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CABO VERDE



Cabo Verde Common Country Analysis 2020



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Executive Summary



The Common Country Analysis (CCA) delivers integrated and evidence-based joint analysis of the context for sustainable development in Cabo Verde. It connects the analysis of issues for the achievement of each Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), and across SDGs, with the overall commitment to leave no one behind, and focusing on the action of the Government, civil society and private sector to reach their sustainable development strategy. **The CCA goes beyond past or “snapshot” analysis, to be forward-looking and projecting to 2030 and beyond.** It is data-driven and builds an evidence base that is sensitive to dynamic changes, going from problem identification to data collection and analysis to forecasting. It is inspired by the SDGs and the national sustainable development strategy - Cabo Verde Ambition 2030, corresponding to the Sustainable Development Plans (PEDS 2017-2021 and PEDS II), considering the challenges that COVID-19 is bringing to the country and to the people.

The preparation of the CCA was largely fed by the guiding principles for the **rollout of the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19** at country level, notably the COVID-19 Socioeconomic impact assessment (SEIA) and National Socioeconomic Response and Recovery Plan (SERP). These various processes brought together the entire UN System and involved consultations with national stakeholders, the private sector, civil society organizations, and University. This broad participation produced a holistic, systemic, dynamic and strategic analysis of the pre-COVID trends, COVID impact and possible paths for recovery and sustainable development in Cabo Verde, based on the 17 SDGs.

Cabo Verde is known worldwide for its spectacular landscapes and welcoming spirit *Morabeza*, as well as for its good governance and solid human capital. By ensuring transparent elections and democratic alternation throughout 45 years of independence, the country stands out as an example in the region. Based on this strong institutional framework and well-functioning checks and balances, education and health systems reached indicators well above regional average. This successful journey was marked by the graduation as a lower Middle-Income Country in 2007 and the achievement of most MDGs in 2015. Despite an important impact of the 2008 crisis and a slow recovery until 2015, domestic public finance and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) partially took over on Official Development Assistance (ODA), to ensure high growth (4.6% annual average) and continuous poverty reduction.

Some indicators in governance and human capital has been stagnating or slightly worsening though, due to a challenging context, characterized by both structural constraints as a Small Island Developing State - small domestic market and fiscal basis, relative isolation and fragmentation, high per-capita cost of services, among others - and a growingly adverse conjuncture - global economic shocks, impact of climate change, and COVID-19 pandemic.

Women have been catching up and the gender gaps have been narrowing, with higher political participation, lower gender-based violence (halved but still at 10% in 2019), tighter or closed gaps in terms of literacy, access to education and health. Yet many challenges remain: 60% of poor household are headed by women, adolescent fertility rate is a public health concern (18.3%), so is the prevalence of sexual abuse against girls. People with disabilities also face specific constraint, reflected in their high level of illiteracy (46.4% men and 53.6% women), their weak integration in the education system and their important dropout rate at an early stage of education, and the difficulty to meet their specific health needs, due to poorly adapted infrastructure and equipment, and lack of awareness and training of health staff.

Yet the country remained vulnerable, even before COVID-19 outbreak, due to a limited and fragile fiscal space, a fragmented private sector with weak governance and integration, and a high dependency on big markets for consumption and production. This vulnerability was visible in the very high volatility of growth, the relative concentration of investments in one sector and two islands, and the different dynamics in terms of wealth and employment creation and distribution in the different islands. Adverse environmental conditions, with small proportions of arable land and forested areas and limited rains and surface and underground water, are further aggravated by climate change, with longer periods of drought and increased ocean acidification, affecting incomes of the poorest populations working in the primary sector and putting unsustainable pressure on sustainability.

Gender and geographical gaps persisted, despite important improvements. Women unemployment increased by 10% since 2015, so as rural unemployment (+52%). Women tend to have more fragile jobs, concentrated in the service sector, and carry a disproportionate burden of unpaid care work (2.5 times more than men). 36% of the disabled population is unemployed.

As far as the SDGs five “Ps” (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership) are concerned, several critical milestones have been reached in the 4-year period before the COVID-19 outbreak, as the country prepared to enter the Decade of Action.

People: Global poverty (SDG 1) decreased by 5% to reach 30.3%; nutrition (SDG 2) remained the major public health problem; some health (SDG3) and education (SDG4) indicators were stagnating while gender equality (SDG5) saw major improvements.

Planet: Climate change mitigation (SDG13) has been achieved, yet ocean life protection (SDG14) indicators are stagnating, and the potential of climate finance remains underused.

Prosperity: Access to clean sources of energy (SDG7) has been improving but efficiency improvements and energetic transition have been slow; sustainable growth and job creation (SDG8) are yet to be consolidated with a growth rate higher than regional average yet very volatile, a limited economic diversification and unequal employment trends;

Peace (SDG16): Democracy, freedom and institutional soundness are among the country’s major strengths, with major improvements in interinstitutional planning and coordination, although challenges remain to fight trafficking and illegal flows and slightly worsening governance indicators. **Partnerships (SDG17):** pre-COVID fiscal indicators were good and consolidating and statistical capacities are improving, despite persistent challenges; yet regional integration is limited, a strategy for catalyzing financial flows is needed, and differences between islands persist in terms of internet access.

COVID-19 disrupted the sustainable development path in an unprecedented manner, and lessons from 2008 economic crisis draw a perspective of slow recovery. Mostly due to a 70% decrease in tourism revenues, a negative growth of 11% is expected, driving up unemployment (+10%, reaching 20%) and poverty, despite the cushion provided so far by fiscal measures and remittances. Public revenues decreased by 25%, and ODA was cut by half between 2020 and 2021, further limiting fiscal space for response, recovery and sustainable development. During the lockdown due to COVID-19, gender-based violence (GBV) and domestic work done by women went up.

In this specific development landscape, Cabo Verde’s priorities have been defined in a broad, participatory process started before and finalized after the COVID outbreak. **Human and institutional capital, digitalization of public administration and businesses, renewable energies, blue economy, and the added value of tourism for local economic**



development have been identified as the five SDG accelerators. Four **transversal challenges** have been defined: **climate change, regional development and convergence between islands, justice and human security, and gender equality and youth empowerment.**

The main thematic priorities for 2021 are the continuity of **COVID-19 response in social protection, health and education sector, rollout of the vaccine implementation plan, economic recovery and food security.** Actions for the medium to long term need to continue or resume, such as the support to institutional capacity building within a systemic approach (social protection, education, health systems and multilevel governance), and the **acceleration of economic diversification** to limit vulnerability and unleash the **potential of the green and blue economy** while guaranteeing equal opportunities to women.

In terms of crosscutting priorities, the focus will be on reinforcing the **territorial approach of public policies** and UN support is critical to boost sustainable development in the lagging islands and municipalities; targeting the furthest left behind, including through **disaggregated data collection and analysis and design and testing of innovative solutions** for access to basic and social services despite a high per-capita cost of public services; and mobilizing/catalyzing **public and private, domestic and external finance**, including climate finance and concessional loans.

Building **new partnerships** will be critical to address in a transformative manner obstacles and vulnerabilities, exacerbated by the pandemic and hampering SDG-related achievement. Regional integration, articulation with SIDS countries, especially SIDS AIS (Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea), and mobilization of technological and financial resources - with a priority for private sector involvement - are critical.

1. Country Profile



This section provides a brief analysis of the country situation, its standing in relation to the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) as well as the main political, human rights, economic, social and environmental trends and challenges that influence the achievement of the SDG and the 2030 Agenda in a challenge context of the global pandemic.

1.1. Governance

By ensuring transparent elections and democratic alternation throughout 45 years of independence, the country stands out as a relevant example in the region. Well-functioning governance institutions are a related, distinctive feature: credible administration, clear parliament role, solid court of auditors, and functioning checks and balances form the backbone of a strong institutional setting.

Cabo Verde ranks third in the Ibrahim Index for African Governance, performing outstandingly in three out of four categories: Safety and Rule of Law (75.3/100), Participation and Human Rights (76.3), and Human Development (71.2). However, it is worth noting that the country is experiencing a decline in the last 10 years, with increasing deterioration of the different indicators, therefore labelled “red” by the Index in terms of trends¹. For the category Participation and Human Rights, Cabo Verde ranks lowest on the gender indicator Political Power & Representation of Women (rank 27, with a decline of -22.2). This indicator is likely to improve as a result of the 2020 municipal and 2021 general elections, due to the recently approved Parity Law. The country also ranks very high in terms of democracy and freedom indices. It is third in Africa for the Democracy Index (30th globally)², and second to Namibia in press freedom (25th globally)³. This strong governance environment set a solid ground

for human security, public service delivery and sustainable economic development.

Public Administration employs 25,000 and represents 18.1% of jobs⁴, but suffers from weak interoperability.

The creation of a National Planning System (SNP) in 2014 improved the quality of multiannual planning and provided the structures and instruments to implement a programmatic and budgetary planning cycle. This process is paving the road towards a results-based planning and budgeting, and a transparent and open government that allows for information sharing and joint decision making, enhanced citizens’ participation, including in monitoring allocations to finance gender commitments, and a strengthened fight against illicit financial transactions. Among the intermediary results of these different processes is the alignment of national (PEDS 2017-2021) and municipal sustainable development plans (PEMDS) with SDGs targets⁵.

Local governance is gaining strength within a slow yet steady decentralization process, started in 1990 with an acceleration in the last 3 years. The legal and policy framework is evolving within a perspective of “regionalization”, to give more power to the islands. Fiscal measures and policy instruments were installed to improve local finance, such as the Municipal Solidarity Fund,

the Regional Development Regime or the positive discrimination of small municipalities in the State Budget, completed by programs to foster social and territorial inclusion and cohesion, such as the National Program to Fight Poverty or the Rural Socioeconomic Opportunities Program. All these instruments are managed at central level, and local fiscality is yet to be improved. For instance, local revenues come in most part from transfers from national government (62.8% in Santo Antão, 64.1% in Fogo and Brava), and local taxes represent a very small part of local revenues (6.1% in Santo Antão, 4.8% in Fogo and Brava). Local expenses are in most part made of wages for municipal staff and fixed costs (about 35 to 50% depending on the islands) and local public investment remains very low (about 15 to 25% depending on the islands)⁶. Finally, planning instruments were developed to promote the potential and specificities of each island and encourage private investment, within the National Planning System. 20 out of 22 municipalities have elaborated in 2019 and are now implementing, together with local civil society organizations (CSOs) and private sector, their Municipal Sustainable Development Plans (PEMDS), aligned with the National Sustainable Development Plan (PEDS 2017-2021) and the SDGs⁷, with gender equality as a cross-cutting issue.

Cabo Verde’s numerous CSOs (724, 1 per 663 inhabitants) operate mostly at community level (73.5% are “community development associations”) in the areas of rural development (40%) and social and financial inclusion of vulnerable populations (39%). CSOs dynamics are very different from one island to the other, with CSOs from the islands of Santiago – where half of existing CSOs are located – and Sao Vicente much more active. Five islands (Brava, Sal, Boa Vista, Maio and Sao Nicolau) totalize only 20% of CSOs. Most of CSOs present structural weaknesses that hampers their action in pro of sustainable development, such as weak governance structures and participation of members, poor management and planning instruments, limited general assemblies, and insufficient resources. SDGs and Ambition 2030 can be instrumental in reinforcing links among CSOs, and with local and national authorities, within a common agenda for sustainable development⁸.

Given the territorial dispersion and relative isolation

of several islands, e-governance is instrumental to improve access to public services, particularly given the geographical distancing among the islands. The country has therefore long embarked on an ambitious agenda for digitalization. Efforts to improve e-governance started in the 1990s with the integration of public finance management. With the creation of the Operational Nucleus of the Information System (NOSI), the digitization of public integrated financial management information systems (IFMIS) has made great progress. The citizen portal “Porton di Nos Ilha” improved self-service and interactivity between citizens and public administration, though the system is yet to work full steam. Despite a positive trend, Cabo Verde still ranks very low in terms of E-Government and E-Participation Indices (respectively 110th and 129th out of 193 countries), as well as Regional and Sub regional Indices⁹. To boost the digitalization trend, Cabo Verde launched in 2019 its Digital Strategy (EDCV), a key component of the country vision adopted by the PEDS: “A connected Cabo Verde, with itself and with the world, developed, inclusive, democratic, open to the world, modern, safe, where full employment and full freedom prevail”. The Government’s program proposes to transform Cabo Verde into “Cyber Islands”, a center for the development of the Digital Economy, positioning the country as a reference in Africa, in terms of innovation and knowledge¹⁰.

Cabo Verde has ratified the United Nations Convention Anti-Corruption since 2008 and is one of the first countries to have completed the entire review of the Convention in 2017, and to establish a Corruption Prevention Council. It ranks among the best performing African countries in terms of transparency (3rd, behind Seychelles and Botswana)¹¹. However, corruption remains a risk for good governance and efficient delivery of public services. Indeed, policymakers and decision-makers in the country still need to implement the recommendations issued by the two UNCAC reviews of Cabo Verde’s legislation. Accountability in Cabo Verde benefits from a solid framework, especially in terms of policy-based budgeting; predictability and control of governmental execution (with notable exception of efficiency of internal audit and tax collection); and accounting, registry and reporting. External audit – especially parliamentary scrutiny



¹ Ibrahim Index of African Governance, 2020

² The Economist Intelligence Unit, Democracy Index, 2020

³ Reporters without borders, World Press Freedom Index, 2020

⁴ INECV, IMC 2019, Estatísticas do Mercado de trabalho, 2020

⁵ UNDS, Cabo Verde Rapid Integrated Assessment, Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) mission report, November 2019. 75% of the PEDS is aligned with SDGs targets

⁶ Ministry of Environment, Habitat and Land Planning, Cenários de otimização das associações de municípios, 2015

⁷ Ministry of Finance for Ambition 2030 strategy, 2020 and Afrosondagem, Avaliação das Virtudes e Ganhos do Poder Local em Cabo Verde, 2013

⁸ Jacinto Abreu Santos, Economia Social e Solidaria em Cabo Verde, 2017

⁹ Cabo Verde concentrated in a single Portal the provision of public services that brings together several public and private entities in the same space, with the aim of facilitating the relationship between citizens (including electoral issues of emigration and relations with the tax authorities) and companies with the public administration and information about the country.

¹⁰ UN E-Government Survey (2020). Indexes: EGI: 0.5604, EPART: 0.4167, Regional: 0.3914, Sub regional: 0.3574.

¹¹ Ministry of Finance, Cabo Verde digital website

¹² Transparency International, Corruption Perception Index (2019)



on external reports – and donors’ support overview are weaker areas in terms of accountability¹³.

Cabo Verde’s strategic location off the coast of West Africa, combined with its long coastline, challenges in effective control of national and international waters, further complicates the challenges in combatting drugs and crimes in the archipelago. Criminal behavior and corruption that often accompany drug trafficking seriously affects the security of the country and wider region. The internal trafficking has contributed to increased consumption of illicit substances, changing its patterns in Cabo Verdean society and raising criminality and other social problems such as youth gangs and higher homicide rates in cities during the last decade¹⁴. Urban crime and associated threats have become one of the main concerns for Cabo Verdeans¹⁵. Gender based violence (GBV), sexual assault and sexual abuse of children complaints have decreased in number and proportion between 2017 and 2018, but still represent over 2 in every 10 crimes against persons¹⁶, and the current epidemic crisis may threaten progress achieved¹⁷.

During the last years, important legislative reforms and institutional capacity-building have been carried out in Cabo Verde, with a view to combating drug trafficking and organized crime. Legislative and policy reforms include new laws on criminal investigations (2017), the ongoing revision on the

penal Code, the Coordination of Policies to Prevent and Combat Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction as per the resolution of 27 January 2020¹⁸, the adoption of the first National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons (2018) and the adoption of the new National Integrated Programme to fight Drugs and Crime (2018-2023). Data is available on trafficking in persons (TIP) since 2016, after the revised Penal Code criminalized TIP: the Public Attorney’s Office registered 12 complaints of TIP over 3 judicial years (5 of which in 2018/2019), one having been resolved and 11 pending, under investigation¹⁹. Although data is not disaggregated by sex, it is known that most victims are women. At institutional and operational level, there has been great investment on establishing and strengthening the national criminal justice system, ensuring its integrity and effectiveness.

However, there is still perception of impunity in Cabo Verde. This is partially due to a high level of criminality amongst youth and a slow justice system response. The consolidation of the rule of law and the modernization of judicial structures continues through the enforcement of the utilization of the Platform of Judicial Information (SIJE), the management and delivery times in the provision of judicial services, the review of important legislative packages, and the requalification of physical structures. Improving the access to justice to all

and assuring legal support to the poorest will be critical to leave no one behind. Legal representation in court is indeed provided to the poorest, yet information on access is presented in aggregated numbers (no data by sex, island/municipality, type of legal suit), making it difficult to monitor equitable coverage. , Nonetheless representation in court is key to claiming rights, including in situations that specifically affect women’s rights (formal recognition of de facto unions and ensuing rights, divorce, child support, gender base violence, among others). The government is currently implementing a criminal justice reform covering all system stakeholders including law enforcement, prosecution services, the judiciary and the prison system as well as the legal framework.

1.2. Economic development

Despite structural constraints such as a small domestic market, territorial dispersion, limited effective inter-island transportation system and energy and water shortages, and after a slow recovery period following the 2008 global crisis, the economy grew at an average annual rate of 4.62% between 2016 and 2019, suggesting the prospect of a return to sustainable growth rates²⁰. The economy continued to perform well throughout 2019, with strong growth, low inflation, and improving external position²¹. The main drivers of growth are concentrated in three sectors:

- Tourism services (25% of GDP, 75% of FDI inflows and 39% of jobs creation²²);
- Foreign direct investment (FDI) (5.7% of GDP in 2019, 12.5% in 2007)²³; and
- Migrants’ remittances (11.1% of GDP in 2019²⁴).

These sectors proved highly vulnerable to external fluctuating factors and global shocks. Consequently, when compared to its peers, Cabo Verde’s growth is less robust and highly volatile, with great variations from one year to the other²⁵. GDP growth has been faster than employment growth over 1991-2019²⁶.

Unemployment has been fluctuating for years but decreased from 12.2% in 2018 to 11.3% in 2019 (the best rate in 8 years). Though it decreased in urban areas since 2015, rural areas experienced a significant increase (+52%). Women unemployment also increased (+10.2, -12.2 for men). Youth unemployment followed the same pattern as total unemployment, to reach 16.6% in 2019, and The number of youths not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) decreased by 5.6%, more so for males (6,3%) than females (4,8%) and especially in urban areas (6,9% versus 3,2% in rural areas). Only four municipalities make for the reduction of unemployment since 2015 (Ribeira Grande de Santo Antão, Boavista, Praia and Brava). Four have seen an important rise in unemployment during the same period (Tarrafal de São Nicolau, São Domingos, São Miguel e Ribeira Grande de Santiago). The other 14 municipalities have not seen significant changes²⁷.

The structure of GDP did not change much since 2007, the primary sector contributing about 7% to GDP growth, secondary about 18% and tertiary about 61% (the remaining 14% being taxes and subsidies). Apart from tourism (25% of GDP, 39% of jobs), the country’s economy is dominated by small retail (11% of GDP, 14.6% of jobs), construction (9.3% of GDP, 11.2% of jobs), agriculture and fisheries (7% of GDP, 10.6% of jobs), manufacturing – mainly fish processing and to a lesser extent textiles/footwear – (6.2% of GDP and 10.6% of jobs), and transports (13% GDP, 5% of jobs)²⁸. These economic sectors – apart from manufacturing – employ women and men differently: in 2019, 25.6% of employed women have jobs in small retail (12,3% of men), 0.7% in construction (17.1% of men), 5.8% in agriculture and fisheries (14.9% of men), 1.3% in transport (10.9% of men)²⁹. Retail, hospitality (12.8 of women’s jobs and 6.1% of men’s), and domestic employment (11.6% versus 0.2 of men’s jobs) are the top three sectors for women employment. Santiago is the predominant centre of production and commerce with 52% of GDP, while São Nicolau (1.9%), Maio (0.9%) and Brava (0.7%) represent but minor contributions³⁰. Every island saw a slight decrease of their share in national GDP growth (from 0.2 to 0.9%), except for Boa Vista, whose share doubled in the last decade.

Cabo Verde’s economic structure is predominantly

13 AECOM IDEV (financed by the EU), [Public Expenditure and Financial Management \(PEFA\) report Cabo Verde](#), 2016
 14 Cabo Verde National Programme on drugs and crime (2018-2023)
 15 Idem
 16 Polícia Nacional, Estatística Criminal 2017-2018: Crimes Contra Pessoas
 17 Governo de Cabo Verde e NU (2020) Avaliação Rápida do impacto Socioeconómico COVID-19. PCNA+ Fase 1
 18 Resolução nº13/2020 de 27 de Janeiro
 19 Legislative Decree No 4/2015, November 11

20 African Development Bank, Country analysis for Socioeconomic Impact Assessment, April 2020
 21 IMF, [Cabo Verde: First Review under the Policy Coordination Instrument](#), April 2020
 22 UNWTO, 2020.
 23 UNCTAD, Investment Policy Review Cabo Verde, 2018 and UNCTAD database. [UNCTAD database](#).
 24 Banco de Cabo Verde, [Síntese de principais indicadores económicos e financeiros 2000-2019](#), 2020
 25 AfDB calculations using data from [World Bank Development Indicators database](#).
 26 AfDB calculations on the basis of ILOSTAT, 2020 <https://ilostat ilo org/data/#summarytables>. Employment elasticity to GDP was 0.5 over the period, an elasticity lower than 1.0 being a negative elasticity, i.e growth is faster than employment creation
 27 INE, IMC 2019, [Indicadores do Mercado de Trabalho](#), 2020
 28 INECV, [Quadro de Contas Nacionais 2007-2017](#), 2018
 29 INECV, IMC 2019, [Indicadores do Mercado de Trabalho](#), 2020
 30 INECV, [PIB por ilha 2017](#), 2018

characterized by micro, small and medium-sized companies (97%) that are mostly informal. This composition of the economic structure represents an impediment to largescale investment and financing as informal businesses cannot access capital markets and a risk-averse domestic banking sector remains hesitant to lend to smaller businesses. There was a 10.8% growth in the number of formal companies in Cabo Verde between 2017 and 2018. These companies are based mainly in Santiago (45%), São Vicente (20%) and Sal (11%)³¹. There is a strong concentration of companies in the tertiary sector (86.4%), mainly in commerce (44.6%) and hospitality (16.2 %). In 2018, enterprises created jobs for almost 71.000 persons, the majority men (58.3% and 41.7% women). Men are also heading 62% of enterprises - only in businesses linked to hospitality, education or health women are in leadership in greater proportion³².

The informal sector accounts for 52.5% of total employment and 12.1% of GDP. Underemployment affects 10.3% of the employed and a higher proportion of women (11.9% and 9% men), especially in the rural areas (24.6% and 14.7% men). Women are also the greater part of the working age population that is out of the labour force (49.4% and 34.9 for men), especially in rural areas (61.6% and 41% for men). Among the motives for being out of the labour force, 17% refer *invalidity, sickness, accident or pregnancy* (18% women and 15.5% men) and 12% *personal or family responsibilities* (18.6% women and 2.3% men), illustrating the proportion of women that are out of the labour force due to gender relations, that transfer most of the weight of unpaid care work to women³³.

