment, policy and financing for children**

40. Priorities include building capacities within governmental institutions, local councils and other stakeholders, including academia, to design and implement efficient and well-connected central and decentralized systems for data and evidence generation and use for policymaking, advocacy and child rights monitoring. Several databases exist but are not used to their full potential. An integrated database with a single entry is needed. Better technology-enabled



platforms for data collection and monitoring, particularly on gender and equity-related indicators, will strengthen the use of evidence for planning and understanding critical gaps.

41. Strengthening the Government's capacities to develop platforms and analysis on public finance for children is another pillar of the programme. Considering lessons learned from the pandemic response, UNICEF and its partners will support the Government to establish an integrated and shock-responsive social protection system with adequate preparedness for horizontal and vertical expansion of schemes to respond to covariate shocks, working in an integrated manner across all components. This includes establishing an integrated management information system for the implementation of mother and child benefit programmes, and establishing functional social protection-specific mechanisms to enable two-way communication with beneficiaries during implementation, thus ensuring accountability to affected populations.

42. The Government's strong commitment and readiness to accelerate climate action with children and young people create a conducive environment for climate change programming. Partnerships will be developed to improve national capacities to design and implement child- and adolescent-friendly climate change policies, legislative frameworks and participatory platforms. UNICEF will support partners at the local and national level, including academia and non-governmental organizations, to strengthen data and evidence-generation capacity on water, climate, energy and the environment and their impact on children and adolescents.

43. Public and private partnerships and multi-stakeholder platforms will be strengthened to leverage resources and invest in children and the issues that affect their lives, including climate change, technology for development, employment opportunities, violence prevention and gender equality. UNICEF will engage with the private sector to influence policies on child rights and business, and will renew the emphasis on engaging with key social media to positively influence decisions, policies and practices affecting the rights of children and adolescents.

#### **Programme effectiveness**

44. This component will support effective programme delivery, including management for results, research and evaluation. It will be used to coordinate cross-cutting programming, including strategic behaviour change communication and advocacy, and to manage resource mobilization and partnerships with government institutions, the private sector and civil society, while promoting innovation across programmes.

#### **Summary budget table**

<i>Programme component</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Young girls and boys develop and thrive	911	1 678	2 589
Girls and boys, with a particular focus on adolescents, learn, are protected from harm and meaningfully participate	1 915	3 340	5 255
Sustainable environment, policy and financing for children	879	2 109	2 988
Programme effectiveness	332	498	830
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 037</b>	<b>7 625</b>	<b>11 662</b>

## **Programme and risk management**

45. This country programme document summarizes the contributions of UNICEF to national results and is the principal mechanism for accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. The responsibilities and accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels are defined in the policies and procedures regarding the organization's programmes and operations.

46. The programme will be coordinated as part of the UNSDCF, contributing to all priority areas and implemented and monitored in cooperation with the Government of Maldives and other partners, including donors, civil society and academia.

47. The programme considers possible risks to programme delivery, including the prolonged effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on child rights; the occurrence of high-impact disasters exacerbated by climate change; changes in Government and policymakers' priorities; and limited financial and human resources. UNICEF will monitor the situation to reassess planning assumptions and adjust programmes accordingly, holding regular reviews with the United Nations, the Government and other partners to assess strategic, programmatic, operational and financial risks, define appropriate mitigation measures, and monitor the effectiveness of governance and management systems. UNICEF will mitigate risks with stronger and more regular monitoring of child rights, regularly interacting with stakeholders and broadening the scale and diversity of partnerships for resource mobilization and capacity-building.

## **Monitoring, learning and evaluation**

48. The integrated results and resources framework, the costed evaluation plan and the integrated monitoring and evaluation plan form the basis for programme monitoring and reporting and are aligned with UNSDCF, the Sustainable Development Goals and the national Strategic Action Plan, 2019–2023.

49. UNICEF will use and strengthen government data-collection systems and mechanisms to generate disaggregated evidence and analysis to monitor progress against programme targets and Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

50. Midyear and end of year reviews, field visits and a gender review will be undertaken, and sectoral ministries, partners and rights-holders will take stock of the results achieved, identifying opportunities and bottlenecks and making any adjustments required. Evaluations will focus on accountability and learning for programme improvements.

