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THE MALDIVES NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

# SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025

**1,061+**
SDG INITIATIVES

**39**
FACULTIES, CENTRES & UNITS

**17/17**
SDGs ADDRESSED



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# 01 Executive Summary

*The year in brief*

*The Maldives National University (MNU) SDG Report 2025 captures the University's growing contribution to advancing sustainability, technological innovation, and social impact across the Maldives. Guided by the MNU Sustainability Policy and the MNU Sustainability Action Plan, this report showcases institutional progress aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through teaching, research, administrative operations, and community engagement.*

Throughout 2025, MNU recorded 1,061+ activities across its faculties, centres, schools, campuses, and administrative departments. The University strengthened its role as a key contributor to sustainable development by embedding sustainability principles into curricula, expanding digital transformation initiatives (such as AI task automation and paperless operations), and conducting research that addresses climate resilience, community well-being, and public policy.

The University's work directly supports the Maldives' national priorities for a resilient, low-carbon, and inclusive economy. This report consolidates those contributions across all 17 SDGs, providing a transparent account of MNU's achievements in 2025.

The year 2025 marked a pivotal transition in The Maldives National University's sustainability journey. While the University concluded its 2020-2025 Strategic Plan cycle, it simultaneously launched the Strategic Plan 2026-2030 in December 2025, formally embedding the Sustainable Development Goals into its institutional governance architecture rather than treating them as a parallel reporting exercise. The new plan, built on the philosophy of "*iman* and *ilm*" (faith and knowledge), establishes ten strategic goals explicitly aligned with the SDGs and integrates sustainability principles across teaching, research, operations, and community engagement.

The activity data recorded in 2025 highlight three important areas of institutional progress. First, artificial intelligence and digital literacy transitioned from experimental topics to routine professional development: at least twelve distinct activities addressed AI in teaching, assessment, administration, or research, reaching academic staff, administrative personnel, and students. Second, the four regional campuses Hithadhoo, Thinadhoo, Kulhudhuffushi, and Gan collectively contributed over 140 activity records. These contributions demonstrate the growing role of regional campuses in advancing sustainability initiatives across the Maldives. Third, quality assurance and governance activities entered the SDG record at institutional scale for the first time, with the Policy and Quality Control Unit (PQCU) completing the QAA Institutional Quality Review self-evaluation submission, the first Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings data submission, and preparations for an internal compliance audit.

# 02 Who are we?

*2025 at a glance*

The Maldives National University (MNU) is the nation's first and leading university, a state-funded institution serving more than half of the country's tertiary education population.

### Vision

To perform and be acknowledged as the outstanding academic institution of the nation and one of the finest in the region.

### Faculties, Schools and Centres

Centre for Educational Technology and Excellence; Centre for Foundation Studies; College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences; Faculty of Arts; Faculty of Education; Faculty of Engineering, Science and Technology; Faculty of Health Sciences; Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Studies; Faculty of Maritime Studies; Faculty of Shariah and Law; MNU Business School; School of Medicine; School of Nursing; School of Security and Strategic Studies.

## Our 2025 activity dashboard

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **6,839** students enrolled, up 2.5% from 6,674 | **20+** international students from 10 different countries | **73%** of commencing students are first in their family to attend university | **76.5%** female enrollment |
| **14** diverse faculties, centres, and schools | **4** regional campuses | **260** programs offered across multiple disciplines | **18** PhD programs, 16 introduced in 2025 |
| **690+** staff members (academic and administrative) | **22%** Academic staff holding PhDs | **44** students on scholarship categories and the Shaheed Award | **15+** outreach centres across the Maldives |

### Goals covered




**First submission to the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings.**

In May 2025 MNU submitted data to the THE Sustainability Impact Ratings for the first time, covering SDGs 3, 4, 5, 8, 13 and 17. MNU also joined the THE Sustainability Impact Network.

# 03 Foreword

*A message from the Vice Chancellor*



*Sustainability is not a destination we arrive at; it is a commitment we renew through the choices we make, the knowledge we share, and the communities we serve.*

As the national university, The Maldives National University has a responsibility that extends far beyond our classrooms and campuses. Our role is not only to educate and prepare graduates for their future careers, but also to contribute to the wellbeing of our people, protect our environment, strengthen our communities, and help build a more inclusive and resilient Maldives.

For a small island nation like ours, sustainability is particularly important. The challenges we face, from climate change and environmental vulnerability to social and economic inequalities, are closely connected to our everyday lives. Addressing these challenges requires knowledge, innovation, compassion and, above all, a willingness to work together.

The year 2025 was an important one in MNU's sustainability journey. With the launch of our Strategic Plan 2026–2030, we took a further step towards integrating the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals into our institutional priorities. Guided by the principles of *iman* and *ilm* (faith and knowledge), the Plan reflects our commitment to academic excellence, responsible governance, research, innovation and service to society.

Throughout the year, our students and staff contributed to sustainability in many meaningful ways. Through teaching and research, community outreach, health and wellbeing initiatives, environmental activities, technological innovation and partnerships, they demonstrated that universities can make a positive difference not only through the knowledge they generate, but also through the actions they take.

I am particularly encouraged by the contributions of our regional campuses, which continue to bring educational opportunities and community initiatives closer to people across the atolls. Sustainability must be relevant to the communities we serve, recognising their circumstances, needs and aspirations. Every island and every community matters, and no one should be left behind.

The progress we have made in strengthening quality assurance, expanding academic opportunities and supporting research and innovation is also encouraging. Initiatives such as MNU InnovateHub, which supports entrepreneurship and connects students with industry partners, demonstrate how universities can help turn ideas into opportunities that benefit individuals and communities. These efforts are important because they strengthen our ability to respond to the changing needs of our country.

One particularly meaningful achievement in 2025 was the completion of the first PhD thesis written entirely in Dhivehi. This milestone reminds us that sustainable development is not only about protecting our natural environment or strengthening our economy. It is also about preserving our language, identity, culture and heritage for future generations.

As we reflect on the activities presented in this report, we recognise that there is still much more to be done. Sustainability is a shared responsibility, and our progress will ultimately be measured not simply by the number of activities we undertake, but by the positive difference we make in people's lives and in the communities we serve.

I would like to sincerely thank our students, staff, researchers, University Council, partners and the many individuals and organisations who have contributed to these efforts. Every contribution matters, and it is through our collective commitment and collaboration that we can continue to move forward.

As we look to the future, I encourage every member of the MNU community to continue embracing sustainability in our everyday decisions, in the way we teach and learn, in the research we undertake, and in

the way we treat one another and care for our environment.

Together, through knowledge, kindness, responsibility and collective action, we can help build a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient Maldives for present and future generations.

**Aishath Shehenaz Adam, PhD**
Vice Chancellor

# 04 What matters to our community

*Sustainability literacy*

In 2025 MNU completed two baseline studies to assess sustainability knowledge among staff and students.

- Staff. The study "Assessing Sustainability Knowledge Among Staff" found strong knowledge of economic sustainability and room to improve understanding of environmental and social dimensions. It is MNU's first internal benchmark for sustainability literacy.
- Students. A parallel study found that students show strong knowledge and awareness of sustainability. It also aimed to identify knowledge gaps and inform curriculum development in every faculty.
- Next step. MNU has been in contact with Sulitest TASK about adopting a standard assessment tool. Staff took part in mock Sulitest assessments, and a Sulitest workshop was planned for 2025.

# 05 Spotlights

*Three stories from 2025*

## Spotlight 1: Fahi MNU, taking the university to the islands

Through the Fahi MNU community programme, the University extended its educational and outreach activities to communities across the islands in 2025.

- The Fahi MNU Outreach Trip took teacher development and student guidance to six island schools.
- Gan Campus ran the MNU Job Festival 2025 (9 exhibitors, 70 visitors, 20 students and 12 staff) and made course-promotion trips to L. Isdhoo, L. Kalaidhoo and islands in Thaa Atoll.