The availability of decent work for women is reduced compared to men as a result of inequalities in the distribution of unpaid work and labour market discrimination. Indeed, traditional gender relations see women as responsible, almost exclusively, for domestic work and care of children, elderly, and family. On average they dedicate daily 3 ½ hours more than men to unpaid work, and many more in the case of less educated women, with more children, living in lower comfort levels³⁴. In poor households the dependency ratio is 76.5%, and

89.1% in extremely poor households (51.4% among non-poor households). This ratio goes up to 95.6% in extremely poor households in urban areas. Thus, poor, and very poor families, are burdened with unpaid care work, mainly performed by women³⁵. Globally, female heads of households tend to be more out of the labour force than their male counterpart (32.8% versus 20.3%), however this gap increases in the case of poor households (38.6% versus 22.2%). Only a ¼³⁶ of labour market discrimination, i.e men's and women's differentiated probability of being inserted in the labor force, can be attributed to differences in human capital (such as more experience, years of education, skills developed), while the greater part of existing differences are attributed to discrimination factors³⁷.

These features of the economic structure and the patterns of growth and employment make the country's economy highly dependent on external partners and vulnerable to external shocks. Cabo Verde is among the top 10 countries in Africa in terms of vulnerability related to trade intensity with Europe, China and the USA³⁸. Persisting economic inequalities between rural and urban, between sexes, and between islands, is considered a transversal challenge for the Decade of Action³⁹ (see Section 3 on SDGs).

COVID-19 has had a substantial negative impact on Cabo Verde's main drivers of growth: tourism (60% decrease in both demand and revenues), FDI (31% decrease in the first three quarters of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019, similar to the 30% decrease projected regionally for the whole year⁴⁰), and remittances (constant until June, then decreasing by 14.5% in the third quarter, with -23.1% projected at regional level for 2020)⁴¹. All the above will impact GDP growth negatively (-14.7% in the first three quarters of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019)⁴², leading to a doubling of unemployment in 2020 (from 10% at the end of 2019 to 20% at the end of 2020). The informal sector, characterized by fragile jobs and activities in heavily affected sectors (fishing, construction, hospitality, small informal retailers, among others), will be particularly hit. Most of informal workers and business owners are women and youth.

Economic diversification has become even more important in the pandemic-inflicted context. Diversifying tourism, connecting local value chains to hotels and restaurants, boosting the blue economy, tapping the potential of digital economy, while enhancing local agriculture and fisheries sectors, are all essential for immediate recovery and future resilience. Digital and financial literacy is high among youth but is not perfectly harnessed to seize economic opportunities linked to digital and blue economies. Additionally, apart from tourism, all other sectors are male dominated, requiring strategies to ensure investments in economic diversification reach both men and women.

The water-energy nexus is instrumental for lifting natural resources constraints inhibiting agriculture and industrial development. Water and energy shortages limit local productive capacities, especially in terms of reliability and consistency through quality assurance systems, and is a critical barrier for local businesses and organizations operating within the agriculture and fishery value chains to successfully compete with foreign suppliers, mostly based in Europe and currently accounting for a vast majority of services and goods within the tourism industry. Another critical barrier is limited mobility and connectivity within and between islands, especially via maritime channels,

which hampers access to services and markets.

Capacity building to improve workforce skills and investments in Research and development (R&D), as well as mobilization of diaspora and partnerships between national and international scientists to transform the country in an ocean-based circular economy are improving, but still needs to get up to speed. A Campus do Mar⁴³ has been installed to harness the potential of the ocean. Although it is too early to see its impact on growth, especially inclusive growth that benefits all islands, this effort may spur innovation in blue economy and boost inclusion of poor fishing communities if connected to the development of value chains that can add value to ocean production (fish, seafood, blue biotech, well-being product and services). These value chains will have to be strengthened taking into account women's and men's differentiated roles in fisheries and linked to hotels and regional markets.

The progress across the 7 hubs of the PEDS, has been positive in recent years (before COVID), although they remain below the PEDS projections⁴⁴. For instance, the volume of merchandise that transited via Cabo Verde's ports in 2019 is up 28.3% from 2016 but falls short of the 42.7% projected increase (same for air transport: +25% vs +48.3% projected)⁴⁵. Port calls increased by 36.9% in 2019 compared to 2018, despite limited improvements in Cabo Verde's ports



31 INECV, [Inquérito Anual as Empresas](#) (Annual Survey for Companies), 2018

32 Ibidem

33 INECV, IMC 2019, [Indicadores do Mercado de Trabalho](#), 2020

34 INE (2012). Inquérito Multiobjectivo Contínuo (IMC) - Uso do Tempo

35 INECV, [Inquérito sobre despesas e receitas dos agregados familiares](#), 2015

36 INECV, [Inquérito sobre despesas e receitas dos agregados familiares](#), 2015

37 Christie, T. & Rioja, F. (2013). Shifting the Composition of Expenditures and Financing to Enhance Growth Potentialities, chapter 3. In World Bank,

Addressing the challenges of a middle-income small state - Country Economic Memorandum, 2013

38 African Development Bank, [African Economic Outlook amid COVID-19](#), 2020

39 Cabo Verde's Government, [Ambition 2030](#)

40 UNCTAD, [World Investment report 2020](#), 2020

41 World Bank, [Global Economic prospects](#), 2020 and Cabo Verde Central Bank, [Remessas de emigrantes em divisas por origem Janeiro de 2002a Setembro de 2019-Junho 2020](#), 2021

42 Ministry of Finance and the World Bank, projections for Cabo Verde's socioeconomic impact assessment

43 The recently created [Campus do Mar](#) brought together different Universities and Research Centers dedicated to the Ocean to boost higher education, vocational training and R&D linked to the sea

44 Ministry of Finance, Governmental reports on the PEDS, 2017 and 2018

45 Authors calculations on the basis of INECV, [Estatísticas do Transporte](#), 2019 and PEDS 2017-2021.

connectivity in the last decade^{46,47}. To fully unleash the country's economic development potential, consolidating the enabling environment for businesses development and foreign investments, and the services to the economy, including access to finance, will be critical in the coming years.

1.3 Social services

After achieving most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)⁴⁸, Cabo Verde, a Lower Middle-Income country for 12 years now, is experiencing a positive, yet complex development process in terms of universal access to social services, such as WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), health, education and social protection, among others. Most indicators place the country among the ten-best ranked in Africa in terms of access to and quality of social services. Continuous investment in these sectors and a focus on inclusiveness will be needed to continue progressing in the areas described below. An important, longer-term trend with critical implications for public service delivery is demographic transition, shown by the synthetic fertility index (2.9 children per woman in 2005, 2.5 in 2018⁴⁹).

Poverty/Social Protection

Global absolute poverty was halved in 20 years, decreasing from 58% in 2001 to 35% in 2015 and 30.3% in 2019. Extreme poverty almost disappeared from two islands (Boa Vista 1.3% and Sal, 2.2%) but stands still in others (Fogo 20.2%; Brava 18.8% and Santo Antão 17.1%). Fogo only experienced a 7% decrease in global poverty from 2007 to 2015, while it decreased by 20% in Santo Antão, despite a faster increase in GDP per capita for the former (3.3% average annual rate versus 1.25%). Poverty affects 53% of women, 51% of urban population, 38% of children and 5% of elderly⁵⁰. 60.5% of poor households and 66.3% of urban extremely poor

households are headed by women (39.5% by men)⁵¹. The 10 municipalities with higher poverty and extreme poverty rates are also those with higher rates of female-headed households⁵².

Income inequality (measured by the Gini Coefficient) also declined sharply from 2001 to 2015. Disparities persist among municipalities and islands, though, in access to basic services, youth unemployment rates, and poverty, notably in rural areas (68.1% of the extremely poor live in rural areas)⁵³.

COVID-19 crisis, by hitting harder the most vulnerable populations, will exacerbate inequalities. Because of the disproportionate impact of the crisis on women, gender inequalities may be deepened. Poverty is expected to increase by 1% (from 30.3% to 31.3%) in 2020⁵⁴.

To fight poverty and inequalities and ensure sustainable growth, the country is on its way to achieving its objective of a Social Protection Floor (SPF), mostly thanks to the enormous government effort on total spending on Social Protection/Policies increased from 3.7% (2010) to 5.3% of GDP (2017)⁵⁵. In 2019, 36.2% of Cabo-Verdeans are covered by at least one social protection benefit⁵⁶, with coverage higher for men, except in the case of the maternity benefit; 50% of the employed population is covered by social insurance, representing around 3% of GDP⁵⁷. If considering health assistance, the coverage increases to 55%. Non-contributory social protection programs cover approximately 15.5% of the total population⁵⁸. This number rose dramatically in the framework of the RSI-E (Emergency Social Inclusion Income), created as the first measure in the socioeconomic governmental response to COVID-19. From 5,800 families covered in March 2020, the number increased to 9,000 families in May, and 28,000 families in February 2021. 71% of the population aged 60 and over are covered by some form of old age/social pension⁵⁹. Women are less protected and more likely to be eligible to receive social pensions (61% women), and men are more likely to receive old-age pensions from social security (60% men, due to longer and better-paid

careers and women's higher rates of inactivity)⁶⁰.

The sustainability of the RSI/E, together with the improvement of the efficiency (less fragmentation and adequacy of benefits) and effectiveness (broad coverage, especially in rural areas) of the system are priorities to continue improve social protection coverage.

Health

Cabo Verde progress in the health sector is historically remarkable with a health system with important strengths, both in terms of indicators and trends. Life expectancy has improved considerably, reaching 80.5 years for women and 73 years for men (66.5 in 2000 and 69.7 in 2010)⁶¹. Maternal mortality rates have fallen steadily each year from a rate of 256 per 100 000 live births in 1990 to 47 in 2014, making Cabo Verde the top countries in sub-Saharan Africa, with credit given to Cabo Verde's strong investment in women's health services⁶². Infant mortality is low compared to regional average. It has been reduced from 31.1 in 2000 to 16.7 in 2015 and to 13 in 2019 (52 in Sub Saharan Africa, 47.4 in Ghana, 41 in Senegal)⁶³. These improvements are due to a better coverage of vaccination (95.9%), prenatal consultations (86%), institutional deliveries by qualified personnel (92.9%), contraceptive prevalence (55.8%), and postnatal care for women in the two days after birth followed the birth (51.2%)⁶⁴.

The COVID-19 crisis highlighted some structural vulnerability linked to the institutional organization at central and local level on human resources and services management. There are no intensive care services in the country and public health care services face challenges related to diagnostic capacities due to the lack of basic equipment and its functional maintenance, especially on the islands without a hospital (VNR 2018). There are 6 hospitals (2 central and 4 regional) and all island has health facilities. Universal access to health services is not yet ensured, especially in remote islands and for people with disabilities.

Non-nationals have access to government-funded health services independently of their legal status; emergency medical care is free of charge to all irrespective of nationality and irregular migrants

also have access to planned healthcare, though international evacuation to Portugal is available only to nationals and regular migrants⁶⁵.

Sexual and reproductive health improved in previous years thanks to constant investment in family planning (100% coverage of family planning assured under the national budget), although some areas require more attention such as youth pregnancy: 18.3% of pregnant women are between 10 and 19 years of age, a trend that has hardly gone down over the last 4 years (4.4% of all pregnant women are teenagers under 17)⁶⁶.

The lifetime and annual drug use prevalence among the general population is around 7.6%, particularly between those aged between 15–44 (5.3% for men and 0.6% for women over previous 12 month). Alcohol consumption is historically a public health concern. Alcohol abuse is associated, among many other problems, to gender-based violence⁶⁷. Tobacco prevalence is relatively low: 9.6% of the population (15.7% of men and 3.2% of women)⁶⁸.

The ongoing epidemiological transition implies that non-communicable diseases account for about 68% of the first four causes in deaths in the country. Cardiovascular diseases account for 31% of deaths (37% of women's death and 25.6% of men's) and cancers for 11.8% (similar proportion for men and women)⁶⁹. Cancer is overall the third cause of death. Prevention in these illnesses are thus a top priority. 36% of women adults don't know how or where to get a cervical cancer test. The mean intake of salt per day of the adult population is 9.2 grams (WHO's recommendation is 5 grams) and the mean number of vegetables and fruit consumed is 3.4 (WHO's recommendation is 5) ; 55.6% of population is not engaging in vigorous physical activity (38.6% men, 73% women); it should be noted that 27 % of population has three or more risk factor (23.9% men, 30.2% women); the prevalence of diabetes it's 3.7% (3.3% men, 4.2% women) and hypertension 30.8% (36.2% men, 25.1% women)⁷⁰.

External causes of death (suicide, homicide, drowning, falls, etc.) are among the main causes of mortality, and are mainly associated with men. They affect more men than cancer and are often linked with complex and gendered socio-economic

46 UNCTAD, [Liner shipping connectivity Index](#), 2021
 47 UNCTAD, [Review of Maritime transport 2020](#), 2020
 48 INECV, [Resumo ODM](#), 2015
 49 INECV, IDSR- III (2018).
 50 INECV, [Inquérito sobre despesas e receitas dos agregados familiares](#), 2015 and INECV, [PIB por ilha 2017](#), 2018
 51 Ibidem. To be noted that in Cabo Verde 48% of households are headed by women.
 52 Santiago (São Salvador do Mundo, São Lourenço dos Órgãos, Santa Cruz, São Domingos e Ribeira Grande de Santiago), Santo Antão (Porto Novo, Paul), São Nicolau (Tarrafal de São Nicolau), Fogo (São Filipe) e Brava
 53 INECV, [Inquérito sobre despesas e receitas dos agregados familiares](#), 2015
 54 Ministry of Finance estimates for Cabo Verde COVID-19 Socioeconomic Impact Assessment (SEIA), considering the national poverty line as 5.5 US\$PPP/day
 55 World Bank, Social Inclusion Project Document.
 56 [World Social Protection Data Dashboards, ILO](#), 2017
 57 Author calculations based on MoF and INPS data.
 58 Author calculations based on MFIS/INPS administrative data and INE demographic projections. 2018.
 59 Author calculations based on CNPS/INPS administrative data and INE demographic projections.

60 Author calculations based on INPS and CNPS administrative data and INE demographic projections. 2015.
 61 INECV, 2019
 62 UNWomen, [Cabo Verde Country Gender Profile](#), 2018 and WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and World Bank, [Trends in maternal mortality 2000-2017](#), 2019
 63 [UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation](#), 2019. Number per thousand live births
 64 [Ministry of Health \(2017\) and Social Security \(Annual Statistical Report 2018\)](#)
 65 Cabo Verde Migration Governance Indicators Report – August 2020
 66 MSSS (2019) Relatório Estatístico 2018
 67 INECV, IDSR- III, 2018
 68 MSSS e INE. Inquérito sobre doenças não transmissíveis e seus fatores de risco associado ■ IDNT II 2019.
 69 MSSS (2019) Relatório Estatístico 2018
 70 Survey on risk factors for non-communicable diseases (NCD), 2019 NCD



patterns, violence, substance abuse, and mental health.

Over the last 10 years, malaria has had very low annual incidence. Its elimination by 2020 is on the national development agenda as reflected in the National Health Policy of 2007, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sub-regional Malaria Elimination Initiative in the Sahel countries. The national health authorities conducted a programme performance review in 2019 which led to the identification of strategic priorities and real needs to be considered in the new National Malaria Elimination Strategic Plan 2020-2024.

The incidence of tuberculous (TB) has decreased significantly in recent years, from 138 to 46 per 100,000 between 2015 and 2018, a reduction of 66% in only 3 years. TB remains a public health problem though, with about 250 new cases expected per year⁷¹. The largest number of cases is in the 25-49 age groups, which still reflects an intense transmission among the working population, especially in cities with relatively large populations like Praia and São Vicente. Of the 214 cases notified in 2019, two delegations in Praia and São Vicente detected 74%. The distribution of cases by sex shows the usual predominance of cases among men. The overall male/female (M/F) ratio is 2.5; it is greater than 1 in all age groups outside the 15-24 age range. The five contributing factors in TB cases are, in descending

order, alcoholism, undernutrition, HIV, tobacco and diabetes. In 2019, 16% of cases were TB/HIV co-infection cases. 100% of TB cases know their HIV status. And the success rate of new cases put on treatment in 2017 is 91%.

With exemplary work, Cabo Verde stands out in the WHO African Region group of countries for its good results in vaccination. 1) The country itself has been financing the vaccines from the outset; 2) Vaccination coverage at national level is above 90% for over 10 years (95-98%); 3) More than 10 years without epidemics of vaccine-preventable diseases; 4) Zero cases and deaths from Vaccine Preventable Diseases since the Rubella epidemic in 2008 (last measles epidemic in 1997 and Polio epidemic in 2000); 5) Declared polio-free in November 2016; 6) Country eligible in 2017 for measles elimination by 2020; 7) Absence of stock out in the Country; 8) Introduction of new vaccines: Hepatitis B at birth in 2002; Pentavalent (D-T-P-Hib-Hep. B) in 2010; 9) Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) one dose at 15 months in 2010, two doses the first at 09 months and the second at 15 months from July 2016; 10) Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) in April 2017; 11) Yellow fever vaccine in routine vaccination in June 2018; 12) Preparation for the introduction of HPV vaccine in early 2021; 13) Renewed cold chain with capacity for introduction of new vaccines. Cabo Verde has therefore maintained its commitment to “Universal

Access to Immunization”. Some challenges are yet to be overcome: 1) Funding for the introduction of new vaccines, including the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine; 2) Strengthening human resources and their continuing capacity building; 3) Improving data management and quality through informatization of the system and strengthening surveillance; 4) Maintaining the gains and successes achieved so far; and achieve the title of measles-free country and other diseases preventable by immunization targeted for elimination.

Since 2001 the national reproductive health programme (PNSR) has helped to contain the main vaccine-preventable diseases. Funding for vaccines and consumables is included in the state budget through the Extended Immunization Programme (EPI) with an annual budget of nearly 8 million USD. The country proposes a strategic plan for the next five years, the comprehensive multi-year plan (cMYP) for immunization 2018 – 2022, with the following objectives: 1) Increase vaccination coverage in Penta-3 from 95% to at least 98% at a national level and at least 95% in all municipalities by 2022; 2) By the end of 2022, introduce new vaccines against pneumococcus, rotavirus, and Human Papillomavirus (HPV) in all municipalities; 3) By the end of 2022, maintain the status of polio-free country and elimination of Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (MNT); 4) Achieve the measles and yellow fever elimination indicators and at least 80% of health facilities notify and share MAPI data.

HIV prevalence in the country is extremely low compared to regional and even global standards – 0.6% (0.4% for men and 0.7% for women, with prevalence trends going up for women and down for men)⁷². However, youth is the most affected group, especially in the case of girls/young women: from 15 to 34 years of age, identified HIV+ cases are always considerable higher for them, and are over twice as high for 15 to 19 and 25 to 29 years old⁷³. Specific gender vulnerabilities include, among others, exposure of women to sexual violence and GBV and low participation of men/partners in anonymous voluntary testing during pregnancy (prevention of mother-to-child transmission program)⁷⁴. This higher rate is due to a higher probability of contracting HIV through sexual intercourse (84%), drug use (81%) and excessive alcohol consumption

(73%)⁷⁵. Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) coverage is high at 94%⁷⁶.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the country's provision of health care services at all levels. Some health staff were infected with COVID19 and some facilities quarantined. The population consulted less the health facilities due to their COVID19 risk perception, this includes decreasing in the number of consultations on the prevention programmes like vaccination, chronic non communicable diseases, etc. The health sector has not yet had a COVID-19 impact study, however, according to a KAP online survey realized by the Ministry of Health and Social Security, 93.19% of respondents changed their routine. It is necessary to carry out further investigation to have statistics on the effects of the pandemic not only within the health sector but also in the national economy and the government investment for strengthening the national health system as well as on the response to the pandemic.

Education

Education has been a strength of Cabo Verde since the independence, with very positive indicators, especially at both end of the education process: literacy and secondary and higher education. The illiteracy rate (aged 15 and over) went from 61.3% in 1975 to 11% in 2016 (women: 15.3%, men: 6.7%; urban 8.2%, rural 17%). In the 15 to 24 age group, the rate is 1.1%⁷⁷, without gender gap nor significant differences between municipalities, making Cabo Verde the third most literate country in sub-Saharan Africa, behind Seychelles and Mauritius⁷⁸. The completion rate in 2018 was 72,5% for secondary education (9th to 12th grade), 75,7% for girls and 68,6% for boys. For basic education (1st to 8th grade) the completion rate is 87,7%, for girls 91,2% and for boys 84,5%⁷⁹.

Pre-primary and primary school enrollment has been stagnating or slightly worsening in the last 5 years (-4.3% for primary), only ranking among average performance in the region, despite investments in these sectors (e.g an increase of 33% pre-primary institutions between 2015 and 2018⁸⁰). The number of students in higher education (23.1% of total age range 18-22) also decreased by 13% between 2013

⁷² [III Demographic and Reproductive Health Survey \(III-DRS\), 2018](#)

⁷³ MSSS (2019) Relatório Estatístico 2018

⁷⁴ CCS-SIDA. Plano Estratégico VIH/SIDA (2017-2020)

⁷⁵ [Anuário Estatístico de Cabo Verde, INE 2017](#)

⁷⁶ UNAIDS, [Cabo Verde Country Fact Sheet](#), 2019

⁷⁷ NK "http://ine.cv/publicacoes/anoario-estatistico-cabo-verde-2015/" [Anuário Estatístico de Cabo Verde](#), 2017 INECV, [Anuário Estatístico de Cabo Verde](#),

⁷⁸ 2017

⁷⁹ The World Bank, [Development Indicators Database](#)

⁸⁰ Ministério da Educação, [Anuários Estatísticos](#), 2015 and 2018

⁸¹ Ibidem

and 2017-18⁸¹.

There is an important gap in terms of net schooling rate between basic education (94% in 2019-2020) and secondary education (54.1%), probably due to the new gratuity of basic education. Drop out (1% for elementary education and 6.8% for secondary education) are more frequent for boys (1.2% vs 0.7% for girls in primary, 8.1% vs 5.3% in secondary). The main causes of dropout seem to be failure rate and entrance in the labour market. To tackle the dropout problem, the extension of compulsory basic education up to 8 year became effective in 2017-18, and the extension of secondary education for all is planned for 2020-21. The analysis carried out by the Ministry of Education in 2016 showed that the curriculum was out of date with the needs of adolescents both in cognitive and social terms. This analysis dictated the curricular review, as a way to promote inclusion, along with the distribution of meals in schools.

In terms of quality of education, the large-scale learning assessment demonstrate no significant progress in the learning outcomes in Mathematics (data interpretation, problem solving) and Portuguese (writing skills) since 2010⁸². In pre-primary, quality of education is of major concern, with only 30% of trained professional. In higher education, the ratio students/PhD professors improved constantly to reach 1/68 in 2014 (28% women and 72% men)⁸³. The ratio of students in exact sciences and engineering, very important for the PEDS seven hubs (see Section2) is diminishing to the profit of other social sciences and, even though women represent 58.8% of higher education students in 2014/2015, they only represent 29% of students in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) degrees, and less than ¼ of students in technological degrees.

