Public Opinion Survey: Residents of the Maldives

December 3-22, 2019
Detailed Methodology

• Data collection for this poll was conducted on behalf of the International Republican Institute’s Center for Insights in Survey Research by CDE Consulting between December 3 and 22, 2019.

• The sample consists of 1,130 respondents aged 18 and older, and is representative of resident Maldivian adults nationally. The sample excludes those living on resorts (6% of the total adult population.)

• Data was collected using a multi-stage stratified probability sample through in-person, in-home interviews. The sample was stratified by urbanicity (urban, rural 1 and rural 2) and by population size of the 21 administrative regions. All islands of 3,000 or more residents were selected for rural 1, and selection of islands of less than 3,000 residents within the atolls of rural 2 was random. Malé was further subdivided into 15 constituencies.

• Random walk was used to select the appropriate household, and island level gender and age group quotas were used to select one respondent 18 years and older per selected household.

• The achieved sample was weighted for gender and age groups. Both the sampling and weighting frame are based on 2018 population projections by the National Bureau of Statistics.

• The margin of error is plus or minus 2.9 percent at the mid-range with a confidence level of 95 percent. The response rate was 91 percent.

• The information in this report has been compiled in accordance with international standards for market and social research methodologies. Figures in charts and tables may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.
## Frequently Cited Bases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subsample Category</th>
<th>Weighted n=</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age groups</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-25 (younger youth)</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-35 (older youth)</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-35 (youth)</td>
<td>584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36+</td>
<td>546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Urbanicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban (Male, Addu, Fuvahmulah cities)</td>
<td>586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural 1, atolls with islands of 3,000 or more residents (HDh Kulhudhuffushi, R Dhuvafaru, Lh Naifaru, Dh Kudahuvadhoo, GDh Thinadhoo)</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural 2, atolls with island of less than 3000 residents (HA Dhidhdhoo, Sh Funadhoo, N Velidhoo, B Eydhafushi, K Guraidhoo, K Maafushi, AA Thoddoo, ADh Mahibadhoo, V Fulidhoo, M Mulah, F Nilandhoo, Th Thimarafushi, L Gan, GA Villingili)</td>
<td>368</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In general, would you say that our country is heading in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

- **Rural 2**: 35% Right, 54% Wrong, 11% Don't know/Refused
- **Rural 1**: 34% Right, 51% Wrong, 15% Don't know/Refused
- **Urban**: 43% Right, 44% Wrong, 13% Don't know/Refused
- **Age 36+**: 39% Right, 49% Wrong, 12% Don't know/Refused
- **Youth (18-35)**: 38% Right, 47% Wrong, 15% Don't know/Refused
- **Older Youth (26-35)**: 39% Right, 47% Wrong, 14% Don't know/Refused
- **Younger Youth (18-25)**: 37% Right, 48% Wrong, 15% Don't know/Refused
- **All**: 39% Right, 48% Wrong, 13% Don't know/Refused
In general, would you say that our country is heading in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

Likely voters

- **Undecided**: 34% Right, 51% Wrong, 15% Don't know/Refused
- **Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM)**: 14% Right, 84% Wrong, 12% Don't know/Refused
- **Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP)**: 74% Right, 20% Wrong, 16% Don't know/Refused
- **All**: 39% Right, 48% Wrong, 13% Don't know/Refused

Bases: MDP n=220, PPM n=87, Undecided n=665
Speaking personally, over the past 12 months, how has your overall quality of life changed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Urbanicity</th>
<th>Improved a lot</th>
<th>Improved somewhat</th>
<th>Stayed the same</th>
<th>Worsened somewhat</th>
<th>Worsened a lot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural 2</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural 1</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 36+</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All ages</th>
<th>Improved a lot</th>
<th>Improved somewhat</th>
<th>Stayed the same</th>
<th>Worsened somewhat</th>
<th>Worsened a lot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth (18-35)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older Youth</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger Youth</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth (18-25)</th>
<th>Improved a lot</th>
<th>Improved somewhat</th>
<th>Stayed the same</th>
<th>Worsened somewhat</th>
<th>Worsened a lot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Speaking personally, over the past 12 months, how has your overall quality of life changed?

