



**Support to Civil
Society Development
in the Maldives: *Small
Grants Facility***

Project Proposal

UNDP Maldives

10 May 2010

**SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT IN THE MALDIVES: *Small Grants Facility*
PROJECT 2010-2011**

Narrative

The main objective of the project is to help strengthen civil society through targeted support to NGOs, particularly in the field of human rights, and to financially support NGOs and CSO initiatives in human rights, governance, rights based developments and gender equality.

Programme Period:
June 2010 – Dec 2011

Programme Component: Democratic
Governance
Project Title: Support to Civil Society
Development in the
Maldives: Small Grants
Facility

Project ID: *Assigned on Approval*
Duration: **June 2010- Dec 2011**
Management Arrangement: Grants
Facility and Direct

Estimated budget: **AUD400,000**

Allocated resources:

- Government _____
- Regular _____
- Other:
 - Donor AUSAID
 - Donor _____

Unfunded budget:

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Situation Analysis

Background

The Republic of Maldives is comprised of small, low-lying coral islands, grouped into administrative atolls and regions. The population of approximately 300,000 people are scattered over 194 inhabited islands. The people of Maldives are unified by a common national identity with a common religion, culture and language. Traditionally dependent on fishing, the economy is now largely based on a thriving tourism industry. The country has experienced significant socio-economic achievements, and the Maldives is set to graduate from Least Developed Countries (LDC) status to a Middle Income Country (MIC) in 2011.

In the past few years, Maldives has experienced a series of rapid changes in the social and political sphere, with a new Constitution ratified on 7th August 2008. The historic new Constitution, which largely adheres to international human rights standards, has defined a legal framework to establish democratic governance in the country. Following this change, for the first time in the country's history separation of powers of judiciary, legislative and the executive was instituted in 2008. The first multi-party election for Presidency was held in October 2008, and parliamentary elections were held in May 2009. The introduction of decentralized governance to the country is imminent, with the approval of the Bill by the Parliament in late April 2010.

A major democratic change that has transformed the socio-cultural fabric of the country has been the space created for civil society through explicit guarantee of the rights of freedom of expression and association. Indeed, the Strategic Action Plan of the Government launched in November 2009 guarantees that space will be allowed for individual freedoms and the civil society to thrive. It also highlights the development of a media which is free from state interference, and which functions as a platform for democratic discourse.

The democratic reforms, while providing immense opportunity for positive change, have placed a great deal of strain on society and institutions. The country is in a transitional phase with over 120 bills yet to be passed, to allow the rights and freedoms guaranteed in the new Constitution to take effect. With the subsequent vacuum created in the legal and regulatory framework, there has been a growing tendency to politicise issues, which have led to significant social tensions in a country that is coming to terms with accommodating multiple ideologies and viewpoints. The vacuum has also encouraged the growth of more conservative interpretations of Islam, which is in some cases resulting in a roll back in social development advances. Civil society and moderate political groups find it difficult to resist parts of this extreme agenda. The emerging issue of growing religious conservatism has also further complicated the situation regarding women's empowerment. The newly created space for freedom of expression has been exploited by more conservative factions of religious groups and increasingly voice is being given to more conservative interpretations regarding women's freedom, rights and development.

On the other hand, the impact of a free society is especially apparent in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment. In a radical advancement for women's rights in the country, the new Constitution removed the gender bar from top executive position in the nation, creating a legal foundation for women's participation in politics. However, there are many challenges to gender equality in public life, and women's political participation and representation in decision-making remains minimal. Gender equality and women's empowerment also is one of the three MDGs on which Maldives is lagging behind. Currently only 5 out of 77 Parliamentarians are women. Similar trends are visible in employment, where the number of women in decision making positions is relatively few. According to UNDP's Asia-Pacific Regional Human Development Report (APHDR) 2010, although the share of women in

the labour force in the Maldives has increased over the past years, men continue to have almost twice as much presence in the labour force compared to women. Women's work and earnings are also found more in the informal sector in home-based economic activities which often lacks stability.

