





# Enhancing the Production, Dissemination, and Use of Migration Statistics

Aishath Shahuda, Chief Statistician,  
National Bureau of Statistics  
Maldives

# Outline

- Experiences of National Statistical Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Maldives
  - in addressing the ever-increasing need for migration statistics; challenges in measuring different aspects of migratory flows
  - ways and methods for closing the gaps in migration data and increasing its timeliness through innovative approaches;
  - raise awareness about the importance of migration statistics and its use in decision making



NBS Maldives  
experiences in  
addressing the need for  
migration statistics

# Broadening the scope of migration data in Census

- ▶ Census 2014 covered resident foreign population
  - ▶ Focused questions to capture internal as well as international migration included
  - ▶ Questionnaires translated in different languages (Bangladesh...)
  - ▶ Publicity in different languages (use of reputed foreign workers such as teachers, census song includes migrant workers and messages in their language)
  - ▶ Recruitment of foreign national as enumerators
  - ▶ Special efforts to communicate with foreigners with emphasis on data confidentiality
  - ▶ Communication with relevant agencies to help improve coverage (Immigration, foreign Ministry, embassies)
  - ▶ Special desks at census center with foreign translators
- ▶ Census 2014 results showed under coverage of resident foreign population



# Foreign residents from Census 2014 adjusted for coverage in population projections

- ▶ Data on Resident Foreigners was extracted from the 2014 Census, which captured 63,637 Resident Foreigners.
- ▶ However, this figure is assumed to have been under-enumerated during the 2014 Census.
- ▶ The challenge was therefore to try to inflate this group to obtain a figure that would be more realistic.
- ▶ To do this, information from the 2014 Census as well as information provided by the Ministry of Tourism and Maldives Immigration was used.
- ▶ Maldives Immigration provides data on Employment Approvals (EA) by sector of activities. EA data pointed out some sectors that were undercounted in the 2014 Census.
- ▶ A comparison of 2014 and 2015 EA data also showed that the construction sector had received a lot of foreign workers in 2015 as compared to 2014.
- ▶ After these adjustments to the 2014 Census, estimates of Resident Foreigners were adjusted to 97,774 for 2014 and used as base population in population projections 2014-2054 by NBS



# NBS Maldives experiences in addressing the need for migration statistics (cont..)

- ▶ Census tabulations and analysis and include foreigners and highlight aspects migration
- ▶ Population dynamics report based on Census 2014 highlighted the need to strengthen migration data and highlighted the importance of managing migration
- ▶ Population projections based on Census 2014 including resident population (resident foreign and locals) has been produced at Atoll level and is published in the Statistical Yearbook of Maldives 2017
- ▶ Methodology and analysis of projections are to be published by NBS soon, with video, and advocacy
- ▶ Work on island level projections are underway



# Broadening the scope of migration data in Household Income and Expenditure Survey

- ▶ Broadening the scope of national data collection exercises to include foreign national –
- ▶ Labor force module added to HIES 2016 and most recent recommendations of ILO -19th ICLS – was implemented
  - ▶ Included foreign households in the HIES 2016 (persons living in administrative islands, except in collective living quarters)
  - ▶ Migration questions included in HIES 2016
- ▶ HIES 2016 data on employment in key industries (Construction, Tourist Resorts) were not reflective of the actual distribution shares due to this
- ▶ Employment by industry and occupation % distributions by industry and occupation were different due to the scope of HIES 2016 compared to Census 2014
- ▶ Special sample designed to capture foreign national working in tourist resorts and industrial islands in HIES 2016, mainly those in collective living quarters (Unfortunately it was not implemented due to timing and funding)- planned to be implemented in the near future



# NBS Maldives experiences in addressing the need for migration statistics (cont..)

- ▶ Generating statistics on international migration from the administrative systems
  - ▶ Immigration database (data consistency issues)
  - ▶ Employment in tourist resorts, guest houses and the industry (available through immigration system only)
  - ▶ Employment in construction industry (available through immigration system only)
  - ▶ Employment in health sector (available from Ministry of Health)
  - ▶ Employment in education sector (available from Ministry of Education)



