

COVID-19 and the UN Cabo Verde Response

"We are all in this and we will
come through this together"

UN Secretary General, António Guterres
March 13



UNITED NATIONS
CABO VERDE

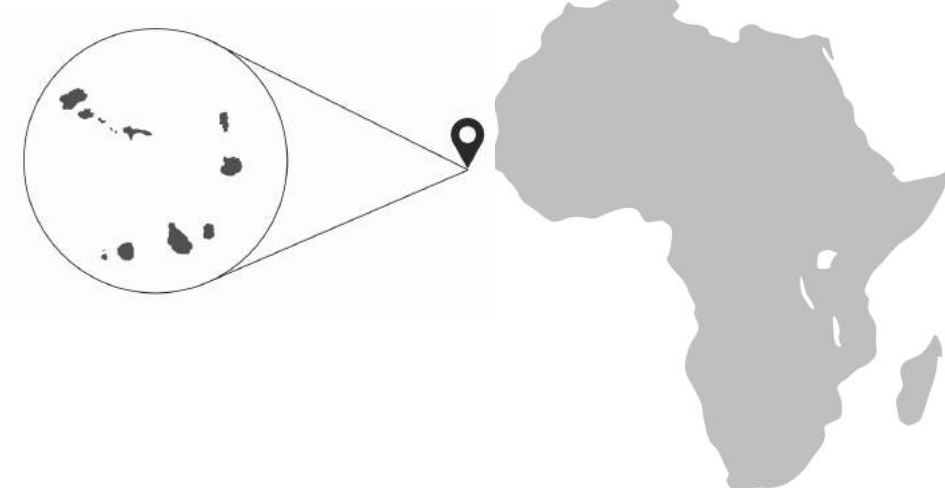


COVID-19
RESPONSE

COVID-19 AND THE UNITED NATIONS RESPONSE IN CABO VERDE

UN Bulletin - Special edition

Together in the COVID-19 response in Cabo Verde



In this edition, the first of the United Nations Response Bulletin to the National Contingency Plan # COVID-19, we bring you a summary of what the organization has been doing, through its agencies, to respond to the pandemic in the country, since before the first confirmed case had been declared in Cabo Verde to date.



Editorial

This is the world's greatest human, sanitary and economic crisis, which already counts with 7 million of infected people and over 400,000 deaths.

Nearly 50 million people are at risk of falling into poverty, due to the pandemic and the long-term impact, which is predicted to be far greater, as reported by the UN, since we are facing the greatest food safety crisis of the last 50 years.

This pandemic affects all, with no discrimination of sex, age, creed or other. The OECD predicts that the economic growth, in the designated developed countries, will suffer a decrease of 1.5% in 2020. The UNWTO estimates that the world's tourism will have a negative increase between 1% and 3%, while the UNCTAD predicts an impact on developing countries of around 220 billion USD (except for China) and a decline on annual growth under 2,5%, considering that the most affected countries will be the ones to depend more on tourism and transport sectors and with less capacity to respond to external factors.

Our Cabo Verde, due to its archipelagic nature, will suffer a large impact. Factors such as depending on tourism, a limited tax base, a short internal market or even the dependence of global markets, very affected by this pandemic, such as the EU, China, USA, so characteristic of insular states, along with the drought situation, are factors that impair the social and economic situation of the country, in this context of pandemic and global crisis. Thus, the United Nations, from the very first moment, has been alongside its partners in a *DjuntaMon*, which in difficult times is stronger than ever. All together we will surpass this moment. We will be able to not to leave anyone behind.

In the words of the wise Nelson Mandela: "It always seems impossible until it is done".

Ana Patrícia Graça
UN Resident Coordinator in Cabo Verde



THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR OFFICE (RCO)

The RCO integrates, since the beginning of this crisis, the Response and Recovery Coordination Platform, which also counts with the Ministry of Finance of Health, Social Security, Family and Social Inclusion, Education, in cooperation with the sectorial ministries (of Agriculture, Environment, Sea Economy, Industry), as well as with social society and representatives of the private sector.

The UN, through all Agencies, Funds and Programs, has reprogrammed its Annual Work Plan 2020 and mobilized resources resulting in:



This coordination team gathers twice a week, through an online platform, and has been updating the tools designed to broadly update and share the information on Government policies. The RCO also integrates a coordination platform for international partners, which aims to:

coordinate the financial mobilization to support the Government's policies

directly support public systems (with equipment, technological solutions, implementation mechanisms, etc);

pay technical assistance to policies implementation, to reinforce its scope and quality; and

to prepare socio-economic recovery, including the transition to a more resilient economy and the design of a new way to achieve SDG.

