



# 2023

**Common  
Country  
Analysis**  
Cabo Verde



UNITED NATIONS  
CABO VERDE



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**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development

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# FOREWORD BY THE UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT COORDINATOR IN CABO VERDE



Cabo Verde's ambitious and commendable development agenda has been evident over the years, leading to significant achievements across various areas. Advancements in income per capita, education, healthcare, and significant strides in poverty reduction are unequivocal examples of that ambition and the progress made towards the Agenda 2030.

The recent cumulative global crises, including the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change, have challenged this progress, but the Government's

determination to safeguard the well-being of its citizens and economic stability has ensured a strong recovery and a renewed drive towards sustainable development. Even though, challenges remain in several areas, such as gender parity, inclusion of vulnerable groups, and regional disparities, Cabo Verde's recovery is a testament to resilience, unity, capability and the shared aspiration for a better future, ensuring human rights for all and that nobody will be left behind.

This commitment has been renewed in 2022, when Cabo Verde launched its national second Strategic Sustainable Development Plan 2022-2026 (PEDS II), which aligns closely with the global 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs. The PEDS II, alongside the strategy to eradicate extreme poverty and measures to support the most vulnerable people, embodies Cabo Verde's enduring determination to leaving no one behind.

The United Nations in Cabo Verde has accompanied the country's development journey for more than four decades and will continue steadfast in its own commitment to be a partner that offers expertise, resources, and a global

perspective. The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027, signed in October 2022, renews this commitment along the strategic priorities of (1) strengthened human talent and social capital; (2) inclusive economic transformation, prosperity, and just transition to a healthy environment; (3) transformative governance and strengthened territorial cohesion. These Strategic Priority areas will frame the UN support to the Government of Cabo Verde in accelerating progress towards the achievement of SDGs by 2030.

The United Nations Common Country Analysis (CCA) is an ongoing analytical function of the United Nations Country Team in Cabo Verde. It is elaborated based on an extensive desk review and analysis of relevant documents and data from national and international sources. As such, it is the UN independent and impartial assessment of the country's progress in achieving the SDGs.

Thus, the CCA encapsulates the nation's journey in the implementation the 2030 Agenda, going beyond a compilation of data, complementing it with a reflection on the progress, gaps, bottlenecks and opportunities. This assessment underscores both the achievements and areas

that warrant intensified efforts, informing the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and its priorities.

As we delve into the findings of this assessment, I urge all stakeholders to embrace it as a tool for action. It is an opportunity to reflect, reassess, and recalibrate our strategies in pursuit of a more sustainable and equitable future. By aligning our efforts with the recommendations presented here, we can collectively drive positive change that leaves a lasting impact in Cabo Verde.

I seize this opportunity to thank the UN Country Team in Cabo Verde who has played a pivotal role in the elaboration of this assessment by reviewing it and providing important inputs. Their dedication, expertise, and tireless efforts are a testament to the spirit of collaboration that defines our work. The overall data collection exercise benefited from the generosity and support from different institutions in Cabo Verde, especially the Institute of National Statistics (INECV).

Through partnerships, knowledge exchange, joint actions and resource mobilization, we can overcome challenges and shape a more prosperous and inclusive future for all. Together, we have the capacity to co-create a vibrant, sustainable future for Cabo Verde and its cherished citizens.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cabo Verde is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) comprised of 10 islands strategically located in the Atlantic Ocean and that has made remarkable progress in the social and economic areas in the last several decades. However, it is currently facing economic and environmental challenges due to its limited traditional resources, its reduced market and the economic concentration in the tourism sector. As observed during the Covid-19 pandemic, these structural conditions exposed the country's vulnerability to external shocks. In 2020, the economy contracted by 19.3% and poverty increased by 13%. In addition, the cumulative effects of climate change, leading to severe droughts, and of the Russian invasion of Ukraine have exacerbated sustainable development challenges in Cabo Verde.

As successive global crises were unfolding, the Government of Cabo Verde made important fiscal efforts to implement countercyclical policies that supported the economy and expanded social protection to the most vulnerable households. While these measures helped to mitigate the negative impacts of those external shocks, development setbacks were unavoidable. However, the strong economic rebound in 2022, with GDP growing by 17.7%, allowed many development indicators to return to pre-pandemic levels, even though inflation rose to 8.0% that same year, affecting the real income of the most vulnerable, as the country relies on imports for about 80% of its food needs.

In the meantime, the Government has also launched its national Strategic Sustainable Development Plan – 2022-2026 (PEDS II), delineating the profound transformation needed to generate economic

opportunities and social services for the entire population in the coming years, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As of now, midway through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and based on available data, the overall progress made in achieving the 17 SDGs presents a mixed picture.

- Progress on SDG1 has been noticeable, as extreme poverty was halved over the past seven years, despite the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change on local livelihoods. The government is committed to eradicating extreme poverty by 2026 and has developed a strategy that is currently under implementation. Additional fiscal resources need to be allocated to accelerate universal social protection and articulation of sectoral policies needs to be further developed. In particular, social protection programmes that include cash transfers, such as the “Rendimento Social de Inserção (RSI),” should continue to target the most vulnerable households, most of which are headed by women.
- Food insecurity and malnutrition continue to be a critical challenge, requiring further efforts to overcome the country's food production limitations and heavy reliance on food imports, lately at much higher prices. Transforming productivity in the agriculture sector, including the fishing sector, through modernization, is crucial to reduce dependence on imports and improve local livelihoods and food security. Increasing access to water, in conjunction with lower energy costs, is also instrumental for agricultural development in Cabo Verde.



- The country is a good performer on SDGs 3 and 4, having already achieved several targets. Cabo Verde has already ensured high enrolment rates in schools, but there are still important gaps in eliminating inequities in accessing education, especially for lower-income households and children with disabilities. There is also a need to ensure quality education for all. However, quality education has been more difficult to assess due to limited data, requiring the country to accelerate work in this area. As in other African countries, teacher development programmes need to be prioritized for more inclusive quality education.
- Cabo Verde is in a demographic and epidemiological transition, placing the country above the regional average in Africa in the health dimension. The country has achieved solid performance in several indicators, which is commendable, but efforts are needed to prevent non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which are surpassing infectious diseases as the main causes of morbidity and mortality in Cabo Verde. In order to make progress on universal health coverage, the country also needs to increase the number of health professionals per capita and improve the quality of care.
- Gender inequalities are still a challenge, especially in the economic dimension, as women's participation in labour markets is much lower than that of men and the incidence of poverty among women is much higher. Eliminating gender gaps will require more equal access to training, skills, finance and technology, but also continued efforts to accelerate a cultural shift towards a more equal distribution of unpaid work in the private sphere. Decent, solid jobs and managerial responsibilities will also need to be accessible to women in the public sphere.
- Protecting women and girls from Gender-Based Violence (GBV) requires fully implementing existing legal frameworks. Additional resources are also needed to speed action on complaints and ease judicial backlogs. Although both the awareness of victims and the volume of complaints are increasing, the resolution rate is low. Data on GBV cases needs to be improved in order to design appropriate policies against GBV.
- Despite chronic water scarcity being among the main structural constraints for sustainable development, especially in terms of sanitation, hygiene, health and agriculture, Cabo Verde is by far above the region's average in terms of access to drinking water. However, affordability must improve, as more than 80% of domestic water consumption is desalinated with a high energy cost, leading to one of the highest water prices in Africa. Key among the options for stemming this hurdle include expanding access to energy efficient technologies and ramping up investments in diversified and more reliable energy sources.
- The share of renewable energy (RE) represents currently 20% of total energy consumption and is expected to increase in the coming years, as the Government has committed to several climate change mitigation measures, among them an 18% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) by 2030 (24% if adequate international support is received) and the decarbonisation of the economy by 2050.
- Progress towards SDG8 had been consistent during the period between 2016 and 2019, but that positive trend was halted by the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. While the strong economic recovery in 2022 allowed many labour market indicators to return to pre-pandemic levels, youth unemployment (15-24 age

- group) remains relatively high with a rate of 27.3%, as well as the youth NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) rate, which stands at 27.8%. Economic expansion is still highly dependent on a geographically concentrated tourism sector, hampering sustained and inclusive economic growth.
- Diversifying the economy and the tourism sector will be determinant to ensuring sustainable economic growth and improving the country's resilience to external shocks. The tourism sector needs to generate more linkages with local suppliers in order to increase its impact on employment creation and poverty reduction.
  - The digital transformation agenda has gained momentum as a potential source of new income, job creation, and economic diversification. The country will need to strengthen the regulatory framework for digital development, enhance digital foundations, including data ecosystem and cybersecurity, as well as develop a national digital skills agenda and invest in human capital for this sector.
  - Official data remains inadequate on a number of environmental issues, limiting the assessment of SDGs related to this dimension. Like many African countries, Cabo Verde continues to make significant progress and has already achieved SDGs 12 and 13 on climate action, as it has one of the lowest per capita emissions of greenhouse gases in the world. However, Cabo Verde is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change and will need to enhance the country's mitigation and adaptation capacities further. The Government should continue their innovative and blended financing efforts – such as the Blue-X finance platform and the debt for nature swap with bilateral donors.
  - There is evidence of threats to conservation of nature and biodiversity, requiring adequate conservation and protective legal frameworks. Key among these threats include illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities, which continues to hamper the country's progress on SDG 14. The IUU not only present a major threat to biodiversity but also deprive the local population and wider economy of the accruing benefits. There are opportunities in the areas of training in modern fishing techniques, access to equipment, and infrastructure development, as well as sustainable fishing practices to ensure long-term viability of fish stocks. Also, national and sub-national measures for strengthening the country's legal, policy and institutional frameworks should be explored, as well as ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources.
  - Pressures on land biodiversity remain significant in coastal areas, where a large share of the population is concentrated, and Cabo Verde is making little progress towards the SDG 15. Public expenditure allocated to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems has been insufficient. Further, Official Development Assistance (ODA) on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments stand at less than 10%. As such, it is a critical for the country jointly with its development partners – including the UN system – to step up in this area, while leveraging new pathways occasioned by the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (adopted in December 2022).

- Many governance indicators are quite good in Cabo Verde, especially in terms of freedom, institutional soundness and legal and policy frameworks. However, some challenges remain, mainly related to the enforcement of laws and the perception of security among the population. The country is also facing increasing challenges with drug trafficking and the ramifications thereof on local criminality. As such, international coordination and cooperation will need to be enhanced, while Cabo Verde must continue to invest in fighting criminality. Efforts should continue with ongoing relevant reforms aimed at consolidating the rule of law, modernizing judicial structures and improving the performance of its judicial system, as well as increasing the number of judges and prosecutors.
- The country has accumulated a large public debt, which will limit policy space in the near term and may delay progress towards the SDGs, increasing the risk of missing many of them. During the pandemic, Official Development Assistance (ODA) grew as a result of international efforts, while the postponement of disbursement payments alleviated fiscal pressures. In 2022, ODA decreased, while FDI saw an increase of 51%, mainly in the tourism and real estate sectors. Remittances continue to be one of the main pillars of external financial flows, more important than ODA and FDI combined.
- The Government will need to increase its fiscal space to accelerate investments in strategic areas identified in the PEDS II and for the eradication of extreme poverty. This could be done through additional domestic resources mobilization initiatives, including by increasing the recently created tourism tax that will finance part of the ENEPE. Increasing the formalization of the economy would increase social protection coverage and has the potential to generate additional public revenues. The private sector will play a major role in financing development, including infrastructures, notably through innovative financing mechanisms such as public-private partnerships.
- Development partners should continue to be aligned behind the PEDS II and the SDGs, ensuring that national initiatives are supported and adequately funded. External public debt restructuring would create budgetary space, while new debt swap initiatives could be used to fund specific development goals and climate. Considering current fiscal consolidation pressures, the Government will probably need to carefully balance necessary spending and additional borrowing.
- Finally, considering some data limitations at the national level (with no reported data on 46.8% of the SDG indicators), the country is advised to invest in strengthening national statistical institutions to overcome current data gaps and produce additional development indicators, especially for the environmental pillar. Timely and disaggregated data is also necessary to better assess development trends in all SDGs and the situation in all municipalities and for all social groups

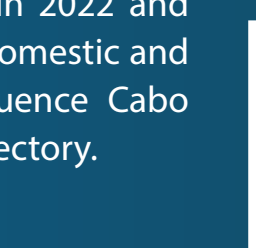


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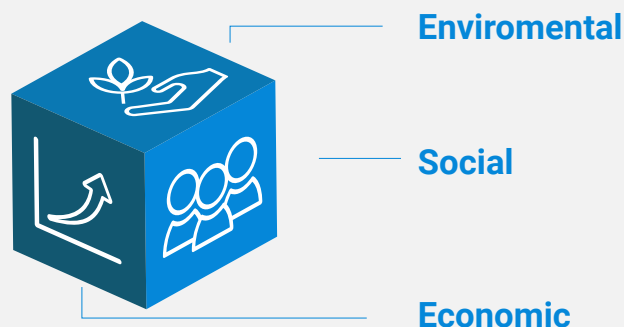
## INTRODUCTION

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This new version of the CCA incorporates the latest contextual changes that have taken place since the Covid-19 pandemic – assessing its impacts and emerging challenges, but especially analysing the path toward recovery initiated in 2022 and new opportunities, related to both domestic and international factors, that may influence Cabo Verde’s sustainable development trajectory.



The global pursuit of sustainable development has led to a transformative and universal plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Agenda incorporates 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets that are integrated and indivisible and balance all three dimensions of sustainable development.



Cabo Verde recognizes the importance of this Agenda and prioritizes the acceleration of its goals across all dimensions of sustainable development. This includes sustainable growth, economic transformation and diversification, while promoting and protecting **natural blue capital**. Socially, Cabo Verde aims to promote the development of human capital, the eradication of extreme poverty, inclusiveness, and gender equality. The country also emphasizes environmental sustainability, through urban quality, climate action and resilience, biodiversity and geodiversity. Furthermore, Cabo Verde seeks to consolidate national sovereignty, promote regional integration, and foster dynamic participation in the World Economic System.

Periodically, progress towards the 2030 Agenda at the national level is assessed, taking into consideration the evolving regional and global landscape. Considering the multiple crises affecting the global environment and national trends, the assessment should be conducted jointly by the entire UN system, integrating all dimensions of development and including forward-looking analysis. Such an analysis involves understanding the changing situation and emerging trends and harmonizing the perspectives of various stakeholders.

Thus, the new generation of the Common Country Analysis (CCA) is much more than a mere document; indeed, it serves as an analytical function of the United Nations system within the country. It reflects shifts in the national development landscape and ensures the Cooperation Framework remains relevant by adjusting annual or biannual UN joint work plans. The CCA will support the UN Country Team (UNCT) in productive debates and advocacy with the government and other stakeholders.

The 2023 edition of the CCA is an update, with substantial revisions, of the 2021 version, developed in-house through an **involving** and participatory process, ensuring the active involvement of the entire UNCT. This new version of the CCA incorporates the latest contextual changes that have taken place since the Covid-19 pandemic – assessing its impacts and emerging challenges, but especially analysing the path toward recovery initiated in 2022 and new opportunities, related to both domestic and international factors, that may influence Cabo Verde’s sustainable development trajectory. This version also incorporates a new section on the country’s compliance with international human rights norms and standards.

Conceptually, the CCA adopts an integrated approach that analyses the issues related to each Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) individually, but also across SDGs. This approach is reflected in the update of the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) analysis, the economic transformation analysis, and the multidimensional risks to achieving the SDGs. Moreover, the CCA examines underlying and structural factors impacting the lives and livelihoods of all individuals, considering current and emerging political, security, social, economic, disaster, and environmental risks.

The CCA relies on data-driven analysis and aims to build an evidence base that is responsive to dynamic changes. It primarily draws upon official national

statistics, while also incorporating qualitative and quantitative data from diverse sources across the data ecosystem. These sources include UN agencies' data portals and reports from the government, the National Statistics Office, public agencies, human rights institutions, civil society organizations, academia, and international financing institutions, among others.

Overall, this updated CCA provides a comprehensive understanding of Cabo Verde's development landscape, enabling informed decision-making, collaborative efforts and progress towards realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.






# 2

## NATIONAL VISION AND COMMITMENTS TO THE 2030 AGENDA

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The 2022-2026 Strategic Sustainable Development Plan – (PEDS II), prepared within the context of the profound crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, delineates the wide-reaching transformation needed to generate economic opportunities and social services for the entire population.



Cabo Verde's national development priorities are encapsulated in the Government's Programme for the 10<sup>th</sup> legislature and in the National Agenda for Sustainable Development, entitled *Ambition 2030*<sup>1</sup>, since the launching of which it has also carried out a series of participatory strategic planning exercises critical to the country's development:



COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment and Recovery Plan (SEIA)



Evaluation of the 2017-2021 Strategic Sustainable Development Plan (PEDS)



SDG Voluntary National Report and SDG Local Voluntary Report 2021



Leave No One Behind Assessment 2021



The 2020 update of the Nationally Determined Contribution



The 2022 National Adaptation Plan



The 2022-2026 PEDS (PEDS II)

All these exercises have benefited from extensive and intense participation from all stakeholders from the Government, municipalities, civil society, the private sector and academia, as well as international partners.

The result is a common vision for recovery and sustainable economic, social and environmental development.



<sup>1</sup> During the pandemic, in August 2020, a wide range of stakeholders from all sectors of society – governmental entities, local authorities, civil society organizations, private sector entities, academic sector, international partners, etc. – came together under the Government's leadership to build a long-term development vision and strategy named "Cabo Verde Ambition 2030", aligned with the Agenda 2030, the Agenda 2063 and the SAMOA Pathway (SIDS Agenda 2014-2024). Cabo Verde Ambition 2030 was then reflected in the new National Development Plan "PEDS II" (2022-2026).



## NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN: PEDS II

The 2022-2026 Strategic Sustainable Development Plan – (PEDS II), prepared within the context of the profound crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, delineates the wide-reaching transformation needed to generate economic opportunities and social services for the entire population.

On the one hand, the PEDS II provides continuity and does not differ from previous national development plans in its alignment with the long-term development strategy CV Ambition 2030. On the other hand, three major differences should be highlighted. The first is the integration of a recovery phase, in line with the Socioeconomic Response Plan, which will be followed by an “acceleration phase” for the 2024-2026 period. The second is a bottom-up approach, using the Islands’ Economic Specialization Profiles to build on the specific challenges and opportunities of each island. The third is the inclusion of structuring projects to catalyse efforts within each of the 30+ sectorial programmes.

The priorities identified by the National Government as the backbone of the PEDS II are:

In the first phase (2022-2024):

**Health sector safety**, making Cabo Verde a safe country from a health point of view, and a good health system, factors that generate confidence in the economy and the well-being of the population;

**Resumption of economic growth:** through the dynamism of the private sector;

Reversal of the trend of public debt growth and **fiscal consolidation** towards a

macroeconomic environment favourable to economic growth and reduction of sovereign and country risks;

**Social cohesion**, through active employment policies and active social and productive inclusion policies to eliminate extreme poverty, reduce absolute poverty and create opportunities;

**Territorial cohesion**, for the reduction of regional asymmetries, creation of economic opportunities and convergence of the SDGs in the islands.

In a second phase (2024-2026), identified as a more transformative “acceleration” phase:

**Development of human capital**, education of excellence and professional qualification geared towards knowledge, learning, skills, and entrepreneurship in a country open to the world;

Energy transition – reduction of dependence on fossil fuels through renewable energies, electric mobility and energy efficiency.

**Climate action**, through alignment with international principles and agreements, compliance with international conventions, normative convergence with the European Union in environmental matters and defence of the specificities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

**Making agriculture viable**, through the massification of water desalination and the safe reuse of wastewater associated with renewable energies.

**Digital transformation** and the digital economy to improve the quality of services to citizens and companies, reduce service asymmetries among islands, stimulate entrepreneurship, create quality jobs, export services and position Cabo Verde as a digital platform in Africa.

**Sustainable Tourism**, with an improved qualification regime, diversification of products and de-concentration of the supply of tourist products and destinations; diversification of operators and issuing markets; and an increase in the weight of the supply of domestic products and services to the tourist market (agri-food production, creative industries).

**Transition to the blue economy**, using the emerging ecosystem of actors in Sao Vicente: centre of knowledge, professional qualification and applied research linked to the sea (Campus do Mar); Port Development, Maritime Transport, Repair and Shipbuilding, Fisheries and Maritime Tourism (with epicentre in the São Vicente Special Maritima Economiz Zone - ZEEM-SV)

**Industrial development**, with a special focus on the Extractive Industry, Agri-food Industry, Clothing and Footwear Industry and Pharmaceutical Industry and a special approach to the ECOWAS and Community of Portuguese-Language Countries (CPLP) markets.

## LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANS AND SDG LOCALIZATION

Territorial Cohesion is one of the cornerstones of the Government's action plan for the 2021/2026 mandate. Priority is given to inter and intra-regional economic and social asymmetries, contributing to convergence and equity in access to development opportunities for all individuals, regardless of their island of origin and residence.

Indeed, preliminary studies carried out by the Government, namely through the calculation of the Localization Coefficient, show that, while some islands are highly dependent on certain economic services (e.g., agriculture), in most cases the economic potential currently in place is not fully taken advantage of, while other potentials (e.g., tourism) are not adequately exploited.

To address these issues, the Government prioritizes more integrated territorial management and equitable spatial approaches to achieve balanced territorial development. This perspective includes strengthening the national network of municipalities and regional urban-rural links, in order to allocate limited available resources strategically, encouraging collaboration, rather than competition, between municipalities and regions.

In this sense, the SDG Localization process, led by the National Government and local authorities with UN support and the participation of civil society organizations, academia and private sector entities, included the setting up of local platforms bringing together all local development actors and the elaboration of Municipal Strategic Sustainable Development Plans (PEMDS) in Cabo Verde's 22 municipalities.

The PEMDS include a gender analysis, and one of their five priority intervention axes is gender equality and

women's empowerment. The PEMDS are an example of participation within the framework of local multi-stakeholder platforms and promotion of the SDGs. The SDG Localization Platforms across all municipalities is instrumental in facilitating the engagement of different social groups.

Based on the PEMDS and with a central role of the Local Platforms, **Islands' Economic Specialization Profiles** (one per inhabited island) have been elaborated, to map the specific needs and potentialities of each island. The objective of the profiles is also to take into account the challenges and opportunities at the regional level, as per the priority the government has placed on territorial cohesion.

The various PEMDS and the **Islands' Economic Specialization Profiles** served as a basis for the PEDS II (2022-2027) and an opportunity to tackle inter and intra-island regional disparities and ensure that no one is left behind.

## THE SDG ACCELERATORS

**In order to deliver the Agenda 2030, five SDGs accelerators have been identified:**

1. Development of human capital.
2. The Blue Economy, recognizing the great potential of the maritime economy and the importance of protecting ocean and coastal areas health.
3. The Digital Economy, to stimulate the adoption of technology and digital solutions to support value chains and inclusive digital transformation.
4. Renewable energies, as they will determine the reduction of factor costs.
5. Tourism industry, as when tourism anchors agriculture,

fishing, crafts, creative industries, and other services, these in turn accelerate modernization, productivity, and the entire tourism constellation.

The five accelerators interact with one another in a systemic way and are influenced by a set of enablers defined by financing, partnerships, security issues, institutions and systems, and connectivity within and across islands through physical or digital means.

The overarching aspiring statement for **Ambition 2030** is: "in 2030, Cabo Verde will be a consolidated and modern inclusive democracy, a blue, digitalized, emerging and resilient nation, an economy of circulation located in the Middle Atlantic integrated in ECOWAS with full employment and shared prosperity, a country useful to the world and reference of pride for all".

A gender analysis of the SDG accelerators has also been conducted, highlighting, among other findings, that women have very low participation rate in scientific and technological training, studies, and professions. There is also a major gender gap in irrigated agriculture, as 76.1%<sup>2</sup> of farms that produce surpluses are headed by men versus 23.9% headed by women. In general, women have less access to land, technology, irrigation, and modern agricultural practices that are more productive and profitable. These gender gaps led to the establishment of specific targets for women in the 2030 Agenda commitments on gender equity and empowerment.