Inequalities persist in terms of gender and means of residence, and the likelihood of completing the last grade of primary school is 94.2% for boys and 96.8% for girls in the poorest households, whereas for children in richer households, no significant difference exists (98.4% for boys and 98.7% for girls)⁸⁴. Only 65.8% of poor boys aged 12-14 had completed basic education and 77.6% of girls (81.5% of non-poor boys and 88% of girls of the

same age). Poverty gender dynamics at family level thus impact educational performance of children, especially boys. Children aged 4-5 from poor families have lower access to pre-school (74.5% and 84.3% for children from non-poor families, overall 80% for all children), probably impacting future school performance, while also impacting women's unpaid care work. Access to pre-primary is lower than national average in 8 municipalities⁸⁵. Dropout also varies between islands municipalities and reaches as high as 11.99% in the municipality of Brava and lower in São Salvador do Mundo, 1.4% (the national average is 5.2%). Inequalities deepen after secondary education, with only 2% of poor girls and 3% of poor boys accessing to higher education. In general, access to University and technical education has been stagnating in the past years⁸⁶. The access to schooling for children, young people and adults with special educational needs is still limited. Of about 1,600 of them⁸⁷, 26% never attended school and only 3.1% have higher education⁸⁸. Most pre-school, primary and secondary school as well as vocational or higher education teachers have no capacity to address special educational needs. In 2018, specific educational plans were drawn up to respond to their needs⁸⁹.

Due to COVID-19, distance learning modality started in March 20th and continued partially in 2020-2021. It highlighted the limited access to information and communication technologies (ICT) for education, despite improvements in the last years. 120 out of 471 schools have access to Internet (80 in 2017) and 46% have computers. Disparities in socio-economic conditions (families without electricity, internet TV or Radio) have reinforced existing inequalities in access to education. About 4% of students could not attend classes on TV and Radio. Other did not receive supporting documents, or proper follow-up from local education structures. The conditions of the families improved for the new schoolyear, with the distribution of 8,000 TVs for students to watch the tele classes, and the capacity building of teacher to take better advantage of the distance learning system, with the partnership of UNICEF, World Bank and Global Partnership for Education, to be able in the future to complement the face-to-face classes.



Food Security and nutrition

Given its territorial fragmentation, the existence of a limited area of arable land (10%), limited irrigation systems (5% of arable land is irrigated), and its exposure to extreme weather phenomena as a result of climate change, Cabo Verde is highly vulnerable to food insecurity – both cyclical and structural.

Soils are mostly of volcanic origin but are poor in organic matter, and crop yields are low. As a result, more than 80% of food supplies are imported, especially cereals (rice and wheat), whose dependence has been increasing exponentially over the years.

The country has already reached the nutrition target for 2025 of the WHO indicators on nutritional status of children under 5 years old. Despite these gains, the prevalence of malnutrition in the Cabo Verdean population was 12.6% in 2019.

About 10 000 people (approximately 2 percent of the total population) are estimated to be in Phase 3: “Crisis” and above in the June-August 2020 period. In 2020, Cabo Verde was considered amongst the 34 countries in Africa with severe localized food insecurity due to the poor performance of the 2019 agropastoral cropping season⁹⁰.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in Cabo

Verde are expected to cause a deterioration in food insecurity conditions. According to the recent Early assessment of the prevalence of Food Insecurity in Cabo Verde (FAO, 2020), 36.0% of population experienced moderate or severe food insecurity during the last semester of 2020. For 30.4% of the individuals COVID-19 has been identified as one of the main drivers. The most critical impact was experienced in the touristic islands of Sal and Boa Vista, and in the urban municipalities of Praia and São Vicente, but also in Brava and Ribeira Grande de Santiago. 50.4% of the household stated that they lost income because of COVID-19 (the highest prevalence was recorded in the islands of Boa Vista and Sal (in which 81% of the households interviewed in Boa Vista said they had lost income because of Covid19 and Sal – 71.8% made the same statement). This situation was more intense in the urban environment where 53.3% of households reported losing income, compared to 44% living in rural areas and said they had lost income due to the pandemic. In general, households in rural areas present a situation of structural food insecurity while households living in the urban environment were impacted more severely and conjuncture due to the pandemic. Food insecurity affected women headed households (39,2%) more than men headed households (29%). women refer difficulty in accessing food more than men (25% versus 18%)

81 Ministry of Education. *Anuário do Ensino Superior Ano letivo 2014-2015*, 2017

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

83 Ministry of Education. *Anuário do Ensino Superior Ano letivo 2014-2015*, 2017

84 INECV, *Perfil da Pobreza em Cabo Verde*, 2018

85 Ministério da Educação. Estudo Diagnóstico da situação do Pré-Escolar, 2019. The 8 municipalities are Ribeira Grande de Santiago (62%), Sal (62.9%), Santa Catarina do Fogo (66.3%), São Salvador do Mundo (68.1%), Praia (71.7%) and São Vicente (76.7%).

86 Government of Cabo Verde, *Voluntary National Review*, 2018

87 Education Signaling System based on WHO's Functional Classification of Efficiency and Health, 2018

88 INECV, Portrait of the disability situation in Cabo Verde, 2018 Handicap Internacional, Ministério da Saúde e Segurança Social, Estudo

89 Biocomportamental sobre a vulnerabilidades das Pessoas com Deficiência face ao VIH/SIDA em Cabo Verde (Relatório de Cabo Verde),

89 Ministério da Educação, Relatório de Atividades 2018-2019

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

and domestic workers is the professional category most affected in terms of access to food⁹¹

Acute malnutrition is low (4.4%), but 5% children under 5 remain underweight. Nutrition problems are greater in rural areas. The prevalence of anemia in children under-five years of age at 43%⁹² is considered a public health problem, as well as iron deficiency, despite positive developments over the years (down from 55% in 2005 (IDSR II) and from 70.4% in 1972)⁹³, and stunted growth in children under 5 (11%, moderate severity, 27.7% in West Africa).

Most of the population (65.5%) is eutrophic (adequate weight for height). Overweight and obesity prevalence (respectively 20.4% and 7.9%) is increasing⁹⁴, raising concerns as they are prevalent risk factors for chronic non-communicable diseases. This reflects the food and nutritional transition, i.e. changes in the nutritional patterns, and in the dietary structure and body composition of the individuals.

WASH and waste management

Water scarcity in Cabo Verde is among the main structural constraints for sustainable development processes, especially in terms of sanitation, hygiene, health and agriculture. The current scenario of water scarcity on Santiago Island (hosting almost 60% of the country's total population) is serious and worsening, with a deficit of 221,577,76 m³ per year. Water shortages happen on a regular basis in most municipalities⁹⁵.

Despite chronic water scarcity, Cabo Verde is by far above the region's means in terms of access to drinking water. In 2019, 71.7% of households are linked to public networks as the main source of water supply. The rural urban gap has been slowly narrowing since 2000 yet remains significant (about 10%). Important disparities persist among municipalities, even in the same island (e.g. 18.7% in Sao Salvador do Mundo, 41% in Sao Domingos, 77.2% in Tarrafal, all in the island of Santiago) and between islands (e.g. 50.1% in Boa Vista and 94.1% in Brava). 9.1% of households source themselves from neighbors, 7.4% from nearby fountains, 8.6% from water tanks and 4.8% from other sources⁹⁶. When

water needs to be collected, women and girls are responsible for this task in 70% of the cases (78% in rural areas). Desalination of sea water is the main source of drinking water, followed by groundwater, obtained through the digging of holes and wells, and groundwater reserves. In rural Santiago, dire water shortage exacerbated gender issues in water management, as women have little representation in the management of mixed water sources (water for domestic use and agriculture): farmers (mainly men) control and give preference to water use for agriculture, leaving out domestic use, while women, due to water scarceness, had to resort to water sources outside their communities⁹⁷.

85.2% of households have access to sanitation systems, a high rate in comparison with most African countries, and an increase by 7.8% since 2015. Only 8 municipalities, all poor municipalities from the island of Santiago, have a rate inferior to national average. However, the lack of sanitation and inadequate deposition of waste were, according to health statistics, considered one of the main causes of mortality (5th position), especially in children under five years old (3rd position). A significant gap persists between urban and rural areas (92% vs 73%), and the 100% national target is still far. In rural areas, 25.3% of the population do not have sanitary installation at home⁹⁸. Recent investment in sewage networks increased the number of wastewater treatment plants to 11 in operation, on five islands. In terms of water contamination, in many areas untreated wastewater, including industrial waste, is discharged into the environment. Heavy rainfall and flood events cause compromised or vulnerable sanitation systems to overflow, exposing people to dangerous pathogens. Households depositing their solid waste in open air (7%) decreased by half since 2015⁹⁹, with a handful of municipalities of the island of Santiago lagging (e.g. Tarrafal 40%, Ribeira Grande 34.3%). The quantity and composition of waste produced in Cabo Verde underwent a significant transformation between 2000 and 2015, with an annual increase of waste production of 3.81%.

Regional and Urban Development

Cabo Verde's structural constraints as a SIDS, such as territorial dispersion and limited connectivity, result in important disparities among islands and municipalities based on their isolation, economic development, population structure and connection to other islands, by air or sea. These challenges demand local solutions adapted to each island.

In terms of access to basic social services (see above), disparities among islands are limited, although the poor municipalities in the Northern part of Santiago island are still lagging. Economic growth and employment are concentrated in four growing urban centers (Praia, Mindelo, Sal Rei, Espargos and Santa Maria). In Fogo and São Nicolau, progresses in unemployment and poverty reduction have been slow in the past years. Brava and Ribeira Grande de Santo Antão are an exception with important decrease in unemployment in the last 4 years (See Economic Chapter)¹⁰⁰. Higher education, specialized health, and other premium services are concentrated in two islands, Santiago and Sao Vicente (namely in Mindelo).

Disparities between islands have a direct effect on internal migrations. Populations of Boavista and Sal increased fourfold in the last 20 years and will double in the next 20 years. Maio's population is expected to double too. Half of the municipalities, on the contrary, will lose one fifth to one third of their population, despite a national increase of the population by 25%¹⁰¹. This migration is not accompanied by sufficient housing development and urban planning, resulting in the development of informal settlements and related poor living conditions. The gender balance in population is also affected: although Cabo Verde's sex ratio (women to men) was 1.02 in 2010, it was down to 0.69 in Boa Vista and 0.86 in Sal. Other islands are also affected, although in the context of decreasing population (Santo Antão, São Nicolau). In Paul (Santo Antão) only 41% of 25-44 years olds are women and 43% of 15-24 pointing to the need to understand specific determinants of women's migration. On the contrary several municipalities of Santiago have more women than men (overall 1.08, São Miguel having the highest disparity – 1.23)¹⁰².

Informal settlements are located, predominantly, in areas of poor accessibility and high risk (mainly riverbeds and steep slopes), exposed to **floods**, landslides, falling blocks, among others.

100 Ministry of Environment, Habitat and Land Planning, Fontes de Receitas Municipais e Formas de Financiamento do Desenvolvimento Local, 2015. Based on projections from INECV for Cabo Verde's population in 2030.
101 INECV, Resenhecimento Geral da População e Habitação, 2010
102 OECD, Transition finance country pilot, 2018
103 Authors calculations on the basis of INECV, *Estatísticas do Transporte*, 2016 and 2019

Inhabitants suffer from substantial deficiencies in infrastructure, equipment, and basic services with problems of security and public health. Improvement of urban space through sanitation and water supply, parks and open spaces, better transport conditions, are amongst the priority interventions to increase resilience.

A critical limitation for regional development and convergence between islands is the limited mobility of persons and goods. For instance, it is less expensive to ship the same container from Praia to Lisbon than to Mindelo¹⁰³. Internal air transport, beyond the aerial bridge between the two main cities, Mindelo and Praia, is scarce and expensive. The number of passengers using maritime transportation increased constantly from 2016 to 2019 (+27%)¹⁰⁴, yet delays and prices are still a concern, including for local companies moving goods among islands.

These challenges call for integrated solutions, developed together with local actors – local authorities, civil society and private sector – to improve access of all islands and municipalities to social services (beyond WASH), markets, and finance. While the approval of the regionalization law has been pending, associations of municipalities at island level and SDG Localization platforms contribute to the creation of an enabling environment at territorial level in terms of institutional capacities, resource mobilization and horizontal and vertical coordination. The local plans (PEMDS) may serve as a catalyzer to drive public and private investment toward the remotest areas and improve local agriculture and fisheries systems.

1.4. Environment, biodiversity and climate change

Cabo Verde is a country vulnerable to several risks, namely risks related to volcanic activities, droughts, floods, and torrential rain. These risks are linked to its volcanic origin, its archipelagic nature, its geographical location in the Sahel region (causes scarcity of rains) and its small territorial, demographic and economic dimension. This situation in Cabo Verde is further exacerbated by climate change, which also causes sea current changes that induce important biodiversity

91 ICIEG, Estudo de impacto da COVID sobre a igualdade de genero, 2020

92 INECV, *Terceiro inquérito demográfico de saúde reprodutiva*, 2018

93 Ministry of Environment, Inquérito sobre prevalência da Anemia e Fatores associados em crianças menores de 10 anos (IPAC, 2010)

94 INECV, *Inquérito sobre despesas e receitas dos agregados familiares*, 2015

95 National Water and Sanitation Agency (ANAS), *Relatório Anual dos Serviços de Água e Saneamento*, 2017

96 INECV, *Estatísticas das Famílias e Condições de Vida*, 2019

97 Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAA)/FAO/EU, Diagnóstico social e de género nas comunidades abrangidas pelo Projeto REFLOR - Reforço da

Capacidade de Adaptação e Resiliência do Sector Florestal, 2020

98 Ibid.

99 Ibid.



disturbances and losses and the occurrence of rain and storms. The sea-level rise as a result of global warming is a crucial factor for these high risk as well as floods, recurrent droughts, storms and earthquakes. The country has one of highest disaster risk in the world, ranking 11th out of 181 countries (World Risk Index 2020) and the highest risk in Africa.

In the past ten years, Cabo Verde has suffered from several natural events such as:

- Hurricane Fred in 2015
- Volcanic Eruption on Fogo Island
- Severe droughts from 2017 to 2019
- Floods on several islands: São Nicolau (2009), Boa Vista (2012), São Miguel (2013), and Santo Antão (2016); Brava, Santiago, Sao Vicente and Santo Antão (2020)

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

Considerable losses in the agricultural and livestock sectors (e.g., agricultural land, infrastructure losses and damage, road infrastructures; telecommunication; sanitation; electricity; and

housing/buildings) are also provoked by extreme rain events and floods.

The heavy rains that occurred on the 11th to the 14th of September 2020, resulting from the development of the Tropical System in the western region of the African coast, exposed, explicitly and clearly, the socio-economic vulnerability of the population residing in the Municipalities of Praia and Mindelo, respectively in the islands of Santiago and Sao Vicente. Several communities of lower catchments of the diverse Municipalities were affected, and losses and damage has prompted the government to declare the state of emergency and to reach out to development partners to help attenuate the predicament of these communities. It was estimated that economic losses exceed 258,500,000 ECV (2,500,000 USD). According to the National Civil Protection and Fire Service, a total of 107 families were affected, among them 300 children, 36 families in Praia and 5 in Mindelo, lost their homes and 66 other families located in risk areas, had to be temporarily relocated.

As many archipelagos in tropical regions, Cabo Verde has a relatively rich, yet fragile biodiversity, characterized by small, localized, highly specialized, and very diverse populations with low variability and low abundance, making them vulnerable to any variation and easily driven to extinction¹⁰⁵. The country is part of one of 23 most important marine ecoregions on the planet¹⁰⁶, and of the 10 coral reef hotspots, host of several emblematic species such as marine mammals, 5 species of sea turtles

and a considerable rate of endemic species like marine invertebrates. The natural characteristics of the archipelago make its biodiversity important in all its aspects – genetic, specific, taxonomic, ecological and functional. In addition to the ecological importance, biodiversity represents the support of all economic activity, with emphasis on (i) agriculture, forestry and livestock; (ii) fishing; (iii) beach and beach tourism; (iv) water sports, recreation and leisure, and (v) ecotourism / nature tourism. Pressures on biodiversity in Cabo Verde are mainly concentrated in coastal areas, where a large share of the population is concentrated, 5 cities affected by unplanned urbanization and countless poor fishing communities. Main biodiversity threats are due to overexploitation, destruction of terrestrial and marine habitats, construction of infrastructure, organizational management and legislative enforceability, limited environmental knowledge / sensitivity and awareness and climate change. The fragility of Cabo Verde's ecosystems – marine, coastal and inland – demand a holistic approach to land use, urbanization and settlements, many of which have grown informally.

Protection measures are growing yet remain limited, while the need to diversify livelihoods, and adapt practices in existing ones, remains. A more scientific approach to natural resources protection and an enhanced partnership around ocean management are among the aims of the new “Campus do Mar”, bringing together different actors of ocean-based science and economy to improve research, education and sustainable development on coastal and marine areas.

The Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction aims at preventing new risks while putting measure in place to reduce existing ones. Because of the threats climate change and disasters pose to sustaining development and reducing poverty and inequality, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are vital strategies for achievement of the SDGs. This is recognised in the 2030 Agenda through the harmonization of the SDGs, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. This includes the use of common indicators on reduction of deaths, injury, missing people, and economic loss and damage for the SDG and Sendai results frameworks.

Knowledge on hazards, exposure, vulnerability and risk assessment is key ingredients to risk-informed development. A multi-dimensional risk analysis that incorporates early warning for action indicators is desirable in order to support the country's effort on

resilience. To improve the national environmental management, Cabo Verde has been working to better understand its environmental profile to assist the country in making the best decisions on management and sustainable use of environmental resources and their integration in the sectors of economic activities and cross-cutting domains contributing to the promotion environmental quality.

The energy transition is a major stake in Cabo Verde. The Master Plan for the electricity sector (PDSE 2018 - 2040) provides that in 2030 at least 50% of the electricity produced in the country will be of renewable origin (against 20.3% in July 2019). The transition to renewable energies will increase electricity access, reduce dependence on fossil fuels and therefore on imports, and reduce the cost of electricity, promoting social inclusion. It is also a factor promoting the development of new economic activities and contributing to the reduction of the cost of water using renewable energies for seawater desalination and pumping stations. Employment in energy so far represents 0.9 of existing jobs in 2019 (0.2 for women and 1.4 for men) and the transition to renewable energy and energy efficiency is an opportunity, including in terms of gender equity, as the transition requires new technical profiles, to be developed.

As a small island developing state (SIDS), Cabo Verde has one of the lowest per capita emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) and is, however, among the countries most vulnerable to climate change. Faces serious associated adaptation challenges, with the ratification of the Paris Agreement¹⁰⁷, the country aims to present its proposals for mitigating and adaptation contributions to this climate action called Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as part of a national strategy that effectively links and leads all new international requirements with current national plans and strategies to combat climate change.

Cabo Verde's new NDC identifies nature-based solutions aiming to reinforce the country's climate change resilience and mitigation capacity, by strengthen the international alignment and national concern to meet the targets and fulfil its commitments at that level.

Climate change is occurring at a fast pace, increasing social, environmental, economic, and political vulnerability. Uncertainty and risk remain as prevailing systematic variables that affect decision processes. In its development planning procedures, Cabo Verde not only considers climate

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

106

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

107

Resolution n.º 35/IX/2017, BO n.º 25, I Série de 12 de Maio de 2017

change impacts and serious challenges associated with water demand and availability, food and energy security and desertification processes, but also the best way to contribute for its mitigation.

Although Cabo Verde's contribution for GHG emissions are relatively low, the Paris Agreement commits the country to not reduce its future ambition regarding emissions reduction pledge itself to carbon neutrality objectives, therefore, in line with this ongoing commitment, some measures, especially regarding mitigation (energy efficiency, renewable energy, transport, sanitation, waste and forests), are in progress, as is the implementation of plans and strategies defined in the NDC presented by the country. For the area of renewable energies, Cabo Verde has very ambitious short-term goals, such as reaching 30% of electricity production from renewable energy sources by 2025.

The amount of information already produced in the country demonstrates how Cabo Verde is very active in the development of public plans and policies that make it possible to monitor issues related to climate change. The formulation of a National Risk and Disaster Reduction Strategy, drawn up in 2017, is an affirmation of the priority agreed by the government to Disaster Risk Reduction and adaptation to climate change as imperatives for building resilience for the sustainable development of the nation and of society. Cabo Verde also set up a national emergency fund in 2018. The fund is fed with 0.5% of the non-consigned tax revenues from the previous year to which the State Budget refers, as well as income from financial investments, contributions from public and private entities and international entities.

The disaster risk reduction policy promotes the development of an enabling environment and a guiding framework for changing the paradigm from disaster management to disaster risk management. This strategic policy framework marked a paradigm shift anchored in the underlying risk factors mitigation, in particular to reduce exposure and vulnerability, to build resilience and to institutionalize disaster risk management. The National Disaster Risk Management System (SINAGERD) is articulated through institutional arrangements, based on a legislative reform and national strategy, on a broad set of objectives and principles, planning instruments, information systems and coordination mechanisms with different partners and multisectoral management.

However, so far none of Cabo Verde's municipalities has implemented an emergency response plan.

The lack of adaptation capacities increases the country vulnerability. Under pillar 3, the UN system is supporting Cabo Verde's efforts to improve the preparedness and resilience of the national authorities and communities and implement early warning systems. Also, in the medium term there are opportunities to assist the Government of Cabo Verde in fully mainstreaming climate issues into the AFOLU, Tourism and Blue Economy sectors, and in implementing the priorities defined in the new intended Nationally Determined Contribution.

Recent disaster events in Cabo Verde, such as the volcanic eruption in Fogo Island (2014-2015), the Dengue, Zika and Corona virus epidemics, the recurrent droughts and resulting bad agricultural years, the floods that occurred on the islands of Santo Antão, São Nicolau, Santiago and São Vicente and the alert for seismic events on the island of Brava, coupled with growing awareness of the risks associated with climate change for an island state like Cabo Verde, have raised awareness at a national level and stressed the importance of taking proactive measures to address the underlying factors of disaster risk and building nation and communities' resilience.



2. Cabo Verde's vision for sustainable development



This section presents an analysis of the country's key development priorities and needs, as reflected in the national development plan, related strategies, policies and programmes, as well as the national roadmap for SDG implementation and consultations with the Government. It provides also a snapshot of the country's key development priorities and needs, and highlight the relationship between the economic, social and environmental dimensions in the national vision for sustainable development and human rights

Cabo Verde national development priorities are encapsulated in the Government’s Programme for the 9th legislative term and the country’s **Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development – PEDS 2017-2021, in the 22 municipal sustainable development plans** and in the **National Agenda for Sustainable Development, entitled Ambition 2030**.

