

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



VISION

"Transparency Maldives strives to act as a catalyst for reforms that improve transparency and accountability in all sectors, to raise public awareness of and initiate public discussion on corruption and its detrimental effects on society and development, and to collaborate with individuals, state institutions, businesses, media, civil society organisations, local communities, religious and cultural entities, among others, in the fight against corruption in all its forms."

MISSION

"A Maldives in which the State, politics, business, civil society, and the daily lives of all people are free from corruption, which in turn will ensure transparent and accountable governance, leading to greater equality and social justice for all."

FOREWORD

In 2022, Transparency Maldives marked 15 years as a leading civil society organization with a mission to eliminate corruption and promote democracy and human rights. Over these 15 years as a nation Maldives have had significant wins, with the passing of progressive laws and establishment of independent oversight bodies. The Maldives also faced colossal losses, with grand corruption scandals, environmental destructions, delayed justice, and failure to recover any of the millions lost to corruption. The country's Corruption Perception Index remained in the same position over the past two years, ranking among the two-thirds of countries to score below 50, with a score of 40, and ranked 85 out of 184 countries in the CPI 2022, mirroring the ranking and score of 2021.

Despite these setbacks, at TM we remain committed to drive and push the anti corruption, democratic and human rights agenda forward. In 2022, we have made considerable efforts to amplify our mandate and to bring together more partners to widen the reach and impact of our efforts.

Young people are the catalyst for change thus empowering them to be the changemakers on anti-corruption and climate change is vital. Our youth camps, civic education awareness, human rights advocacy and accessible career guidance events reached over 800 young people across the country, helping raise awareness on their rights and responsibilities and on how to mobilize and demand for accountability. We also supported six civil societies to amplify and expand the reach of their work with young people and vulnerable groups across the country. Through a range of programs, including skills trainings and harm reduction programs to psychological first aid trainings, these CSOs were able to touch the lives of over 2,000 young people aged 12-29 years, and support over 6,000 individuals through different interventions.

Those in power, particularly elected officials, continue to enjoy absolute impunity in the Maldives. Since 2015 we have been calling for parliamentarians to declare their assets and finances through our #haamakurey campaign. In 2022 our draft Bill on Asset Declaration, mandating all elected officials to declare their assets, was presented and is currently being debated at the parliament. We also continued our advocacy efforts to promote Right to Information and Whistleblower protections mechanisms and initiated a program on promoting transparency and integrity of state-owned enterprises, which was the theme of our 2nd Anti-Corruption Conference. These are important steps in our efforts for strengthening the anti-corruption legislative framework in the Maldives and are critical to build public trust in state and oversight bodies.

We continued to call out on climate inaction, including the failure of successive governments to 'walk the talk' when it comes to climate pledges. At the same time, we prioritized working with local councils and civil societies through targeted trainings and awareness sessions reaching counsellors and local civil societies, building awareness around climate governance and importance of community participation in development, and climate adaptation programs.

We contributed to the limited research around social cohesion and resilience in the Maldives, with three novel researches published, to facilitate evidence-based programing for vulnerable youth and communities. We also launched "Maahara" a network of key stakeholders from government, academia, civil societies and service providers in this area bringing together over 80 representatives from 43 institutions. The network provided avenues to share knowledge and lessons and brainstorm on challenges and on identifying pathways where actors can collaborate to bring meaningful change and reform. Through the research, the network and with the support of nearly twenty different stakeholders, we reached over 2000 people with new information, trainings and awareness of different social issues that make youth and communities more vulnerable and susceptible to crime and violence.

With the democratic backsliding the global world is witnessing, especially post covid, we must raise our voices higher, collectively demand for equity and equality louder - especially for the most vulnerable and work tirelessly to remove the protective shields that are stopping us from holding those in power to account.

ASIATH RILWEENA

Executive Director

Transparency Maldives

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1. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Since TM started its operation, civic education, particularly focused on young people, has been an integral part of our work. Civic education prepares youth for effective citizenship and instills in them key civic values that are required to create a society that respects diversity, human rights and democracy. In 2022, through our work, we reached young people through camps, workshops and career fairs, promoting understanding of civic rights, and sharing information that will prepare them to transition into a productive and resilient adulthood.

1.1 YOUTH CAMPS

The current understanding of civic rights in the Maldives is limited and while civic education is included in the national curriculum and is taught within the social studies curriculum, there is a gap in understanding the basics of civics. Through our youth camps, we empowered, educated and equipped young people with the knowledge and experience needed to address youth issues at a community and policy level.

Through the interventions we increased awareness on fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution, explored issues that are closely related to youth, encouraged participants to work together and think critically about the issues in their community.

In 2022, we reached

53 YOUNG PEOPLE

In Th. Madifushi, Addu City and Kulhudhuffushi City



4 CAREER FAIRS

In Male', Addu, Fuvahmulah and Kulhudhuffushi City

Reaching over 700 students



1.2 CAREER FAIRS

Career fairs were held for school students to increase the contextualized knowledge regarding their academic and professional pathway opportunities to best prepare them to transition into a productive and resilient adulthood.



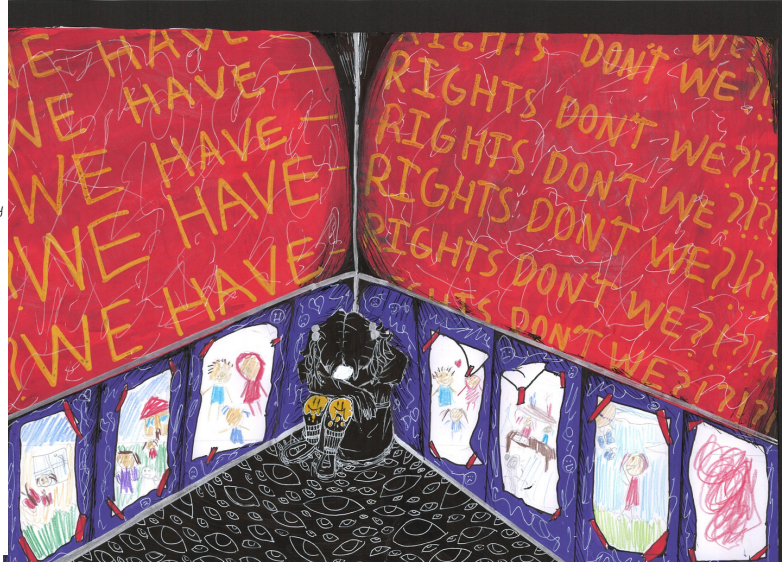
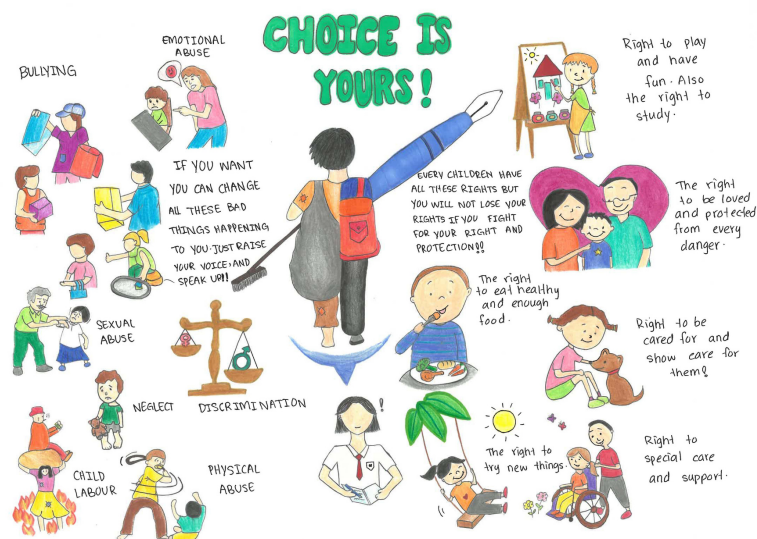