## Spotlight 2: Fahi Sihhath, health and well-being for all

Fahi Sihhath is MNU's national health programme. Its 2025 activities included:

- Volunteering by hospitality and tourism students at the Fahi Sih'hath event, with 150 participants.
- The MNU Marathon, reported by the Marketing Department with more than 1,400+ participants.
- A nationwide International Nurses Day programme led by the School of Nursing, and Mental Health Ambassador Training for 20 nursing students.
- First aid training by Thinadhoo Campus for staff of the Gdh. Family and Children Service Centre.

- A Dementia Prevalence Study in the Greater Malé region by the School of Medicine, in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society.

## Spotlight 3: Innovation and digital skills

- The MyMNU portal and a fibre backbone upgrade helped students in outer campuses to bridge the atoll gap.
- The Training and Development Unit trained 26 staff in AI-assisted workflows, 29 in mobile photography and 10 in online clinical supervision for allied health professionals.
- The Faculty of Engineering, Science and Technology held an E-Waste Hackathon with 23 students and 8 industry mentors and judges.
- MNU InnovateHub, the first university-led business incubator in the Maldives, was launched in 2024 and supports student start-ups.

# 06 Our journey

*From 2024 to the 2026-2030 strategic plan*

| | |
|---|---|
| 2024 | MNU InnovateHub launched as the first university-led business incubator in the Maldives. |
| 2024 | Three issues of the Maldives National Journal of Research published; Theveli 2024 and ICECCME 2024 held; 25 research-training sessions delivered. |
| 2024 | Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Studies became an associate member of the EHL certification scheme. |
| 2024 | Model SAARC Summit held at MNU with the SAARC diplomatic missions in the Maldives. |
| 2024 | First SDG Report produced and launched by the Vice Chancellor. |
| 2025 | MNU Sustainability Action Plan drafted (June) around ten pillars, alongside the Sustainability Policy and a Sustainability Committee document. |
| 2025 | MNU joined the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Network. |
| 2025 | First baseline studies of sustainability knowledge among staff and students. |
| 2025 | Theveli 2025, ICEST 2025, the Public Health Conference 2025 and the Maldives Medico-Legal Conference 2025 held. |
| 2025 | Sustainable procurement and sustainable investment policies published on the MNU sustainability page. |
| 2026 | MNU Strategic Plan 2026-2030 published; the Theveli International Conference 2026 listed on the website. |

# 07 Curriculum

*Immersive, mapped and community-linked learning*

MNU integrates sustainability and SDG themes into its curriculum through core courses, research projects, fieldwork and community engagement. Each programme has been mapped to specific SDGs, and the mapping is published on courses.mnu.edu.mv. Programmes the university highlights include the Bachelor of Science in Environmental

Management, the Bachelor of Business and the Master of Arts in Social Policy. The Action Plan commits MNU to a university-wide curriculum mapping exercise and to sustainability literacy as a graduate outcome for every programme.

### What the 2025 records show

#### Faculty of Education (99 records, 95 dated 2025)

The largest academic contribution, with 96 records tagged to SDG 4. Bachelor of Teaching (Primary) students visited the Maldives Meteorological Service (13 students); Bachelor of Teaching (Secondary) students carried out biology fieldwork on biodiversity and ecosystems; a professional development session helped 19 teachers recognise and respond to students' mental health needs; and the Faculty took part in an academic exchange with Justus Liebig University Giessen.

#### Faculty of Maritime Studies

The first local delivery of the Advanced Training for Oil Tanker Cargo Operations (2 staff, 14 students), an IMO Model Course 6.09 instructor course, and the NIYAMI course for the Maldives Police Service.

#### Faculty of Engineering, Science and Technology

An architecture exhibition (71 students, 5 staff, about 200 community visitors), a learning visit to the Hulhumalé Phase 3 land reclamation and shore protection works (20 students), a visit to STELCO (10 students) and a visit to IBM's factory (9 students).

#### MNU Business School and Faculty of Arts

A Development Economics field visit to Fuvahmulah and Entrepreneurs Confluence 2025; a Dhivehi language crash course for 36 participants; and the Faculty of Arts' first PhD graduate.

#### Global exposure

Seven students joined the JENESYS SAARC programme in Japan (35 applied), 20 students made an exposure visit to Pakistan, and a student attended the Commonwealth Chemistry Congress in South Africa. Erasmus+ KA171 staff mobility reached Apollonia University in Romania (2 staff) and Alanya University in Türkiye (1 staff).

#### Library and learning support

A Web of Science refresher for 58 staff and students and referencing sessions for students at several campuses.

## 08 Operations

*Policies and campus projects*

#### Policies and governance

The MNU sustainability page publishes the Sustainability Policy, the Sustainability Action Plan, a Sustainable Procurement Policy, a Sustainable Investment Policy and the Sustainability Committee document. The Action Plan names the Policy and Quality Control Unit as the coordinating body, with focal points at each campus, and sets out these operational commitments as plans:

- rooftop solar panels and microgrid options for island campuses;
- a university-wide carbon inventory and annual carbon footprint report;
- LED lighting, water-saving measures and annual energy and water targets;
- waste segregation and recycling stations, composting and paper reduction;
- sustainable procurement guidelines and sustainability criteria in building projects.

### What the 2025 records show

- **Sustainable design:** the Projects unit integrated sustainable design standards into the design of the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences campus, aiming at energy-efficient, accessible and health-supporting learning spaces (design and tender stage).
- **Accessibility:** Procurement and Assets Management installed wheelchair ramps during the renovation of the CA compound.
- **Digital operations:** the IT Section deployed the MyMNU portal and upgraded the fibre backbone across faculties.
- Utilities awareness: Kulhudhuffushi Campus hosted a Utility Regulatory Authority session (16 MNU staff, 9 URA staff) and a field visit to WAMCO on waste management.
- **Staff wellbeing:** Human Resources held the 52nd Anniversary celebration and Welcome Blast 2025 (500 or more participants each)

## 09 Research

*Advocacy for a better future*

The Research Development Office recorded the highest number of sustainability-related activities in the 2025 dataset:112 activity records, 86 dated 2025, tagged mainly to SDG 17 (94), SDG 4 (63), SDG 3 (23) and SDG 13 (10).

### Conferences and journals

MNU held the Theveli International Conference 2025, ICEST 2025, the Public Health Conference 2025 and the Maldives Medico-Legal Conference 2025 and publishes the Maldives National Journal of Research and the Maldives Journal of Engineering and Technology. University Research Grants and University Book Writing Grants ran 2025 calls.

### International and national projects

The research pages list the ESCAP Risk and Resilience portal, the South Asian Nitrogen (SANH) project, PROMISE, UN4DRR and RECOVER. They address climate and disaster resilience, water security, sanitation and marine litter in small island settings.

### Climate framework

The RDO recorded the MNU Environment and Climate Framework 2025-2030, supported by the Canadian TAP-EDM programme.

### Studies for policy

Examples include a study of digital transformation readiness in government schools, research on socio-economic predictors of low fertility, a Dementia Prevalence Study in the Greater Malé region and a Security Research Roundtable by the School of Security and Strategic Studies.

## 10 Engagement

*Partnerships for change*

MNU's community programmes include Fahi MNU, the MNU Job Festival, the MNU Food Fair, the MNU Bookfair, the MNU Marathon, Fahi Musthagbal, Fahi Khuthubukhana, Fahi Sihhath and Furaatha, the university social responsibility initiative.