**Likely voters**

- **Undecided**
  - Improved a lot: 9%
  - Improved somewhat: 25%
  - Stayed the same: 46%
  - Worsened somewhat: 11%
  - Worsened a lot: 8%

- **PPM**
  - Improved a lot: 9%
  - Improved somewhat: 17%
  - Stayed the same: 44%
  - Worsened somewhat: 15%
  - Worsened a lot: 15%

- **MDP**
  - Improved a lot: 18%
  - Improved somewhat: 35%
  - Stayed the same: 37%
  - Worsened somewhat: 6%
  - Worsened a lot: 3%

- **All**
  - Improved a lot: 11%
  - Improved somewhat: 26%
  - Stayed the same: 44%
  - Worsened somewhat: 10%
  - Worsened a lot: 8%

**Bases:** MDP n=220, PPM n=87, Undecided n=665
How would you describe the current economic situation of your household?

- **Very good**
- **Somewhat good**
- **Somewhat bad**
- **Very bad**
- **Don't know/Refused**

### Urbanicity
- **Rural 2**: 17% Very good, 59% Somewhat good, 16% Somewhat bad, 8% Very bad, 0% Don't know/Refused
- **Rural 1**: 12% Very good, 63% Somewhat good, 14% Somewhat bad, 11% Very bad, 0% Don't know/Refused
- **Urban**: 12% Very good, 61% Somewhat good, 17% Somewhat bad, 9% Very bad, 1% Don't know/Refused

### All ages
- **Age 36+**: 12% Very good, 58% Somewhat good, 20% Somewhat bad, 10% Very bad, 1% Don't know/Refused

### Youth
- **Youth (18-35)**: 16% Very good, 63% Somewhat good, 13% Somewhat bad, 8% Very bad, 0% Don't know/Refused
- **Older Youth (26-35)**: 18% Very good, 61% Somewhat good, 13% Somewhat bad, 8% Very bad, 0% Don't know/Refused
- **Younger Youth (18-25)**: 13% Very good, 66% Somewhat good, 12% Somewhat bad, 8% Very bad, 0% Don't know/Refused

### All
- **All**: 14% Very good, 61% Somewhat good, 16% Somewhat bad, 9% Very bad, 1% Don't know/Refused
How would you describe the current economic situation of your household?

- **Undecided**
  - Very good: 13%
  - Somewhat good: 62%
  - Somewhat bad: 16%
  - Very bad: 9%
  - Don’t know/Refused: 1%

- **PPM**
  - Very good: 15%
  - Somewhat good: 43%
  - Somewhat bad: 27%
  - Very bad: 14%
  - Don’t know/Refused: 1%

- **MDP**
  - Very good: 18%
  - Somewhat good: 65%
  - Somewhat bad: 13%
  - Very bad: 3%
  - Don’t know/Refused: 3%

- **All**
  - Very good: 14%
  - Somewhat good: 61%
  - Somewhat bad: 16%
  - Very bad: 9%
  - Don’t know/Refused: 1%

**Bases:**
- MDP n=220
- PPM n=87
- Undecided n=665
Over the last 12 months, how has the economic situation of your household changed?

- **Improved a lot**: Dark blue
- **Improved somewhat**: Blue
- **Stayed the same**: Purple
- **Worsened somewhat**: Green
- **Worsened a lot**: Brown
- **Don’t know/ Refused**: Light grey

### Breakdown by Urbanicity
- **Rural 2**: 7% improved a lot, 33% improved somewhat, 38% stayed the same, 12% worsened somewhat, 8% worsened a lot, 1% don’t know/refused.
- **Rural 1**: 6% improved a lot, 26% improved somewhat, 48% stayed the same, 10% worsened somewhat, 9% worsened a lot, 1% don’t know/refused.
- **Urban**: 7% improved a lot, 29% improved somewhat, 43% stayed the same, 13% worsened somewhat, 7% worsened a lot, 1% don’t know/refused.

