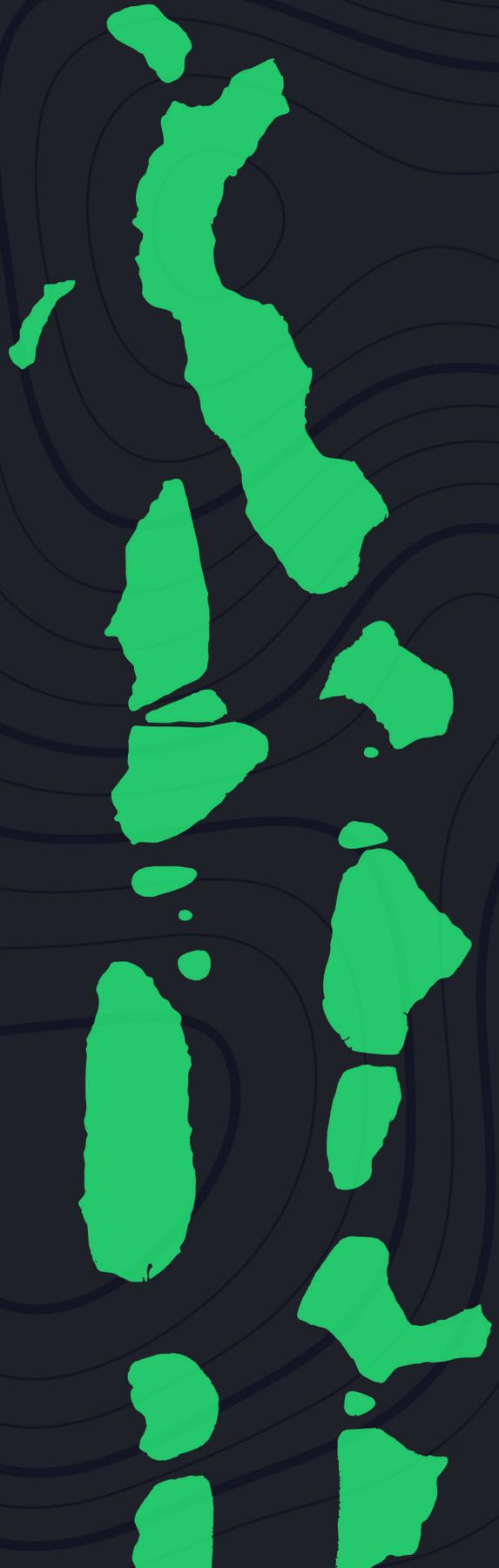


GLOBAL CORRUPTION BAROMETER SURVEY 2020

MALDIVES



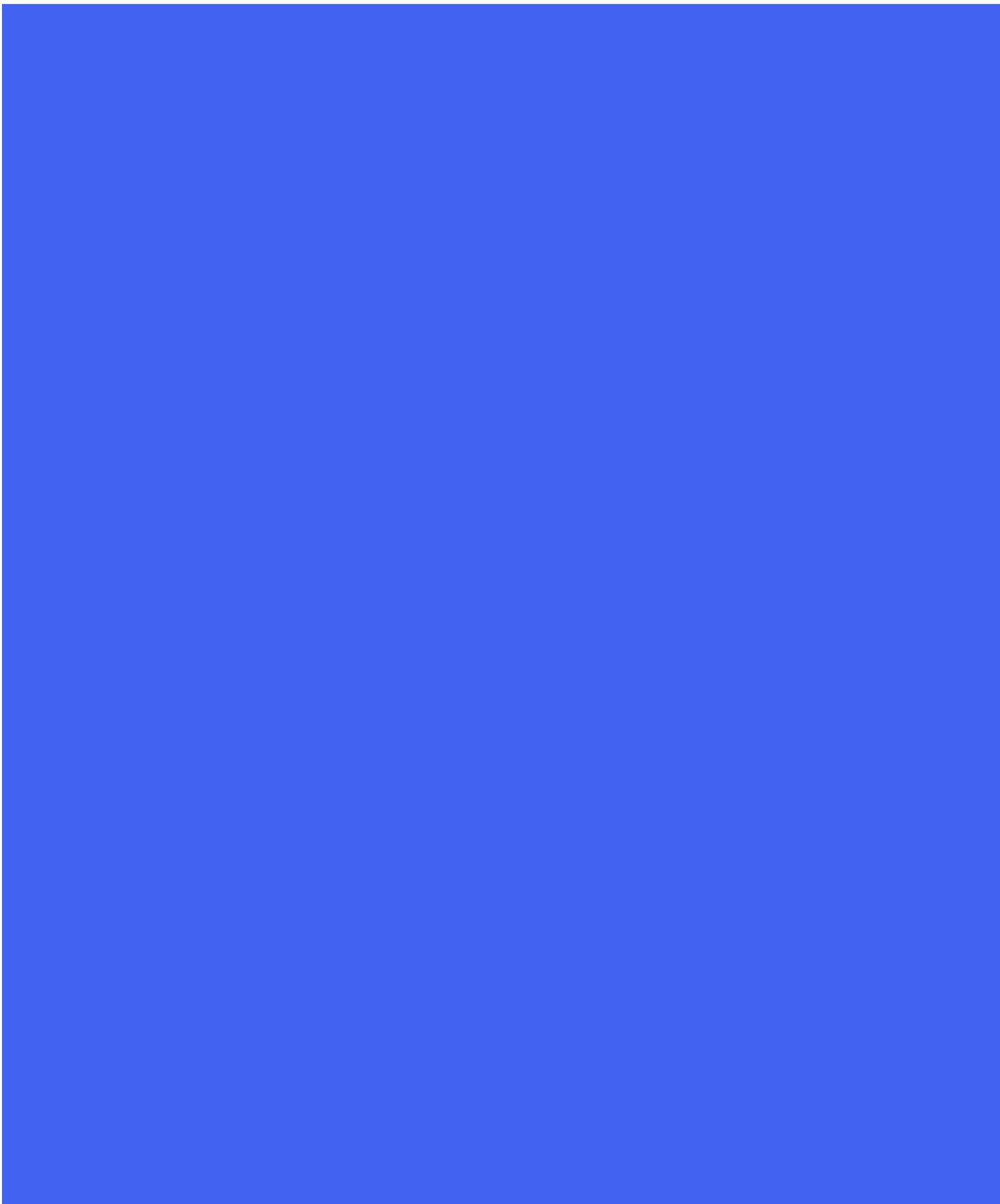


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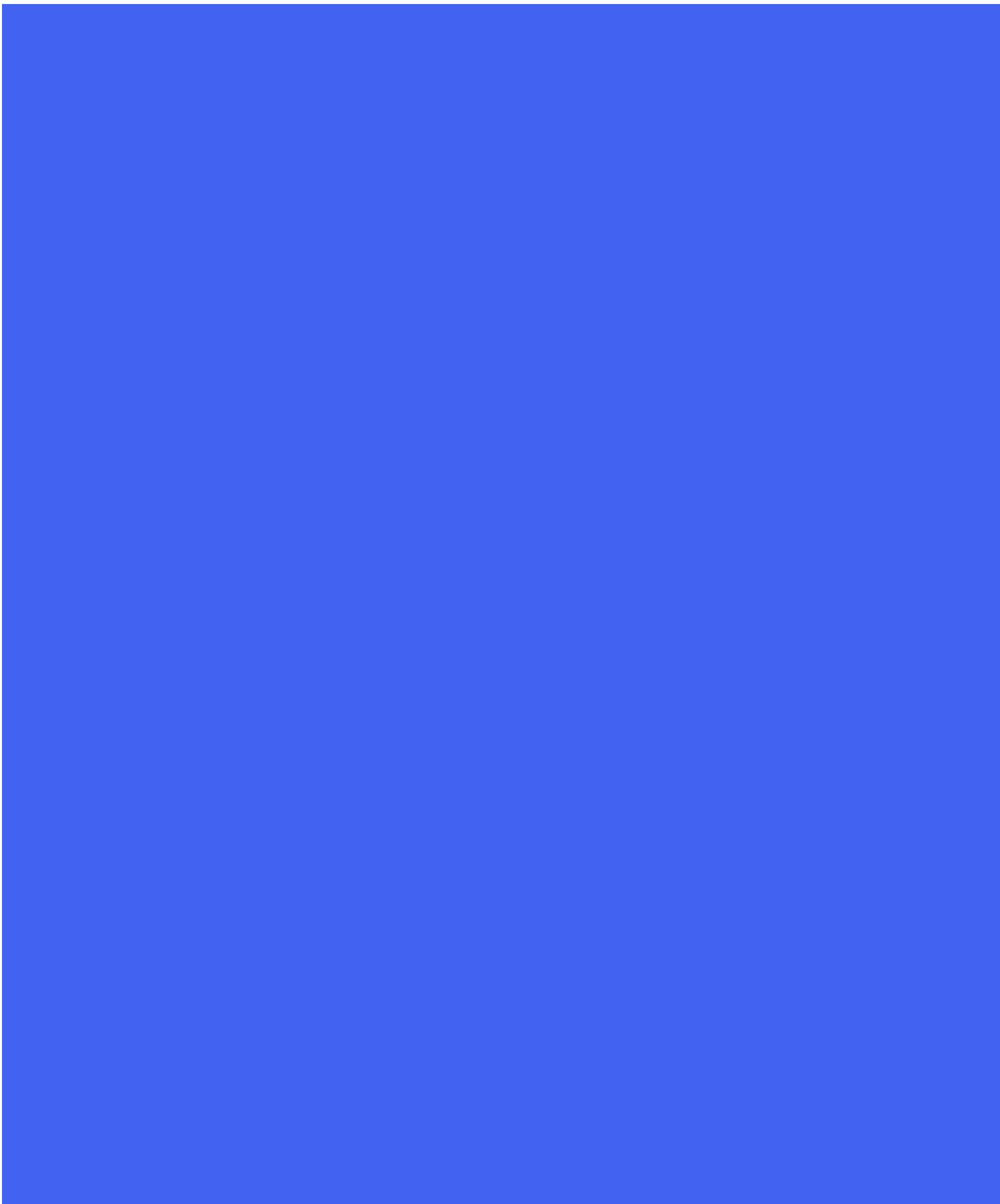
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) is the largest and most detailed public opinion survey that gauges citizens' views of corruption and personal experiences of bribery on a global scale. The survey has been published by Transparency International, the leading global anti-corruption movement, since 2003. This year, the GCB was surveyed in 17 countries in Asia, including the Maldives.

The Global Corruption Barometer 2020 – Maldives, published by Transparency Maldives, a National Chapter of Transparency International, is based on data collected through a survey conducted throughout the Maldives. The key findings reported include public perception of government corruption and how direct experiences of corruption, through bribery, sextortion, or vote-buying, affect the lives of Maldivians. This report is based on findings from a sample of 1031 Maldivians aged 18 and above.



KEY FINDINGS

01

**GOVERNMENT
CORRUPTION
IS A BIG PROBLEM:**

90%