The Government of Cabo Verde has shown strong political will and commitment to achieve its vision of inclusive sustainable development, where full employment and full freedom rule, as detailed in its national Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development 2017-2021 (PEDS). Building on the significant economic and social gains achieved by the country over recent years, the PEDS sets challenging targets for the 2017-2021 period in a consistent long-term approach, centered around four structural objectives:

- (1) Make Cabo Verde a circular economy in the Mid-Atlantic (connectivity, blue economy, green growth, tourism development; and business, industry, and financial services);
- (2) Ensure economic and environmental sustainability (sustainable tourism, domestic industry and export promotion);
- (3) Ensure social inclusion and reduce inequalities and asymmetries (education and professional training; health and social security; job creation and youth and gender equality);
- (4) Strengthen democracy, justice and international diplomacy and engage the diaspora

To achieve the 4 priority objectives, the PEDS is organized with 35 programmes clustered into 3 pillars: Pillar 1 on the Economy, aims at a new economic and environmental growth model; Pillar 2 on Social Status, aims to improve human

capital, quality of life and combat inequalities and asymmetries; and Pillar 3 on Sovereignty, seeks a new State model for the strengthening of sovereignty, and creating value in democracy. Gender equality is considered key to sustainable development and crosscutting to all pillars. The SDGs have been mainstreamed across the PEDS with indicators and programmes linked to the SDG targets and indicators. Each Strategic Objective from the PEDS logical framework is aligned with the SDG targets and indicators selected from the global framework of SDGs indicators.

In addition, and in line with the on-going decentralization of services to municipalities and Government reforms, the Government has invested strongly in the past 3 years in strengthening the needed capacities for medium-term planning and budgeting across municipalities. When preparing SDG focused strategies, SDG targets must be integrated into locally defined strategies and action plans by demonstrating how established priorities are linked to the national and global SDG targets. In recent years Cabo Verde developed Municipal Sustainable Development Plans (PEMDS) across its 22 municipalities. SDG Localization, an effort that counted with UNDP support through the National Programme SDG Platforms, should promote convergence of the various PEMDS with the PEDS to facilitate integrated action to tackle inter and intra-island regional disparities and leave no one behind. The PEMDS count on a gender analysis and one of their five priority intervention axes is on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The PEMDS are an example of participation within the framework of local multi-stakeholder platforms and promotion of the SDGs. The SDG Localization Platforms across its municipalities is instrumental to facilitate the engagement of different society groups. Moving forward, this platform will be useful to map the potentialities of each municipality to

ensure the implementation of the accelerators is differentiated based on challenges and opportunities at the sub-national levels.

Under full government leadership and highly participatory methodologies, the United Nations supported a Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) exercise and a Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Prioritization mission respectively in 2017 and December 2019. The first exercise revealed an average of 75% of alignment of the national planning objectives and priority areas with the SDG targets. See results of the 2017 RIA alignment in the figure below noting the gaps in planning related to SDG 14 (on oceans) and SDG 15 (on life on land).

In late 2019 an UN inter-agency mission together with the World Bank and the European Union under the leadership of the Ministry of Finance and Planning supported the country in identifying **SDGs accelerators to deliver on Agenda 2030 alongside a roadmap for an Integrated National Financing Framework**. This was the first exercise to support developing the national sustainable development strategy ‘Cabo Verde Ambition 2030’ that contributed to the identification of five key accelerators contextualized for Agenda 2030 in the country.

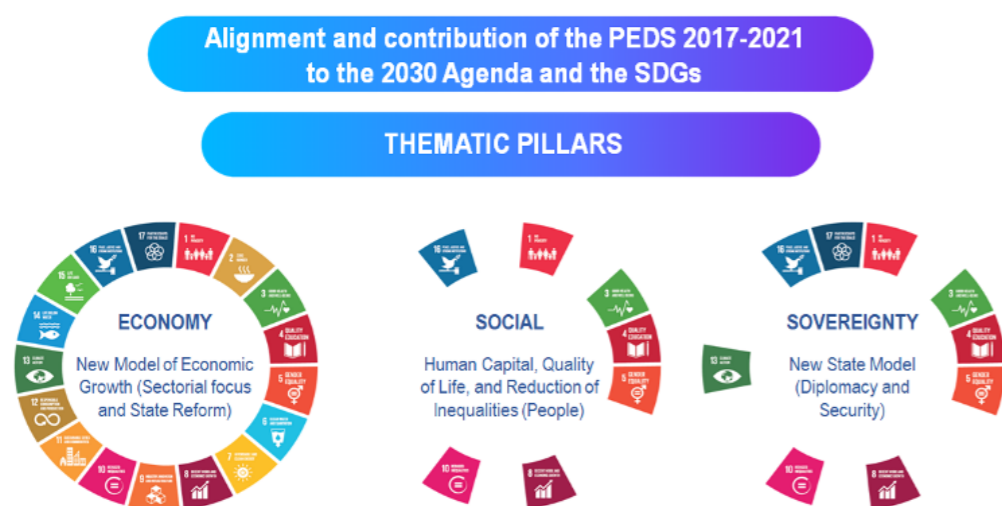
These accelerators interact with each other in a systemic way and are influenced by a set of enablers defined by financing, partnerships, security issues, institutions and systems, and connectivity within and across islands through physical or digital means (see chart next page).



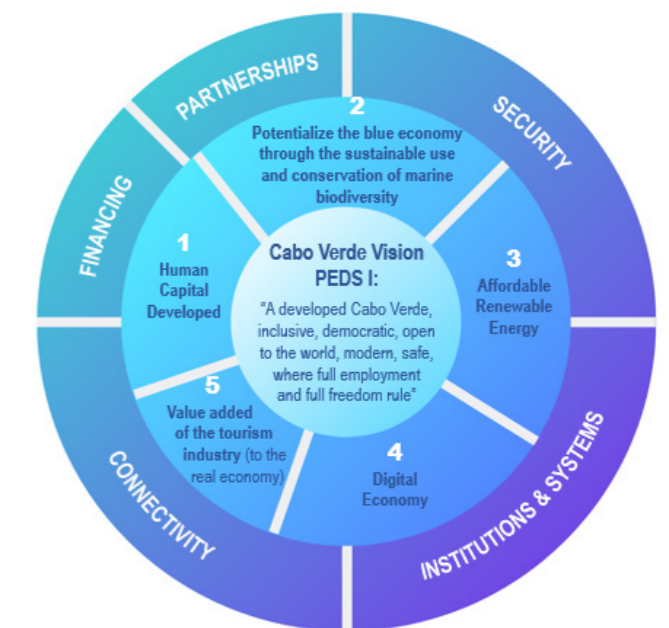
Within this scenario, and aligned with the vision of Cabo Verde, the most impactful accelerator to boost Cabo Verde’s full potential to achieve sustainable development is **human capital development**.

A key component of the SDG Acceleration Roadmap was the development of a long-term vision for the country to achieve the 2030 Agenda – “Ambition 2030”. This vision reflects the long-term aspirations of Cabo Verde and the ambition that will be realized through the country’s national development planning processes, including:

- (1) the mid-term review for the current PEDS I (2017-2021);
- (2) the preparatory process for the PEDS II (2022-2026) and its subsequent mid-term review; and
- (3) the preparatory process for the PEDS III (2026-2031).



Level of alignment of the PEDS to each SDGs. Source: Rapid Integrated Assessment Cabo Verde

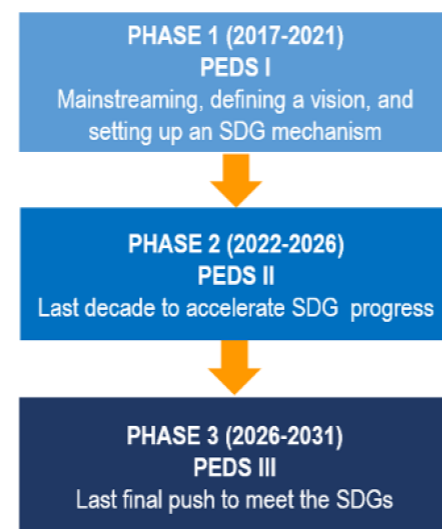


SDGs accelerators. Source: SDG Roadmap Cabo Verde

PEDS Methodology



Phasing SDG implementation



COVID-19 Socioeconomic Response and Recovery and Ambition 2030

The elaboration process for Ambition 2030 began before the crisis, building on the SDG accelerators identified during the MAPS mission in November 2019¹⁰⁸ alongside with a first exercise for the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF). In 2020 the country as the world was hit by COVID-19 that required extreme contingency planning and adaptation. Several emergency measures were put in place in March 2020 and the country went on lockdown for 2 months. During this period, in an impressive participatory process, the Government led a “virtual” country wide consultation process to develop and finalise Ambition 2030, finally presented and adopted at an International Forum with all national and international partners, in September 2020.

Ambition 2030 first line of priorities is on the five SDG accelerators and identified women and youth as the priority target groups. At the launch event, the Prime Minister stressed that accelerating for Ambition 2030 “are given greater relevance with the health, economic and social crisis caused by the pandemic of COVID 19”.

As the overarching aspiring statement for Ambition 2030 is that “in 2030, Cabo Verde will be a consolidated and modern, inclusive democracy, a blue, digitalized, emerging and resilient nation, an economy of circulation located in the Middle Atlantic integrated in ECOWAS with full employment and shared prosperity, a country useful to world and reference of pride for all”. Out of the Ambition 2030 International Forum, hundreds of participants validated a declaration

of thirty commitment principles to sustainable development in Cabo Verde.

The further breaking down of the priorities and opportunities outlined in Ambition 2030, was presented as below: 1) accelerating of energetic transition, based on renewable energies and electric mobility; 2) the intensification of investments in water desalination, reuse and drip irrigation; 3) the improvement of agriculture income and productivity through technology, investigation, training, and creation of value chains; 4) use of ocean resources in the blue economy output to diversify the economy and create incomes and jobs; 5) the combination of the green economy with the blue economy, culture and industries; 6) digital transformation to increase the efficiency and quality of public administration, education, health services, environmental businesses and company management; 7) opportunities for private investment in health services, as in health industries and tourism; 8) the installation of conditions to guarantee sanitary, economic, environmental, social, public, housing and food security; 9) the development of human and institutional capital, guaranteeing accessible, inclusive and quality education and training, appropriate to the demands of knowledge and learning economy, of green economy, of blue economy, of digital economy and of the qualification for employability and entrepreneurship.

As part of the exercise, a gender analysis of the SDG accelerators was conducted, highlighting among others that women have very low participation in scientific and technological training, studies and

professions, and that the accelerators identified to achieve full, productive and decent work are man dominated sectors, as is the case with renewable energies, blue economy, digital economy, agricultural value chains, especially in irrigated agriculture - more productive and profitable, creative industries and interfaces with tourism. This led to the establishment of specific targets for women in the Agenda 2030 commitments on gender equality and on employment.

Since early in the pandemic government looked at the need to frame response, pandemic support and recovery in the long-term vision contained in the strategic agenda for sustainable development, Ambition 2030. Together with the United Nations and other partners the country is finalizing its National Response and Recovery Plan for COVID-19, already embedded in Ambition 2030 priorities.

In that context, issues related to health safety and control of cases have to do with resilience and cost reduction factors, all that have to do with green economy, the creation of a value chain linking all sectors, namely in agriculture, in connection with tourism, in changing living conditions in the countryside and in the rural world. Given the demographics of the country and incidence of COVID-19, support for youth employment is critical. And that more resilient, more competitive future were linked to the blue economy, the digital economy, as essential guiding posts for the future of the country. Strategic alliances and partnerships, and the support and engagement of the national private sector are being addressed, in order for the private sector to contribute and be part of the solutions in the construction of the 2030 roadmap.

Given the uncertain evolution of the pandemic and progressive reopening of international markets and economic activity in the country, it is still imperative to focus on “flattening” the curves: both the infection and growth of cases and fatalities as well as limiting or stopping the drop of economic activities, negative human impacts, job and income losses.

Financial resources are needed, and some steps have already been taken with the support of the international community, development partners and the international financial institution (IFIs). The country needs to recover its engines of growth and “reinvent” the country’s competitiveness, adapting to the new realities and mitigate the globally anticipated negative impacts. This means taking a more concentrated and focused approach to the climate change agenda and use the recovery to strengthen the green and blue economies, while

considering the differentiated starting points of men and women. Particularly for Cabo Verde, as is already well recognized in many African countries with large coastal areas and island territories, the Blue Agenda may mean the path to a better insertion in the globalized economy.

The Government has defined guidelines for a post-COVID-19 vision, which include the following:

- Move forward with the implementation of the Cabo Verde 2030 Agenda;
- Strengthen the development of human capital;
- Empower Cabo Verde as a platform country in strategic sectors and with comparative advantages;
- Operationalize the Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) and accelerate the implementation of the blue economy strategy;
- Strengthen the business environment and reduce restrictions for companies throughout the life cycle;
- Improve the economy’s financing ecosystem and the operationalization of the sovereign fund;
- Improve an investment policy and implement efficient reforms;
- Invest in the “digital” capacity of the economy;
- Implement renewable energy strategies;
- Stimulate the development of new products and tourist activities;
- Improve the capacity to attract, diversify and manage FDI in the tourism sector;
- Leverage other value chains, including industrial, agrarian and fishing sectors and a diversified and sustainable tourism sector.

To build forward in the wake of the crisis, institutional change may offer a pathway towards more resilient market structures and sustainable financing capable of withstanding regional and global systemic shocks. By adopting a more local vantage point centered on decentralization and sector diversification, SIDS like Cabo Verde will be able to chart a more sustainable and inclusive course. Ambition 2030 links the country’s development to the Sustainable Development Goals, as internalized in the Strategic Sustainable Development Plan (PEDS) 2017-2021. As indicated in the official statement of the Ambition 2030 International Forum the country has identified five SDG accelerators. The challenge now is to prioritize and sequence measures in a manner consistent with minimizing negative human impacts, preserve health, launch as rapid an economic recovery

108 INFF scoping mission report, November 2019

as possible and securing solid partnerships, cooperation and solidarity from its commercial, political and economic partners.

Cabo Verde is committed to focus its National Response and Recovery on what the UN Secretary General has indicated as the key pillars for the pandemic recovery¹⁰⁹. Those pillars are health (protecting health services and systems during the crisis), people (social protection and basic services continuity), economic response and recovery (protecting jobs, small and medium-sized

enterprises (SMEs) and informal sector workers), macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration, and social cohesion and community resilience. Innovation, adaptation, extract lessons from the confinement while maintaining and supporting lifelines and preserving value chains are all part of the medium to long perspectives to be followed. A more precise assessment of effects and a broader discussion of how recovery integrates in the Ambition 2030 proposals and agenda are critical steps for the year to come.



109 The Secretary-General's UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund, April 2020. See: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/COVID19-Response-Recovery-Fund-Document.pdf>

3. Country progress towards the 2030 Agenda

This section presents an analytical overview of the status and progress on the SDGs as established through SDG nationalization and localization exercises and reported through the Voluntary National Review(s). It analysis the existing institutional mechanisms supporting the implementation of the SDGs, including the country's standing on each SDG in order to establish a comprehensive baseline across the SDG framework, the set-up of institutional mechanisms and the development and implementation of national SDG roadmap.



Five years into the 2030 Agenda, and as the World enters the Decade of Action, **Cabo Verde is performing well in most SDGs**, compared to countries facing similar situations or constraints. **It is ranking fifth in Africa as per the SDG Index 2020, first for Sub-Saharan Africa. According to the same Index, it achieved 67.2% of SDGs, way above the regional average score (53.1%).**

11 out of 17 SDGs have been experiencing positive trends in recent years, however moderate. 3 are stagnating, and only one (quality education) was experiencing a negative trend even before the COVID-19 outbreak¹¹⁰. The latter in education is due to a transition provoked by the education reform, that is likely to be temporary and revert in a positive impact on the longer term. For the other two (inequalities and responsible consumption and production), data is missing (as in all countries of the region).

Five SDGs accelerators have been identified in the SDG Roadmap and Ambition 2030 (see previous Chapter). Beyond direct impact on several SDG indicators, these accelerators can create income and jobs and enhance public revenues, therefore indirectly contributing to other SDGs. This supposes that the jobs and income created are benefitting both women and men, the people that need it most, and that the additional public revenues generated by the accelerators are invested in the right public

policies.

Looking at the Agenda 2030 five “P”s (People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnerships), **Cabo Verde is best performing on SDGs related to Peace, Partnerships and Planet.** Major challenges remain **on People** – especially in terms of poverty, nutrition and health–, **and Prosperity** (SDGs 9 and 10 with lowest classification)¹¹¹. COVID-19 means major disruptions in the SDG path, with **direct, lasting effects on at least 7 SDGs¹¹², and indirect effects on 3 SDGs¹¹³,** mainly due to postponement or cancellation of key projects in these areas. **All SDGs may be affected** by the decrease of fiscal space for public investment in social services, economic development, and sustainable use of natural resources.

People (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6)

The fight against poverty and hunger is a priority across governments since the independence, and investment in human capital has been among the highest State budget lines over the years. This continuity and a solid democratic and governance basis set the ground for a dramatic improvement of living conditions, with a clear acceleration in the past 20 years. This path will not only need to be maintained, despite the impact of COVID-19 on households and public revenues, but even to be

accelerated, for Cabo Verde to meet the SDGs.

Global absolute poverty was halved in the past 20 years¹¹⁴, with a slow-down from 2% annual rate during the MDGs period to 1.2% since 2015. Should the country have maintained this rate for the next decade, , poverty would not have been eradicated, but would have gone down to about 20% by 2030, therefore missing **Goal1**. Yet COVID-19 crisis meant an increase of poverty by 1% at least in 2020, with a very slow recovery.

Malnutrition, as shown in Chapter 1, is the most important public health issue, with a high prevalence of stunting and wasting among children under 5. Structural constraints linked to the lack of arable lands and freshwater, make **Goal2** one of the most challenging for the country. The Government announced massive investment in desalination of water for agriculture, therefore rising hopes for a significant improvement of yields and stability of agricultural production. Together with a solid nutrition program at schools, these investments could mean important progresses in the fight against hunger.

Human capital continues to be a high priority for the Decade of Action (see previous chapter). **Goal3** and **Goal4** are already outstanding performers on most indicators, especially when compared to the region. Great progress in the last decade on neonatal and maternal health, literacy and secondary completion rate have consolidated a regional success story. Some health indicators (see Chapter 1) are fluctuating or stagnating, and some education indicators are experiencing a negative trend in recent years, due to the new gratuity of primary sector, which allowed for a tremendous decrease in drop out in primary, but an automatic rise in drop out in secondary and secondary completion rate. Gratuity should be extended to secondary education in the coming months, with positive impact on SDG4. Free access to primary, secondary and higher education for people with disability which will contribute to minimize the negative trend. A slight increase in these sectors’ budgets took place in 2020 and 2021, and may be pursued in the coming years, despite a shrinking fiscal space in a COVID-19 context. This prioritization, combined with the

effect of the recent education sector reform and the ongoing structural reinforcement of the health system, could lead to important improvements in the coming years.

Cabo Verde is in the SDG Index Cluster 2, characterized, among other features, by high gender equality. It ranks 9th out of 43 according to the Africa Gender Equality Index¹¹⁵. Thanks to the new Parity Law, 40.6% of women were elected for Townhalls and 42.1% for Municipal Assemblies in October 2020 (against 26.3% globally in 2016).¹¹⁶ The national elections in 2021 may allow for the same gains (23.6% in 2016). Work still needs to be done to achieve equal opportunities for leadership at all levels and fields of decision-making. The proportion of women in managerial positions is 28%¹¹⁷, and in Public Administration they occupy 34% of top management and 20% of intermediate management¹¹⁸. Although violence against women has decreased between 2005 and 2018 (from 20.3% to 10.9% of women reporting violence in the last 12 months), the **#SDG5** indicator on intimate partner violence is stagnating: 18,4% of women were subjected to some form of violence from their current or former husband/partner over the previous 12 months (13.8% physical violence, 3.7% sexual violence, 14.1% psychological violence)¹¹⁹. Over 1/3 of women who are amid separation experience physical or sexual violence (35.9%).¹²⁰ Women dedicate on average 27 hours and 39 minutes more time than men, per week, to unpaid care and domestic work, while this gap is higher for poor women. Cabo Verde is recognizing the value of unpaid work through policies, the National Care System, and the importance of shared responsibility within the household has never been as acutely felt as during the COVID-19 epidemic, which has increased women’s time poverty¹²¹. In terms of economic rights, women tend to have more fragile jobs – as shown by the rise in women unemployment in the last 5 years – mostly in the informal economy. They are considerably more out of the labor force than men, most of the poor (53%), while 60.3% of poor households are headed by women¹²². Women have less access to land¹²³, to irrigation technology, and modern agricultural and

110 SDG Index, 2020 (data pre-COVID-19).

111 Ibid.

112 Cabo Verde Socioeconomic Impact assessment. The 7 SDGs directly impacted are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10

113 Ibid. The 3 SDGs indirectly impacted are 7,8 and 9

114 INECV, *Inquérito sobre despesas e receitas dos agregados familiares*, 2015 and Ministry of Finance, projections for Cabo Verde COVID-19 socioeconomic impact assessment (2017-2019). Extreme Prevalence of extreme poverty is was 10.2% in 2019.

115 African Development Bank, *Africa Gender Equality Index*, 2015

116 CNE. Mapa Nacional dos Resultados das Eleições Municipais 2020 <https://cne.cv/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Eleic%CC%A7o%CC%83es-Municipais-2020-Mapa-Nacional-com-o-resultado-de-todas-as-eleic%CC%A7o%CC%83es-e-por-ci%CC%81rculos.pdf>

117 INECV. IMC Estatísticas do Mercado de Trabalho 2019 (2020)

118 DNAP Balanço Social do capital humano da Administração, 2016

119 IDSR III (2018), presented in December 2019

120 INECV Anuário Estatístico 2018

121 ICIEG, Estudo de Impacto de COVID-19 na Desigualdade de Género, 2020

122 INE, IDRF 2015

123 IFAD (2018) Relatório de Supervisão do POSER - Promoção de Oportunidades Socioeconómicas Rurais

livestock practices¹²⁴. If proactive policy making and investments on gender equality, especially around the SDG accelerators, is achieved, despite limited fiscal space in the post-COVID-19 era, the gender impact of the epidemic on women may be reverted. Cabo Verde is implementing a Gender Marker in the State Budget since 2017, which still require quality control procedures, and the Budget Framework Law¹²⁵, revised in 2019, included an article on gender equality in the budget, paving the way for progress on gender responsive budgeting.

In terms of access to basic services, 86% of the population has access to an improved source of drinking water and 82.9% to at least basic sanitation (92% rural, 73.2% urban). The proportion of wastewater safely treated should dramatically go up after the construction of new treatment plants (see Chapter 1). Yet, for the country to meet targets for **Goal6**, it will be necessary to improve water-use efficiency and – which is related – reinforce local communities' participation in water management, in a gender sensitive way.

Planet (SDGs 12, 13, 14 and 15)

Cabo Verde performs well on the “Planet” SDGs. **Goal13** (climate change) is achieved and **Goal12** (sustainable consumption and production) nearly. Almost all indicators for these two Goals are on track, especially in terms of waste and emissions (although recent data is missing in many cases). A recent change in waste production patterns may have a negative impact, if not tackled within a circular economy approach. The country made blue economy as a priority and an SDG accelerator for the decade of action and the data shows the need to rapidly improve in ocean life protection, **Goal14**. The country is ranking 144th of 180 countries in the [Environmental Performance Index](#) published by Yale (a score similar to other SIDS). Another interesting indicator is that the planetary pressure-adjusted HDI (PHDI) of Cabo Verde is not much better than its HDI, partly due to an important material footprint per capita¹²⁶.