### Breakdown by Age Group
- **All**: 7% improved a lot, 30% improved somewhat, 42% stayed the same, 12% worsened somewhat, 7% worsened a lot, 1% don’t know/refused.
- **Younger Youth (18-25)**: 8% improved a lot, 44% improved somewhat, 34% stayed the same, 7% worsened somewhat, 5% worsened a lot, 2% don’t know/refused.
- **Older Youth (26-35)**: 9% improved a lot, 34% improved somewhat, 41% stayed the same, 10% worsened somewhat, 5% worsened a lot, 1% don’t know/refused.
- **Youth (18-35)**: 9% improved a lot, 38% improved somewhat, 38% stayed the same, 9% worsened somewhat, 4% worsened a lot, 2% don’t know/refused.
- **Age 36+**: 6% improved a lot, 21% improved somewhat, 47% stayed the same, 16% worsened somewhat, 10% worsened a lot, <1% don’t know/refused.
Over the last 12 months, how has the economic situation of your household changed?

- **Undecided**
  - Improved a lot: 7%
  - Improved somewhat: 29%
  - Stayed the same: 45%
  - Worsened somewhat: 13%
  - Worsened a lot: 7%
  - Don’t know/Refused: 1%

- **PPM**
  - Improved a lot: 5%
  - Improved somewhat: 21%
  - Stayed the same: 41%
  - Worsened somewhat: 19%
  - Worsened a lot: 15%

- **MDP**
  - Improved a lot: 12%
  - Improved somewhat: 39%
  - Stayed the same: 37%
  - Worsened somewhat: 9%
  - Worsened a lot: 3%

- **All**
  - Improved a lot: 7%
  - Improved somewhat: 30%
  - Stayed the same: 42%
  - Worsened somewhat: 12%
  - Worsened a lot: 7%

Bases:
- MDP n=220,
- PPM n=87,
- Undecided n=665
In the coming 12 months, how do you expect the economic situation of your household to change?

- **Rural 2**: 14% Improve a lot, 48% Improve somewhat, 19% Stay the same, 6% Worsen somewhat, 3% Worsen a lot, 10% Don’t know/ Refused
- **Rural 1**: 5% Improve a lot, 52% Improve somewhat, 23% Stay the same, 6% Worsen somewhat, 5% Worsen a lot, 9% Don’t know/ Refused
- **Urban**: 18% Improve a lot, 47% Improve somewhat, 21% Stay the same, 5% Worsen somewhat, 2% Worsen a lot, 7% Don’t know/ Refused
- **Age 36+**: 13% Improve a lot, 43% Improve somewhat, 25% Stay the same, 7% Worsen somewhat, 3% Worsen a lot, 9% Don’t know/ Refused
- **Youth (18-35)**: 16% Improve a lot, 53% Improve somewhat, 17% Stay the same, 4% Worsen somewhat, 2% Worsen a lot, 7% Don’t know/ Refused
- **Older Youth (26-35)**: 14% Improve a lot, 53% Improve somewhat, 22% Stay the same, 3% Worsen somewhat, 3% Worsen a lot, 5% Don’t know/ Refused
- **Younger Youth (18-25)**: 20% Improve a lot, 53% Improve somewhat, 11% Stay the same, 5% Worsen somewhat, 2% Worsen a lot, 10% Don’t know/ Refused
- **All**: 15% Improve a lot, 48% Improve somewhat, 21% Stay the same, 5% Worsen somewhat, 3% Worsen a lot, 8% Don’t know/ Refused
In the coming 12 months, how do you expect the economic situation of your household to change?