1.3 HUMAN RIGHTS ART COMPETITION

The art competition was organized by the Human Rights Commission of Maldives and Transparency Maldives in conjunction with Children's Day 2022 with the theme "Our Rights, Our Future, Our Calls". The competition was organized by reaching out to Human Rights Clubs of various schools across Maldives.

Each school selected the best 10 paintings and forwarded the selected to HRCM. These paintings were then reviewed and showcased in an exhibition by HRCM and TM.

**The work of 89 students,
from 15 schools, across 10 islands
were showcased.**



2. PROMOTING ANTI-CORRUPTION

Over the year, TM conducted capacity building trainings on tools for corruption fighting tools to multiple stakeholders across the country. These efforts include conducting capacity building and awareness raising sessions on accountability tools such as Right to Information and Whistleblowing in order to promote the effective implementation of the law and the use of the tools by the public.

TM also continued working with key stakeholders to strengthen the anti-corruption legal framework and the implementation of key legislation. A key achievement for the year includes the drafting of the Asset Declaration Bill to be submitted to the Parliament in February 2023.

2.1 RIGHT TO INFORMATION & WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION TRAININGS FOR SOEs

Two trainings on the right to information and whistleblower protection were conducted to strengthen the legal and regulatory framework of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and enhance the governance, functions, and operation of SOEs.



Through these interventions TM aimed to familiarise SOEs with the Right to Information Act and Whistleblower Act, and the roles these tools can play in strengthening transparency and accountability of SOE functions.

Additionally, the training highlighted the importance of asset declaration and risks leading to corruption as well as ways to prevent these risks through integrity and good governance. These trainings were facilitated by Information Commissioner's Office of the Maldives, Whistleblower Protection Unit, Transparency Maldives and Anti-Corruption Commission.



2.2 JOURNALIST TRAININGS

In March 2022, a 3-day Practitioner's Workshop was held where participants representing media outlets, civil society organizations, and local councils from across the country attended.

The main objectives of the training was to promote the use of RTI in media and journalism and to build a network of activists, practitioner's and journalists who can work together.

TM'S work to support journalists and protect press freedom was bolstered by the MoU signed between TM and the Maldives Journalists Association (MJA).

The purpose of the MoU was to support and collaborate on journalist capacity building initiatives and to promote investigative journalism.

A key output was the first #NoosveriSallaa which took place in 2022, in partnership with MJA and supported by USAID for a conversation on gender based violence, and reporting ethics, sharing data and research as well as building a network that journalists can reach out to for technical input. The Sallaa was also an opportunity to bring other civil society organisations together whilst sessions were conducted by Family Protection Agency, HandsTogether, TM, and MJA.



2.3 Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre - ALAC

ALAC provides free and confidential advice and support to victims and witnesses of corruption, enabling them to assert their rights, seek redress, and stand up for justice.

It is a platform for citizens to voice out their grievances and assists them in pursuing their complaints. Our hope is with the help of ALAC, citizens are also empowered to translate their complaints into structural change. ALAC also undertakes advocacy on broader reform for enhanced transparency, accountability and integrity of public institutions such as its work on right to information and whistleblowing.

2.3.1 LABOUR MIGRATION AND WORKERS RIGHTS

A key focus area for ALAC is supporting migrant workers and advocating to systemic change to strengthen employment rights.

During the past year, ALAC staff attended different meetings and sessions held by the Public Interest Law Centre (PILC) with the support of the Asia Foundation on a project regarding migrant workers in the Maldives. The goal of this project was to identify and address the issues faced by South Asian migrant workers in the Maldives, particularly Bangladeshi workers.

ALAC also participated in workshop by the Maldives Alliance for Migrant Workers attended by more than 9 organizations working in the area. The session highlighted the need to work together on issues related to migrant workers.

TM took part in the International Migrants Day celebration held at Hulhumale' together with other partners of the Migrant Workers Coalition. TM provided free legal advice and guidance to more than 25 migrant workers, requiring assistance. Booklets on migrant worker rights and contact numbers of authorities were also handed out to over 100 people.



2.4 HAAMAKUREY

In 2015, the 'Haamakurey' campaign was initiated, advocating for Parliamentarians to disclose their assets. In 2022, Panel discussions (Daganaa) were conducted to highlight the significance of asset declaration.

Over time, public support grew; aligning with our pursuit for transparency, accountability, and integrity in the public sector. Through our #haamakurey campaign, the emphasis persisted on MPs disclosing their assets, prompting the public to urge their representatives to publicly release their asset declarations. This encouraged both the public and media to examine these declarations, evaluating the efficacy of the current system.

By 2020, a comprehensive assessment of the asset declaration framework was undertaken, culminating in a position paper outlining recommendations aimed at fortifying the system.

The Declaration of Financial and Other Interests Bill, drafted by Transparency Maldives was introduced to the Parliament in February 2022

In 2022, the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament sponsored the bill and submitted it to the Parliament. The bill was voted in by 58 out of the 73 members present. The bill is currently being reviewed by a subcommittee of the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament.

The draft Bill establishes a system for the preparation and submission of declaration of property, financial records, business interests, assets & liabilities, and other interests of 51 high ranking public officials, calling to establish a uniform and verifiable system to prevent corruption, detect conflict of interest, and expose illicit enrichment.

This Bill is a culmination of our efforts over the years, from awareness campaigns and workshops to public campaigns to demand MPs declare their assets publicly, to enhance transparency & integrity of public officials, & to increase public trust in State & oversight bodies!

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#haamakurey



#DAGANAA

#HAAMAKUREY

A DISCUSSION ON THE ASSET DECLARATION REGIME AND VERIFICATION MECHANISMS

6.7.2020 | 4:30 pm ZOOM WEBINAR ID: 923 7181 0104



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#HAAMAKUREY

DEMAND PUBLIC OFFICIALS DISCLOSE THEIR FINANCES

2.5 ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE

TM held the Anti Corruption Conference in October 2022 under the broader theme of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) Integrity. The two day conference, held in partnership with the Anti Corruption Commission, explored challenges within the current legal and regulatory framework of SOEs, their vulnerabilities to corruption risks, abuse of state resources during election cycles through the SOEs, and also explored how the current anti corruption tools such as the right to information and asset declarations can promote transparency and integrity within SOEs.

