

Leave no one
behind-

CHILDREN IN MALDIVES

USING CENSUS 2022

MALDIVES BUREAU OF STATISTICS
MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LAND & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

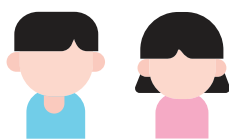


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Children in Maldives



119,159

Children

Children accounts for **31%** of the population.



In Maale, children account to 28% of the population while one third of the population living in Atolls are children.

The share of child population among resident Maldivian is highest in B. Kihaadhoo, followed by AA.Ukulhas.

The child population in Maldives has shown significant changes over the years. In 1990, children accounted to more than half of the population. Since then, children have decreased as a proportion of the total resident Maldivian population. In 2022 child population constitute 31% of the population, down from a peak of 53%.



Children under 1 year has shown a gradual decrease from 2% to 1%.



Children under 5 years have shown a fluctuation going from 11% to 9% and again from 11% to 8%.

Children under 18 years used to account to half of the population (48%). Today, children share in the population has decreased from 48% to 31%.

CHILD & ELDERLY DEPENDENCY RATIO, 1990-2022

Year	Ratio
1990	98 people depending on 100 people of working age group
2022	47 people depend on 100 people of working age group

Sex Ratio at Birth
 Census 2022 showed there are 103 boys to 100 girls being born. Census 2014 showed a deviation from the normal range, which recorded the highest increase in SRB.

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3,401

Children with Disability

Prevalence of disability
among children
(5-17 years)



4%

Disability prevalence
rate is among
children.

PREVALENCE OF DISABILITY AMONG CHILDREN BY AGE, 2022



3.8%

children
between
5-10 years

The highest rate of disability is observed among those elder children with 12-year-old children recording the highest prevalence of disability.

PREVALENCE OF DISABILITY BY TYPE



At national level, children face difficulty mostly in seeing followed by difficulty in communicating and self-care.



In Maale, majority of the children face difficulty in remembering and communicating.



In Atolls, children face disability in seeing, remembering and communicating.

PREVALENCE OF DISABILITY BY TYPE



687 (1%)

children with severe
disability

MULTIPLE DISABILITY AMONG CHILDREN

1,017 (1%)

children face
multiple disability

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LIVING ARRANGEMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS (0-17 YEARS)



74%
reside with both
parents



22%
reside with one
parent



2%
reside without any
parent

LIVING ARRANGEMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS (0-17 YEARS)

Children residing with both
parents by locality



79%
Maale



71%
Atolls

CHILDREN LIVING WITH ONE, BOTH, OR NO PARENTS BY LOCALITY



ATOLLS

Higher single-parent
households (26%)
compared to Maale
(15%)



MAALE

Slightly higher
proportion living
without parents (3%)
compared to Atolls
(2%)

CHILDREN LIVING WITH NO PARENTS



Across various Atolls,
0.9% to 3.3% of children
live without parents



Potential correlation
observed between child
migration rates and
children living without
parents.

RATES OF CHILDREN IN JOBLESS HOUSEHOLDS



8%
children reside in jobless
households



5%
Maale



11%
Atolls

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION OF POPULATION BELOW 18

Majority reside
in regular
households
(99%)

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LITERACY AMONG CHILDREN



99%
proficiency in Dhivehi
language among
children aged 10 to 17.



98%
proficiency in English
language among
children aged 10 to 17.

CHILDREN CURRENTLY STUDYING



91%

Children aged 2 to 17 are engaged in some form of study, with higher participation among girls compared to boys.

Attendance rates vary across age groups, with full participation during early childhood and primary education, declining during adolescence.

CHILDREN'S CURRENT ATTENDANCE BY DISABILITY STATUS



Almost 100% attendance is observed among children without disabilities, while children with disabilities face challenges, particularly at age 13.

MODE OF STUDY AMONG CHILDREN CURRENTLY STUDYING

The Maldivian education system encompasses diverse learning opportunities, including formal schooling, college/universities, and alternative modes like homeschooling.

GENDER PARITY INDEX (GPI)

GPI below 1 favors boys, above 1 favors girls, close to 1 signifies balanced access.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

Slight favor towards boys (0.95), consistent over years.