A staggering 90% of Maldivians think corruption in the government is a big problem in the Maldives.

02

**CORRUPTION IS
ON THE RISE:**

53%

53% of citizens think corruption increased in the last 12 months, while an additional 24% think it stayed the same.

03

**PARLIAMENTARIANS
ARE SEEN AS MOST
CORRUPT:**

50%

50% thinks most or all members of the parliament are corrupt.

04

**GOVERNMENT IS
FAILING TO TACKLE
CORRUPTION:**

53%

53% of citizens think the government is doing a bad job tackling corruption.

05

**BRIBERY IS A MAJOR
ISSUE IN URBAN
AREAS:**

2%

Out of Maldivians who accessed public services in the past 12 months, 2% were directly asked to pay a bribe to get the services they needed.

06

**USE OF PERSONAL
CONNECTIONS
IS HIGH:**

15%

One in nearly six citizens (15%) who accessed public services in the past 12 months used personal connections to get the service they needed.

07

**VOTE-BUYING IS
A MAJOR
ISSUE:**

18%

18% of citizens were offered bribes in exchange for votes in the past five years.

08

**CITIZENS CAN
MAKE
A DIFFERENCE:**

>1/2

Despite fears of retaliation for reporting corruption, more than half of Maldivians believe ordinary citizens can help stop corruption.