Through this platform, the United Nations System is, under the leadership of the Government of Cabo Verde, in an exercise of Detailed Assessment of the socio-economic impact and the Post-Crisis, together with the EU, the BM and the AfDB, and with the participation of different partners (Luxembourg, Portugal and Spain). This assessment will make it possible to define in a holistic, integrated, systemic and dynamic way the impact of COVID-19, on the different islands, sectors and populations, with particular attention to the most vulnerable. It will serve as the basis for a recovery and resilience plan, and the Government's Ambition 2030 strategic document, which will design a new path to the SDGs.

According to the emergency plan of the Government of Cabo Verde, FAO has identified as a main priority to contain the epidemic, to stop the loss of human lives. Immediate actions must be carried out to prevent a potential food crisis. FAO's strategy is focused on supporting activities which save lives, safeguard food safety, nutrition and means of existence, and promoting women empowerment.



·Support to 38 thousand families, a total of almost 190 thousand people across the country, in the sectors of agriculture, fisheries and forest.



36,000 USD reprogrammed for direct support to FICASE for food baskets

1.1 million USD to support the strengthening of the agricultural sector, the so-called "income activities" in measure 3 (food aid) of the Government.



Provision of protective and preventive equipment to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Awareness campaign, distribution of information materials on pandemics for both the agricultural and fisheries sectors, on good hygiene practices throughout the value chain.



Through technical assistance, the agency has been working closely with national partners, the Government, local structures and authorities and development partners for the design and activities' implementation, which meet the main socio-economic measures carried out in the country. ILO's intervention covers several levels and two areas.

One of the initiatives, consists on providing a financial and technical support to business women of the informal sector so they may be able to return to their economic activities and to adapt their business to the post-crisis period, whether by integrating new hygiene and safety practices or by taking advantage of the new opportunities that arose with this new situation.

In fact, this support is focused on the island of Santo Antão and Fogo, the first ones to resume their economic activities, aims to be an economic recovery model in all the other islands, as they reopen.

In relation to labor's social protection, it is focused in the technical assistance concerning the design and the implementation itself of the Rendimento Solidário (RSO). The RSO aims to restore the REMPE and informal workers income, whose salary was equal or below 20.000 ECV, previously to this crisis.



The ILO's intervention covers several levels and two areas

Labor's social protection



- In relation to labor's social protection, it is focused in the technical assistance concerning the design and the implementation itself of the Rendimento Solidário (RSO). The RSO aims to restore the REMPE and informal workers income, whose salary was equal or below 20.000 ECV, previously to this crisis.
- the development of the work that has been conducted to reinforce the social protection system of the country is still in progress

