



UNITED NATIONS  
CABO VERDE

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# UN COUNTRY TEAM ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2024 CABO VERDE

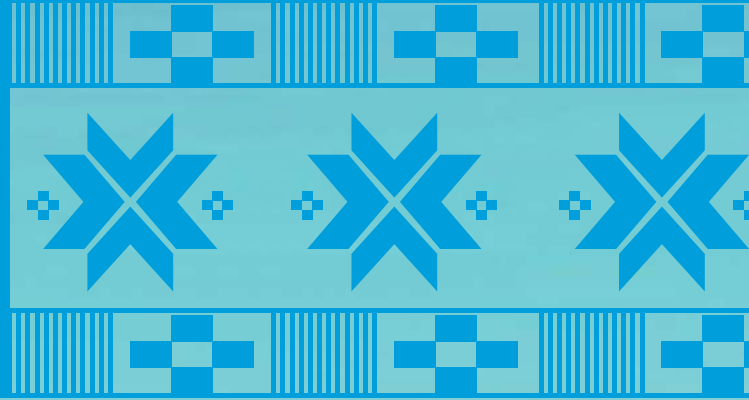




Photo: © FAO/Giuseppe Carotenuto

# Contents

<b>Foreword by the Resident Coordinator.</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>UN Country Team</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>UNCT high level meeting with the Prime Minister.</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Key development partners of the UN development system in the country</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>High-Level UN Engagement in Cabo Verde</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Cabo Verde at a Glance</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Chapter 1: Key developments in the country and regional context</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Chapter 2: UN development system support to national development priorities</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1 Overview of Cooperation Framework Results in 2024	10
2.2 UN Cooperation Framework (UNCF 2023-2027)	13
2.3 Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda	28
2.4 Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency	30
2.5 Lessons Learned	32
2.6 Financial Resources	33
<b>Looking Ahead: UNCT 2025 focus in Cabo Verde</b>	<b>36</b>

Cover Photo: CMRGS - Jacyra Semedo





# FOREWORD BY THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR

## Cabo Verde and the UN: A Strong Partnership for Sustainable Development

Cabo Verde, a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) with a population of approximately 522,000 spread across 9 islands off the West African coast, continues to demonstrate that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is possible. With its political stability, a strong democratic system, and commitment to good governance and human rights, the country has made remarkable progress in social and economic development, despite its vulnerability to climate change and external shocks.

Significant advancements in per capita income, education, healthcare, and poverty reduction reflect Cabo Verde's dedication to sustainable development. This commitment is reinforced through the national Strategic Sustainable Development Plan 2022-2026 (PEDS II), which aligns not only with the global 2030 Agenda and the African Agenda 2063, but also with the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS). Additionally, the Strategy to Eradicate Extreme Poverty by 2026 further underscores Cabo Verde's determination to ensure no one is left behind.

For nearly five decades, the United Nations (UN) has been a steadfast partner in Cabo Verde's development, offering technical expertise, policy advocacy, financial resources and global linkages. As the country marks 50 years of independence as well as 50 years of collaboration with the UN in 2025, this partnership remains stronger than ever. The 2023-2027 UN Cooperation Framework (UNCF) faithfully reflects the country's development ambitions, and UN entities have already begun delivering on their commitments and addressing national challenges.

In 2024, UNCF Strategic Priority 1 (Human Talent and Social Capital) made significant strides in expanding social inclusion, improving access to essential services, and strengthening institutional capacities to combat extreme poverty (which fell to 2.28%, according to

the INE). Targeted interventions enhanced national institutions' ability to provide inclusive social protection (reaching over 5,000 families), quality education (including digital education) and resilient healthcare, ensuring vulnerable populations were not left behind. Cabo Verde was declared malaria-free by the WHO and joined the Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection as a Pathfinder Country.

Strategic Priority 2 (Economic Transformation and Healthy Environment) focused on food security, entrepreneurship, SME development, and enhancing technical skills for decent employment. The adoption of renewable energies, climate resilience measures, and ecosystem conservation efforts supported a just transition to a green and blue economy. These initiatives contributed to economic diversification and a more resilient future for Cabo Verdeans. A particular highlight was the development of Cabo Verde's first National AfCFTA Strategy, expanding access to the continental market. Additionally, the Cabo Verdean Stock Exchange's Blue-X platform successfully mobilized over USD 40 million to support the blue economy and other sustainable development initiatives.

Strategic Priority 3 (Good Governance and Territorial Cohesion) advanced democratic governance, transparency, and inclusion in Cabo Verde. Key achievements included improvements in justice and security systems, enhancing capacities to combat organized crime. Public trust and accountability were strengthened through open data initiatives and the modernization of legal identification systems. The country's institutions were bolstered for more effective policy implementation, while Cabo Verde's 22 municipalities improved financial management to reduce territorial disparities. The national statistics system was also enhanced to support evidence-based policymaking focused on inclusion and tackling inequalities.

The UN directly invested nearly USD 13 million in Cabo Verde in 2024, thanks to the generosity of our development partners, to whom we extend our heartfelt gratitude. Sincere thanks are due to the entire UN Family in Cabo Verde for their strong and continued work in advancing human rights, gender equality and sustainable development.

## SHAPING THE FUTURE

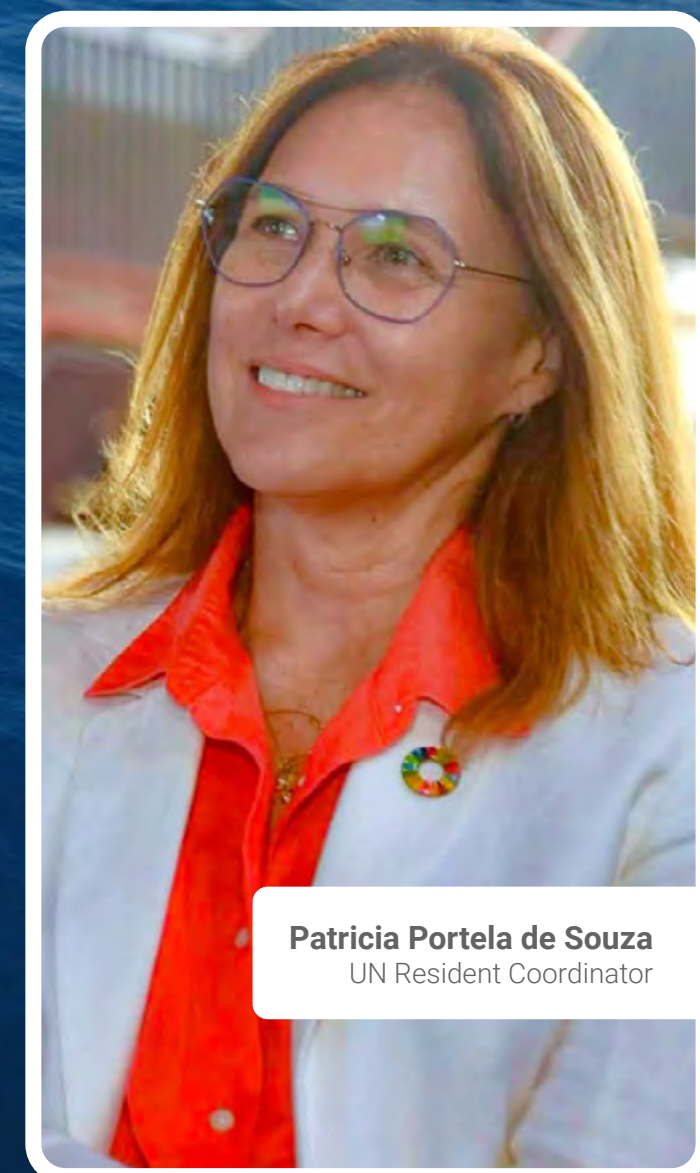
In February 2025, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) convened its annual retreat to reflect on past achievements and strategize for the future. This fruitful dialogue also involved the Government, as well as bilateral and multilateral partners. The retreat provided a platform for strengthening collaboration, aligning with Cabo Verde's long-term development goals, and reaffirming the UN's role in driving transformation.

A key exercise, "Letter from the Future," encouraged participants to envision the UN's impact in Cabo Verde five years from now, looking at the commitments for 2030. This interactive session led to a consensus on accelerators for 2025, including:

- Digital transformation, including the digital economy and the reinforcement of public digital infrastructure.
- Job creation and employment, with a focus on education and vocational training.
- Eradication of extreme poverty.
- Energy transition and expansion of renewable energy.

**With great enthusiasm the UNCT commits to standing strong and unified, working hard in close collaboration with and for Cabo Verde in these complex and challenging times.**

**Together and onwards,**



**Patricia Portela de Souza**  
UN Resident Coordinator





# UN COUNTRY TEAM

The members of the UNCT have established a dynamic and proactive work environment, maximizing the synergies between resident and non-resident entities with a focus on doing more, better and faster to advance sustainable development in Cabo Verde.

The United Nations in Cabo Verde benefits from a strong presence, the trust of the government, and solid cooperation within the UNCT. It plays a key role in governance, transparency and democracy while leveraging expertise from both the region and headquarters in favor of resource mobilization. However, challenges include donor dependency, bureaucratic hurdles, fragmented interventions and limited capacity for partner engagement and communication.

Opportunities lie in innovative financing, climate action, energy transition and SDG localization, with the potential to enhance advocacy and resource mobilization under the Resident Coordinator's leadership. However, threats such as siloed operations, funding competition, donor fatigue and shifting external priorities may impact effectiveness and long-term sustainability.

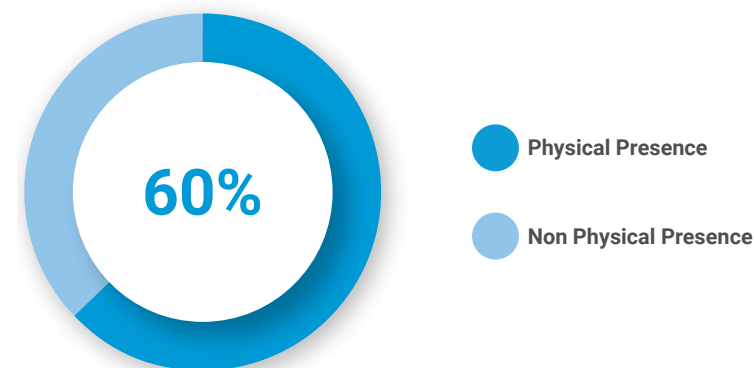
Nineteen agencies, funds, and programmes are part of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Cabo Verde, supporting the country's development ambitions under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNCF) 2023-2027. It is fully aligned with Cabo Verde's national Strategic Sustainable Development Plan (PEDS II) 2022-2026 and the 2030 Agenda, and faithfully reflects key recommendations of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS). Five agencies are resident, namely FAO, the Joint Office of the UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, and the WHO. Another five have a physical presence: ILO, IOM, UNIDO, UNODC, and UN-HABITAT. The non-resident agencies are ITU, OHCHR, UNECA, UNEP, UNESCO, UNCTAD, UNWOMEN, WIPO and WFP contributing with specialized expertise remotely and through missions.

All UN agencies, funds and programmes focus their interventions on the implementation of the UNCF's three strategic priorities: Strengthened Human Talent and Social Capital (SP 1), Inclusive Economic Transformation, Prosperity, and Just Transition to a Healthy Environment (SP 2), and Transformative Governance and Strengthened Territorial Cohesion (SP 3).

In 2024, UNOPS explored the possibility of establishing a presence in Cabo Verde, enhancing the UNCT's capacity in project management and infrastructure development. Moreover, the integration of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) in the UNCT, alongside earlier partners like the World Bank, which signed the 2023-2027 UNCF, marked a shift towards enhanced collaboration with International Financial Institutions (IFIs), leveraging SDG financing mechanisms and creating synergies and complementarities within the development sector.

Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator (RC), the reinvigorated UNCT adopted an integrated and transformative 2024 Joint Work Plan (JWP), built jointly with the Government and more than 100 implementing partners, with work aimed at alleviating extreme poverty, strengthening education, health and social protection systems, and promoting economic transformation, good governance and environmental sustainability. The UNCT's work furthered Cabo Verde's efforts and ambitions towards the 2030 Agenda and strengthened its resilience, mitigating its vulnerabilities as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS).

UNCT Composition



## Residence agencies



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization



## Non-residence agencies

### With Staff Presence



IOM • OIM



UN-HABITAT



UNIDO



UNODC

### Without Staff Presence



ECA



ITU



UNEP



unesco



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



UNITED NATIONS  
UNCTAD



UN WOMEN



WFP



WIPO  
WORLD  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
ORGANIZATION





# UNCT HIGH LEVEL MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER

In a high-level dialogue with the Prime Minister of Cabo Verde at the UN House, the UNCT engaged in a frank and forward-looking exchange on national development priorities and areas for enhanced UN support. The Prime Minister reaffirmed the value of multilateralism and commended the UN's strategic contributions to Cabo Verde's sustainable development, including its alignment with the national development plan (PEDS

II). He emphasized the importance of tackling structural challenges through long-term, transformative and scalable programming and highlighted three key priority areas: good governance, human capital development (with a focus on jobs, social protection, and education), and the sustainable use of natural resources, particularly the sun, wind, and ocean.

He underscored the importance of building resilience

in the face of global shocks, with particular attention to food systems and energy independence. The Prime Minister also highlighted the blue economy, climate resilience, renewable energy, digital transformation, and access to knowledge and technology as critical SDG accelerators. Notably, he advocated for greater visibility of SIDS challenges at the global level and endorsed the use of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI)

alongside GDP per capita to better reflect Cabo Verde's development context. He welcomed the innovative debt-for-nature swap with Portugal as a model and called for UN support in mobilizing additional partnerships and investments. Looking ahead, he proposed institutionalizing this annual strategic dialogue with the UN to complement existing mechanisms like the One UN Steering Committee.







# KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY

## PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

Partnership is central to our work. From community-based organizations, national and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and universities to governmental, bilateral and multilateral institutions, the UN Country Team has engaged in collaboration and dialogue with a broad spectrum of Cabo Verdean partners to advance the 2030 Agenda and the localization of SDGs throughout the islands.



### Implementation of the Joint Programme on SDG Localization

2024 was the first year of the implementation of the Joint Programme on SDG localization. We worked closely with all 22 municipalities and the National Association of Municipalities of Cabo Verde, together with the Ministry of Territorial Cohesion to foster local development through dialogue and actions, focusing on people's wellbeing, good governance and increasing own-resource revenues. National and local Civil Society Organizations and Community-Based Organizations also played a pivotal role in this process.



### Collaboration with National Ministries

At the national level, the UN collaborated with various Ministries:

- **Ministry of Finance and Business Development:** Public finance management and regional inclusion.
- **Ministry of Sea:** Fisheries governance and blue economy.
- **Ministry of Agriculture and Environment:** Agricultural value chains adapted to climate change and ecosystem protection.
- **Ministry of Justice:** Institutional capacities for fighting crime, drug trafficking, and promoting human rights.
- **Ministry of Health:** Strengthening the national health system.
- **Ministry of Territorial Cohesion:** Enhancing local capacities and fostering local development.
- **Ministry of Family, Inclusion and Social Development:** Eradicating extreme poverty and expanding social protection schemes.
- **Ministry of Digital Economy:** Strategic development and partnerships on digital transformation.



### Top Bilateral and Multilateral Partners (2024)

The top partners contributing to the USD 16.3 million budget in 2024 were:

- **Luxembourg, European Union, China, Spain, USA, and Portugal** (37%).
- **Republic of Korea, Finland, Japan, Germany, Sweden, Norway, and France** contributed financially.
- **China, Brazil, and others** provided technical cooperation and knowledge exchange.



### Funding

In 2024, the funding for UNCT Cabo Verde came from diverse sources. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) contributed 22% of the budget, while the Joint SDG Fund, UNTFHS, and the Montreal Protocol provided additional resources. Public-Private Partnerships from Gavi COVAX AMC, GPE, and the AKELIUS Foundation made up 2.4% of the total funding. UN Core Funds accounted for 30%, reflecting strong support from Member States.



### Collective Efforts and Achievements

The collective efforts of the UNCT and the RC in mobilizing agencies' core funds, global and vertical funds for the country as well as public-private partnerships resulted in the mobilization of USD 9.4 million (58%) of the 2024 joint work plan.



### Integration of International Finance Institutions

The International Finance Institutions were also a part of the expanded UN family in Cabo Verde. The IMF and the AfDB joined the UN Country Team in 2024, further broadening the scope of collaborative development efforts. The strategic alliance with the World Bank was enhanced through advocacy and resource mobilization for the health sector and for the eradication of extreme poverty, in addition to joint efforts on the blue economy and digital transformation.



### Acknowledgment of Partners

The UNCT members express their sincere appreciation to all partners for the joint work and collective efforts undertaken to mobilize knowledge, technical expertise and financial resources to advance sustainable development for all in this second year of implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Framework 2023-2027.





**Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**  
WHO Director-General

Photo: © WHO

## HIGH-LEVEL UN ENGAGEMENT IN CABO VERDE

In 2024, Cabo Verde had the honor and privilege of receiving official visits from three Director-Generals/DGs of United Nations Agencies — an unprecedented milestone that highlights the country's international recognition as a model of commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals.



### World Health Organization (WHO)

Visit by **Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** – Director-General

The visit of the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, on the occasion of the historic declaration of Cabo Verde as malaria-free, underscored the country's remarkable achievements in public health.



### Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Visit by **Mr. Qu Dongyu** – Director-General

The visit of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Mr. QU Dongyu, reinforced support for national efforts toward food security and the sustainable development of the agricultural sector, fisheries and Blue economy.



### International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Visit by **Amy E. Pope** – Director-General

Meanwhile, the presence of the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Ms. Amy Pope, on the occasion of the International Conference on the Future Agenda of Action for Global Diaspora Engagement, reaffirmed Cabo Verde's strategic role in the global dialogue on migration, mobility, and connections with diaspora communities.



**Mr. Qu Dongyu**  
FAO Director-General

Photo: © FAO/Evandro Semedo



**Ms. Amy E. Pope**  
IOM Director-General

Photo: © IOM - Lucas Chandellier





# CABO VERDE AT A GLANCE

CABO VERDE



TERRITORY **4,030 KM²**



POPULATION

<b>522 531</b>	<b>49.7%</b>	<b>75.8%</b>	<b>1.5 million</b>	<b>71.6 years</b>
Total Population	Female	Urban	Diaspora	Life expectancy



ECONOMIC INDICATOR

<b>4 851 USD</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>12.4%</b>	<b>82.1%</b>	<b>111%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>17%</b>
PIB per capita	Agricultura sector	Industrial sector	Service sector	Public debt	Debt services	Remittances



POVERTY

<b>2.28%</b>	<b>24.75%</b>	<b>60.3%</b>
Extreme poverty rate	National poverty rate	Social protection coverage



LABOR MARKET

<b>51.3%</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	<b>26.4%</b>
Formal Employment	Unemployment rate	NEET



GENDER

<b>66%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>18.3%</b>
of Poor are Women	GBV	Teenage pregnancy



HEALTH

<b>36.8/100.000</b>	<b>12.3/1.000</b>	<b>82%</b>
Maternal mortality rate	Child mortality rate	Universal health coverage



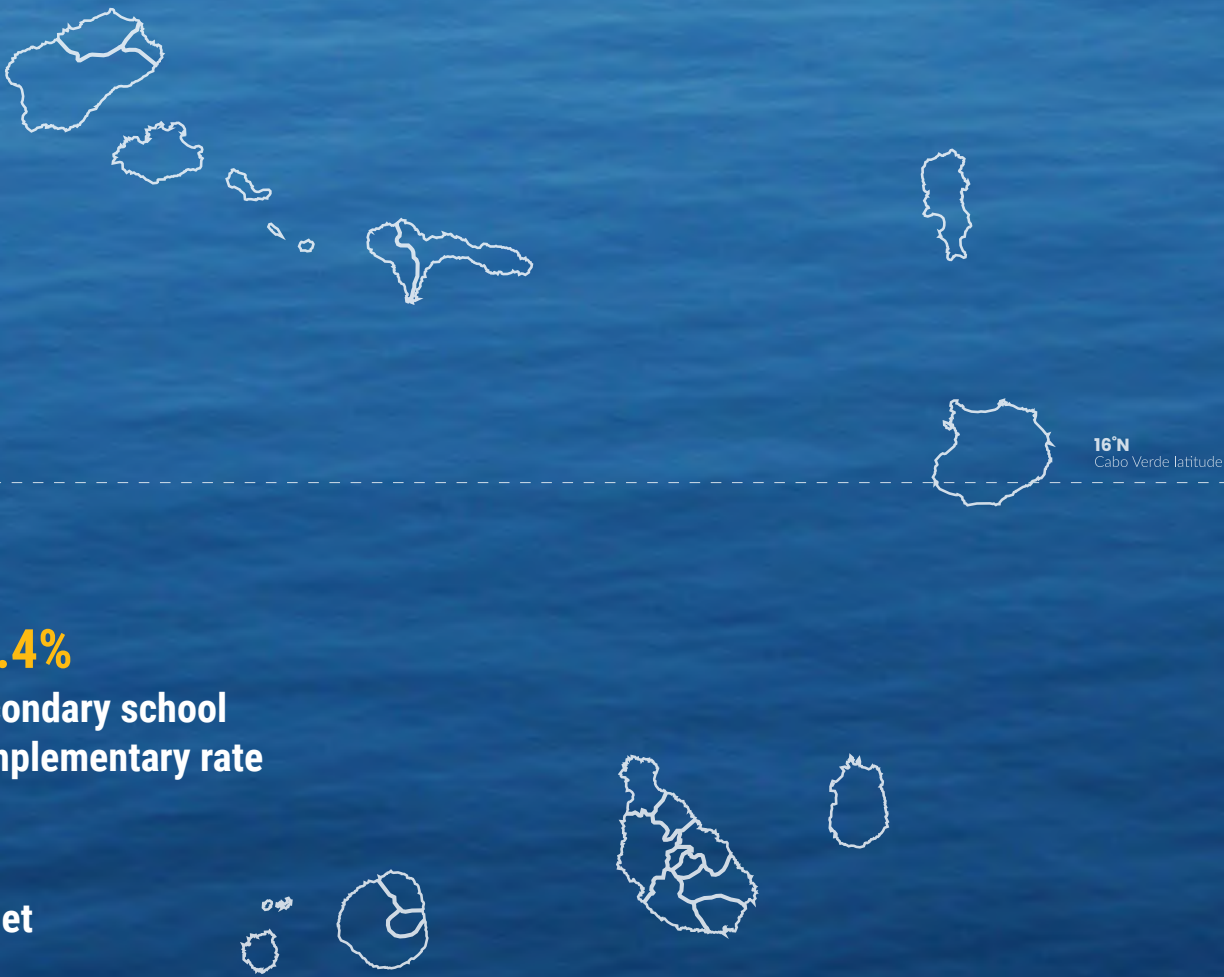
EDUCATION

<b>88.8%</b>	<b>92.6%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>67.2%</b>	<b>31.4%</b>
Literacy rate	Male	Female	Primary school enrolment	Secondary school enrolment	Secondary school complementary rate



ENERGY, WATER AND ICT

<b>94.3%</b>	<b>87.4%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>75.9%</b>	<b>20%</b>
Access to electricity	Access to clean water	Access to renewable energies	Access to internet	Access to internet with a computer







# 1

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

In 2024, Cabo Verde continued to navigate a multifaceted development landscape, balancing significant progress with persistent structural challenges. As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) and a lower-middle-income country (MIC), its vulnerabilities remain pronounced, exacerbated by climate change, youth emigration and limited fiscal space. However, the government's steadfast commitment to sustainable development, underpinned by the principles of leaving no one behind (LNOB), gender equality, resilience, and a human rights-based approach, has driven notable advancements. It is important to note that Cabo Verde has the second highest level of political stability, trailing only Botswana, in Africa, according to UNCTAD.







## ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

Cabo Verde's economy maintained robust growth, with GDP projected to grow 5.2% in 2024, propelled primarily by the tourism sector (which accounts for a quarter of the national GDP), with a record-high one million tourist arrivals in 2023. Recognizing the need for fiscal sustainability, the government intensified efforts to enhance domestic revenue generation, with more than 87% of the 2025 State Budget projected to be financed through endogenous revenue. High levels of remittances and concessional financing remain crucial in mitigating external financing constraints. Although recent fiscal deficits have been reduced, increased public spending and a 111% debt-to-GDP ratio underscore the need for continued fiscal prudence and structural reforms.

According to UNCTAD's 2024 Economic Development in Africa report, Cabo Verde is most vulnerable to polycrisis shocks in the economic domain. The country exhibits the seventh-highest exposure to economic shocks among African countries. Despite its economic vulnerability, Cabo Verde has demonstrated positive economic resilience to shocks and is recovering strongly from the impacts of COVID-19 and the Ukraine crisis.

**1 million**

Record number of tourist arrivals in 2023

Tourism accounts for 25% of national GDP.



**87%**

Of the 2025 State Budget will be financed through domestic revenue

A major shift toward fiscal sustainability.



## POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

The country has made remarkable strides in poverty reduction, with absolute poverty declining from 35.50% in 2015 to 24.75% in 2023, a reduction of 10.75 percentage points. Extreme poverty (based on the international threshold of \$2.15 per day per person) was halved during the same period, reaching 2.28% in 2023. These achievements reflect the effectiveness of robust social protection measures, including the expansion of the Social Insertion Income (RSI), which provided support to over 5,000 vulnerable households in 2024, with women heading the majority of these households.

However, persistent gender disparities in labor market participation, poverty rates and political representation continue to hinder equitable development. Additionally, challenges in secondary education completion—particularly among boys—highlight the need for targeted policies to enhance educational outcomes and workforce preparedness. Thanks to a high social progress index, Cabo Verde has the second-lowest social vulnerability rate in Africa after Mauritius, according to UNCTAD.

**2015 35.50%**

**2023 24.75%**

Absolute poverty reduced

A decline of 10.75 percentage points, reflecting progress in poverty reduction.



**2.28%**

Extreme poverty halved by 2023

Measured by the international threshold of \$2.15/day per person.



## STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

In addition to poverty reduction and social protection, Cabo Verde's 2024 development agenda was shaped by emerging priorities, including the diversification of the economy through digital transformation and development of the blue economy, renewable energy and climate resilience. The government's ambitious goal of achieving a 50% renewable energy penetration rate by 2030 and its commitment to digital innovation reflect a forward-looking strategy for sustainable and inclusive economic growth. However, gaps in technological access and skills require targeted interventions to ensure equitable benefits, particularly for women and marginalized groups.

Youth emigration remains a pressing concern, creating labor shortages in critical sectors such as health, education, the environment and tourism. Addressing this challenge necessitates comprehensive policies that can expand economic opportunities and enhance the country's capacity to retain its young workforce.

