

STATISTICS REGULATION OF THE MALDIVES 2012

PART I

PRELIMINARY

1) INTRODUCTION

1. This Regulation governs all matters relating to the collection, compilation, dissemination and use of statistical data, by setting the procedures to be adopted, for the establishment of an effective statistical system in the Maldives.

2) OBJECTIVES

1. Development of the National Statistical System of Maldives, to enable the provision of relevant statistics about the economic and social situation of the country, on an impartial basis to honor citizens' entitlement to public information.
2. Provide reliable statistics required for government policy making and monitoring the achievement of the of the desired results, to enable the required policy changes, in a timely manner
3. Promote awareness and knowledge on the use of statistics among the citizens to enable proper use of statistics in decision making
4. Improve the reliability of national statistics by emphasizing the responsibility of citizens in providing accurate information to national statistical agencies of the government in censuses and surveys
5. Enhance the usage of administrative data maintained by the government agencies for statistical purposes
6. Ensure the adherence to the fundamental principles of official statistics, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.
7. Ensure that individual data collected by the statistical agencies for statistical compilations are kept strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes, to gain trust of data providers and retain trust in official statistics,

8. Improve coordination among statistical agencies within the country to attain consistency and efficiency in the statistical system to achieve cost reduction and improvements in the quality and timeliness of statistics
9. Compile and disseminate reliable data to meet international data requirements of the nation, improve the extent that national statistics meet the international standards and increase the usage of statistics.
10. Enhance national, bilateral and multilateral cooperation activities in statistics to support the development of the national statistical system.

3) FUNCTIONS OF LEAD AGENCY FOR STATISTICS

1. The Lead Agency for Statistics shall be the principal data collecting and disseminating agency responsible for co-ordinating, monitoring and supervising the National Statistical System to cover matters specified in the third Schedule to this Act.
2. The Lead Agency for Statistics shall be responsible for the major statistical operations listed below;
 - Conduct Population and Housing census and collect, compile and publish national statistics required for the development of the country;
 - Maintain information required for monitoring the Poverty and vulnerability
 - Collect, compile and publish national accounts statistics and statistics required for monitoring the country's economic development.
 - Develop and implement the statistical survey regulations, approve statistical surveys conducted by -government agencies targeted to the public and - maintain a register of such surveys at the national level.
 - Setting national policies related to statistical activities , compile and publish statistical regulations and coordinate the national statistical system.
3. The Lead Agency for Statistics shall be responsible to follow the below tasks in performing the activities in 1 & 2 ;
 - To provide quality statistics within a decentralised system
 - Set procedures and standards to be followed in the collection, compilation and publication of statistics to ensure adherence to common standards and methods required to maintain data quality at national level
 - Provide guidance, and assistance to users and -producers of statistics;
 - Promote co-operation, co-ordination and rationalization among users and providers of statistics at national and local levels so as to avoid duplication of effort and ensure optimal utilization of scarce resource

- Coordinate and co-operate and act as a focal point for users and producers of statistics at national and international levels.
 - The Lead Agency for Statistics shall act as the key statistical agency responsible for providing official statistics
4. In performing any activity stated in 2 of this section, in case any other agency responsible for a particular area of statistics is unable to collect and compile the required statistics, the Lead Agency for Statistics has the authority to place staff of the Lead Agency for Statistics at the agency or provide the required assistance to collect and compile the required statistics. And if the task could still not be completed, the Lead Agency for Statistics has the power to transfer the work directly to the Lead Agency for Statistics.
 5. The Lead Agency for Statistics shall be responsible for any other tasks to fulfill the objectives stated in this act.