The SDG accelerator exercise has linked a short-term response to a longer-term sustainable development vision that includes climate action. However, it remains important to continue exploring different possible scenarios for the achievement of the SDGs and to be able to adapt to an ever-changing landscape. In this

2 Ministério da Agricultura e Ambiente (2015). V Recenseamento Geral da Agricultura (RGA). Cabo Verde.

sense, building partnerships to unleash potential for economic diversification, social inclusion and resilience will be essential.

A widening financing gap for the SDGs after COVID-19 will require public expenditure in the SDGs accelerators to be complemented with private sector investment within the vision of CV Ambition 2030. This is possible if both the Government and critical private sector entities share a common vision for the long-term objectives and together explore possible futures and pathways.

## COMMITMENTS TOWARDS THE AGENDA 2030

### The National Strategy for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty – January 2023

In January 2023, the Government of Cabo Verde, through the Ministry of Family, Inclusion and Social Development, launched the National Strategy to Eradicate Extreme Poverty (Estratégia Nacional para a Erradicação da Pobreza Extrema em Cabo Verde – ENEPE 2022-2026), with the goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2026, as originally set out in the PEDS II. When the ENEPE was elaborated in 2022, 13.1% of the overall population, or approximately 63,335 people<sup>3</sup>, lived in extreme poverty. Using the Unified Social Registry (CSU), it was possible to identify that 37% of those in extreme poverty are children between 0 and 15 years of age, while 85% of households in extreme poverty are headed by women.

As such, the ENEPE integrates three pillars: (1) the expansion of social protection with direct income transfers, such as the Social Inclusion Remuneration (RSI) and Productive Inclusion (IP); (2) the multisectoral articulation of specific educational, health, housing, and employment measures; and (3) the institutional strengthening necessary for implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

### National Determined Contribution (NDC) for the climate action plan

Cabo Verde has set a national target to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 18% by 2030 under a Business As Usual scenario. This target could be increased to 24% if adequate international support becomes available. In the long term, Cabo Verde aims to achieve a zero-carbon economy by 2050. The island of Brava will be the pilot for decarbonization by 2040. The goal is to increase electricity production from renewal sources, to improve energy efficiency in all sectors, to shift from fossil fuel to electrified transportation, and to improve resource rehabilitation and land mitigation measures.



(...) the Government of Cabo Verde ... launched the National Strategy to Eradicate Extreme Poverty ..., with the goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2026

3 Estratégias Nacional para a Erradicação da Pobreza Extrema em Cabo Verde (ENEPE) – 2022-2026



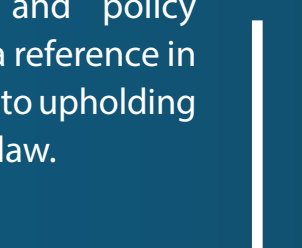
# 3

## COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS\*

\*Compilation Report from UN agencies on the 4th Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, 2023

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Cabo Verde continues to make significant progress in enhancing its human rights institutional infrastructure and policy measures. (...) The country is a reference in the region for its commitment to upholding human rights and the rule of law.



Cabo Verde continues to make significant progress in enhancing its human rights institutional infrastructure and policy measures. Cabo Verde has a good human rights protection framework, starting with the Constitution of the Republic and other structuring laws. The country is a reference in the region for its commitment to upholding human rights and the rule of law.

Cabo Verde has ratified all 9 main international human rights conventions under the United Nations system<sup>4</sup>: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR - 1975); the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD - 1979); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW - 1981); the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT- 1992); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC - 1992); the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR - 1993); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR - 1993); and the International Convention on Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMRW - 2003), Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED-2007)

At the regional level, as a State Party to the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Cabo Verde has adhered to the main instruments promoting human rights in Africa: the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1987); the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1993); the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women (2005); and the African Youth Charter (2010).

4 CNDHC, "Estudo sobre o conhecimento e aplicação das convenções internacionais de direitos humanos em Cabo Verde, 2020". In parenthesis acronym and year of entry into force in Cabo Verde's legal framework

All children in Cabo Verde, irrespective of their geographic location, economic status or circumstances, have the right to education. National policies have been put in place to ensure uptake by all; specific initiatives like the school lunch programme instituted by the Government of Cabo Verde help promote school enrolment, attendance and completion, producing human capital that is well equipped to build up the country.

Cabo Verde's government has consolidated the Single Social Registry (CSU) as the single point of entry to access public social benefits and the single targeting mechanism to identify families in extreme poverty. The CSU aids in the fulfilment of the right to social welfare and the right to an adequate standard of living.

Cabo Verde is a signatory to various human rights and gender-related regional and international conventions and protocols (CEDAW, ICPD PoA, Beijing platform).

Governance indicators that reflect the mainstreaming of Human rights and other global conventions at the national level are very good in Cabo Verde: Cabo Verde ranks third in the Ibrahim Index for African Governance<sup>5</sup>, performing outstandingly in the category Participation and Human Rights (76.3). Cabo Verde also ratified the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2008 and is one of the first countries to have completed both implementation review cycles of the Convention, in 2016 and in 2017, respectively.

The rights of lesbian gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons are guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Cabo Verde. However, specific programmes and the necessary legislative framework should be reinforced to support an increase in social consciousness regarding the challenges faced by LGBTI persons.

5 Ibrahim Index of African Governance. 2022 Index Report. Mo Ibrahim Foundation. January 2023.

In the past year, Cabo Verde has ratified recent Human Rights obligations defined at the global level:

- The ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in December 2022.
- The ratification of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction approved in the National Assembly, which entered into force of law in March 2023.

Key developments in the national legal system and public management system to continue to fulfil Human Rights obligations include:

- The approval of the law on the prevention, rehabilitation, and participation of persons with disabilities (Law-decree n° 21/2019); the design and adoption of the Strategic Plan for the rights of persons with disabilities 2022-2026, which is currently under implementation.
- The operationalization of the II National Action Plan for the Prevention of and Fight Against Sexual Violence 2022-2024 (Resolution 122/2021), which is currently being implemented; the preparation of the II Plan Against Human Trafficking (2023-2027) and its respective action plan.
- The existence of a national strategy for the mainstreaming of Citizenship Education in line with Human Rights.

Key challenges to advancing human rights are:

- Granting human rights institution statute to the National Commission for Human Rights and Citizenship (CNDHC). In order to do so, according to the Paris Principles<sup>6</sup>, the Constitution requires an extraordinary revision to allow the existing Ombudsman's Office to be merged with the CNDHC.
- The ratification of the protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Additional investment in the Justice sector to accelerate conflict resolution and enhance people's understanding of the legal system, which will help prevent crime.
- Additional efforts to effectively implement the National Strategy for Human Rights Education at all levels. Ensure the implementation of the Convention against Discrimination in Education, including by providing qualified professionals to assist people with disabilities in schools.
- A human rights-based system that collaborates with the statistical system in the provision of data to the national SDG planning system (PEDS II 2022-2027 and municipal sustainable development plans – PEMDS).

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6 The Paris Principles ('Principles Relating to the Status of National Human Rights Institutions') set out the minimum standards that NHRIs must meet in order to be considered credible and to operate effectively



# 4

## PROGRESS ON THE SDG PATH

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Progress has been made on several social development indicators, placing Cabo Verde above the regional average in Africa, but significant challenges are evident for many SDGs.



The current status of the progress made on the 17 SDGs presents a mixed picture, especially on the heels of the setbacks caused by external shocks, chief among which was the Covid-19 pandemic. Progress has been made on several social development indicators, placing Cabo Verde above the regional average in Africa, but significant challenges are evident for many SDGs.

Despite the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, extreme poverty has been halved over the past seven years, and the government is committed to eradicating extreme poverty (see Section 2). Eradicating what remains of extreme poverty in the next 7 years is feasible, but additional resources will be necessary to accelerate the expansion of social protection and the adequate articulation of sectoral policies. Considering the country's food production limitations and heavy reliance on food imports, recently at much higher prices, food insecurity and malnutrition continue to be among the country's major challenges. As a result, further efforts are needed in order to achieve SDG2.

Human development has always been a high priority in Cabo Verde. The country is a good performer on SDG 3, having already achieved several of its targets. The target of "Quality Education" has been more difficult to assess due to limited data, but it seems that the country needs to improve in this area, after having ensured high enrolment rates. Gender inequalities are still a challenge, especially in the economic dimension, as women's participation in labour markets is much lower than that of men and the incidence of poverty among women is much higher than among men. Despite chronic water scarcity, Cabo Verde has performed quite well in terms of access to drinking water.

Economic prosperity has also seen progress, but structural constraints hamper further, deeper economic transformation and sustained per capita economic growth. In particular, the economy experienced a deep recession, underscoring Cabo Verde's vulnerability to external shocks. A strong economic recovery has allowed many labour market indicators to return to pre-pandemic levels, but economic expansion is still highly dependent on the tourism sector and concentrated in two islands.

Data is missing on environmental issues, limiting the assessment of SDGs related to this dimension. Like many African countries, Cabo Verde has already achieved SDG 12 and 13 on climate action, as it has one of the world's lowest per capita emissions of greenhouse gases. However, Cabo Verde is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change and will need to enhance its mitigation and adaptation capacities further. There is evidence of threats to biodiversity, requiring adequate conservation and a protective legal framework.

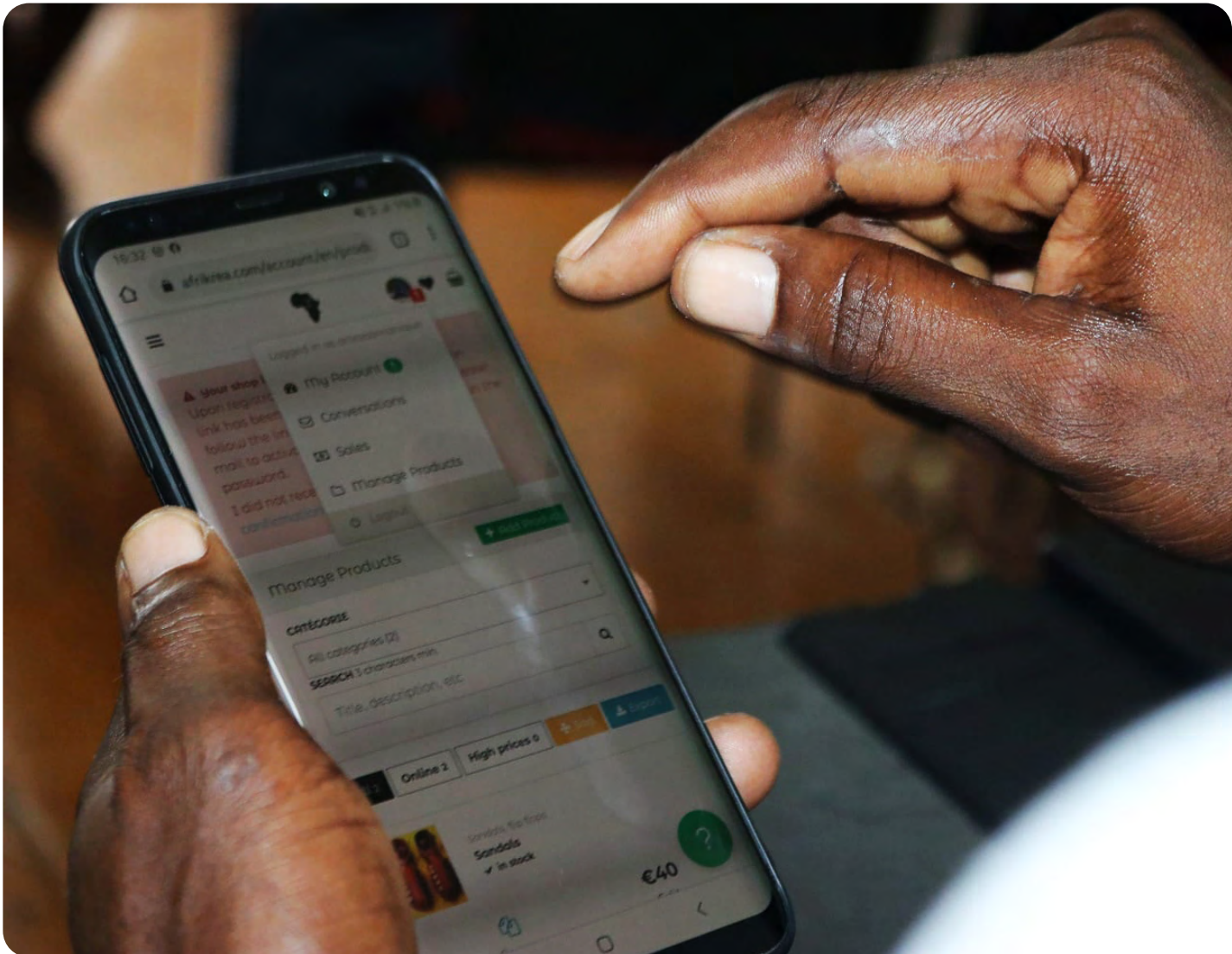
Many governance indicators are quite good in Cabo Verde, especially in terms of freedom, institutional soundness and legal and policy frameworks. However, some challenges remain, related mainly to the enforcement of laws and the perception of security among the population. The country is also facing increasing challenges with drug trafficking and the ramifications thereof on local criminality. Overall, the country has accumulated a large public debt which will limit policy space in the near term and may delay progress toward these SDGs and increase the risk of not achieving most of them.



Data gaps remain another major issue for adequately reporting Cabo Verde's progress toward the achievement of the SDGs. This report uses the latest available data, mostly from domestic sources, but also from technical agencies. In some cases, the latest data available was still that reported in the 2021 VNR, which was also used as a reference for this CCA. As such, strengthening the country's statistical system to report data on all SDGs is also of extreme importance.

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## SDG 1: ZERO POVERTY

**(target 1.1)** In Cabo Verde, the incidence of extreme poverty has been declining consistently since 2015, apart from the year 2020 as a result of the pandemic. According to the old international poverty line of \$1.90/day (which has traditionally been the reference in Cabo Verde), extreme poverty was halved in the past 7 years, from 22.6% in 2015 to 11.1% in 2022. Taking into consideration the new international poverty line of \$2.15/day (used by the UN), the extreme poverty rate followed a similar pattern and is currently 14.6% (figure 1).

These revised extreme poverty estimates point to the impact of the pandemic on extreme poverty being milder than originally anticipated. Using both poverty lines, extreme poverty increased by less than half a percentage point between 2019 and 2020. After the pandemic, the extreme poverty rate resumed a downward trend, declining by more than 5 percentage

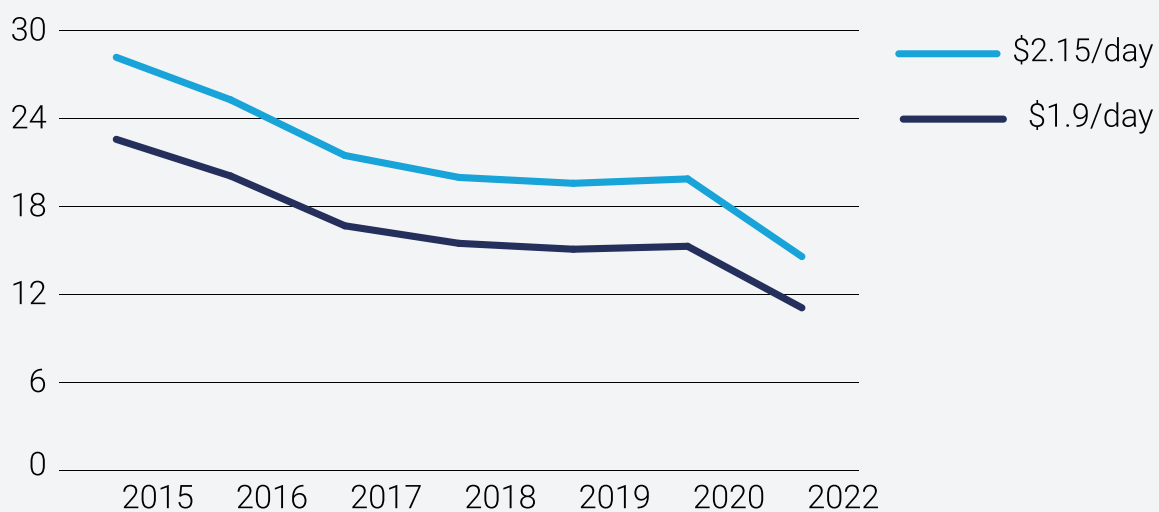


(...) extreme poverty was halved in the past 7 years, from 22.6% in 2015 to 11.1% in 2022.

points in 2022 (\$2.15/day line), bringing the incidence of extreme poverty well below the pre-pandemic level. Despite the negative impact of inflation on the real income of vulnerable households, the strong economic rebound and the expansion of social protection seem to have played an important role in this reduction in 2022.

**(target 1.2)** The national poverty rate, based on a \$2.77 per day poverty line, is currently 28.1%, down from 35.2% in 2015, which is still far from the target of reducing poverty by half by 2030 (figure 2). The pandemic has delayed this process, even though the economic rebound in 2022 and additional social protection measures were able to bring the poverty rate back to pre-pandemic levels.

**Figure 1:** Target 1.1-Extreme poverty in Cabo Verde 2015-2022 (percentage)



Source: INE – Estimativas da Pobreza Extrema Internacional 2015-2022



Currently, poverty incidence in rural areas is almost twice as high as in urban areas. During the pandemic, poverty increased more quickly in urban areas, mainly as a result of its impact on the tourism sector and on the activities in the informal sector, but it also decreased more quickly during the economic rebound in 2021 and 2022.

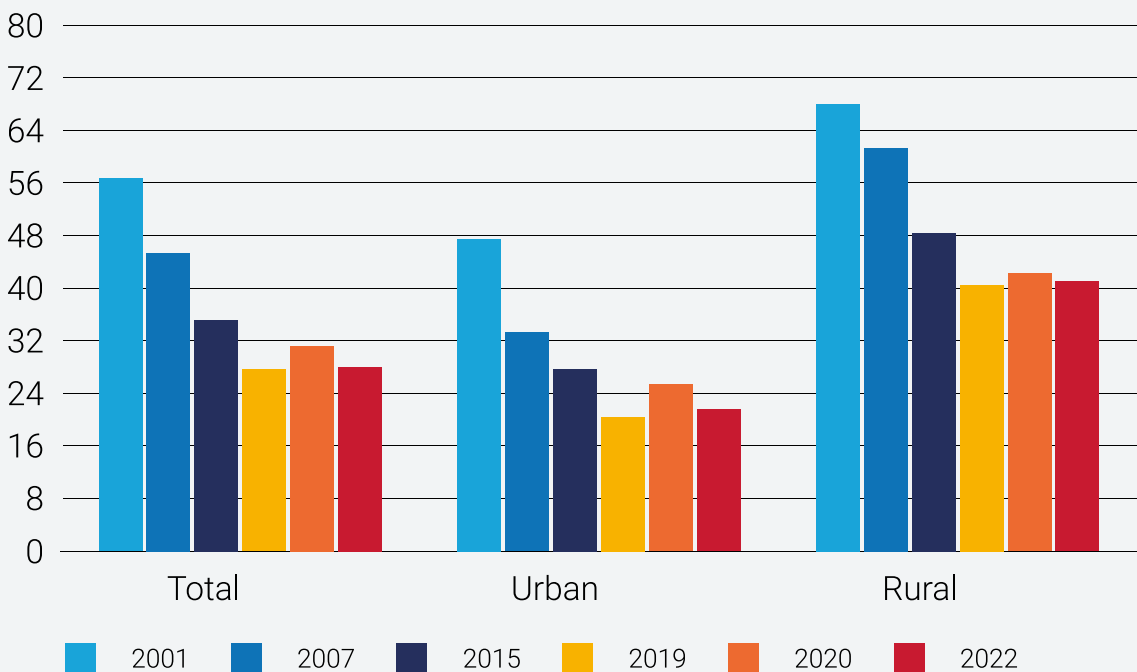
The most significant change in the social composition of the poor population resulting from the pandemic was the increase in the proportion of women versus men. In 2019, women represented 57% of the poor population as opposed to 43% for men, but after the pandemic, in 2022 women represent 66% of the poor population. Not only were women more strongly affected by the pandemic, as they tend to work in higher percentages in the service sector, but the economic rebound in 2021/2022 also maintained the gender consumption gap<sup>7</sup>.



The most significant change in the social composition of the poor population resulting from the pandemic was the increase in the proportion of women versus men.

(...) in 2022 women represent 66% of the poor population.

**Figure 2:** Target 1.2-National poverty – \$2.77/day – 2001-2022 (percentage)



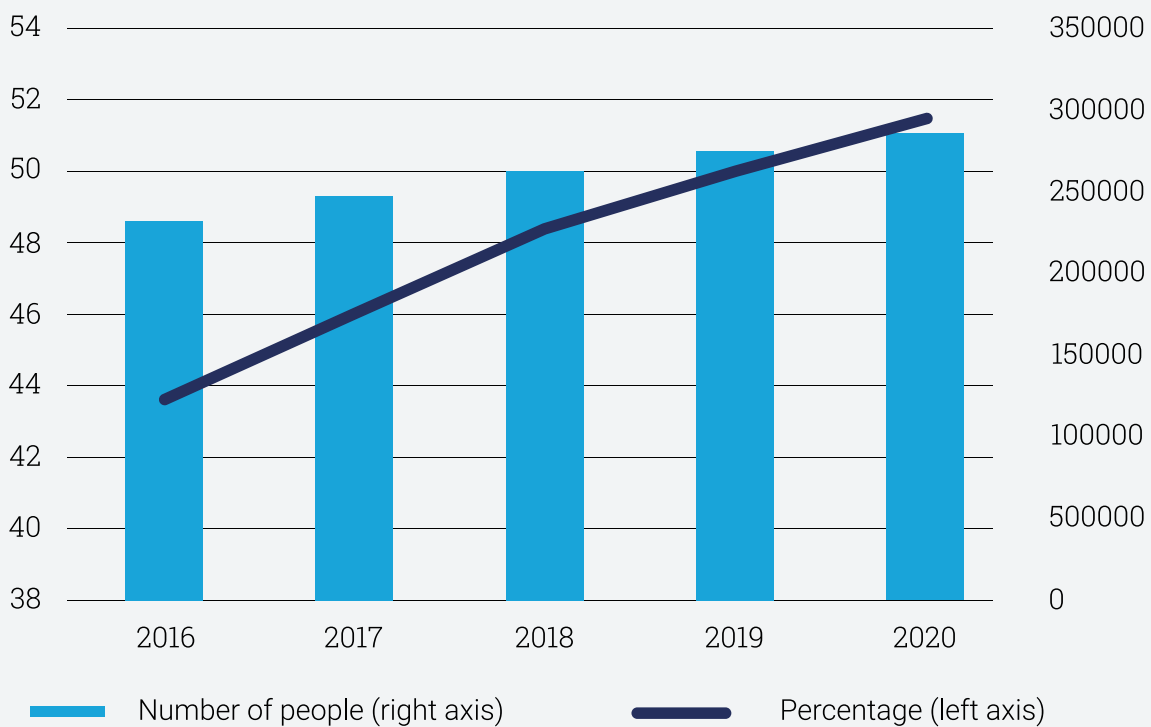
Source: INE – Estimativas da Pobreza 2016-2022 Source: INE – Estimativas da Pobreza 2016-2022

7 INE (2023). Estimativas da Pobreza 2016-2022

In 2023, the increase in the minimum wage from US\$ 130 to US\$ 140 and the planned expansion of social protection (as part of the ENEPE – see Section 2) should contribute to more inclusive economic growth. The impact of these measures on gender income disparities will depend on additional factors, such as women’s tendency to occupy the lowest positions in the wage scale<sup>8</sup> and the enforcement of the minimum wage, as 64% of women are paid less than minimum wage<sup>9</sup>.

**(target 1.3)** Social protection coverage, in both the non-contributory and contributory regime, has progressively improved in Cabo Verde. In 2020, 51.4% of the population was covered by at least one social protection measure (figure 3). This is above the 46.9% of the world population effectively covered by at least one social protection benefit.