In the regional context, it is important to highlight the country's efforts to improve its integration in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

**50%**

Target renewable energy penetration by 2030

Part of Cabo Verde's green and sustainable growth strategy.



**4 critical sectors**

Labour shortages caused by youth emigration

Affecting health, education, environment and tourism.



**"... expansion of Social Insertion Income (RSI) supporting over 5,000 vulnerable households in 2024, with 85% of the most vulnerable households led by women".**



Photo: UN Cabo Verde





# 2

## UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

### 2.1 OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS IN 2024

In 2024, Cabo Verde reinforced its commitment to human rights and gender equality through key reporting and advocacy efforts. The country actively engaged in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), receiving over 205 recommendations to strengthen rights-based policies. It also submitted its official report to the CEDAW Committee, highlighting progress in advancing women's rights. Complementing this, the UN Country Team (UNCT) prepared a CEDAW Shadow Report, offering an independent assessment and strategic recommendations to accelerate gender equality.

Cabo Verde deepened its regional engagement within West Africa, particularly in maritime security, strengthening cooperation with ECOWAS and international partners to combat illicit activities and safeguard regional waters. At the national level, the localization of the SDGs advanced significantly, with all 22 municipalities implementing tailored action plans to integrate climate resilience, social inclusion and economic sustainability.

Photo: UN Cabo Verde

The country also expanded its **blue economy strategy** investments, focusing on sustainable fisheries, ocean-based renewable energy and coastal tourism to drive economic diversification. Participation in the **Global Partnership for Education (GPE)** marked a milestone in strengthening the education system, particularly in improving access and secondary school completion. Additionally, **social protection programs** such as the Social Insertion Income (RSI) were expanded, enhancing support for vulnerable households, particularly those led by women.

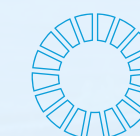
#### 205 UPR Recommendations Human Rights and Gender Equality

Cabo Verde received over 205 recommendations to strengthen rights-based policies and women's rights.



#### 22 local SDG plans Municipal Climate and Inclusion Action

All 22 municipalities implemented SDG plans with focus on inclusion, resilience and sustainability.



#### Increased Participation GPE Stronger Access to Education

Cabo Verde joined the Global Partnership for Education to improve access and school completion.





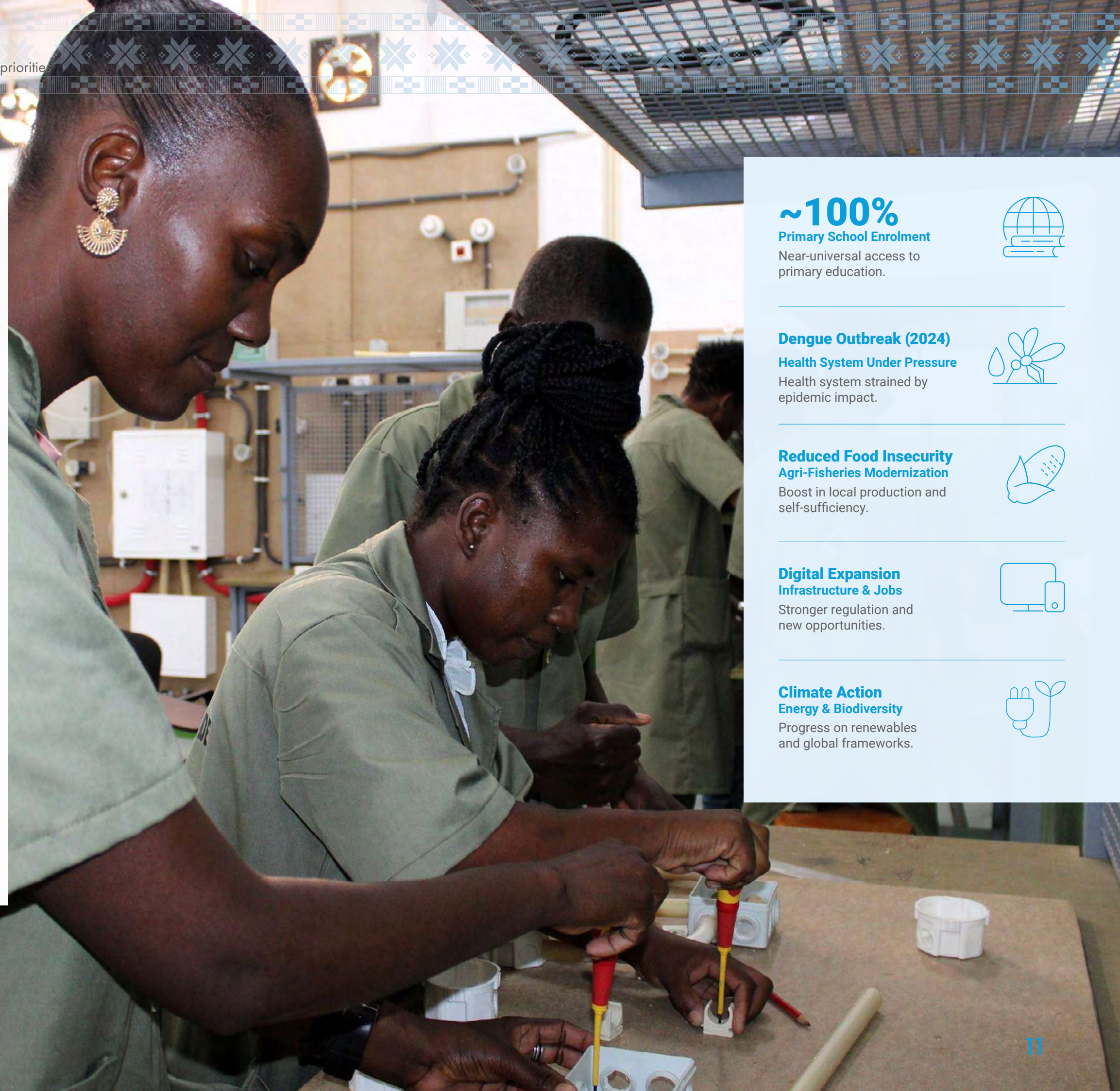


## PROGRESS AND TRENDS SINCE THE START OF THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK CYCLE

Educational progress in Cabo Verde remained a highlight, with primary school enrolment approaching 100%, although challenges such as the number of secondary school dropouts and disparities for lower-income families persisted. Health sector advancements included the scaling up of universal health coverage and improved care for non-communicable diseases. During the course of 2024, Cabo Verde faced a significant dengue outbreak, straining the national health system and disrupting ongoing development efforts, particularly in public health, education, and tourism, while underscoring the urgent need for enhanced vector control measures, health infrastructure resilience and community awareness campaigns to prevent future epidemics.

In agriculture and fisheries significant efforts in resource mobilization particularly with the GEF (Global Environment Facility) agricultural innovations with new technologies to enhance soil, plants and animal health strengthening food systems governance, social protection to reduce food insecurity, gender planning framework and key strategic partnerships with public and private entities particularly in the blue and green economy.. Cabo Verde's digital transformation agenda gained momentum with strengthened regulatory frameworks and infrastructure investment, facilitating economic diversification and creating new job opportunities. Additionally, the country sustained its leadership in climate action, with renewable energy transitions and the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Photo: Joint Office UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA - Cabo Verde



**~100%**

**Primary School Enrolment**

Near-universal access to primary education.



**Dengue Outbreak (2024)**

**Health System Under Pressure**

Health system strained by epidemic impact.



**Reduced Food Insecurity**

**Agri-Fisheries Modernization**

Boost in local production and self-sufficiency.



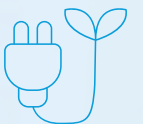
**Digital Expansion**  
**Infrastructure & Jobs**

Stronger regulation and new opportunities.



**Climate Action**  
**Energy & Biodiversity**

Progress on renewables and global frameworks.





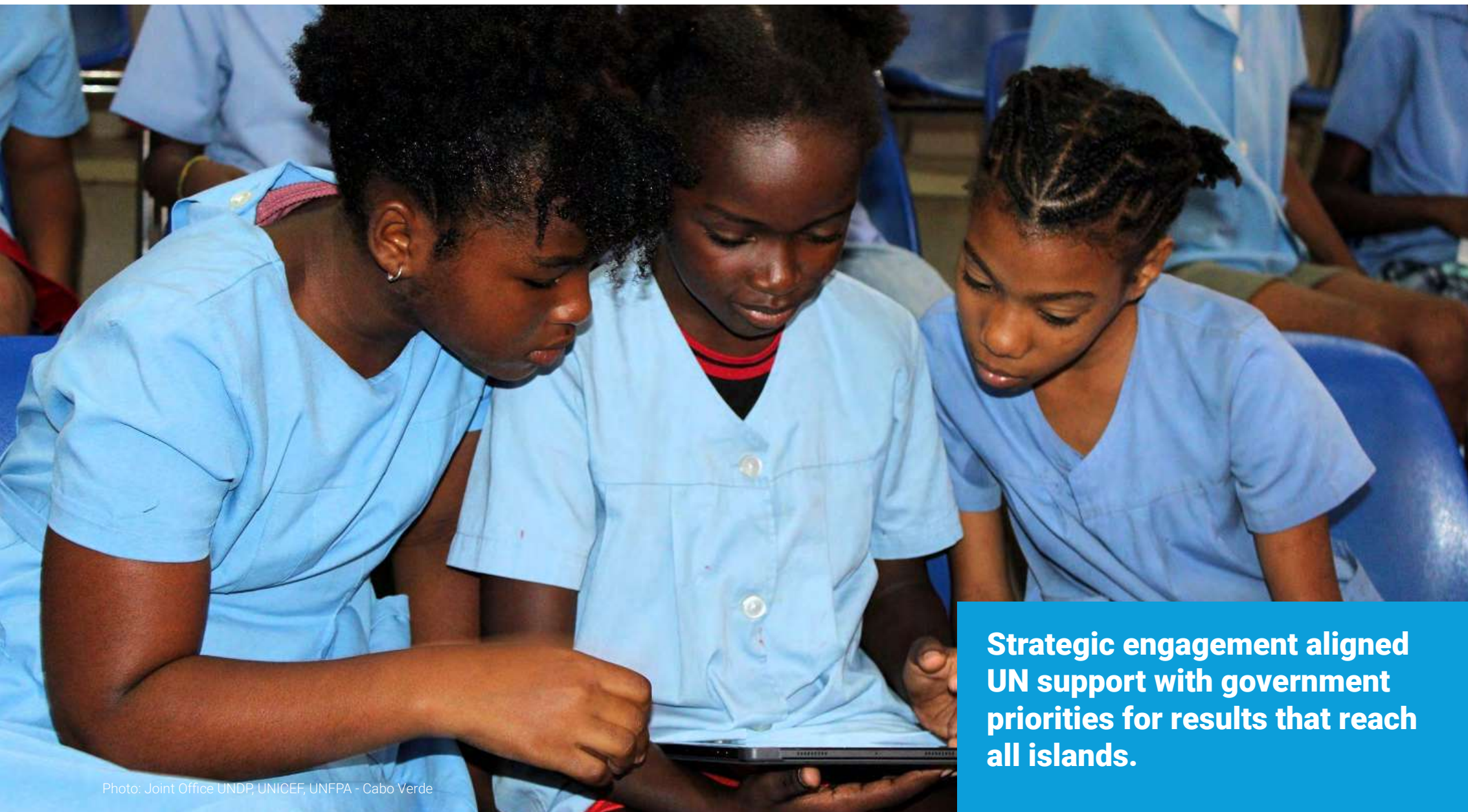


Photo: Joint Office UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA - Cabo Verde

**Strategic engagement aligned UN support with government priorities for results that reach all islands.**

## UNCT RESPONSIVENESS AND RESULTS IN 2024

The six SDG transitions pushed by the UNCT were: Job and Social Protection, Energy, Digital, Education, Food System and Climate Action. The RC has led the UNCT through high-level dialogue, policy advocacy and actions. Of particular note is the fact that the UN hosted high-level dialogue and deep interaction with the Prime Minister at the UN House in 2024, where he shared his expectations for the UN's work, asking us to focus on key areas and transitions in a scalable manner able to reach all islands.



## SDG Transitions



**Jobs and Social Protection**



**Energy**



**Digital**



**Education**



**Climate Action**



**Food Systems**

## GLOBAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

In 2024, Cabo Verde strengthened its collaboration with key global initiatives. The country successfully joined the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), which provides critical support to enhance educational planning, strengthen learning systems and address disparities in access to quality education across all islands, particularly for marginalized groups. Cabo Verde continued its engagement with the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), further improving the country's immunization programs, which was instrumental in securing vaccines, bolstering health infrastructure, and expanding access to essential healthcare services.

The UNCT provided major support to the government's engagement in the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States, supporting Cabo Verde's leadership in the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, and South China Seas (AIS) region and the convening of two side meetings with UN agencies (one on SDG localization and other on the role of culture in SIDS' actions).

The President of Cabo Verde was invited as a special guest of the UN Secretary General to speak at the Opening Session of the Youth-led Summit of the Future Action Day, prior to the Summit of the Future.

The UNCT also supported Cabo Verde in sharing its experience on debt-for-nature swaps, financing initiatives to transition to a green economy and energy transition with all African countries in the UNECA's Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.