METHODOLOGY

2.1

TARGET RESPONDENT

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the interviews for this survey were conducted via telephone using random digit dialing (RDD) as a sampling approach. Interviews were conducted among Maldivians aged 18 to 82 years from all 20 administrative atolls of the Maldives. Respondents were from urban and rural areas, including the capital, Male’.

2.2

SAMPLE SIZE AND COMPOSITION

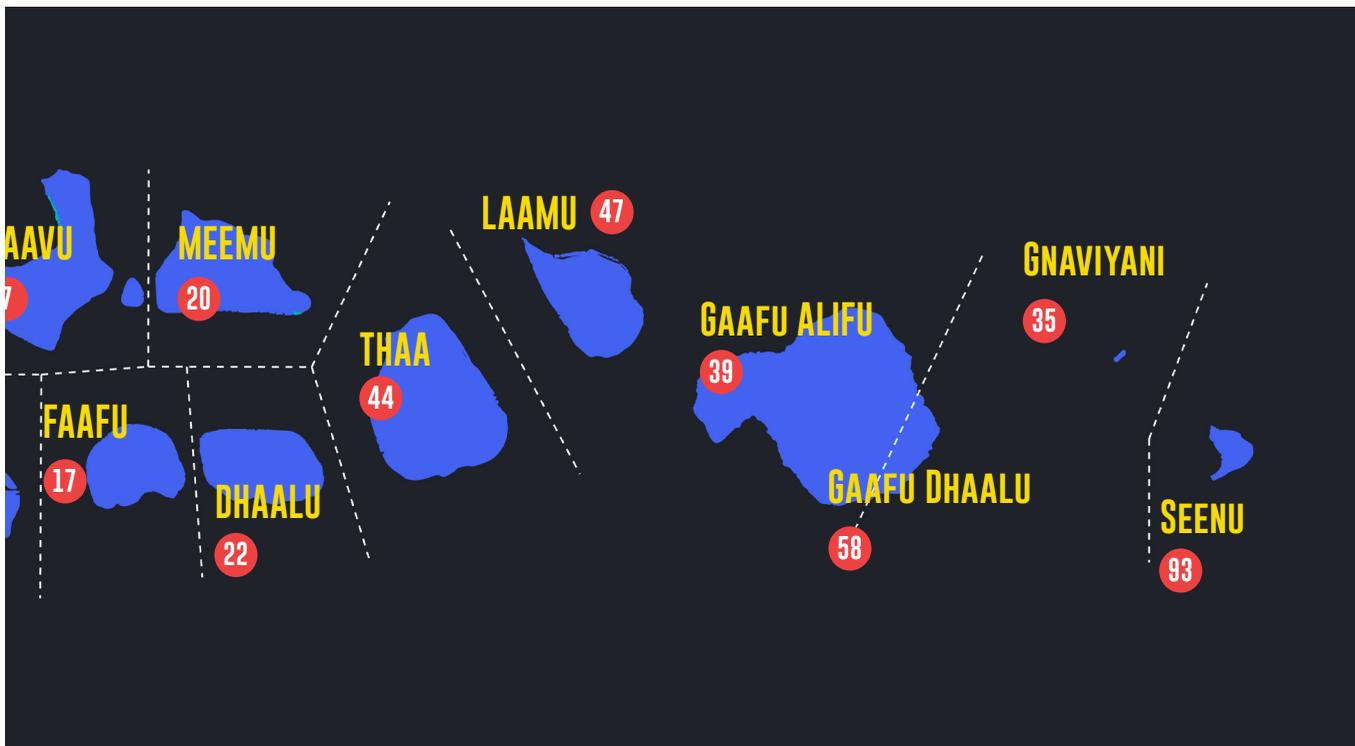
A total of 1031 respondents were surveyed as outlined below. The survey used probability theory in determining the sample size that can represent the population of Maldives. The Random digit dialing (RDD) approach in sampling used in this survey helped in covering geographical areas. It is a probability sampling method used to derive a sample of households, families, or



persons through a random selection of their telephone numbers.

According to the standard calculation for a sample size from an adult local population of 236,000, with the level of significance of 99% ($\alpha=.01$), and a margin of error of 5% ($E=\pm 5\%$), the calculated minimum sample size is 662.

For this survey, a sample of 1031 was used, which is statistically significant and representative of the population – even if the population heterogeneity in relation to their experience of corruption is factored in.



2.3.

FIELD WORK

2.3.1 INTERVIEW LANGUAGE



Interviews were conducted in Dhivehi.

2.3.2 FIELDWORK DATES



Interviews were conducted from 16 August to 18 September 2020

2.3.3 REFUSALS



55 refusals were reported when requested for interviews. The refusal rate was 5% $[55 / (1031+55) \times 100]$.

2.3.4 MARGIN OF ERROR



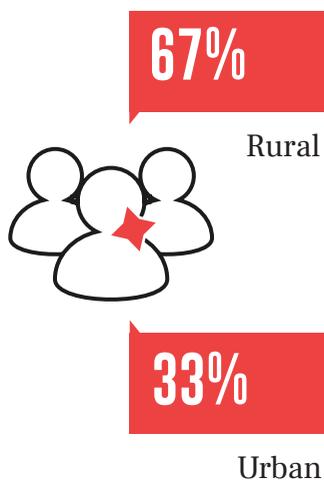
The results have a margin of error of +/- 5.0 percentage points at 95 percent confidence level.

SAMPLE PROFILE

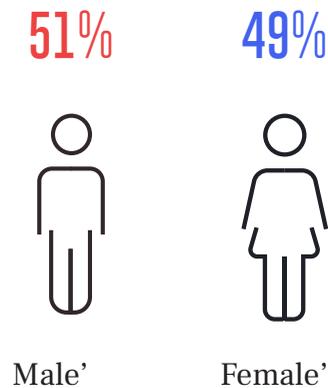
3.1

DEMOGRAPHICS

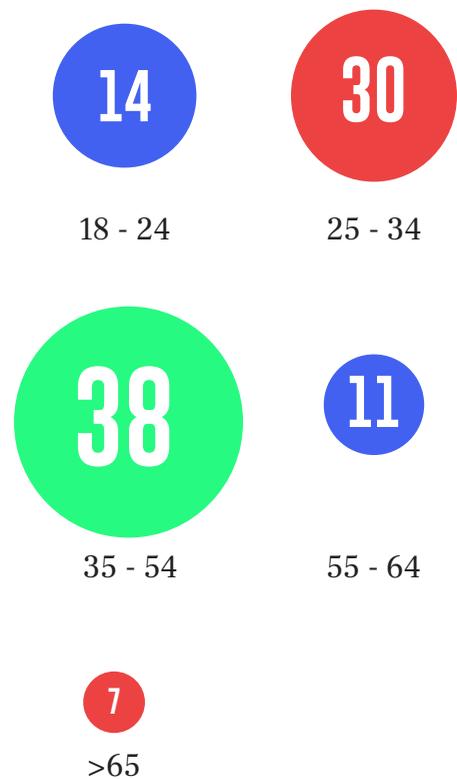
% of respondents from urban and rural areas