4) STRUCTURE OF THE MALDIVES STATISTICAL SYSTEM

1. Base on the structure of the statistics system of the Maldives, the Lead Agency for Statistics will be the Statistics Division under the Department of National Planning. Lead Agency for Statistics shall be a professionally independent body and shall not be influenced in implementing its activities.
2. Other government agencies will generate official statistics required for their respective agencies through censuses and surveys and through administrative records. In this regard the respective agencies shall be responsible for collection and compilation of statistics stated in the third schedule of this regulation. Agencies within the National Statistical System will be responsible for the collection and compilation of the areas of official statistics listed in the third schedule of this regulation.
3. Joint statistics collection activities by more than one agency within the national statistical system, with or without the participation of the key statistics agency, shall be properly coordinated and data shared amongst the relevant agencies as per the agrees upon procedures. In such joint statistics collection exercises, the agency responsible for the activity shall inform the purpose and use of the data collected, to the data provider, in writing.
4. The Lead Agency for Statistics is responsible to coordinate amongst the agencies within the national statistical system, and support the collection and compilation of the basic statistics that are deemed as crucial for the nation.

5. All agencies responsible for the to collection and compilation of official statistics to be collected within the national statistical system, shall establish a mechanism for collection and compilation of statistics required from their respective areas and establish statistical units and assign statistical staff for these units.
 6. All Officers of the Lead Agency for Statistics and officers assigned to the statistical units established at the stakeholder agencies shall take the oath under the second schedule of this regulation, and be signed.
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PART II

DATA COLLECTION, COMPILATION, PUBLICATION AND USE

5) FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

1. Statistical activities in the country shall carried out be in accordance with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, states in fourth schedule of this regulation, shall develop the statistical system so as to, provide reliable information, improve quality, maintain confidentiality, provide information under the international standards to fit the scientific procedures, maintain coordination within other government and international agencies to minimize costs.
2. In addition, Statistical activities shall be geared toward the achievement of the main objectives stated below;
 1. To provide statistics on the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation of the country for policy making and monitoring the achievement of desired results and to cater for such information needs of citizen's, in a democratic society.
 2. Work towards establishing and sustaining an efficient and effective statistical system.
 3. Increase the awareness of the importance and use of of statistics among the general public.
 4. Support the development of technology , principles and methods adopted in the implementation of statistical activities
 5. Promote statistics to increase the usage of statistics by the private sector, NGOs, students and researchers.

6. Promote new areas of research and analysis as additional mechanisms, outside of the government official statistics system, for getting quality statistics, required for assessing national development

6) COLLECTION OF STATISTICS

1. Statistics can be obtained in the Maldives through censuses, surveys and administrative records or any other means acceptable by the Lead Agency for Statistics.
2. Data collection shall be done in accordance with the UN fundamental principles of official statistics given in the fourth schedule of this regulation.
3. Data collection shall be done in such a way to minimize the response burden of the citizens.
4. The designated enumerator or staff shall collect data from respondents in one of the following ways;
 1. Data collection through a personal interview
 2. Data collection through a designed questionnaire, sent through post, email or other telegraphic medium, informing respondents their obligation to complete the questionnaire and the means and deadlines for submission of completed forms
5. If in a formal manner a request for information is sent by an officer, unless otherwise specified, the data should be delivered by the respondent under this regulation.
6. A designated enumerator or statistical officer with the approval of the Lead Agency for Statistics in writing for data collection shall obtain information by entering to establishments, buildings, vehicles, vessels and air planes.
7. If a designated enumerator or statistical officer is restricted from entering to a premise the Lead agency has the right to obtain a court order and shall obtain information by entering to the premise.

7) PERMISSION FOR COLLECTION OF STATISTICS

1. Censuses and surveys, carried out for obtaining designated statistics included in the list of national statistical indicators shall be undertaken by Lead Agency for Statistics or any institution that is designated by Lead Agency for Statistics.
2. Quantitative surveys, qualitative surveys, conducted for the collection of government administrative use shall be carried out with permission from Lead Agency for Statistics. If the surveys required to be undertaken is to be carried out in the Atolls and/or Male', advice shall be obtained from the relevant agencies prior to application for approval of

survey. In addition, if the survey is related to any specific field, advice shall be obtained from the concerned government authority. If the survey requires a pre-test, permission shall be obtained from Lead Agency for Statistics.