- **Undecided**
  - Improve a lot: 14%
  - Stay the same: 47%
  - Worsen somewhat: 24%
  - Worsen a lot: 7%
  - Undecided: 2%
  - Other: 7%

- **PPM**
  - Improve a lot: 16%
  - Stay the same: 36%
  - Worsen somewhat: 16%
  - Worsen a lot: 6%
  - Undecided: 10%
  - Other: 15%

- **MDP**
  - Improve a lot: 18%
  - Stay the same: 57%
  - Worsen somewhat: 15%
  - Worsen a lot: 3%
  - Undecided: 1%<1%
  - Other: 6%

- **All**
  - Improve a lot: 15%
  - Stay the same: 48%
  - Worsen somewhat: 21%
  - Worsen a lot: 6%
  - Undecided: 3%
  - Other: 8%

**Bases:**
- MDP: n=220
- PPM: n=87
- Undecided: n=665
How would you describe the current status of each of the following items in our country?

- **Law and Order**
  - Very good: 13%
  - Somewhat good: 31%
  - Somewhat bad: 24%
  - Very bad: 30%
  - Don't know/Refused: 3%

- **Economy**
  - Very good: 11%
  - Somewhat good: 43%
  - Somewhat bad: 23%
  - Very bad: 18%
  - Don't know/Refused: 5%

- **Political Stability**
  - Very good: 8%
  - Somewhat good: 24%
  - Somewhat bad: 25%
  - Very bad: 38%
  - Don't know/Refused: 5%
Thinking some more about this, in the next year, do you think that the situation with each is going to get better, worse or stay the same?

- **Economy**
  - Better: 52%
  - Same: 16%
  - Worse: 21%
  - Don't know/Refused: 11%

- **Law and Order**
  - Better: 44%
  - Same: 18%
  - Worse: 28%
  - Don't know/Refused: 11%

- **Political Stability**
  - Better: 35%
  - Same: 17%
  - Worse: 36%
  - Don't know/Refused: 12%
Priority Issues
What is the most important problem facing our country today? (spontaneous)

- **Internal conflicts**: 17%
- **Political instability**: 14%
- **Illicit drugs**: 9%
- **Corruption**: 9%
- **High cost of living**: 7%
- **Crime/public safety**: 6%
- **Economy - Unemployment**: 6%
- **Housing**: 5%
- **Economy - other/general**: 3%
- **No problems**: 1%
- **Other**: 16%
- **Don't know/ Refused**: 6%

Issues named by less than 3% merged into “Other”
What is the most important problem facing our country today? (spontaneous)

- **Internal conflicts**: Age 36+ 20%, Age 18 to 35 14%
- **Political instability**: Age 36+ 12%, Age 18 to 35 17%
- **Illicit drugs**: Age 36+ 8%, Age 18 to 35 10%
- **Corruption**: Age 36+ 7%, Age 18 to 35 10%
- **Crime/public safety**: Age 36+ 6%, Age 18 to 35 7%
- **High cost of living**: Age 36+ 5%, Age 18 to 35 10%
- **Housing**: Age 36+ 4%, Age 18 to 35 5%
- **Economy - other/general**: Age 36+ 3%, Age 18 to 35 3%
- **Economy - Unemployment**: Age 36+ 3%, Age 18 to 35 9%
- **Other**: Age 36+ 13%, Age 18 to 35 20%
- **No problems**: Age 36+ <1%, Age 18 to 35 2%
- **Don't know/Refused**: Age 36+ 7%, Age 18 to 35 5%

Issues named by less than 3% merged into “Other”
What is the most important problem facing our country today? (spontaneous)

- Internal conflicts: 21%
- Illicit drugs: 14%
- High cost of living: 10%
- Political instability: 18%
- Economy- Unemployment: 9%
- Crime/public safety: 8%
- Housing: 6%
- Insecurity: 3%
- Economy - other/general: 3%
- Healthcare: 4%
- Other: 14%
- No problems: 10%
- Don't know/ Refused: 12%

Issues named by less than 3% merged into “Other”
What is the most important problem facing our country today? (spontaneous)

Issues named by less than 3% merged into “Other”