% of respondents according to gender



Age groups of the respondents were classified as below



A total of 1031 interviews were conducted, whereby 51% of respondents were men and 49% were women. From the sample population, 33% respondents are from urban areas and 67% are from rural areas.

3.2

WORKING STATUS OF RESPONDENTS

60% of the respondents were employed while more than 9% were unemployed.

60% ▲
EMPLOYED

Working full-time
(more than 30 hours per week)

55%



Working part-time
(less than 30 hours per week)

5%



Homemaker

13%



Retired

7%



9% ▼
UNEMPLOYED

Not working and
Looking for work

9%



Student

2%



Does not
work & not seeking
for job

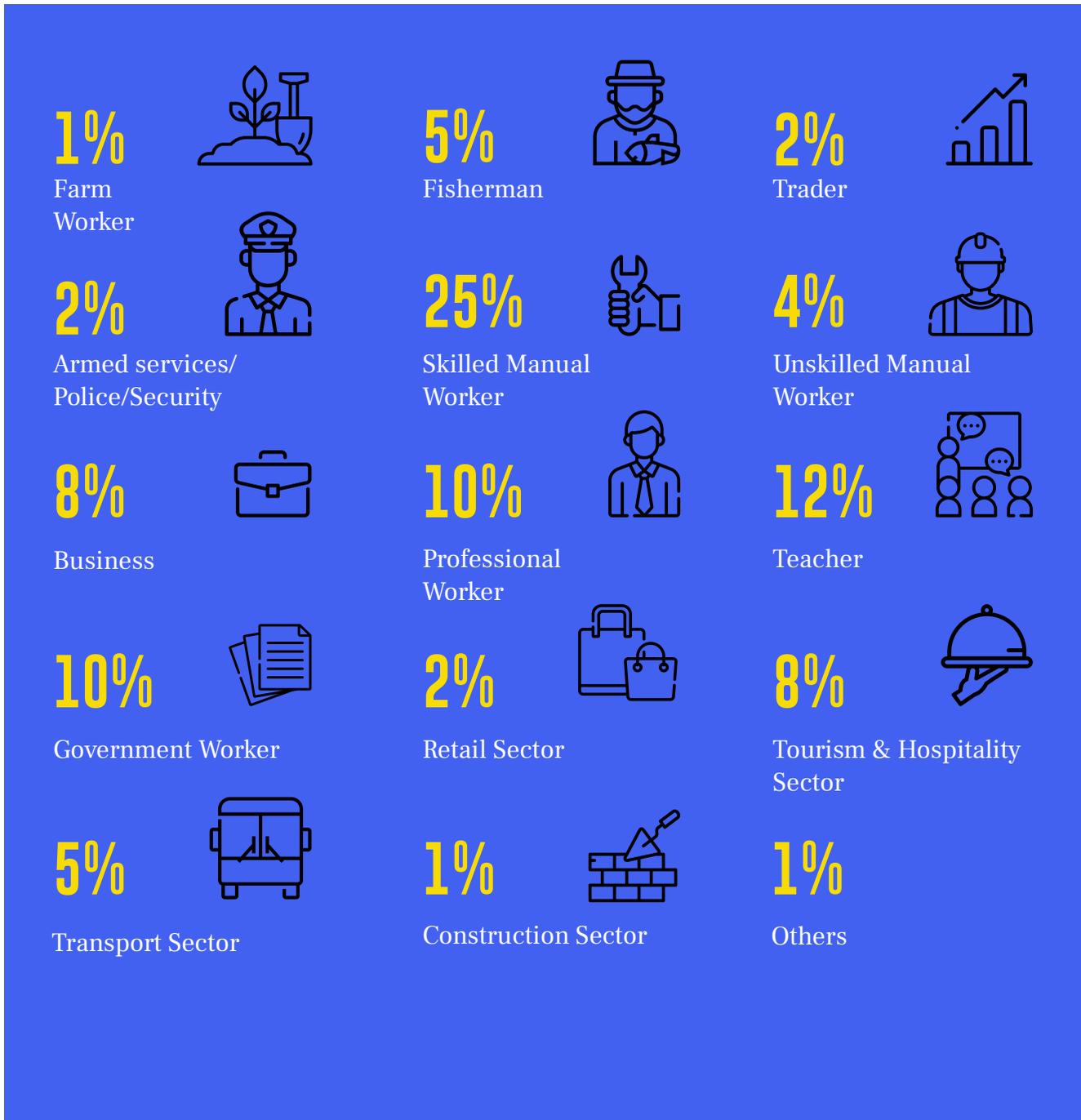