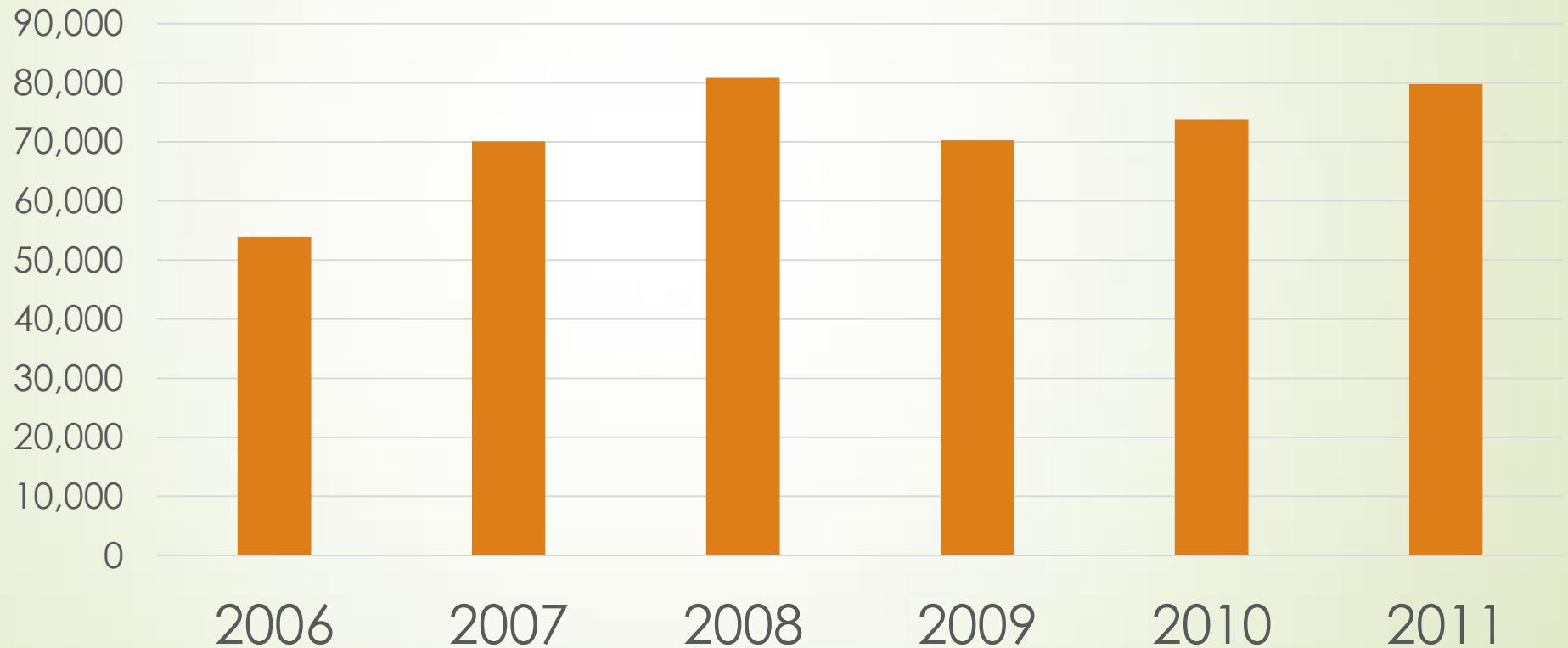


# Need to strengthen data on migration

- ▶ Need to collect comprehensive migration data through census and surveys on a regular manner by improving frequency and coverage
- ▶ Need to strengthen Administrative data systems and report generation
  - ▶ Immigration database (data consistency and comparability issues)
  - ▶ Due to change in the border control system used to generate the immigration data with new system established in November 2012, there is a discontinuity in consistent records.
  - ▶ Employment Approval (EA) is a written statement by immigration, giving permission for foreigners to work in Maldives. Resident permit/work visa is issued based on this EA for those who apply for work visa.
  - ▶ Atoll and island level resident population to be collected and made available regularly