**Figure 3:** Target 1.3-Proportion of the population covered by social protection



Source: Boletim Estatístico do Sistema de Proteção Social em Cabo Verde, 2016-2020

8 ILO, Inégalité salariale au Cap-Vert: aspects explicables au-delà du salaire brut, 2021.

9 ACLCVBG, Análise Participativa da Políticas Públicas: Direitos das Trabalhadoras e dos Trabalhadores Domésticos em Cabo Verde, 2018.

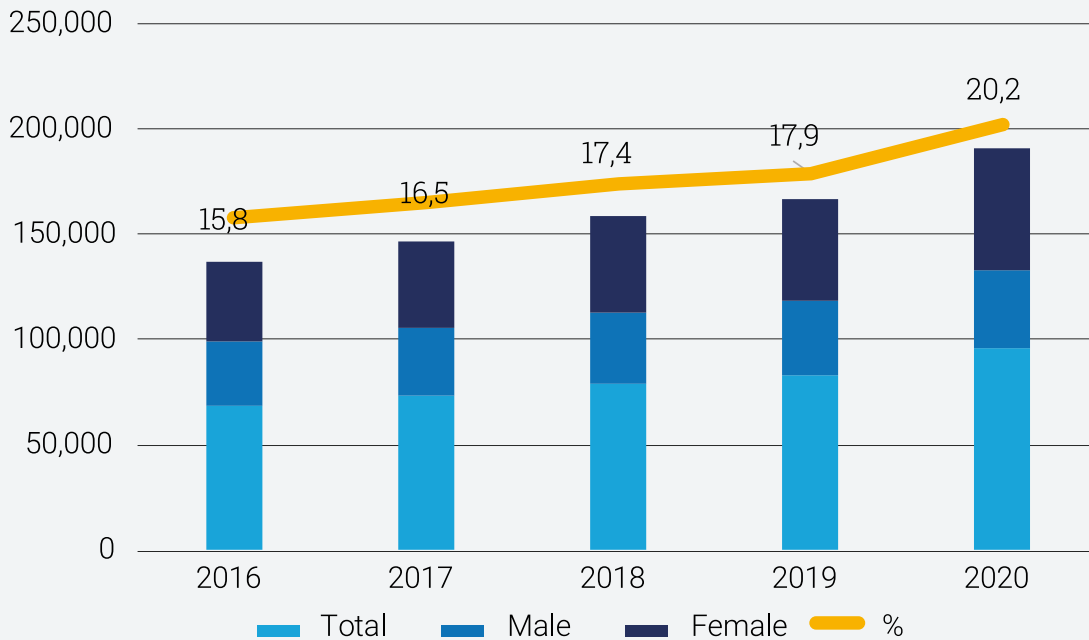


Social protection coverage, in both the non-contributory and contributory regime, has progressively improved in Cabo Verde. In 2020, 51.4% of the population was covered by at least one social protection measure

At the national level, the non-contributory scheme, which corresponds to the safety net system under the responsibility of the National Centre for Social Security (CNPS), gradually improved its effective coverage of the most vulnerable members of the population between 2016 and 2020 (figure 4). This increase reflects the Government’s policy of eradicating extreme poverty and the special measures (“RSI Emergencial”) introduced during the pandemic. Children represented 63% of the vulnerable population benefiting from effective coverage.

The coverage of the most vulnerable persons, including women and children, is expected to increase in the coming years, as the ENEPE (launched in 2023) targets some 12,184 additional vulnerable households with additional social protection. In addition, the National Social Security Institute (INPS) is developing efforts to better articulate the contributory and non-contributory regimes throughout people’s life cycle, which should offer better coverage when people face specific periods of vulnerability.

**Figure 4:** Effective coverage of the vulnerable



**Source:** Boletim Estatístico do Sistema de Proteção Social em Cabo Verde, 2016-2020 (Figure 22, pg. 47)



## SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER

Cabo Verde is highly vulnerable to food insecurity, both cyclical and structural, as result of its territorial fragmentation, the existence of a limited area of arable land (10% of total land area), limited irrigation systems (only 2,300 hectares - less than 1% of the national territory - are irrigated)<sup>10</sup>, and its exposure to extreme weather phenomena due to climate change. Thereby, ensuring access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food year-round remains a challenge.

**(target 2.1)** In 2020, Cabo Verde was among the 34 countries in Africa with severe localized food insecurity due to the poor performance of the 2018- 2019 agropastoral harvest season<sup>11</sup>. Then, food insecurity increased in 2020 and 2021, while recent data shows some improvement, partly as a result of the strong economic recovery In 2022, the prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity affected 32.1% of the population. (table 1).

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the aggravation of food insecurity is undeniable, as for 30.4% of those suffering from food insecurity, COVID-19 has been identified as one of the main causes. Its impact has also been varied within the archipelago. The municipalities of Sal and Boa Vista were the most highly impacted, together with Praia and São Vicente, but Brava and Ribeira Grande de Santiago also felt major effects.



Cabo Verde is highly vulnerable to food insecurity, both cyclical and structural ...

(...) in 2022, the prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity affected 32.1% of the population.

**Table 1:** Target 2.1 - Prevalence of food insecurity in the overall resident population – 2018-2022 (percentage)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity	37.7	33.8	36	38.6	32.1
Prevalence of severe food insecurity	9.6	6.6	3.8	6.1	5.6

**Source:** Secretariado Nacional para a Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional (2018-2022)

10 FAO (2015). World Food and Agriculture – Statistical Pocketbook. 2015

11 FAO. 2020. Crop Prospects and Food Situation - Quarterly Global Report No. 2, July 2020. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9803en>



In addition to the socio-economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, other factors have aggravated food insecurity between 2019 and 2021: years of drought and subsequent drops in food production;; global supply chain disruptions. In 2022, despite sharp food price increases mainly driven by the Ukraine crisis, economic growth and employment contributed to a reduction in food insecurity. However, according to the latest Cadre Harmonisé (CH) from March 2023, 43,655 people were still facing acute food insecurity in the country, representing 9% of the total population.

The increase in food prices, including the international prices of maize and rice, which were up 85 and 55 percent, respectively, between September and October 2022 in comparison to the same period in 2021<sup>12</sup>, has precipitated food insecurity in 2022-2023. It has had an adverse impact on the most vulnerable households, but also on the overall population, as in Cabo Verde an average of 67% of household income is spent on food<sup>13</sup>. Higher inflation on imported food products not only accentuated food insecurity, but also reduced available income for households to invest in health and education, undermining human development in the longer-term.

In general, rural households experience structural food insecurity, while urban households are impacted more severely by conjunctural shocks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic or inflation. Gender inequities in accessing food are still a reality in Cabo Verde, as food insecurity affected female headed households (39,2%) more than male headed households (29%), and women report more difficulties in accessing food than men (25% versus 18%). Domestic workers are the most affected professional category in terms of access to food<sup>14</sup>.

- 12 FAO. CROP PROSPECTS AND FOOD SITUATION No. 4 DECEMBER 2022: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc3233en/cc3233en.pdf>
- 13 Ministério da Agricultura e Ambiente. Facebook
- 14 ICIEG, Estudo de impacto da COVID sobre a igualdade de género, 2020

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Gender inequities in accessing food are still a reality in Cabo Verde, as food insecurity affected female headed households (39,2%) more than male headed households (29%), and women report more difficulties in accessing food than men (25% versus 18%)





**(target 2.2)** With regards to ending all forms of malnutrition by 2030, the country's path has been challenging. Chronic malnutrition, measured by the prevalence of stunting **(2.2.1)** still affected 10.2% of children under 5 years-old in 2022, while it affected 9.2% of children below 24 months of age (table 2). In addition, despite some improvement since 2005, anaemia was still considered a serious public health problem in 2018, affecting 43% of children under 5 years of age<sup>15</sup>. In the adult population, the prevalence of anaemia among women between 15 and 49 years old **(2.2.3)** was still 20.6% (and 22.5% among pregnant women) in 2018.

The country's agriculture is predominantly family-based in type, occupying just over 9% of national territory, characterized by small plots (0.4 hectares for irrigated land and 0.9 hectares for dry land, on average), with water the main limiting factor, associated with the scarcity of arable soils, geographic and orographic conditions, and Cabo Verde's condition as an archipelago. Notwithstanding all these limiting factors, agriculture is practiced by one-third of the households, but it corresponds to small share of national wealth (3.7% of GDP in 2022<sup>16</sup>). In comparison to the other West African countries, Cabo Verde presents the lowest value of agriculture value added as a percentage of GDP in 2022<sup>17</sup>.

**Table 2:** Target 2.2-Prevalence of stunting in children under 5 years old – 2015-202

	2015	2018	2019	2022
<b>Chronic malnutrition</b>	11.8	11	13,8	10.2
<b>Stunting: age group</b>				
< 24 months	15.7	13.3	15,9	9.2
≥ 24 months	9.7	9.4	12,2	10.8
<b>SEX</b>				
Female	9.8	11.9	14,2	9.4
Male	13.6	10.1	13,3	11.1
<b>Residence</b>				
Urban	11.3	10.5	15,3	8.5
Rural	11.2	12	11,2	13.8

**Source:** INE - Inquérito às Despesas e Receitas Familiares (IDRF) (2015); Secretariado Nacional para a Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional (SNSAN) - Inquérito Nacional sobre a Vulnerabilidade Alimentar e Nutricional (IN-VANF) (2018-2022)

15 INE, Terceiro inquérito demográfico e saúde reprodutiva, 2018

16 World Bank Open Data: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.AGR.TOTL.ZS?locations=CV>

17 World Bank. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.AGR.TOTL.ZS?locations=CV>.



**(target 2.3)** Doubling agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers by 2030 represents another challenge in Cabo Verde. The soils, mostly of volcanic origin, are poor in organic matter, and crop yields remain low. As a result, in recent years, more than 90% of the cereals<sup>18</sup> (corn, rice, wheat) consumed in the country have come from abroad, both in the form of food aid and commercial imports. The weight of the latter has tended to increase with the decrease in food aid, which represents around 30% of imports, largely due to Cabo Verde's relatively recent status as a Middle-Income Country and consequent changes in the modalities of official development assistance (ODA).

As the average annual output over the past five years has been significantly lower compared to prior periods<sup>19</sup>, dependence on food imports has increased exponentially. The impact of climate change on crops is visible. After five consecutive years of drought, 2021 was one more terrible year for agricultural crops, which did not improve in 2022<sup>20</sup>, leading the Government to declare a State of Calamity and to deploy measures to support affected households for a total of 1.5 million US dollars<sup>21</sup>.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment has developed a Modernization Plan for Agriculture that includes critical areas of investment for intensifying agricultural production, such as desalination plants and drip irrigation schemes across the areas with higher productive potential.

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- 18 Sistema Mundial de Informação de Alerta Rápido <https://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=CPV&lang=fr>
- 19 FAO, National agrifood systems and COVID-19 in ECOWAS; October 2020
- 20 IFRC, 26Apr 2022: <https://reliefweb.int/report/cabo-verde/cape-verde-drought-emergency-plan-action-epoa-dref-operation-mdrvc003>
- 21 Imprensa Nacional de Cabo Verde, Official Gazette number 17, 16 February 2022

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Doubling agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers by 2030 represents another challenge in Cabo Verde.

(...) As a result, in recent years, more than 90% of the cereals (corn, rice, wheat) consumed in the country have come from abroad, both in the form of food aid and commercial imports.





## SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Progress in health has been consistent since Cabo Verde's independence. Life expectancy is now 80.7 years for women and 73.4 years for men<sup>22</sup>, an increase in 24.6 and 18.7 years, respectively, since 1970<sup>23</sup>, and is comparable to OECD averages<sup>24</sup>.

Cabo Verde has the highest life expectancy in West Africa<sup>25</sup>.

**(target 3.1)** The target of reducing maternal mortality rates to less than 70 per 100,000 live births has already been achieved, despite recent fluctuations. Maternal mortality ratios have fallen since 1990 and have showed an average of 53.9 per 100,000 live births from 2015 to 2020<sup>26</sup>. This average is also considerably lower than the trend of 390 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in the Africa Region<sup>27</sup>. In West Africa, Cabo Verde is the only country that has already achieved the target<sup>28</sup>.

The overall positive trend may be explained in part by widespread access to prenatal consultations (98%), and institutional deliveries by qualified personnel

(97%)<sup>29</sup>. In 2018, 87% of women aged 15-49 carried out a postnatal consultation within 48 hours after delivery (up from 26% in 2005)<sup>30</sup>.



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The target of reducing maternal mortality rates to less than 70 per 100,000 live births has already been achieved

22 INECV, <https://ine.cv/indicadores/esperanca-media-vida-h/>  
<https://ine.cv/indicadores/esperanca-media-vida-m/>

23 INE – Dados estatísticos 1970-2017 [https://ine.cv/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/independencia\\_cv-1.pdf](https://ine.cv/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/independencia_cv-1.pdf)

24 OECD – Health: life expectancy at birth reaches 81 years across OECD countries, a gain of more than 11 years since 1960. Women live about five years longer than men, averaging 83.6 years versus 78.3 years for men (<https://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/topics/health/>).

25 According to data of the World Health Statistic Report 2023.

26 Government of Cabo Verde, Voluntary National Review, 2021. The rate was 105 in 2019, showing either high volatility, possibly due to the small volume of total births per year, or discrepancy in data.

27 Atlas of African Health Statistics 2022 <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/364839/9789290234845-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

28 According to data of the World Health Statistic Report 2023.

**(target 3.2)** The country has already achieved this target, as both the under-five mortality rate and the neonatal mortality rate are below the targeted values. Neonatal mortality (10.6/1000)<sup>31</sup> and under 5 mortality (13 deaths/1000 live births) rates are also low when compared with the average in Africa (where the average under 5 mortality rate is 41.6 deaths/1000

29 INECV, Third Demographic and Reproductive Health Survey (IDSR III), 2018

30 INECV, Third Demographic and Reproductive Health Survey (IDSR III), 2018

31 INE (2020). Anuário Estatístico 2020. Cabo Verde, Outubro de 2022.



live births)<sup>32</sup>. Cabo Verde is the only country in West Africa that has already achieved the targeted value of under-five mortality rate<sup>33</sup>. Consistent high childhood routine immunization rates contributed to this performance – in 2019, 98% of children under 1 year old were fully vaccinated<sup>34</sup>. In 2021, 4,6<sup>35</sup> girls aged 10 were vaccinated against HPV, which corresponds to a 92.75% coverage rate for this population<sup>35</sup>.

**(target 3.3)** The incidence of tuberculosis (TB) has decreased from 52 to 34 per 100,000 between 2015

and 2020<sup>36</sup>. HIV prevalence in the country is low compared to regional and even global standards: 0.6% (0.4% for men and 0.7% for women), though higher for vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities (2.3% - 1.7% for women and 3.5% for men) and sex workers (4.6%)<sup>37</sup>. Integrated in the programme for the

- 32 Atlas of African Health Statistics 2022 <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/364839/9789290234845-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
- 33 According to data of the World Health Statistic Report 2023.
- 34 Ministério da Saúde e da Segurança Social. Relatório Estatístico 2020: [https://minsaude.gov.cv/wpfd\\_file/relatorio-estatistico-ministerio-da-saude-2020/](https://minsaude.gov.cv/wpfd_file/relatorio-estatistico-ministerio-da-saude-2020/)
- 35 Programa Alargado de Vacinação, MS, 2021 (monthly reports from the Health/County Offices).
- 36 Ministério da Saúde e da Segurança Social. Relatório Estatístico 2020: [https://minsaude.gov.cv/wpfd\\_file/relatorio-estatistico-ministerio-da-saude-2020/](https://minsaude.gov.cv/wpfd_file/relatorio-estatistico-ministerio-da-saude-2020/)
- 37 V Plano Estratégico nacional de luta-contra VIH 2022-2026

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Cabo Verde is the only country in West Africa that has already achieved the targeted value of under-five mortality rate. Consistent high childhood routine immunization rates contributed to this performance ...

elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis (EMTCT), Cabo Verde has lowered the HIV/AIDS transmission rate to 2.2%. Endemic malaria has not been reported in Cabo Verde in over four years

and the country is likely to certify elimination of malaria in 2023.

The first case of COVID-19 in Cabo Verde was detected on March 19, 2020<sup>38</sup>, and the country responded with comprehensive public health and social measures and later, a focus on vaccination. As of January 31, 2023<sup>39</sup>, 86.5% of the eligible population had been vaccinated with 2 doses of vaccine against COVID-19,

and only 1 death was reported in 2023<sup>40</sup>. Cabo Verde responded well to COVID-19 because the population complied with public health measures and vaccination was massive, a reflection of the trust the population has of the health system.

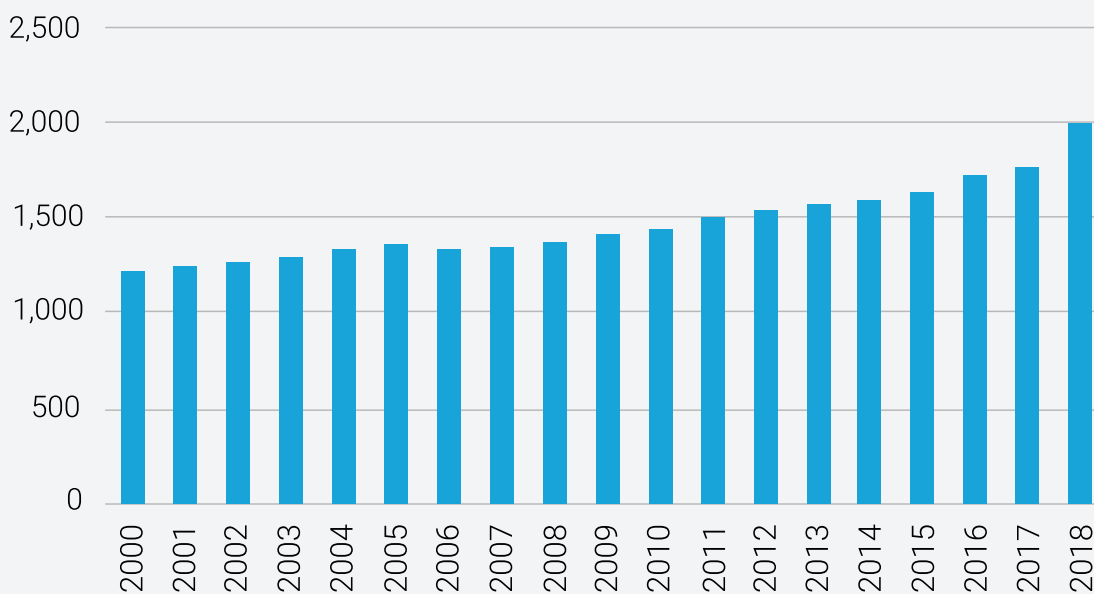
- 38 Boletim semanal COVID 19 2020: <https://covid19.cv/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/BOLETIM-COVID-19-CABO-VERDE-No28-DE-21-JULHO-DE-2021.pdf>
- 39 Vaccination Bulletin, January 2023. [https://covid19.cv/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Vaccination-Bulltin-No\\_77\\_Ingles.pdf](https://covid19.cv/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Vaccination-Bulltin-No_77_Ingles.pdf)
- 40 Boletim Epidemiológico da COVID19 de Cabo Verde – semanas epidemiológicas 15 e 16, abril 2023 <https://covid19.cv/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Boletim-Epidemiologico-da-COVID-19-8a-Quinzena.pdf>

**(target 3.4)** Cabo Verde is in a demographic and epidemiological transition. On the one hand, the health sector has achieved solid performance in several indicators, but on the other hand non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are surpassing infectious diseases as the main causes of morbidity and mortality. The number of deaths associated to NCDs has increased by more than 70% between 2000 and 2018 (figure 5). This profile differs from other West African countries, given that the top three causes of death in 2019 in the sub-region were neonatal conditions, lower respiratory infection and diarrhoeal diseases<sup>41</sup>.



Cabo Verde is in a demographic and epidemiological transition. On the one hand, the health sector has achieved solid performance in several indicators, but on the other hand non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are surpassing infectious diseases as the main causes of morbidity and mortality.

**Figure 5:** Number of NCD deaths (in thousands)



**Source:** WHO. Total NCD Deaths (in thousands) (who.int)

41 According to data from the World Health Organization. Global health estimates: Leading causes of death, 2019.



In 2020, circulatory system diseases accounted for 32% of deaths (51% of which were women and 49% of which were men) followed by respiratory diseases and cancer, which represented 13% and 11%, respectively, of deaths recorded in the country<sup>42</sup>. Most NCDs are attributable to alcohol abuse, tobacco use, unhealthy diets and lack of physical activity. The government needs sustained, evidence-based, multi-sectoral interventions to reduce these risks.

**(target 3.5)** Alcohol consumption has historically been a public health concern in Cabo Verde, both as public health issue and as a source of gender-based violence (GBV)<sup>43</sup>. Tobacco use prevalence is relatively low: 9.6% of the population (15.7% of men and 3.2% of women)<sup>44</sup>. Prevalence of drug use is 7.6%, particularly between those aged between 15 and 44 (5.3% for men and 0.6% for women over the previous 12 months)<sup>45</sup>. Crack cocaine use is the main problem and is often associated with criminality and prostitution<sup>46</sup>.

**(target 3.7)** Constant investment in family planning (100% coverage of contraceptive product purchasing assured under the national budget) and integrated SRH services have contributed to advancements in sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and rights. However, access to and use of effective means to

42 Ministério da Saúde e da Segurança Social. Relatório Estatístico 2020: [https://minsaude.gov.cv/wpfd\\_file/relatorio-estatistico-ministerio-da-saude-2020/](https://minsaude.gov.cv/wpfd_file/relatorio-estatistico-ministerio-da-saude-2020/)

43 INECV, IDSR- III, 2018. <https://ine.cv/publicacoes/inquerito-demografico-saude-reprodutiva-isdr-iii-2018/>

44 Ministério da Saude e da Seguranca Social.e INE. II Inquérito sobre doenças não transmissíveis e seus fatores de risco associado – IDNT II 2021 [https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/nchs/ncd-surveillance/data-reporting/cabo-verde/relat-rio-idnt-ii--14-12-2022---final.pdf?sfvrsn=6700e020\\_1&download=true](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/nchs/ncd-surveillance/data-reporting/cabo-verde/relat-rio-idnt-ii--14-12-2022---final.pdf?sfvrsn=6700e020_1&download=true)

45 I Inquérito Nacional sobre a Prevalência do Consumo de Substâncias Psicoativas na População em Geral, 2012

46 Programa Nacional Integrado de Luta contra Drogas e Crimes Conexos (PNILDC), 2018-2023



Alcohol consumption has historically been a public health concern in Cabo Verde, both as public health issue and as a source of gender-based violence (GBV)

prevent unwanted pregnancy is still low. In 2018, the contraceptive prevalence rate was 56% in 2018<sup>47</sup>, with wide differences between regions (80.1% in São Nicolau versus 47.5% in North Santiago)<sup>48</sup>. Teenage pregnancy (under 19) is a persistent challenge despite Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). As much as 18.3% of girls under 19 have at least one child and 3.8 % of all pregnant women are under 17 years of age<sup>49</sup>.

**(target 3.8)** Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) - the concept that all people receive the quality health services they need, without experiencing financial hardship<sup>50</sup> - has been progressing consistently over the years (figure 6). Using a numeric index based on 14 common trace indicators<sup>51</sup>, Cabo Verde has a UHC index of 71%, placing it third in the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), behind Portugal (88%) and Brazil (80%).

47 INECV, Third Demographic and Reproductive Health Survey (IDSR III), 2018.

48 INECV, Third Demographic and Reproductive Health Survey (IDSR III), 2018.

49 Ministério da Saude e da Seguranca Social. Relatório Estatístico 2020: [https://minsaude.gov.cv/wpfd\\_file/relatorio-estatistico-ministerio-da-saude-2020/](https://minsaude.gov.cv/wpfd_file/relatorio-estatistico-ministerio-da-saude-2020/).

