



**MALDIVES ONE UN FUND**

**ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2011**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme Title: Strengthening UN Coherence, Aid Effectiveness, and M&amp;E</li> <li>• Programme Number (if applicable) 00079975</li> <li>• MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00079975</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Country, Locality(s), Thematic/Priority Area(s)</b></p> <p><i>(if applicable)</i></p> <p>Country/Region Male, Maldives</p> <p>Thematic/Priority MDGs</p>
<p><b>Participating Organization(s)</b></p> <p>UNDP</p>	<p><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <p>Ministry of Finance and Treasury and Department of National Planning</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b></p> <p>MPTF/JP Contribution: USD 445,500</p> <p>Agency Contribution by Agency <i>(if applicable)</i></p> <p>Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i></p> <p>Other Contributions (donors) <i>(if applicable)</i></p> <p>TOTAL: USD 445,500</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Programme Duration</b></p> <p>Overall Duration: 12 months</p> <p>Start Date: 23 September 2011</p> <p>End Date (or Revised End Date)<sup>1</sup> 22 September 2012</p> <p>Operational Closure Date</p> <p>Expected Financial Closure Date</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</b></p> <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p> <p>Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Report Submitted By</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Name: Anna Senga</li> <li>○ Title: Coordination Specialist</li> <li>○ Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP</li> <li>○ Email address: anna.senga@undp.org</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> As per approval by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

DAO	Delivering as One
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MFDR	Managing for Development Results
RC	Resident Coordinator
SAP	Strategic Action Plan
UNCT	UN Country Team
UNDAF	UN Development Assistance Framework

## I. PURPOSE

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### Main Objectives of the Programme:

The Programme aims to support the country in accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals through relevant and evidence-based development planning, budgeting, implementation, and monitoring, and effective coordination of development assistance.

### Expected outcomes of the Programme:

Enhanced capacities to formulate, implement, and monitor progress in implementing the national strategy for MDG acceleration, including coordination capacities for coherent UN and other development assistance.

### Relevant Outcome/Outputs in the UNDAF 2011 – 2015:

Outcome 14: Institutional capacity strengthened and framework in place to coordinate and plan national development at local and national levels.

Output 14.1: Development planning systems strengthened and utilized for decision-making.

Output 14.2: Institutional and technical capacity for monitoring and evaluation strengthened.

## II. RESOURCES

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### *Financial Resources:*

Funds available for the Programme are from the Expanded DAO Funds for MDG achievement amounting to USD 445, 500.

### *Human Resources:*

One International Staff was made available to manage and implement the Programme.

### III. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

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The activities in the programme are being implemented closely with the identified lead partner for the activity. For MDG acceleration and strengthening of national development planning, budgeting, and monitoring capacities, and MDG advocacy, the lead partner is the Ministry of Finance and Treasury - Department of National Planning. For aid coordination, the lead partners are the Ministry of Finance and Treasury-External Resources Department and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The RC Office has the responsibility to manage the programme and coordinate with other UN agencies to ensure coherence in the UN system's support to the programme. The UN M&E Working Group is the inter-agency coordination mechanism for this programme and other programmes contributing to the relevant UNDAF Outcome.

Regular programme monitoring is being undertaken by the RC Office, together with the M&E Working Group. The programme review was included in the UNDAF annual review held in December 2011. Also, since the programme is an inter-agency initiative, the coordination experience in implementation has been reported 2011 RC Annual Review Report submitted to the UN Development Operations and Coordination Office. An end-of-project review to be conducted in September 2011. It should be noted that in view of the uncertainties in the political environment in the country, the UNCT has agreed to hold mid-year reviews of all its programmes, to allow for any possible adjustments, when the situation would warrant.

### IV. RESULTS

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The programme has just been implemented (start date was 23 September 2011). In the three months of implementation, the following is the progress of the programme:

#### **OUTPUT 1.1**

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**MDG ACCELERATION: Government implements programmes and issues policies directed towards acceleration of MDG achievement and sustaining the gains in achieving the MDGs.**

A concept note and detailed timeline for developing the MDG acceleration framework was prepared which was presented to the UNCT and partners through an orientation session aimed to reinstate discussion on the MDGs, identify critical gaps, and generate consensus on the need to develop and MDG Acceleration Framework. With inequity as the main challenge in MDG achievement in the Maldives, the UN team prepared a paper intended to be presented to an informal Cabinet meeting. Unfortunately, the political environment in the country has not made it conducive to hold an MDG discussion in the Cabinet. Thus, this presentation has been postponed.

