

Maldives' 33% Reserved-Seat Quota for Women in Local Councils (2019 Decentralisation Act Amendment)

Gender Equality · Good practice · Maldives

Quality score: 70/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Maldives' 2019 law reserved 33% of local council seats for women. In the first election under it (April 2021), women won 389 of 981 seats (40%), up from ~6% — though none has yet chaired a council.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Transferability / replicability	1/3
Impact on gender equality	1/1
Effectiveness	1/1
Efficiency	0/1
Evaluated outcomes	1/1
Sustainability	1/1
Achievement / evidence	1/1
Gender-mainstreaming embedding	0/1
Curator validation	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-11

[Elections Commission of Maldives](#) — accessed 2026-07-11

[Maldives Independent: From seats to say — are political quotas for Maldivian women delivering real power?](#) — accessed 2026-07-11

[IFES: Elections in the Maldives — 2021 Local Council Elections](#) — accessed 2026-07-11

[UNDP Maldives: First of its Kind Women in Local Governance Forum Held in the Maldives](#) — accessed 2026-07-11

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