Production of information and in the qualification of



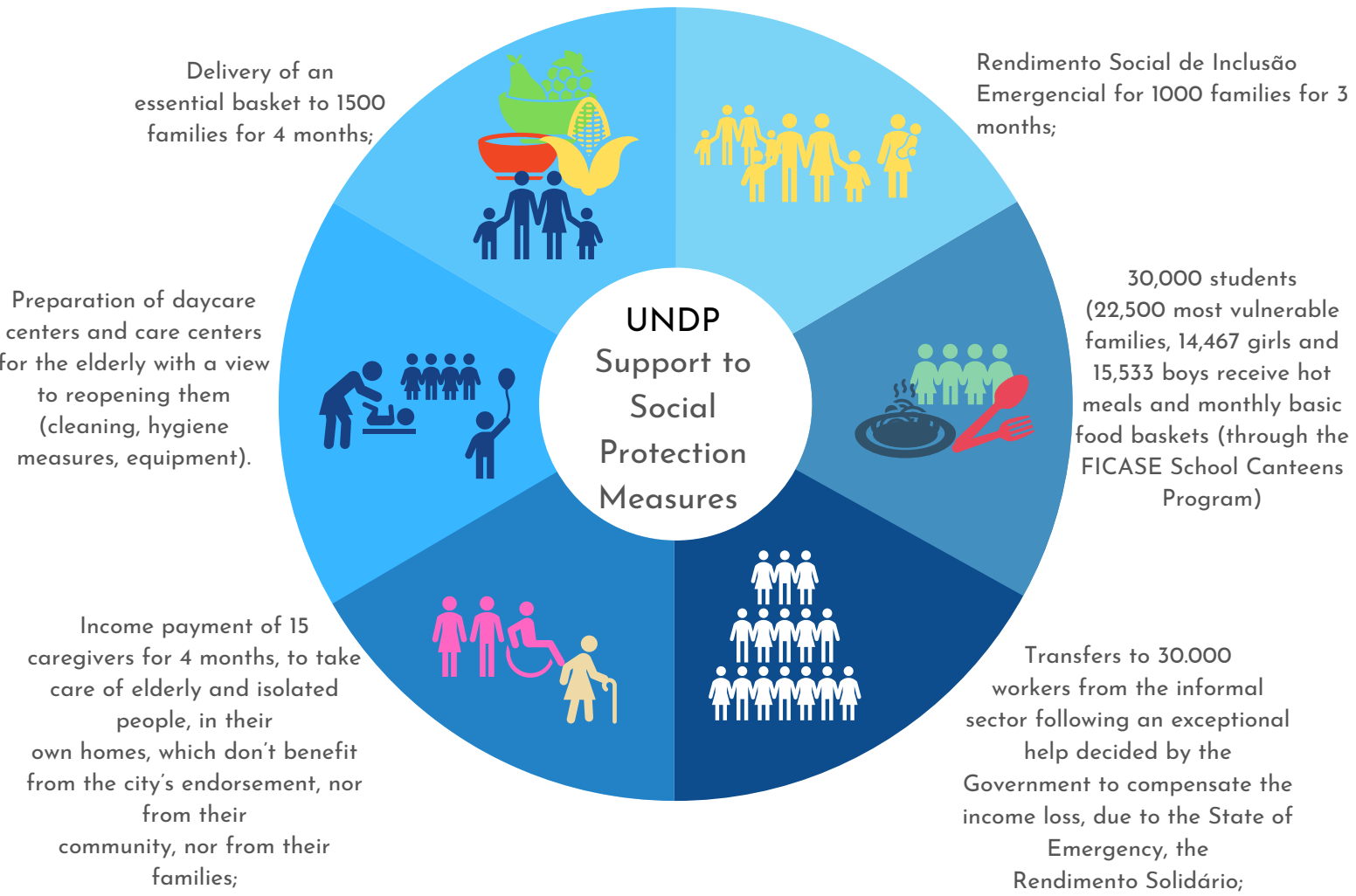
- Production of information
- The COVID-19 business continuity plan in six steps (tool which seeks to establish a risk profile of the companies and the level of vulnerability to COVID-19, in terms of impact in the People, Processes, Profit and Partnerships);
- Employees guide on workplace management during COVID-19's crisis;
- Training "Support policies to PME during COVID-19's crisis".
- Two surveys will be conducted: 1) Quick evaluation of the impact of COVID-19 companies and workers from the informal economy" and another one to MPEs.

THE JOINT OFFICE OF UNDP, UNFPA AND UNICEF



UNDP is supporting with job creation 700,000 USD on a local level, through the *Fundo de Descentralização* (470,000 USD) and other core funds mobilized on a global level (230,000 USD), to help face the socioeconomic impact of this crisis and prepare the recovery in all islands and in all municipal areas, to not leave anyone behind.

UNDP has been financially supporting the Government's social protection policies, which endorses the following:



In the field of digital innovation, Cabo Verde through the technical and financial support of with UNDP, developed the Comvida Platform and Mobile App and COVID19's website which was assisted by the team from the UNDP Accelerator Lab. An experience that results, thanks to a public-private partnership, under the technical coordination of the Operational Center of the Information Society - NOSI - with the collaboration and supervision of the National Institute of Public Health (INSP). The ComVida platform and the website are currently the official platform of the Government of Cabo Verde for information and communication, monitoring and management of the pandemic. ComVida was evaluated and placed on the map of the best technological innovations worldwide to combat COVID-19, by the Startup and Technological Innovation platform - StartupBlink, in a joint evaluation with the Health Innovation Exchange (HIEx) of UNAIDS and the Moscow innovations. At the level of the African continent it appears in the list of the first 10.

