



MALDIVES

EXPERIENCES ON COORDINATION WITHIN THE NSS AND DATA STEWARDSHIP

NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS





NATIONAL STATISYICAL SYSTEM OF THE MALDIVES

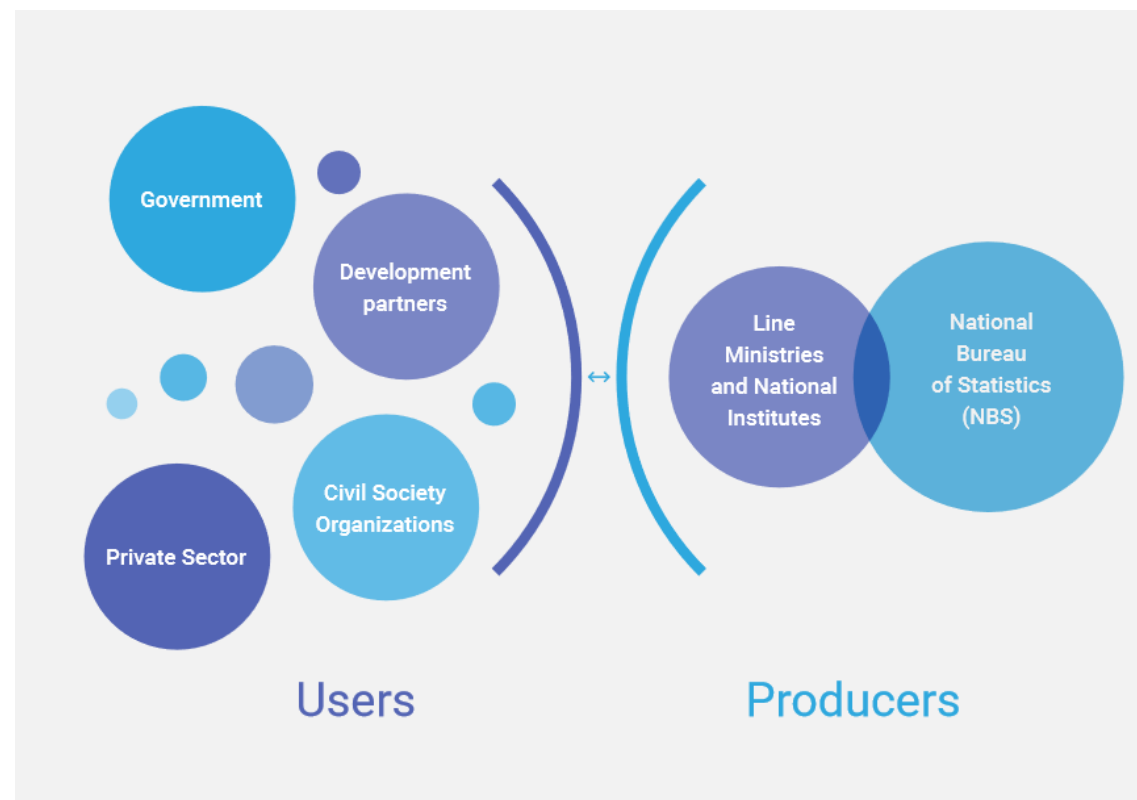
The National Statistical System (NSS) of Maldives is decentralized.

NSS is governed by the Statistics Regulation of the Maldives since 1999 and later revised during 2012

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) is the lead agency for official statistics, under the Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

NBS work closely with line ministries and agencies to provide a hub for quality assurance and coordination of national data production

Users and producers of official statistics in the Maldives





Vision

Integrated statistics for better lives

Integrated national statistical system producing high quality statistics through effective use of technology for informed decision-making and as public good serving the citizens of Maldives.