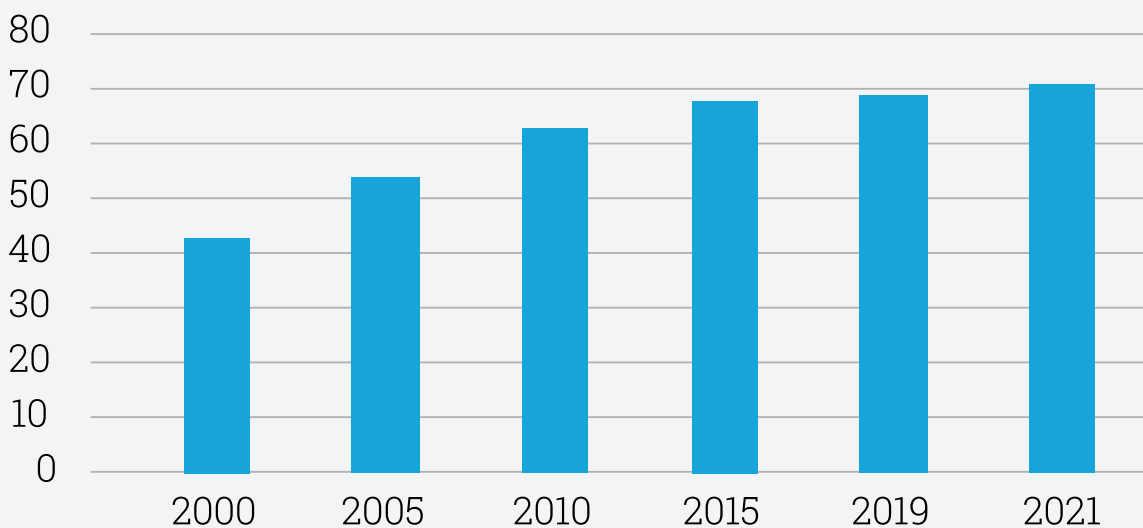
50 The Global Health Observatory - <https://www.who.int/data/gho/>

51 The SDG Target 3.8 on universal health coverage is tracked using two separate metrics: indicator 3.8.1 on the coverage of essential health services and SDG indicator 3.8.2 on catastrophic out-of-pocket health spending. <https://www.who.int/data/gho/>

In order to make further progress on universal health coverage, Cabo Verde needs to increase the number of health professionals and improve the quality of care provided. The country is currently developing a strategy for digital healthcare and is working towards optimizing the functionality and effectiveness of the national health information system. This endeavour presents promising prospects for delivering specialized consultations throughout the entirety of the archipelago. The Ministry of Health is strengthening its governance of the sector through plans to better integrate the private health sector. Finally, ongoing work by the UN with the “Entidade Reguladora Independente da Saude” (ERIS), the independent national health regulatory body, will improve the population’s access to high-quality medical products over the next 5 years.

Cabo Verde is also particularly vulnerable to global health events, including those related to climate change. Also, due to the significant influx and efflux of people from its large diaspora community and international tourists, the country is exposed to epidemic and pandemic diseases. In response, Cabo Verde has developed a strong five-year plan for strengthening national health security, based on the One Health Approach – the idea that different sectors must work together to address health threats in the animal-human-environment interface. This National Action Plan for Health Security must be funded and implemented<sup>52</sup>.

**Figure 6:** Universal Health Coverage Index 2000-2021 (%)



Source: The Global Health Observatory - <https://www.who.int/data/gho/>

52 Cabo Verde National Action Plan for Health Security 2022-2026



## SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

Education has been a strength of Cabo Verde since its independence, with very positive indicators at both ends of the education process: literacy, secondary and higher education. Nevertheless, there are still important gaps in eliminating inequities in accessing education, especially for lower-income households and children with disabilities, as well as in ensuring quality education.

**(target 4.1)** Overall progress towards universal access and completion of free primary and secondary education has been consistent, even with the Covid-19 pandemic. Data from the 2021 Census shows a substantial improvement in primary school enrolment, reaching 100% in practice<sup>53</sup>, with gender parity. However, the completion rate for basic education (1st to 8th grade) has worsened from 90.4% in 2019/20 to 87.6% in 2020/21 (91.9% for girls and 83.6% for boys<sup>54</sup>), confirming that the learning crisis became exacerbated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Net schooling for secondary education has been more challenging (currently the rate is 67.2%) and the completion rate for secondary education was still 31.4% in 2020. There is a major discrepancy between girls (37.1%) and boys (26%)<sup>55</sup>. The number of students in higher education has improved slightly from 2018/19 (16.9%) to 2020/2021 (18.2%), with a noteworthy female presence (150 women enrolled for every 100 men)<sup>56</sup>.

- 
- 53 The population dynamics (Census 2021 compared with Census 2010) shows a decrease in the number of children aged 0-14 years, the target group for primary education (Grade 1 to 6, 6-9 year old) and compulsory basic education (Grade 1 to 8, 6-11 years old). Since the population base for the calculation of the rate has decreased, the ratio has also improved.
- 54 Ministério da Educação: Avaliação do Setor da Educação (relatório não publicado)
- 55 Ministry of Education. Statistics 2020-2021, 2021 (not published yet).
- 56 Censo 2021 and Ministry of Education Estatísticas do Ensino Superior



Data from the 2021 Census shows a substantial improvement in primary school enrolment, reaching 100% in practice, with gender parity.

**(target 4.2)** Pre-primary school enrolment has worsened slightly in the last five years, aggravated by the COVID-19 negative impact on the attendance rate. Pre-school enrolment fell from 85.6% in 2019/2020 to 72.3% in 2020-21, with the municipalities in the worst situation being Praia, Boa Vista and Sal. Apart from the direct health impact, this decrease is due to households' economic losses.<sup>57</sup> However, some improvement in pre-school enrolment after Covid-19 and a reduction in the number of children in the 4-5 year age group, led to a sudden increase in the net schooling rate to 87.3% in 2021/2022<sup>58</sup>.

**(target 4.5)** While there has been great improvement in gender parity in access to education, there are still important inequities when income and place of residence are taken into consideration. The likelihood of completing basic education in poor households is 65.8% for boys aged 12-14 and 77.6% for girls, while for non-poor households it is 81.5% for boys and 88% for girls<sup>59</sup>. The main causes of dropout are a higher failure rate and entrance into the labour market.

57 INECV (2023). Relatório Estatístico 2022. Agendas 2030 & 2063. Based on data from the Ministry of Education, Statistics).

58 Idem.

59 INECV (2018). Perfil da Pobreza em Cabo Verde, 2018.





Dropout rates also vary between municipalities, reaching as high as 11.9% in the municipality of Brava and as low as 1.4% in São Salvador do Mundo (the national average is 5.2%)<sup>60</sup>. These inequities are also evident in access to pre-school, as only 74.5% of children aged 4-5 from poor households access it, in comparison with 84.3% from non-poor households<sup>61</sup>.

Access to schooling for children, young people and adults with special educational needs is still limited. Among 1,900 individuals in these categories<sup>62</sup>, 26% have never attended school and only 3.1% have higher education<sup>63</sup>. Most teachers at all levels - pre-school, primary, secondary, vocational or higher education - have a low or no capacity to address special educational needs. Strengthening this capacity is a priority to improve inclusiveness in education in Cabo Verde.

**(target 4.6)** Cabo Verde has made major efforts in ensuring high quality in the areas of adult literacy and numeracy. The illiteracy rate (aged 15 and over) dropped from 61.3% in 1975 to 7% in 2021, and according to UIS data estimates, in the 15 to 24 age group, the illiteracy rate was 1.3% in 2021, making Cabo Verde the third most literate country in sub-Saharan Africa, behind Seychelles and Mauritius<sup>64</sup>,

60 Ministério da Educação. Principais Indicadores da Educação, ano letivo 2017-2018

61 Ministério da Educação. Estudo Diagnóstico da situação do Pré-Escolar, 2019. The municipalities are Ribeira Grande de Santiago (62%), Sal (62.9%), Santa Catarina do Fogo (66.3%), São Salvador do Mundo (68.1%), Praia (71.7%) and São Vicente (76.7%).

62 Education Signaling System based on WHO's Functional Classification of Efficiency and Health, 2021

63 INECV, Portrait of the disability situation in Cabo Verde, 2018 Handicap Internacional, Ministério da Saúde e Segurança Social, Estudo Biocomportamental sobre a vulnerabilidades das Pessoas com Deficiência face ao VIH/Sida em Cabo Verde (Relatório de Cabo Verde),

64 The World Bank, Development Indicators Database

and the country with highest literacy rate in West Africa<sup>65</sup>. However, of the population of adults (aged 15 and over) who are illiterate, 68.3% were female in 2021<sup>66</sup>, suggesting that there is still work to be done in reaching gender equity in access to quality education.

In terms of quality of education, the national learning assessment demonstrates no significant progress in the learning outcomes in Mathematics (data interpretation, problem-solving) and Portuguese (writing skills) since 2010<sup>67</sup>.

**(target 4.7)** Cabo Verde prioritizes education for sustainable development (ESD). It has mapped ESD actors and projects and held consultations. Cabo Verde is the first African country and the fifth globally to validate and launch its Country Initiative for ESD for 2030, which is aligned with the National Strategic Sustainable Development Plan (PEDS), indicating bright prospects for future achievements.

**(target 4.c)** Teacher qualification accounts for the quality of education students receive and in Cabo Verde, the majority of teachers are trained. In 2021/2022 96.6% of teachers in primary level and 95.7% in secondary level have minimum required training.. In secondary level in particular, there has been a positive trend since 2015, demonstrating efforts made by the country. While teachers are well-trained on those levels, the quality of pre-primary education poses a major concern, as only 37.1% of professionals have undergone training<sup>68</sup>.

65 According to data from UNESCO Institute for Statistics, consulted in October 2022.

66 UNESCO Institute for Statistics on SDG4 <http://sdg4-data.uis.unesco.org/>

67 Ministério da Educação, Relatório de Provas AFERIDAS no 2º e 6º anos de escolaridade, 2019.

68 INECV (2023). Relatório Estatístico 2022. Agendas 2030 & 2063. Based on data from the Ministry of Education, Statistics



## SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY

In Cabo Verde, advances in women's rights and gender equality have been evident in several dimensions, as many gender equality targets have been met, mainly in education and health. However, gender-based violence (GBV) and income disparities are still significant: women – 49.8% of the population<sup>69</sup> – represent 66% of the poor, while men represent 34%<sup>70</sup>.

**(target 5.1)** In order to eliminate all forms of discrimination, a number of legal frameworks are in place in Cabo Verde. The Constitution of the Republic of Cabo Verde enshrines equality between women and men as an essential part of Cabo Verdean legislation. Gender policies are produced within an integrated institutional architecture, through the Ministry of Family, Inclusion and Social Development, the Cabo Verdean Institute for Gender Equality and Equity, the Inter-Ministerial Commission for the Mainstreaming of the Gender Approach, and the Gender Observatory. Social Services exist at the municipality level with specific programmes and services to promote gender equality<sup>71</sup>.

Nevertheless, gender roles in Cabo Verde continue to deny women full equality, limit their access to and benefit from resources, political participation, and restrict their ability to fully contribute to sustainable and equitable growth. Many health, education, and legal issues remain, including for those women and girls facing specific challenges of rural isolation, physical handicaps, discrimination or sexual abuse. Women face key issues that lock many of them in poverty and low productivity, such as harder access to formal titles to land, to credit and to finance.



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**(target 5.2)** Cabo Verde has striven to eliminate violence against women and girls over the years. There has been a downward trend on gender-based violence (GBV), as the incidence of women victims of GBV declined from 22% in 2015 to 11% in 2020 (based on reported cases), even though this figure is still high. There are significant differences between islands and groups. The likelihood of being a victim of GBV is higher for women from Sal and Brava (18% and 16%) (figure 7), women who are separated or widows (33%), or women with only a basic education level (19%). There is no correlation between family income level or social status and the incidence of GBV.

Despite progress in fighting GBV, additional resources are needed to speed action on complaints and ease judicial backlogs. Although the awareness of victims is improving and the number of women and girls willing to come forward has increased, the resolution rate is low. Data on GBV cases is weak and hampers appropriate policy making against GBV.

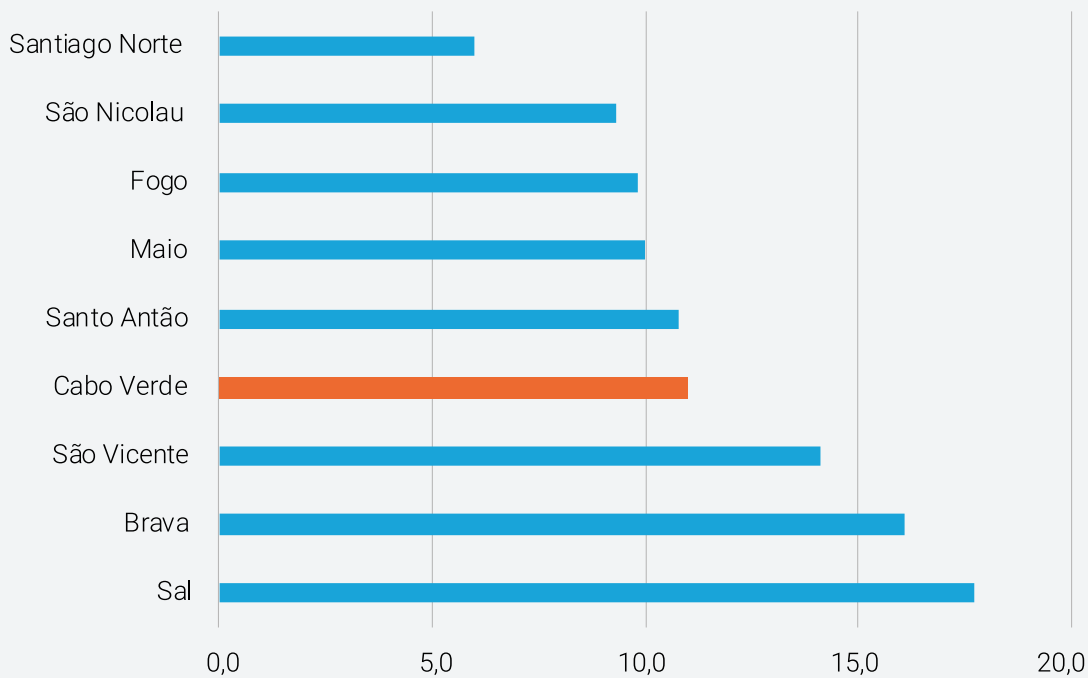
69 INE. Census 2021.

70 INE. Estimativas da Pobreza 2016-2022.

71 Government of Cabo Verde, Voluntary National Review , 2021.



**Figure 7:** Incidence of gender-based violence in different regions - 2018-2020 (percentage)



Source: INE. IDSR III 2018, 2020

**(target 5.5)** In terms of women’s political participation, Cabo Verde approved its Parity Law (n° 68/IX/2019) in 2019. The application of this law has led to a higher representation of women in parliament and in local governments. In 2020, women represented 42% of local elected representatives for Municipal Chambers or Assemblies, while women held 38% of parliamentary seats and 32% of cabinet positions in the Executive after the legislative elections in 2021<sup>72</sup>.

The Constitution guarantees women’s equal right to ownership and/or control of land. However, this is not always reflected in practice when confronting land issues. Cabo Verde’s economy today has also been more favourable to men than women, as the employment rate was much higher for men, 58.7%, than for women, 43.3%, in 2022. Against this backdrop, which contrasts with the gains in health and social areas, the next significant advance to be made in gender equality will be ensuring a more inclusive economic environment, which can contribute to women’s economic empowerment and poverty reduction.

72 Government of Cabo Verde, Voluntary National Review , 2021.



## SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Despite chronic water scarcity being among the main structural constraints for sustainable development, especially in terms of sanitation, hygiene, health and agriculture, Cabo Verde is by far above the regional average in terms of access to drinking water. However, affordability will remain a challenge in Cabo Verde, as more than 80% of water consumed domestically in the country is desalinated sea water with a high energy cost, which has a direct effect on the price of water, considered one of the highest in Africa<sup>73</sup>.

A government priority for the near future is universal access to water for domestic use and agriculture, including through the sustainable and fair use of water, the reduction of losses and the expansion of desalination. However, as desalination is energy intensive (10% of the energy to be

consumed in the current decade will be used for desalination), directly impacting access and cost for end-users, access to water must be addressed from the perspective of the water-energy nexus. In 2023, the adoption of renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) technologies in water management systems is expected to lead to a reduction in the cost of water (-5%) for some communities (benefiting 59,200 people) and to lower CO2 emissions (to 394 tonnes per year)<sup>74</sup>.



(...) Cabo Verde is by far above the regional average in terms of access to drinking water. However, affordability will remain a challenge in Cabo Verde, as more than 80% of water consumed domestically in the country is desalinated sea water with a high energy cost ...

**(target 6.1)** Equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water has been improving, despite the considerable disparities that remain. In 2022, 94.8% of households were linked to public distribution networks as the main source of their water supply (figure 8), but some gaps remain.

Although the rural-urban gap has been slowly narrowing since 2000, in rural areas the figure is approximately 10% lower than in urban areas.

Disparities between municipalities also persist, both between different islands<sup>75</sup>.

**(target 6.2)** Access to adequate sanitation and hygiene has also been improving, and Cabo Verde performs better than most African countries in this area, as in 2022, 88.1% of households had access to sanitation systems (figure 8), corresponding

to an increase of about 15% since 2015. However, there persists a significant gap between urban and rural areas. In rural areas, 24.3% of the population do not have sanitary installations inside their homes<sup>76</sup>.

Recent investment in sewage networks has increased the number of wastewater treatment plants to 11 in operation, on five islands, but in many areas untreated wastewater, including industrial waste, is discharged into the environment. Heavy rainfall and flood events cause compromised or vulnerable sanitation systems to overflow, exposing people to dangerous pathogens.

73 [https://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/2022%20Country%20Overview\\_Cabo%20Verde.pdf](https://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/2022%20Country%20Overview_Cabo%20Verde.pdf)

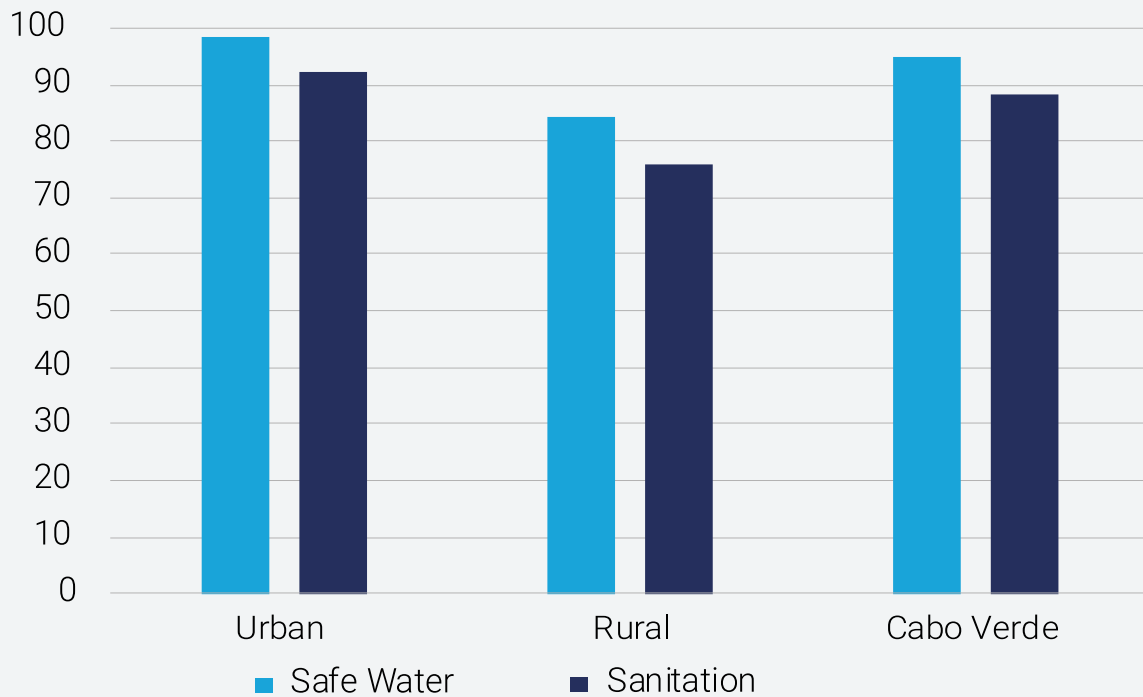
74 Ministry of Industry, Trade and Energy/UNIDO/GEF, Energy Portal, 2023

75 INECV, Estatísticas das Famílias e Condições de Vida, RGPH 2022

76 INECV, Estatísticas das Famílias e Condições de Vida, RGPH 2022



**Figure 8:** Targets 6.1 and 6.2—percentage of the population with access to safe water and sanitation systems - 2022



**Source:** INE. Estatísticas das Famílias e Condições de Vida, RGPH 2021

**(target 6.4 and 6.5)** In terms of the country’s change in water-use efficiency over time, it has continued to register good improvement as shown by a rise from 32.8% (2000-2004) to 49.7% (2020)<sup>77</sup>. This is in addition to a little change in the country’s target to change the “level of water stress to freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources” which remains at 8.4%. The “degree of integrated water resources management” remains at 62.0% in 2020.

**(target 6.a)** The country’s amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government coordinated spending plan, has been volatile over the years, representing 18.0% in 2021<sup>78</sup>.

**(target 6.b)** Women and girls are responsible for the task of water collection in 70% of cases (78% in rural areas), but they have little representation in water management: farmers (mainly men) control and give preference to water use for agriculture, while women have to resort to water sources outside their communities for domestic use<sup>79</sup>.

77 UNEP World Environment Situation Room: <https://wesr.unep.org/scorecard/>

78 Idem.

79 Ministry of Agriculture and Environment/FAO/EU, Social gender diagnostic in the REFLOR project communities, 2020



## SDG 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

The sources of energy in today's Cabo Verde, especially in times of a global energy crisis, are an important limitation to the country's energy independence and economic transformation. However, the country has huge potential for renewable energies (RE) - solar, wind and innovative sources (tidal and wave energy) – which raises hopes for a solid and swift energy transition.

The share of RE is expected to increase in the coming years, as the Government has engaged in several climate change mitigation measures, among them a reduction of 18% of GHG by 2030 (24% if adequate international support is received) and the decarbonisation of the economy by 2050<sup>80</sup>. Moreover, public investments, such as in building a pump storage unit and scaling up other energy storage capacities, as well as incipient foreign direct investment in tidal and wave energy, will lead to important changes in the share of renewable energy in the coming years.

**(target 7.1)** In 2022, 92.8% of the population had access to electricity,<sup>81</sup> and the energy transition is expected to increase electricity access, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and reduce the cost of electricity while contributing to a lower cost of water.

In 2022, around 77.3% of the population used gas and electricity to cook food<sup>82</sup> - that is, they had primary access to clean fuels and technologies - a figure almost 7 percentage points above the 2015 level. Cabo Verde is a country with scarce rainfall and very little forest cover. That said, in many rural and peri-urban areas, firewood is still the primary energy resource in food preparation, despite the limited potential of biomass energy<sup>83</sup>.



(...) the Government has engaged in several climate change mitigation measures, among them a reduction of 18% of GHG by 2030 (...) and the decarbonisation of the economy by 2050 ...

**(target 7.2)** In 2022, 57% of the energy consumed in Cabo Verde came from gasoil and fuel to produce electricity, 27% from gasoil for non-electricity purposes, and 3% from wind and solar to produce electricity<sup>84</sup> (figure 9). The share of renewable energies was 22.2% in 2014, 20.9% 2018, 18.3% in 2020, and 19.6% in 2021<sup>85</sup>. In 2022, the share of RE was forecasted to increase to 26.1%, based on ongoing RE projects. Although the share of RE decreased, the production capacity increased from 420 Gwh in 2015 to 453 Gwh in 2020 (14 Gwh solar, 69 wind and 370 thermal)<sup>86</sup>.