Links: Global Innovation Map
<https://coronavirus.startupblink.com/startups/praiacape%20verde/nos>



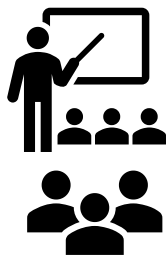
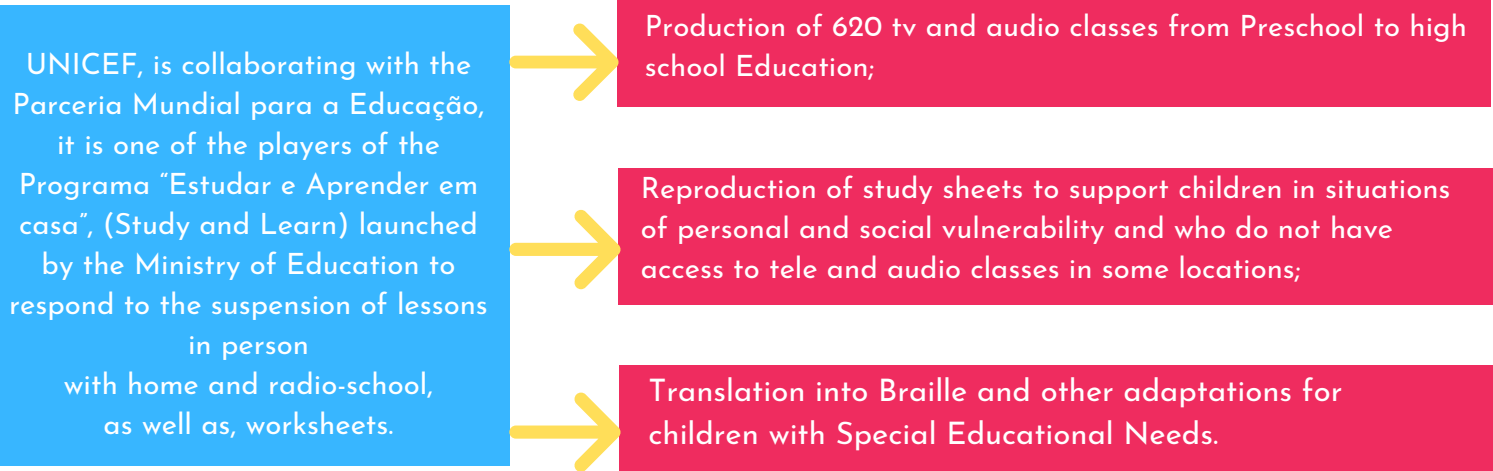
THE JOINT OFFICE OF UNDP, UNFPA AND UNICEF



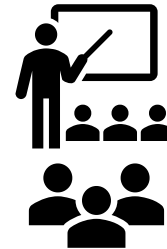
According to UNICEF, never have so many children and adolescents been out of school at the same time and everywhere. And as in other parts of the world, Cabo Verde was forced to close schools.



In order to respond urgently to the continuity of education, the Government prepared the National Education Response Plan for COVID-19. advocacy and mobilization of funds for the operationalization of the same, and which had the technical assistance of UNICEF.

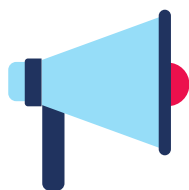


UNICEF's financial support for the program "Estudar e Aprender em casa" guaranteed access to EDUCATION for 100,000 pre-school, elementary and high school students.



Risk Communication and Community Involvement Plan

In this context, and with the aim of reducing transmission and mortality by COVID-19, UNFPA and UNICEF collaborated with the Ministry of Health and Social Security (MSSS) in the preparation and implementation of the Risk Communication and Community Involvement Plan for the Prevention and Response to COVID-19, and in the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) study on COVID-19 (online):



UNFPA and UNICEF also collaborated in the design, dissemination of communication products in the media and social networks, aimed at different target audiences, for the adoption of behaviors and ownership of preventive measures for COVID-19 defined by the Government.