The development of the MDG acceleration framework required advocacy with the policy-makers and the stakeholders on the MDGs. Towards this end, the 2010 MDG Progress Report was finalized for publication, fact-sheets on the MDGs were printed, and other multi-sectoral advocacy activities with focus on specific MDGs, such as on the goal on environment, were conducted.

## **OUTPUT 1.2**

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**MANAGING FOR DEVELOPMENT RESULTS (MFDR): Government utilizes the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) Results Frameworks for planning, budgeting and monitoring.**

With technical support from the UN agencies, the results frameworks for each sector under the national Strategic Action Plan (SAP) were developed. The results frameworks enabled the government to prepare a programme-based budget, for the first time. These were also critical in the SAP mid-term review process, and in developing the appropriate monitoring system on programmes and projects under the SAP.

Coordinated by the Department of National Planning, the line ministries convened sectoral coordination committees to develop the results framework for each of the SAP sector. A two-day workshop supported was convened to guide the ministries in this endeavor. UN agencies were invited in key sectoral discussions. Mainstreaming gender in the results framework formulation was emphasized by the UN. All sectoral results frameworks were completed, and used to prepare the budgets. Orientation on gender-responsive budgeting was also conducted.

The process of the SAP mid-term review was initiated in 2011, but was not completed because of challenges in getting feedback and information from the relevant ministries. Only 7 out of 31 sectors have provided the information requested. The poor response and lack of cooperation from some ministries could be due to the following reasons: (1) lack of technical capacity within the ministry to assess progress using the MFDR approach; (2) competing priorities for attention; priority was given to the formulation of budgets; and, (3) too elaborate reporting template.

To address these challenges, the following have been identified: (1) more “hand-holding” between DNP/UN and the ministries; forums for discussions would be organized; (2) clarify the value of the review exercise, and get more high-level support; and (3) simplify the reporting template.

## **OUTPUT 1.3**

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**AID EFFECTIVENESS:** Strategic partnerships with key donors are strengthened and overseas development assistance is better utilized to support the achievement of MDGs and national priorities.

A key achievement in this area was the endorsement of the government to the Paris Declaration in September 2011. This was result of advocacy efforts made by the UN system for the need to strengthen partnerships with international actors.

Two meetings were held with donors based in Colombo to update them on the major developments in the country, including the impact of the democratic transition in the country's MDGs status. RC went on mission in key European cities to mobilize support for the Maldives, particularly in the areas of gender, environment and climate change, and support to strengthening the democratic institutions. With regular interaction, resources have been mobilized for the One UN Fund in support of the formulation and implementation of an integrated climate change programme.

A concept note on the objectives and proposed timeline for the preparation of the Maldives Partnership Forum was prepared and discussions with government were initiated. Unfortunately, an accident prevented the main government coordinator for this event to pursue this task, and the government was unable to designate a replacement. The process therefore needs to be reinitiated under a new government coordinator.

## **OUTPUT 1.4**

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**UN COHERENCE:** UN agencies are working more coherently to achieve the UNCT Annual Workplan objectives

There have been several key achievements in coordination by the UNCT for the year, including progress in this programme (MDG acceleration and MFDR). Other key achievements were the formulation of the integrated climate change programme; addressing the challenges of decentralization, particularly on the health sector; support to a coherent youth development strategy; and support to strengthening the national gender architecture. Joint initiatives to strengthening democratic institutions and address increasing religious conservative especially since these would impact on sustaining the gains and achieving the MDGs, have also been implemented in a coherent way.

The good working relations between the Ministry of Finance and Treasury, the UN system's coordinating government agency contributed to these key achievements. However, the political environment, capacity constraints among partners, and the pressure on the government and some UN agencies to show more tangible results, as opposed to policy advisory and development (usual UN system's support to an MIC), have posed some difficulties in implementing some planned activities.