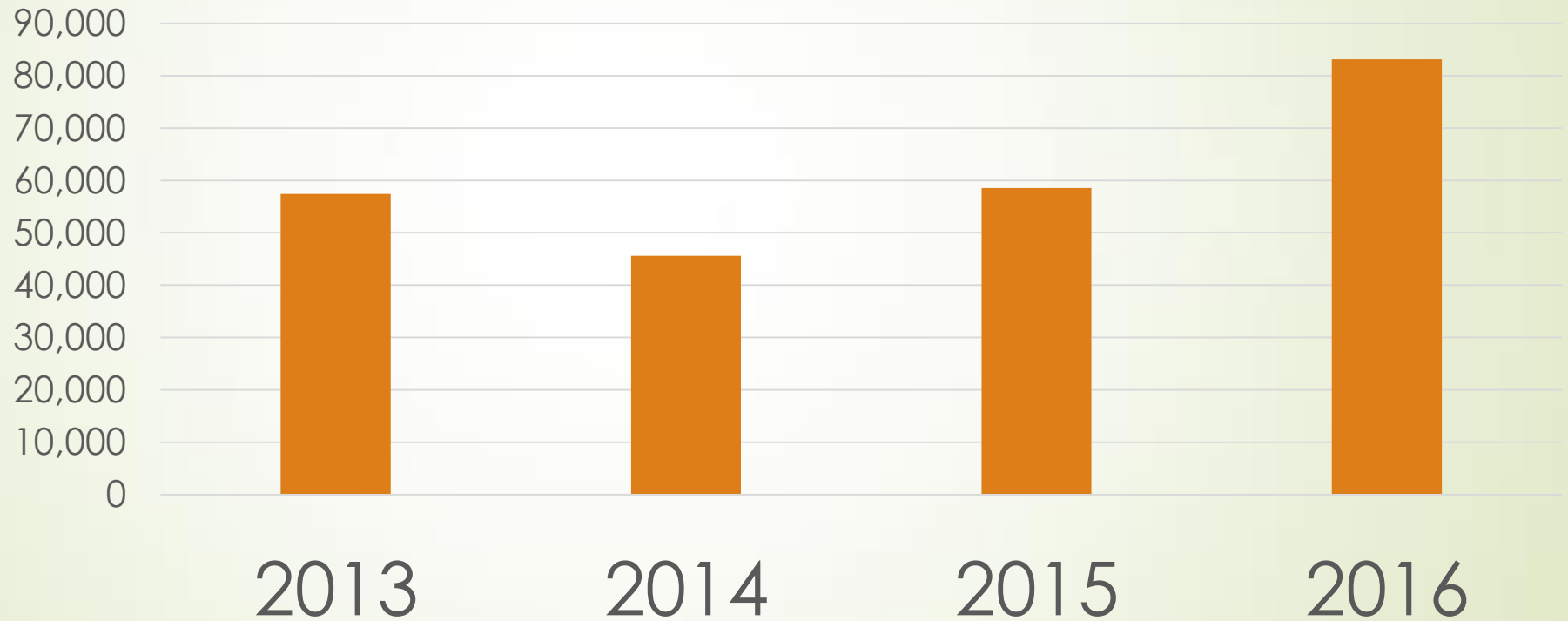
# Immigration database (data consistency and comparability issues)



Expatriate employment, 2006-2011  
(In numbers)



# Immigration database (data consistency and comparability issues)

Employment Approvals, 2013-2016  
(In numbers)







Explore the ways and methods  
for closing the gaps in migration  
data and increasing its timeliness  
through innovative approaches