10 panel discussions

38 panelists

95 participants



President Ibrahim Solih, during his speech at the opening ceremony highlighted that systematic endorsement of corrupt practices within all state ranks was the biggest threat to combating corruption.

He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to fighting corruption , stating the symposium's focus on identifying the causes of corruption and embedding good governance procedures into the running of SOEs amplifies the importance of this symposium.

A progress pledge was prepared based on the discussions of the sessions and SOEs is to be implemented over a 2 year period by the leading agencies such as Privatization and Coporatization Board, the Anti-Corruption Commission, and TM.

TM engaged closely with SOEs and worked to improve the relationship between SOEs as well as other institutions who joined. The conference also helped to identify other areas of collaboration with institutions such as the Local Government Authority and the Whistleblower Protection Unit.

TM and ACC also publicised information about the key themes and focuses of the 2022 Anti-Corruption Conference on social media and TV stations. They discussed the risks to SOE's integrity and ways to hold them accountable.



2.6 BUSINESS INTEGRITY PILOT WORKSHOP

In 2021 TM started a project focused on promoting corporate transparency and business integrity. Under this project, TM conducted research to understand the business integrity practices of private sector; specifically corporate societies, businesses, professional associations, and civil societies. TM also initiated an index developed to gauge the corporate transparency practices of state owned enterprises.

During the year, TM also conducted a Business Integrity Workshop. The workshop presented the preliminary findings of the business integrity research conducted, as well as an introduction to the Whistleblower Protection Act. The workshops also included sessions facilitated by two international business integrity experts exploring concepts of risk assessment in businesses and how to manage and mitigate the risks to make organizations more compliant and responsive.



2.7 HULAASAA VOL 1: STATE OWNED ENTERPRISES IN THE MALDIVES

TM published bulletin reports with the goal of disseminating information on activities of the SANCUS project such as trainings, conferences, information related to SOEs, observations made from oversight and regulatory agencies, and results from the implementation of toolkits.

HULAASAA: STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES IN THE MALDIVES

What are State-Owned Enterprises?

State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) are often identified by different names such as public enterprises, government corporations, government companies, or government-linked businesses.¹

Similar to the name, the definition of SOEs also varies across jurisdictions depending on various factors such as:

- Level of government ownership (full, majority, or minority)
- Listed or unlisted company
- Purpose or mandate of the SOE
- Level of government that owns the SOEs (central, regional, or local)

Different types or forms of SOEs may often offer flexibility in the operation or functioning of SOEs, however, the multiple types could also make SOEs less transparent, susceptible to corrupt practices, and insulate SOEs from legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to other companies.

The Maldives does not have a law on SOEs or similar legislation that sets out a comprehensive framework for monitoring and regulation of SOEs.

According to the Companies Act,² SOEs can be established either by law or by a decree of the President of the Maldives. Apart from this, neither the Companies Act nor the subsequent Regulation, Companies General Regulation, formed under the Act include any provisions related to SOEs.

The Ministry of Finance lists 32 SOEs in the Maldives which can be categorised into two major groups as per their shareholding structure.³

There is NO definition of SOEs given in the legal and regulatory framework of the Maldives.

OTHER DEFINITIONS

"A state-owned enterprise includes, but is not limited to, any entity recognised by the borrower's national law as an enterprise in which the state or government exercises direct or indirect (whole or partial) ownership or control."
Asian Development Bank⁴

"Any corporate entity recognised by national law as an enterprise, and in which the state exercises ownership, should be considered as an SOE. This includes joint stock companies, limited liability companies and partnerships limited by shares. Moreover, statutory corporations, with their legal personality established through specific legislation, should be considered as SOEs if their purpose and activities, or parts of their activities, are of a largely economic nature."
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development⁵

"An entity that is owned or controlled by the state that carries out activities that are commercial or for public policy objectives, or a combination of these."
Transparency International - Secretariat⁶

Funded by the European Union

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3. CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

As one of the lowest lying countries in the world, Maldives is one of the most vulnerable countries to the negative impacts of climate change. Geography has made the Maldives especially vulnerable to the consequences of climate change. Climate change is a global challenge with adverse effects on livelihoods and resources utilized for functioning as a society.

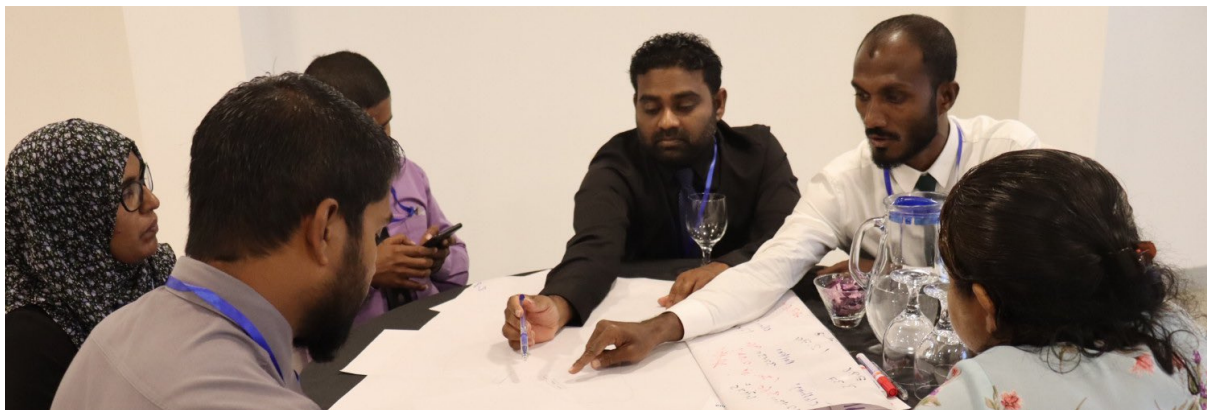
Since 2013, TM has worked with stakeholders to improve governance of climate finance received by Maldives. These efforts continued in 2022 with advocacy and lobbying against specific developmental projects.

3.1 CLIMATE WORKSHOP FOR COUNCILLORS

Effective and sustainable climate adaptation requires efficiency of climate change adaptation programs by engaging with decentralized local governments.

Councils play an integral part as it facilitates building of local capacities for adaptation efforts which are more consistent with the local requirements. It also helps in better integration of knowledge in to community projects.

The workshop brought together over 20 councillors from across the country to build a community where we can make linkages across climate actions, gender equality and corruption and build strategies for action framed by shared concerns.



3.2 CLIMATE AWARENESS SESSIONS

TM conducted an awareness session on climate governance and the role of CSOs in ensuring accountability to the participants of the regional CSO forum organized by the Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Community Engagement. The session highlighted the importance of citizen monitoring of climate projects, building grassroots pressure to hold those in power accountable, and also analyzed the tools and techniques that could be utilized to undertake the 'watchdog' role in their communities.