Civil Society's role: democracy and development

A robust civil society and the media are essential to the sustainability of a fully functioning democracy. It is therefore, necessary to nurture the nascent civil society in the Maldives which shows much scope for growth and maturity. With the freedoms that came in with the democratic reform process, the civil society played a major role in bringing in democracy to the country. The NGOs mobilised at the policy level as well as at the grassroots level to engage with stakeholders on issues related to human rights, democracy and development. Since then, the NGO community have been progressing significantly.

Civil society in general has made significant progress in the last few years. Some of the notable achievements include initiatives such as the "Go-Vote" campaign run by a network of seven NGOs, supported by international donors, which contributed to increased public awareness and participation in the first multi-party Presidential election. The network also successfully organised a campaign against the government's proposed amendments to the Civil Service Act which would have seen one-third of public sector workers excluded from the ambit of the Civil Service Commission and fall under the authority of the President's Office

However, the concept of a free civil society is very new to the country and this emerging sector faces many challenges. While over 700 new NGOs have been registered in the Maldives, comparatively few are regularly active. These are mostly limited to the larger NGOs based in Male' and a few within the islands. A UNDP supported capacity assessment of NGOs in Male' and Northern atolls shows that NGOs are not active mainly due to a lack of managerial and project implementation capacity, as well as a lack of legal framework and availability of funds. There is an urgent need for capacity building of NGOs, and for strengthening the regulatory frameworks within which NGOs operate. Two major civil society organisations, Raajje Foundation and the Maldives NGO Federation, have been working to some extent with policy makers towards this end.

In the current context, where the democratic reform process is rife with tensions and has given rise to new challenges for the country, it is vital that the civil society sector is strengthened to fulfil their role as watchdogs, advocates for the poor and disadvantaged and as supporters of good governance. The civil society is needed to generate public dialogue and give voice to marginalised, mobilise to increase local level awareness and participation of women and youth and to play an enhanced role as a partner in service delivery at the community levels through public private partnerships and other modalities, which would also serve to increase livelihoods options for women and youth at local levels.

The weaknesses in civil society suggest it is essential to establish an inclusive and representative NGO network. The main aim of this network would be to support development of NGOs nationwide, and promote co-operative efforts between larger and smaller NGOs. The Maldives NGO Federation was formed in 2006 with this purpose in mind, but has not been very active until recently. In the last year or so, the NGO Federation had taken the initiative to raise concerns over issues of interest. The Raajje Foundation had also been working with similar directives. Both organisations' work can albeit from a very low level be enhanced with further support.

Another crucial actor in civil society is the media. Freedom of media along with freedom of opinion and expression has been greatly increased since 2003 when democratic reforms were initiated and was evident in the vibrant campaigning seen during the presidential and parliamentary elections. High potential exists for partnerships with the media to carry messages to the public. However, the report by the Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Opinion (La Rue, 2009) highlights the need for strengthened capacity within the media particularly in areas of investigative journalism. He also noted that there is the culture of self censorship among journalists, particularly when it comes to socially sensitive issues such as religious freedom. Hence, the media sector needs significant capacity building support to capitalise on the space provided through new democratic reforms.

Over the past years, UNDP has carried out numerous activities with the civil society both directly as well as through existing projects in various thematic areas (please refer to Annex I for details). UNDP partners with NGOs under the programmes of Governance, Environment, Poverty reduction and HIV/AIDS prevention. UNDP also included the NGO community in developing our corporate strategies including the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and UNDP's five year Country Programme Document.

Recognizing civil society's crucial role in sustaining the democratic gains of the country, close relations have been developed with the Human Rights NGOs of the country under the Democratic Governance programme of UNDP, through technical assistance and policy support in opening up the space for civil society actors. The programme also supported a number of initiatives in the area of human rights, gender equality and anti-corruption.

