



# PROMOTING RESILIENCE IN MALDIVES

## MALDIVES

USAID is working in partnership with the Government and people of Maldives to strengthen the resilience of youth by building their social, interpersonal, intrapersonal, entrepreneurial, and vocational skills. This will enable young people to grow into contributing citizens of Maldives and address unemployment and under-employment, drug abuse, and criminal activities among youth.

The Promoting Resilience in Maldives (PRIME) project aims to increase the resilience of vulnerable populations and at-risk groups such as youth. PRIME conducts evidence-based research and consultations to design projects that enhance social cohesion and improve career prospects, education, and employment opportunities for youth. The program focuses on fostering tolerance, increasing self-awareness and self-esteem, and rehabilitating youth who are addicted to drugs and other substances, feel excluded, and/or have participated in criminal activity.

This project is one component of the partnership between the U.S. and Maldives to support self-reliance, strengthen stability, and promote economic growth. USAID's program in Maldives, totaling more than \$20 million since 2001, promotes a healthy, educated, and employed population.

Implementing Partner: Transparency Maldives; Total Estimated Cost: \$5 million; Performance Period: February 2020 – February 2024

PHOTO: TRANSPARENCY MALDIVES. TEACHING DEMOCRACY

## OBJECTIVES

USAID is supporting Maldives to increase the resilience of vulnerable populations and at-risk groups, such as youth. Key objectives of the program are to:

- Improve understanding of drivers that push and pull youth to engage in criminal activities, including drug and substance abuse, in the Maldives to better design and implement efforts to address issues of concern to youth;
- Enhance agency and social cohesion of youth and their communities; and
- Improve career prospects and employment opportunities for vulnerable youth.

## ACTIVITIES

- Conduct research on the causes of violence to better design and implement youth empowerment and engagement efforts; implement capacity development activities for civil society and state actors to design, implement, and monitor projects that address issues of concern to youth.
- Support local organizations to increase prevention and response measures that address youth drug addiction, substance abuse, youth involvement in criminal gangs; support government institutions to address issues of concern to youth in prisons, juvenile detention centers, and state care facilities.
- Increase prevention measures in schools by addressing issues such as sense of purpose and identity among children and youth through working with government institutes, civil society organizations, parent-teacher associations, and teachers.
- Develop programs in partnership with government and private sector institutions to improve career guidance and employment prospects and develop entrepreneurship skills of youth who have dropped out of school, are in rehabilitation, are incarcerated, or are currently unemployed.

## RESULTS

- Strengthened capacity of civil society, state actors, media, and other stakeholders to better design, implement, and monitor efforts to address and respond to issues of concern to youth in Maldives.
- Increased prevention and response measures that address youth drug addiction, substance abuse, involvement in criminal gangs, and issues of concern to youth in prisons.
- Increased prevention measures that address issues relating to sense of purpose and identity among students within the education system.
- Increased opportunities to improve youth employability, including career literacy and entrepreneurship skills.