A deeper look in this **Goal14**, shows that the Ocean Health Index is average, and has not experienced a very positive trend in the last years¹²⁷, that marine protected areas are still insufficient (5.6% instead of the projected 10%); that plastic management

requires more capacity and that the rate of fishes caught by trawling went up from 2011 to 2016¹²⁸, with different pelagic species overfished or at risk of being overfished¹²⁹.

The country's 46 Protected Areas represent 18.19% of terrestrial territory and 5.6% of marine areas. Although this represent an almost tenfold increase from 2009, the coverage falls short of fulfilling SDG14 requirements. A package of initiatives underway may lead to an important improvement in Goal 14 and **Goal15**: capacity building actions, updating of legislation on the Environmental Impact Study and Strategic Environmental Assessment, regulation of tourism activities legislation of nature, preparation and implementation of a seal of quality and certification for tour operators, updating of legislation on protected areas, among others.

Cabo Verde is not taking advantage of climate finance to invest in Planet-related SDGs, partly due to the lack of indicators and the complexity of this type of financing (see Partnerships section below). Should this access improve in the coming months and years, and the consecutive investment be well targeted, the 4 Goals under the “P” of Planet can be easily met.

Prosperity (SDGs 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11)

The Prosperity pillar is the strong bet of the current PEDS (2017-2021), with the development of the seven platforms (see chapter 1). Economic diversification, a strong focus on water-energy nexus, and an integration in global and regional value chains beyond unilateral trade dependency, are the drivers of this growth model, mainly oriented towards services to the world. Internal constraints, in terms of connectivity, production, and human resources, will have to be taken care of, if the country's potential as a multiservice hub is to be fully embraced. Beyond its devastating impact on tourism, COVID-19 affected several investments and projects. Limited fiscal space and shrinking Foreign Direct Investment could further undermine the potential for public and private investment in the country's infrastructure, equipment and skills for economic development.

Energy shortages are still a limiting factor for economic development in Cabo Verde, and renewable energies are one of the five SDGs

accelerators. Therefore, **Goal7** is instrumental for the country's prosperity. The access to energy has seen an increase in urban areas in the past fifteen years (from 85% to 94%), and a much more significant improvement in rural areas (from 43 to 90%)¹³⁰. While most energy is produced by generators, fueled by imported petroleum products, Cabo Verde has begun to diversify its energy portfolio. A quarter of energy resources is now provided by renewable sources¹³¹. This share should go up to 30% by 2025 and 50% by 2030¹³². 78% of the population is using clean technologies to cook (90.8% urban, 49.1% rural), while 19% households use wood (22% headed by women, 16.3% headed by men). Wood is used especially in rural areas, by half of the households (49% versus 5.7% urban), a proportion that goes up to 8 out of 10 poor rural households (80.7%)¹³³. As recognized by the energy policy, clean technologies to cook have socio-economic impact, as well as on gender equality (time and effort to collect wood, health issues) and environment¹³⁴. The Electricity Loss Rate is around 22%¹³⁵. All these indicators have been constantly improving in recent years, and may lead the country to achieve **Goal7**, providing that energy affordability improves drastically.

Cabo Verde's GDP growth has been more volatile than regional and SIDS average in the past decade, showing an important vulnerability to external shocks. Since 2016 though, it shows a steadier path, at a 4.6% average. Economic diversification, technological upgrading and innovation are a priority for recovery and sustainable development (see previous Chapter), which could lead to an acceleration in **Goal8** in the coming months. .

Industry in Cabo Verde faces several challenges, including a small domestic market, limited access to domestic and foreign investments for the sector, and a high dependency on imports for intermediary consumption, which hampers the competitiveness of industrial products at regional and global levels putting **Goal9** almost out of reach despite progresses. Contribution of the manufacturing sector to the GDP (Manufacturing value added, MVA) remained stable, although decreasing slightly from 6.4% in 2017 to 6.2% in 2019¹³⁶. The share of medium- and high-tech industries contribution to MVA remained very low at 0.02%. In terms of economy's ability to produce and export manufactured goods competitively, Cabo Verde's rank increased from 139th in 2015-2017 to 136th in 2018 in the Competitive



124 Diagnóstico social e de género nas comunidades abrangidas pelo Projeto REFLOR - Reforço da Capacidade de Adaptação e Resiliência do Sector Florestal. 2020. FAO / UE

125 BO n.º 72, I Série, 1 julho 2019 - Lei N.º 55/IX/2019. Bases do Orçamento de Estado.

126 UNDP, [Human Development Report 2020](#), 2020. Compared to its HDI, Cabo Verde's PHDI is 3.6% better, while the SIDS average is 6.6%.

127 Halpern BS, Longo C, Hardy D, McLeod KL, Samhouri JF, Katona SK, et al., [An index to assess the health and benefits of the global ocean](#), 2012

128 Sea Around Us (mainly based on FAO Fishstats database), [Catches by Taxon in the Waters of Cabo Verde](#), 2019

129 Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries of the University of British Columbia, [Assessments of Marine Resources in Africa with emphasis on small pelagics](#),

2020

130 UNSTATS, Cabo Verde SDG Country Profile, October 2019

131 <https://wacomp.projects.ecowas.int/activities/national-level/cabo-verde/>

132 Ministry of Energy, Plano Director do sector Energético 2018-2040

133 INE (2018) Inquérito Multiobjectivo Contínuo (IMC): Estatísticas das Famílias e Condições de Vida

134 MICE Agenda Ação Energia Sustentável todos - SE4ALL (2015)

135 Ministry of Energy for COVID-19 Socioeconomic Impact Assessment, 2020

136 UNIDO Statistics Data Portal, Available at: <https://stat.unido.org/country-profile/economics/CPV>



Industrial Performance Index¹³⁷. Exports of goods and services rose from 33% of GDP to 49%¹³⁸, with manufactured exports representing 79% of the total exports in 2018¹³⁹. Although the disruption in global value chains and the lockdown period provoked by COVID-19 affected small industries in Cabo Verde, the sector is more likely to recover promptly than the services sector and may gain a bigger share of GDP and employment in the coming months and years. R&D has been relatively low, although efforts are being done to create poles of excellence in domains of specific interest, such as “Campus do Mar”. On the same **Goal19**, the government reinforced the policy and institutional framework, with UN support, for renewable energy and energy efficiency (sustainable energy) technologies in the water resource management, which is critical for Cabo Verde; a sound, evidence-based industrial policy; and for harnessing science, technology and innovation for economic development. Although a lot of work remains to be done in order to attain this SDG and contribute to the installation of the 7 hubs of the PEDS, Cabo Verde is on the right path for an inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

The GINI Index slowly decreased from 2007 (0.47, down from 0.53 in 2002) to 2015 (0.42), at national level and in all the islands¹⁴⁰. However, inequalities in Cabo Verde remains a major constraint for

prosperity, and sustainable development, and **Goal10** is the SDG further from track, although the lack of data is limiting the evaluation of the situation¹⁴¹. The employment gap is deepening since 2015 between rural and urban areas, men and women, and some municipalities and others (See Section 1). Gender inequalities have been reduced but challenges remain, especially in economic equality (see women rights in next chapter). Social protection coverage has expanded in a spectacular manner in 2020, from 5,000 families in March to 9,000 in May and 28,000 in early 2021, in the framework of the Emergency Social Inclusion Income (RSI/E). Efforts to produce and analyze disaggregated data to enhance focused decision making and investment on the poorest and most vulnerable population and on human capital are ongoing. The ability of the Government to ensure that the bottom 40% of the population directly and indirectly benefits from thriving SDGs accelerators will be critical. Regarding the specific SDG target on remittances, Cabo Verde is the fifth country in Africa for the remittances-to-GDP ratio (11%), though the cost of remittances is high compared to other counties in Africa (3.5% from Portugal to 6% from United States for the cheapest money transfer operators, above the 3% target¹⁴²).

Despite important challenges linked to the expansion of informal settlements in the 5 main

cities (see Chapter 1), **Goal11** is performing well compared to other African countries, especially in terms of local planning (See Chapter 2) and access to basic services (See **Goal6**). No data is available in terms of citizens’ satisfaction with urban transport, yet few incidents were reported in terms of safety. The duration of a bus ride (the public transport available) is long, therefore limiting intra-city mobility. Disaster Risks Reduction remains a challenge, as shown by the infrastructure losses caused by the rains in September 2020. . The only red indicator is the concentration of particulate matter, probably linked to the dust coming from the Sahara and floating in Cabo Verde’s air in the dry, windy season, creating haze (“bruma seca”).

Peace (SDG16)

The country has been at peace and with strong national institutions since the independence, and governance is a national historical stronghold, **Goal16** ranks in the top 5 successful SDGs in the country, with an SDG Index score above 75%.

Most governance indicators are positive, though experiencing a slight deterioration (see Chapter 1).

Despite the achievements made in Cabo Verde in countering drug trafficking and organized crime, with visible impact in terms of cocaine seizure and convictions, the country still faces some challenges related to the consolidation of gains obtained and enhancement of the capacity to respond to emerging challenges posed by organized crime, as well as petty and medium-scale crime, including urban crime, which has triggered a perception of insecurity among the population. Other threats to human security, such as GBV, sexual assault and sexual abuse of children were reduced but persist (see LNOB chapter).

Partnerships (SDG17)

The internal indicators on **Goal 17** are good in general terms - for instance in terms of tax to GDP ratio and Government spending on health and education, or the proportion of individuals using the Internet¹⁴³, with important discrepancies between municipalities and islands, from 70% of the population having used the Internet in the last three months in Sal to 41.6% in Ribeira Grande, **Santo Antão**¹⁴⁴. Regional integration is slow, as

shown by the ranking of Cabo Verde among average performers in the Africa Regional Integration Index (32nd)¹⁴⁵. Public debt (145.9% of GDP) remains a critical concern, especially after several new loans were contracted to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Although these new loans were accorded in concessional terms (with very low interest rate and a long forgiveness period), debt restructuring is a key priority for the country.

In terms of access to finance, Cabo Verde received lower official development assistance (ODA) and other official flows (OOF) since its graduation as a MIC, and ODA suffered a dramatic decrease in 2021 (-50%)¹⁴⁶.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows have been contracting since 2007 (12.67% of GDP). Despite occasional peaks, such as in 2014 (9.71% of GDP), the FDI net inflows continued shrinking and were estimated at 5.2% of GDP in 2019¹⁴⁷. Reinforcing the beneficial impact of FDI on the local economy is a governmental priority. Improvements in the FDI regimes are ongoing, in order to reinvigorate and diversify FDI¹⁴⁸. Integration into regional and global value chains may be reinforced through the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which Cabo Verde has signed but not ratified yet.

On statistical capacities, Cabo Verde is home to the Praia Group on Governance Statistics chaired by the National Institute of Statistics of Cabo Verde (INE-CV) and bringing together 65 countries to define methodologies and standards for the conceptualization and measurement of governance. In general, collection and analysis of data and indicators with punctuality, opportunity and disaggregation is improving within a coherent National Statistics System (SEN) aligned with international standards, tending towards the creation of a common information system for the monitoring and evaluation of sustainable development plans, programs and projects for evidence-based planning. Despite these improvements, the conditions of access, communication, flow and sharing of data are still limited, and are a primary aim of the “Digital transformation agenda 2020”, through the creation of an ICT Hub. The Hub should also accelerate the use of innovative methodologies to gather data, complementary to the traditional sources currently on use in the INE-CV – mostly surveys.

137 UNIDO, Competitive Industrial Performance Index 2020 – Cabo Verde. Available at: <https://stat.unido.org/country/CPV.pdf>

138 databank.worldbank.org

139 <https://stat.unido.org/database/CIP%202020>

140 INECV, [Inquérito sobre despesas e receitas dos agregados familiares](#), 2015. GINI Index is a measure of inequality within a given country, 0 being perfect equality and 1 perfect inequality.

141 SDG Index, based on The Brookings Institution, [How much do we really know about inequalities within countries around the World](#), 2017

142 World Bank, Remittances prices worldwide, [Internet website](#)

143 ITU, Proportion of individuals using Internet, [Excell datasheet](#)

144 INECV, [Estatística das famílias e condições de vida](#), IMC, 2019

145 African Union, Africa Regional Integration Index African Union, [Africa Regional Integration Index](#)

146 Ministry of Finance, Proposal of State Budget 2021, 2020

147 UNCTAD, Database, [FDI data for Cabo Verde](#)

148 UNCTAD, [Investment Policy Review Cabo Verde](#), 2018

4. LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND (LNOB)



This section identifies and synthetically presents specific groups at risk of being left behind and the barriers to their socioeconomic inclusion, looking at the interplay of various factors causing and reinforcing inequality and discrimination, while considering the gaps in data, capacities and processes that need more support to be able to monitor LNOB targets across the SDGs.

Monetary poverty has been dramatically reduced in Cabo Verde, and the access to basic and social services improved rapidly in the same time. Literacy, access to water and sanitation, primary education and basic healthcare has become almost universal. Critical gender, age or rural-urban gaps in these areas have narrowed or disappeared. However, some rural areas and remote islands have seen little improvements in the past decade, and gender and age gaps remain. Other vulnerable populations, such as people with disabilities, persons deprived of liberty or illegal migrants still face critical limitations in their access to economic opportunities and social services.

4.1. Children

Cabo Verde's indicators are outstanding in terms on neonatal and infant mortality, pre-primary and primary education, among other social services targeting childhood (see Country Profile). In other areas, some gaps are persisting. Children – every human being under 18 years – tend to face worse living conditions than any other group age. 40% of the 5-17 years-old children live in poor households and 8.1 % have an economic activity¹⁴⁹.

Child labor is expected to increase in the aftermath of COVID-19, due to loss of family income and schools' closure¹⁵⁰. It affects boys more than girls (8% of boys and 4% of girls) and 70% of their activities are considered dangerous and to be abolished¹⁵¹. In 84.5% of child labor situations, children work within the family, mainly in agriculture, fishing and cattle raising, with girls especially in domestic work. Most child labor situations (58%) are associated with very low levels of comfort of the family and the proportion of working children that come from single parent – women-headed families, is higher than from other types of households (7.5% of children aged 5 to 17 versus 5.4%)¹⁵².

To fight children poverty, 32% of the population under 18 receive a family allowance from National Institute of Social Security (INPS) (at a maximum of 3 per family)¹⁵³.

Beyond monetary poverty, challenges persist in terms of health, nutrition and child protection.

¹⁴⁹ INE, 2018

¹⁵⁰ [COVID-19 may push millions more children into child labour – ILO and UNICEF](#), 2020

¹⁵¹ INECV IMC – O trabalho infantil em Cabo Verde 2013

¹⁵² Ibidem

¹⁵³ Calculations based on INPS administrative data and INE demographic projections.

¹⁵⁴ Superior Council of the Public Prosecutor's Office, Report on the State of Justice, 2017

¹⁵⁵ The only specialized centre existent in the country (Centro Orlando Pantera), in Praia for the whole country, has an insufficient capacity (both in number and in the adequacy of services) to receive the children. In September 2020, the centre had 13 children (12 boys and 1 girl) from different islands in the ages of 13 to 17 years old. The National Plan to Combat Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents for the period of 2017-19 was adopted by Resolution No. 92/2016 of 28 December 2016.

¹⁵⁶ Superior Council of the Public Prosecution Service, Report 2017/2018. 4,566 cases were pending.

Neonatal (<28 days) and infant (< 5 years) mortality are the lowest of the region, yet perinatal affections still are the first cause of child death (around 60%). The prevalence of stunting, wasting and anemia has dropped in the past 13 years, children malnutrition remains a public health problem (See Country Profile on Health and Food Security). The growing obesity index – showing 18.6% of children under 5 years of age at risk of overweight and 6% in pre-obesity – highlights the nutritional transition that the country is undergoing, with potential new challenges in terms of child health.

The Cabo Verdean Institute for Child and Adolescent (ICCA) records a rise in reported cases of sexual abuse of children in the past years, making sexual abuse on children the highest sex crime during the 2016/17 judicial year (35% of the 523 cases for sexual offenses registered in the Public Prosecutor's Office). The victims are almost exclusively girls with nearly one third of cases occurring within the family¹⁵⁴. From January to June 2020, ICCA received 86 cases of sexual abuse (2020 mid-year report). There is limited resolution, due to limited investigation by the Judicial Police, low support to children in contact with the law, weak institutional response, and slowness of the justice system in general¹⁵⁵. There is no specific court to deal with sexual crimes or with justice for children cases and no specialized court staff for childcare during the trial process.

In terms of legal rights in general, although 97% of Cabo Verdean children have a birth registration, the number of pending cases regarding child paternity investigation remains high¹⁵⁶. The consequences of these limitations in terms of access to legal identity and justice is that the primary interest of the child is not always a first consideration for administrative and judicial systems (as it should be, according to children rights). Further, it reflects a biased construction of women's and men's responsibilities in the family, impacting the lives of both boys and girls: a high proportion of children live without their father's presence in the household, especially so in poor families (43.9% of poor children live with their mother vs 37.5% of non-poor). To be noted that 18.3% of poor children and 15% of non-poor live without both mother and father in the household



(although 95% of children have living biological parents)¹⁵⁷.

Physical and psychological abuse of children is also a frequent reported to the ICCA, with 106 cases registered by the National Police in 2018¹⁵⁸. Corporal punishment, although sanctioned by law, is used in families as a disciplinary measure: 70.5% of parents/care-takers resort to hitting children (0-6) when they are disobedient, above 1/3 in the case of younger children (0-2 years of age)¹⁵⁹.

The crisis caused by COVID-19 will have unprecedented consequences for the lives of children, due to the rise in unemployment and poverty, the closure of schools, the disruptions in health services (especially on the demand side), and the delays experienced by the justice system¹⁶⁰. These disruptions can have lasting consequences on the healthy development of children, and the future of the country.

4.2. Adolescents and Youth

Like children's environment, adolescents and youth benefit from solid education and health systems yet represent about 60% of the poor and 63% of the extreme poor¹⁶¹. Cabo Verde is undergoing a

demographic transition characterized by a youth bulge (46,4% of the population is under 25 years of age¹⁶²), which put an exacerbated pressure on some existing gaps and weaknesses. To take advantage of the youth dividend, it is necessary for the health and education systems to focus on the specific needs of adolescent and youth, including innovative ways to promote nutrition and health, and the integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services into the primary health care services and the education system.

In terms of SRHR, family planning coverage is satisfactory, yet adolescent fertility rate remains high (see Country Profile). Literacy rates for the 15-24 is close to 98.6%, with no gender nor territorial gaps. However, in 2016 little less than half of the youth finishes secondary education (one third in the poorest islands), and 8.6% complete higher education¹⁶³. The rate is going upward at national level (+10% since 2011 for secondary education) but is stagnating in the poorest islands.

Young people Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) represent 30% of the youth population with some gender gap to women's disadvantage. Rural population are also most affected (37.4% from 15 to 24 years old and 41.1% from 25 to 34 years old). 73% of youth NEET have secondary education; 10% have higher education and the rest have an average of 9 year of schooling.

Data from the Education, Training and Employment (BSG TVET Assessment) also points to moderate progress in the participation rate of young people (15-24 years) in measures to support training, qualification and employability, from 2016 (3%) to 2018 (4.1%). The proportion of technical and vocational education graduates inserted in the labor market decreased from 56% in 2016 to 46.7% in 2018¹⁶⁴. Drop out of school affects less girls than boys until 18 years-old, but from 19 years-old up the curves cross. For the 12 to 18 years old, dropout becomes greater in rural areas. A specific motive for girls' school dropout is pregnancy: even though Decree-Law 47/2017 defines measures to avoid dropout and promote school success for pregnant students¹⁶⁵.

In terms of employment, youth experienced the same dynamics than others since 2015, with more elasticity for the 15-24 years-old, and the decrease in unemployment between 2018 to 2019 has been driven by youth, especially the younger cohort (-1.1% for total population, -3.7% for 15-24, -1.3% for 25-34, +0.7% for 35-64)¹⁶⁶. However, youth unemployment is still higher than the total population (16.6% vs 11.3%) and more so in the case of young women. Unemployment is expected to increase by 10% in 2020 due to COVID-19¹⁶⁷, and most of the 20,000 jobs expected to be lost may be lost among youth, given the elasticity of youth employment to external shocks in Cabo Verde.

Cabo Verde youth have resorted extensively to emigration to find better opportunities. The age pyramid of Cabo Verdean emigrants shows that most people who emigrated are in the 15-24 age group (59% women and 41% men)¹⁶⁸.

4.3. Women and girls

Despite encouraging progress, significant challenges remain regarding gender equality, especially in terms of economic empowerment and access to decent work, segregation of the labor force, participation in decision making and gender-based violence, while specific groups of women are

at disadvantage. Women are the majority of the poor and very poor in the country (53.6% of extremely poor) and 60.5% of poor households are headed by women¹⁶⁹. The 3 first sectors that provide jobs for women are retail (25.6% versus 12.3% of jobs for men), accommodation and restaurants (12.8% and 6.1% men), and domestic employment (11.6% versus 0.2 men). However, informal jobs among women decreased in previous years (-14%)¹⁷⁰.

In general, women find it more difficult to develop and grow their businesses, due to limited access to finance, markets and entrepreneurship assistance. Although unemployment decreased in 2019, it increased for women (+10.2%). The gender gap in inactivity and subemployment rates is much higher for rural women, who are underrepresented in agriculture and fisheries, although not many employment alternatives exist in rural areas: women are 24.1% of employed in agriculture (78.9% men)¹⁷¹. Both men and women mainly work in subsistence agriculture, but women have less access to irrigated agriculture (29.9% versus 70.1% men), while most farms that work to sell products are headed by men (76.1% versus 23.9% by women)¹⁷². Women have less access to land, irrigation technology, and modern agricultural and livestock practices, are less represented in decision making of Community Based Associations (27%), especially in some islands (ex. Fogo), and contribute to family daily subsistence more than men, leaving them little possibilities of making investments¹⁷³. As such, rural women are at risk of being left behind of investments in agriculture, fishery and forestry, and initiatives to improve climate smart practices¹⁷⁴.

The results of the local election are extremely encouraging: 40.6% of women were elected for Townhalls and 42.1% for Municipal Assemblies (against 26.3% globally in 2016), achieving the minimum threshold established by the Parity Law (40% of either sex)¹⁷⁵. The results of the national election are also expected to be boosted in 2021 (23.6% in 2016). The focus needs therefore to shift to qualitative representation, investing in capacity building of elected women at local and national level on gender public policies and gender budgeting and monitoring. The Parity Law also applies to

157 INECV. Perfil da pobreza: um olhar sobre as crianças (2018)
158 Polícia Nacional, Estatística Criminal 2017-2018: Crimes Contra Pessoas
159 INECV, IMC - Inquérito sobre práticas familiares 2013
160 Ministry of Finance, UN, World Bank and partners, Cabo Verde COVID-19 Socioeconomic Impact Assessment, 2020
161 Government of Cabo Verde, [Voluntary National Review](#), 2018
162 Cabo Verde demographic projections by sex and age group 2010-2030, INE 2021
163 INECV, [Dados educação 2016](#), 2017

164 Ministério das Finanças, 2018
165 ICIEG, DNE (2020). Os desafios para garantir o acesso das alunas grávidas e mães a uma educação contínua e de qualidade: resumo executivo.
166 INECV, [Dados do mercado de trabalho](#), 2019
167 Ministry of Finance, UN, World Bank, Cabo Verde COVID-19 Socioeconomic impact assessment, 2020
168 INECV, IMC Estatísticas das migrações 2014
169 INE, IDRF 2015
170 INECV, IMC 2019, [Indicadores do Mercado de Trabalho](#), 2020
171 Ibidem
172 MAA, INE, Recenseamento geral da agricultura, 2015
173 IFAD (2018) Relatório de Supervisão do POSER - Promoção de Oportunidades Socioeconómicas Rurais
174 Diagnóstico social e de género nas comunidades abrangidas pelo Projeto REFLOR - Reforço da Capacidade de Adaptação e Resiliência do Sector Florestal. 2020. FAO / UE
175 CNE. Mapa Nacional dos Resultados das Eleições Municipais 2020 <https://cne.cv/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Eleic%CC%A7o%CC%83es-Municipais-2020-Mapa-Nacional-com-o-resultado-de-todas-as-eleic%CC%A7o%CC%83es-e-por-ci%CC%81rculos.pdf>

Public Administration and will require substantial advocacy efforts.

