WITH YOU(TH)
“What made me want to become a youth leader was to advocate for the need for comprehensive sexuality education, as I realised the lack of education in basic areas such as contraception among my peers. At the same time, many teachers did not feel comfortable speaking on this subject as they considered it taboo. I would like my community to be more open to exchanging information on the topic as it will lead to individuals making more informed decisions.”

Saadhin Mohamed Rasheed,
Junior Chambers International (JCI kaafu)

“We all live in a world where young people have so many opportunities to grow, learn and be inspired. We all need to realize small things can bring a change and that is actually what matters. That is why, youth participation at policy level is one of the key instruments to youth development.”

Dhumya Ahmed
(The Youth Initiative)

“Being a low lying nation, we are serious victims of climate change and it is in my opinion that our citizens and policy makers need to address this issue and emphasize on how serious the case is. My passion for climate change and its connection with human rights is what drives me to work in the civil society. I believe that every individual deserves to live in a world where they have leaders to fight for them”

Sara Abdul Ghanee,
Gender Advocacy Working Group (GAWG)

“I am motivated by what I read and study. I have always had a great yearning to act on and implement what I have learned, to solve social issues. We face many challenges such as gender discrimination, discrimination against migrant workers and lack of knowledge in sexual and reproductive health. So I’d like to see a future where these problems are resolved in an educated manner, ensuring happiness for everyone living in our Maldivian community”

Umar Mavee Ali,
Society for Health Education (SHE)
**Youth Population 15-24 Years**

- 20%

**Youth Unemployed**

- 43%

**Total Population of Maldives**

400,000

**Marriage & Fertility**

More than 34,000 young girls live in Maldives and on average get married at 19 years and becomes pregnant at 20 years.

**Marriage & Divorce**

- 50% of marriages occur among young people aged 18-24
- About 1/2 of these marriages end up in divorce before the age of 25
Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled

YOU(TH) Voices at the heart of development

Enabling YOU(TH) to drive social change

Investing in YOU(TH) to fulfill potential
YOU(TH) Voices at the heart of development

Why put youth at the heart of development?

Over 70,000 young people place Maldives in a unique position with the largest ever youth population. Positioning them at the heart of policy and development is key to transcend the inter-generational cycles of poverty.

- **EMPOWER** - to enrich decision-making for households, communities and the nation
- **EDUCATE** - to ensure young people are prepared for the 21st century economy
- **EMPLOY** - to reap the demographic bonus and accelerate socio-economic prosperity
Enabling YOU(TH) to drive social change

Why does youth matter?

- They have the **POTENTIAL** to drive positive social change
- They hold the **POWER** to shape decisions for future generations
- They **REPRESENT** a large proportion of our working population
- They are an **INTEGRAL** part of socio-economic development
- **INVESTING** in youth is vital for progress and innovation
UNFPA’s key interventions:

• Collaborating for data and analysis on excluded populations
• Enabling young people to contribute to youth-centric policy frameworks
• Convening youth platforms such as the Youth Advocacy Union to voice youth rights
• Technical assistance for youth-friendly health services
• Advancing the integration of Comprehensive Reproductive Health Education into the national curriculum

The way forward...

• Bringing youth perspectives to the forefront by engaging youth through policy dialogue
• Facilitating advice on inclusive policy alternatives based on sound data and analysis
• Monitoring national policies to address prevailing issues regarding youth rights
Violence

16% of girls and 17% of boys in school experienced sexual abuse

Discussion on Reproductive Health

1 in 4 young people in Maldives has never discussed reproductive health with anyone.

Contraceptives: Knowledge and Usage

Never Married Young Men

Never Married Young Women