## V. FUTURE WORK PLAN

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The government has reconfirmed its commitment to pursue the following activities:

On MDG Acceleration, a paper will be drafted for presentation by the Minister of Finance and Treasury to the cabinet, in order to reinitiate the formulation of the MDG Acceleration Framework. The process would require a review of the status of the MDGs, including addressing data gaps. A workplan has been prepared for a participatory and consultative process, with technical support from the UN, through this Programme.

Also, the process of developing the MDG Acceleration Framework will be utilized as an opportunity for advocacy. A joint UNDAF Communications Strategy in support of acceleration will be drafted.

On MFDR, assistance will continue to be provided for strengthening capacities for results-based management. Support to a results-based and gender-sensitive budget process will be provided and will include conduct of trainings and setting-up of a streamlined and useful monitoring system for MDGs and national development priorities. Capacity development initiatives in this area will focus on the utilization of information to make sound policy decisions, including support to required reviews or assessments.

On Aid Effectiveness, the political situation is not conducive to conduct a Maldives Partnership Forum, as planned in this Programme. However, support could still be provided in setting-up appropriate coordination mechanisms and enhancing the development assistance monitoring system of the government.

Increase in resources mobilized might not be the appropriate target for this component of the programme. Rather, the capacity of the government to coordinate development assistance effectively should be the measure. The indicator, therefore, would need to be revised.

On UN Coherence, the UN team will continue to support priority areas that have been identified at the end of 2011 during the UNDAF Annual Review<sup>2</sup>, as well as other areas that would address emerging issues/concerns. A mid-year review of the UNDAF will be undertaken in the middle of the year or in case there will be a major development that could impact implementation of the UNDAF, including this Programme. An UNDAF Annual Review will be undertaken by the end of 2012.

Although support will be provided for the functioning of the UNDAF Steering Committee and the One UN Fund Board, the UN team will try to make the programming processes light, so as not to burden the partners.

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<sup>2</sup> List of priorities for 2012 annexed; prioritization was based on the 2011 UNDAF Annual Review.

## VI. INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baselines	Planned Indicator Targets	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance (if any)	Source of Verification	Comments (if any)
<p><b>Outcome 1<sup>3</sup></b> Enhanced national capacities towards accelerated achievement of the MDGs, through relevant and evidence-based development planning, budgeting, implementation, and monitoring, and effective coordination of development assistance.</p>							
<p><b>Output 1.1</b></p> <p><b>MDG ACCELERATION:</b></p> <p>Government implements programmes and issues policies directed towards acceleration of MDG achievement and sustaining the gains in achieving the MDGs</p>	<p>Indicator 1.1.1</p> <p>Identification and implementation of key programmes to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs</p>	<p>No Strategy/Plan, although SAP is considered MDG-based</p>	<p>Key programmes to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs are identified, resources allocated, and initiated.</p>	<p><u>On track</u></p> <p>Concept note and detailed timeline for developing the MDG acceleration framework was prepared.</p> <p>Paper on Inequity in the Maldives was prepared by an inter-agency group.</p> <p>Orientation on preparing an MDG Acceleration Framework held.</p>	<p>Delays in the activities because of competing priorities of the main partner</p>	<p>MDG Progress Reports</p> <p>Reports from the Ministries</p> <p>Cabinet minutes</p>	<p>Preparatory activities for a high level meeting on MDGs Acceleration were conducted, but the meeting was postponed.</p>

<sup>3</sup> For PBF: Either country relevant or PMP specific.