Working directly with NGOs as implementing partners has allowed UNDP to build capacity of NGOs and help to sustain the tenuous space that has been created for civil society. In addition to direct support to individual NGOs, a three year project has been developed together with the Ministry of Home Affairs entitled *Civic Engagement*. This main aim of this USD 595,000 project is strengthening and enhancing civic engagement and creating an enabling environment for civil society to thrive through strengthening and reforming the legal and regulatory framework, enhancing interactions between public authorities and civil society and enhancing the coordination mechanisms and capacity development of both Government and civil society. Thus, this project proposal – *Support to Civil Society Development in the Maldives: Small Grants Facility* - has been developed as a complementary project to increase support to the NGO base in the country, particularly the smaller, remote organizations at the local levels.

Objectives

The objectives of this project are to sustain and expand the space created through democratic reforms for civil society, influence decision makers, , and provide services, promote good governance and to build capacities of civil society actors and empower civil society to effectively lobby for issues, particularly in the areas of human rights, gender equality and youth development.

Outcomes

1. Increased space for civil society to actively engage in development through the promotion of good governance, human rights, women's rights and gender equality, and to influence policy and promote social cohesion
2. Increased institutional and human resource capacity of civil society organizations

Strategies: Target groups, outputs and activities

The project will be delivered through two main strategies: 1) promoting creation and sustainability and skill base of target NGOs, through provision of trainings on NGO management and advocacy and 2) establish a small grants facility to support civil society initiatives.

Good governance, human rights, gender equality and youth are priority areas for UNDP interventions, so particular importance will be given to addressing these issues through the project activities

Target groups:

Civil society organizations, Male' and atoll/island based NGOs, with a particular focus on human rights NGOs.

Outputs:

1. Capacity building of NGOs and civil society to effectively engage in development
2. Civil society capacity enhanced on critical social issues (human rights, gender equality, youth), including in areas of advocacy, management and organization, and lobbying
3. Increase public awareness on human rights and increased the ability of people to claim their rights through enhanced role of civil society organizations
4. Enhanced role of NGOs working directly on promoting women's rights and advocating for the elimination of violence against women and to increase women's participation in development

Activities:

Component 1: Conduct training programmes for NGOs and Civil Society

This will include development of training modules and conducting three trainings workshops (3days) for NGOs and civil society on:

Workshop 1: NGO management and resource mobilization including

project formulation, proposal writing, project management and monitoring

Workshop 2: principled/rights based building of democracies and civil society; good governance, human rights, women's rights

Workshop 3: Effective advocacy – promotion, mobilising government and stakeholder support, Effective engagement of media and how to motivate for good outcomes

Component 2: Support to NGO initiatives through Grants making facility

Aims of the Small Grants Facility (SGF)

This component will support initiatives of NGOs and other civil society organisations to advocate for good governance, human rights, development of women's rights and participation in development and to strengthen civil society engagement in the democratic process.

At the operational level, the SGF will:

1. Receive, manage and allocate funds from donor to NGOs and civil society
2. Provide for the quick disbursement of funds to NGOs and civil society organizations
3. Process applications in an effective and efficient manner.

4. Operate transparently and accountably, in line with donor requirements
5. Provide technical support to project activities by facilitate exchange of information, field experiences and best practices.
6. Implement efficient monitoring and evaluation procedures.
7. Report interim progress of the small grants project portfolio to donors

The projects appraisals will be conducted by a Grants Co-ordination Committee (GCC) consisting of representatives from country teams of UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF and a representative from the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives. Allocation of funds per proposal will be determined by the Committee on evaluation. The Committee will make final recommendations to the First Secretary, AusAID, in Colombo for endorsement prior to advising applicants of selection outcomes.

Calls for grants will take place in three rounds, and will consists of 8-20 grants for amounts ranging from USD 10,000 – USD 25,000. After the first round, depending on the remainder of funds, the timing of the second round of SGF projects will be decided by the Grants Co-ordination Committee (GCC) and the same for the third round.

In order to ensure effective implementation of the grants facility to achieve its primary objectives, UNDP will undertake promotion of the facility as appropriate to ensure transparency and to attract a sufficient number of high quality and highly relevant proposals. The process will include managing the assessment, selection and contracting process, with clear documentation and transparency. Additionally, continuous monitoring will take place to ensure that the civil society capacity building objectives of the programme are met. UNDP will provide mentorship and technical guidance to NGOs as needed, especially new or emerging NGOs.

