

Implementing Multi-Level Governance to Achieve the SDGs



Ministry of Housing Land and Urban Development





Maldives – A Unique Small Island Developing State (SIDS)

Governance Structure

National Level

- Executive Branch
- Legislative Branch
- Judicial Branch

Local Level

- City Councils
- Atoll Councils
- Island Councils

(Total 186 Councils)

Maldives SDGs Assessment

Global Sustainable Development Report 2020

- Maldives positioned at 91 out of the 166 countries in the global SDG ranking
- Grouped as a ‘Fast Riser’ with an index score of 67.6, higher than the regional average of 67.2
- Maldives trends in SDGs assessment

TREND

SDG

On track or maintaining SDG achievement

SDG 1, SDG 3, SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 11, SDG 13, SDG 17

Moderately improving

SDG 2, SDG 8, SDG 9

Stagnating

SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 14, SDG 16

Decreasing

SDG 15

Information unavailable

SDG 10, SDG 12

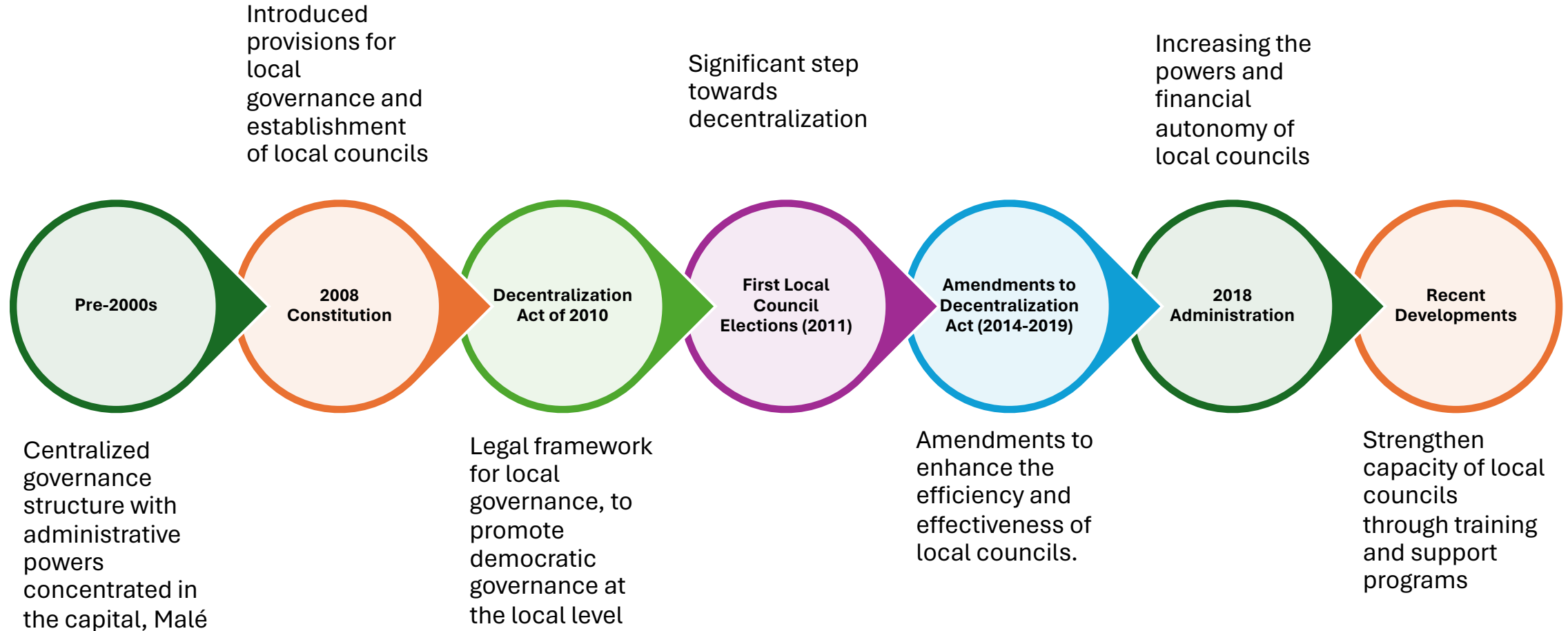
Current Assessment – SDG Dashboard



Challenges for SDG Implementation

- Lack of centralized planning mechanisms and expertise
- Deepened sectoral divide:
 - among central line ministries and agencies
 - between the **central and local governments**
- Lack of mechanisms to collect data for planning, implementation and monitoring
- Geographical dispersion
- Rising debt level
- Lack of resource allocation to Local Councils due to budgetary constraints