51. With other United Nations entities and partners, UNICEF will support the Maldives Bureau of Statistics and sectoral management information systems to produce, analyse and disseminate high-quality data to track equity and gender disparities; inform policy development; and monitor the Sustainable Development Goals and child rights. Weaknesses in real-time monitoring mechanisms and system interoperability will be addressed through relevant technologies. The Emergency Management Information System and other anticipatory risk management tools will be used for early warning and information collection and analysis in emergency settings.

## Annex

### Results and resources framework

#### Maldives – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, April 2022 – December 2026

<p><b>Convention on the Rights of the Child:</b> Articles 2–40</p> <p><b>National Development Plan, 2019–2023:</b> Outcomes 1–3, 5–6, 8, 10, 12–13</p> <p><b>Sustainable Development Goals:</b> 1–5, 8, 10–13, 16–17</p>
<p><b>United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) outcomes involving UNICEF:</b> 1–4</p>
<p><b>Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 Goal Areas:</b> 1–5</p>

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
<p>Outcome 1: By 2026, youth, women and others at risk of being left behind, contribute to and benefit from inclusive, resilient, sustainable economic and human capital development, fostering innovation, entrepreneurship and decent work</p> <p>Outcome 2: By 2026, people in the Maldives, especially the most vulnerable</p>	<p>1. By 2026, boys and girls, especially from the most disadvantaged families, at national and subnational levels, benefit from quality, equitable and resilient primary health care, protection and nutrition services and improved nurturing care practices to survive, thrive and reach their developmental potential, in emergency and</p>	<p>*Percentage of children (0–5 years) who are:</p> <p>(i) Stunted B: 15% T: 10%</p> <p>(ii) Overweight B: 5% T: &lt;5%</p>	<p>Ministry of Health data (MoH); Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)</p>	<p>1.1 The Government and other partners have improved policies and capacities to deliver equitable, high-quality, gender-transformative and resilient primary health care, including immunization and nutrition services, and integrated early childhood development services, that are prepared to respond to emergencies and recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>1.2 Mothers,</p>	<p>MoH, civil society, academia, World Health Organization, United Nations Population Fund</p>	911	1 678	2 589
		<p>*Percentage of children (12–23 months) immunized with all vaccines included in the national programme</p> <p>B: 76.4% T: 90%</p>	<p>MoH; DHS/multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS)</p>					
		<p>*Percentage of children (0–5 years) who are on track in at least 3 of</p>	<p>MoH, Ministry of Education (MoE); Ministry of Gender,</p>					

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
						<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
and marginalized benefit from increased access to and use of quality, equitable, inclusive and resilient social and protection services, and have enhanced relevant skills and live fulfilled lives with wellbeing and dignity.	development contexts.	4 development domains, by sex B: 92% (3–4 years) T: 95% (3–4 years)	Family and Social Services (MGFSS)’s studies and surveys. DHS	fathers, caregivers and communities are supported and equipped with capacities and improved parenting skills to provide nurturing care, safety and protection from all forms of violence to their girls and boys.				
		Percentage of mothers, fathers and caregivers practicing positive parenting interactions B: TBD T: increase by 30%	MGFSS’s reports					
Outcome 3: By 2026, national and sub-national institutions and communities in Maldives, particularly at-risk populations, are better able to manage natural resources and achieve enhanced resilience to climate change and disaster impacts, natural and human-induced hazards, and environmental degradation, inclusively and in a sustainable manner.  Outcome 4:	2. By 2026, children and adolescent boys and girls, especially the most disadvantaged, benefit from improved well-being and benefit from quality and inclusive education, skills development, coordinated protection, juvenile justice and mental health services, and have increased opportunities to actively participate and contribute to community and climate social	Percentage of adolescent girls and boys who completed twenty-first century skills development programmes  In school: B: To be determined (TBD) T: 60% of students at secondary.  Out-of-school: B: TBD T: 60% of out-of-school children	MoE management information system and reports.	2.1 The education system and key stakeholders have increased capacities and a stronger enabling environment to deliver inclusive, equitable, adaptive, gender-transformative quality learning and skills development that is accessible to all children and relevant for life and work.  2.2 Child protection system structures, mechanisms and capacities are strengthened and functional at central level and in selected atolls, providing coordinated prevention, referrals and response services for violence against	MGFSS; MoE; Maldives Police Service (MPS); Local Government Authority (LGA); local councils; Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ); MoH; Prosecutor General’s Office (PGO); judiciary; media; civil society; private sector; Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology (MECCT);	1 915	3 340	5 255

