



Ministry of
Environment and
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FENFAHI

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Clean water & adequate sewerage
services for all

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WORLD WATER DAY 2018: MINISTERS STATEMENT



22 March 2018

Water is vital to human life. It is essential for supporting economic, social, and human development and plays a critical role in human health and wellbeing. The growing global challenges, accompanied by insufficient investment in the water sector, have magnified the problems of water scarcity and associated vulnerabilities across the globe. As we celebrate this year's World Water Day, over 2.1 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water and 1.8 billion people use sources of contaminated drinking water, putting them at a health risk. Addressing these challenges require collected and concerted action both at the national and global levels. The annual World Water Day presents an opportunity to reflect on our progress, our challenges, and renew our efforts and commitments to ensure safe drinking water for all.

This year we are celebrating World Water Day with the theme of "Nature for Water". This theme captures the truly intrinsic role of our natural environment in balancing the water cycle, and improving human health and overall socio-economic development.

The Maldives, as a land scarce, low lying coral island nation, does not have fresh surface water resources. Our natural resources are limited to shallow confined groundwater aquifers and rainwater. Our challenges of water scarcity are compounded by the limited financial and human capacity for water resources management.

It is then imperative that we properly manage this valuable resource to avoid further depletion and degradation. Over the decades we have made significant progress towards ensuring safe drinking water for all. The achievements in the water sector since 2013, guided by the strategic leadership of H.E. President Yameen are particularly noteworthy. In order to improve governance of the sector, national water and sewerage policy structured on nine policy goals has been adopted in 2017. Water and Sewerage Act and subsequent regulations are also in the process of finalization.

The water and sanitation sector has seen unprecedented levels of development since H.E. President Yameen assumed office. Since then, the number of islands with piped water supply has increased from 6 islands to 21 islands, with work in a further 25 islands expected to be completed soon. Under the current administration, we are targeting to increase the coverage of piped water supply systems from 25 percent to 65 percent of the entire Maldivian population. Similar achievements have also been made in the sanitation sector, where we are targeting to increase the coverage of adequate sewerage systems from 37 percent of the population to 76 percent of the population at the end of 2018. To this regard, since 2013, the government has established adequate sewerage networks in 21 islands, with work ongoing in a further 44 islands.

In addition to the piped water supply system, the Government of Maldives initiated a special program in the year 2015 to upgrade community rainwater harvesting facilities to address the drinking water shortage in the islands. On average 70 islands requested for water every year in the last 6 years, with an average delivery of 4600 tonnes per year. With the new governance structure put in place in 2016 and as a result of the ongoing development works the number of islands requesting for water has significantly reduced to 31 islands with total of 1400 tonnes delivered. The government aims to significantly minimize frequent water shortage in island communities by the end of 2018. To achieve this target community frequent water shortage in island communities by the end of 2018. To achieve this target community rainwater harvesting facilities have been completed in 29 islands

and work in a further 61 islands are in progress. Additionally, water desalination plants and storage facilities are being developed in 19 islands. Access to affordable clean water to all has been further ensured through introduction of a common water tariff for all domestic consumers across the nation starting from January 2018.

Clearly Maldives has made significant progress in ensuring safe drinking water for all. Critical in achieving this success has been the concerted efforts by all stakeholders. I take the opportunity to thank the general public, the international donor community, non-governmental and civil society organizations, the utilities companies and the private sector for their consistent support in developing the water sanitation sector. I would like to particularly note and thank the hardworking civil servants in developing the sector and implementing the government's vision for the sector.

I further take this opportunity to commend H.E. President Yameen for his farsighted vision and steadfastness to develop and enhance the sector that led the Government to make remarkable progress over the past few years. On this World Water Day, I would like to reiterate the government's commitment to ensure access to all citizens to adequate water and sanitation services. I have no doubt that with your support, we can continue on this trajectory of success.

May we always be grateful to the resources bestowed upon us by Allah (SWA). Aameen

Thoriq Ibrahim
Minister of Environment and Energy

National Water and Sewerage Policy



The National Water and Sewerage Policy was launched 24th August 2017 by His Excellency Minister Thoriq Ibrahim at a ceremony held at Champa Central Hotel.