- **Vara Expo 2025:** more than 150 visitors and partners, with 98% satisfaction among past attendees.
- **MNU Bookfair:** 34 vendors, more than 300 students and 35 staff, plus a wider community audience.
- **Hithadhoo Campus:** Cooking Fiesta 2025 (30 participants, more than 1,000 people reached), Business Forum 2025 (40 participants) and financial literacy training for more than 30 police officers in Gan.
- **Kulhudhuffushi Campus:** an Islamic finance and financial literacy session for 28 MNU staff and 4 Maldives Islamic Bank staff, and a tree-planting event (28 staff, 50 students, 2 ministry representatives).
- **Thinadhoo Campus:** tree planting on campus, a donation of 200 plants to Aboobakuru School and Children's Day at Thinadhoo Museum Park.
- **School of Nursing:** a hand-washing programme reaching 190 pupils and teachers of Falah Preschool, and a coastal clean-up with first aid support.

### Partnerships

MNU collaborates with government ministries, local councils, NGOs, and international universities to advance its educational, research, and sustainability objectives. Its initiatives include working with Parley for the Oceans on marine litter prevention and a partnership between the MNU Library and The Asia Foundation to translate children's storybooks into Dhivehi for the Let's Read platform. The International Office's Sagaafee Sai event brought together 20 staff members and 50 students, while Erasmus+ mobility programmes strengthened the university's international engagement with European institutions. In 2025, MNU also joined the Times Higher Education (THE) Sustainability Impact Network, further demonstrating its commitment to sustainability and global collaboration.

## Our year, month by month

| | |
|---|---|
| Jan | Assessment and Evaluation training for academic staff; Fahi Dhuvas at Gan Campus (30 students) |
| Feb | Cooking Fiesta at Hithadhoo (1,000+ community reach); Fahi Sufuraa Food Exhibition (10 vendors); Namaadhu Workshop at Thinadhoo (35 completions) |
| Mar | International Women's Day at Kulhudhuffushi Campus (31 staff) |
| Apr | First local delivery of ATOTCO (14 trainees); MRes in Security and Strategic Studies launched; InnovateHub opens first-cohort applications; strategic planning workshop on 22 April |
| May | First THE Impact Ratings submission; Islamic finance session and healthy-ageing event at Kulhudhuffushi; Job Fest at Hithadhoo (300 participants); student workshop for the strategic plan |
| Jun | PROMISE project concludes with 300 MSMEs implementing waste-minimisation options |
| Jul | Network backbone upgraded to 10G; 200 plants donated to Aboobakuru School; DIGITAsia training begins (July to October) |
| Aug | Theveli International Conference 2025, 18 to 20 August; One Stop Admission in Malé (140 successful applications); second ATOTCO batch (7 trainees) |
| Sep | Pharmacy Laboratory opens; EduTech Symposium (60+); E-Waste Hackathon (23 students); ENV109 fieldwork in Thulusdhoo; World Maritime Day outreach; UNODC expert group meeting |
| Oct | SCALE launched; first PhD thesis written entirely in Dhivehi completed; MoU with the Maldives Monetary Authority; Electronic Evidence session; Security Research Roundtable |
| Nov | Research fellowship MoU with the Maldives Police Service; fire safety drill at Kulhudhuffushi with MNDF; training on assessment in the era of AI |

| | |
|---|---|
| Dec | Strategic Plan 2026-2030 launched on 14 December; QAA Institutional Quality Review self-evaluation submitted; MoU with Dhiraagu for InnovateHub |

# 11 About MNU and the SDGs

*Institution and commitment*

*The Maldives National University (MNU) serves as the country's premier higher-education institution, fostering innovation and knowledge creation that support national development. MNU has strategically aligned its teaching, research, and operations with the United Nations SDGs.*

MNU's sustainability commitment is articulated through:

- **Policy Integration.** The MNU Sustainability Policy outlines a comprehensive approach to embedding sustainability into education, research, community engagement, and university operations.
- **Action Planning.** The MNU Sustainability Action Plan translates this vision into measurable objectives and annual operational targets under ten pillars.
- **SDG Mapping and Reporting.** Each faculty, centre, campus, and department level identifies how its activities contribute to specific SDGs through curriculum innovation, research projects, and community programs recorded in the University's SDG Mapping Sheet.
- **Partnerships.** Collaboration with government ministries, state utilities, local councils, NGOs, and international organizations strengthens MNU's capacity to deliver impact through education for sustainable development (ESD).

# 12 Institutional Framework

*Governance, pillars and the strategic transition*

MNU's sustainability governance is anchored in a robust institutional framework designed to ensure accountability, collaboration, and continuous improvement.

## Governance and leadership

Sustainability is overseen by the MNU Sustainability Committee, a multidisciplinary body comprising representatives from academic faculties, administrative departments and the student community. The Policy and Quality Control Unit (PQCU) serves as the central coordinating office for sustainability implementation, supported by designated focal points at each faculty and campus to ensure policy alignment and data collection.

## Ten action pillars

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Sustainability in Curriculum and Teaching | 2 | Research, Innovation, and Knowledge Exchange for Sustainability |
| 3 | Digital Transformation and Open Knowledge for Sustainability | 4 | Staff Development and Recognition |
| 5 | Sustainable Finance, Resource Mobilization and Procurement for Sustainability | 6 | Sustainability Leadership and Governance |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | Community Engagement and Partnerships | 8 | Faculty/Campus/Centre/School Operations and Resource Management |
| 9 | Student Academic Engagement and Experiential Learning for Sustainability | 10 | Strategic Partnerships, Global Collaboration and Innovation for Sustainability |

## The Strategic Plan 2026-2030

The launch of the Strategic Plan 2026-2030 on 14 December 2025 represents the most significant institutional development of the year for SDG integration. Developed through extensive consultation including a full-day workshop with academic and administrative heads in April 2025 and a dedicated student workshop in May 2025 the plan establishes ten strategic goals covering academic excellence, research and innovation, Maldivian identity, people empowerment, institutional sustainability, governance, societal engagement, work and learning environment, student-centred excellence, and international engagement.

For SDG reporting, the plan's significance lies in its explicit commitment to aligning institutional priorities with the UN 2030 Agenda. Unlike the previous planning cycle, where SDG alignment was largely retrospective (activities mapped to goals after implementation), the 2026-2030 plan positions SDGs as a design principle for curriculum development, research prioritisation, campus operations, and partnership strategy. This shift from ex-post mapping to ex-ante integration is the necessary condition for moving beyond activity counting toward genuine outcome measurement.

The QAA mid-cycle review, conducted in late 2025 and published in January 2026, provided independent validation of institutional progress. The review confirmed that MNU's accreditation under the International Quality Accreditation (IQA) framework has been extended until October 2028, citing strengthened decision-making, improved operational efficiency, and enhanced strategic oversight since the 2023 restructuring. The review also noted that MNU's academic portfolio has expanded substantially, with sixteen new PhD programmes introduced in 2025 (bringing the total to eighteen), and student enrolment increasing by 2.5% from 6,674 in 2024 to 6,839 in 2025.

## Quality assurance and international benchmarking

Under SDG 4 and SDG 16, the Policy and Quality Control Unit undertook several institutional-level activities that, while not directly serving "beneficiaries," establish the accountability infrastructure without which SDG claims remain unverifiable. The QAA Institutional Quality Review (IQR) self-evaluation report was completed and submitted in December 2025, accompanied by an action plan addressing the twenty recommendations arising from the review. In May 2025, MNU submitted data to the Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings for the first time, covering SDGs 3, 4, 5, 8, 13, and 17. The University also joined the THE Sustainability Impact Network and maintained memberships in INQAAHE, APQN, ACU, and IAU.

These activities do not lend themselves to the participant-counting logic that dominates most SDG reporting. Their significance is structural: they create the external benchmarking and internal accountability mechanisms through which future SDG claims can be validated.