The prevalence of violence against women dropped substantially, but rates of intimate partner violence has not decreased (see on section SDG 5), requiring a focused approach on this specific type of violence and underlying dynamics, linked to representations of masculinity and men's authority within the family. Indeed, a high proportion of men exert control behaviour over their wife/partner¹⁷⁶, and victims of violence are more likely to have a husband/partner who exerts several types of control behaviour (39.8% versus 5.9% that don't)¹⁷⁷. The government is carrying out an important campaign and work on masculinities to tackle this issue. Rehabilitation Program of GBV authors (filed complaints) has shown a positive impact and the program merits to be enlarged. The rates of GBV report increased 8% during the lockdown.

Several challenges remain on Sexual and Reproductive Rights and health (SRRH). Adolescent fertility rate is a public health concern (18.3%), so is the prevalence of sexual abuse against girls.

The access of women with disabilities to SRRH is limited: there is considerable prejudice on the sexuality and capacity to make decisions of women with disabilities, including among family and health professionals, and women are left out of information/counselling and service provision, that need to be adapted to their needs; women with disabilities are victim of several forms of violence (more so than their male counterparts) and their HIV prevalence is above the national average (2.3%), although below that of men with disabilities (3.5%). Immigrant women also face barriers to SRRH, including costs, language, sociocultural representations of maternal health, family planning and STI prevention and treatment, IST, as well as limitations imposed by husbands/partners. Although no female mutilation (FGM) practices have been identified, the risk exists that they appear among immigrant communities that practice FGM in their countries of origin¹⁷⁸. Sex workers (SW) are predominantly women, their HIV prevalence is 4.6%, which represents a decrease from 2013 (7.6%), however the size of this population group increased (from 1,039 in 2011 to 1,655 in 2016).

SW is linked to poverty and most women do not live exclusively from SW (52%), as such investments in exit programs should be considered, based on best practices in this domain¹⁷⁹.

In order to overcome the obstacles that Cabo Verdean women face in the country, it will be essential to expand the opportunities of their economic empowerment, to recognize their unpaid care work and their informal work, to take into account how climate change and pandemics like COVID-19 affects them mainly in rural areas, as well as include their involvement in promoting sustainable agriculture and access to technology and knowledge.

4.4. People with disabilities

In 2010, there were 27,866 people with disability in Cabo Verde, excluding mental deficiencies. This represents 5.7% of the total population, much less than the global rate (10%)¹⁸⁰. Among them, half had visual deficiencies, a third had serious motricity issues, and a sixth suffered from hearing impairments. 59.9% of them were women¹⁸¹. Most disabilities are acquired, either at adult age (52.9%) or during childhood/adolescence (30.1%), while only 17% are innates¹⁸². In the education system, 1600 children with deficiencies were identified in 2019.

Despite the approval in 2013 of a national disability law,¹⁸³ people with disabilities (PwD) continue to be victim of poverty and social exclusion, living in situations of risk and marginality. Integrated approaches across the life cycle are therefore needed.

Universal access to health services is not yet ensured for people with family situation: the higher the household's income and level of education, the better PwD do in terms of their own attainment and overcoming barriers to their social inclusion¹⁸⁴. A high proportion of families of PwD have low educational attainment (54% of adults in the family can just write and read or have basic education), are unemployed (64%), and when employed, are unqualified workers (52% work in domestic

employment); also, households are often headed by women living in poverty¹⁸⁵. Poor PwD can access social protection through the non-contributory system (disability social pension reaching 3,651 adults in 2018¹⁸⁶, the majority women - 61%)¹⁸⁷, and through the contributory social security (775 adults in 2018)¹⁸⁸.

The level of illiteracy of people with disabilities is higher than average by fourfold (46.4%) and even higher for women with disabilities (53.6% versus 40% for men)¹⁸⁹. 30% of PwD have no level of education, 20% secondary education and 9% post-secondary, with considerable gender disparities (41.5% women and 21.5% men have no level of education; ¼ of men make it to secondary level but only 13.8% of women)¹⁹⁰. The scarcity of prepared professionals, and pedagogical resources available to serve this population have been pointed among the main causes of the exclusion of PwD from education services. The main challenges in special education in Cabo Verde are (i) the lack of consistent legislation; (ii) the absence of a system of identification and diagnosis of students with SEN at national level, (iii) the lack of tests and other instruments for psychological and psycho-

pedagogical assessments and (iv) the lack of coordination between the Ministries of Education and Health and operators in the field of Social Solidarity¹⁹¹. The most disadvantaged PwD in terms of educational outcome are those with hearing disability (who require sign language) and children with cerebral palsy¹⁹². Additionally, the number of children with disability in kindergarten and pre-school needs to increase, to improve educational outcomes, as well as psychosocial inclusion, which requires financial support in the case of vulnerable families. There is still no national programme on Special Education from the perspective of Inclusive Education in order to unify pedagogical performance in schools in the country. Only 3.2% of people with disabilities obtained a degree and 26.7% have no academic qualifications¹⁹³.

Access to education/training and to employment is key for PwD economic autonomy and participation, however, in addition to special educational needs, they also face stereotypes in society, labour market, communities and, often, within the family. PwD experience high rates of unemployment (49%), especially when their educational attainment is low: only 6% of the PwD are auto-employed



176 Ex. jealousy, accusations of infidelity, limits social interaction, etc.

177 INECV. IDRS III 2018

178 Government of Cabo Verde, Replies to CEDAW List of Issues, 2019

IX periodic CEDAW report, 2019

179 CCS-SIDA, Estudo Sócio Comportamental e de Seroprevalência VIH em Trabalhadores de Sexo, 2017

180 CNDHC, *Um mundo pa nos tudu: Cartilha sobre deficiência*, 2011

181 INECV, *Census 2010*, 2011

182 Ministério da Saúde e da Segurança Social/CCS-SIDA/FECAD - Inquérito Bio Comportamental sobre as vulnerabilidades das Pessoas com deficiência

face ao VIH/SIDA em Cabo Verde, 2017

183 *Law Nº 40/VIII/2013*, 2013

184 Carvalho-Freitas et al. Inclusão social de pessoas com deficiência em Cabo Verde – África, in *Acolhendo a Alfabetização nos Países de Língua*

Portuguesa, 2007

185 CIGEF & SINPROMI. Realidad social formativa y de empleo de la población con discapacidad de Cabo Verde. 2013

186 INECV Anuário Estatístico 2018

187 Cabo Verde. Initial report on the implementation of the CDESCR. E/C.12/CPV/1. 2017

188 INECV Anuário Estatístico 2018

189 INECV, Recenseamento Geral da População e Habitação, 2010

190 Ibidem

191 Ministry of Education. Strategic Plan for Education (2017-2021)

192 CIGEF & SINPROMI. Realidad social formativa y de empleo de la población con discapacidad de Cabo Verde. 2013

193

(especially women) and 15% have temporary work (especially men)¹⁹⁴. The employment rate of persons with disabilities is low (36%), due to the insufficient dissemination of the regulations concerning their recruitment, accessibility of job advertisements for persons with a visual impairment and accommodation of workplaces¹⁹⁵. The application of the national disability continues to face major constraints. A Decree Law No. 38/2015 was approved in July 2015 to improve this implementation, but is only partially applied to date, especially regarding the recruitment of people with disabilities in public administration¹⁹⁶.

PwD generally have more healthcare needs than others, they are more dependents and are therefore more vulnerable to the impact of discontinuity of education, health, care and other services. The prevalence of HIV among people with disabilities (2.3%) is four times higher than national average, due to their vulnerabilities linked to poverty, low level of education, lack of awareness and the level of violence to which they are exposed (sexual, physical, stigma)¹⁹⁷. The prevalence increases to 9.1% for people with mental disabilities. In addition, because of their condition, they may not receive or understand well the COVID-19 messages and awareness if these are not adapted to their needs. Thus, they may not follow the rules of prevention and protect themselves. In this case, any communication campaign should be adapted to their needs for their health, safety, dignity, and independence in the community throughout the fight against COVID-19.

The collaboration between national Government and civil society on the promotion of the rights of people with disabilities have been developing in recent years¹⁹⁸. CSOs working on disabilities have played a major role in increasing the social visibility of the challenges faced by PwD, their needs and expectations, however, several concerns of PwD persist: (i) physical accessibility (despite the favorable legal framework), (ii) education, (iii) employment, (iv) health, (v) social protection, (vi) participation¹⁹⁹. In the 2020 local elections, visually impaired persons were able, for the first time to vote

by secret ballot: the CNE introduced braille voting options, thus fulfilling a claim made by women with disabilities²⁰⁰.

4.5. Older persons

Older persons (aged 65 and over) represent 6.1% of the population (59.3% are women)²⁰¹ and this rate is expected to go up to 8.5% in 2030²⁰². This means an increase in health and social services costs, as well as old-age pensions (public and private) and social pensions, and a consequent increase of the pressure on public finance are to be expected.

In 2015, poverty affected 44.3% of the elderly (vs 30% of total population), with 14.4% being very poor²⁰³. 66.1% is the representative of the household, with 14.9% living alone and 10.8% living only with the spouse²⁰⁴. This indicator is not sex disaggregated. However, a gender gap may exist in view of women's overall more vulnerable economic situation. In the COVID-19 context, when the day care centers closed, the National Social Insurance Institute (INPS) realized a rapid census²⁰⁵ to identify the elderly that were not taken in charge by any relative. There were 712 of them. These 712 elderly persons and in broader term the almost 5,000 very poor elderly are the most at risk of being left behind.

Around 11.9% of the elderly continue to work and 71% of the population aged 60 and over are covered by some form of old age/social pension. As in (women are over 2/3 of the beneficiaries of social pension). In any developing country, they have a low literacy rate compared to other age ranges (42%), and the gender gap is important (74.3%)²⁰⁶.

Care services are to be provided to people over 65 years of age in a situation of dependence through the National Care System, thanks to the expansion of day centers and rehabilitation and training of caregivers. Investments to guarantee access for 3,000 elderly in need of care from vulnerable families were estimated: an additional 40 day centres across the country (build or rehabilitated)

and corresponding trained care providers.²⁰⁷ The return of the investments needed to implement the overall National Care System were estimated at 3,100 ECV per 1,000 ECV invested, over a 24 years span²⁰⁸. However, problems persist on other levels, such as poor housing and comfort; chronic and degenerative diseases without proper treatment; isolation and abandonment, added to domestic violence, which, although not evidenced in terms of data (very much due to the fragility of the elderly in making the complaint)²⁰⁹.

4.6. Residents of informal settlements

Urban growth in the last decade has been fueled by both internal migration flows (rural exodus and migration from the remaining islands) and external flows from neighboring West African countries. In the cities of Espargos and Santa Maria (Sal) and Sal Rei (Boa Vista), where tourism development has been significant and rapid – the population increased by more than 300% in the last 20 years²¹⁰. The delivery of housing and urban projects with significant effort from the government has yet to cope with the accelerated development of tourism in the last two

decades, resulting in precarious urban areas that accommodate workers and service providers, many of low-income and living in unworthy conditions. It is estimated that 31% of families in Cabo Verde live in overcrowded conditions²¹¹.

In Cabo Verde, the availability of public services and infrastructure, as well as access to job opportunities, and exposure to disasters, is highly correlated to the conditions of the urban environment. In the city of Praia, for example, it is estimated that 22% of residents live in landslide-prone settings, whilst at least 63% of the areas identified as being at risk of different types of events, such as flooding, cover built-up urban areas²¹².

Country-wide, coverage of electricity, water and sewage networks in informal settlements can be as low as 50% of the figures observed in formal neighborhoods. Conditions such as overcrowding are also much more prevalent (average of 2 people/room for the poorest in comparison to 1.1 for the richest)²¹³.

Although the government has carried out a series of important programmes, including the Casa para Todos (Housing for All) and the PRRA (Programme for Requalification, Rehabilitation and Accessibility), the current housing deficit sits around 9% (approx.



194 CIGEF & SINPROMI. Realidad social formativa y de empleo de la población con discapacidad de Cabo Verde. 2013
 195 UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). *Concluding observations on the initial report of Cabo Verde*. 2018
 196 *Direct request (CEACR), adopted in 2019, to be published at the 109th session of the International Labour Conference (2021)*.
 197 Ministério da Saúde e da Segurança Social/CCS/-/SIDA,/. FECAD - Inquérito Bio Comportamental sobre as vulnerabilidades das Pessoas com deficiência face ao VIH/SIDA em Cabo Verde, 2017
 198 *Association of the Visually Impaired of Cabo Verde (ADEVIC) (2019)*
 199 Handicap International. Avaliação das lacunas legais entre a assinatura da convenção internacional sobre os direitos das pessoas com deficiência e sua implementação. 2017
 200 Relatório sombra das ONGs ao Comité CEDAW. 2019
 201 INECV, IMC 2019, 2020
 202 INE, Projeções demográficas 2010 - 2030
 203 INE, IDRF 2015
 204 II Relatório Nacional de Direitos Humanos 2010-2019 (CNDHC, 2019)
 205
 206 INE, IMC 2019 (Condições de vida)

207 MFIS, Nation Care Plan (2017-2021)
 208 MFIS, Análise de Políticas Sociais e Propostas de Políticas Públicas Sociais Sensíveis ao Género, 2016
 209 II Relatório Nacional de Direitos Humanos 2010-2019 (CNDHC, 2019)
 210 INE, 2017 - Anuário Estatístico
 211 UN-Habitat defines overcrowding as more than 2 people sharing a room of up to 3.5 x 3.5 m.
 212 Silveira, E.M.B. da, 2011. Áreas residenciais clandestinas na Cidade da Praia: caso Latada e Achada Trás e Eugénio Lima. [online] Universidade de Lisboa. Disponível em: <http://repositorio.ul.pt/handle/10451/6030%3E> [Acessado em 8 Maio 2018]

213 INE, 2017 - Anuário Estatístico

11 thousand units), with peaks of 20% in Sal and 16% in Boa Vista²¹⁴. In addition, a total of 26,000 new units will need to be delivered by 2030, with added pressure for housing solutions that accommodate the most vulnerable.

People in informal settlements are particularly at risk during the COVID-19 pandemic because they often live in overcrowded conditions, lack adequate housing and basic services such as water and sanitation, and many are informal workers who survive on day-to-day income. As cities have suspended or limited most informal activities and restrict movement, day laborers and informal workers have lost or reduced their sources of income, especially considering that of 52.2% jobs are informal in Cabo Verde²¹⁵.

4.7. Migrants

Cabo Verde went in the few recent years from a country of emigration to a country of immigration. In 2001, the migration balance was negative (-2691), in 2014 it was positive (+71). The number of immigrants has more than tripled in the past ten years.

In 2014, immigrants represented 3% of the total population and were mostly men (58.7%). 65.6% of immigrants lived in three municipalities: Praia (38.8%), Boa Vista (13.6%) and São Vicente (13.2%)²¹⁶.

The continued increase of immigrant stock is mostly encouraged by the development of tourism. Migrants have been exploring opportunities in industries linked to tourism, such as the construction sector, trade, hotel and food services, as well as art-craft. Most come from two countries: São Tomé (26.9%) and Guinea Bissau (25.5%). 35.5% are ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) citizens, 41.4% comes from other countries in Africa, and 16.9% are from Europe, mainly Portugal (9%) and Italy (4.4%)²¹⁷.

Migrants face limited job opportunities out of the informal sector, poor social protection due to non-existent job contract, limited legal conditions for obtaining residence permits, discrimination among society, and other issues. 20% of migrants live in household with more than 6 persons, of which 7.3% live in a unique room, yet most of migrants live in

decent housing conditions, at least in terms of promiscuity, and access to electricity (81% vs 90% national average), water (63.2% vs 86% national average) and sanitation (78% vs 82% national average). 46.5% of immigrants were covered by the national protection system in 2014²¹⁸. Although illiteracy rates among migrants are relatively low and comparable to national average (10.7%, 18.2% for women), most of them (42.8%) have no further education. 10.8% of immigrants in Cabo Verde was unemployed in 2014, a rate lower than national average (15.8%).

However, these conditions may not apply immigrants without a legal status, about 17% of total immigrants. In 2010, more than half immigrant population had no proper legal conditions for residence permits²¹⁹. Indeed, most of the migrants present in Cabo Verde use it as a country of transit on the way to Europe or the United States. West African and Asian migrants may transit the archipelago in route to situations of exploitation inside the country and to Europe, subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking, especially children and women. Cabo Verde is ranked by the United States among countries whose governments do not fully meet the minimum standards against trafficking in persons but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards. Migrant populations have been victims of sex trafficking²²⁰. Although the number of cases of trafficking of migrants appears to have decreased in recent years, there may be some blurring of the concepts of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons (TIP) which, together with the lack of specific data on these crimes, makes it difficult to evaluate accurately the scale of these practices²²¹. In relation to TIP data is available since the revision of the Penal Code of 2015, that criminalized TIP (see country profile section).

Immigrant women face specific challenges in access to information and participation due to educational, linguistic and social-cultural barriers. They are under-represented in immigrant association, which impacts the possibility of having their specific needs heard and addressed, and face challenges in access to SRRH (see section on women and girls).

Due to the impact of COVID-19, their situation not only deteriorated but also expanded in numbers of migrant affected, including those immigrants that were successfully integrated²²². Cabo Verde

does not have a strategy with specific measures to provide assistance to non-nationals before or during crises, or in post-crisis situations.

4.8. Rural population and remote islands

Although both poverty and unemployment decreased since 2015 (see Country Profile), 68.1% of the very poor live in rural areas, and unemployment increased in these areas by 11.1%²²³. Rural municipalities in the island of Santiago are lagging by far in terms of monetary poverty, access to basic services and economic opportunities (see previous section on SDGs)²²⁴. Extreme poverty remains high in three islands: Fogo (20.2%); Brava (18.8%) and Santo Antão (17.1%), although Brava and Ribeira Grande de Santo Antão benefitted from an important decrease in unemployment in the last 4 years (See Country Profile)²²⁵. These municipalities and islands are at risk of being left behind, especially because women and men from these islands will probably not benefit from the job creation linked to the SDG accelerators and the PEDS 7 platforms if they do not see a strong and rapid improvement in their access

to quality education, vocational training, digital literacy, access to finance and mobility.

According to the Palma ratio²²⁶ an alternative measure of income inequality, Cabo Verde's the top 10% of the population has expenditure shares 2.7 times higher than that of the bottom 40% of the population²²⁷. Oxfam reports that Cabo Verde ranks first among West African countries in terms of the Commitment to Reduce Inequality (CRI) and seventh among African countries as a whole due to its efforts in the areas of social spending (health, education and social protection), progressive tax policy, and labour rights²²⁸. This gap between policy orientation and actual outcomes stresses the need to directly address structural and institutional barriers in the poor rural areas of Santiago island, and in Fogo, Brava, Santo Antão and São Nicolau. A deeper understanding of the social and economic structures of these municipalities and islands can help shape customized solution to avoid leaving them behind. For instance, understanding why a higher average annual growth per capita in Fogo than in Santo Antão led to much less poverty reduction²²⁹, or why infrastructure and equipment in poor communities of Santiago are weak compared to even the remotest islands.



4,9 percent representing immigrants request. Out of the 39,454 requests, 20,175 people received the cash assistance nationally, but only 186 were immigrants, which represents 0,9 percent.

223 INECV, *Inquérito sobre despesas e receitas dos agregados familiares*, 2015 and INECV, IMC 2019, *Indicadores do Mercado de Trabalho*, 2020

224 INECV, *Estatísticas das Famílias e Condições de Vida*, 2019

225 INECV, IMC 2019 *Indicadores do Mercado de Trabalho*, 2020

226 Palma, J. G. (2011) Homogeneous middles vs. heterogeneous tails, and the end of the 'Inverted U': the share of the rich is what it's all about. Cambridge Working Papers in Economics (CWPE) 1111.

<http://www.econ.cam.ac.uk/dae/repec/cam/pdf/cwpe1111.pdf>

227 UNDP (2020). 'Income Inequality, Palma Ratio'. Human Development Report 2019. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/indicators/135206>. New York: United Nations Development Programme.

228 Christian Hallum and Kwesi W. Obeng (2019). The West Africa Inequality Crisis. Oxfam Briefing Paper July 2019. Oxford: Oxfam International <https://oxfamlibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/620837/bp-west-africa-inequality-crisis-090719-en.pdf>.

229 INECV, *Inquérito sobre despesas e receitas dos agregados familiares*, 2015 and INECV, *PIB por ilha 2017*, 2018

214 MIOH, Cabo Verde, Housing Sector Profile, 2019

215 INE 2019, Labor Market

216 INECV, IMC 2014, *Estatísticas das Migrações*, 2015

217 Ibid.

218 INECV, IMC 2014, *Estatísticas das Migrações*, 2015

219 IOM, *Cabo Verde Migration Profile*, 2017

220 US Department of State, *Trafficking in Person Report*, 2020

221 *Direct request (CEACR) on the application of Convention No. 29, published in 2019*.

222 General Directorate of Social Inclusion, Unique Social Register System. 39,454 people requested cash assistance during the state of emergency, in which

5. Cabo Verde' Commitments under International Norms and Standards



This section analyzes the implementation of Cabo Verde's commitments under all relevant internationally agreed norms and standards and UN Charter values, as well as to human rights and gender equality, including the recommendations from the human rights mechanisms; and identify the key outstanding challenges from a rights perspective that may prevent the country from achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Cabo Verde submitted its declaration of acceptance of the obligations contained in the United Nations Charter on July 21, 1975, 16 days after its independence, becoming a member state of the United Nations and starting the path for the ratification of several protection instruments of international human rights. Since then, it has ratified 8 of the 9 main international human rights conventions under the United Nations system²³⁰. At the regional level, as a State Party to the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Cabo Verde has adhered to the main instruments promoting human rights in Africa: African Charter Human and Peoples' Rights (1987); African Charter on the E-Welfare Rights of Children (1993); Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women (2005); and African Youth Charter (2010). The country is a reference in the region for its commitment to uphold human rights and the rule of law.

5.1. Economic Lens

Cabo Verde ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in February 2020. This Agreement aims to simplify and clarify international import and export procedures, customs formalities and transit requirements. It makes administrative formalities related to trade easier and less costly, thus contributing to an important and much-needed stimulus to global economic growth. The agreement also contributes to improving transparency, increasing opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises to participate in global value chains, and reducing the chances of corruption.