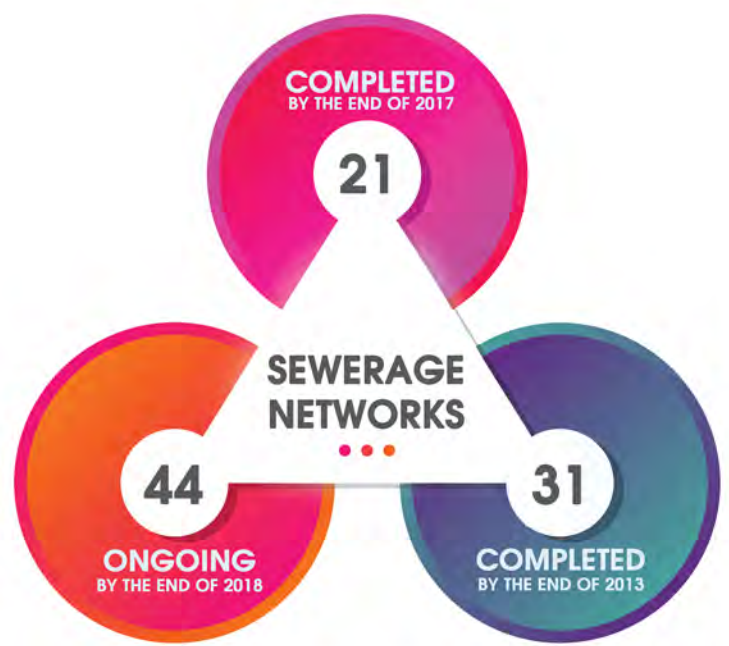
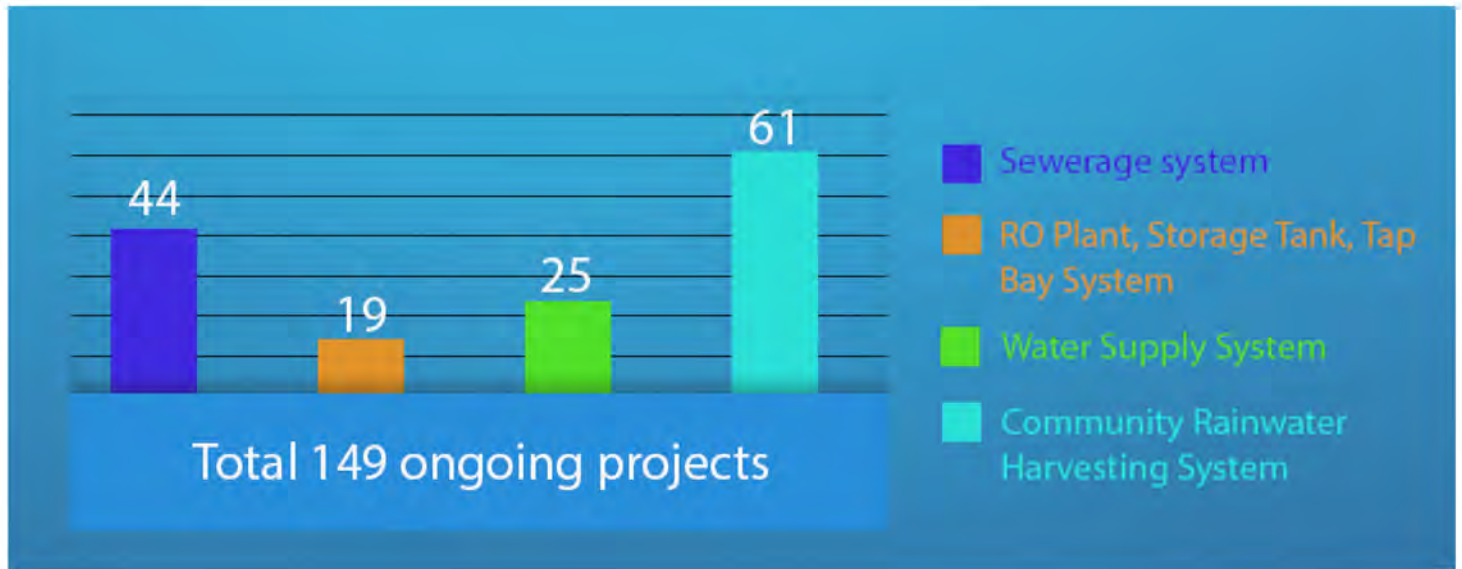
Speaking at the ceremony Minister Thoriq expressed that the main objective of this policy is to ensure access to safe water supply and adequate sewerage services by adopting cost-effective, environment friendly and appropriate technologies and strengthen legal framework.

Minister also stressed that the policy will encourage private sector investments in the sector and will facilitate in building capacity of the relevant institutions. This policy will also strengthen advocacy and awareness, promote research and development for protection and conservation of water resources.

The National Water and Sewerage Policy defines 9 specific goals;

- Goal 1. Ensure access to safe water supply and adequate sewerage services
- Goal 2. Adopting cost-effective, environment friendly and appropriate technologies
- Goal 3. Strengthening legal framework
- Goal 4. Encourage private sector investments
- Goal 5. Building institutional capacity
- Goal 6. Maintain financial and environmental sustainability
- Goal 7. Strengthen advocacy and awareness
- Goal 8. Promote research and development
- Goal 9. Protect and conserve water resources

Ongoing Water and Sanitation Projects



Fenfahi Campaign for Water and Sewerage



Ministry of Environment and Energy launched the FENFAHI National Campaign for water and sewerage on the occasion of World Water Day, 22nd March, 2017. The goal of the campaign is to inform, educate and strengthen the capacities of the individual(s) and communities and establish networks to manage and sustain water resources, water supply and sewerage systems.

CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE 1: Improve awareness and engagement of government officials and donor agencies and coordinated activities related to water resources, water supply and sewerage systems management.

OBJECTIVE 2: Educate Youth to drive Maldives towards a water secure future.

OBJECTIVE 3: Improve community's commitment to water resources, water supply and sewerage systems management.

OBJECTIVE 4: Encourage active involvement of businesses and industries in water management.

OBJECTIVE 5: Build adequate capabilities in Maldives to enable Integrated Water Resource Management.



Official Logo of Fenfahi Campaign

Achievements of the Sector