**(target 7.3)** Energy efficiency, measured in terms of energy intensity of GDP, reached 1.45 toe/million in 2021, while the energy dependency index went down to 90% in 2021. Demand for energy is expected to increase by 35% by 2030 (from peak demand of 110 MW in 2020 to 151 MW in 2030), which the Government is planning to match with a mix of enhanced energy efficiency, limited losses (from 23% today to 10% in 2030), enhanced storage capacities and higher penetration of renewable energies.

80 Cabo Verde 2nd Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 2020

81 INECV, Estatísticas das Famílias e Condições de Vida, RGPH 2022

82 Idem.

83 PEDS II.

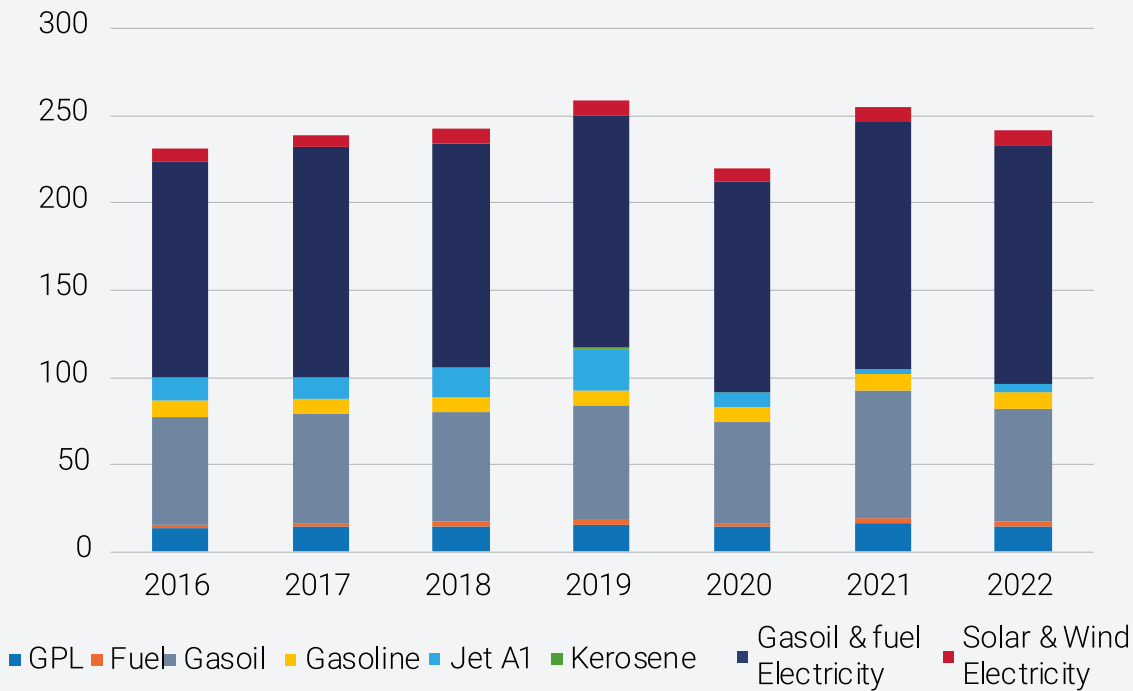
84 National Directorate of Industry, Trade and Energy, 2023

85 Ministry of Industry, Trade and Energy, Energy Indicators, 2023

86 INECV, Anuário Estatístico 2020, 2023



**Figure 9:** Energy consumption by types of energy – 2016-2022 (in ktoe – kilotonne of oil equivalent)



Source: Ministry of Industry, Trade and Energy / DNICE, 2023



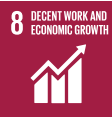
This ambition also seeks to continuously increase energy quality, including reducing system interruptions which, in 2021, represented a SAIDI/SAIFI of 32.73 hours/22.7 minutes<sup>87</sup>. In the coming years, 20% of total electricity will be consumed by the tourism sector, and 10% by desalination<sup>88</sup>. The Master Plan calls for at least 50% of the on-grid electricity produced in the country to be of renewable origin in 2030 (in comparison to 18.3% in December 2020)<sup>89</sup>.

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87 National Directorate of Industry, Trade and Energy, 2023

88 Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Energy, Master Plan for the electricity sector (PDSE 2018 - 2040), 2018

89 Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Energy, Diagnostic on renewable energy use in Cabo Verde, 2020



## SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Progress towards SDG8 had been consistent during the 2016-2019 period, but that positive trend was disrupted by the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. In particular, the economy experienced its deepest recession on record, underscoring Cabo Verde's vulnerability to external shocks. In 2022, a dynamic tourist sector led a strong economic recovery, and many labour market indicators returned to pre-pandemic levels.

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(...)

Nevertheless, gender inequalities in labour markets persist..

Nevertheless, gender inequalities in labour markets persist. For instance, labour force participation – the proportion of a country's working-age population that engages actively in the labour market, either by working or looking for work – is much lower for women (50.4%) than for men (65.5%)<sup>90</sup>. Eliminating these gender gaps will require more equal access to skills, finance and technology, but also continued efforts to accelerate a cultural shift towards a more equal distribution of unpaid work in the private sphere and decent, solid jobs and managerial responsibilities in the public sphere, for women to access the jobs to be created in the coming years.

<sup>90</sup> INE – Estatísticas do Mercado de Trabalho 2022

**(target 8.1)** GDP per capita has been volatile in Cabo Verde, reflecting the country's economic vulnerability to external shocks. Nevertheless, during the 2016-2019 period, the country registered consistent per-capita GDP growth with an average of 3.5%/year<sup>91</sup>. In 2020, the economy contracted by 19.3% (figure 10), the deepest recession on record in Cabo Verde, leading to a drop of comparable magnitude in GDP per capita<sup>92</sup>. In 2021 and especially in 2022, a strong economic rebound led to an acceleration of GDP growth to 6.8% and 17.7% respectively, mainly driven by the tourism sector, which will likely restore GDP per capita to the pre-pandemic level.

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In 2020, the economy contracted by 19.3% (...) leading to a drop of comparable magnitude in GDP per capita. In 2021 and especially in 2022, a strong economic rebound led to an acceleration of GDP growth to 6.8% and 17.7% respectively ...

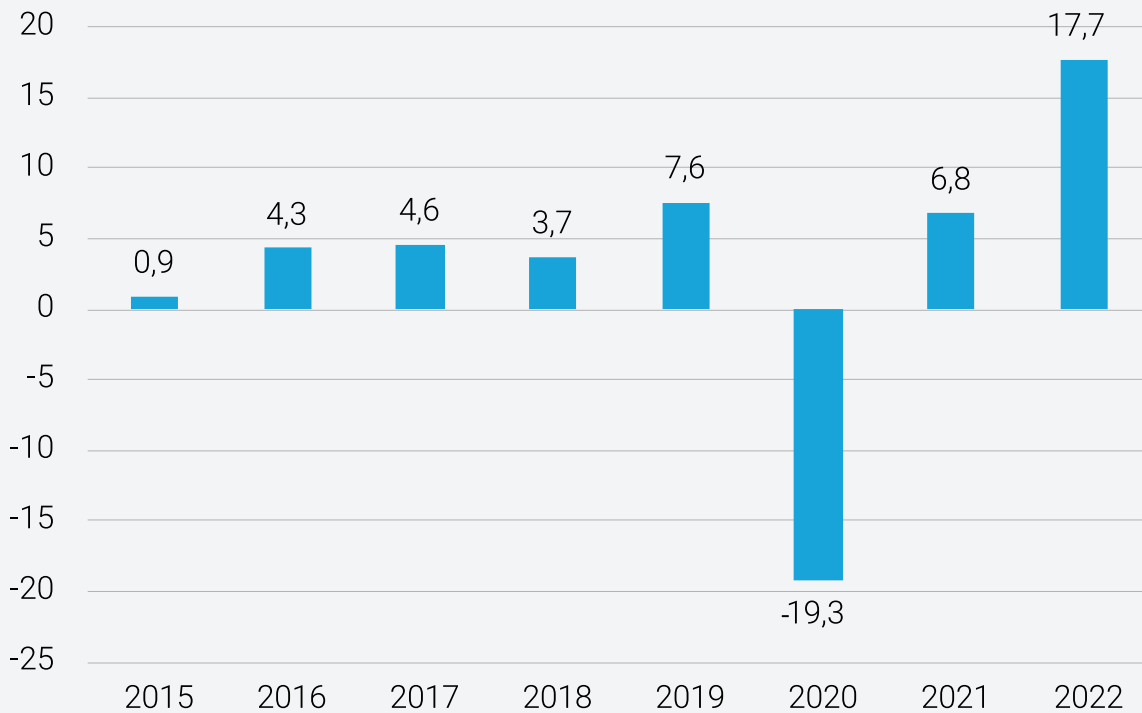
<sup>91</sup> Calculations based on World Bank online data, consulted in May 2023.

<sup>92</sup> Accurate figures of GDP per capita are not possible to produce, as the Census of 2021 revealed a smaller size of the resident population, implying a need to review demographic estimates for the years 2011 to 2020.





**Figure 10:** GDP growth in real terms – annual variation (percentage) – 2015-2022



**Source:** INE – Contas Nacionais Trimestrais - 4º Trimestre 2022 (published March 31st 2023)

**(target 8.3)** In 2022, the number of workers in the informal sector is 95,708 and represents a proportion of 53.8% of total employment. By sex, 57.3% of men and 49.6% of women work in informal jobs<sup>93</sup>. Even though this proportion is still high, it is comparable and even slightly lower than that seen in many other African economies. As the National Social Security Institute (INPS) is developing efforts to increase the number of contributors to the social protection system, notably with the extension of social security coverage to workers in the informal economy, it is expected that the proportion of informal employment will decrease in the coming years.

Overall productive opportunities are less favourable to women, as they are more concentrated than with men in small retail (25.6% of women’s jobs vs 12.3% of men’s), hospitality (12.8% vs 6.1%), and domestic employment (11.6% vs 0.2%)<sup>94</sup>, all of which are categories characterized by higher levels of vulnerability, informality and abuse.

93 INE – Estatísticas do Mercado de Trabalho 2022

94 INECV, IMC 2020, Indicadores do Mercado de Trabalho, 2021



**(target 8.5)** The economic contraction in 2020 had a negative impact on labour markets, but by 2022 several indicators were close to pre-pandemic levels (table 3). The unemployment rate increased to 14.5% in 2020, from 11.3% in 2019, before declining to 12.1% in 2022, along with the expansion of the tourism sector by 264%. Gender disparities are evident in labour markets, as the unemployment rate stood at 14% for women and 10.3% for men in 2022.

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Gender disparities are evident in labour markets, as the unemployment rate stood at 14% for women and 10.3% for men in 2022.

**Table 3:** Targets 8.5/8.6 and other labour market indicators – 2019-2022

	2019	2020	2022
<b>Total population</b>	549,699	555,839	491,223
<b>Working age population</b>	405,007	412,086	352,494
<b>Labour force participation</b>	57.40%	53.0%	57.40%
<b>Employment rate</b>	50.90%	45.3%	50.50%
<b>Underemployment rate</b>	12.70%	12.6%	12.60%
<b>Unemployment rate (SGD 8 /Target 8.5.2)</b>	11.30%	14.5%	12.10%
<b>NEET (15-24 age group) (SDG 8/Target 8.6.1)</b>	28%	-	27.80%
<b>Proportion of informal employment (SDG 8/Target 8.3.1)</b>	53.70%	-	53.80%

Source: INE – Estatísticas do Mercado de Trabalho 2022

**(target 8.6)** Youth unemployment (15-24 age group) remains relatively high with a rate of 27.3% in 2022, as does youth NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training), with a rate of 27.8%. Nevertheless, the proportion of youth NEET is slightly lower than in 2019. The percentage of women NEET in this age group is slightly higher, with a rate of 28.9%.

**(target 8.7)** A follow-up strategy on the elimination of child labour was adopted in Cabo Verde. This strategy included legislative harmonization with international labour standards, such as revising the age at which the definition of “hazardous work” applies and adopting legislation on light work. A child labour survey was also conducted, the results of which will be released soon.



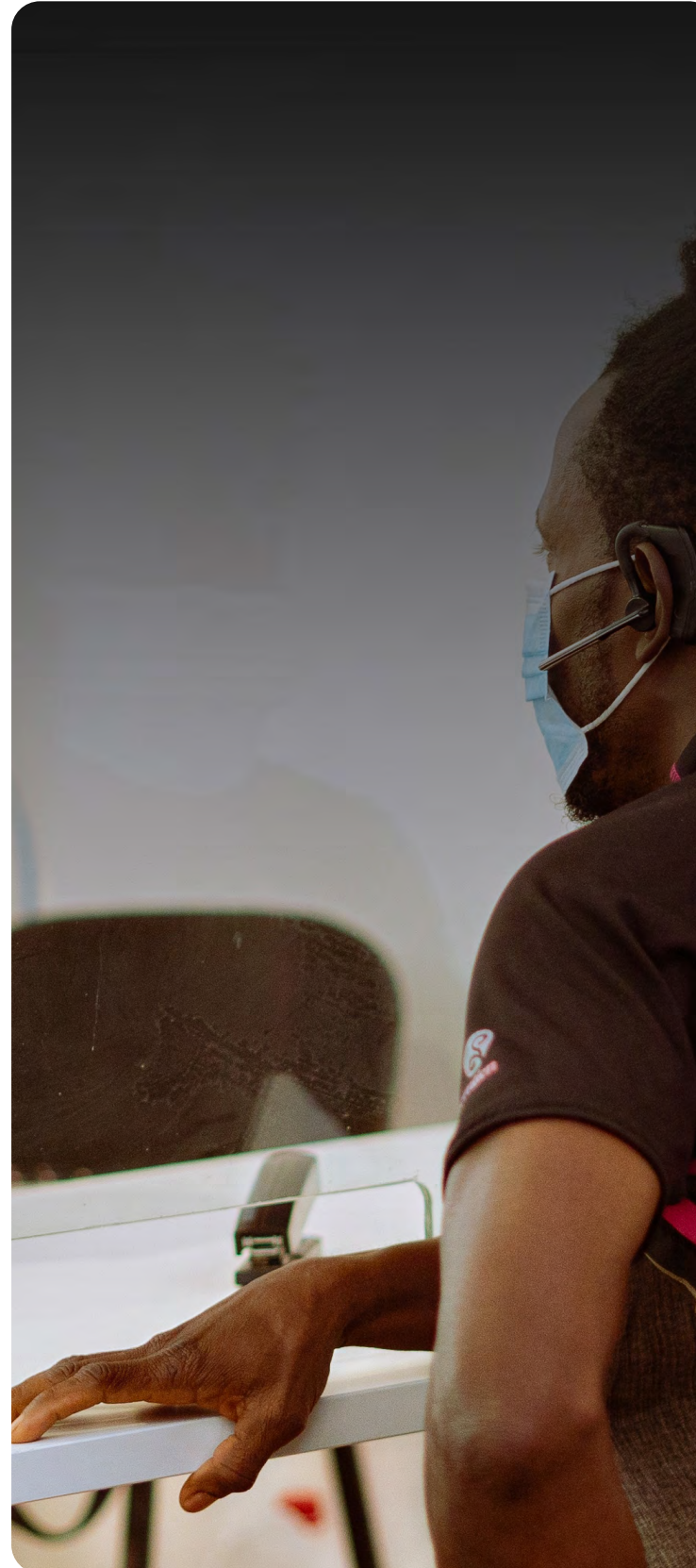
## SDG 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Deeper economic transformation and diversification are crucial to improving Cabo Verde's vulnerabilities to external shocks. However, the country's structural constraints - relatively small size and isolation, shallow domestic market, territorial dispersion, high cost of transportation, among others - hamper that transformation, even though the country has made clear efforts towards this goal. Since 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic and limited fiscal space have delayed further progress, despite national commitments to reinforce infrastructure, sustainable industrialization and innovation.

**(target 9.1).** More than 110 km of roads have undergone rehabilitation and modernization in the last five years to improve accessibility between towns. Roads that serve agricultural and tourist areas benefit from ongoing maintenance on all inhabited islands, and in more than 30 locations across the country. In 2022, almost 22 million passengers used public buses.

In comparison, only 1.2 million passengers used maritime transportation, while 2.1 million used air transportation in 2022<sup>95</sup>. Between 2015 and 2019, air passenger transport saw average annual growth of 8%, and cargo transport of 16.4%. Maritime passenger transport had average annual growth of 6.2% and cargo transport 8%. In 2020, air passenger transport decreased by 71.4%, air cargo transport by 43.3%, passenger sea transport by 31.7% and cargo shipping by 36.9%. The volume of passengers traveling by land decreased by 31.6% in 2020, after an average annual growth of 13.6% between 2015 and 2019.

**(target 9.2)** Cabo Verde is a service economy and, as such, the weight of the manufacturing industry is not very expressive. Its contribution to GDP (Manufacturing value added, MVA) has experienced a gradual increase, from 5.9% in 2016 to 7.7% in 2022<sup>96</sup>. The performance of Cabo Verde's manufacturing sector is similar to that of the other



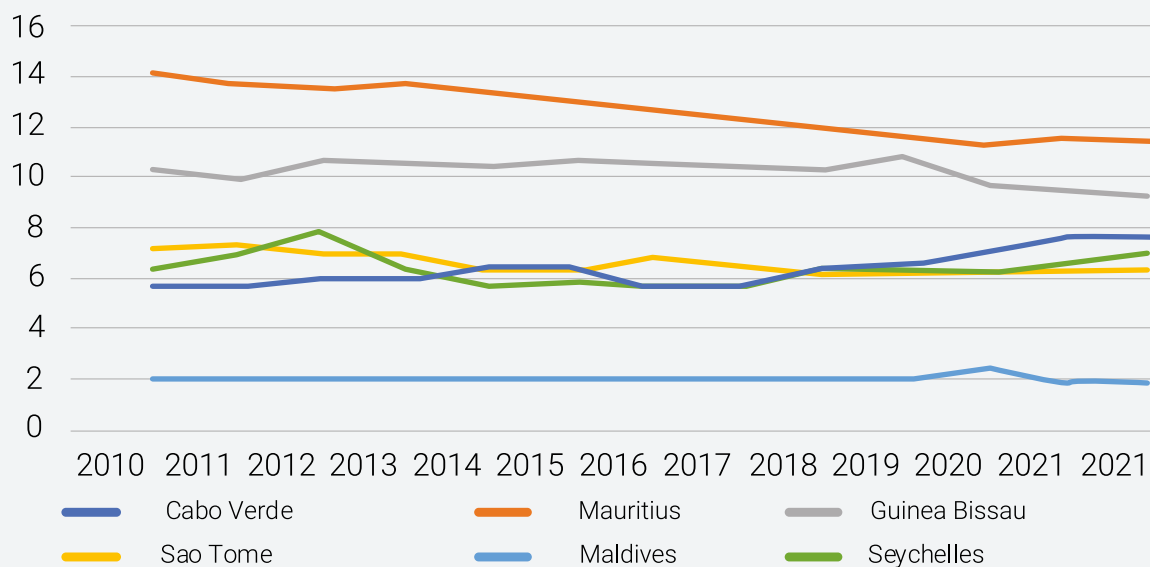
95 INECV (2023). Relatório Estatístico 2022. Agendas 2030 & 2063.

96 UNIDO, SDG9 Monitor

SIDS, which face comparable structural conditions (figure 11). **(9.2.2)** In 2022, the secondary sector absorbed 23% of total employment, while the primary and tertiary sectors absorbed 10.1% and 66.9% respectively. In particular, manufacturing employment represented 10% of total employment<sup>97</sup>.

**(target 9.3)** In Cabo Verde, enhancing small-scale industrialization will prioritize the transformation of primary ocean-production. However, additional investments are needed in capacity building to improve workforce skills, in Research and Development (R&D) and in mobilizing the diaspora and international partnerships to transform the country

**Figure 11:** Manufacturing Valued Added to GDP in selected SIDS – 2010-2022 (percentage)



Source: UNIDO, Global Database, 2022

The Competitive Industrial Performance Index ranks Cabo Verde 140th out of 154 countries in two consecutive years (2019 and 2020)<sup>98</sup>. Stronger competitiveness of industrial products at regional and global levels is hampered by the challenges that the national industry sector faces, starting with a small domestic market, limited access to domestic and foreign investment, and high dependency on imports for intermediary consumption.

into an ocean-based circular economy. For instance, in 2020, expenditure on R&D reached approximately 0.15% of GDP<sup>99</sup> (vs 0.3% in Sub-Saharan Africa and 1% in SIDS)<sup>100</sup>.

97 INE – Estatísticas do Mercado de Trabalho 2022

98 UNIDO, <https://stat.unido.org/country-profile> at 05-05-2023

99 Government of Cabo Verde, SDG Voluntary National Review (VNR), 2021

100 UNESCO, *Global dataset*, 2021



## SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITY

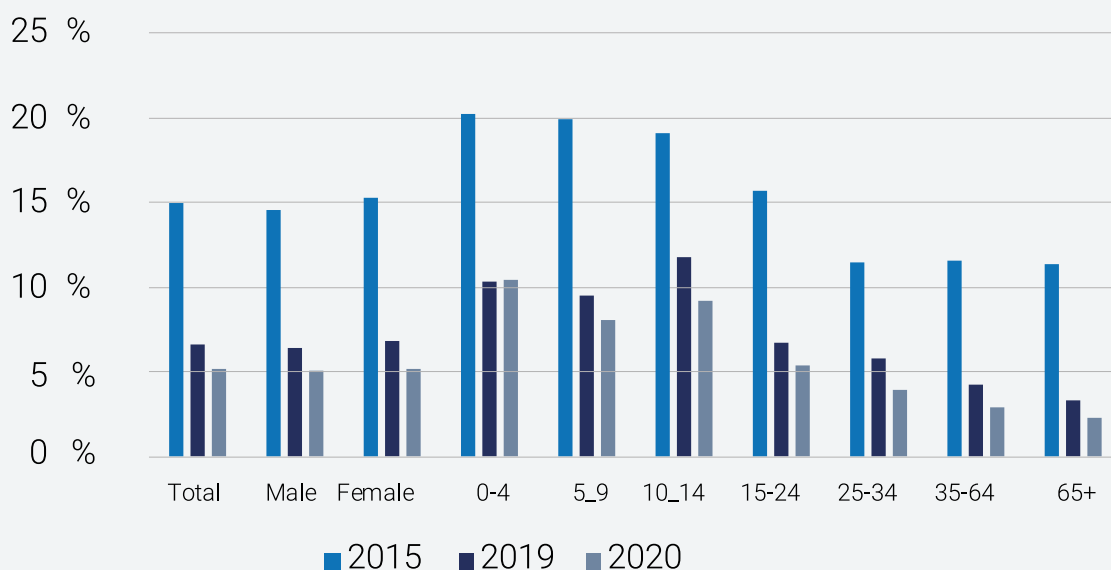
In Cabo Verde, inequalities declined during the period between 2015 and 2019, but income and social inequalities have widened since then, due to the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable households and social groups, but also because the economic rebound after the pandemic was more unequal and less pro-poor than in previous years.

Gender income inequalities also increased as a result of the pandemic. In 2019, women represented 57% of the poor and men 43%, but after the pandemic, in 2022 women represent 66% of the poor. Not only were women more strongly affected by the pandemic, as they tend to work in higher percentages in the service sector, but the economic rebound in 2021/2022 also perpetuated the gender consumption gap.

**(target 10.1)** During the 2015-2019 period, characterized by stronger pro-poor growth, annual consumption per capita grew faster for the 40% poorest (by 3.9%) than for the 60% richest (by 3.4%)<sup>101</sup>. However, more recently, during the 2020-2022 period, annual consumption per capita increased faster for the richest income groups, especially in urban areas, than for the lower income groups. This reflects, in part, the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on lower income groups, but also the recent effect of inflation on disposable income for the most vulnerable.

**(target 10.2)** In 2020, 5.2% of the population lived with consumer expenditures of less than 50% of median expenditures (figure 12) (5.1% for males and 5.2% for females). This represents a remarkable improvement since 2015, even though inequalities among children are still wide, in particular for the 0-4 year old and 10-14 year old groups.