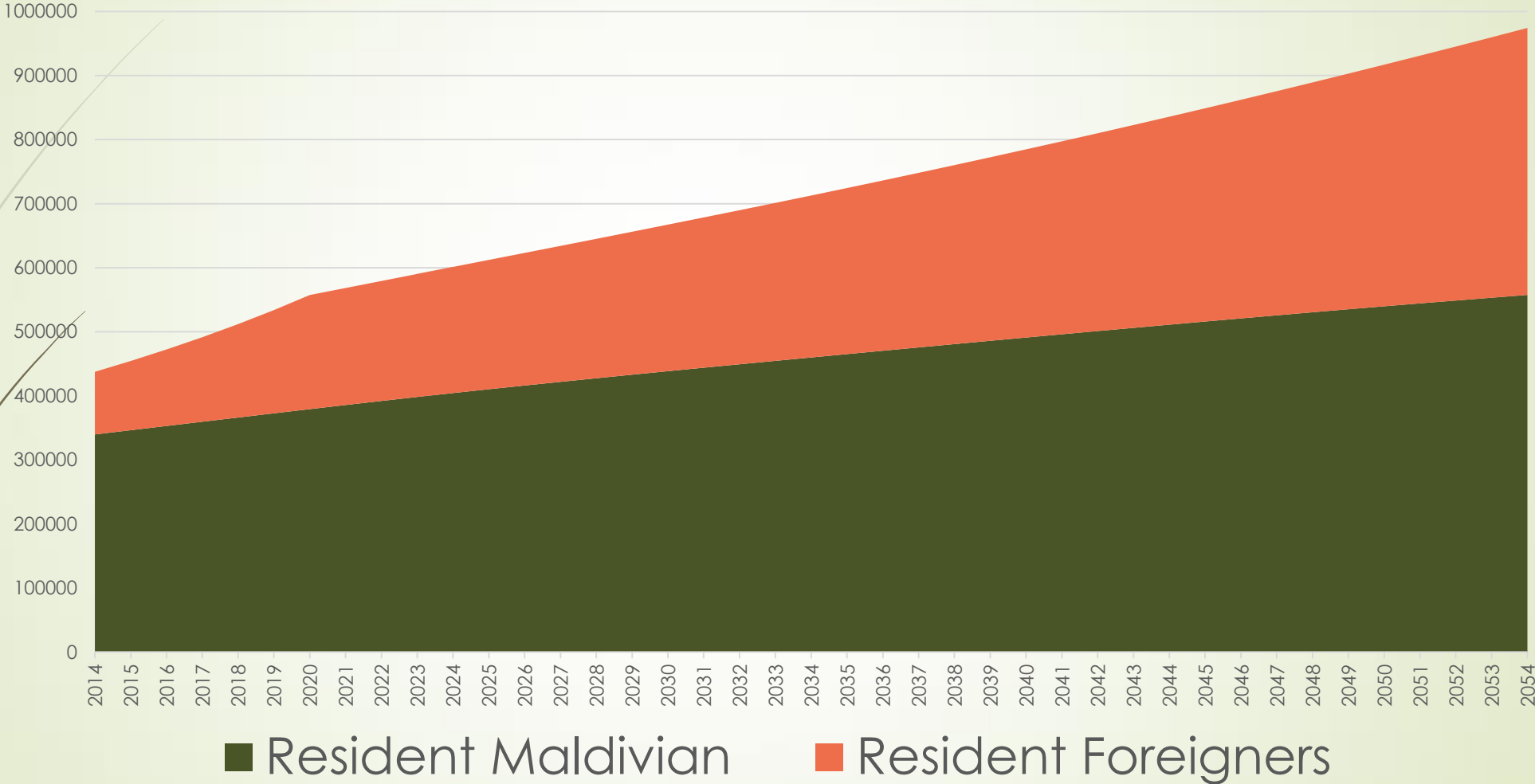
# Big data pilot project

- ▶ To study the resident population using CDR data in cooperation with Communication Authority of Maldives and the Mobile phone companies
- ▶ Objective is to get up-to-date population data especially to use in order to factor in the internal migration
- ▶ Internal migration towards the capital is high but in the absence of regular surveys it is difficult to obtain data to monitor
- ▶ Plans to update population projections at Atoll and island levels on a frequent basis factoring in data and assumptions on internal and international migration