Bases: MDP n=220, PPM n=87, Undecided n=665
What specific issue should be the top priority for the government to address? (spontaneous)

Issues named by less than 3% merged into “Other”

- Housing: 12%
- Unemployment: 8%
- Illicit drugs: 8%
- Religion: 7%
- Crime/public safety: 7%
- Healthcare: 6%
- Economic development: 4%
- High cost of living: 4%
- Political stability: 3%
- Education: 3%
- Corruption: 3%
- Peace and harmony: 3%
- Other: 21%
- Don't know/ Refused: 13%
- 0%
What specific issue should be the top priority for the government to address? (spontaneous)

Issues named by less than 3% merged into “Other”
What specific issue should be the top priority for the government to address? (spontaneous)

Issues named by less than 3% merged into “Other”
Thinking about the Maldives as a whole, for each of the following issues I am going to read, would you say that they are a major problem, something of a problem or not a problem at all?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Major problem</th>
<th>Something of a problem</th>
<th>Not a problem at all</th>
<th>Don't know/ Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of access to drinking water</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corruption</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High cost of living</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of access to housing</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political violence</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of government transparency</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unable to receive medical treatment</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of support to fishermen</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of proper waste management</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of access to quality education</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrimination against women</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of access to drinking water</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
State of Democracy
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way democracy is developing in our country?

- Very satisfied: 32%
- Somewhat satisfied: 33%
- Somewhat dissatisfied: 18%
- Very dissatisfied: 6%
- Don't know/Refused: 11%
How would you describe the current status of each of the following items in our country?

- **Freedom of expression**
  - Very good: 33%
  - Somewhat good: 32%
  - Somewhat bad: 17%
  - Very bad: 16%
  - Don't know/ Refused: 2%

- **Media freedom**
  - Very good: 31%
  - Somewhat good: 32%
  - Somewhat bad: 15%
  - Very bad: 18%
  - Don't know/ Refused: 4%

- **Democracy**
  - Very good: 17%
  - Somewhat good: 30%
  - Somewhat bad: 19%
  - Very bad: 27%
  - Don't know/ Refused: 7%

- **National security**
  - Very good: 17%
  - Somewhat good: 41%
  - Somewhat bad: 16%
  - Very bad: 24%
  - Don't know/ Refused: 2%

- **Human rights**
  - Very good: 13%
  - Somewhat good: 35%
  - Somewhat bad: 23%
  - Very bad: 26%
  - Don't know/ Refused: 3%
Do you believe that democracy is the best possible form of government for our country or not?

- 59% Yes, it is the best possible form of government for our country
- 18% No, there are other forms of government that could be equally good for our country
- 12% No, there are other forms of government that are better than democracy
- 11% Don't know/Refused to answer
Corruption
Now I would like to discuss corruption with you. When I say corruption, I mean having to do a favor, give a gift or pay a bribe because someone misuses their position for personal gains. Do you believe that corruption in our country is a serious problem or not?
To what extent, if any, has corruption had a negative impact on you?

- 58%: It has had a lot of negative impact
- 20%: It has had some negative impact
- 15%: It has had little negative impact
- 3%: It has not had any negative impact
- 4%: Don’t know/Refused to answer
In your experience, what type of corruption is most common in our country?

- Making decisions based on connections as opposed to merit: 29%
- Acting in self-interest instead of interest of citizens: 27%
- Stealing or deliberately mismanaging funds: 19%
- Soliciting bribes or gifts: 10%
- Failure to investigate or prosecute wrongdoing: 8%
- Extortion: 2%
- None of these exist in our country: <1%
- Don't know/Refused: 5%
How would you rate the performance of the national government?

- Very good: 13%
- Somewhat good: 43%
- Somewhat bad: 17%
- Very bad: 24%
- Don't know/Refused to answer: 3%
How would you rate the performance of the national government in communicating with the public about the projects they are working on?