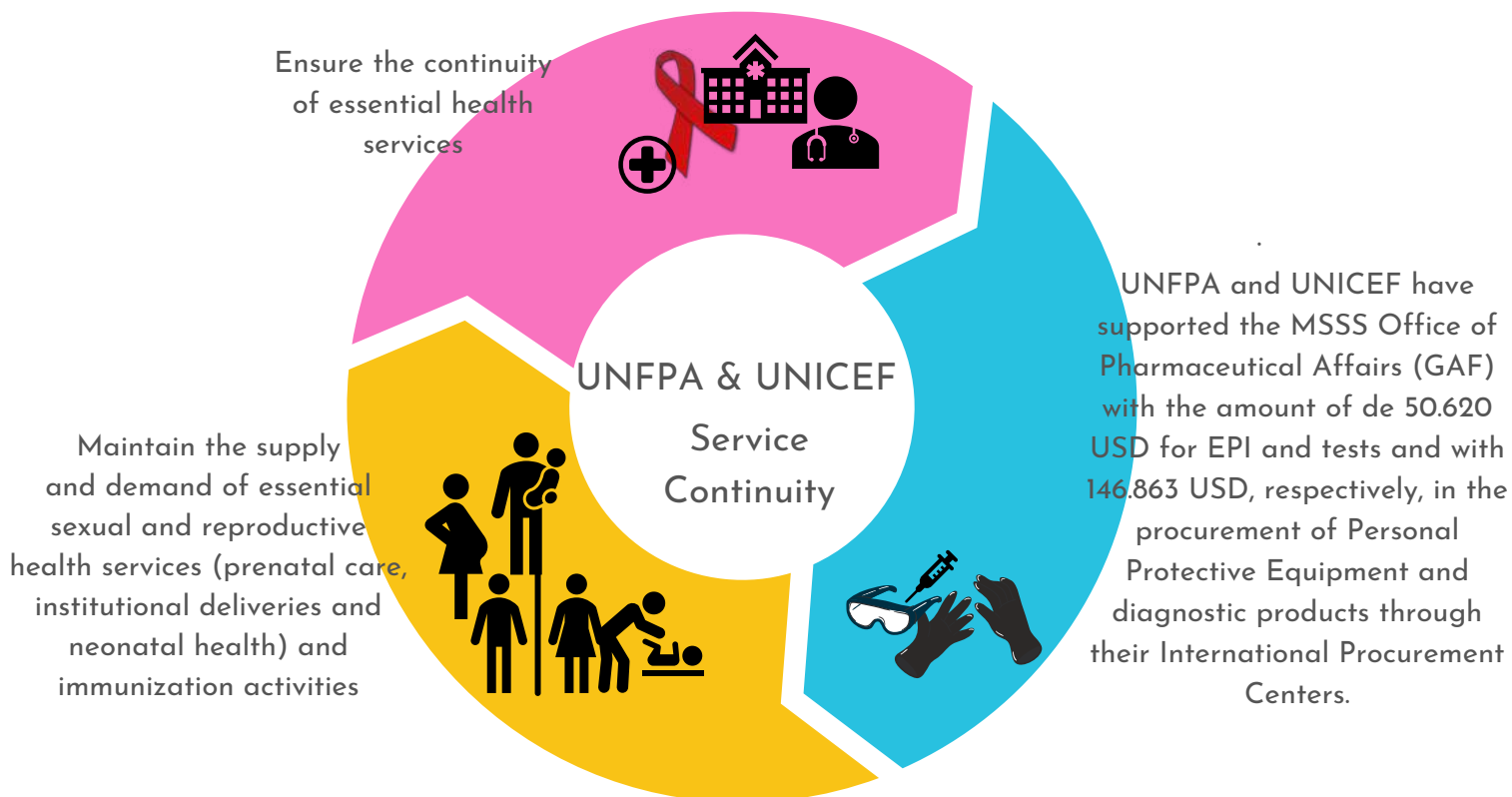
Around 150 social mobilisers from the Platform of Non-Governmental Organizations (PLATONG), NGOs VERDEFAM, Red Cross and several community associations of young volunteers were trained in Risk Communication and Community Engagement (CREC) of the 22 municipalities of the country.



UNFPA and UNICEF supported INSP and VERDEFAM in the technical reinforcement and installation of a team of social mobilisers to integrate the Civil Protection and Health Response Team, initially on the Boa Vista Island, and gradually in the other municipalities with confirmed cases of COVID-19.



CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES



UNFPA and UNICEF collaborated with the MSSS, the NGO VERDEFAM and the Network of Women Living with HIV/AIDS in their efforts to maintain the supply and demand of essential sexual and reproductive health services (prenatal care, institutional deliveries and neonatal health) and immunization activities, with the following results:

- i) 100% of vaccination providers in all municipalities were technically trained;
- ii) Vaccines and SRH products purchased and made available to health services at national level;
- iii) Equipment (ventilators and monitors) for neonatal services;
- iv) Health care for adolescents/youth and People Living with HIV/AIDS guaranteed at community level.



