

Maldives

The Gender Country Profile outlines a country’s available data and rankings regarding gender equality. The profile is first a summary of the country’s demographic overview and rankings within established global indices for sustainable development and gender equity. The profile then follows the World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Index framework to provide statistics on each country in detail.

Demographic Overview

Population	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Total Population under 15	58,842	54,711	113,553
Total Population 15 - 64	229,039	156,141	385,180
Total Population 65 and over	13,434	11,619	25,054
Total Population (Overall)	301,315	222,471	523,787

Data Retrieved from World Bank World Development Indicators (2023)

Overall SDG Progress Profile

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development outlines 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a call to action for all countries in global partnership. These goals provide a shared blueprint for each member nation towards achieving greater peace and prosperity for people and the planet.

- Maldives is ranked 68th out of 166 countries, with a UN SDG Index Score of 71.3¹

United Nations (UN) Twin Indices of Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality

In 2023, the United Nations released a new report, *The Paths to Equal*, outlining two updated indices on the progress of member nations towards gender equity. The Women’s Empowerment Index (WEI) focuses solely on women, measuring their power and freedom to make choices and seize opportunities in life. Global Gender Parity Index (GGPI) evaluates the status of women relative to men in core dimensions of human development.

- Maldives is ranked 85th out of 114 countries, with a WEI Score of 0.518²
- Maldives is ranked 97th out of 114 countries, with a GGPI Score of 0.575³

¹ SDG Index measures the total progress towards achieving all 17 SDGs. The score can be interpreted as a percentage of SDG achievement. Taken from SDG Index Database, August 2023.

² The Women’s Empowerment Index (WEI) measures women’s empowerment across five dimensions of human development: life and good health; education, skill-building and knowledge; labour and financial inclusion; participation in decision making; and freedom from violence. Taken from UN Women 2023: The Paths to Equal Report

³ The Global Gender Parity Index (GGPI) assesses the status of women relative to that of men in the first four dimensions, with some variation in indicators and variable treatment. Taken from UN Women 2023: The Paths to Equal Report

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World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Index

The statistics presented in the following Gender Country Profile are organised in accordance with the dimensions outlined in the World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Index. Introduced in 2006, the Global Gender Gap Index was developed to benchmark international progress towards gender equity. The index measures countries' gender gaps across four dimensions: Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, Economic Participation and Opportunity, and Political Empowerment.



Educational Attainment

Youth Education & Employment (ages 15-24, 2019)	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Total youth population (in thousands)	43	34	77
Not in Education or Employment - NEET	24.1%	28.5%	26.3%

Population Data retrieved from World Bank Population Estimates and Projections (2023)

Employment Data retrieved from ILOSTAT (2023)

Highest Completed Education Level (ages 25-64, 2015)⁴	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Total adult population (in thousands)	161	94	255
No Schooling	14.4%	18.6%	15.9%
Primary Schooling	18.1%	16.5%	17.5%
Secondary	9.5%	8.0%	8.9%
Tertiary	0.5%	0.3%	0.5%

Data retrieved from Barro-Lee Educational Attainment Data (2021)

Enrollment and Completion Rate (2020, 2020)	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Net Enrollment – Primary	96.1%	99.9%	97.9%
Net Enrollment – Lower Secondary	92.9%	99.0%	95.8%
Net Enrollment – Upper Secondary	50.9%	59.0%	54.7%
Completion Rate – Primary	98.8%	99.2%	98.7%
Completion Rate – Lower Secondary	90.2%	97.5%	94.1%
Completion Rate – Upper Secondary	26.9%	39.3%	33.9%

Enrollment Data retrieved from UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2023)

Completion Data retrieved from UNESCO SDG 4 Database (2023)

⁴ The estimated proportion of the adult population by highest completed level of education in 2015. Estimated using census/survey data compiled from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics, United Nations (UN) demographic yearbook, Eurostat, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and national statistics agencies.

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Literacy Rate (2021)	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Youth literacy rate (ages 15-24)	99.5%	99.3%	99.4%
Adult literacy rate (ages 15)	97.6%	98.4%	97.9%

Data retrieved from World Bank Gender Statistics (2023)

For the status of women and girls in Information Communication Technology (ICT), please visit COL's [country profile linked here](#).



Health and Survival

Maternal & Pre-natal Health	TOTAL
Maternal mortality (per 100,000 live births)	57
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	100
Under-five mortality (per 1000 live births)	6
Neonatal mortality ⁵ (per 1000 live births)	4

Data retrieved from World Health Statistics Report (2023)

Life Expectancy (in years)	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
At birth	78.6	80.8	79.6
Healthy life expectancy	69.7	70.0	70.0

Data retrieved from World Health Statistics Report (2023)

Reproductive Health	TOTAL
Satisfied demand for family planning of reproductive age women – modern methods ⁶	33.5%
Adolescent birth rate (per 1000 women, ages 15-19)	6.8

Data retrieved from UN Women 2023: The Paths to Equal Report (2023)

Gender-based Violence (ages 15-49)	TOTAL
Proportion of women who have faced intimate partner violence in last 12 months ⁷	6%

Data retrieved from UN Women 2023: The Paths to Equal Report (2023)

⁵ Refers to the first 28 days of life – the neonatal period – the most vulnerable time for a child's survival.

⁶ Proportion of women of reproductive age (ages 15-49), who are sexually active, who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods.

⁷ Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months.

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Economic Participation & Opportunity

Labour Force Participation (ages 15-64, in thousands, 2019) ⁸	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Level Not Stated	No Data	No Data	No Data
Less than Basic Education (n ≈ 8)	77.1%	44.0%	60.0%
Basic Education (n ≈ 114)	79.8%	44.4%	60.6%
Intermediate Education (n ≈ 47)	89.1%	65.6%	76.2%
Advanced Education (n ≈ 28)	96.9%	88.9%	92.9%
Overall (n ≈ 197)	83.4%	53.2%	67.2%

Data retrieved from ILOSTAT Explorer (2023).

Participation in Economic Decision Making	TOTAL
Share of managerial positions held by women ⁹	18.7%

Data retrieved from UN Women 2023: The Paths to Equal Report (2023)



Political Empowerment

Participation in Political Decision Making	TOTAL
Share of seats held by women in parliament (total seats = 87, 2019)	4.6%
Share of seats held by women in local government (total seats = 982, 2022)	39.5%

Parliamentary data retrieved from Inter-Parliamentary Union Parline database (2023)

Local government data retrieved from UN Women in Local Government Database (2023)

Estimate Proportion of Total Population with Gender Biases ¹⁰	TOTAL
Share of people with political bias against women	72.0%
Share of people with educational bias against women	15.0%
Share of people with economic bias against women	66.2%
Share of people with physical integrity bias against women	75.8%
Share of people with at least one bias against women	94.7%
Share of people with at least two biases against women	78.1%

Data retrieved from the UNDP Gender Social Norms Index Report (2023)

⁸ The proportion of people in labour force to the working-age population with specified minimum education level.

⁹ Estimated proportion of all management and senior management positions of employment held by women.

¹⁰ The UNDP Gender Social Norms Index quantifies biases against women across four dimensions: Political; Educational; Economic; and Physical Integrity. Biases are quantified via yes/no responses to qualitative statements such as "Men make better political leaders than women"; "University is more important for men than women"; "Men should have more right to a job than women", as well as uses proxy data for intimate partner violence/reproductive rights.

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