Eligibility Criteria

Basic criteria

1. Project proposals should be prepared and submitted to the UNDP according to the application format and request for information. The GCC may first request a pre-proposal or concept paper, depending on the experience of the project proposer, or the nature of the project.
2. The proposals should be prepared in English language
3. The maximum financial assistance provided by the SGF will be USD 25,000 per project and minimum will be USD 10,000.
4. The project period may be from three to ten months.

Technical criteria

In awarding grants, consideration will be given to NGOs who have a record of successful implementation of projects aligned with the aim of this SGF, however, as part of the capacity building strategy of the overall programme, the Committee can consider proposals from new or emerging NGOs which have the capacity to articulate sound proposals in line with the objectives of the program, and which are appropriately constituted and managed. For these new and emerging NGOs, the UNDP will provide appropriate levels of technical support to mentor and supervise the development and implementation of programs.

SGF will support projects which:

1. Promote public awareness on good governance, human rights, and women's rights

2. Support women's empowerment and participation in development
3. Promote democracy and civil society engagement in current political issues
4. Build partnerships between NGOs
5. Build capacity of NGOs and CSOs to promote sustainable civil society development
6. Demonstrate potential for replication or scaling-up, and co-financing.
7. Create an impact on policy at National/local level policy and development

Payment Schedule and Reporting Requirements

Grant funds for an approved project of a duration of six months or more will be released in three instalments; i.e. first payment of 30 – 40% upon signature, second payment of 50% upon submission of an interim progress report, and third and final payment of remaining 10-20% upon submission of project completion reports. For projects with less than six months duration, the funds will be released in two instalments, 60% upon signature and remaining 40% on submission of project completion report.

Project Budget and Work Plan

OUTPUTS and indicators	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List all activities including M&E to be undertaken during the year towards stated outputs</i>	TIMEFRAME						RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		2010		2011					Source of Funds	Budget Description	Amount (AUD)
		Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
<p>Component 1: Conduct training programmes for NGOs and Civil Society</p> <p><i>Output Indicator: Increased the number of active NGOs</i></p> <p><i>Activity Indicators:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthened executive management of NGOs ▪ 30 NGOs trained in identified fields 	<p>Conduct training workshops NGOs and civil society on:</p> <p>NGO management and resource mobilization</p> <p>Project formulation, proposal writing, project management and monitoring</p> <p>principled/rights based building of democracies and civil society; human rights, women's rights, children's rights</p> <p>Effective advocacy – promotion, mobilising government and stakeholder support,</p> <p>Effective engagement of media and how to motivate for good outcomes</p>		X	X	X	X		UNDP	AUSAID	Developing training modules, participants' travel, Workshop costs	65,500
<p>Component 2: Support to NGO initiatives through Grants making facility</p> <p><i>Output Indicator: Number of co-ordinated initiatives organised by civil society</i></p> <p><i>Activity Indicators:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased ability of people to claim rights ▪ increased civil society involvement in promotion of women's rights and engagement of women in development 	<p>Promotion of grants facility prior to call for proposals</p> <p>Disbursement of Small Grants to NGOs and Civil Society</p> <p>Mentoring and monitoring new and emerging NGOs to ensure capacity needs are met</p>	X	X	X	X			UNDP and Grants Co-ordination Committee	-	Public notice, post on website and promotion through UNDP networks	-
		X		X	X			UNDP and Grants Co-ordination Committee	AUSAID	8-20 grants ranging from USD10,000-25000	270,000.00
		X	X	X	X	X	X	UNDP		Technical guidance from UNDP	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of women's rights initiatives coordinated by NGOs ▪ Awareness materials produced 												
Project Support and Evaluation	Management fee	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	UNDP	AUSAID	7% of total grant	28,000.00
	Project Manager - Overall management and monitoring of Grants Facility	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	UNDP	AUSAID	Salary for Project Manager	30,500.00
	Conduct independent evaluation of project							X	UNDP	AUSAID	Hire local consultant, travels	6,000.00
GRAND TOTAL												400,000.00

Management Arrangements

The project will be logged on the ATLAS management system of UNDP and administered under the Governance programme of UNDP. A separate account will be opened for this project and funds will be disbursed as grants directly to NGOs upon signing a Memorandum of Understanding. Some of the activities will be carried out under the modality of **Direct Execution (DEX)** whereby UNDP will directly implement activities and settle payments.

