



National Statistical System of the Maldives

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***Strengthening the institutional and organisational frameworks of
national statistical systems***

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NSS of the Maldives

- ▶ Statistical System: Decentralized
 - ▶ Lead agency for National Statistics: National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) under the Ministry of National Planning and Infrastructure
 - ▶ Other Producers of Official Statistics: Sectoral ministries (Health, Education, Tourism, Fisheries etc)
 - ▶ Legal framework: Statistics Regulation of the Maldives
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National Bureau of Statistics

- ▶ Principal data collecting and dissemination agency responsible for coordinating, monitoring and supervising the NSS
 - ▶ Conduct Population & Housing Census, Major household surveys (HIES, Economic Survey)
 - ▶ Poverty and social statistics (demography, population projections)
 - ▶ National accounts and price statistics,
 - ▶ Approval of surveys by other government agencies,
 - ▶ Develop/ implement NSDS & statistical regulation
 - ▶ Maintaining data quality, adhere to statistical standards
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Planning and Coordination of NSS

- ▶ NSDS 2009-2019 developed and under implementations
 - ▶ Diagnostic assessment of NSS conducted prior to NSDS
 - ▶ National Statistics Coordinating Committee in operation
 - ▶ Main agencies of govt. producing statistics
 - ▶ Some are only administrative data producers
 - ▶ National Statistics Advisory Committee formed recently
 - ▶ Specific technical working groups (CRVS, Migration stats, SDG)
 - ▶ MOUs established to access some critical data for national accounts compilation purposes
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Review of the NSS and plans for next NSDS

A Review of the NSS conducted in 2017 in order to;

- ▶ Provide a comprehensive analysis of the institutional, organizational and technical capacity
 - ▶ Focuses on data sources and statistical business processes
 - ▶ Assesses capacity of the NSS to meet current data demands
 - ▶ Provided recommendations
 - ▶ for strengthening the production and
 - ▶ dissemination of official statistics
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Weaknesses identifies in NSS

- ▶ Decentralized system with weak mechanisms and legal backing for coordination
 - ▶ No multi-annual /annual statistical planning
 - ▶ limited number of skilled and trained staff at NBS/ Low capacity and work overload
 - ▶ Limited number of staff dedicated to statistics in the other agencies of NSS
 - ▶ High Staff turnover
 - ▶ Statistical training not available locally (university edu.)
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Issues identified in the NSS

- ▶ Lacks Data Integration
 - ▶ Classifications (variation)
 - ▶ Lacks Meta data information
 - ▶ Lacks disaggregated Data
 - ▶ Limited Statistical Trainings: for the staff in NBS (trainees and trainers) and for the NSS
 - ▶ Staff: insufficiency and fluctuation
 - ▶ Dissemination: web-portal; time-schedule
 - ▶ Standards are not respected across NSS
 - ▶ Some registers do exist but are not standardized
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Ongoing work to strengthen NSS

- ▶ Statistics Act under way
 - ▶ NSDS (2020 -2030) compilation in progress
 - ▶ Coordination of the National statistical system at policy level and engagement of users
 - ▶ Use of new technology for surveys (CAPI, Survey solutions)
 - ▶ HIES 2019-2020 will have improved poverty estimates, disability data, new ICLS, Introduce MPI
 - ▶ Rebasing CPI and GDP, ICP, e-GDDS, TSA, SUT
 - ▶ more infographics in dissemination, MaldivInfo data base and mobile application
 - ▶ Population and Housing Census 2021 planned followed by an economic census
 - ▶ Trainings in basis statistics and economic statistics developed and tested – Trainers being trained
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Statistics Act

The Statistics Act (Draft) is proposed to the Attorney General's Office by the NBS, as a comprehensive regulatory framework is vital

- ▶ To ensure the production and dissemination of high-quality statistics
- ▶ To enforce sound statistical principles and
- ▶ Create the basis for professional and independent data collection, processing, storage and dissemination of official statistics
- ▶ Securing confidentiality at all stages
 - ▶ from data collection, dissemination and storage



NSDS (2020-2030) *National Statistics plan*

- ▶ Administrative data assessment done for selected sectors
 - ▶ Gender statistics assessment done
 - ▶ Stakeholder consultations initiated
 - ▶ NSD to be finalized early 2020 and publish
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Statistics Advisory Committee

- ▶ A Statistics Advisory Committee has been established to provide policy level oversight and support to the development and implementation of annual and multi-year statistical programs in the country to strengthen the National Statistical System through:
 - ▶ - Mobilization of resources for statistics,
 - ▶ - Strengthening legal and institutional mechanisms for national statistics,
 - ▶ - Creating partnerships for stakeholder engagement in support of statistics,
 - ▶ - Skills strengthening, modernization of the statistical business processes
 - ▶ - Ensure official statistics are available, accessible, and used for impactful analysis and transparent decision making, consistent with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
 - ▶ -Support the implementation of national and international commitments with regard to national statistics and data
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Establish a National Indicator Set

- ▶ National Indicator Set will constitute the development policy (SAP) relevant reference for data needs assessments and subsequent planning of statistical activities, including survey activities.
 - ▶ For the Indicator Set to be useful for statistical planning, it will include indicators needed for monitoring existing national and sectoral development plans, as well as SDGs
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Quality Assurance Framework, Dissemination policy and Advance release calendar

- ▶ With the passing of the Statistics Act, NBS will need to *Quality Assurance Framework* to continually assess and improve the quality of official statistics in terms of relevance, accuracy, reliability, timeliness, punctuality, transparency, clarity, coherence and comparability.
 - ▶ A coordinated *Dissemination policy* with transparent procedures to be applied across the National Statistical System;
 - ▶ *Advance release calendar* that indicates the planned dates and times for the releases of official statistics
 - ▶ Statistics Advisory council (users) will be formed
 - ▶ Develop and implement annual statistical plans, identify designated statistics
 - ▶ Access to administrative data
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Use and quality assurance of administrative data

- ▶ To build up administrative data available and assess from a quality perspective to be used for the production of statistics; to be extended to all statistical domains (e.g. environment, social and demographic statistics).
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Exploring Big Data

- ▶ With the aim of reducing data collection costs and reducing data gaps and improving timeliness of population estimates NBS explores the role of data through Big Data for use in official statistics
 - ▶ *A pilot project was conducted on the movement patterns through the mobile phone records among population groups mined and visualized to provide a series of mobility profiles from different areas of Male' city and greater Male' area.*



Vision for the future

Establish a professionally independent, respected and trustful
National Statistical System

- ❖ Strict adherence of UN Fundamental Principles of Statistics;
 - ❖ Follow Best International practices
 - ❖ Improve Data Quality
 - ❖ Improved access to administrative data
 - ❖ Data literacy and communication
 - ❖ Better data use
 - ❖ Staff skills and qualifications improved
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