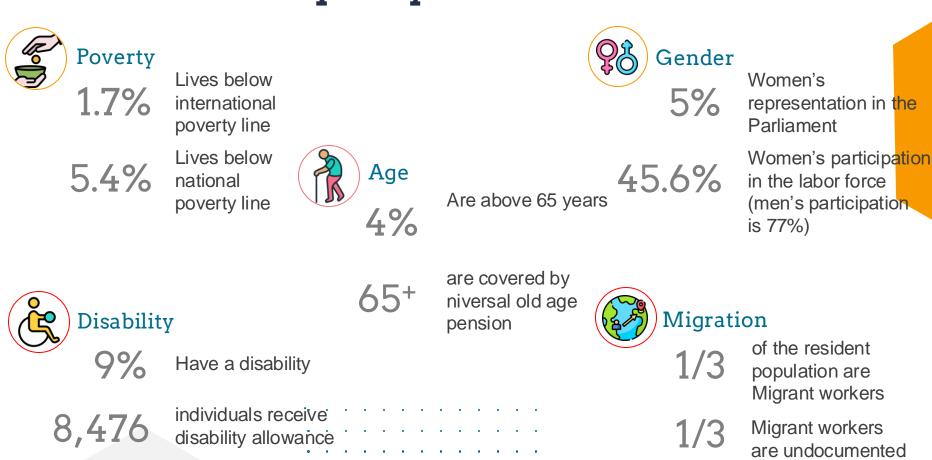


Inequality in the Maldives



Inclusion Strategy of SAI Maldives



SAI Maldives' Inclusion Strategy will aim to;

- prioritize audits in areas of inequality
- establish audit objectives that cover critical areas such as gender equality, poverty alleviation, immigration issues and disability inclusion
- conduct social impact assessments, to evaluate the impact of government policies on equality, diversity and inclusion

Relevant Audits

Performance Audit on Institution Response to Child Abuse

Performance Audit of the Family Support & Social Services Division

Performance Audit of Social Protection Scheme (Centre for Mental Health & Elderly People)

Service Coordination for People with Developmental Disabilities

Main Findings – The Usual Suspects

Weak & fragmented regulatory framework

Weak institutional arrangements

03 Resource constraints

Inefficiencies in managing resources

Inefficiencies in implementation of policies and programs

Choosing a Dimension





In which dimensions do we perform the least favorably?



Which dimension receives the least policy focus?



Which areas have we (as an SAI) not covered?



Where can we create the most impact?

Poverty

Background and Risks at a Glance

- low poverty rate
 - 5.4% lives below national poverty line
 - Yet 11.2% lives at risk of falling into poverty

- Inequality Issue
 - 90% of the poor are concentrated in the atolls

- little policy focus
 - no explicit policies or regulatory instrument
 - responsibility has not been assigned to any ministry
 - causes and drivers have not been identified

- costly, welfare and assistance system
- 15% of government budget is ear marked for assistance and subsidies
- Yet most of these are universal and so benefits the rich

- fragmented social protection system
 - welfare benefits are extended to a few categorical groups
 - SPS does not meet ILO floors
 - duplications and leakages

reforms are underway

 reforms of subsidy system and National Health Insurance Scheme are in progress

About the Audit

Title

Effectiveness of Government's Initiatives to Alleviate Poverty



focus on initiatives related to poverty reduction or initiatives that have pro-poor objective from 2019 to Q2 of 2024



02

assess whether cohesive regulatory, governance and operational arrangements exist between different actors working directly or indirectly to alleviate poverty in the Maldives and examine the effectiveness of current policies and programs in

alleviating poverty



03



Objective

Audit Focus



Regulatory Gaps

Identifying regulatory and governance gaps

Progress of Reform

Assessing the extent to which planned reforms would address Social Protection Floors of ILO and address targeting issues

Effectiveness

Measuring the
effectiveness of donor
funded projects with
employability
objectives

SDG Progress

Measuring the progress of SDGs relevant to poverty and equality

Impact Expected from Audit





achieve policy cohesiveness with clear responsibility frameworks to address poverty issues

ensure the issue of poverty receives policy focus

improve targeting in selecting recipients / beneficiaries for;

- social protection schemes
- social programs
- donor-funded projects with pro-poor and employability objectives

reduce duplications in the existing framework

Challenges

01

Lack of clear goals and policy cohesiveness

02

Complexity

Opportunities

Policy focus & mainstreaming

Improved targeting of govt programs

04 Increased awareness

Creating value in the lives of vulnerable groups