A Management Fee of 7% of total amount will be charged to the project.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- In accordance with the programming policies and procedures of UNDP ongoing projects will be monitored within the annual cycle. A Monitoring Schedule Plan shall be activated in ATLAS and updated to track key management actions/events
- When a grant is released to civil society partners, a monitoring schedule will be specified in agreements issued. Quarterly progress reports, or interim reports based on specified period shall be submitted by partner NGOs to Programme Manager at UNDP
- Risk analysis log shall be recorded systematically in ATLAS and updated by reviewing external environment, and necessary action shall be administered to resolve any possible problems posed for project implementation
- An independent project review will be conducted at the end of the Facility to assess and report achievements and lessons learnt.

Risk Analysis

Description of Risk	Impact on the Project	Mitigation Measures
NGO activity may become politicized in current environment	Key NGOs may take an oppositional stance to the Govt's development framework, and lead to government resistance to NGOs	Closely work with NGOs to develop projects in line with national development goals and carefully monitor messaging and implementation. Encourage government officials to engage in dialogue if views conflict.
Existing favourable political environment towards civil society development may change	Reduced support from the Government agencies to allow project activities to run smoothly	Through existing mechanisms such as UNDP's Civic Engagement Project, increase interaction and collaboration between government and civil society. Develop co-operation and good will with relevant government departments
Limited number and capacity of NGOs, particularly island based, available to apply for grants	Over burden for the more active NGOs leading to low implementation Loss of NGO confidence and support towards project activities	Increased effort to bring in new and emerging NGOs and design interventions strategically
Resistance from conservative factions of society	Counter the effective delivery of messages, especially on human rights and women's rights issues, targeted through project	Maintain consistency in messages which go to the public and sustain neutral grounds of civil society. Promote public dialogue on divisive issues in a constructive manner.

ANNEX I: UNDP support to civil society development

A strategic approach carried by UNDP is to give national ownership to initiatives carried out and work towards sustainability by building national capacities. To this extent, partnering with civil society has been followed in past programmes and continues to be applied successfully in ongoing initiatives. It is one of UNDP's main priorities to work closely with the civil society in order to ensure that they have the space to thrive as guaranteed by the new constitution.

The current working arrangement is through a series of activity based MoUs. Among the work already successfully completed in partnership with NGOs include commemoration the international human rights day and Anti-corruption days in 2008 and 2010. Publication of awareness raising materials on the respective areas was also supported. Partnering with *Transparency Maldives*, domestic observation of the Presidential elections was carried out. UNDP has also committed to fund observation of local council elections expected to be held in the course of this year. Through technical inputs and training provided to NGOs in collaboration with OHCHR, UNDP also assisted several NGOs in developing civil society's report for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Maldives 2010 which had now been submitted.

Additionally the ongoing activities in collaboration with the *Maldivian Detainee Network*, one of the leading human rights NGOs, include an awareness project on the Maldivian Constitution and International Human Rights under which a handbook of the constitutional chapter on fundamental rights has been published and awareness raising workshops had been conducted in Male' and in 6 atolls to this end. Additionally, UNDP has recently provided funds to *Maldivian Detainee Network* to establish a network of Human Right Defenders. UNDP is also going to work with both *Transparency Maldives* and *Maldivian Detainee Network* to organize concerned citizens around specific issues and effectively lobby for specific changes to bills proposed to the parliament along human rights principles, while providing relevant stakeholders with the information necessary to keep parliament accountable to the people, and to compile and produce a 'Citizens Report' and a 'Human Rights Review' on parliamentary performance.

In addition to the above, under the Support to Integrated Farming project under the Poverty Reduction programme, UNDP collaborates with NGOs based in target islands. Under the extension of the Auto-pot System, UNDP worked together with three NGOs to establish a system comprising of two greenhouses and a growing nursery which was set up with provision of 12 months inputs, 6 months field officer allowance and technical assistance.