Mission

Provide reliable and relevant statistics about the economic, social and the environmental situation of the country which are responsive to government policy making and monitoring the achievement of the desired results in a timely manner as well as to honor citizens' entitlement to public information



RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS

According to the SRM the Lead Agency, National Bureau of Statistics is responsible broadly;

- ❖ for coordinating the NSS,
- ❖ for setting policies for statistical activities,
- ❖ assure statistical quality,
- ❖ develop and publish statistical regulations
- ❖ For approval of major national surveys by NSS
- ❖ providing the necessary collection and compilation support within NSS



COORDINATION MECHANISM WITHIN THE NSS

Under the Statistics Regulation of the Maldives (SRM), the Lead Agency (NBS) is at the center of the NSS, tasked with quality assurance and coordination among the agencies of the NSS

At a policy level

The coordination mechanism used is the National Statistics Advisory Committee (NSAC), which was established in 2019

- 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
- NSAC is chaired by the Minister in Charge of National Bureau of Statistics
- The Secretariat is represented by the National Bureau of Statistics.



At a technical level

The main mechanism used for coordination of the NSS is the National Statistics Coordination Committee (NSCC), which was established in 2001

- Functioning as a forum for the producers of official statistics for oversight and coordination of statistics production at a technical level in the Maldives.
- Comprises; all key entities within the NSS
- NSCC is chaired by the by the Chief Statistician;
- NBS provides secretariat support to the NSCC



COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Strengths

- The NSCC and NSAC is operationalized.
- A number of tools and mechanisms for coordination have been put in place by the NBS.
 - MoUs have been made for data sharing.
 - Partnerships have been established in building the major statistical registers and in improving the Vital Registration System.
 - The central bank Act and the some Ministry Regulation recognizes the importance of NBS guidelines.
- There has been the formation of SDG and technical committees at all sectoral levels.
- Assessment on the NSS have been carried out and plans are being developed based on these (eg: gender assessment)
- New initiatives to strengthen the weak areas like environmental statistics, SEEA initiatives
- Investment in capacity to use big data, citizen science, geospatial and statistical data integration
- initiatives to modernize the NSS and building partnerships - Moving to CAPI,CATI etc as
- Partnership is being arranged among the NBS, Maldives National University and Civil Service Training Institute.



COORDINATION MACHANISMS

Weaknesses

- Coordination and user engagement have been weak.
- There are inter-agency trust and data sharing issues that needs to be addressed.
- Lacks the tools for monitoring and coordination of official statistics activities provided under the SRM.
- The composition, scope and operations of the Coordinating committees are loosely defined and needs to be operationalized.
- There is low awareness of available statistical products resulting to misinformation.
- The NBS lacks general access to unit-level data.



National Strategy for the Development of Statistics in the Maldives (NSDS 2021-2030)

NSDS is the Long term Statistical Plan of the country which coordinates the statistical activities – in its compilation process

Aim of *the NSDS*

- Consistent with statistical requirements of national development plans and priorities
- Takes into consideration regional and international statistical commitments
- Strengthens gender-responsiveness of the MNSS
- With a costed implementation plan covering required institutional and infrastructure improvements and capacity development to produce and use core data and statistics



Data Stewardship

- ❑ In the Maldives, the concept of Data Stewardship approach needs to be addressed within the NSS
- ❑ The NBS currently plays an important role in coordinating the data management on official statistics within the NSS.
- ❑ With the upcoming Statistics Act proposed to the Parliament and the NSDS,
 - ✓ will enable the concept to better manage and use the data it holds on behalf of all data providers
 - ✓ Enable the role as coordinator and custodians of data principles and data quality within the NSS.





Drivers for action

- ❖ Improve legal mandate: **limitations in legal authority**
 - The Statistical Act has been proposed by the government to the parliament and now in the review process
- ❖ strengthen the functioning of the NSS: **Lacks an effective coordination mechanism**
 - Establishing a Statistical Council under the Act, which provides power to establish coordination mechanism
- ❖ Needs strong strategic actions to build NSS: **absence of comprehensive multi-year or annual program for official statistics**
 - The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics in the compilation process
- ❖ Development of human capacity within the Lead Agency and the NSS: **lacks the technical capacity**
 - Revisit the development of the CADRE system , Identify the key statistical training requirements of the NSS and develop a statistical training programme to address them
- ❖ Strengthen the Statistical/Data infrastructure: **Lack of adequate technical infrastructure**
 - Use innovative data collection approaches, Exploring big data options for data gaps
- ❖ improving statistical literacy: **Lacks evidence-based decision making**
 - Create awareness on statistics , Improve access to statistical information, expanding outreach activities to increase awareness and knowledge among different groups