5%



3.3

TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT

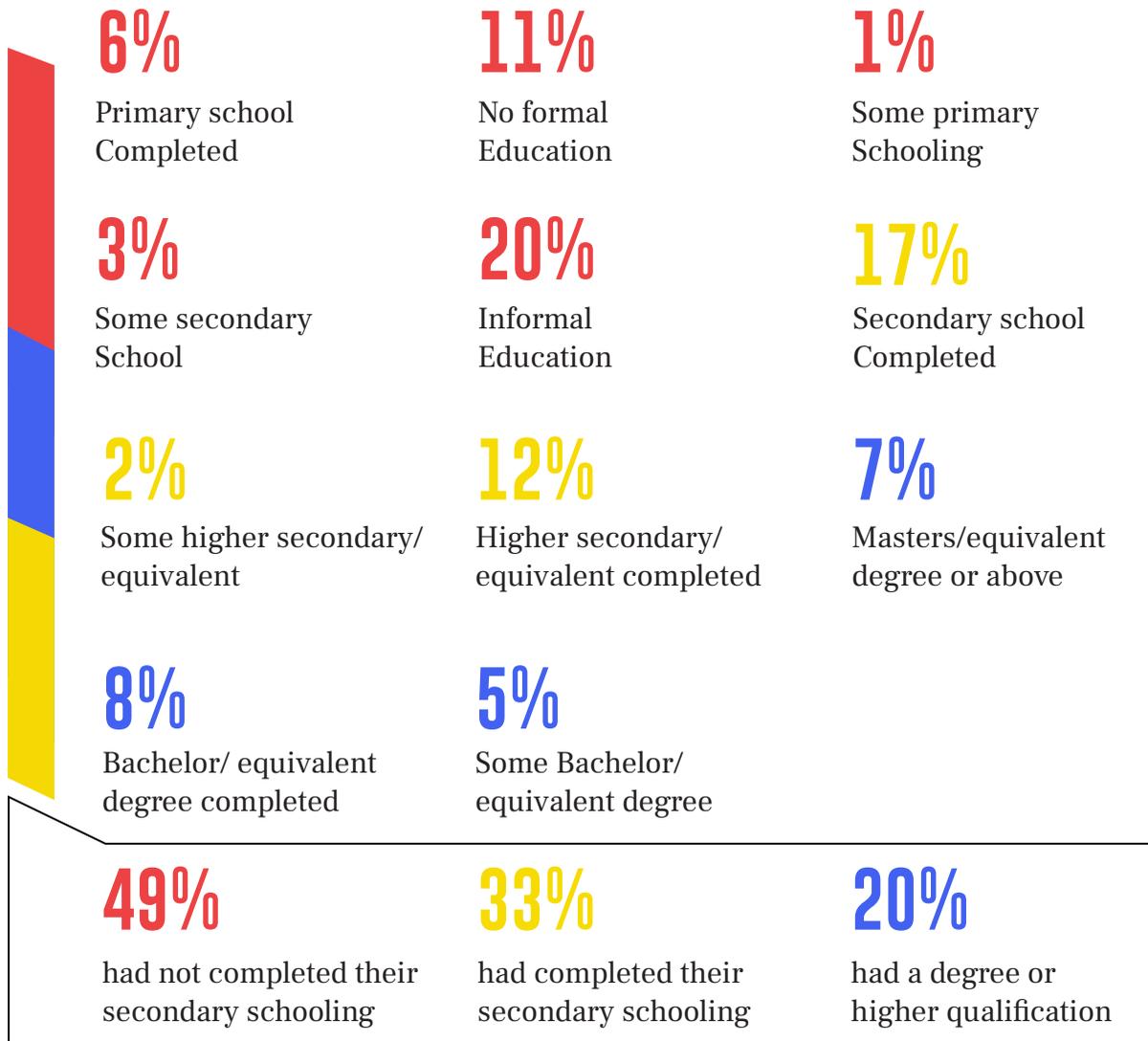
The working respondents were from a variety of occupations.



3.4

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

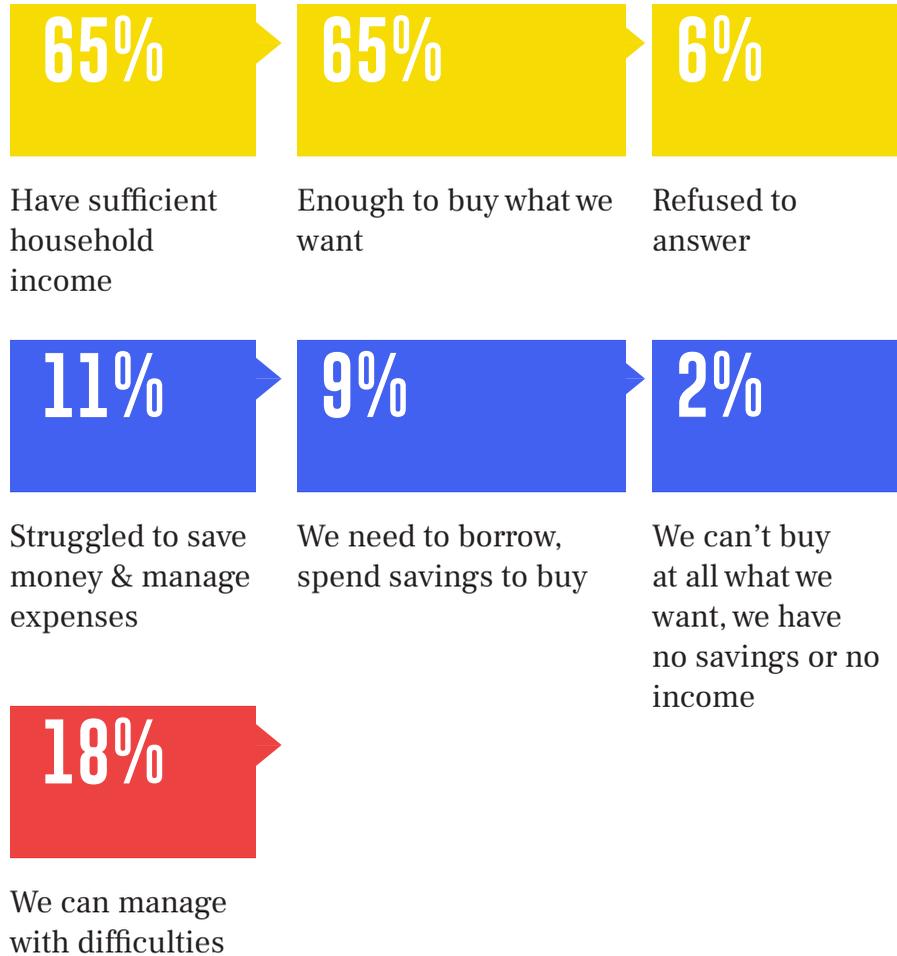
Out of the respondents, 49% had not completed their secondary schooling, while 33% had completed their secondary school and 20% had a degree or higher qualification.



3.5

AFFORDABILITY OF GOODS AND SERVICES

65% said that they have sufficient household income. 18% said they could manage but with difficulty. The remaining 11% expressed that they struggled to save money and manage their expenses.