3. Collection of statistical data does not include administrative data collection, qualitative surveys that are conducted in relation to research studies and surveys conducted during training.
4. All parties requiring survey approval shall submit the completed survey or pre-test approval form with the documents stated therein to Lead Agency of Statistics.
5. Further to no. 2 of this clause, surveys shall be carried out in accordance with the date and information in the documents approved by Lead Agency of Statistics. Any changes shall be submitted to Lead Agency of Statistics in writing for permission.
6. All persons engaged in data collection shall hold an official document from the concerned government authority, authorizing them to undertake the data collection operation. Such a document shall be presented to the respondent at the time of data collection, if required.

8) PERMISSION FOR STATISTICAL SURVEYS

1. The authorization to conduct surveys shall be given by Lead Agency of Statistics. The request for approval shall be submitted using the survey or pre-test approval form issued by Lead Agency of Statistics.
2. Apart from the data collection for administrative use by the government and other public agencies, do not require approval under this regulation.
3. A full application for approval must be submitted to Lead Agency of Statistics, 4 (four) weeks prior to the commencement of the survey.
4. Permission shall be given within 1 (one) week of the submission of the completed survey or pre-test approval form.
5. Permission as per above 4, shall be given only to those who submit the document stated in above 7(4)
6. Surveys approved under this shall be publicly informed 1 week prior to the survey date.

9) STATISTICS COLLECTION PROCEDURE

1. **CENSUS PROCEDURE:** Census is a statistical data collection operation carried out as a complete enumeration and gathering of related statistics. A census commonly refers to the complete enumeration of the local population at a given time.

- I. Population and housing census in the Maldives shall be conducted every ten yearly.
 2. Population and housing census of the Maldives is conducted in accordance with the internationally recommended principles of census taking. One such principle refers to defacto enumeration. The other principle is dejure enumeration.
 3. All other censuses shall be carried out under generally established international principles.
 4. Census information shall be collected using a structured questionnaire specifically designed for that census.
 5. Census information shall be collected in the Maldives, either in Dhivehi or the English language.
2. **SURVEY PROCEDURE:** A survey is a data collection operation carried out using a representative sample of the population.
- I. Statistical surveys shall be conducted in accordance with the international standards and procedures.
 - II. A survey shall be conducted through direct or telephone interviews with the respondent or through mail-out questionnaires or by observation.
 - III. Generally information on a survey shall be in Dhivehi or the English language. However, a survey may be conducted in any other language with the approval of the Lead Agency for Statistics.
3. To differentiate the Census of Population and housing with other census, the details of such censuses shall be provided.

10) COMPILATION AND USE OF STATISTICAL DATA

1. The information obtained from the data collection operation requires a standardized coding system or classification. All such coding shall be carried out using standard international classifications or any such classification developed in compliance with international or national standards. Newly developed coding systems or classifications require being acceptable to the Lead Agency for Statistics.
2. The information obtained in accordance with this regulation shall be used mainly to fulfill the stated objectives. Provision for further research shall be allowed on the data collected.

3. The information identified, as designated statistics shall only be published with the permission from the Lead Agency for Statistics.
 4. Data collected for administrative use by other agencies shall be accessed by the request of the Lead Agency for Statistics. Accordingly, the financial statements collected by the Ministry of Economic development, tax payers information collected by the Maldives Inland Revenue Authority, records collected by the Maldives Pension Administration Office, Civil registration data maintained by the Department of National Registration and other administrative records for statistical use maintained by agencies, unless otherwise differently stated in another act shall be provided to the Lead Agency for Statistics.
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PART III