# No Poverty

*End poverty in all its forms everywhere*

| 44 | 24 | 10 |
|---|---|---|
| students under scholarship categories and the Shaheed Award | scholarship opportunities announced in Term 2 | scholarship awards in Term 2 |

## Overview

As the national university of the Maldives, MNU addresses socio-economic vulnerability through financial education, administrative modernization, and community support. Poverty alleviation and financial inclusion remain key themes across the University's administrative initiatives and academic engagement.

For an island nation, the cost of accessing higher education extends beyond tuition. Travel, accommodation, information and family circumstances can all affect participation. MNU's contribution to poverty reduction therefore lies in widening access to learning, supporting students and strengthening the capabilities that underpin future livelihoods.

## MNU 2025 highlights

- In May, Maldives Islamic Bank delivered an Islamic finance and financial literacy session at Kulhudhuffushi Campus for 28 MNU staff and four bank staff. The session covered budgeting, savings, responsible financial planning and Shariah-compliant products, linking financial education to everyday decisions.
- In the second term, MNU announced 24 scholarship opportunities and made ten awards. A total of 44 students were studying under university scholarship categories and the Shaheed Award. The Term 2 orientation also introduced new students to government scholarship pathways.
- Maintenance at Dhanaal Student Accommodation kept rooms, kitchens and sanitary facilities in working order for resident students. Regional outreach and job festivals complemented this support by bringing education and employment information closer to island communities.
- MNU expanded the digital issuance of documents across administrative departments. This reduced administrative costs and eased access to services for staff and students in remote atolls.

**IMPACT FOCUS**

MNU addresses socio-economic vulnerability by dismantling financial and geographical barriers to higher education, providing 44 active scholarships and flexible course-fee arrangements to prevent financial hardship from disrupting learning. Through subsidised housing maintenance at the Dhanaal Student Accommodation, financial literacy workshops in Islamic banking and personal budgeting, and job festivals connecting outer-island youth with employment pathways, the University equips students and community jobseekers with tools for long-term economic resilience and workforce entry. These measures contribute to SDG 1 by helping students manage education-related costs, reducing barriers to continued study and improving access to employment opportunities.




# Zero Hunger

*End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture*

**605**
children reached by food safety outreach in four preschools

**10**
vendors at the Fahi Sufuraa Food Exhibition

## Overview

Food security is central to national resilience in the Maldives. MNU prioritizes research, food safety education, and community activities that promote sustainable food production, agricultural innovation, and nutritional health.

## MNU 2025 highlights

- MNU hosted its annual Food Fair in 2025, bringing together culinary arts students, local vendors and nutritionists to showcase sustainable culinary practices, local ingredients and balanced diets. The Fahi Sufuraa Food Exhibition in February involved ten vendors and supported local products, culinary skills and small businesses.
- University research grants funded projects on island soil quality, crop yield enhancement and food waste management. Multi-departmental research projects were also registered to strengthen island food sovereignty and develop climate-smart agricultural techniques suited to low-lying islands.
- In December, a University Research Grant was awarded for the project “Securing Fisheries and Food Systems in Small States”, which examines illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing threats and maritime interoperability. Findings and policy uptake will be reported as the work completes.
- A registered satellite-imagery project proposed shoreline monitoring and farmland mapping using Sentinel-1 SAR data. The work links food production with coastal vulnerability, land-use evidence and climate adaptation.

**IMPACT FOCUS**

MNU advances island food security and sustainable nutrition by integrating agricultural innovation, soil management research, and nutritional education into university and community practices. Direct engagement initiatives such as the annual MNU Food Fair 2025 and food safety outreach reaching 605 children across four preschools promote balanced diets and local sourcing, while university research grants support climate-smart agriculture and soil enrichment techniques suited for coral island ecosystems. Food safety education and agricultural research contribute to SDG 2 by supporting better nutrition and the development of more resilient local food systems.




# Good Health and Well-being

*Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*

| 60+ | Sept | Oct |
|---|---|---|
| activities contributing to health and well-being | Pharmacy Laboratory opened | SCALE launched with Northumbria Healthcare partners |

## Overview

MNU actively fosters physical, mental, and clinical health across all campuses and island communities through professional training, national advocacy, and direct medical outreach. Health and wellness are also recognized within MNU's governance and policy framework through the Smoke-Free Policy and the Academic and Pastoral Support Policy, reinforcing a supportive learning and working environment across the institution.

## MNU 2025 highlights

- MNU delivered online clinical supervision workshops for allied health professionals across the Maldives, to support care standards in regional health centres.
- The Faculty of Health Sciences held workshops on using artificial intelligence in healthcare research and diagnostic education.
- MNU ran certified First Aid and basic life support training for school teachers, university staff and community members in Malé and at regional campuses, including GA. Maamendhoo School and Thinadhoo Campus.
- In May, a healthy-ageing event at Kulhudhuffushi Campus involved 18 nursing students and 25 community members. Nursing outreach also taught handwashing to preschool learners through demonstration and re-demonstration, giving students practical experience in prevention-focused learning.
- The Pharmacy Laboratory opened in September, with student demonstrations showing the value of hands-on facilities for competency-based education.
- In October, MNU launched SCALE with Northumbria Healthcare partners to strengthen antimicrobial-resistance surveillance, infection prevention and stewardship in selected regional hospitals. MNU staff also contributed to the validation of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy, linking academic expertise with national mental health planning.

**IMPACT FOCUS**

MNU translates medical and nursing expertise into community-wide health outcomes through preventive health campaigns, emergency training, mental health advocacy, and clinical capacity building. Key activities including online clinical supervision workshops, the Intensive Course in Obstetric Emergencies, the Nurses Art Lab, World AIDS Day family outreach, and public eye screening camps elevate clinical standards, foster emotional resilience, and equip island populations with practical health knowledge, while campus fitness events like the MNU Marathon promote active lifestyles and non-communicable disease prevention. These activities contribute to SDG 3 by strengthening health knowledge, preventive care and the skills of health professionals; longer-term health outcomes would require separate evaluation.




# Quality Education

*Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*

| 6,839 | 80+ | 85 | 140 |
|---|---|---|---|
| students enrolled in 2025, up 2.5% | library information literacy sessions | island schools reached through outreach | successful applications at one Malé One Stop Admission |

## Overview

Quality education forms the core of MNU's institutional mission. MNU expanded continuous teacher development, digitized student learning tools, and maintained rigorous quality assurance frameworks.

## MNU 2025 highlights

- The Training and Development Unit (TDU) delivered structured assessment training for academic staff throughout 2025. It began with Assessment and Evaluation for Academic Staff in January and Marking and Moderation (Batch 01), and ended with Assessment Strategies in the Era of AI in November (12 participants). The programme aimed at consistent, fair and valid assessment practice across faculties.
- MNU held more than 20 pedagogical workshops on andragogy, blended learning and curriculum design. They included a session on blended delivery in October (6 participants), as well as sessions on ethics, AI-supported practice and visual communication tools such as Canva and mobile photography. Later-year workshops addressed how teaching should be redesigned for changing digital environments.
- The enhanced MY MNU portal streamlined student access to academic resources, course materials and administrative services.
- The Library recorded more than 80 information literacy sessions on database searching, APA referencing and information evaluation, with 4 to 60 participants per session, supporting students' research and academic writing skills.
- Faculty outreach to schools extended teaching expertise into the wider education system, and academic seminars and research conferences supported lifelong learning.
- Fahi MNU and One Stop Admission activities in Malé, Kulhudhuffushi, Gan, Thinadhoo and Hithadhoo brought programme advice to regional and outer-island communities. Fahi MNU visits to Haa Alifu, Haa Dhaal, Meemu, Thaa and Baa atolls reached 200 to 250 students per visit, with orientation on learning platforms, regulations and scholarship pathways.
- The Policy and Quality Control Unit (PQCU) worked on assessment procedures and external-review preparation to support consistent academic standards across units.
- The MRes in Security and Strategic Studies was launched in April with two candidates, linking postgraduate education to SDG 16 priorities. In October, MNU completed its first PhD thesis written entirely in Dhivehi (Aminath Zahir), supervised by Dr Aminath Riyaz with Dr Dheeba Moosa as co-supervisor. The thesis also contributes to SDG 11 through the academic preservation of cultural heritage.