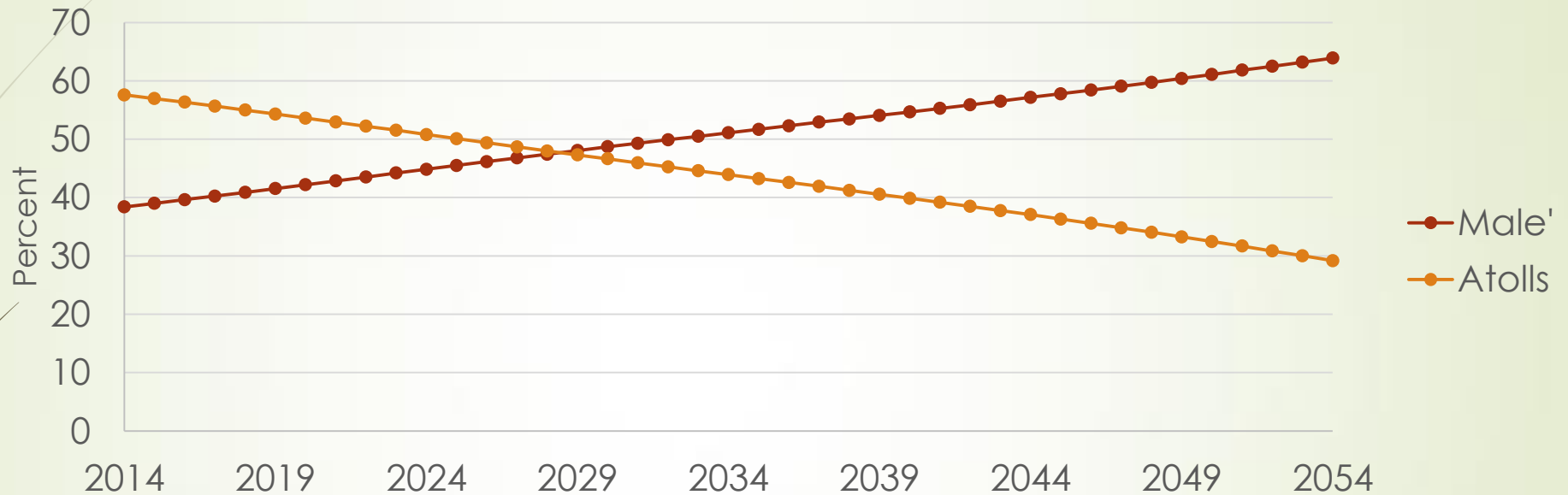


Need to raise awareness about  
the importance of migration  
statistics and its use in decision  
making

# Resident Population (in numbers), 2014-2054



## Share of Resident Maldivian Population in Male' and the Atolls



Decline in population growth rate for the Atolls is sharp, due to negative migration rates whereby higher outmigration than in-migration occurs and low fertility rates.

By 2054, more than 64 % of the Resident Maldivian population will be living in the Greater Male' Area