LOWER SECONDARY EDUCATION

Worsening gender disparity favoring boys (0.98 to 0.93).

HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION

Shifting towards favoring girls (1.00 to 1.15).

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CHILDREN CURRENTLY NOT STUDYING

Focus on ages 2-17, priority age bracket.

Children not attending school

9,450

Republic



5,118

Male



4,332

Female



6,345

(1,719 boys, 1,386 girls)

Maale



3,105

(3,399 boys, 2,946 girls)

Atolls

Despite not having attended school, a notable proportion of children aged 10-17 years in the Maldives possess basic literacy skills.

CHILDREN CURRENTLY NOT STUDYING BY DISABILITY SEVERITY

PRE-SCHOOL AGE

24% out of school due to severe disability.

PRIMARY-SCHOOL AGE

Majority out of school in primary age group due to severe disability.

Only 1% of children aged 16-17 out of school due to severe disability

EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

Educational attainment crucial for community productivity and economic potential.

Varied landscape in educational achievement among children aged 2-17.

Disparities observed between Maale and Atolls, particularly in higher secondary education.

Majority complete lower secondary education; A' Level and diploma attainment relatively low

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EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF CHILD POPULATION

17,651

Children aged 15-17 years



Approximately 1 in 6 children aged 15-17 are part of the labour force

Education remains a priority for the majority of children in this age group, with significant enrollment rates observed.

CHILDREN IN EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION

Employed children 15-17 years by occupation



Service and sales workers, clerical support workers, and professionals are among the prominent occupational categories

EMPLOYED CHILDREN BY AGE

58%
Boys

42%
Girls

Employment rates increase with age, peaking at 27% among 17-year-olds.

Girls' representation in employment is slightly lower compared to boys, with notable differences in occupation distribution.

EMPLOYED CHILDREN 15-17 YEARS BY TOP 10 OCCUPATION



Cashiers and ticket clerks constitute the most common occupation, employing 21% of children aged 15-17 in the workforce.

GENDER DISPARITIES



Gender disparities exist across various occupational categories, highlighting the need for gender-sensitive labour market policies.



Girls tend to be underrepresented in certain occupations, while boys dominate others

CHILDREN IN EMPLOYMENT

180,374

Total employed population aged 15 and above

2,268

Employed children aged 15 to 17

Only 1.3% of the total employed population comprises children aged 15-17.

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INDUSTRY DISTRIBUTION AMONG EMPLOYED CHILDREN

Employed children 15-17 years by Industry



35%
Wholesale and retail trade; Repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles



18%
Accommodation and Food Service activities



13%
Public administration and defense; compulsory social security

HOURS WORKED BY EMPLOYED CHILDREN

Employed children 15-17 years by average hours of worked

MOST COMMON HOURS



Eight hours per day for the majority, with a notable portion working for twelve hours.



GENDER VARIATION

Boys slightly more engaged in longer working hours compared to girls.

GENDER DISPARITIES IN EMPLOYMENT

Employed children 15-17 years by Industry



Boys

Dominant in Wholesale and retail trade, Repair of motor vehicles, and Accommodation and Food Service activities.



Girls

Predominant in Education and Manufacturing sectors.

INFORMAL SECTOR EMPLOYMENT

Employed children 15-17 years by informal, formal and household sector



PREVALENCE

38% of employed children engaged in informal sector work



GENDER DISPARITY

More boys in formal sector, more girls in household employment.

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INFORMAL VS. FORMAL EMPLOYMENT

Employed children 15-17 years by informal and formal employment

68%
Informal employment

32%
Formal employment

AGE VARIATION

Informal employment increases with age among adolescents

NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, OR TRAINING (NEET) RATE:

NEET rate for children 15-17 years by Sex

**APPROXIMATELY 16%
ACROSS ALL REGIONS**

Overall NEET Rate



GENDER VARIATION

Slight differences in NEET rates between boys and girls

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AMONG CHILDREN

Unemployment rate for children 15-17 years by locality

REGIONAL VARIATION

20%
Republic



GENDER DISPARITY

23%
Boys

17%
Girls



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