

What is the purpose of marking the International Youth Day?

The International Youth Day, marked on 12 August of each year, focuses attention on the largest proportion of the world’s population that is changing our world and the future—the youth.


The vast generation of youth has unprecedented potential to advance the well-being of the entire human race. When young people can claim their right to health, including sexual and reproductive health, education and decent working conditions, they are a powerful force for progress. When youth voice is heard in policy making and youth participation is engaged in all decision making processes, youth become effective partners for change.

Who are Youth?

United Nations defines those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 as youth. The Maldives Government defines youth as those persons between the ages of 18 and 35 years.


How big is the youth population?

43% of the world’s population is under the age of 25. People under 25 constitute 30% of the population in developed nations and 60% in the least developed countries.

-  • 51% of the Maldives population is under the age of 25¹
- 24% of the Maldives population is between the ages of 18 and 24 years, the largest age cohort¹

UNFPA’s focus on youth—Universal Access to Reproductive Health and Rights

The means and information to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of children; to bear children safely; to avoid sexually transmitted infections and to reduce unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortions that increase the risk of maternal disabilities and death is a need and right of every individual; yet it is of paramount importance to youth —the future parents, teachers and leaders of the generation to follow.

-  • The average age of first marriage for girls is 19 years and the average age of becoming pregnant with the first child is 20 years²
- In 2010, 294 births were by mothers under the age of 20³
- During 2006 to 2010, the unemployment rate was above 50% for women aged 15-19 years. For males, the unemployment rate was highest for 15-19 years and 20-24 years age groups.

1 Census, 2006

2 Statistical Yearbook of Maldives, 2011

3 The Maldives Health Statistics, 2011

4 Household and Income Survey, 2009-2010