FINDINGS

4.1

GENERAL INSIGHTS ON CORRUPTION IN THE MALDIVES

4.1.1

LEVEL OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT, COURTS, AND POLICE

Regarding the trust for Government, 42% responded positively while 55% were negative. As for the Courts, 31% responded positively while 64% were negative. 51% responded positively toward their trust with Police, while 46% were negative.

The difference between these institutes establishes that there is a disparity between the level of trust, whereby the government and Courts outweigh the level of trust when compared with the Police.

Government

55% **42%**

Police

46% **51%**

Courts

64% **31%**

4.1.2

GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION IS A PROBLEM

An overwhelming majority of Maldivians believed that corruption in government is a big problem. Only 5% think corruption is no problem or a small problem.

No problem or small problem

5%

Big problem

90%

4.1.3

CORRUPTION HAS INCREASED

When asked whether corruption has increased, decreased, or stayed the same in the last 12 months, 53% of Maldives think corruption has increased while only 15% think corruption has decreased. Majority of citizens from urban and rural areas as well as majority of women and men believe that corruption has increased.

Corruption
has increased

53%▲

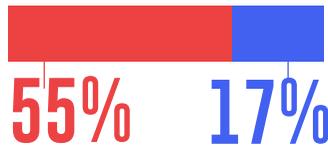
Corruption
has decreased

15%▼

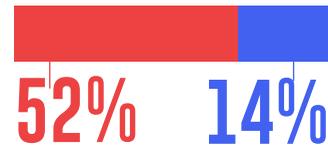
Corruption has
remained the same

24%▼

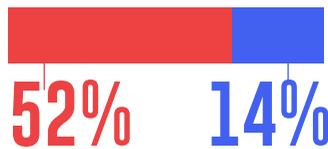
Urban



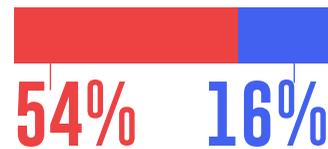
Rural



Male



Female



■ Increased

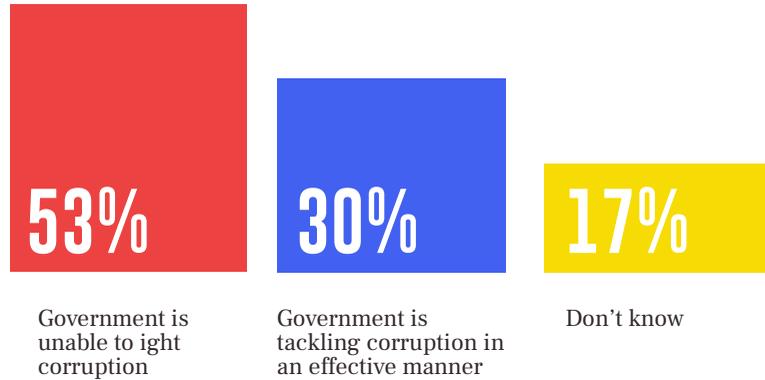
■ Decreased

4.1.4

PERCEIVED SUCCESS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN TACKLING CORRUPTION

Majority of Maldivians are dissatisfied with the government's performance in tackling corruption. 53% think the government is failing to fight corruption, whereas 30% think the government is doing a good job.

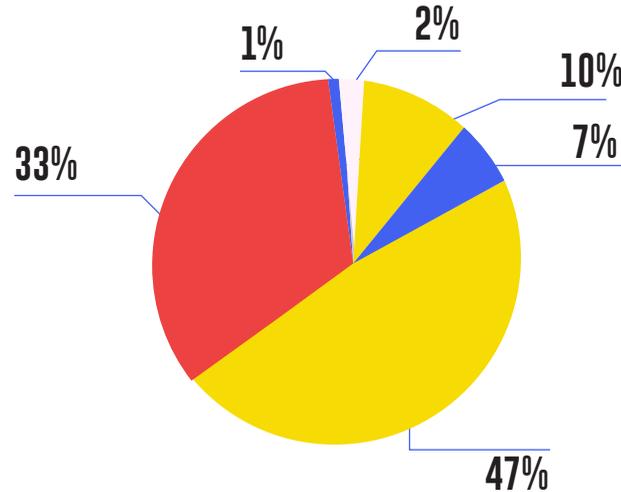
Government's ability to tackle corruption



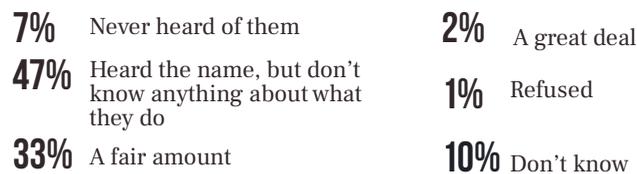
4.1.5

ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION IS DOING A BAD JOB TACKLING CORRUPTION

82% of Maldivians are aware of the existence of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), while 17% are not. It is important to note that 47% are not aware of the duties and responsibilities of the ACC in mitigating corruption within the country.

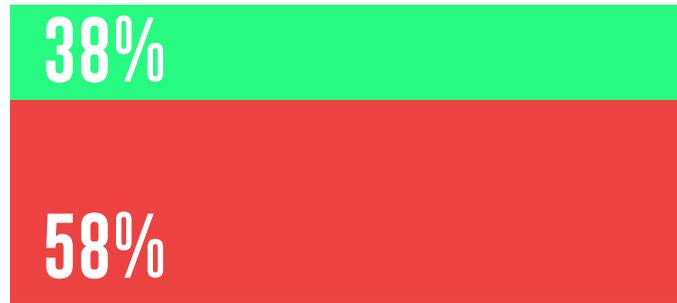


Awareness about ACC



Perceived Success in fighting corruption

Additionally, 58% believe that the ACC is doing a bad job in tackling corruption, while only 38% agree that they are doing a good job.