## 2.2 UN COOPERATION FRAMEWORK (UNCF 2023-2027)

# Strategic Priority 1

### STRENGTHENING HUMAN TALENT AND SOCIAL CAPITAL

#### PARTNERS

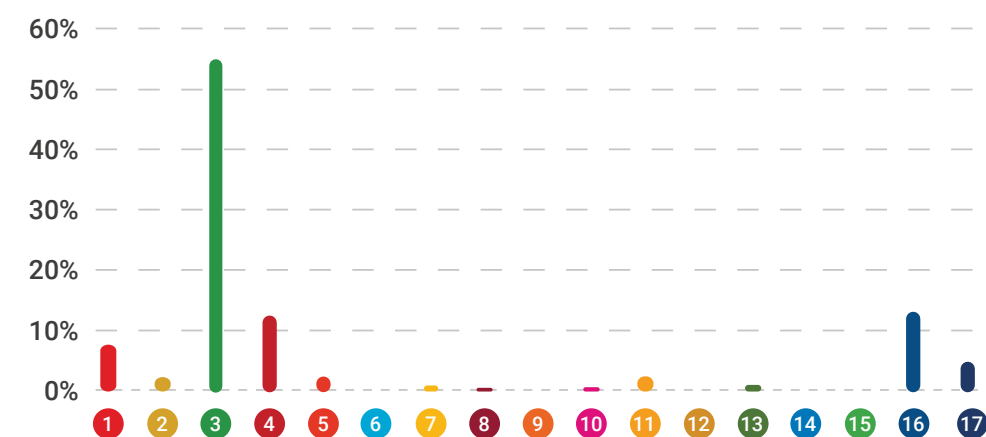
##### UN Agencies



##### Key Development Partners

AKELIUS Foundation · AMC-30 CDS Funds · EU · France · GEF Small Grants Programme · GPE · Japan · Luxembourg · NORAD · Portugal · Sweden · Spain · UNTFHS · US INL and UN Core Funding

##### Contribution to the SDGs



**Figure 1**—Where is the money going? How the UN contributes to the SDGs. The graphic provides a visual representation of available resource allocations that are contributing to SDGs, as selected by each UN entity in the Joint Work Plan. Where a sub-output contributes to multiple SDGs, the available funding is divided equally across the SDGs Goals (based on the tagged SDG targets). Source: [UN INFO](#)



**Figure 2**—Resources available, required, and expended in 2024 for Strategic Priority 1. Source: [UN INFO](#)

This strategic priority focuses on advancing Cabo Verde's social development by fostering human capital, promoting social inclusion, and eradicating extreme poverty. The initiative emphasizes improving equitable access to high-quality, essential social services and protection, particularly for vulnerable groups, by strengthening national capacities and systems, empowering rights holders, and enhancing policy and regulatory frameworks.

In 2024, Strategic Priority 1 (SP 1) achieved significant progress in advancing social inclusion, expanding access to essential services, and strengthening institutional capacities to eradicate extreme poverty. Through targeted interventions, national institutions enhanced their ability to deliver inclusive social protection, quality education, and resilient healthcare services, ensuring that the most vulnerable populations were not left behind.

From a financial perspective, SP 1 demonstrated positive resource mobilization and execution, with 87% of available funds utilized to implement key initiatives. Out of the \$3.5 million allocated, \$3.1 million was expended. The total required resources for 2024 were estimated at \$4.1 million, reflecting a continued demand for investment in human and social development. This financial execution underscores the commitment to optimizing resources for maximum impact, ensuring sustainable progress in human capital development and social protection.

## 87%

**Execution Rate of SP1 Funds**

\$3.1 million of the \$3.5 million allocated was utilized in 2024.

## \$3.5 million

**Total Resources Available in 2024**

Reflects strong and ongoing demand for investment in social development.







### MONITORING FRAMEWORK

This chart presents the progress of Outcome 1’ indicators, tracking key development areas from Baseline to Target 2027. It compares: Baseline (starting point), Reached 2024 (interim progress) Target 2027 (goal to achieve set in the CF)

Each outcome indicator is linked to a SDG indicator, highlighting progress toward key commitments. This visualization provides a snapshot of achievements, gaps, and future targets to support decision-making and strategic planning.

Photo: © FAO/Ivandro Cabral

	Baseline	Reached 2024	Target 2027
<div> <div>1 NO POVERTY</div> <div>  </div> </div>	<b>OUTCOMES INDICATORS   Social Protection Coverage.</b>		
	51.4%	60.6%	63.2%
<div> <div>1 NO POVERTY</div> <div>  </div> </div>	<b>OUTCOMES INDICATORS   Access to Basic Services.</b>		
	42%	42.5%	50%
<div> <div>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</div> <div>  </div> </div>	<b>OUTCOMES INDICATORS   Essential Health Services</b>		
	69%	81%	89%
<div> <div>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</div> <div>  </div> </div>	<b>OUTPUT INDICATORS   People benefiting from UN supported health services with UN support</b>		
	150 065	253 331	311 182
<div> <div>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</div> <div>  </div> </div>	<b>OUTPUT INDICATORS   Level of strength of the primary health care with UN support (WHO classification scale 0 to 41)</b>		
	17	23	28
<div> <div>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</div> <div>  </div> </div>	<b>OUTCOMES INDICATORS   Education Completion Rate</b>		
	79.9%	76.3%	96%
<div> <div>5 GENDER EQUALITY</div> <div>  </div> </div>	<b>OUTPUT INDICATORS   Laws &amp; regulations supporting eradication violence against women &amp; children with UN support</b>		
	3	7	9
<div> <div>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</div> <div>  </div> </div>	<b>OUTPUT INDICATORS   Migrants and displaced people, benefiting from integrated and targeted interventions with UN support</b>		
	0	170	105
<div> <div>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</div> <div>  </div> </div>	<b>OUTCOMES INDICATORS   Birth Registration Under 5</b>		
	98%	98%	100%





## OUTPUT 1.1.1: Strengthened institutional capacities

Significant progress on the expansion of social protection, with 60% of the population being covered by at least one social protection scheme, was made in enhancing institutional capacities to deliver innovative and inclusive social protection services. A major achievement was the update of the “Single Social Registry,” which integrated 15 social programmes and directly benefited 35,299 individuals by ensuring targeted support for vulnerable populations. Institutional capacity was also strengthened with the implementation of the Health Human Resources Financial Management Information System and the optimization of the DHIS-2. To support evidence-based decision-making, the Statistical Bulletin on Social Protection (2021–2023) was released, providing critical insights into the performance and reach of social protection systems. Institutional capacity was further strengthened through the training of 150 professionals, including health workers and legal experts, in forensic sciences, improving their ability to address child protection issues. Efforts to enhance resilience also saw the implementation of the National Telecommunications Emergency Plan, under which municipal technicians were trained to respond effectively to emergencies. Moreover, healthcare infrastructure was bolstered with the installation of 10 medical waste incinerators nationwide, ensuring safer and more sustainable healthcare waste disposal practices.

## OUTPUT 1.1.2: Empowered vulnerable populations through access to quality services

The education sector saw substantial progress, with **800 educators, including teachers, school leaders, and childcare professionals, trained to provide inclusive, high-quality education.** This effort was complemented by the **provision of digital and scientific learning resources to 800 children**, enabling them to enhance their skills in languages, mathematics, and sciences, particularly in priority municipalities. In rural areas, nearly **1,000 individuals benefited from improved access to clean water and electricity through solar-powered systems**, significantly enhancing their living standards and resilience. In healthcare, **Cabo Verde achieved the milestone of being declared a malaria-free country** while also strengthening its response to dengue outbreaks through risk communication and community engagement initiatives. Additional progress was made in expanding access to essential medicines, as Cabo Verde advanced its qualification process to participate in the **joint procurement mechanism for Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**, ensuring a more consistent and affordable supply of medicines. Addressing mental health needs, **129 mental health professionals were trained to support children and adolescents in vulnerable communities.** Public awareness was also prioritized with the **“Protect–Children Free from Sexual Violence” campaign**, which raised awareness about sexual violence against children and reinforced community efforts to combat this issue.

## OUTPUT 1.1.3: Enhanced policies and regulatory frameworks

The **approval of the new Statute of the Child and Adolescent**, along with updated guidelines, reinforced the legal and operational framework for protecting children and adolescents. Complementing these efforts, a national **Strategy for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities was approved and operationalized**, providing enhanced access to essential services and fostering social inclusion. Additionally, the **launch of the 2024–2028 Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategic Plan** ensured a comprehensive approach to achieving equitable access to reproductive health services for all, reinforcing Cabo Verde’s commitment to addressing the health needs of vulnerable populations.

## CHALLENGES

In 2024, some interventions encountered challenges, including delays in implementation and technical capacity-building, which affected health and waste management efforts. Gaps in monitoring and evaluation systems highlighted the need for enhanced data accuracy to support informed decision-making. Additionally, delays in the approval of key strategies impacted on long-term planning processes. Financial constraints and disparities in resource distribution further emphasized the importance of equitable service delivery and timely allocation of budgets. Nevertheless, progress continues toward achieving the intended goals in 2025.

**35,299** individuals  
Benefited from the updated Single Social Registry

Integrated 15 social programmes to improve targeted support for vulnerable populations.

**800** Educators trained  
Strengthening inclusive and quality education

Training included teachers, school leaders and childcare professionals.

**Statute of the Child and Adolescent approved**  
Improved child protection legal framework

Reinforces national commitment to children’s rights and wellbeing.





## SP 1 STORY

### Cabo Verde strengthens quality care for older adults

Ana Rita's life has improved significantly since she began attending regular consultations at her local health centre in the city of Assomada, on Santiago Island. She is gradually resuming her daily life after suffering a stroke during the COVID-19 pandemic, benefiting from Cabo Verde's ongoing efforts to enhance healthcare services for older adults.

"I feel truly welcomed at this centre, where we have our own space set aside for us. The care and attention we are given here have a profound impact on our well-being," says Ana Rita.

Cabo Verde's remarkable progress in healthcare and socioeconomic development over the past decades has had a significant impact on life expectancy, which reached 75 years in 2020. This steady increase over the years has brought new challenges for the national healthcare system.

"WHO leadership has been instrumental in implementing the Integrated Care for Older People (ICOPE) strategy, providing technical support for the adaptation and adoption of guidelines aimed at ensuring integrated and continuous care throughout life," states Edith Pereira, Acting Head of the WHO office in Cabo Verde







# Strategic Priority 2

INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION, PROSPERITY,  
AND JUST TRANSITION TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

## PARTNERS

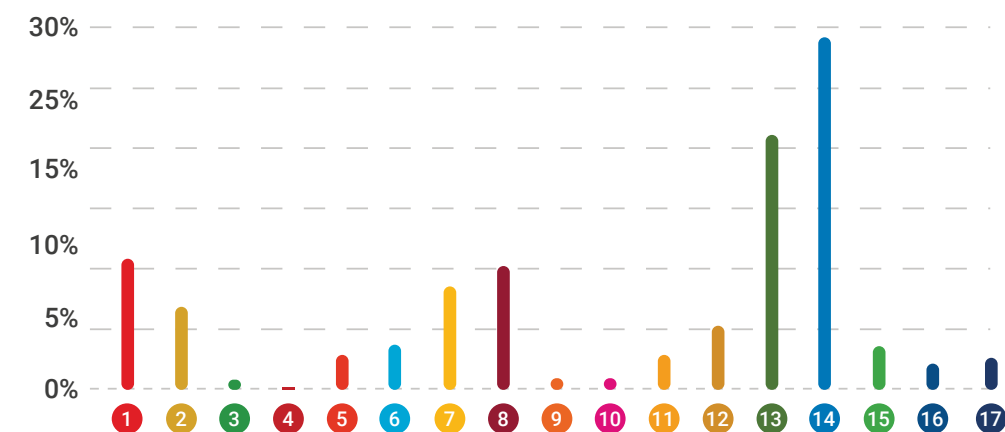
### UN Agencies



### Key Development Partners

China, Finland, GCF, GCF RPS, GEF, GEF Small Grants Programme, IDF, Joint SDG Fund, Luxembourg, Montreal Protocol, Republic of Korea, Spain, and UN Core Funding

### Contribution to the SDGs



**Figure 3**—Where is the money going? How the UN contributes to the SDGs. The graphic provides a visual representation of available resource allocations that are contributing to SDGs, as selected by each UN entity in the Joint Work Plan. Where a sub-output contributes to multiple SDGs, the available funding is divided equally across the SDGs Goals (based on the tagged SDG targets). Source: [UN INFO](#)



**Figure 4**— Resources available, required, and expended in 2024 for Strategic Priority 2. Source: UN INFO

This strategic priority focuses on advancing Cabo Verde's ambitions for economic recovery, sustainable growth and diversification, while simultaneously addressing environmental sustainability, climate action and resilience. It emphasizes the transition to a blue and green economy that promotes decent job creation, food security and inclusive prosperity. Additionally, it leverages the potential of digital transformation and regional and global integration.

In 2024, Strategic Priority 2 saw significant strides made in driving inclusive economic transformation, sustainable growth and environmental resilience in Cabo Verde. Key achievements included expand food security initiatives linked to strengthening value chains ou expand food security initiatives and strengthen value chains. At the same time, the adoption of renewable energy, climate resilience measures and ecosystem restoration and conservation efforts reinforced a just transition towards a green and blue economy. By integrating innovation, inclusion and sustainability, these efforts contributed to economic diversification, strengthened livelihoods and a more resilient and equitable future for all Cabo Verdeans.

From a financial perspective, \$8.2 million in total resources were available, with \$6.3 million expended, representing 77.3% of total resources utilized. Notably, expenditures grew from \$5.3 million in 2023 to \$6.3 million in 2024, reflecting intensified implementation efforts to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic transformation.

**\$8.6 million**

**Total Required Resources for SP2 in 2024**

\$6.3 million expended, representing 77.3% execution.