- Very good: 14%
- Somewhat good: 35%
- Somewhat bad: 19%
- Very bad: 23%
- Don't know/Refused to answer: 9%
For the following issues, is the national government doing a very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad job?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Very good</th>
<th>Somewhat good</th>
<th>Somewhat bad</th>
<th>Very bad</th>
<th>Don't know/Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improving education</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advancing decentralization</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing healthcare</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating jobs</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing infrastructure</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combating climate change</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighting corruption</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighting crime</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting the fishing industry</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combating drug use</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Do you think that President Solih is doing a good job or a bad job? And would you say very good/bad or somewhat good/bad?

- Very good: 17%
- Somewhat good: 17%
- Somewhat bad: 7%
- Very bad: 15%
- Don't know/Refused to answer: 44%
What is your opinion of each of the following institutions?

- Army / MNDF: 28% very positive, 41% somewhat positive, 11% somewhat negative, 14% very negative, 6% don't know/refused.
- Media: 26% very positive, 39% somewhat positive, 14% somewhat negative, 16% very negative, 5% don't know/refused.
- Police: 22% very positive, 38% somewhat positive, 16% somewhat negative, 20% very negative, 4% don't know/refused.
- Supreme Court: 11% very positive, 22% somewhat positive, 21% somewhat negative, 34% very negative, 12% don't know/refused.
- Human Rights Commission: 12% very positive, 30% somewhat positive, 22% somewhat negative, 26% very negative, 10% don't know/refused.
- Parliament: 18% very positive, 22% somewhat positive, 19% somewhat negative, 36% very negative, 5% don't know/refused.
- Your island or city council: 13% very positive, 30% somewhat positive, 28% somewhat negative, 24% very negative, 4% don't know/refused.
- National Elections Commission: 20% very positive, 36% somewhat positive, 14% somewhat negative, 24% very negative, 6% don't know/refused.
- Anti-Corruption Commission: 7% very positive, 25% somewhat positive, 25% somewhat negative, 30% very negative, 14% don't know/refused.
- Your MP: 21% very positive, 25% somewhat positive, 22% somewhat negative, 23% very negative, 8% don't know/refused.
- Courts: 11% very positive, 25% somewhat positive, 20% somewhat negative, 32% very negative, 11% don't know/refused.
I will read you a list of party names. For each, please tell me if you have a highly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or highly unfavorable opinion of this party. If you have not heard of this party, please tell me.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Highly favorable</th>
<th>Somewhat favorable</th>
<th>Somewhat unfavorable</th>
<th>Highly unfavorable</th>
<th>Have not heard of this party</th>
<th>Don’t know/ Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MDP</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPM</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNC</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JP</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRM</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Decentralization
How important do you consider decentralization to be for the Maldives?

**Urbanicity**
- **Rural 2**: 58% Very important, 17% Somewhat important, 6% Neutral, 5% Somewhat unimportant, 7% Very unimportant, 7% Don't know/Refused
- **Rural 1**: 71% Very important, 6% Somewhat important, 3% Neutral, 3% Somewhat unimportant, 6% Very unimportant, 11% Don't know/Refused
- **Urban**: 55% Very important, 19% Somewhat important, 13% Neutral, 3% Somewhat unimportant, 4% Very unimportant, 6% Don't know/Refused

**All ages**
- **Age 36+**: 62% Very important, 13% Somewhat important, 6% Neutral, 5% Somewhat unimportant, 7% Very unimportant, 6% Don't know/Refused

**Youth**
- **Youth (18-35)**: 56% Very important, 19% Somewhat important, 12% Neutral, 2% Somewhat unimportant, 3% Very unimportant, 8% Don't know/Refused
- **Older Youth (26-35)**: 59% Very important, 19% Somewhat important, 9% Neutral, 2% Somewhat unimportant, 3% Very unimportant, 7% Don't know/Refused
- **Younger Youth (18-25)**: 50% Very important, 19% Somewhat important, 16% Neutral, 2% Somewhat unimportant, 3% Very unimportant, 9% Don't know/Refused