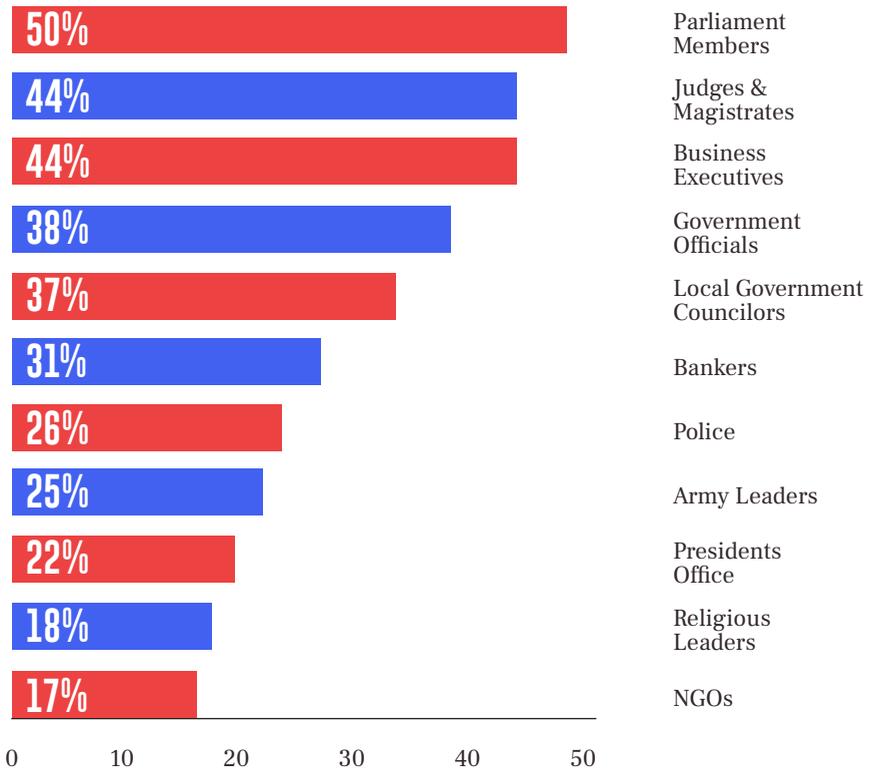


4.1.6

PARLIAMENTARIANS ARE THE MOST CORRUPT

When asked how much corruption is in various institutions, 50% think most or all members of the parliament are corrupt. Judges/magistrates and business executives are also among the top three groups thought to be most involved in corruption.

Perceived corruption in various institutions most or all who are involved



4.2

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH BRIBERY

Citizens were asked whether they paid a bribe, gave a gift, or did a favour to receive a service they needed from a public institution. 2% said that they paid a bribe at least once within the last 12 months to the officials of the public institutions depicted below.

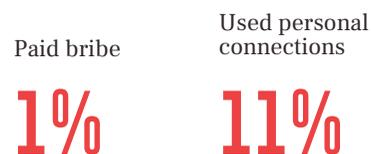
Public Schools

1% of citizens from among the 17% who were in contact with public schools in the last 12 months have paid a bribe. 11% said personal connections were used to get the services they needed.



Public clinics or hospitals

Public clinics or hospitals: 1%, among the 51% of respondents who were in contact with public clinics or hospitals, paid a bribe. 11% used their personal connections to get the services they needed.



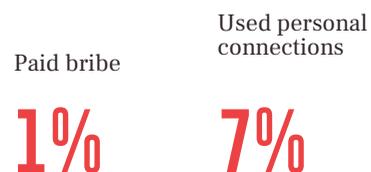
Identity documents

Identity documents: 24% interacted with government officers in the last 12 months, and among them 1% paid a bribe. 10% used their personal connections to get the services they needed.



Utilities

7% of citizens interacted with public utility service providers, of which, 1% admitted to having paid a bribe. 7% used their personal connections to get the services they needed



Police

Of the 15% that interacted with the police, 2% paid a bribe in the last 12 months. 9% used their personal connections to get the services they needed.

Paid bribe

2%

Used personal connections

9%

The Courts

10% of respondents had interactions with the Courts, and among them, 1% paid a bribe to get the assistance they needed or to avoid a problem. 6% used their personal connections to get the services they needed.

Paid bribe

1%

Used personal connections

6%

4.2.1

MAIN REASONS FOR PAYING A BRIBE

Of those who paid a bribe in the past 12 months, 27% of citizens were asked to pay a bribe. 22% stated that while they were not asked to pay a bribe, they knew it was expected of them. 36% of men paid a bribe to get things done quicker or better, while women did not pay such a bribe

Asked to pay a bribe

27%

25%

Men

71%

Citizens from Urban Area

20%

Citizens from Rural Area

Knew it was expected

22%

4.2.2

MAIN REASONS FOR USING PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

Out of those who used a personal connection to get a service, 37% of men and 33% of women believe they would not have received the service without their personal connection. 42% of men and 44% of women used their personal connection to get a quicker or better service than what is usually offered.

29% from urban areas and 40% from rural areas think they would not have received the service without their personal connection. 33% from urban areas and 50% from rural areas used their personal connection to get a quicker or better service than what is usually offered.

Used Personal Connection

37%

Men

33%

Women

29%

Citizens from Urban Area

40%

Citizens from Rural Area

Quicker or better service than what is offered

42%

Men

44%

Women

33%

Citizens from Urban Area

50%

Citizens from Rural Area

Citizens with a tertiary education had the highest percentage, amounting to 35%, agreeing that they would not have received the service without their personal connection. 25% of respondents with primary education and 37% of respondents with secondary education used their personal connection to get a quicker or better service than what is usually offered. Students (55%) and unemployed population looking for jobs (43%) had to use their personal connections the most to get a service. 68% homemakers were the most to believe that they would not have got a quicker or better service without using their personal connection.

Used Personal Connection

35%

Tertiary

55%

Students (Unemployed)

43%

Unemployed Looking for job

Quicker or better service than what is offered

25%

Primary

37%

Secondary

68%

Homemakers

4.3

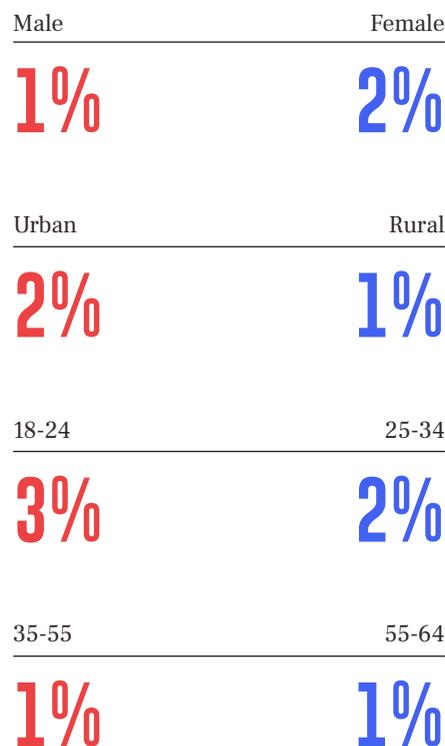
SEXTORTION

Sextortion is the abuse of power to obtain a sexual benefit or advantage and often occurs in exchange for public services. Respondents were briefed about sextortion and were asked how often, if at all, they thought sextortion occurred in the Maldives.