### Blue & Green Economy

#### Advancing a Just and Inclusive Transition

Efforts focused on renewable energy, ecosystem restoration and conservation, and climate resilience.

### SMEs & Skills Boosted

#### Entrepreneurship and Technical Training Expanded

Support for food security, SME development and skills for decent employment.





### MONITORING FRAMEWORK

### OUTCOME 2 INDICATORS:

This chart presents the progress of Outcome 2' indicators, tracking key development areas from Baseline to Target 2027. It compares: Baseline (starting point), Reached 2024 (interim progress) Target 2027 (goal to achieve set in the CF).

Each outcome indicator is linked to a SDG indicator, highlighting progress toward key commitments. This visualization provides a snapshot of achievements, gaps, and future targets to support decision-making and strategic planning.

	Baseline	Reached 2024	Target 2027
<div>4</div> <div>QUALITY EDUCATION</div> <div></div>	<b>OUTCOME 2 INDICATORS</b>   ICT skills: Programming language		
	13%	18%	23%
<div>4</div> <div>QUALITY EDUCATION</div> <div></div>	<b>OUTCOME 2 INDICATORS</b>   ICT skills: Commands use		
	83%	76%	93%
<div>4</div> <div>QUALITY EDUCATION</div> <div></div>	<b>OUTPUT INDICATORS</b>   Capacity (in megawatt) in installed renewable energy per technology, with UN's support		
	0,39	1,3	3,6
<div>7</div> <div>AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</div> <div></div>	<b>OUTPUT INDICATORS</b>   People with access to clean, affordable, and sustainable energy with UN support		
	33,791	42,558	47,901
<div>7</div> <div>AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</div> <div></div>	<b>OUTCOME 2 INDICATORS</b>   Level of strength of the primary health care (WHO classification scale 0 to 41)		
	17	23	28
<div>9</div> <div>INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</div> <div></div>	<b>OUTCOME 2 INDICATORS</b>   Manufacturing industry: Per capita USD		
	8.6%	4.7%	12%
<div>9</div> <div>INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</div> <div></div>	<b>OUTCOME 2 INDICATORS</b>   Manufacturing industry: Per capita USD		
	211	205	316
<div>12</div> <div>RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</div> <div></div>	<b>OUTPUT INDICATORS</b>   Number of national policies instruments for sustainable consumption and production with UN support		
	0	5	16
<div>13</div> <div>CLIMATE ACTION</div> <div></div>	<b>OUTPUT INDICATORS</b>   Extend of enhancement and implementantion of NDC with UN support		
	Scale 2	Scale 3	Scale 4
<div>13</div> <div>CLIMATE ACTION</div> <div></div>	<b>OUTPUT INDICATORS</b>   Reduction of CO <sup>2</sup> emissions (Ton) with UN support		
	0	1168	490





## OUTCOME 2.1: A MORE SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE, DIVERSIFIED, AND INTEGRATED ECONOMY

### OUTPUT 2.1.1: STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS AND FRAMEWORKS

One of the highlights of 2024 was the development of Cabo Verde's first National AfCFTA Strategy, aimed at expanding access to the continental market. Advances in **work safety and intellectual property were achieved** through the regulation of mandatory work accident insurance, the adoption of ordinances on labour safety, and customised training programmes that reinforced the **Intellectual Property Code**. The engagement of the diaspora in economic development was bolstered by the **launch of the Diaspora Investment Guide**, a critical tool to facilitate investments and leverage the diaspora's contributions to national development. Moreover, the capacity of labour institutions was reinforced through the training of 20 labour inspectors and **the production of an Inspector's Manual**, while the ongoing **regulation of mandatory insurance against work accidents and occupational diseases** laid the foundations for safer working environments. Complementing these efforts, 30 trainers from trade unions were capacitated to support the **transition from informal to formal economies**, promoting formalisation and improved social protection frameworks.

### OUTPUT 2.1.2: SUPPORTING SME'S AND ENTREPRENEURS

The certification of 47 trainers in the **GET Ahead methodology** equipped them to promote inclusive entrepreneurship among women and youth, creating new opportunities for economic participation. The **YouthConnekt programme directly benefited 3,244 youth, leading to the creation of 115 jobs and the financing of 15 projects that collectively impacted over 2,000 additional young people**. These achievements were complemented by the development of **52 business plans, 99% of which were prepared by women**, showcasing a growing capacity for entrepreneurial growth and innovation. In rural areas, community-based entrepreneurship initiatives supported **500 families by rehabilitating fishing and refrigeration equipment and fostering cooperative development**, thereby enhancing livelihoods and promoting inclusive participation in value chains. Additionally, tourism diversification efforts supported this output, with stakeholder capacity-building leading to the **creation of a Circular and Sustainable Tourism framework**. **Cultural and sporting events further boosted local livelihoods** by generating diversified income streams and strengthening tourism-related SMEs.



Photo: © FAO/ Giuseppe Carotenuto



Photo: © FAO/Sandro Fonseca

### OUTPUT 2.1.3: IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY

A total of **20,000 schoolchildren benefited from improved school nutrition programmes**, complemented by a climate early warning system that enhanced community resilience and preparedness. The **agricultural value chain was bolstered through the construction of five new storage facilities and the distribution of 31,700 specialised containers**, ensuring the safe transport and preservation of agricultural products. These interventions addressed immediate food security concerns while creating a sustainable foundation for culturally appropriate access to safe and nutritious food.

### OUTPUT 2.1.4: BUILDING SKILLS FOR DECENT JOBS

A total of **1,532 individuals, 88% of whom were women, received training in small business management and soft skills using the GET Ahead methodology**, fostering improved entrepreneurial competencies. This initiative was further strengthened by the certification of three master trainers, ensuring the sustainability of these capacity-building efforts. Moreover, **socio-economic mapping of 360 youth (203 men and 157 women) in urban areas** provided a basis for developing targeted policies and programmes, facilitating the integration of young people into decent work opportunities and strengthening their economic prospects.





## OUTCOME 2.2: IMPROVED PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND MANAGEMENT OF MARINE AND TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY

### OUTPUT 2.2.1: RAISING AWARENESS ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND RISKS

A total of **2,571 individuals benefited from strengthened conservation measures across four protected areas, with 76 hectares of land and 23 hectares of marine habitats restored**, ensuring the protection of key species such as turtles, sharks, and seabirds. Additionally, the **empowerment of 19 NGOs and 466 beneficiaries** across Santiago, Santo Antão, São Vicente, and Fogo enhanced community capacity to manage natural resources effectively.

### OUTPUT 2.2.2: STRENGTHENING ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

Marine ecosystem management was bolstered by the “**Management of Multiple Sectoral Threats**” project, which delivered technical training and a structured training plan. A new general legal regime for fishing activities, incorporating the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, gender equality considerations, and co-management mechanisms, has been formulated and submitted to the Ministry of the Sea. In addition, a draft decree specifically focused on the regulation of artisanal fishing has been proposed for adoption. Training of 58 participants from key institutions such as DNPA, IMar, IGP, NGOs and the private sector on EAF. A 10-year **strategy for sustainable value chains in species such as black mackerel and small tunas was published**, and **\$11 million was mobilised under the Blue and Green Islands (BGI) integrated programme**, supporting biodiversity, protected areas, and the blue economy.

### OUTPUT 2.2.3: IMPROVING FRAMEWORKS FOR CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE

Climate resilience frameworks were advanced through the submission of key national documents, including the **1BUR, Fourth National Communication, Greenhouse Gas Inventory, and the Climate Law**. Localised climate action was supported by anti-erosion measures on Fogo and Santiago, awareness campaigns using **NDC summaries and a communication plan**. Additionally, the establishment of **10 Farmer Field Schools promoted agroecological solutions for family farming, directly benefiting 260 farmers** on Santiago and Santo Antão. A total of **\$10.73 million was mobilised for climate change, biodiversity, protected areas, and blue economy initiatives**, reinforcing resilience-building efforts.

### OUTPUT 2.2.4: PROMOTING INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**Solar panel installations on Brava Island and the connection of 70 families in Chã das Caldeiras, Fogo**, enhanced access to basic services, including health, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. **Additionally, the production of 1,115 m³ of water using 400 kWp of renewable energy, combined with training on energy efficiency and the maintenance of renewable technologies, strengthened the sustainable management of resources.**

### CHALLENGES

The implementation faced challenges such as limited stakeholder engagement and capacity-building efforts, which constrained the broader impact of training sessions and awareness campaigns. Delays in fund transfers and procurement processes slowed the progress of several initiatives, while coordination challenges in multi-stakeholder projects affected the timely alignment of priorities and resource allocation. Furthermore, disparities in the distribution of resources and project benefits highlighted the need for a more inclusive and equitable approach to ensure that outcomes effectively address the needs of all regions and communities.



Photo: UN Cabo Verde

**2,571 individuals**  
Benefited from conservation efforts

Across 4 protected areas, with land and marine habitats restored.

**\$21 million mobilized**  
For marine biodiversity and blue economy

Through the Blue and Green Islands (BGI) integrated programme.

**260 farmers reached**  
Agroecological solutions promoted in 10 Farmer Field Schools

Supporting climate resilience and sustainable agriculture.

**70 families connected**  
To solar-powered basic services in Chã das Caldeiras

Supporting climate resilience and sustainable agriculture.

**26,000 people benefited**  
Access to clean water through renewable energy

Expanded sustainable water supply for rural communities, enhancing agricultural production and improving living conditions.





## SP 2 STORY

### STORY

#### FILU SURF: “THE OCEAN IS MY PASSION, AND I AM GRATEFUL TO MAKE A LIVING FROM IT”

Filomeno Soares de Carvalho, better known as Filu, is a 43-year-old entrepreneur from Santiago Island and one of the winners of the second edition of the PROMEB II 2023 Ideas Competition.

It was on Sal Island that Filu found his true calling—making a living from the ocean by teaching water sports such as surfing and windsurfing. More than a decade ago, he turned his passion into a business by opening a surf school, which has since welcomed students from all over the world visiting Sal.

“My passion for the sea is what inspired me to start this school. I believe I have already overcome the toughest challenges in my business. My idea remained on paper for 15 years, and I faced many obstacles—knowing how to surf is one thing, but managing a business is something completely different. The business management skills I acquired through the PROMEB II programme made all the difference. One of the greatest benefits of this programme is the opportunity to gain deeper insights into our own projects. I developed skills in management and marketing, which have been crucial for my success.

My dream is to establish a foundation to fund startups because, during the competition, I saw many brilliant ideas from young entrepreneurs, and that gives me hope for the future.”

The Ideas Competition was established through a partnership between the FAO and Pró Empresa to implement PROMEB II (the Blue Economy Promotion Programme). This initiative includes an action plan focused on business incubation, capacity building, and facilitating the creation of new jobs and entrepreneurial ventures within the Blue Economy sector. The programme is funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).



**“The ocean is my passion,  
and I am grateful to make  
a living from it.”**

*— Filu, Blue Economy entrepreneur*



Photo: © FAO/João Abreu





## STORY

### HARNESSING SOLAR ENERGY TO POWER WATER ACCESS IN RURAL CABO VERDE

Ribeirão Égua, a rural community in Santa Cruz with over 500 inhabitants, has long struggled with unreliable and costly electricity, limiting agricultural production and economic opportunities. To tackle this challenge, the Associação Missão Comunitária com Visão (MCCV), with co-funding and technical assistance from UNIDO under the GEF-funded “Energy-Water Nexus” project, supported the installation of a 10 kWp photovoltaic (PV) system to power a water pump. This innovation is ensuring reliable access to underground water for irrigation, transforming the local agricultural landscape.

The system produces 150 m<sup>3</sup> of water daily, with 5% allocated for drinking and the remainder used for irrigation through a drip system. This has enabled 30 farming families to cultivate crops for both household consumption and commercial sale, fostering food security and economic resilience. Beyond agriculture, the solar-powered system also supplies energy to key community facilities, including a school, kindergarten, and health clinic, meeting 76% of their total energy needs.

By integrating renewable energy with water resource management, the project enhances sustainability, improves living conditions, and strengthens the local economy. It stands as a model of sustainable development, demonstrating how clean energy solutions can empower communities and drive economic growth in rural areas.

#### Location

##### Ribeirão Égua

Rural community in Santa Cruz over 500 inhabitants



### 10 kWp

#### Solar PV system installed

Provides clean energy to power water access and community infrastructure.



### 150 m<sup>3</sup> of water/day

#### Daily water production capacity

5% for drinking, 95% for irrigation through a drip system.



### 30 farming families

#### Benefiting from irrigation

#### for food and income

Supporting food security and commercial agricultural activity.access and community infrastructure.







