Australia’s long-standing partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Maldives has been key to allowing UNDP to respond to the needs of the country with agility and effectiveness. This includes amplified efforts to consolidate democracy: reforming judiciary, legal and justice sector, support towards creating an independent and empowered civil society, formative and sustained support to decentralization and local governance, and support to advancing Maldives’ efforts towards women’s empowerment and gender equality.
Australia is one of the main contributors to UNDP Maldives’s Integrated Governance Programme (IGP). The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has been a steadfast partner of IGP, which has now grown into its third phase. In 2022, DFAT topped its contribution to UNDP Maldives, doubling the average of previous years.

In 2022, Australia directly contributed to the following programmes under IGP:

- Gender equality and youth and women’s empowerment
- Access to Justice and legal and judicial reform
- Decentralisation reform
- Development of the Strategic Action Plan of the Government
- Support to CSOs
- Support for disability and social inclusion

**Programmes**

**AUD 1.3M in 2022**

150+ **YOUTH FROM ACROSS MALDIVES ENGAGED VIA MIYAHELI SOCIAL INNOVATION CAMPS**
**OUR IMPACT**

**Digitalization of the Judiciary**

More than 30,000 online court hearings have been conducted, and an estimated 25,000 women have directly benefitted from digitalization efforts of the judiciary, amplifying access to justice and social protection.

**Practice Parliament Series**

Supported youth empowerment and gender equality in politics through building their skills and knowledge to contest for elected positions. 68 women, including 2 PWDs participated in the Practice Parliament for Women and 24 young participants (12 men & 12 women), including 7 PWDs, in the Youth Practice Parliament for 2022.

**‘Miyaheli’ Social Innovation Camps**

5 editions of the series created safe spaces, providing skills, knowledge, tools and networks for more than 150 young people across the Maldives to become changemakers in their society.

**Gender Equality Action Plan**

Supported the update and launch of the Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) - the key guiding framework that will ensure gender equality in the Maldives.

**Support to CSOs**

With DFAT’s small grants support, civil society organisations have been able to lead grassroots interventions to enhance women’s social, political, and economic empowerment across 12 atolls of the Maldives.

**Support to Decentralization**

Supporting women’s leadership and representation in local councils and Women’s Development Committees (WDCs)

Supporting Local Government Authority in the integration and roll out of a comprehensive local council training package (development of a WDC Handbook and Local Councilors Handbook)

**Supported the Maldives Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Procurement of emergency medical supplies, and in transitioning to digital work, allowing Maldivian institutions to keep functioning remotely to deliver essential public services.
AUSTRALIA

- a core investor in UNDP’s work to support human development and well-being, empower women and girls, strengthen rule of law, sustain peace and foster development across the Maldives.