Under the Global Fund Program, UNDP together with the *Society for Health Education (SHE)*, a main partner in the programme, developed a public and private sector partnership to distribute Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) materials to the populations at risk and conducted peer education training programs to increase awareness and knowledge about sexually transmitted infections and HIV among young people. Led by the Global Fund support team of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Program together with the local NGO *Journey*, trainings were conducted for Law Enforcement Officers on Drug Users (DU) and Injecting Drug Users (IDU) concerns and drug prevention as Resource Persons. Peer Educators trainings were also conducted on HIV/AIDS risks for drug users and peer outreach program for drug users and IDUs were conducted.

ANNEX II: Profiles of Key NGOs in Maldives

Maldives NGO Federation

Maldives NGO Federation (MNF) was established in 2006, rising from the desire of some NGOs to have an independent and common voice for the NGO sector. The mission of MNF is to advocate for support to the independent functioning of all NGOs, and possibly to provide support services to NGOs in the future. The Federation aims to promote and support social development at islands, atolls, and national levels and also support and guide progressive development of NGO sector in the Maldives. It also aims to train personnel of NGOs, CBOs and other development institutions in techniques of community mobilization for development programs, identify significant issues that need to be incorporated into the national policy directives and development strategies, and to undertake advocacy activities to incorporate the perspectives of community and the NGO sector.

Since 2008, MNF has been active at different levels providing feedback to national level policies, promoting human rights and democracy in the Maldives. MNF is a national member of the Human Rights Commission NGO Network. Also members of the international organisations of International Council of Social Workers, Human Security Alliance, South Asia Peace Alliance and South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE).

Presently MNF has 42 member NGOs across the country. The Governing council of MNF was elected at the AGM of MNF held in March 2010. The Council comprised of 9 representatives from NGOs in different areas of Maldives.

Raajje Foundation

Raajje Foundation was registered in the Maldives on 7th April 2008 with the Government of the Maldives and was originally registered as People's Foundation Maldives before officially changing its name to Raajje Foundation. They mainly aim of the Foundation is strengthening the capacity of civil society in the Maldives, encouraging Maldivian civil society engagement with local, regional and international communities and supporting and developing civil society projects or activities. Since it's founding the Raajje Foundation had conducted a comprehensive range of training, support services and other initiatives, which reflect the priority needs of emerging civil society actors and organizations who share the vision, mission, values and principles of Rajje Foundation in the Maldives.

Maldivian Detainee Network

The Maldivian Detainee Network was created following mass arrests in August 2004 and was registered in June 2005. They work to provide a voice, protection and service for the detainees and their families in the pursuit of fair treatment within a penal system which has been criticized for its systematic maltreatment and use of torture. Hence their main focus initially was to advance the protection and rights of detainees and their families through reporting on the status and welfare of detainees to national and international communities, raising awareness and providing guidance to realization of their rights, maintaining alertness and responding to periodic mass detentions and exceptional cases; and providing case-specific support services.

As the situation pertinent to arbitrary arrests changed over time, the NGO had more recently shifted focus to include promoting human rights in general.

Transparency Maldives

Transparency Maldives was registered in July 2007 and is currently the national contact for Transparency International in the Maldives. They were established to address persistent concerns over the lack of accountability and transparency in the Maldives that have led to allegations of corruption. They mainly aim at raising public awareness of and initiate public discussions on corruption and its detrimental affects on the society and development and they collaborate with individuals and groups from government, business, media and civil society, among others, in fight against corruption.

Democracy House

Registered on 22 December 2008, Democracy House is founded by UZ Mohamed Nasheed (MP and prominent lawyer) and UZ Mohamed Anil (prominent lawyer), as a non-governmental and non-profit organization that aims at promoting a culture of democratic ideals and values in the Maldives and amongst its people. Democracy House is an apolitical and a non-partisan organization that promotes democracy, freedoms, rights, and tolerance. Their mission is to strive towards achieving a free, fair and a just society of responsible citizens through education, awareness and empowerment. They plan to achieve the objectives mostly through educational initiatives. That would include research and publications, education, awareness, collaboration, empowerment and advocacy.