# Strategic Priority 3

## TRANSFORMATIVE GOVERNANCE AND GREATER TERRITORIAL COHESION

### PARTNERS

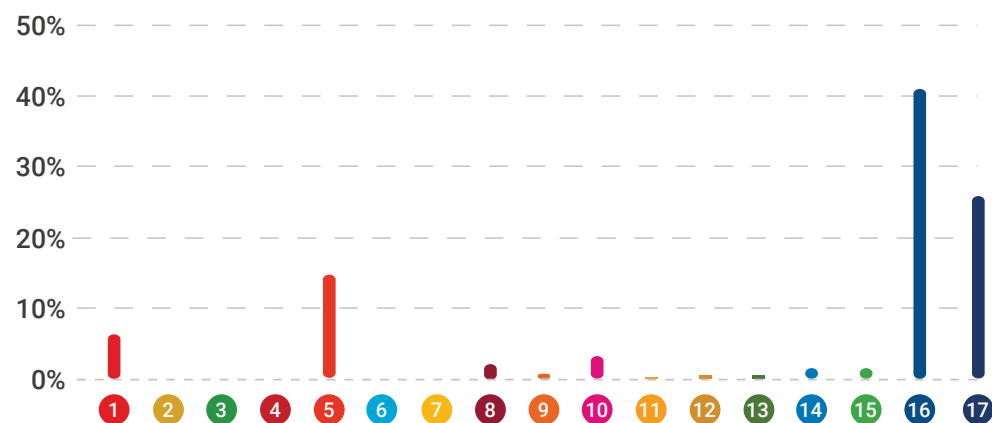
#### UN Agencies



#### Key Development Partners

EU, Finland, GEF, Germany, GIZ, IDF, Joint SDG Fund, Luxembourg, Spain, UN Core Funding, UNDA, USA, and US INL

#### Contribution to the SDGs



**Figure 6--** Where is the money going? How the UN contributes to the SDGs. The graphic provides a visual representation of available resource allocations that are contributing to SDGs, as selected by each UN entity in the Joint Work Plan. Where a sub-output contributes to multiple SDGs, the available funding is divided equally across the SDGs Goals (based on the tagged SDG targets). Source: [UN INFO](#)



**Figure 7--** Resources available, required, and expended in 2024 for Strategic Priority 3. Source: [UN INFO](#)

This strategic priority supports Cabo Verde in achieving greater territorial cohesion, decentralisation, the consolidation of national sovereignty and the strengthening of democratic governance. It also aims to ensure equitable access to justice, fulfil the country's human rights obligations, enhance accountability and foster partnerships for development. Women and youth remain central to these efforts.

In 2024, SP 3 made significant strides in strengthening democratic governance, enhancing transparency and fostering inclusion in Cabo Verde. Key achievements included improvements in justice and security systems, with enhanced capacities to combat organised crime. At the same time, public trust and accountability were reinforced through the expansion of open data initiatives and the modernisation of legal identification systems. Efforts to strengthen national institutions resulted in more effective policy implementation, while municipalities advanced financial management practices to reduce territorial disparities. Additionally, the national statistics system was strengthened, producing high-quality disaggregated data to support evidence-based policymaking and ensure a stronger focus on inclusion and tackling inequalities.

In 2024, the total required resources for Strategic Priority 3 were \$5.9 million, while \$5.2 million was made available for implementation. By the end of the year, \$3.6 million (69%) of the available resources had been utilised. The financial execution demonstrates strong resource mobilisation and effective budget utilisation, ensuring tangible progress in governance, territorial cohesion, and inclusion efforts.

## \$5.9 million

Total resources required for SP3 in 2024

Reflects the scope of investment needed for governance and inclusion efforts.

**Modernised ID systems & open data**  
Enhanced public trust and accountability

Supports transparency and inclusive governance.

**Women & youth prioritised**  
At the centre of democratic governance efforts

Ensuring inclusion in justice, participation and policy processes.

**High-quality disaggregated data**  
Strengthened national statistics system

Improves evidence-based policymaking and addresses inequalities.












MONITORING FRAMEWORK

OUTCOME INDICATORS 3:

Monitoring Framework”, substitua todo o texto por este outro texto abaixo dividido em 2 parágrafos (o mesmo que o texto da página 14) “This chart presents the progress of Outcome 3’ indicators, tracking key development areas from Baseline to Target 2027. It compares: Baseline (starting point), Reached 2024 (interim progress) Target 2027 (goal to achieve set in the CF).

Each outcome indicator is linked to a SDG indicator, highlighting progress toward key commitments. This visualization provides a snapshot of achievements, gaps, and future targets to support decision-making and strategic planning.

	Baseline	Reached 2024	Target 2027
<div><div>5</div><div>GENDER EQUALITY</div><div></div></div> <div>OUTCOME 3 INDICATORS   Seats by women in the Parliament</div>	37.5	36.7	40
<div><div>16</div><div>PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</div><div></div></div> <div>OUTCOME 3 INDICATORS  National human rights institutions in line with Paris principles</div>	0	0	1
<div><div>16</div><div>PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</div><div></div></div> <div>OUTPUT INDICATORS   Number of new people registered with legal identity, with UN’s support</div>	0	1,335	7,000
<div><div>16</div><div>PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</div><div></div></div> <div>OUTPUT INDICATORS   Extend of support to mechanism inconformit with human rights standards with UN’s support</div>	Partial	Partial	Total/Full
<div><div>17</div><div>PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</div><div></div></div> <div>OUTPUT INDICATORS   Degree of alignment of national budgeting system with SDGs including through gender-responsive budgeting, supported by the UN</div>	Limited	Limited	Moderate





### OUTPUT 3.1.1: EMPOWERING PEOPLE AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil society actors have become more influential in governance monitoring, playing a pivotal role in budget oversight and gender equality advocacy. These advancements are thanks to a **public monitoring budget execution platform**, created to bolster the voice of citizens, ensuring their active participation in decision-making processes. Furthermore, the **modernisation of the legal identification system** has greatly expanded access to essential services, fostering greater inclusion and promoting the citizenship rights of vulnerable populations. This modernisation reflects the commitment to ensuring that more people, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are empowered to exercise their rights and access opportunities equitably.

### OUTPUT 3.1.2: STRENGTHENING STATE INSTITUTIONS

The strengthening of technical capacities to combat complex crimes such as cybercrime, illicit trafficking, and organised crime has significantly improved the efficiency of criminal investigations and law enforcement systems. **Municipalities have also made strides in financial management, adopting best practices that have increased local revenue generation across all 22 municipalities, reducing territorial disparities.** Moreover, the **integration of recommendations from the 2024 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) into national frameworks, coupled with improved reporting capacities of human rights institutions,** reflects the progress made in aligning national policies with international human rights standards. The **completion of the 2024 Poverty Analysis, using household income and expenditure data from Family Expenditure and Income Survey (IDRF) IV,**

further underscores the evidence-based approach taken to inform policies aimed at addressing structural barriers and promoting economic growth.

### OUTPUT 3.1.3: ENHANCING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Transparency and accountability have been significantly enhanced through the **publication of open data on public services and the refinement of public contract frameworks**, fostering trust between institutions and citizens. The **establishment of general guidelines for a National Framework on Data Governance and Partnerships has created a foundation for better coordination and resource mobilisation.** These achievements demonstrate the ability of public and private institutions to work together to mobilise technical and financial resources, including those from the diaspora, to address development challenges effectively.

### OUTPUT 3.1.4: IMPROVING JUSTICE AND SECURITY

The **adoption of the National Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons** marked a significant milestone in preventing and addressing trafficking while ensuring protection for victims. **Public investment in gender-focused programmes** has also contributed to advancing gender equality, with **public policies and budget allocations prioritising inclusion and addressing inequalities.** Together, these efforts reflect the strengthening of justice systems and the commitment to preventing violence, fighting illicit trafficking, and promoting equitable access to justice for all, particularly women and children.

### CHALLENGES

Key challenges encountered during implementation included delays in updating key legislative and regulatory frameworks, which affected the timely adoption of essential systems and processes, such as digital transformation initiatives. Persistent resource constraints—financial, technical, and logistical—posed difficulties for stakeholders, particularly Civil Society Organisations, in delivering expected outcomes. The justice sector faced ongoing challenges, including delays in administering justice and limited capacity-building for judicial actors, impacting the efficiency of service delivery. Monitoring and evaluation gaps, coupled with data limitations, hindered evidence-based decision-making, while efforts to align international standards, such as human rights and labour protocols, with national frameworks revealed the need for enhanced coordination and capacity-building. Despite these challenges, progress will continue to be made in 2025, with efforts ongoing to address these issues collaboratively and ensure sustainable outcomes.



Photo: LO Cabo Verde

### Modernised ID System

**Expanded access to essential services**  
Promoted inclusion and citizenship rights, especially for vulnerable populations.

## 22 Municipalities Improved Financial Management

**Best practices adopted nationwide**

Local revenue increased and territorial disparities reduced.

### Open Data Published

**Transparency and trust reinforced**

Improved access to public service information and accountability mechanisms.

### Anti-Trafficking Plan Adopted

**National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons**

Strengthened prevention, victim protection and justice response.





## SP 3 STORY

### PRIORITY EDUCATION REFORM: UNIVERSALIZING PRESCHOOL EDUCATION AND IMPROVING LEARNING

“Quality preschool education is a right, and an essential investment in the country’s human capital. Providing quality education in this sub-sector ensures that children enter primary school with a strong foundation,” Cabo Verde’s Minister of Education, Amadeu Cruz.

Since 2016, according to the Ministry of Education, the preschool enrollment rate has increased from 80% to 86% for children aged 4 to 5. Despite the progress made in education, several barriers remain that must be overcome in order to ensure full universal access and improved learning quality.

In response to these challenges, the Local Education Partners Group—which includes representatives from international cooperation agencies, the United Nations, and the World Bank—has designed a new program to transform education. With funding and technical support from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and implemented through UNICEF, the Support Program for the Priority Education Reform in Cabo Verde – Preschool and 1st Cycle of Basic Education (PAREP-CV) will support the government over the next five years in implementing the country’s priority reform in the education sector. The program shares the same overarching goal: “Universalization of preschool education, inclusion, and quality learning in the 1st cycle of Basic Education (EBO).”

With a budget of 5 million US dollars, financed by GPE, and structured around three pillars, PAREP-CV is designed to benefit the most disadvantaged, by universalizing access to preschool education and improving learning conditions in kindergartens and schools. It also specifically incorporates the inclusion of children with special educational needs.

The three pillars of the new program are:

- Access to and learning in preschool education
- Learning in the first cycle of basic education (EBO1)
- Management of Preschool Education (EPE)

One of the innovations of PAREP-CV is the inclusion of a Gender dimension. Taking into account gender disparities that disadvantage boys, the project includes the development of inclusive curricula and the review and selection of teaching materials to ensure they are free from gender stereotypes and promote the idea that both genders are equally capable of performing any type of activity or job.





## LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Cabo Verde has made significant progress in reducing poverty and addressing multidimensional deprivation, demonstrating its commitment to the global promise to “**leave no one behind**” and placing the country on track to achieve **SDG 1: No Poverty**. According to the **National Statistics Institute (INE, 2024)**, **absolute poverty rates dropped from 35.5% in 2015 to 24.75% in 2023**, marking a **reduction of 10.75 percentage points**. **Extreme poverty has also been halved**, declining from **4.56% to 2.28%**, based on the international poverty line of **\$2.15 per day**. These achievements reflect the impact of **targeted interventions and sustained development efforts**, aligning with the Government’s ambition to **eradicate extreme poverty by 2026**. This trajectory underscores Cabo Verde’s progress in ensuring **inclusive economic growth** and strengthening **social protection mechanisms**, bringing the country closer to **ending poverty in all its forms**.

Guided by the **PEDS II (2022-2026)** and the **Strategy to Eradicate Extreme Poverty by 2026**, Cabo Verde has reinforced measures to support the country’s most vulnerable groups. Together with the Cabo Verde Cooperation Framework (2023-2027), which aligns with PEDS II, eradicating extreme poverty has become a top national priority. These frameworks embody Cabo Verde’s enduring determination to ensure inclusive progress.




Efforts to strengthen the capacities of Cabo Verde’s National Statistics Office in 2024 have been instrumental in **enabling a deeper understanding of inequalities and fostering inclusion**. Supported by the UNCT, these initiatives included the **production of high-quality, disaggregated data**, such as the **2024 Poverty Analysis using household income and expenditure data**, and the **publication of socio- economic profiles of vulnerable groups**, providing a **clearer picture of socio-economic disparities**.

The results from the 2024 UN Country Team **System-Wide Action Plan Gender Equality Scorecard** (UNCT-SWAP) demonstrate significant progress in advancing gender equality within the United Nations system in Cabo Verde. Key areas of excellence include **Communication & Advocacy (PI 2.2)**, **Engagement with the Government (PI 3.1)** and **Engagement with Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) CSOs (PI 3.2)**, all of which exceed minimum requirements.

Most indicators, including **Common Country Analysis (PI 1.1)**, **UNSDCF Outcomes (PI 1.2)** and **Resource Allocation & Tracking (PI 6.1)**, meet minimum requirements, highlighting compliance with established standards. However, some indicators, such as **Gender Parity (PI 4.3)** and **Gender Coordination Mechanism (PI 5.1)**, show that there remains room for improvement, with one category missing the minimum requirements entirely.

Overall, the results reflect strong performance in gender advocacy and collaboration while underscoring the need to strengthen internal mechanisms and organizational culture to achieve parity and enhance coordination efforts for gender mainstreaming. These findings provide a roadmap for targeted actions to advance gender equality in 2025.

