YOUTH IN MALDIVES
Youth represent 37% of our population (18-35 years)
Demographics

- Those aged 20-35 years remain the largest bulk of the youth population
- One third of the youth population lives in Male’

In early 2000s Maldivian adolescents were high in number reaching its maximum number in 2006

Those who were adolescents in 2006 today are in their 20s

Since more youth joined workforce, this requires better educational opportunities and trainings for those looking for employment

Among youth (18-35) the age group 20-35 remained the largest bulk in 2014
- Majority of Youth remain in school until ages 17-18
- Literacy rate in both Dhivehi and English are higher for youth aged 15-24
- In Male’, 17% of males and 12% of females aged 25-34 do not hold a certificate. This is true to 38% of males and 33% of females in the Atolls
- Youth who are neither in employment nor in education or training are known as NEET
- 27% of females and males aged 15-19 are NEET
- NEET is higher for females aged 20 years, especially in the Atolls
- Women tend to get married earlier than men.
- The average age at first marriage is 22.5 years for women and 25.8 years for men.
- Youth living in Male' marry later than those living in the Atolls.
- About one third of women aged 20-24 has given birth.
- By the age of 30-34, 86% of women give birth at least once.
- At age 25, 34% of women in Male’ have had one child.
- In the Atolls 50% of women have had at least one child.
- Most young people join the labour force in their early 20s
- 54% of people aged 18-34 and 23% of people aged 25-24 are currently working
- Out of 8000 unemployed persons, 75% are young people
- The main reason why women 20-34 are not in the labour force is due to being engaged in household chores/childcare
- Men aged 20-34 refer difficulties to find suitable work matching their educational qualifications, lack of employment opportunities in the islands and ill health and/or disability
- The main industries where youth work includes:
  Men: accommodation, public administration and defence, fishing and aquaculture
  Women: education, retail trade (except for motor vehicles and motorcycles), public administration and defense

- Young people’s main occupations:
  Men: fishery workers, hunters and trappers, protective service workers, and domestic hotel and office cleaners and helpers
  Women: teaching, sales and general office clerk
- Education is the main reason why Maldivian youth migrate to Male’
- At the age of 20 more males than females migrate to seek employment opportunities in Male’
- Marriage and childcare lead more females aged 25 to move to Male’
Maldives has entered a unique window of opportunity. In future our youth population will double.

We need to pay more attention to youth and invest in them by:

- Improving youth’s human capital & reproductive health outcomes, including gender equitable policies.

To capture the first demographic dividend