Live and Learn

Live and Learn Country Office in the Maldives was registered in the year 2006. They are a non-profit, non-government organization which promotes greater understanding and action toward human and environmental sustainability through education and dialogue building. In 2008 under the slogan 'Nala Nala Raajje', Live and Learn has been conducting a program to address the waste management issue in the Maldives. The program objective is to increase knowledge and awareness about waste management issues in the Maldives via the dissemination of key messages, to foster a more aware and informed public. The program includes the development of TV and radio spots, news print articles, a dedicated website, training programs for retailers, journalists and community trainers, education kits and a series of posters for local communities. There are 4 key message themes under the program; 1) Waste reduction and minimization, 2) Effects of poor waste management, 3) Stakeholder responsibility and 4) Polluter Pays.

Care Society

Care society, when it was formed in 1998, was originally a disability support organization. But it has additionally become involved in supporting island communities vulnerable to natural disasters and in women's issues. Their main purpose is to advocate and raise awareness to protect and promote the rights of children/persons with disabilities and women to provide services to these groups. They fulfill these purposes by:

- Delivering disability service through provision of home-based programs, special education and early intervention

- Providing disability management training and technical assistance to develop and support personnel to work with CWD/PWD.
- Supporting persons with disabilities and their families with information and referrals
- Implementing Disaster Risk Reduction Programs; and
- Acting as a secretariat for Violence against Women's Network

Society for Health Education (SHE)

SHE was registered in 1988 and during the past 20 years they have developed a range of programs and service in 4 areas: health education, Thalassaemia prevention, and support to patients, sexual and reproductive health, psychosocial support and counseling. Their main objectives are to:

- Create awareness on high prevalence of thalassaemia and the consequences of this genetic blood disorder
- Support the reduction in the number of thalassaemia majors born in Maldives
- Facilitate and improve access to sexual reproductive health information and services
- Provide psychosocial support and counseling services.

They also strive to improve the quality of Maldivian people through awareness as self-reliance and harness the expertise of national professionals on voluntary bases in an attempt to achieve their goals.

Journey

Journey was formed by 50 recovering addicts in July 2005, three months after the World Drugs Day that year. They provide aftercare services for recovering drug addicts, conduct outreach and advocacy, and work towards both prevention and raising awareness on drug addiction and drug related issues. They mainly aim to:

- Enable a supporting environment to recovering addicts to rebuild their lives and become productive members of the community
- Create awareness among Maldivian community and addicts through outreach, intervention and education
- Conduct awareness campaigns that prevent adolescents and youth from using drugs.

Society for Women against Drugs (SWAD)

SWAD was registered in November 2006 with a vision to create a society where people choose to live a drug free life and where young people are empowered to be responsible and play active role in sharpening the society. Their main objectives include:

- Reducing the supply of drug and to stop illicit drug trafficking in the Maldives
- Helping drug users break the habit and provide them with treatment through rehabilitation and social integration
- Providing protection and adequate treatment for young population under the age of 18 who have a background of abusing drugs and assisting their potential as members of society
- Working in partnership with other government agencies striving to resolve the issue of drug abuse.

SWAD has been the key force behind the formation of the civil society network, Maldivian against Drug Abuse (MADA).

Other potential NGOs

- **Rights for All** – Promotes human rights with a focus on rights to children and also women.
- **Hope for Women** – A newly established NGO in Male', the only NGO in Maldives with primary focus on protecting and promoting women's rights
- **Hand in Hand** - Provides psychological support to community groups wishing to assist vulnerable populations such as children, abused women and persons with disabilities.
- **Madulu** – Works to promote democracy, human rights, free media, civil rights, civil liberties, social accountability and tolerance.
- **Strength of Society** – Promotes awareness of youth rights and related issues.

Note: In addition to the above listed NGOs, various NGOs within the networks of these NGOs will be engaged as project beneficiaries. Flexibility will be maintained in engaging as many NGOs as possible in project activities.