**IMPACT FOCUS**

The University widens access to high-quality higher education through pedagogical reform, AI assessment strategies, information literacy workshops, and extensive outreach across 85 island schools. MNU advances lifelong learning and academic excellence through public lectures under the Fahi Musthagbal Speaker Series, digital repository enhancements via Saruna, and historic milestones such as the completion of MNU's first PhD thesis written entirely in the Dhivehi language, safeguarding indigenous culture while building contemporary professional skills. These initiatives support SDG 4 by widening opportunities to enter higher education and strengthening access to learning resources and lifelong education.




# Gender Equality

*Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*

**76.5%**
female enrolment

**31**
staff at International Women's Day, Kulhudhuffushi

## Overview

MNU is committed to creating an equitable and supportive environment, empowering female leadership, and removing systemic barriers across academic and professional spheres. Gender equality is embedded across MNU's institutional culture, from policy development to program delivery. The University's policies reinforce gender-sensitive governance, safeguarding equal access to education, employment, and leadership opportunities for women and men alike.

## MNU 2025 highlights

- MNU ran the Fahi Musthagbal speaker series, with leadership and empowerment sessions featuring prominent female leaders, aimed at young women in higher education and public administration.
- MNU supported female academic and student participation at the 3rd Commonwealth Chemistry Congress in Stellenbosch, South Africa, promoting women's participation in STEM.
- One Stop Admission streamlined admission processes across campuses, supporting equal access to programmes for female applicants at all degree levels.
- In March, Kulhudhuffushi Campus marked International Women's Day under the theme "Accelerate Action", with 31 staff taking part. Discussions and awareness messages covered women's achievements, the barriers they face and the need for stronger opportunities.
- The Anti-Sexual Harassment Committee and gender-related policy commitments form part of the university's framework, providing a basis for a respectful learning and working environment. Outcome indicators will track their effectiveness in future cycles.
- Gender equality was addressed across health, education, outreach and research activities. The TAP-EDM environment and climate framework also links research capacity with inclusive development.

**IMPACT FOCUS**

MNU embeds gender equity into governance, admissions and research leadership, maintaining female enrolment at 76.5% across the university, with strong female representation in health, teacher education, humanities and social sciences. Institutional policies including the Policy on Non-Discrimination Against Women, the Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy and the Paternity Leave Policy support a safe and inclusive working environment, while mentorship sessions and participation in international scientific congresses actively support women's leadership in STEM and public life. These activities support SDG 5 through opportunities for women's participation and institutional measures intended to promote equitable and safe learning and working environments.




# Clean Water and Sanitation

*Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*

**Oct-Dec**
household water usage survey (RECOVER)

**Dec**
research grant on microplastics in bottled water

## Overview

MNU combines hygiene promotion, environmental research, and facility maintenance to safeguard clean water and sanitation access across university campuses and surrounding communities.

## MNU 2025 highlights

- MNU ran community handwashing awareness programmes in schools and on campuses to build public health awareness and prevent the spread of infectious disease. Nursing-led sessions gave participants practical infection-prevention learning.
- University research grants supported studies of groundwater quality and rainwater harvesting efficiency in small island communities. A University Research Grant awarded in December supported an investigation of microplastics in commercially available bottled water.
- RECOVER's Maldivian case study examines water metabolism and water security in Malé. The project runs across the reporting year and is not a single-year intervention.
- The Maldives National Journal of Research (MNJR) published articles on water security, socio-hydrology and sustainable island sanitation, including a paper on island water-demand patterns across scales.
- The Utility Regulatory Authority held a session at Kulhudhuffushi Campus on responsible water use. Maintenance of Dhanaal Student Accommodation covered plumbing, toilets, washing machines and kitchen facilities.

**IMPACT FOCUS**

MNU supports island water security and environmental health through socio-hydrological research, groundwater monitoring, and public sanitation campaigns. University research grants fund scientific evaluations of rainwater harvesting efficiency and freshwater lens protection in fragile coral atolls, while routine campus facility maintenance and school handwashing drives build baseline community health literacy to prevent infectious disease transmission. The 2025 activities described here should be distinguished from research grants and infrastructure measures that remained under development or implementation.




# Affordable and Clean Energy

*Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all*

**9**
campus and accommodation projects with energy-aware designs

**Powering Knowledge**
STELCO study visit theme

## Overview

Energy efficiency and renewable energy adoption are vital for national climate resilience in the Maldives. MNU promotes energy education, technical partnerships, and staff awareness.

## MNU 2025 highlights

- MNU held information sessions for university staff with the Utility Regulatory Authority on energy efficiency, electrical safety, sustainable consumption and conservation.
- Engineering students made technical field visits to the State Electric Company Limited (STELCO) power facilities under the theme “Powering Knowledge”. The visits covered energy generation, grid management, renewable integration and safety.
- The Fahi Musthagbal speaker series included clean energy topics, engaging students on renewable energy strategies for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). A session with renewable-energy advocate Dr. Ibrahim Nashid connected engineering, entrepreneurship and clean technology.
- Designs for nine campus and accommodation projects specify solar photovoltaic panels, passive lighting and passive cooling.
- Facilities reporting records a transition to long-life LED lighting across faculties and offices.

**IMPACT FOCUS**

MNU advances clean energy transitions through sustainable design standards across nine new campus and accommodation projects that specify rooftop solar PV, passive cooling and natural lighting, aimed at lowering operational carbon footprints. A transition to energy-efficient LED lighting, technical visits to the state electric utility, public lectures on grid-connected solar and regulatory information sessions with the Utility Regulatory Authority foster energy conservation and clean-energy awareness. The nine projects are described as incorporating energy-conscious design provisions; this should not be interpreted as confirmation that all proposed solar installations or efficiency measures were completed in 2025.




# Decent Work and Economic Growth

*Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*

| 315 | 11 | Apr |
|---|---|---|
| visitors at the Fahi Furushathu Job Festival | participating institutions | InnovateHub first-cohort applications opened |

## Overview

MNU nurtures a skilled, future-ready workforce through professional upskilling, industry partnerships, and technology-driven efficiency.

## MNU 2025 highlights

- The Training and Development Unit delivered “Smart Workdays” workshops for staff and students on automating administrative workflows with AI. It also ran university-wide Canva training for academic staff to strengthen instructional design, marketing and communication skills. Training on AI, digital tools, assessment and professional ethics supported workplace capability across the university.
- MNU used digital management portals, including the MY MNU portal, to streamline institutional operations and support remote working.
- The Fahi Furushathu Job Festival at Thinadhoo Campus recorded 315 visitors and representatives of eleven participating institutions. Job festivals at other campuses extended access to vacancies, career advice and employer networks.
- InnovateHub opened applications for its first cohort in April, following its earlier launch. Dhiraagu provided financial and connectivity support, and SparkHub added mentorship and capacity-building opportunities.
- MNU publishes its salary structures, progression arrangements and pension contributions.

**IMPACT FOCUS**

MNU fosters decent work and economic empowerment by maintaining transparent salary structures that exceed national poverty benchmarks and public minimum wages, while providing retirement pension security and regular salary progression. Regional Job Festivals in Malé, Kulhudhuffushi, Gan, and Thinadhoo connect hundreds of jobseekers with local employers, and MNU InnovateHub provides student startups with seed funding, mentorship, and corporate partnerships to drive youth entrepreneurship. Job festivals and entrepreneurship activities undertaken in 2025 are distinct from ongoing employment policies and longer-term support commitments.




# Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

*Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*

| 266 | 10G | 60+ |
|---|---|---|
| initiatives on AI, digital transformation and educational technology | network backbone, upgraded from 1G-class in July | participants at EduTech Symposium 2025 |

## Overview

Innovation and infrastructure modernization are central to MNU's strategic vision. In 2025, MNU recorded 266 initiatives focused on AI integration, digital transformation, and educational technology.

## MNU 2025 highlights

- MNU held training sessions on Google NotebookLM and other AI platforms for research synthesis, curriculum development and institutional efficiency. The Centre for Educational Technology and Excellence (CETE) also ran sessions on video editing and teaching across modalities, and organised the EduTech Symposium.
- Through the "Smart Workdays" campaign, AI-powered workplace automation tools were rolled out across several administrative units and academic faculties.
- MNU upgraded its digital library repositories and campus IT infrastructure to support research access and remote learning. In July the network backbone moved from a 1G-class to a 10G infrastructure, with the aim of more reliable access to learning platforms and stronger institutional systems.
- The Pharmacy Laboratory opened in September with practical demonstrations by students, strengthening the facilities available for competency-based pharmacy education and research.
- InnovateHub connected students and innovators with business-development expertise.

**IMPACT FOCUS**

MNU strengthens national technical capacity and digital infrastructure through campus network upgrades from 1G to 10G fibre, the rollout of the MyMNU Portal, and the inauguration of specialised facilities like the modern Pharmacy Laboratory. Through the International Conference on Innovations in Engineering, Science and Technology for Sustainable Development (ICEST) and CETE-led training in AI integration, video editing, and workplace automation (Smart Workdays), MNU equips staff and students with advanced technological skills for sustainable development. The network upgrade and laboratory opening are reported as 2025 achievements, while broader digital-capacity development remains an ongoing institutional priority.




# Reduced Inequalities

*Reduce inequality within and among countries*

| | |
|---|---|
| **200-250** | **5** |
| students per Fahi MNU island visit | atolls visited: Haa Alifu, Haa Dhaal, Meemu, Thaa and Baa |

## Overview

Equity and spatial inclusion are fundamental to MNU's mission. The University ensures that higher education and professional growth are accessible across all dispersed atolls.

## MNU 2025 highlights

- Thinadhoo Campus hosted the Fahi Furushathu Job Festival, a regional employment and skills festival in Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll. It brought employers and services to a regional setting and connected outer-island youth with employment and higher education pathways.
- Under Fahi MNU, faculty teams visited primary and secondary schools on remote islands to provide career guidance, academic mentoring and scholarship information. These visits and the One Stop Admission activities extended programme and career information beyond central Malé.
- The Term 1 student orientation was structured to include accessibility support for students with diverse learning needs and backgrounds.
- MNU offers scholarship categories, academic and pastoral support, and a Supporting Students with Disability Policy.
- Faculty outreach included support for teachers working with students who have diverse learning needs.

**IMPACT FOCUS**

MNU reduces spatial, financial, and physical disparities across the Maldives through decentralised admissions outreach, pathway and foundation programmes, and dedicated disability support initiatives. The FAHI MNU atoll visits and One Stop Admissions bring university entry guidance directly to remote island communities, while practical work placements at MNU Library under the Care Society Job Training Programme and the World Bank-funded SCLP project build nationwide capacity for inclusive education and accessible infrastructure. The outreach and placement activities illustrate action undertaken to widen access; longer-term improvements in equity and accessibility should be assessed separately.




# Sustainable Cities and Communities

*Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*

**200**
plants donated to Aboobakuru School

**3**
campuses in the national tree-planting programme

## Overview

MNU contributes to local community development, safety training, cultural preservation, and environmental enhancement across island settlements.

## MNU 2025 highlights

- The Waste Management Corporation (WAMCO) received training for its staff in customer service, communication and occupational safety.
- Thinadhoo Campus donated and planted 200 trees and shade plants at Aboobakuru School to support local greenery. Student-led planting at Thinadhoo, and campaigns at Kulhudhuffushi and Hithadhoo, linked campus action to the national tree-planting programme.
- MNU organised civic celebrations and educational workshops for Children's Day at Thinadhoo Museum Park, promoting community cohesion and awareness of cultural heritage.
- Dhivehi Day celebrations, traditional food activities and cultural programmes brought language and heritage into campus life. MNU also completed its first doctoral thesis written entirely in Dhivehi.
- Students on the ENV109 course carried out fieldwork in Thulusdhoo using household surveys, livelihood assessment, GPS and participatory mapping. Engagement with the island council, school and health centre connected sustainability concepts with community conditions.
- Maintenance of student accommodation supported safe and functional living spaces.

**IMPACT FOCUS**

MNU promotes resilient island settlements and cultural heritage preservation through community greening initiatives, municipal workforce training, and public civic celebrations. Participation in the Government's Five Million Tree Planting Pledge across Kulhudhuffushi, Hithadhoo, and Thinadhoo campuses alongside donating 200 trees to Aboobakuru School enhances local vegetation, microclimates, and shade, while specialised customer service and safety training for WAMCO personnel strengthens municipal waste services. The tree-planting and training activities are reported for 2025; their longer-term environmental and community outcomes have not been quantified here.




# Responsible Consumption and Production

*Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*

| 650+ | 300 | 184 |
|---|---|---|
| staff reached by digital issuance of HR documents | MSMEs applying waste-minimisation options (PROMISE) | localised procurement bid announcements |

## Overview

MNU integrates waste minimization, green procurement, and sustainable resource management into academic programs and operational practices.

## MNU 2025 highlights

- MNU hosted a national World Tourism Day forum on sustainable tourism supply chains, local sourcing and circular economy practices in hospitality operations.
- At Vara Expo 2025, MNU showcased sustainable student projects, eco-friendly crafts and resource-efficient business concepts.
- MNU carried out joint coastal clean-up and safety operations with community partners, removing marine debris and promoting waste separation.
- Human Resources issued contracts, verification letters and pay slips digitally to more than 650 staff, which can reduce printing and storage needs.
- PROMISE worked with tourism-related MSMEs across the Maldives, Sri Lanka and India, using sustainable consumption and production approaches. Its reported outputs include waste-minimisation action by enterprises and regional policy engagement.
- Routine maintenance of buildings, furniture and appliances supported longer asset life, and MNU reports plastic-reduction measures at graduation events.

**IMPACT FOCUS**

MNU incorporates sustainable supply chain management, single-use plastic elimination, and local SME support into its operations and academic forums. Issuing 184 localised procurement bid announcements enables Maldivian businesses to compete for opportunities in domestic supply chains, while prohibiting single-use plastics and sweetened carbonated drinks across all university graduation ceremonies sets an institutional standard for sustainable waste management. The procurement announcements and event practices are reported as operational measures; their environmental impact should not be assumed without additional monitoring.




# Climate Action

*Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*

| 750+ | 23 | USD 4.5M |
|---|---|---|
| tonnes of waste from PROMISE beach clean-ups | students at the E-Waste Hackathon | GEF/UNEP-funded CHOMV project |

## Overview

Climate action is embedded across MNU's research framework, campus greening projects, and environmental awareness campaigns.