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
						<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
By 2026, Maldives has strengthened decentralised and accountable governance under the rule of law where people are empowered, meaningfully participate in transparent and transformative processes for public policy and fully enjoy access to justice, public services, human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment in a tolerant and peaceful society.	action.	*Percentage of children with disabilities meeting minimum learning requirements outlined in individualized learning plans  B: TBD T: 30%  Percentage of children, boys and girls, in alternative learning pathways who complete their programmes.  B:0% T:70%	MoE management information system and reports.	children and juvenile crimes and alternative care, and are adaptable to emergencies and health pandemics  2.3 Communities, mothers, fathers and children have the capacity, knowledge and skills, to access mechanisms and programmes and actively engage to promote social and behaviour change to address harmful social and gender norms, including during humanitarian situations, in partnership with civil society organizations and businesses.  2.4 The Government, at central and decentralized levels, and key stakeholders, have improved capacities to design and implement mental health and psychosocial support programmes to promote healthy lifestyles and the well-being of adolescents, parents, caregivers and families.	National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA); Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC)			
		Percentage of children, girls and boys, who access coordinated child protection services of the reported cases of violence, abuse, exploitation, or neglect.  B: 0% T: 40%	Sectoral reports					
		Percentage of children, girls and boys in family-based care in relation to children in all forms of alternative care  B: 24% T: 75%	Sectoral reports					

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
		*Percentage of children, girls and boys, in conflict with the law subject to a diversion order or noncustodial measure B: 90% T: 95%	Sectoral reports	2.5 Adolescent girls and boys, including those with disabilities, have improved skills and access to opportunities to participate and meaningfully engage on issues that affect them, including climate change, disaster risk reduction, employment and violence prevention.				
		Number of children, adolescent, girls and boys, parents and caregivers provided mental health and community based psychosocial support services B: TBD T: 25% increase	Sectoral reports					
		Number of adolescents and young people with improved skills to engage in influencing policy and action in health, education, violence prevention, climate change and disaster risk reduction, and employment B: TBD T: 30% increase	Sectoral reports					
	3. By 2026, children and adolescents, especially those living in the poorest	*Percentage of children living in multidimensional poverty B: 29% T: 25%	Maldives Bureau of Statistics (MBS), institutional reports and databases.	3.1 Governmental institutions have improved capacities to implement central and decentralized systems for data and evidence	MBS; National Social Protection Agency; Ministry of	879	2 109	2 988

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>			<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
								<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
	households, benefit from responsive and comprehensive and adequately funded child-friendly climate change policies, child-focused social protection policies and programmes, including for recovery from shocks such as pandemics.	Percentage of gross domestic product dedicated to social assistance programmes B: 12% T: TBD			generation and use for policymaking, advocacy and monitoring child rights.  3.2 Children and families have access to improved social protection systems and services and the Government has strengthened capacities to develop platforms and analysis on public finance for children.  3.3 Children and adolescent benefit from improved government capacities to design and implement child- and adolescent-friendly/sensitive climate change policies, legislative frameworks, sectoral and multisectoral plans, and participatory platforms.  3.4 Private and public sector's influence and income are strengthened to achieve programme outcomes.	National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, MoE; MoH; MGFSS; Ministry of Finance; LGA; PGO; MPS, MECCT; NDMA; MRC				
Percentage of investments on children, employability and climate action through multi-stakeholder platforms, including through private sector B: TBD T: 10% increase										
*Number of data management systems producing quality information for national and local planning, monitoring and reporting on child rights. B: 2 (education and child protection). T: 4 Integrated systems (education, child protection, health, local governance)										

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
						<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
	4. Programme effectiveness	Percentage of key performance indicators meeting scorecard benchmarks  B: 90% T: 100%	InSight			332	498	830
	<b>Total resources</b>					<b>4 037</b>	<b>7 625</b>	<b>11 662</b>

\*Outcome indicator aligned with the UNSDCF indicator