Figure 3.4b: Resident Population, 2018

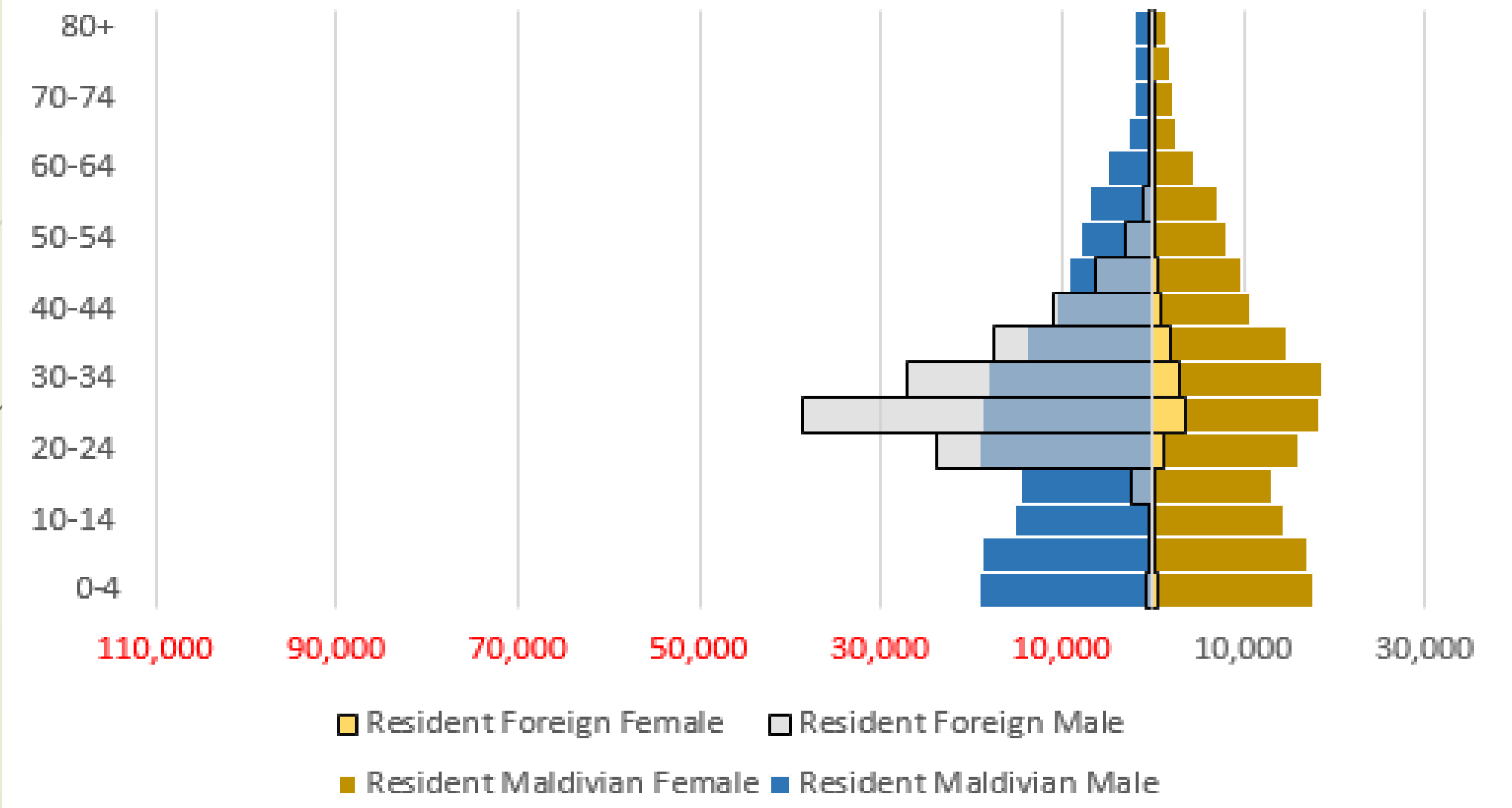
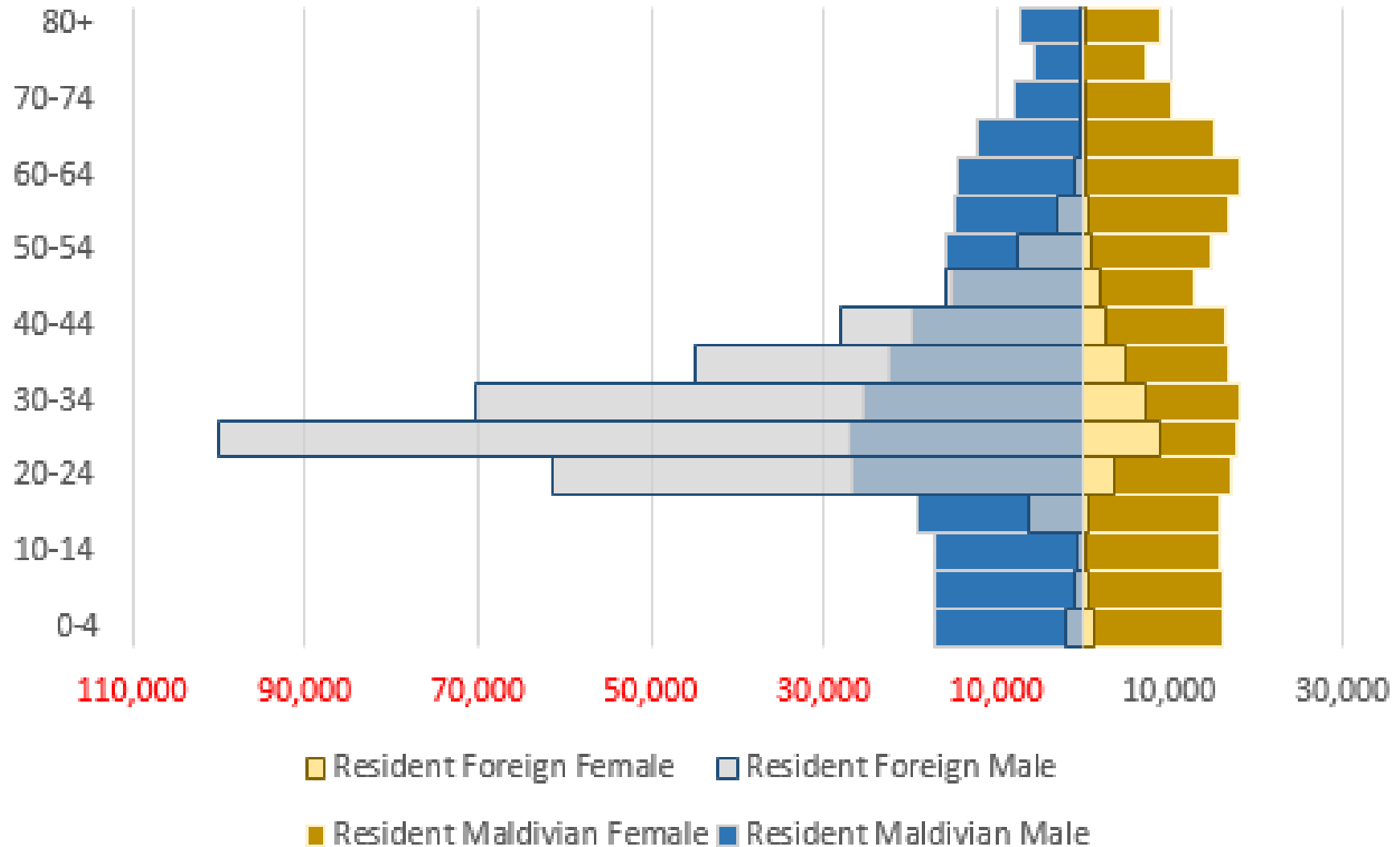


Figure 3.4e: Resident Population, 2050





# Migration data needs and SDGs

- ▶ A migration-specific target: SDGs Target 10.7
- ▶ Migration included in Targets of at least some 4 SDGs Goals:
  - ▶ • Goal 5 in Target 5.2 (trafficking);
  - ▶ • Goal 8 in Targets 8.7 (forced labour) and 8.8 (migrant workers);
  - ▶ • Goal 10 in Target 10.c (remittances); and
  - ▶ • Goal 16 in Target 16.2 (trafficking)
- ▶ As an overarching disaggregation variable:
  - ▶ • SDG indicators should be disaggregated where relevant by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (Target 17.18).