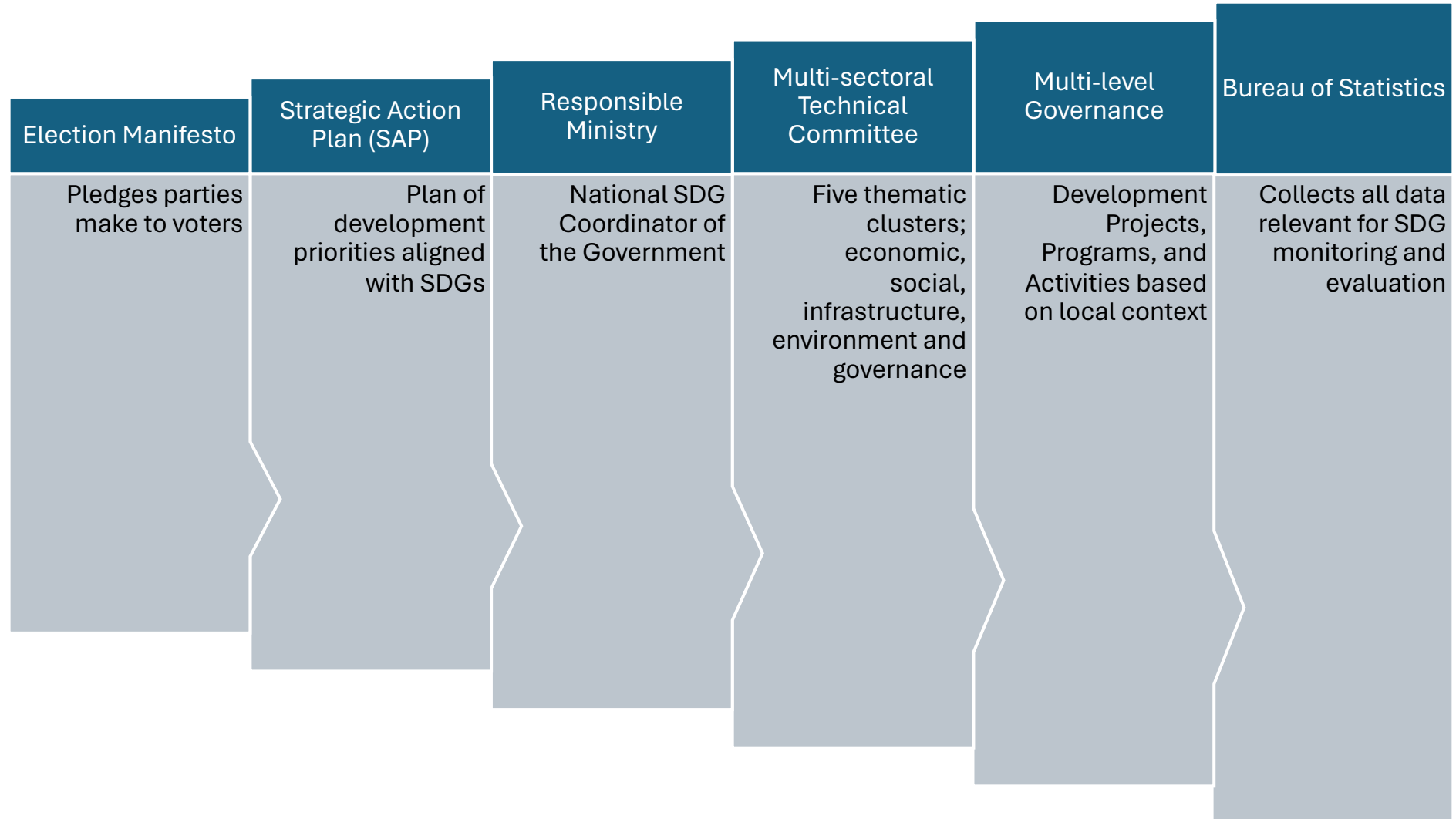
The Decentralization Initiatives in the Maldives



Decentralization and Multi-level Governance

- Role of the Local Government Authority (LGA):
 - Provides a platform for local councils to discuss and coordinate on national issues, including the SDGs
 - Ensures local priorities and innovations contribute to national and global sustainability targets
- Local Councils:
 - Devolving powers and resources to local councils has created a more responsive and accountable governance structure
 - Local councils have significant autonomy to implement policies tailored to their unique contexts
 - Ensures alignment with national goals and SDGs

SDGs Implementation Framework



SDG Implementation in the Maldives

- The Maldives transitioned into the SDGs with notable achievements from the MDGs
- SDGs necessitate stronger coordination, dialogue and streamlining between multiple sectors
- National Planning was carried out mainly by the Ministries with limited involvement of Local Councils
- Need to recognize significance of Local Councils to achieve SDGs and thereby transfer necessary autonomy and resources
- Importance of bottom-up National Planning approach

Way Forewords

- Adopt PPP models to effective utilization of limited resources at Local Councils
- Adopt a participatory stakeholder approach and engagement including; Civil society, Private sector and the Academia
- Regional and Urban Development with the aim of population aggregation
- Encourage youth empowerment
- Need to establish a regional-level Governance Institute for human development
- Encourage and facilitate SME development and women entrepreneurship
- Conduct Voluntary Local Review (VLR)

Thank you