SIPCA
Scaling Impact of a Play-Based Child-to-Child Approach to Make Pre-School to Primary School Transition Fun and Inclusive

NEWSLETTER
September 2026

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF MALDIVES

SIPCA MALDIVES UPTAKE FORUM 2



Participants of SIPCA Maldives Uptake Forum 2

Uptake Forum 2 – 24 September 2026

From Classroom findings to National Scale

On 24 September 2026, the Scaling Impact of a Play-Based Child-to-Child Approach to Make Pre-School to Primary School Transition Fun and Inclusive (SIPCA) project brought education experts, curriculum experts, early childhood experts, policymakers, school leaders, and teachers together at the Islamic University of Maldives for its second Uptake Forum.

Following the 25-week Child-to-Child implementation in 10 schools across the Maldives, analyzing the intervention results, the forum was a day to look back at what the approach achieved, hear from the people who made it happen, and ask the big question: **how can this model reach more children?**

THE AIM OF THE FORUM

To share the 25-week implementation findings of the Child-to-Child model in the 10 schools of Maldives, and to explore ways of scaling up the model in the classrooms beyond the pilot schools.

Welcome and Project Overview

Project Lead Dr. Mariyam Shareefa welcomed participants and gave an overview of SIPCA: a play-based Child-to-Child approach in which older children, trained as Young Facilitators (YF), lead the classroom activities with Young Learners (YL) from the UKG to make the learning fun and inclusive.

She had highlighted the series of events of the last two years under the project from planning, curriculum analysis and adaptation, implementation, and dissemination.



Project Lead: Assistant Professor Dr. Mariyam Shareefa

The Project in Action

A short video clip of the project's execution took the audience inside the classrooms, showing the weekly sessions that were carried out in the participating schools.





Launch of the SIPCA Material Pack



The chief guest officially launched the SIPCA material pack, the learning resources that were prepared through the project to support the child-to-child approach in schools.

The pack included a Young Facilitator Guide, Young Learner's Activity Pack, Teachers' Guide, School Guide, and Assessment Manual for Literacy, Numeracy, and Social-Emotional Skills.

The pack was officially handed over to the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Skills Development during the Forum.



KEY SESSION

Presenting the Child-to-Child Implementation Findings





The heart of the morning was the presentation of findings from the Maldives implementation by Dr. Aminath Shafiya Adam and Dr. Aishath Shina (Curriculum and ECCE Expert). The presentation covered what the 25-week Child-to-Child programme looked like in practice and what it showed about young learners' transition into primary school. The quantitative and qualitative results were beautifully presented, highlighting the success and improvement on Literacy, Numeracy, and Social Emotional Skills.

An open Q&A followed. Participants had the chance to ask questions and respond to the findings

LEARNING ACROSS BORDERS

International experience, shared in a moderated panel



A one-hour panel discussion moderated by Dr. Aishath Shina (Curriculum Expert) shared international experience. With SIPCA child-to-child model implemented in the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, the discussion placed the Maldivian experience alongside what is happening in other countries. The discussion advanced with possible scaling strategies for the future.

BROADER LANDSCAPE

Framing SIPCA in the Broader Educational Landscape







Dr Visal Moosa (Project Coordinator), and Dr. Aminath Shafiya Adam led a one-hour facilitated discussion on where SIPCA sits within the wider education system. This was the forum's second main goal: finding a way for the project to grow from ten schools to many more. Participants shared ideas and questions about what it will take for the Child-to-Child approach to reach more children across the Maldives.

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VOICES OF THE PROJECT

Young Facilitators Take the Stage

Children shared what the approach looks and feels like







Young Facilitators' Demonstration

The SIPCA team from Muhyyidin School brought the Child-to-Child approach to life with a live demonstration, showing how Young Facilitators lead play-based activities with younger learners.

Reflections

With the stage demonstration Young Facilitators, parents, and a teacher shared their reflections on taking part in SIPCA project via a video platform: what changed for the children, for the classroom and for school life.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Message from the Heart



Abdulla Inaayath, principal of Ghaazee Bandaarain School, shared the school leader's view of putting SIPCA into practice: how it was organized, supported, and experienced day to day in a participating school.

He shared his experiences and with gratitude to the research team on the guidance and support they received from the team. He was content with the students' performances and the progress, and encourage to implement the child-to-child pedagogy in other schools as well.

Ghaazee Bandaarain School is one of the four schools, who started the model after the project duration ended.

RECOGNISING CONTRIBUSIONS

The forum ended with a concluding remark from the Principal Investigator, Dr. Mariyam Shareefa, thanking GPE KIX, IDRC, Child-to-Child team from UK, consortium members from Sri Lanka and Pakistan, stakeholders from Maldives such as Ministry of Education, NIE, DoIE, SIPCA schools, principals and teachers and students.

Certificates and and tokens of appreciation were awarded to the stakeholders and the SIPCA participants.