Cabo Verde has ratified the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No.138) and the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No.182), but there remain some issues in the application of these Conventions. The national list of hazardous forms of child labour likely to jeopardize the health, safety or moral of young persons, was adopted by Act No.113/VIII/2016, but does only apply to children under 16 years, and not as required by the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No.138) to young persons under 18 years.²³¹ Concerning the enforcement of the prohibition of child labour in practice, in view of the absence of cases of child labour reported by the labour inspectorate, and the absence of court decisions handed down in

this respect, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) requested information on activities in practice to combat the phenomenon of child labour, including information on complaints, investigations and penalties imposed²³². Children come from households in which the head works in agriculture and fisheries (18.1%), followed by domestic workers (8.7%), especially in Fogo/Brava (27.8%) and Santiago (20.9%).

In its 2018 concluding observations, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) expressed concern at the low employment rate of persons with disabilities, partly due to the fact that existing regulations concerning their recruitment are not sufficiently disseminated and that job advertisements are not usually accessible to persons with a visual impairment, and that workplaces fail to provide reasonable accommodation to facilitate the employment of persons with disabilities²³³. In this respect, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) requested more information on the application in practice of Law No. 40/VIII/2013, which: (i) prohibits direct and indirect discrimination against persons with disabilities (section 6.a) and 7); (ii) refers to the adoption of special measures to promote access of persons with disabilities to employment and training (section 28); and (iii) establishes a minimum quota of 5 per cent of jobs to be occupied by persons with disabilities in the public administration (section 30). It also requested more information on the practical application of Decree Law No. 38/2015 of 29 July 2015 which regulates the selection and recruitment procedures for persons with disabilities in the public administration²³⁴.

In its 2019 concluding observations, the UN Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) expressed concern that the principle of equal pay for work of equal value has not been included during the last revision of the Labor Code, recommending the prompt amendment of the Labor Code to ensure this principle is reflected²³⁵. A recommendation along the same line was made by the CESCR in 2018.

The Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living (Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) visited Cabo Verde in January 2015, recommended the

²³⁰ Estudo sobre o conhecimento e aplicação das convenções internacionais de direitos humanos em Cabo Verde

²³¹ [Observation on the application of Convention No. 138 \(CEACR\), published in 2019](#)

²³² [Direct request \(CEACR\) on the application of Convention No. 138, published in 2019](#)

²³³ E/C.12/CPV/CO/1, 27 November 2018, Paragraph 18

²³⁴ [Direct request \(CEACR\), adopted in 2019, to be published at the 109th session of the International Labour Conference \(2021\)](#)

²³⁵ CEDAW/C/CPV/CO/9, 22 July 2019, paragraph 30 (e) and 31 (e)



acceleration of the implementation of the National Plan for Combating Gender-based Violence and the Law on Gender-based Violence, in general and in particular, the creation of both temporary emergency shelter and longer-term housing solutions²³⁶. Recommendations along the same lines were made by the CEDAW Committee in 2019 and the CESCR in 2018.

Cabo Verde has intensified diplomatic and negotiation dialogue with its main financing partners, both bilateral and multilateral, in order to obtain the relief, even if partial, of its external debt. All options are on the table for discussions, including the rescheduling of debt service payments through default, as has already been established with some bilateral partners. This seems to be one of Cabo Verde's biggest challenges in the near future, after the strong impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on such a fragile economy and dependent on the external situation, as is the case of Cabo Verde.

5.2. Social Lens

Significant efforts have been made to improve the country's social protection with the objective to build a comprehensive, universal and inclusive system for lifelong universal coverage.

Concerning non-discrimination, in its 2018 concluding observations, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

recommended that the Government conduct awareness-raising campaigns to combat stereotypes affecting persons and groups at risk of discrimination, such as persons living with HIV/AIDS²³⁷. As regards health and safety at the workplace level, particularly relevant in times of Covid-19, Cabo Verde has ratified the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No.155).

According to the first survey on drug use prevalence conducted in 2013 by the government, there's a need to implement the Convention for people with disabilities, CPRD, in partnership with the deaf persons' rights to communication is clearly violated. For their better integration it is important that in school be introduced the gestural language so that the society in general communicate at the most inclusive manner.

The country has also recently ratified the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. (this Convention will enter into force in January 2021). The country is well on its way to achieving its objective of a social protection floor (SPF). Total spending on Social Protection/Policies increased from 3.7% (2010) to 5.3% of GDP (2017)²³⁸.

5.3. Environmental Lens

Cabo Verde ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1995. In this context, the country presented its first, second,

and third National Communications (2000, 2010, 2018) to the convention and is now developing the 4th. Cabo Verde is also part of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) since 1995. Given that the UNCCD is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management, it is particularly relevant in Cabo Verde. The Convention specifically addresses the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found.

Saltwater intrusion and freshwater scarcity present major livelihood and agribusiness difficulties in Cabo Verde. Since wooded vegetation, woodlands, and forests prove the most effective means to store and retain water, minerals, and nutrients, increasing, infiltration, and preventing rapid surface runoff it is crucial for Cabo Verde to focus on climate-resilient land cover and land use for watershed management. As such, the use of nature-based approaches that facilitate the installation of suitable mosaics of agriculture with protective zones is an important tool opening opportunities for adaptation and natural resource management.

Efforts towards clean development, carbon, and degradation neutrality, as well as sustainable management have been steadily increasing in the country. The National Strategy and Plan of Action on Climate Change was presented (2000), the First and Second National Inventories of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions and Removals (2000 and 2010), the National Program of Action for Adaptation to Climate Change (NAPA, 2007), a Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Project (2012) and Low Carbon and Resilient Development Strategy (2015). In the context of the UNCCD, Cabo Verde developed a National Action Programme in 2000, prepared a Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS3) in 2018, and defined its Land Degradation Neutrality plan in 2019.

By signing the Paris Agreement at the UNFCCC COP21 in 2015, countries agreed to limit global warming to below 2.0°C or 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and to reach carbon neutrality in the second half of the century. These objectives are to be achieved through the implementation of national climate plans, or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and Cabo Verde submitted its NDC in 2017. The second NDC is now under coordinated development in the context of the country's climate action, and it shows an increased ambition. The commitment regarding the restoration of inland ecosystems is highlighted and put forward as important climate mitigation

measures, calling for data collection, knowledge increase, and cross-cutting land use management. Such an approach is not only an opportunity to largely increase nature-based solutions to mitigate climate change but can also drive adaptation measures that integrate the entire AFOLU sector. To this end, steps are being taken to develop new adaptation projects focusing on the woodland and agriculture interface with a focus on value-added chains and rural livelihood improvement.

Ecosystem restoration has been mainstreamed as a delivery vehicle for the Paris Agreement, SDGs, and Aichi Targets, with Cabo Verde a part of these agreements. However, without increasing local ownership and capacities, restoration is unlikely to be sustained or scaled up during the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (2020-2030). Nevertheless, the country's Climate Action, including the development of the fourth National Communication, the submission of a new and more ambitious NDC and first Biennial Transparency Report to the UNFCCC, clearly shows a commitment towards carbon and land degradation neutrality. Such commitment, which requires strong capacity building and institutional reinforcement support, is an opportunity demonstrate performance and obtain international payments for ecosystems services, while promoting future sustainability.

The procedures for the implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), established under the Paris Agreement define the information to be reported and needed to establish national systems, while building on existing Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) arrangements. Under the ETF, countries will report on their GHG emissions and removals and will also need to report information to track the progress of NDCs. These to be included in the Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR) are also addressed as priorities for the upcoming NDC period. Nevertheless, a big challenge resides on the need to sharply reinforce institutional capacities, increasing awareness, information and knowledge sharing, while supporting the necessary digital transformation.

For better follow-up on climate change issues, through Resolution No. 16/2009 of 2 June, Cabo Verde created the Multi-ministerial Committee on Climate Change, which also functions as the Designated National Authority, with the purpose of articulating governmental actions resulting from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and its subsidiary bodies of which Cabo Verde is a party.

²³⁶ A/HRC/31/54/Add.1, 23 December 2015, paragraph 94 (c)(iv)
²³⁷ E/C.12/CPV/CO/1, 27 November 2018, paragraph 12.
²³⁸ World Bank – Social Inclusion Project preparation.

Nevertheless, and despite significant progress in the mainstreaming of climate change into policy, Cabo Verde did not yet submit its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) (COP 16, Cancun), which enables the identification of medium- and long-term adaptation needs and the development of measures to address those needs, nor its Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions²³⁹ (NAMAS) (COP 18, Doha), which refer to any action, prepared under the umbrella of a national governmental initiative, that reduces emissions.

Regarding the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Cabo Verde has prepared the National legislation and has designated the Official Scientific Authority and Control Authority, in accordance with the requirements of the Convention. Cabo Verde is in category 3 in terms of implementation by sending national reports on this convention.

Cabo Verde has also ratified the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The National Implementation Plan is under implementation and reports have been submitted, although with significant delays.

Progress has been also made on the implementation

Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is important to note that restoration has been mainstreamed as a delivery vehicle for the Paris Agreement and for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the Aichi Targets under the strategic plan for biodiversity (CBD), of which Cabo Verde is a party.

Regarding the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and Its Elimination, it's in the final phase of implementation of the Voluntary Compliance Plan approved and financed by the Convention Secretariat, consolidated with the creation of legislation/ordinance for hazardous waste lacking. Reports are forwarded annually by December 31 of each year on the previous year, which are dependent on the completion of the project that will guarantee compliance with the provisions of the Convention.

5.4. Political and Institutional Lens

Cabo Verde has ratified the United Nations Convention against corruption (UNCAC) in 2008 and is one of the first countries to have completed

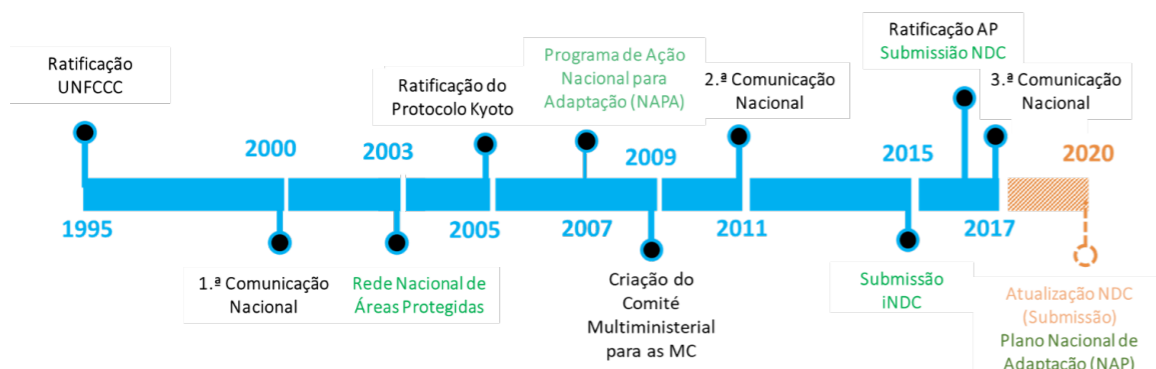


Figure 1 - Progress of ratification and compliance with international agreements (Adapted from Nevsky 2020, Debate Temática: Resiliência e Ação Climática Ambiente, biodiversidade e Zona Costeira)

of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD). Cabo Verde has presented the National Report on the Convention on Biological Diversity and has submitted the 2nd National Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan (NBSAP), and the 6th National Report on the Convention on Biological Diversity was prepared in October 2020 and must be submitted to the international commission. However, and even though specific activities are being implemented to this end (e.g. the EU funded REFLOR-CV project) the Nagoya Protocol on ABS "Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing" has not yet been ratified by Cabo Verde. The country has also prepared and submitted the 3rd Report Cartagena Protocol on

²³⁹ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/publicnama/SitePages/Home.aspx>

the entire both implementation review cycles of the Convention in 2017. The corruption perception index made public by Transparency International in 2019 points out that Cabo Verde ranks among the best performing African countries in terms of transparency and good governance. The archipelago gets 58 points on a scale of up to 100, ranking third in the ranks of African countries, behind Botswana and Seychelles.

In 2016, only 1.2% of citizens refer having felt the need to pay public administration personnel to obtain a service (1.5% in 2013) and the overall satisfaction with public services has increased over the same timeframe (56.3% to 60.9%), except in rural areas;

however, a smaller proportion considers decision making processes to be inclusive and adequate (15.7% in 2016, down from 17.4% in 2013)²⁴⁰. In this sense, Cabo Verde is being working to implement the UN Convention against Corruption, as shown by the latest establishment of the Conselho de Prevenção da Corrupção. Work remains to be done to ensure full compliance with the Convention, and corruption remains a risk for good governance and efficient delivery of public services.

Cabo Verde has ratified the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81). Important efforts have been made to enhance the local governance processing of statistical data²⁴¹, (as well as the absence of information on enforcement measures undertaken in the area of child labour, wages and the decentralization and the installation of platforms for promotion of dialogue among actors of development which demonstrate vitalization of democracy.

Cabo Verde has a good performance on the implementation of core human rights conventions. This was also reflected in the outcomes of the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Remaining concerns include the violation of rights of women, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/ Transsexual and Intersex (LGBTI), children and migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons. Human rights challenges are also observed with respect to overcrowded prisons and an overburdened and understaffed justice system, resulting in prolonged pretrial detention and a large backlog of cases pending trial. There are yet considerable challenges regarding human rights specially regarding women and children, disabled persons, the elderly, persons in prison, emigrants, due to many reasons, among which, the unsatisfactory performance of the judicial system and absence of information on the effectiveness of other enforcement mechanisms, including the labour inspection services²⁴². The level of violence, particularly the number of homicides among youth and gender-based violence, reports of mistreatment in prison and in police detentions spaces, the slowness of justice is still a concern.

In 2017 a specific mechanism was established, attached to the Prime Minister's Office - the Inter-Ministry Commission for the Elaboration of National

²⁴⁰ INECV. Anuário Estatístico de Cabo Verde. 2018

²⁴¹ [Direct Request on the application of Convention No. 81, published at the 106th session of the International Labour Conference \(2017\)](#)

²⁴² The international human rights bodies and other supervisory organs within the United Nations system noted, for example, shortcomings as regards the compliance with the national minimum wage adopted in 2018, particularly in sectors with a high number of women workers. In this respect, the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) in its 2018 concluding observations noted that many employers, especially in the agricultural and domestic service sectors, did not comply with the legal obligation to pay the minimum wage and recommended that the Government strengthen its enforcement of the minimum wage, including through inspection. The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR), in its [Direct request](#) (published in February 2020) on the application of the Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No.100) requested information on measures to ensure compliance with the legal obligation to pay the minimum wage, including information on non-compliance detected by labour inspectors and the penalties.

²⁴³ Resolution No 55/2017, June 15

Reports, to improve the country's compliance with reporting obligations under ratified Human Rights International Conventions²⁴³. Progress has been made in the submission of overdue reports, nonetheless, the Inter-Ministry Commission requires further capacity building to effectively coordinate reporting processes in a timely way. There is an active National Human Rights Commission (CNDHC) working for the promotion and protection of human rights including a National Preventive Mechanism. Despite the good work in this realm the NHRI is not an independent Paris compliant institution (Status A) as it falls under the purview of the Ministry of Justice. Discussion on its statutes are ongoing.



6. Cross-boundary, regional and sub-regional perspectives

This chapter analyzes the relevant regional, sub-regional and transboundary/cross-border factors, trends, regional issues and dynamics that may impact on the country's progress towards the SDGs.

6.1. Regional challenges and opportunities affecting implementation of the SDGs

The COVID-19 pandemic arrived at a moment when prospects for many African countries were promising. At the beginning of 2020, Africa was on track to continue its economic expansion, with growth projected to rise from 2.9 per cent in 2019 to 3.2 per cent in 2020. Important gains were registered in poverty reduction and health indicators. Technology and innovation were being increasingly embraced across the continent, with young Africans acting as early adopters of new platforms such as mobile money²⁴⁴.

Progress had also been made with respect to political unity and economic integration. The entry into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in May 2019 promised to boost intra-African trade by up to 25 per cent by 2040. Furthermore, Africa enjoyed some of the highest global returns on foreign direct investment (FDI). Several inclusive elections, increasingly the norm for most African countries, were due to be held in 2020²⁴⁵.

At the same time, as with other regions of the world, Africa faced important challenges. It was not on track to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. Weak governance, corruption, environmental degradation, human rights violations, lack of economic diversity, and humanitarian and conflict situations, among others, further undermined progress²⁴⁶.

It is against this backdrop that African countries are dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Between 28.2 to 49.2 million people could be pushed back into poverty in Africa, and 25 to 30 million jobs could be lost²⁴⁷. Three of five new extreme poor would be in Central and West Africa²⁴⁸. The COVID-19 crisis has the potential to create a severe food security crisis in Africa as it is already contributing to increase food insecurity on the continent, compounded by other existing crises in many countries like drought, desert locust emergency, climate change, etc. Agricultural production is likely to contract between 2.6 percent in the optimistic scenario and 7 percent in the scenario with trade blockages. Food imports also decline substantially (from 13 to 25 percent) due to higher transaction costs and reduced domestic

demand²⁴⁹.

The fall in commodity prices, the disruption in global value chains, the decrease in remittances and Official Development Assistance, the increase in sovereign debt and inflation, the deterioration of current account, and the decline in FDI, combined with a shrinking fiscal space, are consequences of the COVID-19 directly or indirectly affect African economies that are likely to last longer than a few months, more than 5 years for least developed countries (LDC) and SIDS countries to some accounts²⁵⁰. At the same time, this strong impact on the main drivers of growth in Africa can represent an opportunity for policy makers to push for a shift in the development model of their countries. This would mean reinforce regional integration and value chains, develop industrial production within a regional perspective (PPE, medicine, etc.), and diversify the economies (whether they are oil-dependent, tourism-dependent, or dependent on one or two crops like cashew nut in Guinea Bissau or cotton for Benin).

In 2018, along with 51 African countries, Cabo Verde signed the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The vision of African continental integration to which the AfCFTA contributes is more than 50 years old and embodies great opportunities for Africa's structural transformation, economic diversification and development.

Regional integration faces challenges. They include limited energy and infrastructure development, insecurity and conflicts, multiple and overlapping membership of regional economic communities (RECs), poor sequencing of the regional integration arrangements and limited financial resources. Africa's large infrastructure deficit hinders intra-regional trade. Monetary integration continues to be actively pursued by five of the eight regional economic communities. Integration in services is important as in 2017, over 53 per cent of the continent's GDP came from services. Gradual progress is being made towards the free movement of people²⁵¹.

However, it is not enough merely for the African Continental Free Trade Agreement to be operational and encompassing. It must also change lives, reduce poverty and contribute to economic development. In order to do that, more economic and physical

²⁴⁴ SG policy brief, "Impact of COVID-19 in Africa", 2020

²⁴⁵ Ibid.

²⁴⁶ Ibid.

²⁴⁷ African Development Bank, African Economic Outlook amid COVID-19, June 2020

²⁴⁸ Ibid.

²⁴⁹ Africa Pulse vol.21 "assessing the economic impact of COVID-19 and policy responses in sub-Saharan Africa". World Bank. 2020.

²⁵⁰ DESA Working Paper No. 170: How long will it take for LDCs and SIDS to recover from the impacts of COVID-19? Oct 2020

²⁵¹ Assessing regional integration in Africa – Aria IX, UNECA, 2019

integration, including through important infrastructure projects, is needed. It will require significant resources, including leveraging public-private partnerships and innovative financing tools. It will also require translating promises into action, by ratifying and implementing the AfCFTA, monetary integration commitments and the African Union (AU) protocol on the movement of persons, among others²⁵².

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a 15 members state regional group, including Cabo Verde, is the main regional economic community in West Africa. ECOWAS, with a mandate to promote economic, social and cultural cooperation and integration within a 350 million consumer market, also seeks to create an economic and monetary bloc. After more than 42 years of existence, this regional economic community has made significant strides towards the achievement of regional integration. Its major achievements in its quest to create a common regional market include the: (a) adoption and implementation of protocols on free movement of goods and persons and the right of residence and establishment, (b) creation of a free trade area with the implementation of the Trade Liberalization Scheme since 1979; and (c) entry into force of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff in January 2015, which is a major step forward in the creation of a customs union. ECOWAS and its Member States have signed bilateral and continental trade agreements, notable among which are the Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union (EU) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)²⁵³.

Being located at the crossroads of Africa, Europe and the Americas, Cabo Verde must be able to take better advantage of a potential role as a pivot point between different regional integration mechanism: ECOWAS, Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), the EU (through the Special Partnership and GSP+) and Mercosul (as a member of the CPLP), and the United States/NAFTA (through AGOA).

6.2. Regional and global mechanisms to bolster the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063

Agenda 2063 is recognized as the overarching

framework for Africa's integration and development under which the other sectoral frameworks and programmes are subsumed²⁵⁴.

Stronger coordination between the agencies of the African Union and the United Nations system is required to ensure that the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, including alignment with the Paris Agreement, are mainstreamed and integrated into the national planning frameworks of member States and contribute positively to African development. A harmonized and integrated approach to the implementation of the two Agendas will help to minimize duplication, optimize resource use and mobilize the support of domestic and external stakeholders and development partners²⁵⁵.

The unique relationship between the African Union and the United Nations provides the goodwill necessary for a successful partnership in addressing the continent's priorities and pressing needs. The Development Framework builds on existing principles underscored in the strategic framework of the African Union-United Nations partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017-2027 (see General Assembly resolution 71/254), coordinated under the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, and whose implementation will be closely aligned with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan, as well as subsequent ones, of Agenda 2063²⁵⁶.

As the UN Secretary-General has noted, "a large scale, coordinated and comprehensive multilateral response is needed now more than ever". COVID-19 is a global problem and confronting the effects of the pandemic will require global and coordinated efforts supported by regional initiatives and regional institutions.

Four areas of regional coordination are particularly relevant: First, regional cooperation on trade policy to coordinate and harmonize trade measures that impact on supply chains and connectivity must be prioritized for it would contribute to lowering the cost of fighting the crisis and set the stage for a quicker economic recovery, while ensuring that trade policy initiatives "do (cause) harm" to others. This highlights the potential of regional platforms, such as Africa's Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), to generate significant economic gains and contribute to structural transformation and rebuilding economies.

Second, improved connectivity and lower transaction and transport costs need to be promoted. Stepped up multilateral and regional cooperation in facilitating trade and strengthening logistics, especially fast-tracking customs procedures for the import of medical supplies/critical products/essential goods, can strengthen the effectiveness of the emergency response.

Third, monetary coordination and financial stability through regional coordination must be strengthened, to avoid, for example, a "beggar-thy-neighbor" policy. Countries will need to harness existing regional capacity to complement other sources.

Fourth, cooperation to strengthen environmental resilience will be crucial to avoid future pandemics. As the environmental commons ignore frontiers and are intrinsically linked, managing them sustainably requires concerted and integrated collaborative action and policy measures to promote sustainable consumption and production, "just transitions", deep decarbonization and build environmental protection into key economic areas (such as agriculture, transport, energy, buildings and construction, and telecommunication). This coordinated and collaborative approach strengthens the response to future crises while enabling countries to pursue the SDGs, build resilient economies and address climate change.

