

MALDIVES EXPERIENCE OF URBANISM AND SUSTAINABILITY

An aerial photograph of the Maldives, showing several islands with dense urban development and surrounding turquoise waters. The islands are small and elongated, with visible roads, buildings, and green spaces. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a lighter blue with some clouds.

Urban migration increased from 25% in 1980 to 50% in 2020

Today Malè the capital city has urban densities of 532 per ha. comparable to Dhaka and Bombay

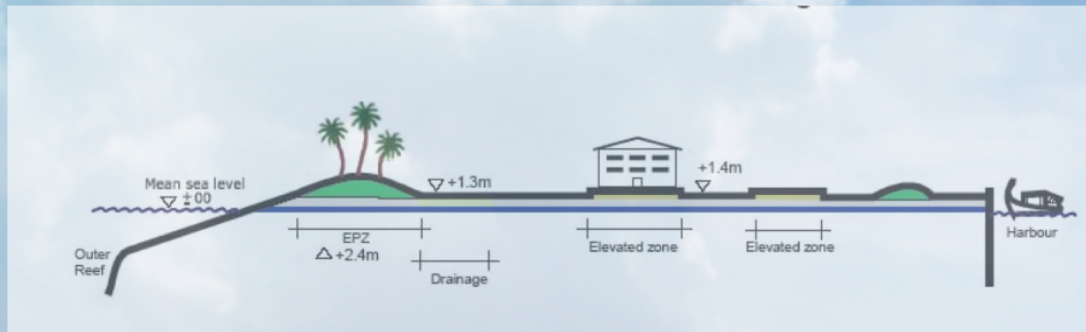
1980 – 2000 Maldives tried regional development to mitigate urban migration

At the same time Malè growth did not stop. Reclamation continued and two satellite islands were developed to cater for its growth

Being among the lowest lying islands sea level rise was a big issue.

Government have invested heavily on coastal protection and reclamation higher than normal islands





- 2004 Tsunami was wake up call in many ways and we tried to build back better
 - We tried safer islands, we tried moving to bigger islands
 - We invested on early warning systems
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- Because of COVID 19 we are going through an economic crisis
 - There is going to be more migration out of necessity



Today

- we still have urban congestion, unsustainable construction and high debts
- we still have unaffordable living costs and housing
- We have high government debts becoming dependent on foreign lenders

Our problem includes

- Short term vision without a foresight to sustainability
- Lack of political commitments for long term planning and aspiration