## MNU 2025 highlights

- MNU carried out multi-campus tree-planting drives, including at Thinadhoo Campus, planting native shade and fruit trees. It also partnered with island schools on hands-on plant donations and climate literacy sessions, including visits by Grade 2 students from Thinadhoo School.
- Climate change adaptation, coastal defence principles and environmental policy modules were embedded in degree programmes in public administration and environmental science.
- The TAP-EDM project produced the MNU Environment and Climate Research Framework 2025-2030, the university's first institutional climate research strategy. It was developed with university staff, government partners and international experts, is aligned with the Maldives' Third Nationally Determined Contribution, and provides a roadmap for research on national climate and environmental priorities.
- Resilience to Climate Vulnerability and Environmental Risk (RECOVER), which focuses on vulnerability, environmental risk and water security in Malé, entered its output phase. A household water usage survey was designed and conducted between October and December, the SWMM flood model for Malé was completed, and two papers were submitted.
- PROMISE concluded in June 2025. Its documented outputs were 300 MSMEs implementing waste-minimisation options, more than 750 tonnes of waste collected through beach clean-ups, and the establishment of the Lakshadweep Zero Waste Alliance.
- In September, students on the ENV109 course carried out household surveys, livelihood assessments and participatory mapping during a field trip to K. Thulusdhoo. The E-Waste Hackathon, also in September, involved 23 students and produced four prototype solutions: legacy PC upcycling, e-waste furniture, a gamified recycling platform and an awareness platform.

**IMPACT FOCUS**

MNU leads national climate resilience through strategic research planning, international environmental projects, and experiential climate education. Launching the MNU Climate and Environment Research Framework 2025-2030 aligns university research with the Maldives' Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), while international execution of the USD 4.5M GEF/UNEP-funded CHOMV project alongside UKCEH addresses ocean nutrient pollution and equips graduates with specialist skills in environmental and disaster management. The Climate and Environment Research Framework represents strategic planning. The international projects described are multi-year initiatives, and their overall budgets or expected outcomes should not be presented as achievements completed solely in 2025.




# Life Below Water

*Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*

**14 + 7**
ATOTCO trainees in April and August

**100+**
public participants at World Maritime Day outreach

## Overview

Surrounded by ocean, MNU prioritizes marine ecosystem protection, coastal conservation, and ocean literacy.

## MNU 2025 highlights

- MNU organised coastal clean-up drives that combined beach waste collection with first-aid support, to reduce plastic pollution reaching marine ecosystems.
- The Theveli International Research Conference 2025 included dedicated research tracks on marine conservation, coral reef resilience and ocean governance. Faculty and student research projects were registered on marine biodiversity, reef health and sustainable fishery management, and research grants and shoreline-monitoring work linked academic enquiry with marine-resource governance.
- PROMISE targeted the leakage of land-based waste into the Lakshadweep Sea through tourism clusters in the Maldives, Sri Lanka and India. Over the life of the project, its outputs included enterprise action, policy engagement, clean-up activity and the establishment of a regional zero-waste alliance.
- The Centre for Maritime Studies delivered Advanced Training for Oil Tanker Cargo Operations (ATOTCO) in the Maldives for the first time. The first batch of 14 trainees took the course in April and a second batch of 7 in August. Maldivian seafarers previously had to travel abroad for this certification.
- In September, MNU held World Maritime Day outreach near the Vilimalé ferry terminal, with more than 100 members of the public taking part.

**IMPACT FOCUS**

Surrounded by ocean, MNU advances marine ecosystem protection, ocean literacy, and sustainable maritime operations through specialised training and regional conservation projects. Delivering localised International Maritime Organization (IMO) certified courses-including Advanced Training for Oil Tanker Cargo Operations (ATOTCO)-trains Maldivian seafarers in pollution prevention and cargo safety, while the multi-year PROMISE project helped 300 MSMEs implement waste minimisation to prevent marine litter in coastal ecosystems. PROMISE was a multi-year project concluding in 2025; the figure of 300 MSMEs refers to results across the project period, not necessarily to activities undertaken in 2025 alone.




# Life on Land

*Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss*

**200**
plants donated and planted at Aboobakuru School

**3**
campuses taking part in national tree planting

## Overview

MNU advances terrestrial biodiversity restoration, island soil conservation, and environmental stewardship.

## MNU 2025 highlights

- Thinadhoo Campus donated and planted 200 native tree saplings at Aboobakuru School, and carried out campus-wide soil enrichment and vegetation planting to establish green corridors and shade zones. The Student Union also organised a campus planting event.
- Kulhudhuffushi and Hithadhoo Campuses took part in the national tree-planting programme, linking university communities with wider environmental action.
- MNU held plant donation and gardening workshops for primary school students, including a visit by Grade 2 pupils from Thinadhoo School that combined plant donations with community-service learning.
- Students carried out biology fieldwork in Hulhumalé and ENV109 field learning in Thulusdhoo, gaining practical experience of local environments and community conditions.
- A registered satellite-imagery project proposed farmland mapping and shoreline-change analysis, which could provide an evidence base for land-use decisions.

**IMPACT FOCUS**

MNU supports terrestrial ecosystem conservation and sustainable land management through geospatial research, tree-planting drives, and soil stewardship. Registering satellite imagery research for shoreline erosion tracking and agricultural land mapping provides planning authorities with critical spatial data, while campus composting, native tree planting, and plant donations to local island schools restore vegetation and prevent soil degradation. Research registrations and proposed applications should be distinguished from completed research findings; tree-planting activities are reported separately as practical contributions in 2025.




# Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

*Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*

| 252 | 10 | 12 |
|---|---|---|
| activities recorded under SDG 16 | international participants at the UNODC expert group meeting | participants at the Security Research Roundtable |

## Overview

MNU strengthens institutional governance, workplace ethics, legal literacy, and administrative transparency.

## MNU 2025 highlights

- MNU held university-wide workshops for administrative and academic staff on professional ethics, transparency and public accountability. A leadership workshop for heads of department and deans reviewed quality control, compliance and policy execution.
- MNU organised academic lectures titled “Seeking Knowledge: An Islamic Perspective”, covering ethical leadership, trust (Amanah) and judicial integrity.
- The Policy and Quality Control Unit (PQCU) developed or revised procedures for assessment validation, moderation, examination review, peer support and evaluation, supported by standardised forms in Dhivehi and English. It began preparing an internal compliance audit in 2025, which is expected to report to the Audit and Risk Committee in 2026, and submitted the Institutional Quality Review self-evaluation in December.
- The Faculty of Shari’ah and Law held student moot assessments in May with an external judge from CTL Strategies. In October it took part in a community legal awareness forum at Ihavandhoo and held an Electronic Evidence sensitisation session with the Maldives Bar Council and UNDP, on handling evidence in the digital era.
- The School of Security and Strategic Studies (SSSS) held a joint expert group meeting with UNODC on maritime domain awareness and digital evidence in September, with 10 international participants. It took part in the China and South Asia conference in New Delhi in October, held a Security Research Roundtable in October with 12 participants, and signed a research fellowship MoU with the Maldives Police Service in November. These activities are supported by the MRes in Security and Strategic Studies.

**IMPACT FOCUS**

MNU strengthens institutional governance, academic freedom, legal literacy and research in security and strategic studies to promote transparency, accountability, inclusive decision-making and strong institutions. Key initiatives include completing the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) self-evaluation, publishing institutional reports, introducing the MRes in Security and Strategic Studies, hosting UNODC expert group discussions on digital evidence, and conducting legal awareness sessions across the atolls.

The University's Student Voice Policy reflects its commitment to encouraging meaningful student participation, listening to student perspectives and ensuring that their views are considered in institutional planning, policy development and continuous improvement. Student representation on the University Council and various University committees further strengthens participatory governance by providing opportunities for students to contribute to decisions affecting their education, wellbeing and University experience.

Beyond the University, MNU staff contribute their knowledge and expertise through representation on various national committees, advisory bodies and working groups. Their participation supports evidence-informed policymaking, institutional development and collaboration with government agencies and other stakeholders on matters of national importance.

Together, these initiatives strengthen institutional integrity, transparency, accountability and inclusive governance, while contributing to public trust, the rule of law and the development of stronger institutions in the Maldives.