A total of 1% admitted that they have been a victim of sextortion.

1% of men and 2% of women revealed to have encountered sextortion, which does not account for a notable difference between genders.

No significant difference was seen comparing urban (2%) and rural (1%) areas. In addition to that, people within the age group of 18 to 24 (3%) and 25 to 34 (2%) reported to have had the most cases of sextortion.



4.4

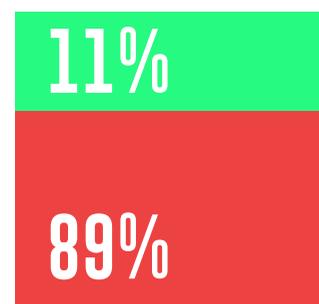
TAKING ACTION

4.4.1

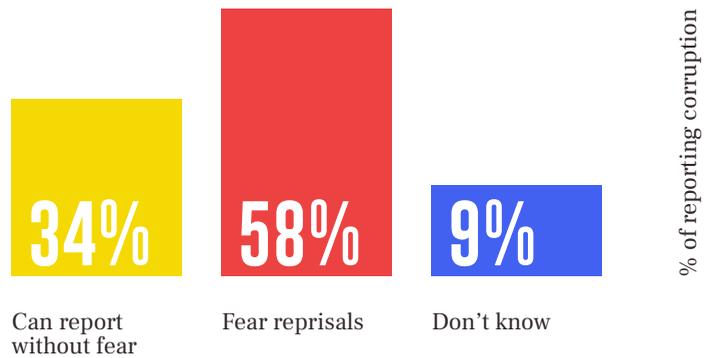
REPORTING CORRUPTION

11% of citizens said that they reported an incidence of paying a bribe to a government official or someone in authority.

Less than 1% reported an incidence in which the police or state institutions asked a respondent or a member of their household for a bribe, gift or favour in return for bypassing Covid-19 related restrictions



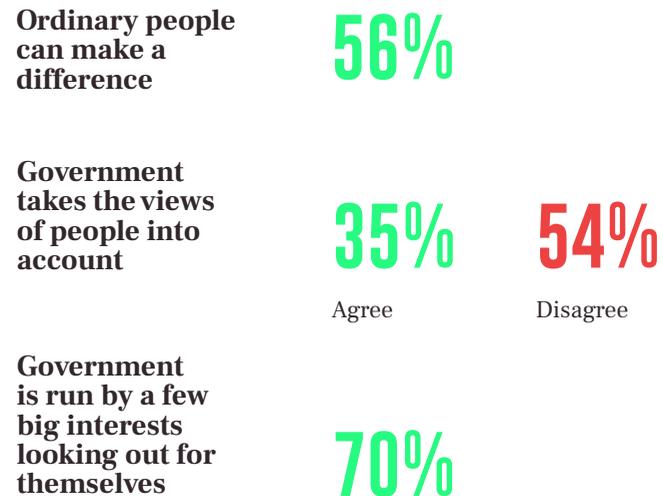
Moreover, 58% admitted that they fear retaliation if corruption was reported. On the other hand, 34% believes that they can report an act of corruption, without any fear.



57% of respondents believe that government authorities will not take any action when corruption is reported, while 24% agrees that action will be taken by the Government authorities.



In addition to that, 56% of respondents agree that ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption. 35% expresses that the government takes the views of people into account when making decisions, while 54% does not agree with the statement. Over 70% of citizens think that the government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves.

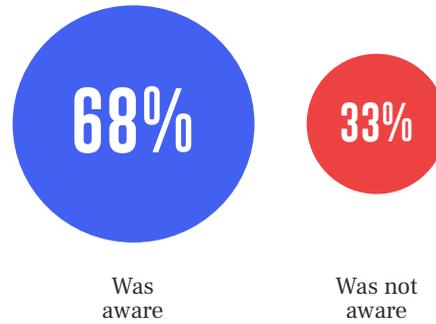


4.4.2

RIGHT TO INFORMATION

68% were aware of the right to request for information from government, while 33% were not aware. However, despite the high level of awareness, only 13% have officially contacted a public body to request for information.

% aware about their right to request information from government



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Corruption was noted to be perceived as very high within the public service providers, especially the Members of the Parliament, Judges and Magistrates of the Courts, business executives as well as among Government officials. Majority of the respondents agreed that corruption is a huge problem rooted within the Government, whereby they also agree that their voice is constrained in achieving transparency across the public institutes. They also derive the conclusion that, their freedom of speech will not weigh upon the decisions of the Government toward mitigating corruption here in the Maldives.

Low number of reporting incidents of corruption is one key challenge to be tackled. In addition to that, over 58% expressed that they fear of retaliation if they were to report any acts of corruption. This raises another challenge on reducing corruption within the public institutions and integrating transparency in the public services provided to the community. On top of that 57% agrees that the government will fail to take an action, even if acts of corruption were reported. This aligns with the 90% agreeing that they do not trust the government to properly tackle the problem of corruption. Thus, this raises the third challenge in ending corruption in the public sector.

Based on the findings of this report, the following recommendations are suggested. Firstly, it is imperative that the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) of Maldives pursue to investigate allegations of bribery or corruption, to strengthen the fight against corruptive measures pouring into the socio-cultural, economic, and political dimensions. Building public faith in the system should be the steppingstone toward mitigating corruption across the public sector since public awareness is key to success in this regard. To do so, the public needs be widely enlightened on how to report corruption, regarding the wide arrays of situations where corruption is persistent. Different channels need to be opened to lift their voice and bring that assurance over to the public. Thus, calling upon all the stakeholders involved within the nation, to step up in following through out with zero tolerance toward corruption and creating a culture of integrity among both public and private sector institutes and its initiatives.