**All**
- 59% Very important, 16% Somewhat important, 9% Neutral, 4% Somewhat unimportant, 5% Very unimportant, 7% Don't know/Refused
How do you feel about the government’s decentralization policy?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Urbanicity</th>
<th>Very supportive</th>
<th>Somewhat supportive</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Somewhat opposed</th>
<th>Very opposed</th>
<th>Don't know/ Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural 2</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural 1</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 36+</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth (18-35)</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older Youth (26-35)</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger Youth (18-25)</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What do you consider the most important part of the government’s decentralization policy?

- Greater responsibility for local governments: 26%
- Increased funding for island councils: 18%
- Increased access to clean water: 15%
- Increased access to sanitation services: 14%
- Greater support for Women’s Development Committees: 7%
- Don’t know/Refused: 19%
2020 Elections

CENTER FOR INSIGHTS IN
SURVEY RESEARCH

A PROJECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE
How likely or unlikely are you to vote in the 2020 local elections?

- **Urbanity**
  - Rural 2: 72% Very likely, 8% Somewhat likely, 4% Somewhat unlikely, 11% Very unlikely, 5% Don't know/Refused
  - Rural 1: 71% Very likely, 4% Somewhat likely, 2% Somewhat unlikely, 16% Very unlikely, 7% Don't know/Refused
  - Urban: 63% Very likely, 12% Somewhat likely, 4% Somewhat unlikely, 15% Very unlikely, 7% Don't know/Refused
  - Age 36+: 77% Very likely, 7% Somewhat likely, 2% Somewhat unlikely, 9% Very unlikely, 5% Don't know/Refused

- **All ages**
  - Youth (18-35): 57% Very likely, 12% Somewhat likely, 5% Somewhat unlikely, 19% Very unlikely, 8% Don't know/Refused
  - Older Youth (26-35): 63% Very likely, 9% Somewhat likely, 4% Somewhat unlikely, 17% Very unlikely, 7% Don't know/Refused
  - Younger Youth (18-25): 49% Very likely, 16% Somewhat likely, 6% Somewhat unlikely, 21% Very unlikely, 9% Don't know/Refused

- **All**
  - All: 67% Very likely, 9% Somewhat likely, 3% Somewhat unlikely, 14% Very unlikely, 7% Don't know/Refused
Why are you very unlikely to vote in the 2020 local elections? (Spontaneous) (Among n=158 who are “very unlikely” to vote)

The election is not important for me: 29%
None of the parties or candidates inspire me: 21%
My vote will not matter anyway: 12%
I do not have confidence in the electoral process: 8%
I boycott the election: 6%
None of the parties or candidates represent my view: 6%
I will not have the time to do it: 5%
The voting station is too far away: 4%
I don’t trust that my vote is anonymous: 3%
I am confused by the process: 1%
Don’t know/ Refused: 5%
For which party do you intend to vote in the 2020 local elections? I would like to remind you that your response is confidential.

(Spontaneous)

(Among n=971 who are not “very unlikely” to vote)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MDP</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPM</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNC</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JP</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only when the candidate is known</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spoiled ballot</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/ Refused</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What will be the most important factor for determining your vote for a specific candidate?

(Among n=971 who are not “very unlikely” to vote)

- Capability of candidate: 46%
- Candidate's character: 14%
- Party or candidate's platform, program or promises: 11%
- Candidate's party affiliation: 8%
- Party or candidate's outreach efforts: 4%
- Party or candidate's performance/track record: 3%
- Candidate's home region: 2%
- Party or candidate's religion: 1%
- Candidate's education: 1%
- Party or candidate's ethnic group: 1%
- Someone I trust or respect recommended it: <1%
- Relatives: <1%
- Candidate's independence: <1%
- Party or candidate's constituent aid or gifts: <1%
- Don't know/Refused: 5%
Do you feel that the upcoming elections will be free and fair or not?