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT)

More than 95% of the cases of the new coronavirus in the world are in urban areas with almost 1.500 affected cities. People in informal settlements are particularly at risk, since they live in overcrowded areas, which lack housing, suitable basic services, such as water and sanitation. Most of them are informal workers, survivors, which requires immediate responses from central and local governments to face the effects of rent reduction, or loss of livelihood, or even the psychological impact on people.

At the same time, and with the main national partner, the Ministry of Infrastructure, Spatial Planning and Housing, the integration of measures aimed at generating jobs in cities, with a view to post-recovery, is analyzed.

The focus is on strategic acceleration guided by the Participatory Program for the Improvement of Informal Settlements (PSUP), designated as Community Managed Funds, redirecting 100,000 USD to create income-generating activities.



Participatory Program for the Improvement of Informal Settlements (PSUP)

100,000USD

To families in activities that generate income

2500 peoples

Água Funda (Praia)

Iraque (S. Vicente)

Povoação Velha (Boa Vista)



The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is in permanent contact with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Energy (MICE) with the purpose of identifying the necessities and to share good practices adopted in other countries of the region and in the world to respond to this crisis. With a projects' portfolio in the areas of quality, industry energy and water, regionally and nationally, with a total of 1.6 M dollars, the interested parts are defining the possible activities to implement, in what concerns the respective mitigation and recovery.



Under the leadership of the Ministry of Finance, and in collaboration with both MICE and the Ministry of Health, following COVID-19's outbreak, endorsement measures for the Pharmaceutical Industry to produce Chloroquine in Cape Verde, for the Textile Industry to optimize the production of individual protection products, for the Cleaning and Hygiene Industry Products to optimize the production of products to mitigate virus spread, are being analyzed.



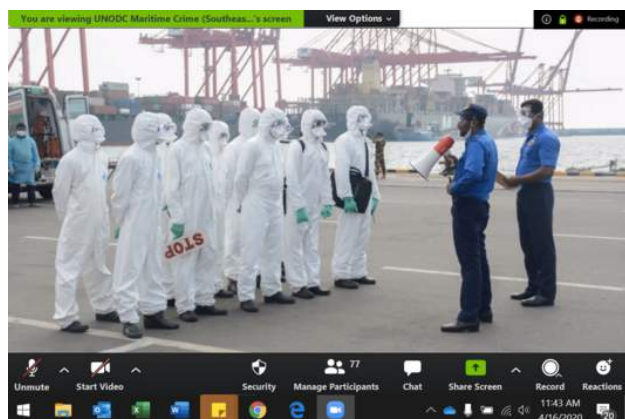
Meanwhile, UNIDO shared rules and guides related to masks, gloves, hydroalcoholic gel and medical equipment with MICE and the Instituto de Gestão da Qualidade e Propriedade Intelectual (IGQPI) to ensure the quality of the products being locally produced.



The CAF (Estrutura Comum de Avaliação) project, considering the impossibility of delivering a live workshop, defined a series of online presentations to promote an exchange of experiences and of good practices through Zoom.



Last but not least, at an international level, UNIDO has been organizing a series of Webinars and of online trainings in the areas of Quality Infrastructure, Quality Policy, Electronic Commerce, 4.0 Industry, Investment with an Impact and Alliances and International Businesses, which have been announced to the Government and the national Private Sector.



About 20 representatives of Cabo Verde's law enforcement services (Coast Guard, National Police, Judicial Police, COSMAR and INP), including representatives from the University of Cabo Verde, took part in an online conference on the Impact of COVID-19 in implementing operations against maritime crimes, held on 7 of May.

This conference served as a platform for sharing best practices and exchanging experiences between Portuguese-speaking countries, in particular the measures that are being applied daily in their operations in the context of this pandemic.



This important regional initiative falls within the scope of the Global Program on Maritime Crime, of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and also counted on the participation of state authorities at sea from other Portuguese-speaking countries in the region and aimed at law enforcement officers at sea in Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau and São Tomé and Príncipe.

To support states that are not facing the COVID pandemic¹⁹, a UNODC Headquarters has developed several directories and information documents that can inspire and serve as a working basis for the needs needed by the Cape Verde government for addiction treatment and treatment material, Security Prison Health, Human Trafficking, Prevention and Combat, Non-Generated Violence, Among Other Resources That Can Be Found Here.



Even so, no scope of the global program including Cape Verde, or UNODC has assessed the impact of COVID-19 on issues related to drugs and crime.