PUBLISHING AND MAINTAINING CONFIDENTIALITY OF STATISTCAL DATA

11) PUBLISHING AND MAINTAINING CONFIDENTIALITY OF STATISTCAL DATA

1. The statistical information obtained from the data collection operation shall be published as aggregated totals, in accordance with the principles of statistical compilation.
2. Information obtained shall not be disclosed or published in a manner that will disclose the identity of the provider.
3. Confidentiality must be accorded to any information that is obtained from permitted data collection operations, which would disclose the identity of the provider.
4. Any information collected under this regulation shall not be disclosed to any unauthorized party except in accordance with clauses 1 and 2 of this clause.
5. Unless otherwise for a charge under this act;
 - a. Information provided for the use under this regulation;
 - b. An answer provided to a question under this regulation;
 - c. A report containing information on an individual, business entity, economic activity provided as an answer to a question under this regulation;
 - d. Information containing information on an individual, business entity, economic activity processed to computer, or any electronic media; shall not be published or used without the approval

from the high authority of the particular entity/activity as evidence by an employee/person assigned under this regulation.

6. If anyone publishes or publicize the information stated in above 5. Of this act on their own will be excluded from the above 5. Of this clause.
7. If any information included in a reports or in a summary of a report directly disclose information about a particular person/entity/activity's production, capital, or the profits because of the particular person/entity/activity is the only one active in the activity shall be published under this regulation.
8. Prior to publishing/disclosing statistics collected under this act, Lead Agency for Statistics chief shall assure that the data collected is in accordance to the procedures and shall be reviewed prior to publishing for reliability, confidentiality and if information has taken in accordance with the standards and procedures.
9. Lead Agency for Statistics shall play a key role to form a network and facilitate other sectors to implement and work according to the standards and procedures of this act.
10. All key sectors are responsible to support the Lead Agency for Statistics in their work.

12) ROLES OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

1. Any person, who is permitted under this act to conduct statistical data collection for official use of the government, shall be provided with true information, within a given time as may be required.
 2. Any party, permitted by the Lead Agency for Statistics for data collection in relation to national development shall be provided with the required information.
 3. Any party, permitted by the Lead Agency for Statistics for data collection in relation to research and/or training shall be provided with the required information.
 4. The work of any person permitted to carry out a data collection operation under this regulation shall not be hindered or obstructed
 5. The respondent must ask for evidence of permission accorded under this regulation before giving information. The information provided to persons who do not possess any evidence of such a permit shall not be protected under this regulation.
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PART IV

OFFENCES UNDER THE REGULATION

13) OFFENCES

1. The Lead Agency for Statistics of Maldives has the discretionary power to take the following actions against any person who contravenes this regulation.
 - a. Intervene in any activity that violates this regulation and desist the operation, until the action is rectified
 - b. Revoke the permit for data collection and publication for a definite period. The period will be determined by the Ministry of Planning and National Development
 - c. Levy a fine between Rf. 10,000/- (Rufiyaa Ten Thousand) to Rf. 100,000/- (Rufiyaa One Hundred Thousand), depending on the seriousness of the action.
 - d. File a court case
 2. If any employee/person designated by this act, perform any of the following shall be an offence. The charges will be a fine between Rf. 1,000/- (One Ten Thousand) to Rf 60,000/- (Rufiyaa Sixty Thousand).
 - a. Use of Information obtained on the job for his/her own benefit
 - b. Disclose the Information obtained on the job without authorization or to a irrelevant party/entity.
 - c. Statistics collection with the intention to disclose it to a person or
 - d. If anyone discloses or publishes any information knowing that the information is being collected against this regulation.
 3. If anyone perform any of the following shall be an offence. The charges will be a fine between Rf. 5,000/- (Five Ten Thousand) to Rf 30,000 (Rufiyaa Thirty Thousand).
 - a. The work of any person permitted under this act to carry out a data collection operation under this regulation be hindered or obstructed or;
 - b. Refuse or neglect any of the following;
 - i. Any form or any written document to be filled and forwarded shall be sent within the deadline
 - ii. Provide information/answer to any questions made under this regulation
 - c. Refuse or neglect to provide information to any form or any written document or provide false information is an offence.
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PART V