**Figure 12:** Proportion of the population with consumer expenditure below 50% of median expenditure – 2015-2020 (percentage)



Source: INE – Estimacao da pobreza (in INECV (2023). Relatorio Estatistico 2022. Agendas 2030 & 2063.)

101 INE – Estimativas da Pobreza 2016-2022



**(target 10.b)** As a result of Cabo Verde's graduation to the status of middle-income country in 2007, Official Development Assistance (ODA) has gradually decreased, before a sudden increase in 2019-2020. This growth was the result of international efforts to support the country and the postponement of disbursement payments during the pandemic. However, in 2022, ODA has decreased again, while FDI

has seen an increase of 51%, mainly in the tourism and real-estate sectors. Remittances continue to be one of the pillars of external financial flows, increasing continuously since 2017 – well above official development assistance – and have showed average growth of 3.8% between 2016 and 2020. In 2022, remittances increased by 11.5% (table 4).

**Table 4:** Total resource flows by type 2015-2022 (millions of CVE) Source: Banco de Cabo Verde and Ministério das Finanças

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>ODA</b>	6,334	4,363	8,386	4,465	12,289	14,336	11,644	7,530
<b>FDI</b>	11,507	12,559	10,867	10,048	10,375	5,743	8,890	13,442
<b>Remittances</b>	19,819	19,717	19,433	20,067	21 562	22,508	28,187	31,442

Source: Banco de Cabo Verde and Ministério das Finanças

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## SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

**(target 11.1)** In Cabo Verde, around 74.1%<sup>102</sup> of the population lives in the 24 cities, 79% (19 municipalities)<sup>103</sup> of which have urban plans. In 2021, 2% of housing was classified as non-classical housing - that is, shanties, informal settlements or inadequate housing. The number of non-classical housing units increased from 1,603 in 2010 to 2,977 in 2021, and 90.1% of them were located in urban areas<sup>104</sup>.

The housing deficit stands at approximately 8.7%. However, few cities have organizations such as City Advisory Councils or other mechanisms for the permanent consultation of city dwellers on urban phenomena and on city management in general.

**(target 11.2)** Cabo Verde is served by a good network of national and municipal roads, but also by a car park in good condition, meaning that the majority of the population has safe and easy access to transport. However, no Cabo Verdean city has mobility systems adapted for people with disabilities, and architectural barriers seriously limit accessibility.

**(target 11.3)** The country is grappling with rising urban population, which continues to heighten the rate of land consumption – currently the ratio of land consumption to population growth stands at 135%<sup>105</sup>. If not checked, this trend will hamper the country's quest to make its cities and urban areas more productive and sustainable in line with TARGE.

**(target 11.4)** In the past 5 years, the Government of Cabo Verde has invested in the rehabilitation of 15 buildings classified by the Cultural Heritage Institute, an entity of the Ministry of Culture and Creative

<sup>102</sup> INE, Census 2021.

<sup>103</sup> INGT, National Institute of Territorial Management (2022)

<sup>104</sup> INE. V Recenseamento Geral da População e Habitação (RGPH-2021).

<sup>105</sup> United Nations Environmental Program: <https://wesr.unep.org/scorecard/>



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Industries, within the framework of the Requalification, Rehabilitation and Accessibility Programme (PRRA), which is the largest investment ever made in the requalification of cultural heritage sites.

**(target 11.6)** According to the National Strategic Solid Waste Management Plan (PENGERR), in Cabo Verde the quantities of hazardous waste deposited in urban waste collection systems represent about 0.5% of total urban waste collected and sent to its final destination, the equivalent of 729.47 metric tons/year. This Plan calls for a 50% reduction by 2030 in the amount of hazardous waste deposited<sup>106</sup>.

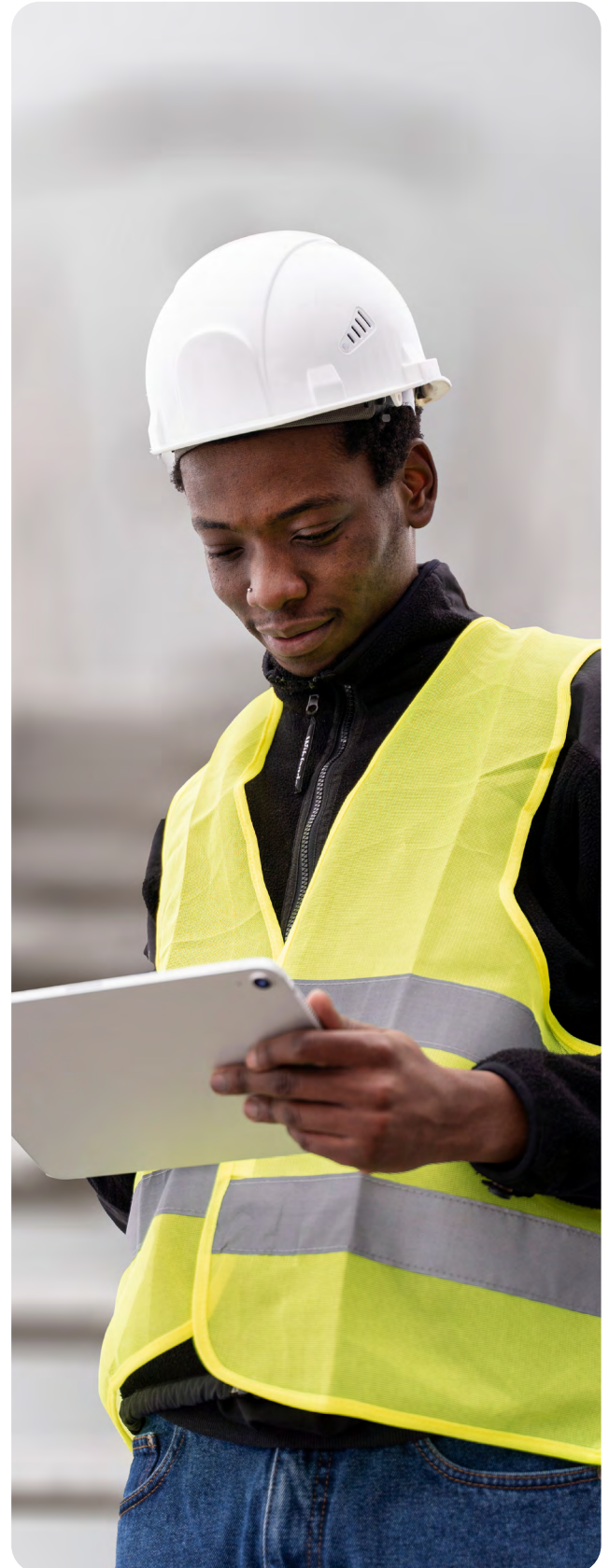
<sup>106</sup> Government of Cabo Verde, *Voluntary National Review*, 2021.



A law prohibiting the importation and use of non-biodegradable plastic bags is already in force, which should contribute to reducing the fraction of fine plastics admitted to waste management systems by 80% by 2030. There is also the intention to improve the recovery of solid waste and, in particular the selective collection in at least 60% of municipalities by 2030, to create 8 units for the recovery of organic waste by 2030, and to recycle or recover 60% of paper, glass, plastic and metal waste by 2030<sup>107</sup>.

**(target 11b)** As part of its capacity-building project, and using the 2015–2030 Sendai Action Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as a strategic guide for action, the Government of Cabo Verde proceeded with the formulation of its National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (ENRRD) and a National Post-Disaster Recovery Framework (QRD), in addition to a pilot Detailed Urban Risk Assessment (DURA) study, implemented in three municipalities (Praia, Mosteiros and Ribeira Brava). A National Disaster Observatory (OND) was also developed. All of these are essential tools for managing disaster risk and promoting resilience in Cabo Verde.

Cabo Verdean authorities expect to strengthen institutional conditions for the implementation of the Risk and Disaster Reduction Strategy with the institutionalization of a special office for strategy execution, associated with a financing line and the creation of crisis offices, operating on each island, and not just in times of crisis.



107 Idem.





## SDG 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

**(target 12.1)** “Cabo Verde Ambition 2030” outlined strategies in terms of sustainable, integrated production and consumption to be made operational through PEDS II. However, a Sustainable Production and Consumption Action Plan has yet to be adopted.

**(target 12.3)** New challenges and insufficiencies on the level of food control led to the reassessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of food control systems on a national level. Law-Decrees nº 03/2010 and 07/2010 instituted the National Food Control System (SNCA) and the Integrated Food Rapid Alert System (SIARA) which, as support mechanisms for the detection of situations of non-compliance inherent to food products, will help reduce the risks associated with the human and animal consumption of food products, both produced in the country and imported.

**(target 12.4)** According to the National Strategic Solid Waste Prevention and Management Plan (PENGER), in Cabo Verde the production of dangerous waste is not very significant, representing just 0.5% of all waste, the equivalent of 853 metric tons per year or 1.53 kg per capita<sup>108</sup>. According to the 2nd Cabo Verde NDC 2020, the country in recent years has embarked on an ambitious transition to a zero-carbon economy. An important landmark in this process was the adoption, in 2019, of the 2018-2040 Electricity Sector Master Plan, which is centred on the country’s transition to a decarbonized economy.

**(target 12.6)** Businesses normally do not publish a specific report on sustainability, but many are sensitive to sustainability issues. Some of Cabo Verde’s largest companies in the area of fuel, the pharmaceutical industry and paint have made a commitment to sustainability, promoting ongoing training for their staff in health, the environment, quality, innovation and sustainability.

**(target 12.8)** In Cabo Verde, education for citizenship is a part of school curricula. These curricula do not yet, however, specifically include education for sustainable development, but the Strategic Education Plan ensures alignment with the SDGs and, indeed, the Ministry of Education base law guarantees the mainstreaming of the SDGs.

**(target 12.b)** In 2019, the Cabo Verdean Government adopted the Main Priorities of the Strategic Sustainable Tourism Development Plan and also elaborated the Tourism Master Plans for all of the islands as instruments for the promotion of sustainable tourism that gives due value to natural and human resources.



108 Idem.



## SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

Cabo Verde performs well on SDG 13 on climate action, as it adopted the UNFCCC global response mechanisms and promoted the mainstreaming of climate change into its key policies and development strategies. Like many African countries, it has a low per-capita emission of greenhouse gases (90% of it being from energy production). However, Cabo Verde is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change and continues determined to enhance its mitigation and adaptation measures.

Cabo Verde presents one of the highest disaster risk levels in the world, ranking 11th out of 181 countries (World Risk Index 2020) and first in Africa. The list of risks includes volcanic activities (the country's last volcanic eruption was in Fogo in 2014), droughts, floods (the most recent of which were in 2020 in four islands), and torrential rain, leading to landslides and mudflows, all of which imply important social and economic consequences.

The ongoing and future impacts of sea-level rise (salinization, submersion, erosion) on coastal infrastructure, human settlements, and natural ecosystems will also be significant. This situation in Cabo Verde is further exacerbated by climate change, which also causes sea current changes that induce important biodiversity disturbances and losses and the occurrence of rain and storms.

As an off-shore Sahel country, Cabo Verde has a history of recurrent droughts leading to poor agricultural yields, hunger and nutritional stress, loss of livelihoods, and forced migration. In 2017, a severe drought and food crisis occurred, considered the worst drought since 1977. According to the Government Drought Emergency Plan, some 17,203 agricultural households (62.3% of rural households) were vulnerable to the situation of low agricultural production in the period 2017- 2018.

Despite these difficulties, Cabo Verde is committed



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to increasing its efforts towards transparency, carbon and land degradation neutrality, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable use of sea and land ecosystem services. Such cross-sector efforts, if aligned with growing climate funding opportunities, including from the private sector (e.g. the voluntary carbon market), can greatly contribute to accelerating the desired climate resilient and sustainable development of Cabo Verde.

**(target 13.1)** Cabo Verde ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and, as a party thereto, in 2017 presented its Third National Communication on Climate Change. In its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), updated in 2020, Cabo Verde identified five key contributions to mitigation, including energy efficiency and renewable energies, low-carbon transportation, nature-based solutions, and sustainable tourism. It also identified nine key contributions to adaptation, including water management, food security, coastal management and spatial planning, and disaster risk reduction.



According to Cabo Verde's 2017 Third National Communication on Climate Change, in 2010, total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reached 292.84 Gg, corresponding to a decrease of 1.54% in comparison to 2005. Total CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions increased by 26.76% (5.71 Gg) and 17.18% (0.23 Gg), respectively. The Fourth National Communication on Climate Change is under preparation, as is the first Biennial Update Report to UNFCCC.

The recently approved National Adaptation Plan (2022 – 20230) includes three main objectives and ten strategic actions directed at institutional development, improvement of knowledge, technology, and financing, and resilience of the most vulnerable. The measures proposed are organized at the national, sectoral, and municipal level, with five pilot municipalities for the implementation of activities.

**(target 13.2)** Cabo Verde has a 2017-2030 National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (ENRRD) aligned with the Sendai Recovery Framework. A National Disaster Risk Management System (SINAGERD) was created with the primary objective of responding to the underlying risk factors and reducing exposure and vulnerability, building

resilience and institutionalizing disaster risk management. The country has also prepared the Detailed Urban Risk Assessment and Guidelines for Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) for Droughts and Floods, which help in decision-making, prevention and recovery from disasters. However, the lack of adaptation capacities perpetuates the country's vulnerability.

Cabo Verde also set up a national emergency fund in 2018. The fund is fed with 0.5% of the non-consigned tax revenues from the previous year, as well as income from financial investments and contributions from public and private and international entities.

Integrating traditional knowledge and intangible cultural heritage in DRR and mitigation approaches is proving to be effective in other SIDS and may be tested in Cabo Verde to improve appropriation of emergency response plans. Nature-based solutions for DRR and climate adaptation could also be further explored, prioritized, and financed.





## SDG 14: BELOW WATER LIFE

Like many archipelagos in tropical regions, Cabo Verde has a rich yet fragile biodiversity, vulnerable to any variation in their ecosystem with the potential to easily drive any number of species to extinction<sup>109</sup>. The country is part of one of the 23 most important marine ecoregions on the planet<sup>110</sup> and one of the 10 most important coral reef hotspots. In addition, it hosts two biosphere reserves belonging to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves<sup>111</sup>.

The coastal ecosystems constitute areas of high productivity where inputs from land, sea, air and people converge. Among the substantial forms of pressures on the country's coastal environments is eutrophication, resulting primarily from land-based nutrient input from agricultural runoff and domestic wastewater discharge. These phenomena carry with them significant threats to Cabo Verde's marine and coastal ecosystems. In Cabo Verde, the current Index of Coastal Eutrophication (ICEP) stands at 3, denoting presence of nutrients that may lead to blooms that harm the marine ecosystems.

**(target 14.2)** Ocean and biodiversity conservation measures are growing yet remain limited, while livelihood diversification and change of practices remain limited. A more scientific approach to natural resource conservation and an enhanced partnership around ocean management are among the aims of the new "Campus do Mar" **(target 14.3)**, bringing together different actors in the realm of ocean-based science and economics to improve research, education and sustainable development on coastal and marine areas.

109 Arechavaleta, et al, 2005. Identified 3,000 terrestrial and 2,000 marine species.

110 Spalding, Marine Ecoregions of the World: A Bioregionalization of Coastal and Shelf Areas, 2007

111 (<https://en.unesco.org/biosphere/wnbr>)



Ocean and biodiversity conservation measures are growing yet remain limited, as well as livelihood diversification and change of practices..

**(target 14.4)** All fishing activities are monitored from the point of view of fishing zones as well as from that of catches hauled in. Monitoring is carried out via satellite emissions from the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). The weight of fishing in the GDP stood at 0.66% of 2020, representing a reduction of 0.52 percentage points in comparison to 2015<sup>112</sup>.

In Cabo Verde, this activity has become highly affected by overfishing and by the impact of climate change, given that fishing resources are not always able to adapt to these changes in the ocean, unleashing various negative effects, including the loss of traditional fisheries, the reduction in revenues and jobs, and major concerns with the food security of populations.

In terms of the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, the country as of 2022 had four instruments. Outstanding governance issues will continue to enable illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the country, as is the case in many parts of the West Africa region, leading to adverse impacts on the local and national seafood value chains, environment, society and global food security.

112 Government of Cabo Verde, *Voluntary National Review*, 2021.



**(target 14.5)** There are plans to increase the country's marine protected areas, which currently measure 128,000 ha or 5.4% of territorial waters, by 50% by 2030<sup>113</sup>. The country has already identified potential areas to be declared marine protected areas, which will allow the country to reach the established goal. Nature-based solutions such as reforestation, reef restoration and dune expansion areas can help both mitigation and adaptation, while the combination of these with grey solutions, such as salty dams, artificial wetlands, etc. can complement this effort.

Cabo Verde has developed and approved the governing tools for the transition of the maritime economy to the blue economy – in other words, the Policy Charter for the Blue Economy, the Unified Strategic Blue Economy Framework, the National Plan for the Blue Economy and the Blue Economy Promotion Programme.

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**(target 14c)** Under the blue economy chapeau, Cabo Verde signed the UNESCO Convention on the protection of underwater heritage and requires support to fully implement its latest law on Cultural Heritage and establish efficient protection mechanisms for its rich underwater heritage of 80 wreck sites on its Marine Archaeological Chart.



113 Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, [Nationally Determined Contribution 2020 update, 2021](#)



## SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND

Biodiversity has an ecological importance, but also represents the support of economic activity, with an emphasis on agriculture, fishing and tourism. Cabo Verde's terrestrial ecosystems provide multiple goods, raw materials for construction and energy, food and a series of ecosystem services that are essential for curbing the triple planetary crises of pollution, climate change and degradation of nature and biodiversity. This includes contributions that reduce the risks of natural disasters such as floods and landslides, regulate climate and maintain the productivity of agricultural systems. Maintaining those ecosystems greatly support climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

In Cabo Verde pressures on biodiversity are mainly concentrated in coastal areas, where a large share of the population is concentrated in five cities. The main biodiversity threats are due to overexploitation, destruction of terrestrial and marine habitats, construction of infrastructure, organizational management, legislative enforceability, limited environmental awareness and climate change.

Since 1995, the country has remained a signatory and active member of the international community on matters related to biodiversity as shown in its membership to the Convention on Biological Diversity, accession to its Cartagena Protocol in 2006. The protocol aims to ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health.



In Cabo Verde pressures on biodiversity are mainly concentrated in coastal areas, (...) The main biodiversity threats are due to overexploitation, destruction of terrestrial and marine habitats, construction of infrastructure, organizational management, legislative enforceability, limited environmental awareness and climate change.

**(target 15.1)** In Cabo Verde, protected areas cover area total of 164,046.34 ha, with 61,695.40 ha of land, which represents 18.2% of the country's surface area. Protected areas in forest perimeters total 34,472 ha, equivalent to 344.72 km<sup>2</sup> (8.5% of national territory)<sup>114</sup>.

**(target 15.2)** Progress in sustainable forest management has been made possible through the national forestation programme. According to data available from the forest inventory, the area with woody vegetation cover increased from 82,000 hectares in 2004 to 89,903 hectares in 2013, representing 23% of the national territory<sup>115</sup>.

In order to support this progress and promote new developments in the sector, including its important role in achieving the NDC targets, increasing climate resilience in rural areas and promoting better productivity and food production, a new Forest Law establishing the foundations of a novel forest policy was recently approved by the parliament (BO I, #50, Law 25/X/2023 May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023).

<sup>114</sup> Government of Cabo Verde, [Voluntary National Review](#), 2021.

<sup>115</sup> Idem.



**(target 15.5)** The country's first red list of endangered species dates back to 1997 and the country's Red List Index has been consistently at the 0.9 level. The existing red list indicates that endangered species account for 20% of total species in Cabo Verde<sup>116</sup>. However, with the new Nature Conservation Union guidelines on species conservation status, the number of endangered species is likely to increase.

**(target 15.9)** The Aichi biodiversity goals are fully integrated into Cabo Verde's development, through the Strategic Sustainable Development Plan (PEDS), the Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Quality Programme, and the 2014-2030 National Biodiversity Strategic and Action Plan, as well as plans for the management of protected areas. The non-existence of a Biodiversity Observatory and absence of solid statistical information allowing for the effective monitoring of indicators prevents authorities from assessing the true situation of biodiversity in the country.

**(target 15.a)** Development assistance and expenditures allocated to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems are indicated in the Public Investment Programme (State Budget). During the 2016-2020 period, US\$ 26,950,310 were allocated to the Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Quality programme, of which US\$ 698,993 were donated, equivalent to about 2.6% of public expenditure allocated to this programme. However, public expenditure allocated to the programme has been decreasing, from US\$ 8,219,174 in 2015 to US\$ 5,077,403 in 2020, representing an average annual decrease of 8.2% between 2015 and 2020<sup>117</sup>.



It is critical for the country, jointly with its development partners – including the UN system – to step up funds mobilization while leveraging new pathways occasioned by the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted in December 2022 ...

**(target 15.b)** (a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments stand at less than 10%<sup>118</sup>. This indicates that a significant segment of the country's biodiversity is financed by domestic revenue. It is critical for the country, jointly with its development partners – including the UN system – to step up funds mobilization while leveraging new pathways occasioned by the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted in December 2022 during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

116 Idem.

117 Idem.

118 United Nations Development Program. [UNEP SDG Scorecard](#)



## SDG 16 – PEACE AND JUSTICE - STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Transparent elections and democratic alternation throughout 46 years of independence have contributed to the country's reputation for good governance, while democratic institutions function relatively well to guarantee checks and balances. Many governance indicators are indeed quite good in Cabo Verde, especially in terms of freedom, institutional soundness, and legal and policy frameworks, including the integration of human rights and other global conventions at the national level. Cabo Verde ranks fourth<sup>119</sup> in the Mo Ibrahim Index for African Governance, performing outstandingly in three out of four categories. The country also ranks very high in terms of democracy and freedom indices.

However, in Cabo Verde the democratic system is characterized by a low level of political education in the overall population and a low level of citizen participation in decision-making processes, as well as a weak culture of dialogue. While the level of voter abstention is relatively high, the electoral system needs to be improved to be based on the civil registry, in order to expand the narrow voter base.

Other challenges remain related to the enforcement of laws and the perception of security within the population. The country is also facing increasing challenges with drug trafficking and the ramifications thereof on local criminality. The judicial system response is relatively slow, affecting the economy and individuals' human rights, while perpetuating certain inefficiencies and the perception of impunity.

**(targets 16.1 and 16.2)** Covid-19 and successive crises seem to have contributed to higher crime. According to the annual report from the Cabo Verdean Public Prosecutor's Office for the judicial year 2021-2022, at national level, 406 (four hundred and six) cases of crimes of homicide were registered,

<sup>119</sup> Ibrahim Index of African Governance. 2022 Index Report. Mo Ibrahim Foundation. January 2023.

“

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“

... challenges remain related to the enforcement of laws and the perception of security within the population. The country is also facing increasing challenges with drug trafficking and the ramifications thereof on local criminality.

corresponding to an increase of 56.8% in comparison with the previous year. There was also a peak in the number of criminal cases processed by courts in 2021-2022, since it was the year with the highest number of cases filed and the lowest number of cases carried over. Nevertheless, the number of victims from crimes of homicide per 100,000 people decreased from 7.1 in 2017 to 5.8 in 2022.<sup>120</sup>

<sup>120</sup> INECV (2023). Relatório Estatístico 2022. Agendas 2030 & 2063. (based on data from the Ministry of Internal Administration)





Aware that today's challenges go beyond national borders and require greater international coordination and cooperation, Cabo Verde has been making a significant investment in fighting criminality. Indeed, legislative reforms and institutional capacity building continue to be carried out with the support of national and international partners. A new plan aimed at combating the trafficking of persons is also being finalized.

**(target 16.3)** In terms of the legal framework, Cabo Verde's new criminal and criminal proceedings acts were published in February 2021<sup>121</sup>. Cabo Verde has also relevant ongoing reforms aimed at consolidating the rule of law, modernizing judicial structures and improving the organization and performance of its judicial system. All of these should contribute to the productivity of the justice sector, although the number of judges and prosecutors is too low to respond adequately to the growing needs.