				2010 MDG Progress Report finalized for printing.			
				Multi-sectoral advocacy activities on MDG 7 held			
<p><b>Output 1.2</b></p> <p><b>MANAGING FOR DEVELOPMENT RESULTS (MFDR):</b></p> <p>Government utilizes the SAP Results Frameworks for planning, budgeting and monitoring.</p>	<p>Indicator 1.2.1</p> <p>Degree of utilization of SAP Results Frameworks in planning, budgeting and monitoring</p>	<p>Sector results frameworks have just been formulated</p>	<p>DNP and 3 lead ministries in the SAP and or relevant ministries in the MDGs report on SAP progress and use the SAP Results Frameworks in developing annual plans, budgets, and monitor progress</p>	<p><u>Partially achieved</u></p> <p>All sectors have completed their sector results frameworks.</p>	<p>Delays in the submission of the SAP reports</p>	<p>Reports from the Ministries</p> <p>Cabinet minutes</p> <p>Assessment of the national budget</p>	
<p><b>Output 1.3</b></p> <p><b>AID EFFECTIVENESS:</b></p> <p>Strategic partnerships with key donors are strengthened and overseas development assistance is better utilized to support the achievement of MDGs</p>	<p>Indicator 1.3.1</p> <p>Number of Government-Donor coordination meetings in the year</p>	<p>1 Donor Conference and 2 donor meetings held in 2 key cities</p>	<p>MPF held and donor coordination meetings held in at least 2 key door cities</p>	<p><u>Partially achieved:</u></p> <p>Two meetings with donors based in Colombo were held; RC went on mission in key European cities to mobilize support for the Maldives</p> <p>Concept note on the</p>	<p>Changes in the lead coordinator of the government</p>	<p>Reports from the Ministry of Finance and Treasury and Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>	

and national priorities.				MPF was developed, but MPF was not held.			
	<p><b>Indicator 1.3.2</b></p> <p>Amount of additional donor resources mobilized in SAP pillars</p>	<p>US\$ 46 million as of October 2010</p>	<p>Increase of 10% in donor resources mobilized</p>	<p>Resources for the One UN Fund to support the integrated climate change programme were mobilized.</p>		<p>Monitoring reports of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury – External Resources Department</p>	
<p><b>Output 1.4</b></p> <p><b>UN COHERENCE:</b></p> <p>UN agencies are working more coherently to achieve the UNCT Annual Workplan objectives</p>	<p><b>Indicator 1.4.1</b></p> <p>Monitoring of UNDAF Action Plan implementation</p>	<p>UNDAF Annual Reviews held</p>	<p>Meaningful discussions are held in UNDAF Action Plan mid-year and annual reviews with necessary adjustments made in a timely manner</p>	<p><u>Achieved</u></p> <p>UNDAF Annual Review was held with stakeholders. A report was produced.</p> <p>Discussion paper for the UNDAF mid-term review was developed, but the review did not take place</p>		<p>RC Annual Reports</p> <p>UNDAF Annual Reports</p>	
	<p><b>Indicator 1.4.2</b></p> <p>Status of implementation of UN workplan</p>		<p>Planned activities and expected outputs are achieved</p>	<p><u>Partially achieved</u></p> <p>Most activities planned in the UNCT Annual Workplan were</p>	<p>Changes in government priorities and policies; capacity constraints of partners; and overall political</p>		

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## VII. ANNEXES

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### **ANNEX 1: SUGGESTED UNCT PRIORITIES FOR 2012 (BASED ON THE 2011 UNDAF ANNUAL REVIEW)**

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Based the review of the UNDAF Action Plan held in December 2011, wherein progress in implementation, lessons learned, and emerging issues, were discussed and analyzed, the following are the suggested priorities for 2012:

#### Social Equity:

- Strengthening of Health Systems in light of decentralization and corporatization
- Assess impacts and develop road map on corporatization of the education sector
- Implementation of the National Strategic Action Plan on HIV/AIDS and resource mobilization
- Sustain efforts in substance abuse demand reduction, policy-making, treatment and intervention
- Advocacy to promote MARP's increase access of HIV prevention, treatment and care

#### Economic Development and Environment:

- Implementation of Low Emission Climate Resilient Development
- Enhance partnerships with the private sector and awareness on PPP

#### Democratic Governance

- Strengthen and scale-up capacity development programmes for local councils ; support to establish the Women's Councils
- Enhance human rights awareness and voters' education
- Strengthen NGO partnerships in the UNDAF sectors; Contribute to NGO strengthening towards long-term plans
- Sustain support to strengthening Government capacities in Management for Development Results, led by DNP

#### Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

- Strengthen the Gender Architecture
- Strengthen Response to Domestic Violence