## EXTREME POVERTY, III-IDRF(2015) E IV-IDRF(2023)

	MEASURE	2015 AVERAGE	2023 AVERAGE
 Nacional	Absolute Poverty	35,50%	24,75%
	Extreme Poverty	4,56%	2,28%
 Urban	Absolute Poverty	28,08%	21,31%
	Extreme Poverty	2,05%	1,40%
 Rural	Absolute Poverty	48,87%	35,23%
	Extreme Poverty	9,09%	4,97%

## CABO VERDE NACIONAL MPI: DEPRIVATION RATE 2015

17,2%

Multidimensional Poverty



24,9%

Nutrition



9,2%

Obesity



16,8%

School Delay



29,2%

Years of Schooling



10,2%

Electricity



23%

Drinking Water



30,2%

Sanitation



31,1%

Cooking Fuel



28,2%

Housing Overcrowding



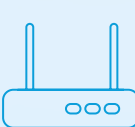
6,2%

Assets



23,5%

Internet



Source: IDRF 2015. Calculated by the Multidimensional Poverty Team (INE e BM), segiomdpIME (2023)





## 2.3 SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

The United Nations played an instrumental role in establishing critical development partnerships and mobilizing financing to further the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

### PARTNERSHIPS FOR SDG ACCELERATION; THE SIX TRANSITIONS IN ACTION

**Jobs & Social Protection:** Eradication of Extreme Poverty. Cabo Verde is a pathfinder country for the Global Accelerator (GA) for Jobs and Social Protection. The National Global Accelerator Steering Committee was created as a partnership between various Ministries and public institutions, the private sector, trade unions, academia, local governments, civil society organizations and international development institutions. Through the Global Accelerator, the UN, particularly the ILO, UNICEF and UNDP, together with the World Bank, is fully supporting the Extreme Poverty Eradication Strategy (ENEPE 2022-2026), focusing on social protection and economic inclusion, as the country is on the route to eradicating extreme poverty by 2026. Two joint programmes were developed and approved in this area.

**Climate change & energy access and affordability:** The UN, through the UNOPS / UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme, has played an essential role in forging alliances between environmental and community development organizations in Cabo Verde, which has helped enhance climate resilience and biodiversity conservation and improve livelihoods in rural community,

facilitating access to renewable energy for vulnerable families in Santiago and São Vicente, including solar energy systems for homes and water pumps for agriculture, particularly benefiting girls and people with disabilities. Overall, the program strengthened the capacities of 19 NGOs and directly benefited over 2,571 individuals, showcasing the power of strategic alliances in driving climate adaptation and mitigation efforts in Cabo Verde.

**Transforming Education:** The UN, under the leadership of UNICEF and with resources from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), has built an innovative partnership with national entities, local government, educational institutions and international partners spearheaded by the Ministry of Education. This partnership achieved significant educational advancements in Cabo Verde, producing six ICT training modules for teachers, mapping educational best practices in four counties, acquiring pedagogical materials to support differentiated teaching in classrooms, providing educators and school managers with extensive training on the new school management model, and incorporating 22 online tutors to support teacher training. It has also helped improve early childhood education for 1,181 children through the adoption of new norms by 87 nurseries, 14 of which have been accredited.

**Food Systems:** The UN, under FAO leadership, has developed a significant partnership with local communities, schools, farmers, local governments and national institutions, resulting in the elaboration of a school nutrition program that has benefited around 20,000 children.

**Digital transformation:** The UN established a strategic partnership with the national digital ecosystem, made up of more than 20 entities, under the leadership of the Ministry of the Digital Economy, in order to develop and co-create a plan of action to implement the national digital strategy, in line with the Digital Compact and the Digital Transformation SDG Transition.





Critical multistakeholder partnerships leveraged by the UN for an enabling environment and increased financing for SDG achievements include:

**Local development:** The UN, with the leadership of the UNDP and UNHABITAT, has developed an innovative partnership with all 22 municipal governments in the country, the National Association of Municipalities and the Ministry in charge of local development, that it is increasing municipalities own-resource revenues to allow them to finance their sustainable development and develop local capacities.

**Private sector partnership:** In an innovative partnership with the private sector umbrella body for the Leeward islands, the Leeward Islands Chamber of Commerce, the UN, with the leadership of the UNDP and UNIDO, has come up with a pilot project, currently in implementation, to improve the private sector's contribution to sustainable development and the SDGs in four municipalities, through their strategic municipal plans and respective implementation mechanisms.

**Blu-X Sustainable Finance Platform:** In collaboration with the Cabo Verde Stock Exchange and private banks and led by the UNDP under a Joint SDG Fund program with the participation of FAO, UNIDO, and IOM, over the last three years the platform has mobilised 41 million euros through innovative financing instruments such as blue bonds, green bonds and social bonds, attracting more than 100 private investors.

Another critical innovative partnership in advancing transformative efforts for SDG acceleration leveraged or enhanced by the UN in 2024 was:

**Malaria free country:** The declaration of Cabo Verde as malaria-free during 2024 (the first Sub-Saharan African country to achieve this status since 1973) is testament to the importance of strategic partnerships supported by the UN. This WHO-spearheaded partnership between the

Ministry of Health, various governmental departments, municipalities, community-based organizations, NGOs and international organizations, led by the inter-ministerial committee on vector control was crucial in achieving this milestone, which was materialized through a coordinated, multisectoral approach to public health.

Cabo Verde's malaria-free status profoundly impacts both the country's image and socioeconomic activities, particularly tourism, which is responsible for approximately 25% of the country's GDP. This certification is a significant success in global health and serves as a beacon of hope for other nations

## SOUTH-SOUTH OR TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

**South-South and Triangular Partnerships:** Led by the UNDP, the UN enhanced innovative partnership with the world's nine officially Portuguese-language countries—six in Africa (Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe), Brazil in Latin America, Timor-Leste in Asia and Portugal in Europe—to strengthen economic governance and public financial management systems based on South-South and trilateral cooperation. It has facilitated the legal reform of the national budgetary framework in Cabo Verde to increase budget transparency and efficiency, giving civil society organizations increased capacities to monitor budget execution. It has also provided gender mainstreaming in planning and budgeting processes, with Cabo Verde formally joining the Gender Equality Seal Program and using the Climate Scanner to evaluate the government's climate goals.

The FAO - China - Cabo Verde South-South Cooperation Project delivered tangible results in agricultural innovation and field-based research. High-yield maize and forage varieties were introduced through demonstration trials, while environmentally friendly pest

control techniques—such as chili oil traps, pheromone devices, and eco-pesticides—were piloted to support sustainable crop protection. The project also launched seaweed aquaculture demonstration sites and advanced organic fertilizer production through high-temperature composting, contributing to improved soil health and crop productivity. Technical designs for a national pig quarantine facility and veterinary laboratory upgrades were developed to enhance animal health systems.

Capacity building was a core component of the project, with over 150 national technicians, farmers, and fishers trained in priority areas such as animal disease prevention, aquaculture, and integrated crop-livestock

systems. Training efforts were complemented by the production of technical videos broadcast on national television and the launch of a joint Master's programme between the Atlantic Technical University (UTA) and Shanghai Ocean University, aiming to strengthen long-term academic and research collaboration in marine sciences and food systems.

To strengthen preparedness and response capacities, the project supported Cabo Verde's first national simulation exercise for an animal disease outbreak, focusing on avian influenza. This initiative engaged veterinary authorities and technical teams from across the country, reinforcing multisectoral coordination under the One Health approach.







## 2.4

### RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER: UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

#### KEY RESULTS OF UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER IN CABO VERDE IN 2024

In 2024, the UN in Cabo Verde achieved significant results by adopting a “More and Better Together” approach, which fostered stronger collaboration among agencies and with national partners. This strategy brought several key advantages, including improved coordination, resource optimization, and enhanced policy coherence. By pooling technical expertise and financial resources, UN agencies avoided duplication and delivered comprehensive, multisectoral solutions that responded to Cabo Verde’s most pressing challenges.

Notable results included supporting the Government in developing the National Action Plan for Digital Transformation, which improved e-governance services and digital literacy through a coordinated effort involving NOSi, UNDP, and ITU. Joint UN initiatives with ICIEG, UN Women, and UNFPA scaled up survivor assistance services for gender-based violence, with a 30% increase in access to safe spaces and psychosocial care. Collaboration with FAO, WHO, and the Ministry of Agriculture boosted national food security, while coordinated climate actions facilitated Cabo Verde’s

progress toward renewable energy targets. This unified approach strengthened Cabo Verde’s path toward achieving the SDGs by promoting inclusivity, resilience, and sustainable development.

#### ENHANCED UN COHERENCE AND COLLABORATION

##### TAILORED UNCT CONFIGURATION

The new configuration of the UN in Cabo Verde brought significant strategic gains, strengthening its capacity to respond to national priorities. This restructuring enabled greater technical specialization, optimized financial resources, and a more integrated and agile approach to addressing complex challenges. As a result, there was more efficient action in areas such as digital transformation, food security, climate change, gender equality, and social inclusion. The enhanced configuration facilitated the implementation of innovative solutions, more coherent public policies, and closer collaboration with national partners to accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

##### DERIVATION OF UN ENTITY PROGRAMMES FROM THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

The derivation of UN entity programmes from the Cooperation Framework in Cabo Verde has provided clear benefits by aligning UN actions more closely with the country’s specific development priorities. This alignment has allowed for more efficient use of resources and expertise, as each UN agency contributes to a common set of outcomes, addressing key challenges such as climate change, food security and digital transformation. For example, the collaboration between FAO, UNDP, and the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment led to the implementation of climate-resilient agricultural practices, thus enhancing food security and supporting small-scale farmers.

This coordinated approach has also facilitated better mobilization of financial resources and technical support through joint programmes, with the Cooperation Framework serving as a platform for identifying and capitalizing on synergies. The UNCT, by working together, has been able to directly support Cabo Verde’s national

priorities, such as the transition to renewable energy and digital infrastructure development. Joint programming in these areas, such as renewable energy projects with the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Energy, has helped accelerate the country’s progress towards sustainability



Photo: Joint Office UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA - Cabo Verde





n in the country

## INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO JOINT PLANNING AND DELIVERY

### JOINT WORK PLANS AND RESULTS GROUPS

The development of the 2024 Joint Work Plan (JWP) for the second year of the UNCF: 2023-2027 was a highly collaborative and participatory process led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Regional Integration. This process involved all UN agencies and over 100 national partners, ensuring that the plan would be closely aligned with national priorities and focused on the three strategic priority areas of the UNCF while reinforcing national ownership and partnership.

This integrated approach ensured effective attention to cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, human rights and climate action, with visible progress in poverty alleviation and food security initiatives. For instance, joint programming efforts under the SDG Fund pooled resources and expertise across entities, leading to improved food access and employment opportunities for vulnerable groups.

### JOINT PROGRAMMES AND POLICY INTEGRATION

The UN Trust Fund for Human Security supported integrated, participatory local development strategies in urban communities, adopting a human security approach that combined social, economic, and environmental dimensions. Additionally, the UNCT provided more cohesive and integrated policy advice to the Government, particularly in areas such as SDG tracking, climate resilience, and the blue economy.

## EFFICIENT OPERATIONS:

### BUSINESS OPERATIONS STRATEGY (BOS)

The implementation of the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) 2.0 brought about tangible efficiency gains, including cost reductions in shared services, common procurement and logistics. The consolidation of common premises further streamlined operations, leading to an estimated 20% reduction in operational costs compared to standalone agency approaches.

### INNOVATIVE FINANCING AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The Blu-X sustainable development platform continued to attract investments in blue, green, and social bonds, mobilizing over €35 million in 2024. These funds supported key sectors such as renewable energy, biodiversity conservation, and digital transformation, advancing sustainable progress toward the SDGs.

### STRENGTHENED ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION

The UNCT amplified its advocacy efforts by communicating as one, focusing on Cabo Verde's unique vulnerabilities and opportunities as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS). Campaigns highlighted key priorities such as climate action, gender equality, and economic diversification. The SDG Tracker tool, launched in 2023, remained a cornerstone for transparency and accountability, enabling real-time monitoring of progress and challenges across the 17 SDGs.

## RESULTS OF REFORMS AND INCREASED COLLABORATION

### IMPACT ON GOVERNMENT AND STAKEHOLDERS

The reforms have enhanced the UNCT's capacity to respond effectively to the evolving country context, strengthening the Government's ability to tackle pressing challenges. The Government expressed appreciation for the UN's integrated and timely support, particularly in areas such as extreme poverty eradication, in which innovative fiscal measures and expanded social protection played a pivotal role.

### UTILIZATION OF REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ASSETS

The UN in Cabo Verde maximized regional and global assets, including technical assistance from UNECA and global platforms such as the Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women. These efforts enriched the UNCT's capacity to address complex challenges, yielding more impactful outcomes.

### LOOKING AHEAD: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEXT STEPS

In 2024, the UN in Cabo Verde achieved several significant milestones, including:

- Successfully mobilizing €40 million through innovative financing.
- Strengthening joint programming, which reduced transaction costs by 15%.
- Advancing climate action, with increased adoption of renewable energy and biodiversity conservation.
- Improving policy coherence in addressing food security and poverty eradication.

As Cabo Verde progresses toward its development goals, the UNCT's cohesive and efficient approach positions the country for sustained, inclusive, and resilient development. This progress underscores the importance of continued collaboration and innovation, guided by the UN Cooperation Framework.





## 2.5 LESSONS LEARNED

In 2024, the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Cabo Verde focused on strategic learning, using knowledge to inform decision-making, improve programming and drive the growth and adaptation of the UN's work, thus strengthening the UNCT's ability to address complex development challenges.

### KNOWLEDGE ACQUISITION AND ITS IMPACT ON UNCT'S WORK

The UNCT in Cabo Verde has actively engaged in acquiring knowledge from a variety of sources, including national stakeholders, UN system-wide experiences and global best practices. This knowledge has played a pivotal role in refining the approach and improving the effectiveness of interventions. Key lessons include:

- 1. Integrated Programming and Cross-Sectoral Collaboration:** The increased use of joint work plans and results groups has highlighted the importance of integrated programming across sectors such as climate resilience, gender equality, and social protection. By drawing on expertise across different UN entities, the UNCT has adapted its approach to better align with Cabo Verde's evolving development priorities.
- 2. Continuous Stakeholder Engagement:** Feedback from the Government and local partners has provided valuable insight into areas for improvement. Regular consultations have allowed the UNCT to respond dynamically to emerging needs and challenges, ensuring that interventions are both relevant and timely.
- 3. Data-Driven Decision Making:** The use of real-time data, particularly from the SDG Tracker, has enabled the UNCT to make informed decisions about resource allocation and programmatic focus.