**(target 16.4)** Considering Cabo Verde's geographical location, as part of West Africa, with its ten islands scattered in the Atlantic Ocean halfway between the Americas and Europe, combined with evidence on the cocaine trafficking route gathered in past two decades, Cabo Verde is at risk of becoming a drug trafficking platform, requiring further efforts to combat organized crime. In fact, the seizure of over five tons of cocaine on a fishing vessel from Brazil on the high seas in April 2022 supports the hypothesis that the country is being used as a storage point for cocaine trafficked to Europe. At the regional level, the seizure data brought up by this report indicates that this trend has worsened since 2019, mostly due to traffic coming from sea routes<sup>122</sup>.



Considering Cabo Verde's geographical location, as part of West Africa, with its ten islands scattered in the Atlantic Ocean halfway between the Americas and Europe, combined with evidence on the cocaine trafficking route gathered in past two decades, Cabo Verde is at risk of becoming a drug trafficking platform ...

Internal trafficking has contributed to increased consumption of illicit substances, provoking an increase in criminality, youth gangs and higher homicide rates in cities during the last decade<sup>123</sup>. Urban crime and associated threats have become one of the main concerns of Cabo Verdean citizens and residents<sup>124</sup>.

The National Strategy to Prevent and Combat Money Laundering, the Financing of Terrorism, and the Financing of the Proliferation of Small Weapons, was recently taken up by the country as a reference base for several actors in the field of the prevention of and fight against money laundering.

**(target 16.5)** Cabo Verde ranks among the best performing African countries in terms of corruption perception among its population (3rd behind Seychelles and Botswana)<sup>125</sup>. Cabo Verde ratified

121 Government of Cabo Verde, [Official Gazette of the 11th of February 2021](#), 2021

122 UNODC (2023). [Global Report on Cocaine 2023](#)

123 Cabo Verde National Programme on drugs and crime (2018-2023)

124 Idem

125 Transparency International, [Corruption Perception Index \(2019\)](#)



the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2008 and is one of the first countries to have completed both implementation review cycles of the Convention, in 2016 and 2017, respectively. Moreover, in 2020 Cabo Verde established the Corruption Prevention Council, an independent administrative authority tasked with leading corruption prevention efforts in the country.

**(target 16.6)** Institutional accountability in Cabo Verde benefits from a solid framework, especially in terms of policy-based budgeting; predictability and control of governmental execution; and accounting, registry and reporting. However, internal audits and tax collection need to be reinforced, while external audit – especially parliamentary scrutiny on external reports – and donors’ support overview were considered weaker areas in terms of accountability<sup>126</sup>.

**(target 16.6)** Given the territorial dispersion and relative isolation of several islands, e-governance is instrumental in improving access to public services, particularly given the geographical distances separating the islands. The country has therefore long embarked on an ambitious agenda for digitalization. With the creation of the Operational Information Society Nucleus of the (NOSI), the digitization of public integrated financial management information systems (IFMIS) has made great progress. Despite this positive trend, Cabo Verde still ranks very low in terms of e-Government and e-Participation Indices (respectively 110th and 129th out of 193 countries), as well as Regional and Sub regional Indices<sup>127</sup>.

126 AECOM IDEV (financed by the EU), *Public Expenditure and Financial Management (PEFA) report Cabo Verde*, 2016

127 *UN E-Government Survey (2020)*. Indexes: EGD: 0.5604, EPART: 0.4167, Regional: 0.3914, Sub regional: 0.3574.

**(target 16.7)** A national social concertation mechanism allows for a dialogue between the government and social partners, and the SDG localizing platforms provide a space for dialogue at the local level too. The government also publishes the State Budget proposal for public discussions and other information. Efforts to improve Open Government are likely to continue and accelerate in the near future. The legal and policy framework is evolving towards decentralized competencies and resources at the municipal level. However, several instruments created within this process are managed at the central level and local fiscality is yet to be improved.





## SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL

As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) the country faces internal and external vulnerabilities, territorial discontinuity and a reduced market, subject to disasters and highly vulnerable to climate change and excessive indebtedness. However, development financing has been one of Cabo Verde’s greatest challenges, arising from its status as a lower-middle-income country. In addition, the government has yet to finalize the National Integrated Financial Framework, which is expected to result in a more efficient partnership for development.

**(target 17.1)** Domestic resource mobilization has improved in the past few years, as tax revenues grew consistently along with the expansion of the economy. However, as a percentage of GDP, tax revenues have been stable, oscillating between 19.2% and 21.9% for the past seven years, without further progress (table 5). As such, there is room for improvement in tax collection efficiency, especially as the government is embarking on fiscal consolidation.

Total public spending on health and education represented 10.9% of GDP in 2022<sup>128</sup>, a consistent percentage throughout the years, but possibly insufficient to progress towards the achievement of the remaining targets associated with SDGs 3 and 4.



Total public spending on health and education represented 10.9% of GDP in 2022, a consistent percentage throughout the years, but possibly insufficient to progress towards the achievement of the remaining targets associated with SDGs 3 and 4.

**(target 17.3)** ODA, as a percentage of GDP, has decreased substantially from 11.4% in 2015 to 6.6% in 2022, with the exceptional years of 2020 and 2021, when GDP contracted and international aid increased in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. FDI has been decreasing as well throughout the year, especially during the pandemic. In 2022, FDI was equivalent to 5.5% of GDP<sup>129</sup>.

**Table 5:** Target 17.1-Tax revenues as a percentage of GDP – 2015-2022

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
19.2	19.5	20.7	21.9	21.8	20	18.6	19.7

**Source:** Ministério das Finanças, Orçamentos de Estado 2020 e 2023

128 Ministério das Finanças. Orçamento do Estado 2023. Anexo Informativo.

129 INECV (2023). Relatório Estatístico 2022. Agendas 2030 & 2063.



The volume of remittances as a percentage of GDP has been consistent throughout the years (table 6), demonstrating that Cabo Verde has been able to mobilize additional external resources from its diaspora. As the country needs to diversify and increase its sources of financing for development, the government is increasing efforts to integrate and capture the potential of resources available within its diaspora.

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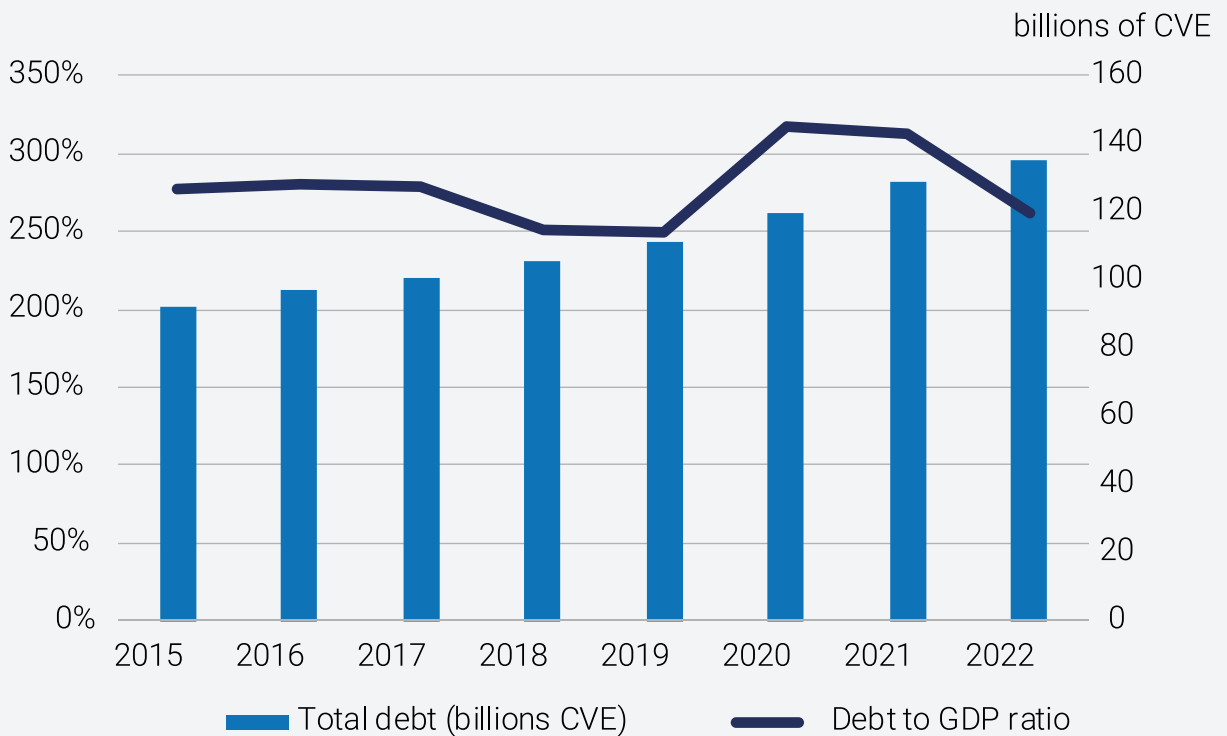
As a result of a recurrent fiscal deficits for several years, seriously aggravated during the Covid-19 pandemic, public debt increased substantially throughout the years. (...) The economic rebound in 2022 has brought that ratio down to 120%

**Table 6:** Target 17.3 – Remittances as a percentage of GDP – 2015-2022

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
11.4	10.7	10	9.8	8.8	11.9	14.6	12.3

Source: Banco de Cabo Verde (remittances) and INE (GDP)

**Figure 13:** Public debt – 2015-2022



Source: IMF – database consulted in June 2023

**(target 17.4)** As a result of a recurrent fiscal deficits for several years, seriously aggravated during the Covid-19 pandemic, public debt increased substantially throughout the years. As a percentage of GDP, public debt has been very high for several years (figure 13), aggravated in 2020, when GDP contracted by 19.3%. The economic rebound in 2022 has brought that ratio down to 120%, and considering the positive outlook for the Cabo Verdean economy, there are expectations that this ratio will continue to improve.

Debt service as a percentage of exports has decreased from 14.1% in 2020 to 12.3% in 2022<sup>130</sup>, as exports have increased substantially since the pandemic with the rebound of the tourism sector. As such, debt service does not represent a significant portion of the country's export earnings, leaving available resources for other development priorities. This also confirms the conclusion of the latest Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA), that public debt is deemed sustainable in Cabo Verde. Debt service is manageable, as debt structure is based largely on fixed interest rates, which provide protection from the ongoing global tightening cycles. The same DSA raises the point that external risk of debt distress is moderate, but total risk of debt distress remains high<sup>131</sup>.

**(target 17.6)** According to the Multisectoral Regulatory Agency for the Economy (ARME), broadband Internet subscriptions have grown in the last 5 years, reaching 75% of the population in 2020, a significant increase in relation to 2015.

Cabo Verde's internet penetration rate is above average, compared to its peers (section on Economic Transformation), but still has space to grow, driven by greater affordability and better connection quality.

Overall, around 70% of the population (2021) and 67% of households use the internet (2019). However, there are important gaps between urban areas, where internet use is much more expressive, and rural areas, mainly due to the ease of access in urban areas, where the essentials of public administration and companies are concentrated and network coverage is better.



Debt service as a percentage of exports has decreased from 14.1% in 2020 to 12.3% in 2022 (...) public debt is deemed sustainable in Cabo Verde. (...) However, (...) total risk of debt distress remains high.



130 INECV (2023). Relatório Estatístico 2022. Agendas 2030 & 2063.

131 IMF (2023). IMF Country Report NO. 23/262. July 2023. IMF, Washington, D.C.

5

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND



The 2021 Leave No One Behind Assessment<sup>132</sup> was elaborated by the National LNOB Partnership with the support of the UN Gender and Human Rights Working Group, the Government, and its partners. The LNOB Assessment is based on the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) and three other principles to identify the furthest left behind: Intersectionality (people facing severe and/or conflicting deprivations and disadvantages or multiple forms of discrimination that multiply the risks of being left behind); Territoriality (space as a factor of invisibility, marginalization, and exclusion); and Life cycle (to be able to analyse the barriers that build up over time from before birth to old age).

## Who is being left behind?

Nine groups were identified as at risk of being left behind, and within each group, several subgroups face multiple barriers that put them at higher risk of being left behind.

### People in situations of food insecurity:

According to the latest Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis (from March 2023), in 2022 43,655 people were facing acute food insecurity, equivalent to 10% of the total population.

**Girls and women in situations of social vulnerability:** labour force participation is much lower for women (50.4%) than men (65.5%). Gender income inequalities are also evident, as the incidence of poverty

## Groups and individuals with most risks of being left behind



Individuals and groups experiencing **food insecurity**



**Women and Girls** in a situation of social vulnerability



**Children and adolescents** vulnerable and at risk



**Youth NEET\***

\*NEET = Not in Employment, Education or Training



**Elderly** without income nor access to care services



**Immigrants**, especially from the African continent



**Persons with disability**, from poor and vulnerable households



**Prisoners** and other individuals deprived of their liberty



**Minorities per Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity**

132 <https://cabo-verde.un.org/pt/189383-avaliacao-nao-deixar-ninguem-para-tras>

among women was 66% in 2022, and 85% of the 24,536 most vulnerable households (CSU group I) are headed by women<sup>133</sup>.

**Vulnerable and at-risk Children and Adolescents:**

37% of the 127,898 of most vulnerable (group I of the CSU) are children under 15 years old<sup>134</sup>. At higher risk of being left behind as well are teenagers who are pregnant or who have already had a first child (19.6%), especially if they have left school or work, and if they are single mothers.

**Youth NEET:** In 2022, 27.8% of young people from the 15-24 age group, 22,464 people, had Neither Education, Employment nor Training (NEET).

**Socially or geographically isolated elderly people:** In 2022, older persons (over 65 years old) represented 5% (6,399) of the most vulnerable individuals (CSU group 1), in line with their proportion in the overall population. 5,111 of them do not benefit from any social protection<sup>135</sup>, relying fully on solidarity from their communities.

**Immigrants from the African continent:** The existing 6,743 African immigrants in 2021<sup>136</sup> were most at risk of finding themselves discriminated against and excluded by prejudice of race, colour, origin and by linguistic barriers, suffering exploitative conditions and lacking access to social protection<sup>137</sup>.

**People with disabilities (PwD):** according to the CSU, 68% of PwD are included in the most vulnerable groups experiencing poorer living conditions.

**LGBTI people** continue to be subjected to a pervasive atmosphere of hostility and stigmatization that results in discrimination in many social spheres<sup>138</sup>. Access to employment and income is a serious issue for LGBTI people. Among transgender people, 37.6% claim to have been victims of violence/discrimination<sup>139</sup>, while care is precarious.

**Inmates and other people deprived of freedom:**

Inmates (97.1% of which are men, and 10.7% of which are young people aged 16-21<sup>140</sup>) most at risk of being left behind are teenagers, inmates with mental illness, and drug abusers without proper treatment, as well as those belonging to gangs (2.3%).

The risk of being left behind for all people belonging to the nine groups is exacerbated when they live in isolated islands, municipalities or neighbourhoods. Some groups at risk of being left behind were not included due to insufficient available data (such as alcohol and other drugs abusers; sex workers and professionals; deported migrants) to determine their characterization, location and the determinants of their condition.

133 ENEPE (National strategy to eradicate extreme poverty), 2023

134 Idem

135 Idem

136 2021 Census data: Cabo Verde has 10.875 immigrants, of which approximately 62% are African immigrants

137 AAI (2022), Survey on Foreign and Immigration Population

138 CNDHC, II National Report on Human Rights, 2020

139 Diagnostic Study on the Social and Legal Situation of LGBTI People in Cabo Verde, 2020

140 INE/MJ. I Prison Census 2018. Praia, June 2018



## Why are they left behind?

The manifestations of the risk of being left behind in Cabo Verde have been identified as poor living conditions, poverty, hunger, and deficits in taking full advantage of one's human rights. The immediate causes of these manifestations are limited income, poor physical or mental health, and limited participation in the public sphere.

The underlying causes that limit the income of some individuals and groups are limited access to:

**Education:** Difficulties in accessing quality education or technical and professional training that values the competencies, skills, and attitudes required for the labour market.

**Communication and transportation:** The lack of Internet connection, either mobile or fixed-line, and limited physical mobility to reach school, health centre, other services or the workplace.

**Finance, land and economic services,** due to lack of capacity or means to access them, or due to geographical, institutional, informational, or cultural barriers.

**Good working conditions:** Being in unpaid, child labour, or informal domestic work leads to a lack of time, mental space, physical condition or means to realize one's economic rights.

The underlying causes leading to poor physical and/or mental health are limited access to:

**Food security:** Chronic malnutrition affects children's physical and/or intellectual development, and physical and/or mental health throughout life, impacting the child's entire development.



The manifestations of the risk of being left behind in Cabo Verde have been identified as poor living conditions, poverty, hunger, and deficits in taking full advantage of one's human rights.

**Water, sanitation and energy:** These affect health directly and indirectly through their impact on public health, particularly water-related diseases, nutrition, and sanitation.

**Access to health care:** limited health prevention and promotion actions, as well as lower investment in primary health care, structures and the quantity and quality of human resources in health.

**Decent housing:** The promiscuity resulting from precarious housing, the absence of sanitation and protection against humidity and pests and the location of housing in areas of contamination.

**Climate Change:** Insufficient resilience to the impacts of climate change affecting the most vulnerable, especially in coastal and rural areas.

The underlying causes leading to lack of participation in the public sphere and full entitlement to human rights are limited access to:

**Protection from violence and access to justice:** Exposure to violence in all its forms and limited justice response for victims, by limitations of laws and law enforcement protecting the rights of some groups or against some types of violence, by slow or limited resolution of cases, or by lack of knowledge of existing legal protection instruments or inter-institutional coordination between key actors.

**Respect for one's own identity and culture:** Limited recognition or value of identity (ethnic, cultural, religious, sexual) for individuals without legal status, or for populations not included in the data or whose culture, religion or sexual orientation is subject to discrimination by a portion of society.

**Collective organization and defence of human rights:** Some groups or territories, whose poverty and health conditions are similar to those of the identified groups, do not suffer from the same level of exclusion, because they have organized and participate in the public sphere to make their voices heard and defend their rights. Some groups do not have this voice and are therefore more subject than others to monetary and multidimensional poverty.

## Recommendations

Overall, Cabo Verde has a legal and regulatory framework that favours respect for human rights for and the social inclusion of all persons. Likewise, most public policies, both economic and social, have sought to focus on groups and people in vulnerable situations. Therefore, the recommendations of the "Leave No One Behind" Assessment are as follows:

6. Strengthening the statistical system with disaggregated and updated data, and consolidating the National Planning System to make it more inclusive;
7. Building capacity at the sectorial level to ensure adequate services;
8. Improving coordination between institutions and between levels of decisions (community, municipal and national);
9. Fostering collaboration between public entities, civil society organizations and private sector businesses for inclusion;
10. Accelerating administrative, legal and judicial procedures with focus on those that offer a comparative advantage to groups most at risk of being left behind;
11. Investing in the skills of the subgroups most at risk of being left behind;
12. Improving the population's understanding of discrimination and violence and the impacts thereof.

Each of the seven main recommendations above was broken down into ten concrete actions, which can be found in the LNOB Assessment. Since then, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Family, Inclusion and Social Development launched the Programme MAIS ("*Mobilization for Accelerated Social Inclusion*") in April 2022, aimed at supporting and accelerating the inclusion of the most vulnerable social groups, through a multi-dimensional approach – income, education and training, health, housing, and care – in line with the SDGs.

In March 2023, the Government of Cabo Verde, through the Ministry of Family, Inclusion and Social Development, launched the National Strategy to Eradicate Extreme Poverty (ENEPE – 2022-2026), with the goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2026, as originally set out in the PEDS II. The ENEPE will target the most vulnerable households headed by women and children, which are also those most at risk of being left behind, by expanding social programmes already in place.



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# 6

## ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION ANALYSIS: THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OUTLOOK

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Cabo Verde, as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), faces important structural constraints that hamper economic transformation and diversification, while preventing sustained growth. In addition, the economic expansion of Cabo Verde continues highly dependent on one major sector, the tourism sector (representing 25% of GDP, 75% of FDI inflows and 39% of jobs created<sup>141</sup>), and remains dependent on external inputs, which exacerbates its vulnerability to external shocks, with direct socioeconomic impacts on vulnerable households, as observed during the pandemic. Cabo Verde has been included among the 10 most economically vulnerable countries in Africa<sup>142</sup>.

As such, despite the strong recovery in 2022 and the positive economic outlook for 2023, deeper economic transformation and diversification are still essential to ensure stable prosperity for all. Transforming the economy will mean changing the way wealth is created and distributed (in a more inclusive way), ideally across sectors and within the tourism sector. This has also been emphasized by the Government in the 2022-2026 Strategic Sustainable Development Plan (PEDS II).

The previous CCA identified a number of structural conditions, opportunities and bottlenecks that should be considered for an effective economic transformation in Cabo Verde. In this CCA update, the focus will be on the digital transformation, considering its cross-sectoral relevance and its potential to increase the productivity and resilience of Cabo Verde's economy.

More recently, the ICT sector's development agenda has gained momentum as a potential source of new income, job creation, and economic diversification. The

concept of a "Digital Archipelago" of "Cyber Islands" aims to position Cabo Verde as a hub for digital services. The country intends to create an environment for hosting technology solution providers, fostering the growth of ICT talent, and adopting technologies to boost productivity across industries<sup>143</sup>.

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141 PEDS II and World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/countries\\_e/cape\\_verde\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/countries_e/cape_verde_e.htm)

142 African Development Bank, *African Economic Outlook amid COVID-19*, 2020

143 <https://www.itu.int/hub/2020/12/connecting-continents-how-cabo-verde-plans-to-become-a-digital-hub/>

### Digital Infrastructure, Access, and Internet Use <sup>144</sup>

Cabo Verde’s internet penetration rate is above average compared to its peers (figure 14), but still has space to grow, driven by improved affordability and better connection quality. With around 70% of the population (2021) and 67% of households using the internet (2019), the country is ahead of most other SIDS, and behind only Mauritius and Maldives.

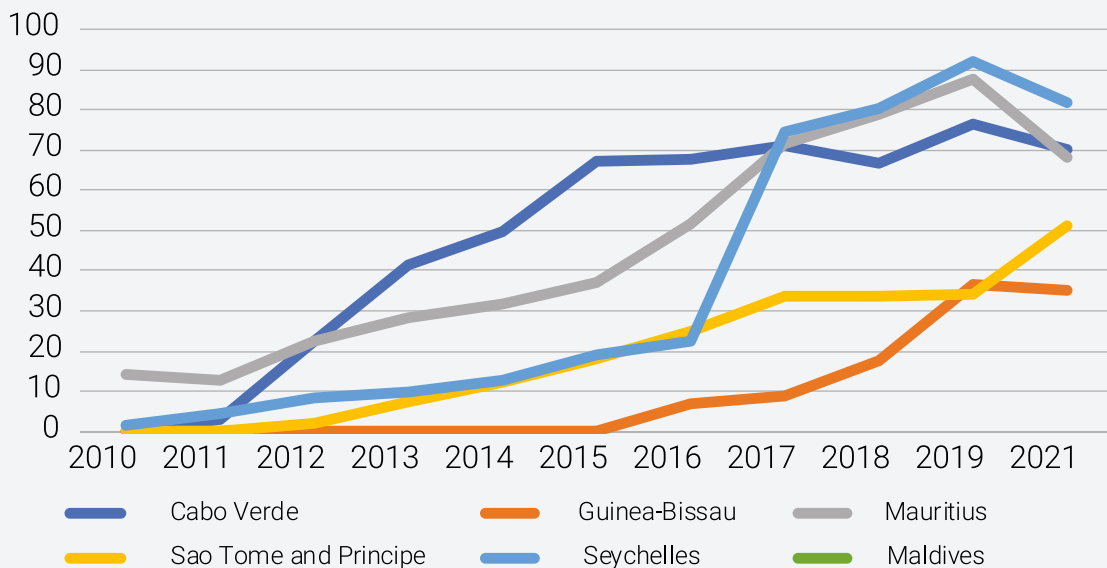
However, the limited international internet bandwidth, at 44 kb per user, is a main weakness, according to the Network Readiness Index (NRI). In addition, there are notable disparities in internet penetration among the rural and urban populations. For example, while 74 percent of residents of urban settlements use the

internet, just 52 percent are internet users in rural settlements (2019). Despite significant advancements, 3G technologies dominate the market of mobile broadband; the internet connection speed also demonstrates poor performance.