- Definitely free and fair: 30%
- Probably free and fair: 18%
- Probably not free and fair: 11%
- Definitely not free and fair: 9%
- Don't know/Refused to answer: 32%
If there are two candidates running for office and they have the same qualifications aside from the fact that one is a man and one is a woman, which candidate are you more likely to support the man or the woman?
Why are there not more women politically engaged in our country? For each potential reason I read you, please tell me if it plays a major role or not. (% displayed=major role)

- Women are discouraged from running by cultural norms: 58% (major role, 67%)
- Women lack the support network: 48% (major role, 63%)
- Women are preoccupied with child-rearing duties: 52% (major role, 60%)
- Women lack political experience: 57% (major role, 56%)
- Even when women run for office, they do not get elected: 36% (major role, 56%)
- Women lack familial support: 44% (major role, 52%)
- Women are afraid of violence if they run: 44% (major role, 50%)
- Women lack the confidence to run: 52% (major role, 49%)
- Women lack the resources to mount a campaign: 32% (major role, 47%)
- Women lack support from the political parties they belong to: 28% (major role, 37%)
Would you support or oppose a law requiring that at least 1/3 of local island council representatives must be women? And would you strongly or somewhat support/oppose?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Strongly support</th>
<th>Somewhat support</th>
<th>Somewhat oppose</th>
<th>Strongly oppose</th>
<th>Don’t know/Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural 2</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural 1</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 36+</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth (18-35)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older Youth (26-35)</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger Youth (18-25)</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Legend:**
- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don’t know/Refused
Which media platform do you use most frequently to gain political news and information?

- **TV**: 38%
- **Social Media**: 33%
- **Internet (other than social media)**: 16%
- **Radio**: 2%
- **Print Media**: 2%
- **Word of mouth**: 1%
- **I do not read political news**: 7%
- **Don't know/ Refused**: 1%
Which media platform do you use most frequently to gain political news and information?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Urbanicity</th>
<th>All ages</th>
<th>Youth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural 2</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural 1</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 36+</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth (18-35)</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older Youth (26-35)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger Youth (18-25)</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **TV**: 33% (All), 38% (Youth), 30% (Older Youth), 22% (Younger Youth)
- **Radio**: 16% (All), 13% (Youth), 20% (Older Youth), 16% (Younger Youth)
- **Internet (other than social media)**: 2% (All), 2% (Youth), 1% (Older Youth), <1% (Younger Youth)
- **Social Media**: 54% (All), 54% (Youth), 38% (Older Youth), 22% (Younger Youth)
- **Print Media**: 3% (All), 3% (Youth), 3% (Older Youth), 2% (Younger Youth)
- **I do not read political news**: 2% (All), 2% (Youth), 1% (Older Youth), <1% (Younger Youth)
- **Don't know/Refused**: <1% (All), <1% (Youth), <1% (Older Youth), <1% (Younger Youth)
Which social media platform do you rely on most for political news? (spontaneous)

- Facebook: 53%
- Twitter: 9%
- Viber: 2%
- Telegram: 2%
- None: 29%
- Don't know/Refused: 2%
To what extent is misleading or false information in the media problematic for our country?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Urbanicity</th>
<th>Very problematic</th>
<th>Somewhat problematic</th>
<th>Somewhat unproblematic</th>
<th>Very unproblematic</th>
<th>Don't know/ Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural 2</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural 1</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 36+</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth (18-35)</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older Youth (26-35)</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger Youth (18-25)</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Demographics

**Gender**
- Male: 51%
- Female: 49%

**Age**
- 18-35 years: 52%
- 36 years and older: 48%

**Education**
- No certificate: 35%
- O’ Level: 32%
- A’ Level: 10%
- Diploma: 12%
- First Degree: 9%
- Masters or PhD: 3%

**Occupation**
- Employed Full-Time: 47%
- Employed Part-Time: 7%
- Student: 6%
- Retired: 5%
- Housewife/husband: 27%
- Unemployed: 9%