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STRONG AND INCLUSIVE MALDIVIAN DEMOCRACY MALDIVES

USAID is working in partnership with the government and people of Maldives to increase prosperity and stability by building a more inclusive society and strengthening democratic governance. The Maldivian government has requested USAID support to implement planned reforms related to decentralization, judicial strengthening, and increased women’s participation in decision-making bodies.

USAID’s Strong and Inclusive Maldivian Democracy (SIMD) project works with the government and people of Maldives to strengthen the capacity and resilience of democratic institutions. By increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of local governments and the justice sector, as well as increasing citizen engagement on policy reform, the project helps establish positive precedents for growth and stability. This project will focus on decentralization, judicial reform, civic education, and civil society engagement.

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: Consortium for Elections and Political Processes; Total Estimated Cost: \$19 million; Performance Period: August 2020 – July 2025

PHOTO: AIMAN RASHEED/IRI. ISLAND COUNCIL MEETING

OBJECTIVES

This project will strengthen the capacity and resilience of democratic institutions in Maldives by:

- Increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of local government and the justice sector; and
- Strengthening citizen engagement with the government on policy reform.

ACTIVITIES

LOCAL GOVERNANCE: Develop and implement training on decentralization and oversight to build the capacity of elected officials and council members to support policy planning; support the participatory development of transparent Community Development Plans.

JUDICIAL REFORM: Strengthen independent court administration; provide support to government and non-governmental institutions to increase public access to free legal assistance; increase citizen awareness of and engagement with the justice sector.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: Strengthen civil society capacity to monitor political processes and engage with the government; improve media literacy among the public by countering disinformation and misinformation as well as assistance to civic education campaigns; strengthen networks on media literacy and countering disinformation.

RESULTS

- Stronger and more inclusive local government.
- Improved civic education and engagement with government; improved media literacy.
- More efficient and responsive justice sector.
- Improved transparency and accountability through better cooperation between civil society and the three branches of government.