3.3 THE LEASING OF THE FENFUSHI LAGOON FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

TM released a joint press statement calling the government to put a halt to the resort development project in Fenfushi lagoon following the leasing of the lagoon west of Adh. Fenfushi for tourism to the Villa Group. The lagoon is adjacent to the South Ari Marine Protected Area, - the only place in the world where whale sharks are observed year-round.

In addition to the lagoon's role in sustaining local livelihoods, it is home to a thriving marine ecosystem containing large pods of resident dolphins as well as zebra sharks.

3.4 ADDU RECLAMATION PROJECT

On June 29th, a letter was submitted to the Parliament by TM and partner CSOs requesting to investigate and stop the environmentally destructive project in Addu City. Following the letter, TM and Environmental Protection Agency was invited to a meeting of the Climate Change and Environment Committee. TM presented the concerns regarding the Addu reclamation project to the Climate Change and Environment Committee of the Parliament.

CSOs presented concerns related to environmental and governance issues around the case and reiterated the following calls made in the letter to the Parliament:

- 1. Stop the destructive project as it violates Article 22 of the Constitution.*
- 2. Prioritize the environmental protection and safety and security of people over short-term economic gain.*
- 3. Ensure public participation at all stages of project planning and with full disclosure of relevant information.*
- 4. Strengthen the EIA process and make the EPA an independent body.*



4. PROMOTING SOCIAL COHESION

Building social cohesion and resilience are core to promoting TM's mandate and co-values of good governance, promoting democratic values and ensuring basic human rights. Corruption is a major grievance, especially amongst youth, creating a generation who are socially excluded and disenfranchised. Issues such as weak institutions, exclusion from decisions that impact their lives, lack of safe space for dialogue and expression, economic inequality, abuse of power, access basic human rights such as right to housing, health, education, etc, has exacerbated socio-economic vulnerabilities in the Maldives.

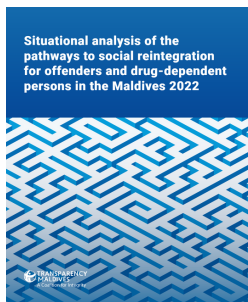
Transparency Maldives has been working at policy and community level to promote good governance, address corruption, promote democratic values and citizen participation. TM has also been working with communities to promote decentralization, community participation and social accountability by addressing the barriers to social cohesion and other social issues that prevents young people from achieving their full potential as economically and socially contributing citizens of Maldives.

4.1 – PROMOTING EVIDENCE BASED RESEARCH AND DIALOGUE

Evidence based research promotes informed program design and interventions in addressing barriers to social cohesion. TM's research studies and interventions aim to contribute to the limited body of research available on emerging issues such as radicalization and violent extremism. In addition to the research TM also launched "Maahara Network" with an aim to create a platform to exchange knowledge and to promote dialogue amongst diverse stakeholders.

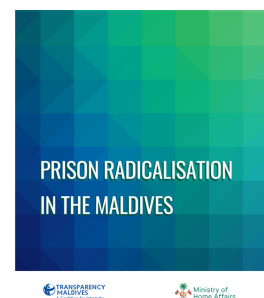
Key interventions include:

1. Situational Analysis of the pathways to social reintegration for offenders and drug-dependent persons in Maldives
2. Study on Prison radicalisation in Maldives
3. Mapping and Characterising Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Programmes in the Maldives
4. Vilunveri Jeeleh - Parent Handbook published and disseminated
5. Maahara Network established



The study on The Situational Analysis study explores the current pathways and obstacles to successful social reintegration for offenders and drug-dependent individuals in the Maldives..

This Prison Radicalisation focuses on the drivers of radicalization in prisons and shares recommendations aimed at empowering Maldivian communities to resist radicalization and bolster human rights.



The 'Vilunveri Jeeleh' handbook aims to help young people tackle social vulnerabilities that may lead to violent extremism and to provide information to parents, family and friends to increase their capacity in creating a more resilient society.

4.1.1 MAAHARA NETWORK

The Maahara network is a series of conferences planned by Transparency Maldives to strengthen dialogue between key actors working on social cohesion and to initiate a network of actors working on social issues at the policy level.

The first conference was held from 18th to 19th September 2022 in Bandos and attended by 79 participants from 43 institutions. A variety of topics and discussions were presented at the conference with a total of 21 speakers. A recurring theme of discussion was the importance of applying restorative justice policies.

The second conference was held from 20th to 21st December, in collaboration with National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC). This conference was attended by 56 participants from 31 institutions representing state institutions, health service providers, training institutes, international organisations and local civil society organisations.



4.2 STRENGTHENING CAPACITY OF STATE AND NON-STATE ACTORS

4.2.1 SYSTEMS DESIGN WORKSHOP

Civil Societies are best placed to understand the needs of the community. They are a crucial partner and catalyst for social change. Empowering civil societies has been at the heart of TM's work in building cohesive resilient communities. As part continuity TM's efforts to strengthen and expand the role of CSOs, TM conducted a systems design workshop for CSO's. The workshop aimed to develop capacity of CSO to develop beneficiary centered policies and interventions that account for the complexity of the social issues faced by the communities.



4.2.2 PARTNERSHIPS WITH NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

TM also supported National Counter Terrorism Center and Ministry of Youth Sports and Community Empowerment (MoYSCE) to expand their community outreach programs in communities. With MoYSCE, NGOs collaborated in their NGO forums to facilitate sessions focused on social cohesion. Furthermore, TM supported the "Haftha Res" program, a multi stakeholder community outreach program lead by MoYSCE. TM's support in collaboration with NCTC included workshops targeting community leaders and educators in Haa Dhaalu atoll and Gaafu Alifu atoll reaching 172 individuals.

4.2.3 COHESIVE COMMUNITIES TRAINING AND PCVE INTEGRITY TOOLKIT

To strengthen capacity of stakeholders and CSOs, TM developed a "Cohesive Communities" training to increase general awareness on preventing and countering violent extremism and relevant issues, such as push and pull factors, gender aspects, and terminologies. A training of trainers was conducted for 16 participants during the year to roll out the training for stakeholders.

Furthermore, reflecting on the finding of mapping study published during the year, TM developed a PCVE Integrity toolkit with the objective of improving program integrity through clearly thought-out theory of change, evidence-based interventions and impact focused monitoring and evaluation.

4.2.4 STRENGTHENING SERVICE PROVISION OF DRUG DEPENDENT PERSONS WITH NATIONAL DRUG AGENCY (NDA)

Capacity Building initiatives to improve the services provided to Drug dependent people with NDA include ASSIT-BI training targeted by primary health care workers to plan interventions based on the patients' requirements to ensure accurate diagnosis and treatment are provided to the patients. In addition to the training, NDA also conducted awareness sessions for focused groups in community to increase awareness and understanding of addiction and to facilitate help for drug users. This is an important initiative to sensitize service providers and communities on the public health approach. In 2022, TM collaborated with NDA to rollout the Assist-by program in Addu City and supported a technical training for NDA staff on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) to facilitate effective rehabilitation.