### Digital Government and Institutions <sup>145</sup>

Some foundational elements of digital government are in place and functioning. The digital transformation in government is led by strong institutions, such as NOSI and ARME. The recently created Ministry of the Digital Economy is expected to coordinate digital transformation in the government and in the broader economy. Citizens can access multiple online government services through a single on-line “one-stop shop,” and the data exchange platform will enable

**Figure 14:** Mobile subscriptions (4G) per 100 inhabitants – 2010-2021 (percentage)



Source: ITU, World telecommunication database, 2021

144 <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Dashboards/Pages/Digital-Development.aspx>

145 <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/61714f214ed04bcd6e9623ad0e215897-0400012021/related/Cabo-Verde-Potential-Digital-Dividends-06082022-vf.docx>

more end-to-end digital services. In addition, ongoing digital government projects, such as the foreign trade one-stop shop JUCE, e-Embassy and others, promise accelerated digital development. However, e-government infrastructure is not developed enough to support resilient service delivery, as highlighted by the 2020 UN Electronic Government Development Index (EGDI), which ranked the Cabo Verde 110th out of 193 countries.

## Digital Development Policies and Regulations

In its efforts to promote the digital sector for economic diversification, the government is enhancing sectoral policies, strengthening the regulatory framework, and improving the legal environment<sup>146</sup>. Digital development is central to the government's Strategic Sustainable Development Plan (PEDS 2022-2026) along with the dedicated Cabo Verde Digital Strategy (EDCV) – Agenda for 2019-2021. Some elements of the digital economy's regulatory and legal framework are in place, but sector-related policies need to be enhanced to encourage investments. The telecom sector has been developing. However, insufficient market competition is still limiting growth. With the development in e-government, data privacy, data protection, and sovereignty also started to gain prominence. The National Cybersecurity Strategy 2016-2020 identified priority areas for the country's cybersecurity capacities. However, the Cybersecurity Capacity Review carried out by the World Bank in 2019 found the country's capabilities in areas such as software quality, technical security controls, or incidence response to be insufficient. In addition, ITU's Global Cybersecurity Index 2020 positioned Cabo Verde 136th in the world and 27th in the Africa region in terms of the resilience of its cybersecurity system.

<sup>146</sup> <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/61714f214ed04bc-d6e9623ad0e215897-0400012021/related/Cabo-Verde-Potential-Digital-Dividends-06082022-vf.docx>

## Innovation and Entrepreneurship

There is an emerging entrepreneurship scenery in Cabo Verde; however, the innovation ecosystem is still nascent. A variety of programmes aim at cultivating digital entrepreneurship in Cabo Verde, but startup activities are still limited. According to the Global Innovation Index 2020 (GII), Cabo Verde's innovation performance ranked 100th among 131 countries and 15th among lower-middle-income countries, and 7th in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021 ranks it 87th among 100 countries globally. With the growing trends, the ICT sector's (telecommunications and postal services) contribution to the economy was 2.7 percent of GDP in 2021.

## Digital Skills

Sustained effort is needed to promote the digital skills agenda. Modernization of the national school curriculum and enhancement of ICT laboratories in schools could produce tech-savvy graduates with higher rates going into ICT careers. The adoption of technologies in the education process is still hampered by limited reliable high-speed connectivity and lack of ICT skills among teachers. Several initiatives, such as NOSiakademia, Outcode programme and others are aimed at filling in the ICT skills gaps in the market.

## Policy Priorities and Reform Areas

Further investments and policies are required to bolster the innovation ecosystem, increase the adoption of digital technologies across industries and create a favourable business environment to position Cabo Verde as a regional digital hub. The country has developed a relatively sound connectivity infrastructure and built the foundations for the digital economy. However, existing gaps and fundamental issues in all areas of the digital ecosystem prevent the country from fully realizing the potential digital dividends. Policy priorities for the national digital

transformation agenda include enhancing the regulatory framework for digital development, strengthening the digital foundations, including data ecosystems and cybersecurity, and investing in human capital.



**Table 7:** Policy priorities for digital transformation

Policy Priorities	Timeline
<b>Strengthen the regulatory framework for digital development</b>	
<b>Conduct a regulatory gap analysis for the digital economy.</b> This activity would include identifying gaps that hamper the development of digital businesses and digital entrepreneurship and studying global examples and best practices in terms of policies and regulations to close those gaps.	ST
<b>Create formal and non-formal dialogue platforms</b> to engage the private sector, academia, and diaspora networks in strategic discussions about sector-related policies and strategies. Such platforms and collaboration mechanisms could enable more precise identification of market failures and the design of more targeted interventions to address those failures.	ST
<b>Enhance digital foundations, including data ecosystem and cybersecurity</b>	
<b>Build cyber resilience</b> by strengthening the infrastructure for trusted ecosystems coupled with programmes to enhance the cybersecurity capacity among government entities, firms, and individuals. This would include conducting a national risk assessment and identifying Critical Infrastructure; designing and implementing cybersecurity awareness and literacy programmes; and promoting adoption of international ICT and cybersecurity standards in the government and private sector.	ST
<b>Develop a national data policy</b> to promote the exchange and use of open government data by government agencies, private sector and academia. This work would include a legal and regulatory gap analysis, stocktaking of available data infrastructure and national databases, and their integration with the Data Platform Exchange Framework. The policy would also define national targets to develop a strong data ecosystem in Cabo Verde and a roadmap on how to achieve those.	MT
<b>Invest in human capital</b>	
<b>Develop a national digital skills agenda</b> as an overarching framework to help coordinate various programmes in the field. This could help consolidate many available training programmes, improve their relevance for the private sector, and ensure their long-term sustainability. It could also address existing gender gaps more effectively, as women continue to be underrepresented in technology-oriented education programmes and jobs.	ST
<b>Coordinate and streamline investments</b> of Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), public sector participants and other stakeholders to align with the national digital skills agenda.	MT



7

MULTIDIMENSIONAL SDG  
RISK ANALYSIS





In the past few years, several overlapping crises (climate change, Covid-19, and the war in Ukraine) have disrupted the previous years' consistent progress towards the Agenda 2030 and exacerbated the development challenges faced by Cabo Verde. These three major crises were mutually reinforcing and had a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable populations.

Many development indicators are back to pre-pandemic levels, but there is still an important gap with the potential development level Cabo Verde could have reached had it not been hit hard by the crisis and been able to maintain its pre-pandemic development trend. In addition, imported inflation is still disproportionately affecting poor households, exacerbating the risks of higher food insecurity, especially when the agriculture and fishing sectors have been contracting (due to droughts and the reduction in fish stocks).

Overall, Cabo Verde has been hard hit by exogenous shocks over which it has very little control. During the pandemic, the Government responded with countercyclical fiscal policies, including by expanding social protection, which helped to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. However, as a result, the fiscal deficit has widened and public debt has skyrocketed, requiring consistent fiscal consolidation in the years to come. In addition, inflation and a more restrictive monetary policy will also play negatively on the economy and households' real income.

Against this background, the recent socio-economic recovery and the long-term development path face multiple risks. Most of these risks are multidimensional and simultaneously affect different sectors of development, potentially compromising the progress made towards the SDGs. This table lists and summarizes the main multidimensional risks, organized according to their level of probability and impact in the short term.



**Table 8:** Risks to progress on the SDGs

Nature of risk	Description of risk and impact	Probability	Impact in the short-term
Limited fiscal space to invest in strategic areas of PEDS II	<p>Fiscal deficit and public debt increased substantially during the pandemic. At the end of 2022, public debt stood at 120% of GDP. The Government has now embarked on fiscal consolidation to reduce the fiscal deficit and debt levels, while debt service is expected to increase in the coming years. The Government's limited fiscal space could prevent necessary capital and social spending, including in social protection, to accelerate investments in strategic areas identified in the PEDS II and for the eradication of extreme poverty.</p>	High	High
New exogenous shocks (financial, environmental, political)	<p>Cabo Verde, as a SIDS, will continue to be extremely vulnerable to exogenous shocks with the potential to disrupt years of consistent progress towards the Agenda 2030. During the pandemic, the Government responded with countercyclical policies, which helped to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. However, the Government has less policy space if new exogenous shocks occur in the short term.</p>	High	High
Disruptions in global supply chains and higher food prices	<p>The Covid-19 pandemic and particularly the war in Ukraine have had an adverse impact on supply chains, including on food and fertilizers. As a result, given that Cabo Verde imports 80% of its food products, annual inflation for food products was 17.8% in January 2023, leading to abrupt pressure on the State and household budgets, livelihoods and food insecurity. As the conflict in Ukraine and the Black Sea Grain Initiative remain unpredictable, food stocks in the world market could be disrupted again.</p>	High	High
Higher cost of fuel	<p>The higher costs of fuel, in a context of shrinking limited fiscal revenues and high inflation, can lead to the inability of the Government to continue buying enough fuel to supply households, the industry and water desalination plants with enough energy to function continuously, leading to more or less frequent shortages affecting access to basic and social services and livelihoods.</p>	High	High

Nature of risk	Description of risk and impact	Probability	Impact in the short-term
Longer and more frequent dry spells (climate change)	Droughts have been increasing mainly because of climate change (2016-19), followed by insufficient rainfalls in 2020 - 2022. If these drought-rain patterns are to continue, land productivity will decline and rural populations may suffer more severe food insecurity, limiting the ability of the rural poor to work, thus further affecting the revenues of poor families.	High	High
Fish stocks continue to decrease	The fishing sector contracted by 30% in 2022, in part as a result of climate change and overexploitation. If the productivity of the fish sector continues to decrease, it will put the livelihoods of rural coastal communities and urban fishing communities at risk. Fish and seafood may not be able to be substituted as a primary source of nutritious food for these populations, thus aggravating the risks of poverty and food insecurity.	High	High
Slow progress towards the expansion and diversification of the tourism sector	The tourism sector will continue to be the main driver of economic growth and has already recovered to pre-pandemic levels, after tourist arrivals increased by 264%. However, tourism activities continue to be concentrated in two Islands, Sal and Boa Vista, which accounted for nearly 83% of tourist arrivals in 2022. This type of concentration perpetuates economic inequalities between islands, while adding pressure on water and electricity resources, as well as on fragile ecosystems. There are also concerns over economic sustainability, as resorts import most of the products, failing to generate linkages with local suppliers. This will also limit employment creation and poverty reduction.	High	Low
Slow progress towards economic diversification and transition to formality	This would mean perpetuating the risks associated to current economic structural weaknesses, heavily relying on tourism and a limited number of trade partners, as well as a large informal sector which accounts for 53.8% of total employment. These weaknesses are limiting Cabo Verde's resilience and ability to cope with future external shocks, increasing the risk of further setbacks on the progress towards the achievement of the SDGs and stable prosperity for all.	High	Low

Nature of risk	Description of risk and impact	Probability	Impact in the short-term
A deepening digital divide at the national level	As a small island nation, Cabo Verde acknowledges the importance of being connected to the world and having reliable inter-island connectivity. More recently, the ICT sector development agenda has gained momentum as a potential source of new income, job creation, and economic diversification. However, the notable digital divide in the country, as internet penetration rates among the rural and urban populations are quite different, could be exacerbated and increase regional inequalities.	High	Low
Internal and external migrations, brain and manpower drain	Regional inequalities can also lead to internal and external migrations. Internal migrations can increase social pressure in some municipalities, if housing and other structural investments do not accompany demographic changes. External migrations can lead to brain-drain and further shrink the available workforce in some islands or in the country as a whole.	High	Low
Deeper regional inequalities	Limited regional integration and unbalanced development will lead to limited socio-economic development and opportunities in some islands, aggravating regional inequalities. This is a lost opportunity to tap into available resources in different islands, municipalities and people. In addition, if a small domestic market is indeed a structural constraint in Cabo Verde as a SIDS, this market becomes even smaller if more than 30% of the population continue to be excluded.	High	Low
Limited economic empowerment of women and gender parity	The incidence of poverty among women is 66%, while labour force participation is much lower for women (50.4%) than men (65.5%) (2022). Small retail (25.6% of women's jobs vs. 12.3% of men's), hospitality (12.8% vs. 6.1%), and domestic employment (11.6% vs. 0.2%) are the top three sectors for female employment, all three of which are characterized by high levels of vulnerability, informality and abuse. Ensuring gender equality in terms of economic opportunities will therefore demand more equal access to skills, finance and technology, without which many of the SDGs may not be achieved.	Low	High

Nature of risk	Description of risk and impact	Probability	Impact in the short-term
<p>Insufficient capacity to mobilize fresh water for agriculture</p>	<p>Increasing water access, in conjunction with lower energy costs, is instrumental to agricultural development in Cabo Verde. Water and energy shortages limit local productive capacities, especially in terms of reliability and consistency, representing critical barriers for local businesses and organizations operating within the agriculture and fishery value chains. Without further improvement in wate access, agriculture production will further contract, while successfully competing with foreign suppliers, mostly based in Europe and currently accounting for a vast majority of services and goods within the tourism industry, will become even more difficult.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Increase in organized crime, particularly drug trafficking</p>	<p>Given its geographical location, combined with evidence on the cocaine trafficking route gathered in the past two decades, Cabo Verde can become a drug trafficking platform, requiring further efforts to combat organized crime. Failing to do so will contribute to internal trafficking and higher consumption of illicit substances, and will change patterns in Cabo Verdean society – such as a rise in criminality and other social problems such as youth gangs and higher homicide rates in cities, as has already been observed during the last decade. Urban crime and associated threats have become one of the main concerns for Cabo Verdeans.</p> <p>Failing to do so, will accentuate rising violence and crime, particularly armed assaults, homicides among youth, and the perception of impunity in the country with justice delays, which have been deteriorating during the pandemic.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Significant biodiversity losses (in the short term)</p>	<p>Cabo Verde is one of the world’s top 10 marine biodiversity hotspots. Losing part of its biodiversity would have important implications not only on the environmental equilibrium of the country and the planet, but also on the living conditions of local communities that benefit from the economic activities directly linked thereto, such as tourism activities, and depend on this biodiversity.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Low</p>

# 8

## CONCLUSION



Cabo Verde has resumed its progress toward the achievement of the SDGs, after the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Clear signs of a strong economic recovery are good news for the country's development trajectory, as several indicators are already back to pre-pandemic levels. Nevertheless, there are still important structural gaps and junctural challenges associated to all three dimensions of sustainable development, raising a number of risks to consistent progress toward the achievement of the SDGs. As such, additional efforts at both national and international levels are essential to taking advantage of development opportunities and overcoming the challenges.

The economy is still concentrated in the tourism sector in few islands and is dominated by the all-inclusive segment. As observed during the pandemic, this is a major source of economic vulnerability to exogenous shocks, with major social ramifications. As such, unleashing the potential of the blue economy and the digital economy will be key to driving economic transformation, diversification and sustainability. The transition to formality will also need to be accelerated in order to improve the economic resilience of the population and public fiscal conditions.

Social development and human capital are a top priority for the Government for the 2022-2026 period. Although education and health indicators are much better than the regional average, youth skills in emerging sectors, especially SDG accelerators, are still limited and marked by gender gaps. The eradication of extreme poverty and Leaving No One Behind are other priorities for the Government that require the extension

of social protection coverage and increased access to economic opportunities for all. Financing these efforts will be challenging with limited fiscal space.

The impact of climate change on livelihoods and biodiversity has been evident in Cabo Verde, especially in the agricultural and fishery sectors. This is obviously unfortunate, as Cabo Verde's contribution to CO2 emissions is very limited. As a result, the impact on livelihoods and well-being (including food insecurity) has worsened in the past few years. At the same time, the country's preparedness for extreme weather events, especially droughts and floods, and for other climate-induced impacts, such as sea-level rise and ocean warming and acidification, is still limited.

While investing in nature-based solutions to climate adaptation and resilience is important, financial constraints may continue delaying such investments. Nevertheless, the new PEDS II and the programmes it entails, as well as the country's climate action, are a vehicle for increasing efficacy in mobilizing climate funding flows, which may assist in overcoming the problem.

Overall, during the pandemic, the country made serious fiscal efforts to stimulate the economy and protect the most vulnerable, but public debt increased substantially. As such, the Government is embarking on fiscal consolidation and is facing a much narrower policy space. This is a limiting factor for key long-term investments, hampering economic diversification and resilience building. Alternative sources of financing, including from the private sector and the diaspora, will be more relevant than ever.





## Acronyms

<b>AAAA</b>	Addis Ababa Action Agenda
<b>ACP</b>	African, Caribbean and Pacific States
<b>AECOM IDEV</b>	Associação dos Jornalistas de Cabo Verde
<b>AfDB</b>	African Development Bank
<b>AFOLU</b>	Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Use (Sector)
<b>AGOA</b>	African Growth Opportunities Act
<b>ANAS</b>	National Agency for Water and Sanitation
<b>BCV</b>	Cabo Verde Central Bank
<b>BO</b>	Official Gazette (Boletim Oficial)
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>CBD</b>	Convention of Biological Diversity
<b>BSG</b>	Budget Support Group
<b>CEACR</b>	Committee of Experts on Application of Conventions and Recommendations
<b>ARV</b>	Anti-retroviral
<b>ART</b>	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
<b>CEDAW</b>	UN Committee for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CCS-SIDA</b>	Committee of Coordination and Fight against AIDS
<b>CDM</b>	Clean Development Mechanism
<b>CESCR</b>	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
<b>ARAP</b>	Public Acquisition Regulation Agency
<b>CMYP</b>	Comprehensive Multi-Year Plan
<b>CNDHC</b>	Human Rights and Citizenship National Commission

<b>CITES</b>	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
<b>CIGEF</b>	Centre of Research and Training on Gender and Family
<b>CPLP</b>	Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries
<b>CNE</b>	National Electoral Commission
<b>CNPS</b>	Centro Nacional de Pensões Sociais
<b>CPR</b>	Convention for People with Disability
<b>CRI</b>	Commitment to Reduce Inequality
<b>CRNA</b>	COVID-19 Recovery Needs Assessment
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>CSU</b>	Single Social Registry
<b>DNAP</b>	National Directorate for Public Administration
<b>DNE</b>	Directorate of National Education
<b>DPE</b>	Domestic Public Expenditure
<b>DREI</b>	Derisking Renewable Energy Investment
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West Africa States
<b>ECREEE</b>	ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
<b>ECV</b>	Cabo Verdean Escudos
<b>EDCV</b>	Cabo Verde Digital Strategy
<b>EEZ</b>	Economic Exclusive Zone
<b>EIB</b>	European Investment Bank
<b>ENRRD</b>	National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>ETF</b>	Enhance Transparency Framework

<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign Direct Investment
<b>FGM</b>	Female Genital Mutilation
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign Direct Investment
<b>GAVI</b>	The Vaccine Alliance
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>GCF</b>	Green Climate Fund
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>GFATM</b>	Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse Gas
<b>HDI</b>	Human Development Index
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>HPV</b>	Human Papillomavirus
<b>ICCA</b>	Cabo Verdean Institute for Children and Adolescent
<b>ICCAT</b>	International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna
<b>ICIEG</b>	National Institute for Gender Equality and Equity
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology
<b>IDRF</b>	Survey on households' expenses and revenues
<b>IDSR</b>	Demographic and Sexual Health Survey
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>IFMIS</b>	Integrated Financial Management Information System
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund

<b>INE</b>	National Statistical Institute
<b>INFF</b>	Integrated National Financing Framework
<b>INPS</b>	National Institute for Social Protection
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>IPU</b>	Informal Production Units
<b>IPV</b>	Inactivated polio Vaccine
<b>JIS</b>	Justice Information System
<b>LDC</b>	Least Developed Countries
<b>LGBTI</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/Transsexual and Intersex
<b>LNOB</b>	Leaving No One Behind
<b>MAPS</b>	Mainstreaming Acceleration and Policy Support
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MDR</b>	Multidrug Resistant
<b>MIC</b>	Middle-Income Countries
<b>MICE</b>	Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Energy
<b>MMR</b>	Measles, Mumps and Rubella
<b>MNT</b>	Maternal Neonatal Tetanus
<b>MPD</b>	Movement for Democracy (political party)
<b>MoF</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>MPAs</b>	Marine Protected Areas
<b>MSA</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation Module
<b>MSME</b>	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>MSSS</b>	Ministry of Health and Social Protection
<b>NAFTA</b>	North American Free Trade Agreement

<b>NAMAS</b>	National Appropriate Mitigation Actions
<b>NAPA</b>	National program of Action for Adaptation to Climate Change
<b>NCD</b>	Non-Communicable Diseases
<b>NDCs</b>	National Determined Contributions
<b>NEET</b>	(Young people) Not in Education, Employment or Training
<b>NOSI</b>	Information System Operational Nucleus
<b>NPL</b>	Non-Performing Loan
<b>NRREPP</b>	COVID-19 National Response Recovery and Economic Promotion Plan
<b>NSI</b>	National System of Innovation
<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Aid
<b>OECD</b>	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>OOF</b>	Other Official Flows
<b>OR</b>	Rectificatory Budget (Orçamento Retificativo)
<b>PAICV</b>	Partido Africano para a Independencia de Cabo Verde (political party)
<b>PALOP</b>	African Portuguese Speaking Countries
<b>PARGEF</b>	Public Finance Management Reform Action Plan
<b>PCNA</b>	Post Crisis Needs Assessment
<b>PEDS</b>	Strategic Sustainable Development Plan (Plano Estratégico de Desenvolvimento Sustentável)
<b>PEE</b>	Strategic Education Sector Plan

<b>PEMDS</b>	Municipal Sustainable Development Strategic Plan
<b>PNSE</b>	National Energy Sustainability Program
<b>PNSR</b>	Reproductive Health National Program
<b>POOC</b>	Coastal Areas Territorial Plan
<b>POSER</b>	Promotion of Rural Socioeconomic opportunities
<b>PPP</b>	Parity Purchasing Power
<b>PPP*</b>	Public-Private Partnerships
<b>PRC</b>	People's Republic of China
<b>PwD</b>	People with Disability
<b>R&amp;D</b>	Research and Development
<b>REMPE</b>	Specific Regime for Small Enterprises
<b>RIA</b>	Rapid Integrated Assessment
<b>RSI I</b>	Inclusion Social Revenue
<b>RSO</b>	Solidarity Revenue
<b>S.A.M.O.A</b>	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SEIA</b>	Socioeconomic Impact Assessment
<b>SG</b>	Secretary General
<b>SEN</b>	National Statistics System
<b>SIDS</b>	Small Islands Development States
<b>SIDS AIS</b>	SIDS from Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (subgroup)
<b>SIGOF</b>	Integrated Financial and budgetary Information System
<b>SIJE</b>	Judicial Information System

<b>SINPROMI</b>	Insular Society for the Promotion of the Rights of People with Disabilities (Spanish NGO)
<b>SMEs</b>	Small and Medium /sized Enterprises
<b>SNP</b>	National Planning System
<b>SOE</b>	State Owned Enterprises
<b>SPF</b>	Social Protection Floor
<b>SRRH</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health
<b>STEM</b>	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
<b>STI</b>	Sexual Transmissible Infections
<b>SW</b>	Sexual Workers
<b>TB</b>	Tuberculosis
<b>TIP</b>	Trafficking in Person
<b>TVET</b>	Technical, Vocational Education Training
<b>UHC</b>	Universal Health Coverage
<b>UNCAC</b>	United Nations Convention Against Corruption
<b>UNCCD</b>	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nation Country Team
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Program
<b>UNDESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization

<b>UNWomen</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
<b>UNWTO</b>	<b>United Nations World Trade Organization</b>
<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Report
<b>WASH</b>	Water and Sanitation
<b>WB</b>	World Bank
<b>WHO</b>	<b>World Health Organization</b>





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