

	energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020131 Total estimated cost: EUR 400 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 400 000 The contribution is for an amount of EUR 400 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2024, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial year following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.			
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>				
<b>13. Type of financing</b>	<b>Direct management</b> through: - grants			
<b>14. Type of measure</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Cooperation facility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measures in favour of Civil Society			

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

Since the inauguration of a reform-oriented government in 2018 - who pledged to consolidate democracy, uphold rule of law, fight against corruption and promote and protect human rights – the Maldives has made notable progress towards creating a more enabling environment for civil society organisations. However, inadequacies in the legal framework as well as restrictions to civic space and fundamental freedoms still persist, and it is not clear how the situation might evolve after the Presidential elections in September 2023. Activists, journalists and non-governmental organisations working on human rights, gender and other politically-sensitive topics are regularly targeted through online threats and intimidation, without adequate protection from the State. On the other hand, Maldivian civil society organisations often have to deal with significant lack of capacity and resources, especially these operating outside Male, which impede them to access donor funding and carry out their development and governance work efficiently.<sup>1</sup>

The Overall Objective of this action is to enhance the development and governance role of local civil society in the Maldives, so that they can provide services to communities more efficiently and participate meaningfully in policy-making, planning and accountability processes, leaving no one behind.

The Specific Objectives of this action are to: (1) to shift towards a more structured and inclusive EU-civil society dialogue, including with grassroots organisations, youth and women's organisations, disability organisations and with a focus on EU priority areas of the MIP for the Maldives and aligned with gender and Human Rights Based approaches (HRBA); (2) to strengthen the organisational/institutional capacities of local civil society organisations across the Maldives (in particular the ones working in the EU political and policy priority areas for the Maldives), notably in the areas of project management cycle and fundraising, protection/safety, HRBA and gender sensitive/transformational approaches, policy oversight/advocacy work as well as networking and coalition-building at different levels.

This is the first time that the EU envisages a targeted capacity-building programme to support local civil society in the Maldives. It builds however on the insights and lessons learnt from our regular dialogue with local

<sup>1</sup> CLIP Maldives