### UN PROGRAMMING ADJUSTMENTS THROUGH MANAGEMENT RESPONSE ACTION PLANS

The UNCT's management response action plans, developed in response to evaluations and assessments throughout the year, have led to several strategic adjustments:

- 1. Strengthening Capacity for Policy Integration:** Evaluations identified gaps in policy coherence across sectors. In response, the UNCT focused on integrating policy advice more effectively, particularly in areas like the blue economy and SDG tracking.
- 2. Operational Efficiency Improvements:** The Business Operations Strategy (BOS) 2.0 highlighted the need for further operational streamlining. Action plans focused on further consolidating operations, reducing redundancies, and improving cost-effectiveness. This led to tangible improvements, including the consolidation of common premises and shared services, which resulted in a 20% reduction in operational costs.

By actively integrating knowledge into its decision-making processes and responding to evaluations through tailored action plans, the UNCT has enhanced its ability to deliver effective, efficient, and impactful results in Cabo Verde.



Photo: UNICEF Cabo Verde





# 2.6 FINANCIAL RESOURCES

## 2.6.1. Financial Overview

In 2024, the total available resources for Cabo Verde’s Cooperation Framework were reported at **\$16.9 million**, with total expenditures reaching **\$13 million**, representing a **77% utilization rate**. The remaining available resources stand at **\$3.9 million**, indicating the need for continued acceleration in 2025 to bridge the gap.

### Resources and Expenditures



Funding was distributed across multiple streams:

**27.1%** of total resources  
UN Core Funding

**20.1%**  
GEF

**14%%**  
Luxembourg

**12.9%**  
EU

**4.2%**  
China

**Other significant contributors include**  
Spain, the United States of America, Portugal and the Republic of Korea, each contributing varying shares.

## Contributions by Funding Source

The financial overview also reflects a diversified donor base, with significant contributions from traditional multilateral partners and bilateral sources:

### Top Contributors

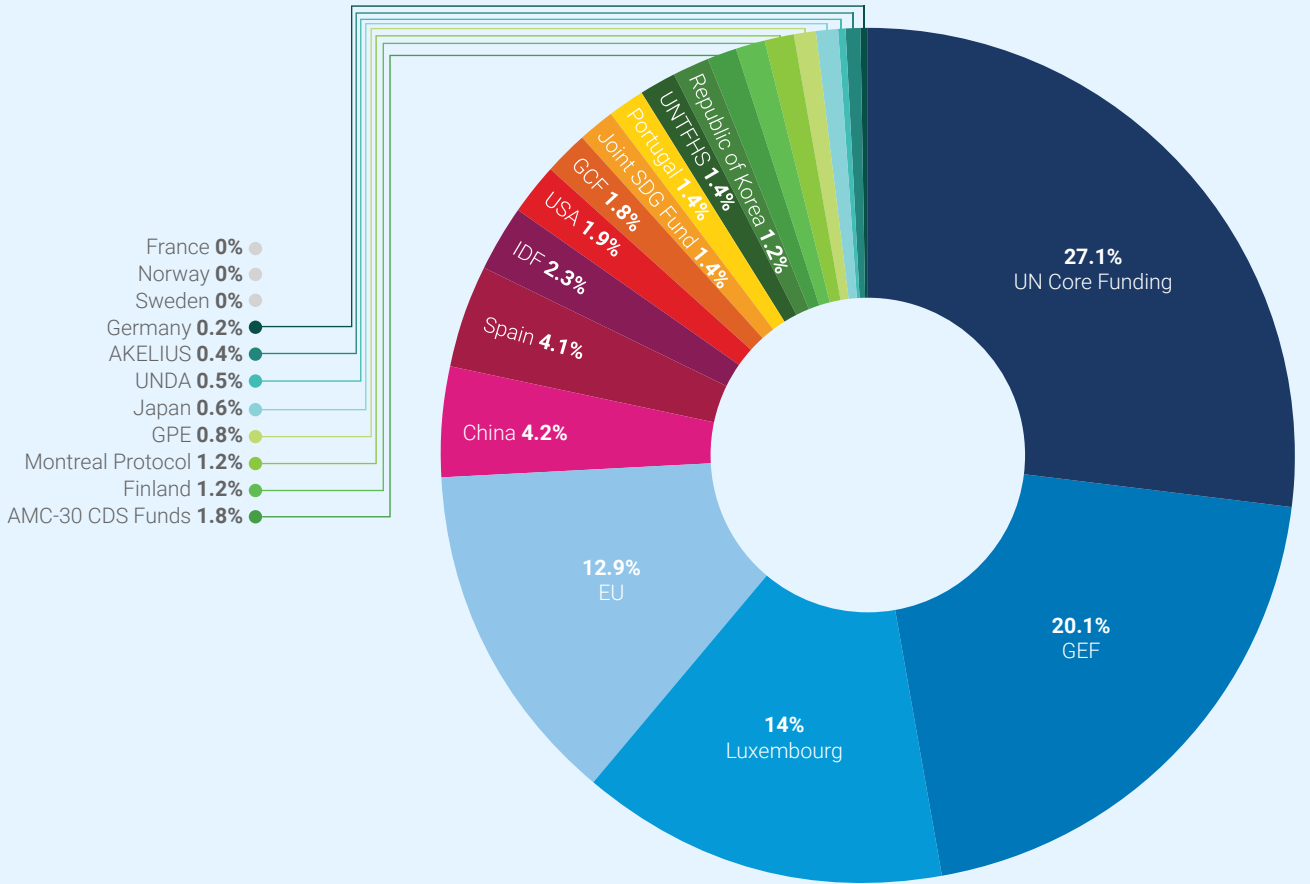
UN Core Funding, GEF, Luxembourg, and the EU

### Emerging Partners

Joint SDG Fund, Montreal Protocol, and private-sector partnerships like Akelius Foundation.

The below graphic illustrates available resources from each parent contributin partner, base on the available resources in joint workplan. Only the top 30 parent contributing partners are displayed below.

### Available resources from top 30 organization \$16.1 million.







JOINT PROGRAMMES

Cabo Verde implemented 8 joint programmes in 2024, with 4 new JP made available, and pooled resources and expertise leveraged to deliver impact across the three strategic priorities.

UN Cabo Verde Joint Programmes in implementation during 2024

Table with 6 columns: 2025 Joint Programmes, PEDS II Pillar, UNCF Strategic Priority, Donor, UN Agencies, Financial contribution. It lists 8 joint programmes including 'Promoting Local Development in Cabo Verde', 'Promoting awareness & advocacy of human security approach in Praia, Sao Filipe and Sao Vicente', 'Strengthening National Health Security through One Health Approach', 'Roadmap to accelerate extreme poverty eradication at municipal level', 'Accelerating extreme poverty eradication in Cabo Verde through economic inclusion', 'Bringing the local private sector into the municipal deal room for SDG localization', 'Climate and Health Co-Investment – Facility Coordination Programme (regional – project preparation)', and 'Connecting blue economy actors'.





RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Resource mobilization efforts in 2024 focused on securing contributions from both traditional and non-traditional donors. Efforts included:

- Strengthening partnerships with top contributors, such as UN Core Funding, GEF and Luxembourg.
- Expanding collaboration with bilateral donors like Portugal, the Republic of Korea and Japan to diversify funding streams.
- Establishing public-private partnerships that secured contributions from foundations and corporations, enhancing the sustainability of financing for development priorities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY, OUTCOME, AND OUT-PUT ANALYSIS

Financial resources were aligned with key strategic priorities to address national and local development goals effectively:

- 1. **Strategic Priority 1:** Focused on **Strengthening Human Talent and Social Capital**, accounting for **23,8%** of the total resources.
- 2. **Strategic Priority 2:** Directed towards **inclusive economic transformation, prosperity and just transition for a healthy environment**, with **48,7%** utilization.
- 3. **Strategic Priority 3:** Addressed **Transformative Governance and greater territorial cohesion**, supported by **27,5%** of the resources.

The financial data and resource mobilization analysis for 2024 demonstrate the utilization of available resources while identifying gaps to be addressed in the delivery rate. Continued efforts in diversifying the donor base, optimizing resource allocation and implementing innovative funding mechanisms remain paramount to achieving Cabo Verde’s development objectives under the Cooperation Framework 2023- 2027.

2.6.2. Resource mobilization and quality of funding

MIX OF FUNDING PARTNERS

In 2024 core / unmarked funds represented only 28% (USD 4.8 million) of the 2024 UN budget, whereas earmarked funds represented 72% (USD 12.1 million). Of the earmarked funds, bilateral and multilateral partner funding totaled 40% (USD 6.7 million) of the UN 2024 budget, global and vertical contributing partners totaled 28%, and public-private partnerships together with foundations totaled 2%.

4% of the 2024 UN budget was channeled through the UN Cabo Verde pooled fund.

The collective efforts of the UNCT and the RC in mobilizing agencies’ core funds, global and vertical funds and public-private partnerships resulted in the mobilization of USD 9.4 million (58%) of the 2024 joint work plan.



Photo: Joint Office UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA - Cabo Verde

FUNDING GAPS AND IMPLICATION FOR ACHIEVING RESULTS, MULTI-YEAR VS. ANNUAL FUNDING

Summary of the funding gaps per outcome of the UNCF

Outcome of the UNCF	UNCF 2023-2027		
	Total Funds required	Funding Gap	%
1. Strengthening Human Talent and Social Capital	18.031.952	9.419.485	52%
2.1. Inclusive economic transformation and prosperity	28.421.699	18.351.213	65%
2.2. Just transition for a healthy environment	42.352.149	20.166.756	48%
3. Transformative Governance and greater territorial cohesion	27.517.577	13.684.298	50%
Total	116.296.376	61.621.751	53%

Key opportunities and challenges of resource mobilization in the reporting year

The UNCT approved in 2024 the UNCF Partnership and Resource Mobilization Strategy. The Strategy In 2024 the UNCT approved the UNCF Partnership and Resource Mobilization Strategy. The Strategy provides a framework for how the UNCT, together with the Government, will jointly mobilize resources and build partnerships for the implementation of the UN Cooperation Framework and the SDGs. It does not substitute or replace UN Agencies’ specific partnerships and resource mobilization strategies and practices. It aims to promote a joint vision on, and a common approach for, partnerships and resource mobilization, while respecting Agency-specific partnerships and resource mobilization efforts. It has four strategic objectives (SO), with targets and planned actions that are being implemented:

- 1 Increase strategic approach with government and international partners;
- 2 Improve engagement and transparency alongside existing partners and extend partner network as needed;
- 3 Proactively seek opportunities for cooperation and partnerships with the private sector, civil society and IFIs.
- 4 Increase joint programming, internal coordination and coordinated approaches to key strategic partners..





# 3

## LOOKING AHEAD: UNCT 2025 FOCUS IN CABO VERDE



Photo: UN Cabo Verde





In 2025, the UNCT will enter the third year of the UNCF's implementation, focusing on consolidating achievements, addressing gaps and transitioning towards scalable sustainable initiatives that align with Cabo Verde's PEDS II commitments, its long-term vision, the 2030 Agenda and the Antigua y Barbuda Agenda for SIDS. Based on the 2024 Annual Performance Review, the updated Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the UNCT retreat agreements, key priority areas for UN intervention include:

- **Climate Resilience and Disaster Preparedness:** Scaling support for Cabo Verde's National Adaptation Plan, including early warning systems, and enhancing community resilience to climate impacts.
- **Economic Transformation and Inclusive Growth:** Accelerating digital transformation, sustainable tourism and the blue economy, with a focus on local development, youth and women's economic empowerment.
- **Human Capital Development:** Enhancing social protection systems, addressing learning losses in education, and improving access to quality healthcare, including mental health and universal health coverage.
- **Governance and Inclusion:** Supporting the 2025 population census and the national election system, while strengthening institutional capacity for civic engagement and gender equality.
- **Digital Transformation:** Focusing on digital economy and the reinforcement of public digital infrastructure.

- **Eradication of Extreme Poverty:** Engaging in focused efforts to reduce poverty across vulnerable populations and eliminating extreme poverty.
- **Job Creation and Employment:** Investing in education, vocational training, and the creation of sustainable job opportunities.
- **Energy Transition and Expansion of Renewable Energy:** Promoting clean energy solutions and sustainable environmental practices.
- **Mainstream gender perspectives,** promote women's leadership and address gender-based violence (GBV).

The UNCT also plans to strengthen its technical expertise in climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and digital innovation, enhance data collection and analysis, and foster closer collaboration with regional and international financial institutions. Proactive risk management will be prioritized as well through a joint platform for monitoring, prevention and early action, particularly for climate-induced and public health risks. The UN Country Team (UNCT) will shift its focus toward a more integrated, results and data driven approach, emphasizing scalable interventions. Cabo Verde's strong multilateral vision and commitment to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will be key in leveraging partnerships to accelerate sustainable development actions. The UNCT remains fully committed to working closely with the Government, International Finance Institutions, bilateral and multilateral partners, private sector, universities and civil society to drive co-financing initiatives, ensure long-term sustainability, and promote stronger interlinkages across the different areas of the Cooperation Framework and the work of UN Agencies, Funds, and Programmes.



Photo: UN Cabo Verde





**UNITED NATIONS**  
**CABO VERDE**



**DECADE**  
**OF >>>**  
**ACTION**

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