4.2.5 RESTORATIVE JUSTICE & PRACTICES

The 'Situational analysis on the pathways for social reintegration of offenders and drug-dependent person' report highlights the significance of non-custodial measures that promote diversions and alternatives to detentions based on the principles and values of restorative Justice. The report also mentions that a significant weakness in the current social reintegration approach is the lack of avenues for community engagement and community-based reintegration. The community plays a vital role in the re-entry of juvenile offenders into the community and, at the same time, works toward building a safe society. To promote restorative approaches in dealing with Children in conflict with law, with aim to change the current punitive approaches, TM also supported the training of trainers for technical staff of Department of Juvenile Justice in the area of restorative justice and practices.

Since the knowledge of Restorative Justice is not a widely familiar concept in the Maldives, it is necessary to create awareness among the community on what it offers. TM extended the opportunity for CSOs to participate in a one day introductory training facilitated by a RJ international Expert on Restorative Justice Approach and Practices and how it will benefit in developing community awareness programs.



4.3 COLLABORATION WITH MOE TO STRENGTHEN SUPPORT, SENSE OF PURPOSE AND IDENTITY WITHIN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

4.3.1 RISK ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT

Schools provide a critical context for shaping children's self-esteem, self-efficacy, and sense of control over their lives. As children move into their early and later teen years, schools may play an even greater role than the home context in influencing youth, given the powerful influence that teacher support and peer networks have within the educational settings. Schools make a setting that, if equipped with the right capabilities and tools, can not only identify the risk factors and indicators of vulnerability in young people at an early stage, but it can also create the conditions that facilitate a young person's healthy development. TM facilitated the development of the Toolkit for MoE through an international technical consultancy. A total of 43 ToTs including school counsellors, Teaching Resource Center (TRC) coordinators and school health officers across the country were trained as facilitators to support the roll out of the toolkit.

4.3.2 POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM

Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs), comprise of dedicated and hard-working parents from diverse backgrounds, when given the appropriate training, can motivate and empower other parents in a relevant and meaningful way to positively affect children's outcomes through positive parenting. Additionally, they can connect and support parents of adolescents and youth engaging in high-risk behavior. The purpose of the program is to enable the PTA members to acquire knowledge and skills to deliver parenting programs in schools and in the wider community. After completion of the training, participants will be able to provide information for other parents on how to promote children's social and emotional skills, understand their behavior, and use positive approaches in parenting. TM provided technical expertise support to MoE to develop the program. The work was initiated in 2022 and will continue.

4.3.3 CIVIC EDUCATION WITH MALDIVES GIRL GUIDE ASSOCIATION

The program aims to encourage children to learn and practice aspects of civics and politics to help acquire the tools and skills necessary to become more empowered to make a change within their community. TM approached Maldives Girl Guide Association (MGGA) to collaborate in introducing a civic badge within their curriculum. The curriculum for the badge program was developed in 2022 and the program will be rolled out in 2023. This curriculum will complement the existing civic curriculum within formal education.

4.3.4 BUILDING ENTREPRENEURIAL, EMPLOYABILITY AND VOCATIONAL SKILLS

Young people face a lot of challenges in meaningfully engaging in their community; the lack of opportunities in the islands, unavailability of diverse job in communities, corruption and nepotism are some of the key grievances shared by the youth. TM conducted several interventions aiming to increase opportunities to develop career literacy, employability skills, and entrepreneurship building skills to address youth unemployment and under-employment.

4.3.5 DIGITALIZING VOCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

TM is working with Maldives National Skill Development Agency (MNSDA) to support digitalize all vocational training opportunities through a skill portal. This will enable easy access throughout the country and enable ease for service providers. The development of portal is ongoing, and once operationalized all vocational training in the country will be digitalized and processed through the portal. Digitalization of the services will also facilitate collection of data, that can enable evidence-based approaches in tackling unemployment challenges in the country.

4.3.6 VOCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

To provide opportunities for employment, TM opened certificate level 3 courses for vulnerable youth in Male' and Addu City. These opportunities were targeted for youth as an alternative pathway, outside of academic route to enable youth to find career opportunities. A total of 32 students completed the courses offered through private training providers.

4.3.7 BUSINESS PITCH COMPETITION

Transparency Maldives in partnership with Business Center Corporation (BCC) held business ideation camps in Male' and Addu City to build entrepreneurial capacity within Youth. Overall participation of youth in the camps were low, however the participants who completed the camp were extended support by BCC to further develop their business ideas and for participants who were already in home-based businesses where mentored and advised on how to market their products.



5. SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

As part of TM's initiatives to empower the role of civil societies in communities, TM issued subgrants to 6 NGOs in 2021 and their work continued in 2022. CSOs play a significant role in building social cohesion and resilience of communities. CSOs are also best placed to understand the community needs and wants and reach the most vulnerable populations within the community. The grants programs includes both preventive and rehabilitative interventions targeting youth in general as well as targeted rehabilitation and reintegration interventions for youth at risk or in socially vulnerable situations to support them become contributing members of the community.

Kulhudhuffushi City

- Subaward to Journey for drug awareness and rehabilitation support
- Subaward to MRC for First Aid awareness and training program

Hinnavaru

Lhaviyani Atoll

- Subaward to MRC for First Aid awareness and training program

Velidhoo

Noonu Atoll

- Subaward to Journey for drug awareness and rehabilitation support

Male' City

- Subgrant to FEM Health NGO for adolescent life skills program
- Subaward to MRC for First Aid awareness and training program
- Subaward to Journey for drug awareness and rehabilitation support

Kandoodhoo

Thaa Atoll

- Subgrant to Kandoo Sports Club for skills development and youth programs

Gemanafushi, Kondey

Gaafu Alif Atoll

- Subgrant to Dhivehi Masverin NGO - capacity building programs for youth

Madaveli, Thinadhoo, Hoadedhoo, Nadella

Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll

- Subgrant to Huvadhoo Aid NGO - capacity building programs for youth

Fuvahmulah City

- Subaward to Journey for drug awareness and rehabilitation support
- Subaward to MRC for First Aid awareness and training program

Hithadhoo, Addu City

- Subaward to Journey for drug awareness and rehabilitation support
- Subaward to MRC for First Aid awareness and training program

Meedhoo, Addu City

- Subgrant to FEM Health NGO for adolescent life skills program

5.1 JOURNEY NGO

Founded in 2005, Journey is one of the most dedicated CSOs working towards empowering and educating youth and the community on prevention of drug use and HIV. Since inception, Journey has openly advocated for reintegration, treatment and rehabilitation of young people suffering from drug addiction.

TM supported Journey in strengthening their preventative community-based support system for at risk individuals; increasing the psychosocial support capacity at community levels; and establishing mechanisms to address risk factors leading to recidivism among vulnerable individuals.

