

Challenges¹

- Limited access to quality preschool programs for children living in the atolls.
- Reliance on the traditional 'edhurage' (generally with limitations on teacher qualifications, inadequate learning materials, and emphasis on rote learning) as initial formal learning.

Priorities

- Raise parental and caregivers' awareness on ECCD through national campaigns.
- To increase access to reach the under-served communities, encourage involvement of private institutions and community organizations to develop ECCD centers.
- Develop curricular materials and guidelines for preschools and childcare centers.
- Improve ECCD teacher quality through upgrading and continuous offering of teacher training courses.



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 **ARNEC**
Asia-Pacific Regional Network
for Early Childhood



Maldives Country Profile

Early Childhood Care and Development



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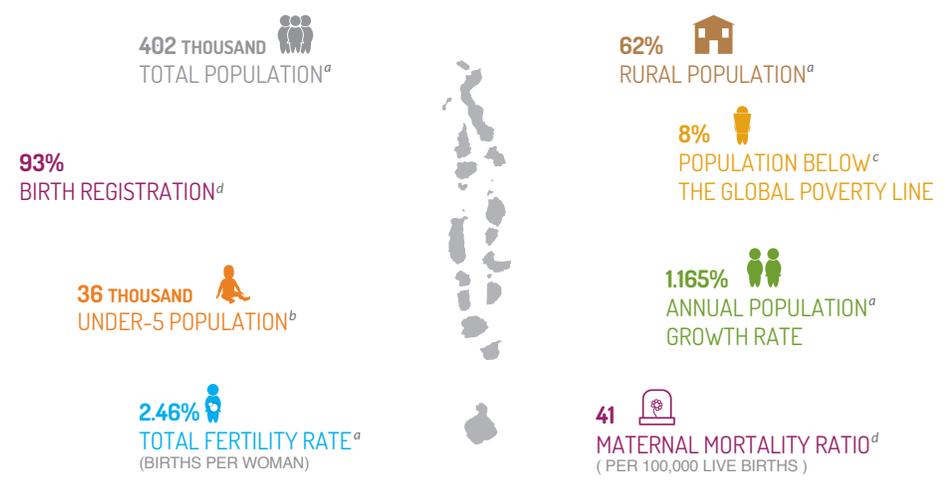
General information about ECCD in Maldives^{2,3}

ECCD in Maldives is largely focus on pre-primary education or PPE as Maldivians place importance on starting education at an early age.

Early learning programs for children between 4 and 6 years of age include center-based preschools, home-based programs, and non-formal community education initiatives (such as play-based learning and parents' awareness programs).

There is no national ECD Policy. However, the *Administration of Pre-School Act 2012* recognizes the importance of developmentally appropriate pre-school education for young children and mandates the Ministry of Education to monitor all pre-schools in the country. The Act recognizes that ECE should be delivered to children in the age group of 4 to 6 years through the local councils, community or private parties.

DEMOGRAPHICS^d AND PRENATAL



BIRTH TO 5 YEARS

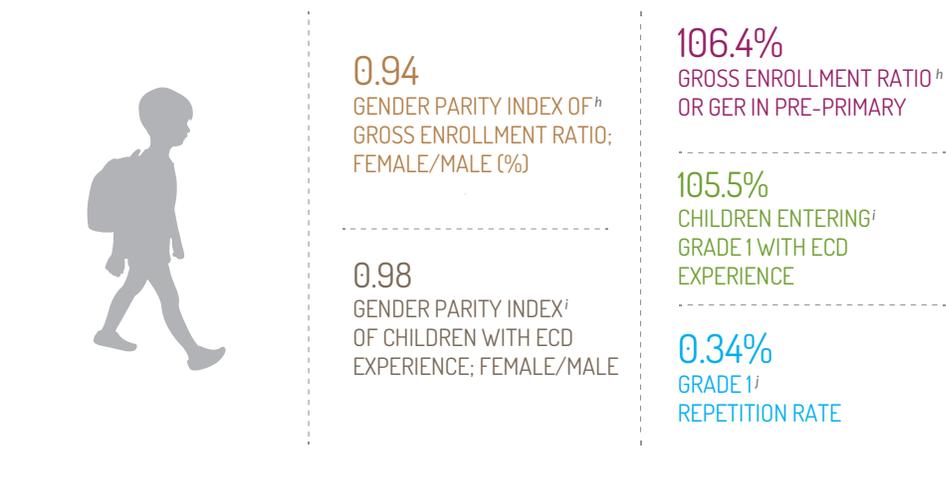


Sources (year)

^a World Bank (2014)	^b UN Population Division (2015 ⁵)	^c World bank (2009)
^d SWOC (2005-2013)	^e World bank(2013)	^f UN IGME (2015 ⁶)
^g SWOC (2009-2013)	^h UIS (2007 ⁷)	ⁱ UIS (2012)
		^j UIS (2013)

Disclaimer: Numbers have been rounded except for fertility and population growth rate. Data is as of May 2016.

SCHOOL READINESS



Key policies: No national policy adopted.

Ministries in charge: Ministry of Education

References

- ¹ UNESCO International Bureau for Education (IBE). (2006). Maldives ECCE programmes. Country profile prepared for the Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2007 - Strong Foundations: Early Childhood Care and Education. Geneva: IBE.
- ² UNESCO and UNICEF. (2012). Asia-Pacific End of Decade Notes on Education for All. EFA Goal 1: Early childhood care and education. (p. 12). Bangkok: UNESCO.
- ³ Rao and Sun. (2010). Early childhood care and education in the Asia Pacific region: Moving towards goal 1. (Paper commissioned for the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in Asia and the Pacific's World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education (WCECCE) in Moscow 2010).
- ⁴ World Bank. (2015). World Bank Open Data (Accessed May 4, 2016).
- ⁵ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, DVD Edition (Accessed May 4, 2016).
- ⁶ United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME). (2015). Level & trends in child mortality: Report 2015 (pp. 23). New York: UNICEF.
- ⁷ UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). (2016). Education dataset (Accessed May 4, 2016).