# Partnerships for the Goals

*Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development*

| 604 | 239 / 198 | 18 |
|---|---|---|
| documented initiatives | Theveli 2025 abstracts submitted / accepted | countries among Theveli 2025 submissions, including the Maldives |

## Overview

Collaboration across sectors is vital for achieving the UN 2030 Agenda.

## MNU 2025 highlights

- In partnership with regional school boards, MNU delivered first-aid and professional capacity-building workshops for teachers, including at GA. Maamendhoo School.
- MNU ran customised training programmes and industry knowledge-exchange visits with state utility bodies, including the Waste Management Corporation (WAMCO) and STELCO.
- MNU engaged local councils, NGOs and government ministries during student orientation and regional academic symposiums, with the aim of aligning educational outcomes with national development goals.
- Theveli 2025 brought researchers and partners together, with 156 local and 50 international participants. Authors submitted 239 abstracts from 18 countries including the Maldives, and 198 were accepted. The

Faculty of Arts received Outstanding Paper Awards at the conference, and selected papers were published in the Maldives National Journal of Research.

- RECOVER, TAP-EDM, PROMISE and SCALE represent four partnership models: collaborative research, institutional capacity-building, regional waste prevention and healthcare workforce development.
- Erasmus+ KA171 funded four staff mobilities, to Apollonia University (Romania), Alanya University (Türkiye) and Bialystok University of Technology (Poland), and one student mobility to Bialystok planned for Spring 2026. The Erasmus+-funded DIGITAsia project, involving MNU, Sri Lanka and Malaysia, entered its training phase, and Faculty of Education staff completed the four-module "Future-Ready Educators" programme between July and October.
- MNU signed MoUs with the Maldives Monetary Authority in October (research, training and human resource development), the Maldives Police Service in November (a security research fellowship) and Dhiraagu in December (InnovateHub). Dhiraagu's InnovateHub partnership includes MVR 150,000 in financial support and connectivity support valued at MVR 300,000.
- MNU made its first Times Higher Education sustainability submission, compiling evidence across selected goals.

**IMPACT FOCUS**

Partnerships and collaboration are central to MNU's contribution to SDG 17. The University has established extensive partnerships with universities and higher education institutions worldwide, alongside collaborations with government ministries, local councils, industry partners, professional organisations, non-governmental organisations and international agencies. These partnerships support academic and student exchanges, joint research, professional development, innovation, entrepreneurship, knowledge sharing and community engagement.

In 2025, MNU continued to strengthen these collaborations through initiatives such as the international Theveli 2025 research conference, which received 239 abstract submissions from 18 countries, national public health and climate-related initiatives, Erasmus+ mobility exchanges, and the translation of children's books into Dhivehi through partnerships with UNICEF and The Asia Foundation.

Together, these local and international partnerships strengthen MNU's capacity to expand educational and research opportunities, connect academic knowledge with industry and community needs, and contribute to addressing national and global challenges. Through continued collaboration and knowledge sharing, the University seeks to make a meaningful contribution to a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable Maldives.

# 13 Campus and Faculty Contributions

*Regional campuses and central academic units*

## Regional Campuses: Emerging SDG Specialisation

The 2025 data reveal a clear pattern of differentiated SDG identities among the four regional campuses.

### Hithadhoo Campus (Addu City)

HC centres on community health and lifelong learning. Activities include Dhivehi Day (April), Job Fest (May, 300 participants), Cooking Fiesta (February, 1,000+ community reach), the Nurses Health Hero Fair (May, 200+ participants), and the ongoing Start-up Stories series. The campus's clinical partnership with Addu Equatorial Hospital provides the institutional foundation for its SDG 3-SDG 4 intersection.

### Thinadhoo Campus (Gaafu Dhaalu)

TC centres on cultural preservation and basic education support. Dhivehi Day, the Namaadhu Workshop (February, 35 completions), and the 200-plant donation to Aboobakuru School reflect commitments to language, religion, and environment. The Teachers' Day celebration (October) extended recognition to nearby school teachers, reinforcing the campus's identity as a regional educational hub.

### Kulhudhuffushi Campus (Haa Dhaalu)

KC has the highest activity density among regional campuses, centred on health professional training and community safety. Fire Safety Awareness and Emergency Drill (November, with MNDF), Community Health Promotion for Elderly (May, 25 community participants), Basic First Aid for School Health Officers (August, 20 participants), and multiple professional development sessions for local school teachers constitute a dense web of health and safety capacity building. The campus's sustained partnership with Kulhudhuffushi Regional Hospital anchors its SDG 3 work.

### Gan Campus (Laamu)

GC centres on access and Islamic education. Fahi Dhuvas (January, 30 students), course promotion trips to Thaa Atoll (June), and One Stop Admission at Fonadhoo (December) form its outreach spine. Ramadan Quiz (April) and Islamic information sessions (February) reflect the role of religious education in community cohesion.

## Central Academic Units: Distinctive SDG Roles

### Centre for Educational Technology and Excellence (CETE)

CETE is the densest site of SDG 4-SDG 9 intersection. The EduTech Symposium 2025 (September, 60+ participants, international keynote speakers) was the year's flagship event. Its training trajectory-from tool operation to pedagogical reconstruction-signals a shift from technical support to capacity building.

### Centre for Maritime Studies (CMS)

CMS occupies the SDG 4, 8, and 14 nexus. The localisation of ATOTCO (April) was among the year's most institutionally significant activities, filling a certification gap that previously required overseas travel.

### School of Security and Strategic Studies (SSSS)

SSSS holds an irreplaceable SDG 16 role. Its activities are small-scale but high-impact: the MRes programme (2 candidates), the UNODC expert group meeting (10 international participants), the Security Research Roundtable (12 participants). SSSS's contribution is measured not in participant numbers but in its capacity to bring Maldivian security and governance issues into international academic and policy dialogue.

### Faculty of Education (FE)

FE demonstrates a distinctive continuum from classroom outreach to research to policy. Its Theveli 2025 papers, professional development outreach to regional schools (Aminiya, Hirimaradhoo, Goidhoo, and others), and corpus

linguistics research on Maldivian English (Aishah Suad's academic visit to Justus Liebig University Giessen) together constitute a coherent SDG 4 ecosystem.

## 14 MNU in Action

*MNU in action*



Community-facing health and learning



Professional development and collaboration



Academic dialogue and professional networks



Learning and community engagement



Practical environmental stewardship




Knowledge exchange and institutional learning

## 15 Looking ahead

*From activity to outcomes*

*The Strategic Plan 2026-2030 moves MNU from mapping activities to goals after the fact to designing for the SDGs from the start. The priorities for 2026 follow from what this report shows.*

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | **From activities to outcomes.** Define indicators and baselines for each goal, beginning with the goals reported to THE: SDGs 3, 4, 5, 8, 13 and 17. |
| 2 | **Consistent records.** Record participant numbers and SDG tags in every unit, and keep repeated unit-level records separate from unique beneficiaries. |
| 3 | **Track graduate outcomes.** Act on the QAA recommendation to collect and make accessible data on the employability patterns of alumni, so that job festivals can be linked to employment results. |
| 4 | **Deliver the QAA action plan.** Implement the action plan that addresses the twenty recommendations arising from the Institutional Quality Review. |

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| 5 | **Measure the campus.** Establish metered baselines for energy, water, waste and carbon, and confirm solar, passive-design and LED measures through tender and commissioning records. |
| 6 | **Strengthen assurance.** Complete the internal compliance audit and report to the Audit and Risk Committee in 2026. |
| 7 | **Make partnerships measurable.** Report results from RECOVER, TAP-EDM, SCALE, InnovateHub and the new MoUs with the Maldives Monetary Authority, Dhiraagu and the Maldives Police Service. |
| 8 | **Keep sharing.** Publish the annual SDG report and supporting evidence on the MNU sustainability page. |

## Contact

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