By the end of 2022, Journey has conducted their RISE program in three Fuvahmulah City, Addu City and Kulhudhufushi City.



Through the RISE program
Journey reached 7378
individuals across the
country.

Through outreach activities, Journey conducted life skills and leadership trainings, peer counselling calls, bi-weekly Narcotics Anonymous programs, group therapy and family counselling sessions.

5.2 MALDIVIAN RED CRESCENT

In 2021 TM awarded a project to the Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) to provide essential basic life support First Aid and Psychological First Aid trainings to vulnerable youth who are or maybe introduced to substance abuse.

Under the program, MRC carried out Standard First Aid Trainings, information sessions and awareness activities focusing on how to recognize and respond to drug overdose situations and emergencies. In 2022, these trainings were carried out in Kulhudufushi City, Male' City, Addu City and Fuvahmulah.

Training young people to recognize and respond to drug overdoses can significantly reduce the number of fatalities.

Under the program:

**373 INDIVIDUALS
TRAINED IN STANDARD
FIRST AID &
PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST
AID**

**272 STUDENTS REACHED
WITH FIRST AID &
PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST
AID INFORMATION**





5.3 FEM HEALTH

In 2021, TM awarded a sub-grant to FEM Health - a CSO established by a group of young doctors. The project aimed to decrease the vulnerability of adolescent school students in greater Male' area and Addu City towards substance use and abuse, by fostering resilient and healthy adolescent students that can contribute positively towards Maldivian society.

In 2022, FEM Health conducted their resilience training in Male' and Addu City reaching 224 students. FEM Health also launched their Social Media Campaign in 2022.

**224 STUDENTS REACHED WITH
INFORMATION ON SUBSTANCE USE AND
ABUSE, TO FOSTER A RESILIENT AND
HEALTHY COMMUNITY**





5.4 KANDOO SPORTS CLUB

In December 2021, TM awarded a grant to Kandoo Sports Club (KSC), a civil society based in Th. Kandoodhoo, to conduct youth and women empowerment programs in their community. Under this program, Kandoo Sports conducted career guidance workshop, educational life skills, sports engagement and practical life skills development.

Under the project, Kandoo Sports also renovated an abandoned building in their community as a youth centre. The youth centre was renovated with new sports equipment and people in the community started to actively use the space. Additionally, specific times were allocated for women only, as to create a more safe and comfortable space for them to use.

**KSC REACHED 169
INDIVIDUALS INCLUDING
STUDENTS, YOUTH,
WOMEN, EDUCATORS**





5.5 DHIVEHI MASVERIN

The goal of this project by Dhivehi Masverin, supported by TM, was to teach youth in Ga.Gemanafushi skills that will allow them to earn a living. The successful completion of this project will ensure that those among the youth who want to earn a living by starting their own businesses will have access to relevant information and skills.

In 2022, swimming lessons were conducted for students of Ga.Kanduhulhudhoo and Ga.Kondey in 2022. Total 136 students took part in this, of which 49% were girls. In Kandulhudhoo 40 women, including parents and teachers, also participated, showing the wide community support for the activity.

During 2022, Dhivehi Masverin conducted an open water diving program, opened up for youth in Gemenafushi. Twelve men started the program and ten completed it. A 17-day sports coaching camp was conducted in Gemanafushi, attended by 86 students. including 20 girls. The camp aimed to introduce and teach new sports; basketball, handball, netball, and beach volleyball.

DURING TM'S MONITORING VISITS TO THE ISLANDS, ALL STAKEHOLDERS GAVE POSITIVE FEEDBACK FOR THE PROGRAMS, ESPECIALLY ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS.



REACHED 227 STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THEIR PROGRAM

REACHED 141 INDIVIDUALS INCLUDING PARENTS, TEACHERS, YOUNG PEOPLE

5.6 HUVADHOO AID

The goal of the project is to build the resilience of vulnerable populations and at-risk groups such as youth, men and women alike in order to create an atmosphere for young people to grow into contributing citizens of the Maldivian society. The objectives of the project include; developing and conducting programs to support vulnerable youth to reduce gang recruitment and drug use, establishing long-term youth, and community engagement programs.

Some of the activities conducted by Huvadhoo Aid include; life skills and peer education programs, advocacy and public awareness, and engagement through sports.

22 INDIVIDUALS IN HUVADHOO TRAINED AS TRAINERS ON LIFE SKILLS AND PEER EDUCATION



6. ADVOCACY & LOBBYING

Much of TM's advocacy messages, campaigns, and lobbying efforts are designed to mobilize grassroots support and to get more citizens to join the call for transparency, accountability, and integrity in the public sector. As such, in 2022, TM utilized various mediums to advocate on issues and to get public support for our campaigns.

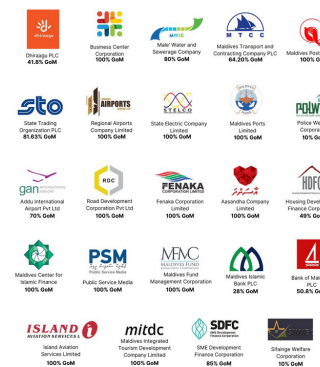
6.1 CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX 2021

The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) is an annual survey by Transparency International that scores and ranks countries based on the perceived level of corruption in that country. Following the release of CPI 2021 in January 2022, TM created various social media messages to inform the public of the score and used these messages to drive greater advocacy related to public participation, asset declaration, abuse of state resources, and human rights abuses.



6.2 #MABASSAA

TM launched the '#MaBassaa' (translates to 'include me') campaign in 2016, with the aim of empowering citizens to proactively seek information and participate in development projects related to climate change. In 2022, TM expressed concerns regarding the the Waste Management Act (WMA) with provisions to allow the importation of any type of waste into the Maldives. TM also called for greater public consultation in changes to legislation.



6.3 #MAGEYHISSAA

In 2021, to create awareness on governance of SOEs, TM commenced a SOE social media campaign, where TM launched the hashtag #MageyHissaa (loosely translated to "my share, my say"). In 2022, continuous social media messages were disseminated highlighting SOE related issues and advocating for greater transparency & accountability.

6.4 CONCERNS REGARDING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE EMPLOYMENT ACT

TM and Trade Union released the joint press statement noting that the proposed amendments to the Employment Act violates the rights of migrant workers in Maldives.

6.5 CORRUPTION IN THE PROCUREMENT OF VENTILATORS

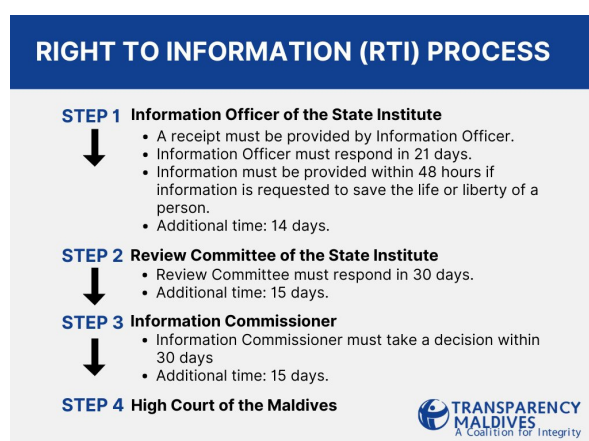
TM called on the State to ensure accountability and recover funds lost to corruption in the procurement of 75 ventilators during the COVID-19 pandemic.