The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved a 5 million US dollars credit from the International Development Association (IDA)* to support the Archipelago of Cabo Verde in strengthening its preparedness and response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



5 million USD credit

The COVID Emergency Response Project will enhance the National COVID-19 Preparedness Plan developed by the government and focus on scaling-up and strengthening all aspects of prevention, preparedness and response. It will define priorities for central and decentralized levels and identify roles and responsibilities for a rapid intervention technical team (Equipa Técnica de Intervenção Rápida, ETNIR).



The WB Social Inclusion Project

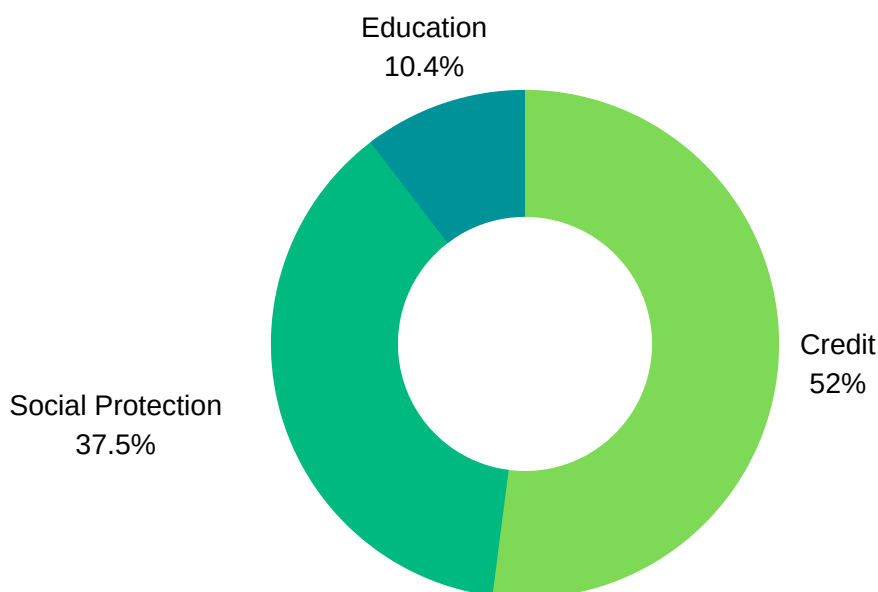
Is supporting a total of **7,288 families** (722 are already covered by the Government).

Monthly cash transfer of **55 US dollars** per month for a period of **9 months** (April - December 2020) for a total amount of **3,607,560 US dollars**.



The WB 1,000,000 USD education project

To help the Government prepare their COVID response plan for education, and to support the implementation of that plan, including the distance learning program with an online learning platform and courses/materials for students and teacher training.





In addition to the mobilization of resources totaling 954,000 USD, the WHO cooperation stands out in the fields of Epidemiological Surveillance, Case Management, Prevention and Control of Infections, and Laboratory.

Epidemiological Surveillance



Employment of 39 nurses to support with the integration of surveillance data on the DHIS-2 platform

Release of 50 tablets for this purpose

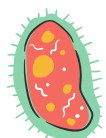
Case Management



Financial availability to acquire 100 oxygen manometers, 100 pulse oximeters, 12 emergency cars

Two emergency cars
Two cold stores for medicines

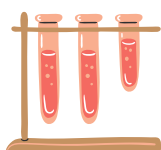
Prevention and Infection Control



Virtual training of 28 health providers on prevention and infection control;

Supply of 513kg EPIs (gloves, surgical masks, suits, glasses and visors).

Laboratory



Training of 2 technicians in laboratory diagnosis and laboratory methods for the detection of the new coronavirus

Release of tests, extraction kits, means of transportation and sample means of transportation (VTM);



EMPLOYEE SOLIDARITY

In a gesture of solidarity and humility towards the country, in this health crisis, United Nations employees in Cabo Verde came together to help, through the solidarity fund created by the Government of Cabo Verde on World Health Day, to respond to the COVID-19 epidemic in the country. The voluntary gesture, consisted in the individual donation of a symbolic amount of their salary, which will benefit 46 vulnerable families with social income for one month.



This document was prepared based on the contributions received from each agency.

Text review and adaptation: Gabriela Ruiz and Ródia Vicente, Anita Pinto.

Design and visual elements: Amanda Bergman, Anita Pinto and Julia Rabêlo.

Final edition: Anita Pinto. Contributions to the texts: Sebastien Vauzelle