COORDINATING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL STATISTICS SYSTEM

14) COORDINATING AND STRENGTHENING THE STATISTICAL SYSTEM

1. Lead Agency for Statistics shall be responsible for policy planning of statistics, ensure coordination between co sectors responsible for collecting and compiling statistical data.
2. A statistics Coordinating committee shall be formed to in order to fulfill the tasks mentioned in (1)
3. Furthermore, a close relation with International and other countries Statistics Organizations shall be maintained and Lead Agency for Statistics shall be responsible to this task

15) FORMATION AND MAINTAINING A NATIONAL STATISTICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

- 1- National Statistics Coordinating Committee shall be the leading committee as a key body to oversee the work of Lead Agency for Statistics and other tasks under the decentralized statistical systems.
- 2- Members of the committee shall comprise members from all agencies in the National Statistical System.
- 3- The roles and responsibilities of the committee shall include:
 - a. Provide information for GDP Production and other social and economic Indicators
 - b. Be the platform to discuss and produce reliable figures
 - c. Working for the development of statistics system
 - d. Advise and provide sector related feedback for censuses and surveys
 - e. Participate and assist in publish and disseminating statistics in a timely manner

16) EFFECTIVE DATE

This regulation will be in effect from the date which the president endorses and is being gazetted.

APPENDIX

1. Interpretation
2. Oath
3. Official statistics to be collected within the National Statistical System
4. Fundamental Principles of Statistics

Interpretation

- a. "Census" means a statistical operation in which all units (whole population) of interest are enumerated;
- b. "National Statistics system" includes all agencies in the Maldives whether Government or not responsible, whether under any enactment or otherwise for gathering statistical data directly through surveys or through administrative action;
- c. "Statistical Sample Survey" means a statistical operation in which only a selected part (sample) and not all units (whole population) of interest are enumerated; "currency point" means the value specified in relation to currency point in the First Schedule to this Act;
- d. "Statistics" means any quantity collected as a summary of data
- e. "Administrative Statistics" means data collected under a regulation or Act of Parliament through administrative means.
- f. "Designated Statistics" means Statistics identified and publicly announced by the Lead agency for Statistics which is identified to be generated which are the most critical and essential statistics required for social and economic policy planning, monitoring and evaluation.
- g. "Sectoral Statistics" means data collected by the relevant sectoral agencies to facilitate the policy and planning decisions.

Oath

I,do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and honestly fulfil my duties asin conformity with the requirement of the Maldives Lead Agency for Statistics of Statistics Act, and shall not without authority, reveal any information acquired by virtue of my duties, nor, until such information is made public directly or indirectly use it for personal gain.

Official statistics to be collected within the National Statistical System

1. Population
2. Housing
3. Births and Deaths
4. Migration
5. Foreign trade
6. Agriculture
7. Land rent, land use
8. Forestry,
9. Fisheries
10. Mining and quarrying
11. Manufacturing
12. Energy
13. Distributive Trade
14. Banking, Insurance and other financial intermediaries
15. Transport and communication
16. Business and professional services
17. Social, sports/recreational and personal services
18. Civil services
19. Social welfare

20. Education
21. Laborers, Employment agreements, accidents and compensation
22. Health
23. Employment
24. Wages and salaries
25. Income, Earnings, profits and interest
26. Household income and expenditure
27. Savings
28. Capital investments
29. Manufactured products and stock
30. Wholesale and retail sales
31. Grants and BOP
32. Tourism
33. Environment
34. NGOs
35. Business registration
36. Civil registration

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistic:

Principle 1.

Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honor citizens' entitlement to public information.

Principle 2.

To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.

Principle 3.

To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.

Principle 4.

The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.

Principle 5.

Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents.

Principle 6.

Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.

Principle 7.

The laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.

Principle 8.

Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.

Principle 9.

The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.

Principle 10.

Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.