6.6 #AHAADHAA

'Ahaahoadhaa' (meaning 'ask and find out') campaign was launched by TM in 2013 to lobby the Parliament to pass the Right to Information (RTI) Act. The campaign resulted in the passage of the RTI Act in 2014.

In 2022, TM continued the effort in creating public awareness regarding the RTI Act and how to use the tool to demand accountability.

Access to information ensures that communities are well informed about decisions that may affect them, increasing their public participation as well as building public trust and confidence in the government and public institutions.



6.7 JOINT PRESS STATEMENT REGARDING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND WOMEN

TM released a joint press statement with other CSOs regarding the sexual violence against children and women in the Maldives.

While the Maldives has adopted all United Nations Conventions against sexual violence and passed formal laws to adopt them, there is a visible lack of State's commitment to take nationwide preventative measures, strengthen the protection systems, fully implement the laws, and hold institutions accountable for their inaction.

Additionally, the prevalent culture of victim blaming remains one of the biggest factors that reinforces perpetrator impunity and the prevailing notion that sexual abuse is the fault of the survivor, resulting in a needless cycle that continues to deny justice to those who need it.

6.8 TM CONDEMNS DRAFT BILL ENCROACHING ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Transparency Maldives condemns the draft amendment bill to the Penal Code Act (9/2014) proposed by the Government that encroaches on freedom of expression. This bill is yet another step backwards by the Government, undermining democratic consolidation and fundamental human rights in the Maldives.

We reiterate our calls on the Government to live up to its commitments to protect and promote freedom of expression, increase trust in public systems, and remove all impediments against the constitutionally guaranteed freedom of assembly in order to promote political participation without any restriction.

6.9 AMEND PROVISION IN THE EVIDENCE ACT THAT COMPELS JOURNALISTS TO REVEAL SOURCES

TM, Maldives Journalist Association, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Reporters Without Borders, Centre for Law and Democracy, CIVICUS, International Federation of Journalists, Maldives Editors Guild and Committee to Protect Journalists jointly called on the authorities to repeal or amend the provisions of the Evidence Act in line with international human rights law and standards. Furthermore, consultations are ongoing with international and local experts including journalists, editors, and human rights activists, before the Act comes to force.

6.10 POLICY AND GAP ANALYSIS FOR SDG 16 MALDIVES 2021

Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call for action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. Transparency International launched a SDG16 Spotlight Reporting Initiative in 2017, for civil society to analyze the framework in place to achieving the SDG 16 targets and to report on current situation. Following this, TM published the policy and legislative gap analysis study for Maldives for SDG16 2021.

7. KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER & EXCHANGE

TM emphasizes greatly on facilitating a knowledge driven culture at the organization by providing capacity building opportunities for staff as well as opportunities for staff to exchange knowledge with partners, CSOs and other relevant organizations. Below is a list of workshops, trainings and exchange programmes TM staff participated in the year 2022.

- Introduction to Parliament Oversight & Legislative Scrutiny, 18 January - 20 March 2022
- RTI Practitioners Training, 24-26 March 2022
- Aleph Dataset available for NGOs and how to build an investigation or research project, 26 April 2022
- Research Method for Asset Tracing, 28 April 2022
- Philippines Election Observation, 11 April - 10 May 2022
- Peer Visit to Sri Lanka, 18 - 11 May 2022
- National HR Convention & Expo 2022, 21 -22 May 2022
- Media Literacy and Disinformation TOT, 2 - 7 June 2022
- CIPE Monitoring and Evaluation Training, 29 June 2022
- National Workshop on Enhancing Partnership and Collaboration Between Law Enforcement and CSOs and Local Communities, 4-6 July 2022
- Design a Winning Campaign, 7 July 2022
- Strengthening the Working Capacities of CSOs, 6 August 2022
- Security Training - 14 -15 August 2022
- Regional Responses to Kleptocracy in South Asia, 18 - 19 August 2022
- Assessing the Transparency and Governance of States and Municipalities, 25 August 2022
- Information Session on Open Government partnership, 21 September 2022
- Training on Human Rights Defenders Manual, 28-29 September 2022
- Data Literacy Training, 10 -14 October 2022
- Campaign Finance and Electoral Integrity: Impact, Monitoring and Advocacy, 19 - 21 October 2022
- Social Audit and Public Participation, 1- 2 November 2022
- Participatory Budgeting, 6 November 2022
- Combatting Human Trafficking Workshop , 8-10 November 2022
- International Anti Corruption Conference 2022 , 6 - 10 December 2022
- Bali Democracy Forum, 6 - 8 December 2022
- Social Media Monitoring, 21 December 2022

8. FINANCIAL REVIEW

8.1 STRENGTHENING INTERNAL POLICIES

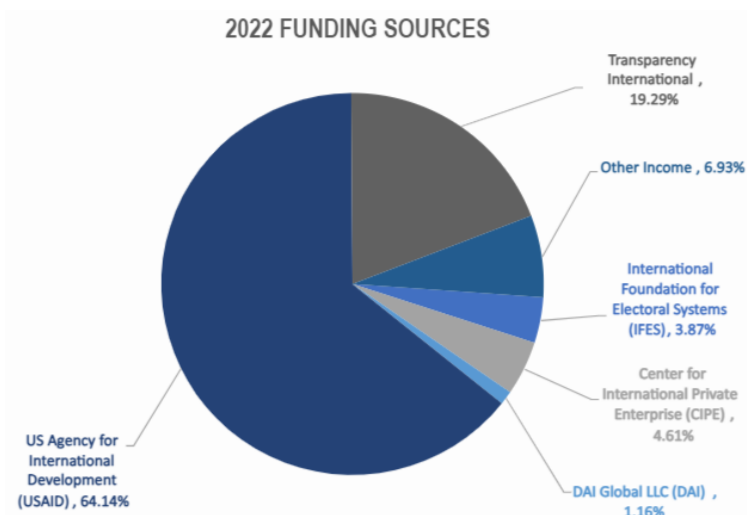
In 2022, significant efforts were made to strengthen TM's financial operations and implementing effective financial policies and controls. A comprehensive finance policy, outlining the guidelines and procedures for financial management, expenditure control, procurement, and reporting was adopted, and serves as a framework to ensure consistency, compliance, and best practices in financial operations.

In alignment with the Finance policy, a cost allocation policy was also introduced for charging indirect expenses, enhancing costing methodology strengthens financial analysis, budgeting, and decision-making processes.

8.2 INCOME

Operating income for the year 2022 was USD 1,283,915, 40% higher than the operating income reported in 2021, which was USD 912,012.

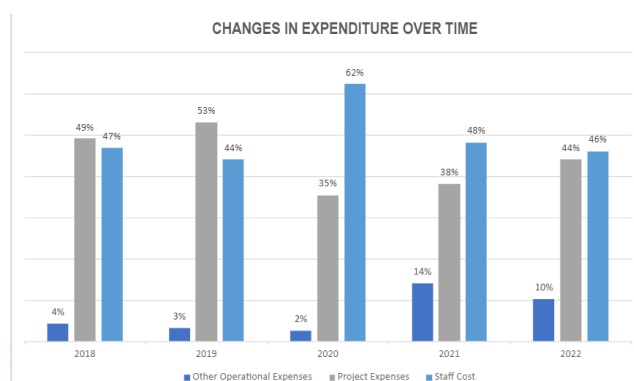
64% of the operating income was contributed by USAID amounting to a total of USD 823,463, followed by 19% of funding secured through Transparency International for three different projects.



8.3 EXPENDITURE

Total operating expenditure for the year amounted to USD 1,168,242, a 25% increase over the reported expenditure for 2021. The increase in expenditure reflected the expansion of program activities conducted throughout in 2022 compared to 2021 when several program interventions, especially outreach work was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Staff expenses formed the most substantial portion of the total expenditure accounting for approximately 46% of the total expenditure for the year. Program expenses amounted to USD 513,305, accounting for approximately 44% of total expenditure, reflecting the significant investment made in program initiatives. Additionally, TM spent USD 118,246 towards other operational expenses during the year 2022.



All currency is in United States Dollars unless otherwise stated.

9.4 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (AUDITED)

	31 December 2022	31 December 2021 (Restated)
ASSETS		
Non-Current Assets		
Property, Plant & Equipment	50,814	67,200
	<u>50,814</u>	<u>67,200</u>
Current Assets		
Prepaid Expenses	2,364	8,521
Receivables	284,537	100,203
Cash & Cash Equivalents	46,929	204,609
Advances & Deposits	8,800	8,800
	<u>342,630</u>	<u>322,134</u>
Total Assets	<u>393,444</u>	<u>389,334</u>
RESERVES & LIABILITIES		
Reserves		
	<u>336,857</u>	<u>221,185</u>
	336,857	221,185
Current Liabilities		
Payables	23,679	93,963
Deferred Income	32,908	74,186
	<u>56,587</u>	<u>168,149</u>
Total Reserves & Liabilities	<u>393,444</u>	<u>389,334</u>

All currency is in United States Dollars unless otherwise stated.

This is TM's financial position for 2021 and 2022 audited by AIX Associates

9.5 STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	31 December 2022	31 December 2021 (Restated)
Income	1,283,915	912,013
Total Operating Income		
Operating Expenses	(118,246)	(107,223)
Program Expenses	(333,638)	(206,115)
Contract Services	(179,667)	(165,982)
Personnel Expenses	(536,691)	(449,746)
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>115,673</u>	<u>(17,053)</u>

All currency is in United States Dollars unless otherwise stated.

9. BOARD GOVERNANCE

9.1 BOARD COMPOSITION

As per the Article of Association, the Board of Directors of Transparency Maldives consists of 7 members including 1 Chairperson, 1 Financial Controller, 1 General Secretary/Executive Director, and 3 General Board Members.

At the date of the approval of this report, the Board of Directors comprised of the following members:

Interim Chairperson: Uz Hazrath Rasheed Hussain,

Financial Controller: Mr. Ahmed Najaaf Saleem

General Board Member: Ms. Fathimath Razeena,

General Board Member: Ms. Shurufa Abdul Wahidh

Executive Director/General Secretary: Ms. Asiath Rilweena

During the year 2022 the following Board members also served on the Board of Transparency Maldives:

Uz Ahmed Muizzu, Chairperson (term ended on 28th September 2022)

Ms Salma Fikry, General Board Member (resigned on 13th February 2023)

Ms Najiya Hameed, General Board Member (term ended on 28th September 2022)

Mr Mohamed Inaz, Financial Controller (term ended on 28th September 2022)

9.2 BOARD MEETINGS

The Articles of Association requires Board meetings to be held once a quarter. During the year 2022, a total of six Board Meetings were held.

Name	Designation	Board Attendance							
			Q1	Q2	Q3		Q4		AGM
			Feb 17	May 26	Jun 20	Jul 3	Sep 20	Oct 06	Sep 28
Uz Ahmed Muizzu	Chairperson	5/5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Uz Hazrath Rasheed Hussain	Interim Chairperson	6/6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr. Ahmed Najaaf Saleem	Financial Controller	1/1						✓	✓
Mr. Mohamed Inaz	Financial Controller	4/5	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Ms. Fathimath Razeena	General Board Member	1/1						✓	✓
Ms. Shurufa Abdul Wahidh	General Board Member	1/1						✓	✓
Ms. Salma Fikry	General Board Member	0/1							✓
Ms. Najiya Hameed	General Board Member	2/5			✓		✓		✓
Ms. Asiath Rilweena	Executive Director/Gen eral Secretary	6/6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

9.3 KEY DECISIONS OF THE BOARD IN 2022

- Review and Approval of the Leave Policy
- Review and Approval of the Audited Financial Statements for 2021
- Review/Approval of the Finance Policy and Allocation Policy
- Approval of new members to TM
- Discussion of Election of Board Members
- Review of the draft membership policy of Membership list
- Selection of External Auditor for 2022 and 2023
- Approval of Annual Report 2021
- Discussion of Annual Membership Fees and Members
- Appointment of Interim Chairperson and Financial Controller
- Review of Board Composition
- Approval of new bank signatories

9.4 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting for the year 2021 was held on September 28, 2022, at 20:30 hours to 21:40 hrs. Meeting was held in a hybrid mode, with members attending in virtually via zoom and in person at Transparency Maldives Office, at H. Fennaage 3rd Floor, Buruzu Magu, Male Maldives. 16 members were in attendance at the AGM, including all the sitting Board members, meeting the quorum of the AGM as required by the Article of Association. The Executive Director and the Board Secretary and five staff members were also in attendance at the meeting.

The following resolutions were passed at the Annual General Meeting:

- Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021, were approved with 15 members voting in favour of the resolution.
- Approval of Annual Reports for the year ended 31 December 2021 were approved with 15 members voting in favour of the resolution.
- A.I.X Associates were approved as the External Auditors for 2022 with 15 members voting in favour of the resolution.

10.5 BOARD ELECTION

As only four members applied/were nominated for the position of general members, all of the following four members were elected automatically as per Article 17.18 of the Articles of Association of Transparency Maldives.

- Mr. Ahmed Najaaf Saleem,
- Ms. Shurufa Abdul Wahidh,
- Ms. Salma Fikry and
- Ms. Fathimath Razeena

There were no application/nominations for the position of Chairperson, making the position vacant. An interim Chairperson and Financial Controller positions will be appointed by the Board from within the current Board of Directors, as per the Articles of Association.