Global and regional macroeconomic modelling will be used to simulate the impact of emergency and

medium-term responses and recovery policies. This includes strengthening statistics and data analytics, including gender data; multi-sectoral policy analysis; leave no one behind (LNOB) policies; gender analysis; SDG financing, including through integrated national financing frameworks; institutional development and public administration and service delivery; and multi-stakeholder engagement and partnerships.

6.3. Samoa Pathway, SIDS and Cabo Verde's engagement in South-South and triangular cooperation

Even though the country is still the recipient of significant technical and financial support, Cabo Verde has consolidated itself as a relevant provider of development solutions with other countries in the South (particularly in the African context), reaffirming its secular role as a bridge between peoples, cultures and knowledge.

In fact, given its status as a small archipelago, Cabo Verde quickly recognized, since its independence in 1975, the need to join efforts with other countries in the global South to their survival and development. Four decades later, good relations with the international community (and the pursuit of a non-alignment policy) continue to build the centre of the country's stance, which has now reached political maturity and significant socio-economic advances.



252 Ibid.
 253 UNECA Expert Group meeting concept note: "Implications of ECOWAS potential expansion and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)", 2018
 254 "AU – UN Framework on Implementation of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030", 2018
 255 Ibid.
 256 "AU – UN Framework on Implementation of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030", 2018

Thus, there are numerous groups of developing countries with which Cabo Verde identifies and in which it is inserted, either due to geographical proximity (African Union) ongoing process of economic integration (ECOWAS), linguistic and cultural affinity (African Portuguese Speaking Countries - PALOPs -, and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries - CPLP) or common climatic conditions (Sahel region). Cabo Verde is also part of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao), also known as Forum Macao, launched in October 2003 to promote economic and trade exchanges between China and selected Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa, by using Macao as a connecting platform between those places. It is further a member of the Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP), with which it shares a similar stage of development and common partners, and the group of Small Island Developing States (SIDSs), which suffer from similar structural constraints linked to their geographical peculiarities.

Cabo Verde is also a signatory of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A) Pathway, an international framework that played a significant role in identifying SIDS priorities that were considered for the formulation of the 2030 Agenda. Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) face similar development challenges, such as geographic and economic isolation, limited resources, environmental fragility, high costs of transportation and energy, and vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. Through a member state driven and broadly participatory process, SIDS leaders acknowledged that the essential requirements for sustainable development are poverty eradication; changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production; and, protecting and managing the natural resource base for economic and social development.

A comprehensive United Nations System SIDS support review was carried out in 2016 providing recommendations for United Nations agencies work with SIDS including, among others, mainstreaming the SAMOA Pathway in their strategic plans, planning SIDS activities in line with national and regional priorities, and allocation of multi-year funding to facilitate the effective implementation of programmatic activities in support of SIDS.

Cabo Verde's South-South Cooperation ecosystem is structured around three main pillars: the first on planning, coordination and articulation (comprising

a coordination unit and a monitoring committee), a second of actors linked to information and knowledge and the third of agents directly involved in the field in the implementation of programs and projects (government entities, civil society, the private sector and academia).

The Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) could be a driver for enhanced South-South and triangular Cooperation for Cabo Verde to play an active role in knowledge sharing networks and to be able to mobilize experiences and expertise to build institutional and human capacities it needs to implement its INFF strategy and reinforce its governance framework.

The COVID-19 national response plan for resilience building and crisis prevention address in priority the areas most affected by the virus outbreak and the contention measures, most of them being SDG accelerators.

Although the health impact of the COVID-19 crisis in the SIDS AIS (Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea) is lower than average so far, the socioeconomic impact is much higher than average. The main reason is that the COVID-19 crisis came to overlap and deepen existing vulnerabilities. In terms of economic impact, the most affected sectors and finance flows are vital to SIDS AIS economies: tourism, trade, remittances, among others. This led to a drastic drop in GDPs, massive temporary job losses (60,000 Mauritius²⁵⁷, 45,000 for Maldives²⁵⁸, 11,000 for Cabo Verde, in the tourism sector alone), and a probable rise in poverty and inequalities. At the social level, the crisis has a direct impact on COVID-19 and non COVID-19 health services, on access to education (tele classes), Gender equity (unpaid domestic work, GBV, etc.), and Human Rights. Furthermore, the impact on public revenues and of financing sustainable development, and the implication for debt, will be a huge burden for recovery and the new sustainable development path, and SAMOA pathway.

Sectoral challenges are linked to the above-mentioned sectors: health, education, social protection, tourism, trade, agriculture and food security, mobility, employment, economic diversification, ICT infrastructure, among others. Transversal challenges are emerging too, such as data collection and analysis to inform decision making and national strategic planning for recovery, measurement of vulnerability, innovation, partnerships, advocacy, financing, gender and youth and capacity building.

7. Financing Landscape and Opportunities

This section provides a brief overview of the status of SDG financing, identifying and examining significant financing flows – public and private, domestic and international – to determine the extent to which these can contribute to and align with the SDGs, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda's call for "nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated financing frameworks"

²⁵⁷
²⁵⁸

<https://www.cnbcfranca.com/opinion/2020/06/04/op-ed-tourism-sector-in-mauritius-devastated-by-covid-19/>
https://www.un.org/ohrrls/sites/www.un.org.ohrrls/files/maldives_presentation_0.pdf



7.1 Macro-economic situation and SDG financing landscape

Prior to COVID-19, the country benefited from a period of solid growth, price stability, and modest declines in public debt, which decreased from 127.8% of GDP in 2016 to 124.2% in 2019. Public investment consistent with the SDGs improved with the adoption and implementation of the National Sustainable Development Plan (PEDS 2017-2021), which helped the Ministry of Finance and line ministries organize the national budget around 35 programs focused on the countries' sustainable development priorities. Local public investment was similarly reoriented in accordance with Municipal Sustainable Development Plans (PEMDS), implemented via UNDP's SDG Localization Platform.

Cabo Verde is struggling to finance its upward development trajectory through public expenditures as concessional finance is gradually replaced by non-concessional finance. The IMF has signalled a "high risk" of debt distress (expected 145% of GNI by the end of 2020²⁵⁹), necessitating urgent debt relief measures to avoid default. Although loans initially tripled following designation as a MIC, the debt distress warning is now limiting the country's access to credit due to increasing interest rates in international bond markets, which further undermines sustainability. The question of

how to achieve debt sustainability while financing sustainable development needs is particularly important to operationalise the national strategy. To finance the national sustainable development strategy (PEDS 2017-21), Cabo Verde is pivoting to new actors, particularly the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the private sector. Yet, limited transparency and coordination regarding the terms and conditions of financing has led to a call for renewed partnership.²⁶⁰ For 2020, revenue was budgeted at 32.5 percent of GDP, predicated on growth rates projected at 5% as a result of measures introduced in 2019, including administrative reforms. The budget deficit was expected to narrow from 1.7 percent of GDP in 2020 to 0.6 percent of GDP in 2024.²⁶¹

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Development financing constitutes one of the top challenges for Cabo Verde to move forward with its national development agenda. The Praia Declaration on the Sustainable Development Goals states that special consideration should be given to the challenges faced by middle income SIDS and to strengthen global partnerships to ensure that these countries have the necessary means to implement the 2030 development agenda. The current Government Plan places macroeconomic and financial stability, with a strong focus on the management of public debt, among the top of its short-term priorities²⁶².

All financing flows are affected by COVID-19, from public revenues (-17% in the first three quarters of 2020), private investment and ODA (-50% in 2021 compared with 2020), to FDI (-31% in the first three quarters of 2020) and remittances (steady in the first semester of 2020, then decreasing by 14.5% in the third quarter)²⁶³.

7.2. Domestic and foreign resources for SDG financing

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), adopted by UN Member States in 2015, provides a framework that aligns financing flows (domestic, international, private and public) and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities, as a mean for the implementation of the SDGs in each country. The AAAA highlights the importance of integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs) to spell out how national sustainable development strategies will be financed and implemented. In the AAAA, and more recently in the 2019 Financing for Development Forum, Member States committed to putting INFFs that support nationally owned sustainable development strategies at the heart of countries' efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development²⁶⁴. Cabo Verde stepped forward as one of the 'pioneer' countries committed to being part of the early adopters of the INFF process in place since July 2020.

In terms of financing flows, Cabo Verde remains dependent on official development assistance (ODA) with ODA representing about 40% of external financing²⁶⁵. It faces challenges in attracting other official flows (OOFs). While foreign direct investment (FDI) and remittances make up a significant share of external finance, their links to sustainable development can be strengthened. Funding support from the DAC to key SDG sectors including transportation and education have been phased out too quickly and reversals across SDGs are emerging in health (SDG 3), work and the economy (SDG 8), industry and innovation (SDG 9), reducing inequalities (SDG 10), oceans (SDG 14) and peace and justice (SDG 16). A more detailed mapping of financial flows is needed²⁶⁶.

For this reason, the first output of the INFF is a Development Finance Assessment of the country.

²⁶³ Banco de Cabo Verde, *Quadros Estatísticos*, 2021

²⁶⁴ Cabo Verde: MAPS/INFF scoping mission report, 2019.

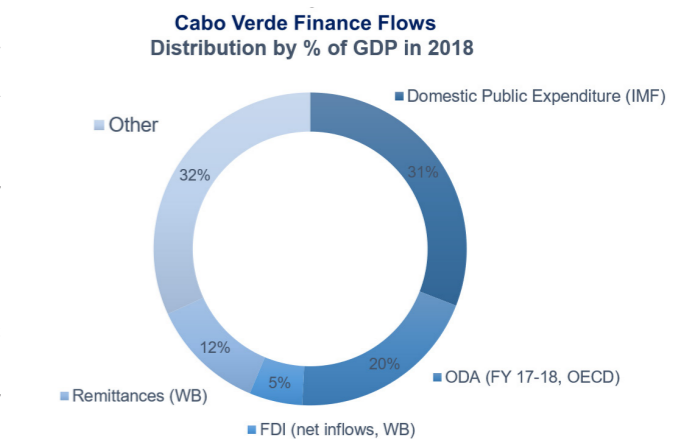
²⁶⁵ OECD, *Transition Finance in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States: Cabo Verde Country Pilot*, November 2018

²⁶⁶ World Bank's Systematic Country Diagnostic Report (2018); OECD *Transition Finance Report* (2018) Idem

²⁶⁷ Lilyblad, Christopher; "Cabo Verde sustainable finance & the Blue Economy" presentation, UNDP 2020. Data informing this graphic derive from the IMF (domestic public expenditure - DPE), OECD (ODA figures for fiscal year 17-18), and the World Bank (FDI and remittances). Note: In 2018, 'direct donations' as a source of revenue to the state budget, including but not limited to ODA, accounted for 1,561 million CVE (<http://www.parlamento.cv/GDOrcamentoEstado.aspx?CodOEstado=30101>), or approximately 0.86% of GDP. Though precise figures are unavailable, this suggests overlap between ODA and DPE; however, the margin of error remains under 1% of GDP and is further mitigated by the fact that public expenditures exceeded revenues.

²⁶⁸ Nelson Stratta, *Finance for development innovative instruments - presentation*

Since its designation as a Middle-Income Country, Cabo Verde has received less ODA, which still represents an important source of support for tourism, a domestic private sector characterised by MSMEs with low capacities public finances and sustainable development, especially in terms of budget support from the EU, World Bank, ADB, Luxembourg and Portugal. The figure below shows the country finance flows in 2018, distributed by % of GDP²⁶⁷.



The 2018 figures suggest that prior to COVID-19, Cabo Verde's finance flows were driven predominantly by public resources (approximately 51%) of domestic and international origin. Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, ODA was almost entirely reallocated to address the short-term crisis response. Meanwhile, expected reductions in global ODA flows associated with lower GNI rates in donor countries, suggest that a decline or, at best, a standstill in ODA flows for Cabo Verde should be expected in 2021. The convergence of diminished ODA and high public debt entails that Cabo Verde is not only vulnerable to fluctuations in external flows but must diversify its financing flows, particularly through greater domestic and foreign private investment, in order to compensate for diminished public expenditures and ODA.

The DFA will therefore holistically and comprehensively consider all sources financing available to achieve Cabo Verde's Ambition 2030 and the SDGs, including but not limited to the following²⁶⁸:

²⁵⁹ Pro-PALOP, *Análise rápida Proposta Orçamento Retificativo (POGER)*, 2020

²⁶⁰ Development cooperation working paper 46, "Cabo Verde transition finance country pilot", OECD, 2018

²⁶¹ IMF, *Cabo Verde Country Report*, April 2020

²⁶² PEDS - 2017-2021

	PUBLIC	PRIVATE
FOREIGN	ODA Donations and Loans South-South/Triangular Cooperation Climate Finance (GEF, GCF) Vertical Funds (GFATM and GAVI) Aid for Trade External Debt	Impact Investment Blended Finance Foreign Direct Investment Remittances Crowdfunding Financing of NGOs
DOMESTIC	Public revenue Non-Fiscal Revenues Mineral related taxation Internal public loan Sovereign Wealth Funds	Internal private loan Inclusive funding Public-Private Partnerships Domestic Philanthropy and NGOs Illicit Flows

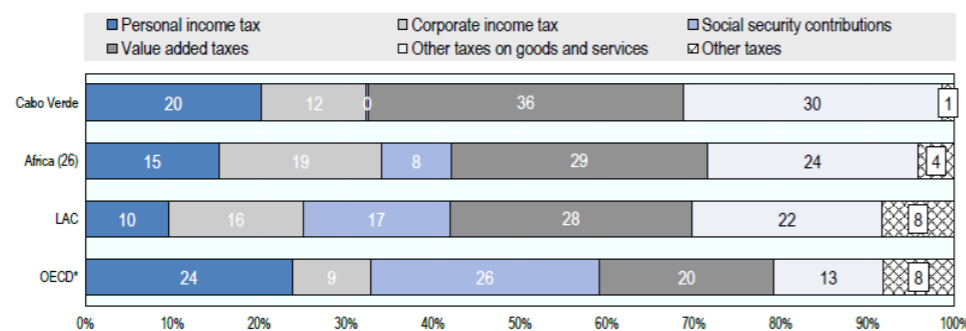
The endorsement of the African Union Blue Economy Strategy in October 2019 and the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area in July 2019 offer a unique opportunity for African SIDS such as Cabo Verde to deeply transform their blue economy sectors, including maritime shipping, logistics, fisheries, aquaculture, and marine conservation initiatives linked to tourism. However, given that Cabo Verde, like many other LMICs does not have recourse neither to the scale of surplus revenues necessary for large-scale public investment, nor to sufficient domestic savings that would enable efficient credit markets to finance innovation and entrepreneurship either domestically or regionally. As such additional efforts will need to be deployed to ensure long-term sustainability of blue economy activities, including their impact in terms of environment and climate change, alongside adequate resource mobilization.

Cabo Verde could build from Seychelles' experience in issuing a debt for nature swap resulting into the creation of new marine protected areas (MPAs)

(the second largest network in the Indian Ocean). A recent World Bank report also signals opportunities for launching sovereign blue bonds that can generate enough investment for large-scale projects across the blue economy. The report concludes that the issuance of a blue bond would be a viable and interesting option for Cabo Verde—with its own merits and limitations. With the right amount (US\$10 to US\$15 million) and the right rate (close to the 3–4 percent range), a blue

Tax revenues: structure

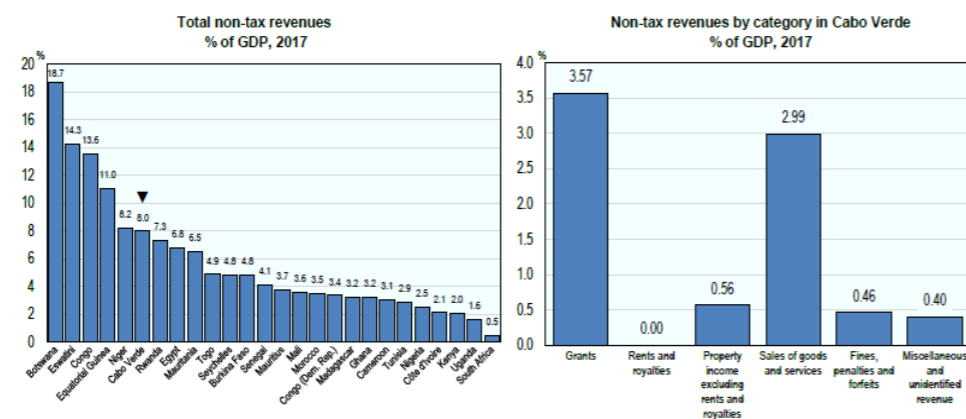
Tax structure refers to the share of each tax in total tax revenues. The highest share of tax revenues in Cabo Verde in 2017 was contributed by value added taxes (36%). The second-highest share of tax revenues in 2017 was derived from other taxes on goods and services (30%).



* The data for the OECD are for 2016 as the data for 2017 are not available.

Non-tax revenues

In 2017, Cabo Verde's non-tax revenues amounted to 8.0% of GDP. This was lower than tax revenues (20.1% of GDP). Grants represented the largest share of non-tax revenues in 2017, amounting to 3.6% of GDP and 44.7% of non-tax revenues.



Source: Revenue Statistics in Africa 2019 – Cabo Verde

bond would be an adequate instrument to support the strategy of Cabo Verde to diversify borrowing sources, in anticipation of the transition away from concessional lending. The blue bond would be a developmental exercise for Cabo Verde, and would introduce the country to sustainable investors²⁶⁹.

However, given the country's debt situation, innovative financial mechanisms emanating from the private sector, such as blue (corporate) bonds, funds, and equities, with demonstrable potential for impact investing, should be explored with a purview towards regional trade and integration, especially within the AfCFTA, ECOWAS, and SIDS frameworks.

Fiscal space is limited, putting pressure on domestic expenditure to ensure debt sustainability and finance the SDG gaps. OOF can be mobilised to support strengthening of the private sector enabling environment. In Cabo Verde, OOF in support of infrastructure and private sector enabling environments are crucially missing to enhance competitiveness. To mobilise sufficient resources, all sources of financing—FDI, remittances, and domestic resources—must contribute to fill SDG financing gaps²⁷⁰. As demonstrated in the table above, Cabo Verde has a regressive tax system, even more than Africa's average.

7.3. Public funding and private financing for the SDGs

The Government of Cabo Verde has been working for the past years, from the public and private perspective, to establish the enabling environment of what can be considered the genesis of an INFF. Regarding the Public finance pillar, Cabo Verde formulated in 2017 the Public Finance Management Reform Action Plan (PARGFP) with the monitoring and execution of reform projects in the National Investment System (SNI), its Monitoring and Evaluation Module (MSA) and the development and adaptation of an Integrated Financial and Budgetary Information System (SIGOF).²⁷¹

From the private perspective, in addition to the renegotiation with the European Union (EU) to be part of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) related negotiations to be part of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), Cabo Verde has again demonstrated its leadership by organizing, with UN and World Bank

support, an international conference “Building New Partnerships for the Sustainable Development of Cabo Verde”, in December 2018, in Paris. Following up on this initiative, two further international forums seeking to attract private capital investments towards its PEDS priorities were launched. The first one, the Cabo Verde Investment Forum, organized on Sal Island in June 2019, which particularly aimed at supporting catalytic projects that lead to sustainable economic growth and job creation, and a second Cabo Verde Investment Forum, organized in September 2019 in Boston, particularly targeted the Cabo Verde diaspora in the United States.²⁷²

Regarding the domestic and international private business and finance landscape, natural resources, sound economic policies, good governance and the adoption of one of the most open investment regimes in Africa have produced a solid foreign direct investment (FDI) attraction performance in Cabo Verde since the early 2000s²⁷³. FDI has had a transformational impact on the economy. However, foreign investment remains heavily concentrated in one activity, all-inclusive tourism, 75% of FDI inflows²⁷⁴, and in two locations, the islands of Sal and Boa Vista.

Despite ongoing business facilitation efforts, which have streamlined business establishment and introduced modern eGovernment tools, several aspects of the investment climate remain challenging, notably for smaller companies. Burdensome bureaucratic processes related to licensing, permits or trading and the complexity of the tax regime affect business competitiveness, while weaknesses in environmental impact assessments, land allocation processes and inspection regimes pose serious risks for the country, including with respect to the achievement of the SDGs²⁷⁵.

7.4. Opportunities for Leveraging SDG Financing

The Cabo Verde MAPS/INFF scoping mission identified financing alternatives for the SDG accelerators from the MAPS exercise, both existing sources which can be (when needed and possible) aligned with the accelerators and additional actionable financing sources²⁷⁶.

The table next page illustrates the results:

269 World Bank, *Cabo Verde: Blue Bond Note* (p.31), 2020
 270 OECD, Development cooperation working paper 46, “*Cabo Verde transition finance country pilot*”, 2018
 271 Cabo Verde: MAPS/INFF scoping mission report, 2019.
 272 Ibidem
 273 UNCTAD, *Investment Policy Review of Cabo Verde*, 2018
 274 UNWTO 2020
 275 Cabo Verde: MAPS/INFF scoping mission report, 2019
 276 Ibidem

Accelerators	Sources / Instruments
Human Capital	<p>Sources potential for alignment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Budget - World Bank (education & skills 10 m USD) <p>Potential additional sources of finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -> Dev. Partners: EU, LUX, JP, CN, SAR -> Impact investors
Affordable renewable energy	<p>Potential sources of finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GCF/new Climate Investment Platform for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) policy de-risking & institutional building (DREI tool, UNDP); (ii) a blended finance, MDBs/DPs and de-risk and crowd-in private investment - EIB loans / EU guarantees/blending (EU grants ongoing)
Blue economy & marine biodiversity	<p>Sources available and/or potential for alignment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GEF/FAO (Coastal Fisheries Initiative in West Africa – CV: appr. 17 m EUR) - AfdB/FAO (107 m EUR conc. loan upcoming) - Blue Finance Marine Protection Areas initiative (appr. 3 m USD, blended finance & impact investors) - GEF – Project Managing multiple sector threats on marine ecosystems to achieve sustainable blue growth (USD 3.787.864) <p>Potential additional sources of finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -> Debt2Nature Swap (Seychelles Nature Conservancy) -> Resilience: coral reef insurance
Digital economy	<p>Sources available and/or potential for alignment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EIB (Connectivity loan 22 m EUR) - Banco BA – Makeba <p>Potential additional sources of finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -> Private sector (banks and other financial entities, telecom operators, money transfer operators)
Value chains integrations with tourism	<p>Sources available and/or potential for alignment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IFAD: (overall 30m \$, 15 m EUR left) - World Bank (5 m \$ tourism competitiveness 5 m \$) <p>Potential additional sources of finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -> Dev Partners -> Guarantees / Impact Investment

Some complementary financing sources and instruments have been suggested for the accelerators such as the issuance of Blue Bonds and further exploring the opportunities of remittances through digital finance (FinTech) and inclusive finance.

8. Analysis of key risks

The purpose of this chapter is to consider the key current and potential risks to the sustainable development of the country and to the achievement of the SDGs. It provides also an analysis of the various multidimensional risks and threats that could potentially impact the country's development trajectory, including the underlying drivers of risks, vulnerabilities and needs, be they political, social, environmental or economic.

The greatest risk currently to Cabo Verde's sustainable development is a prolonged duration of recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic which, according to some estimates, could last for at least 4 or 5 years for a Small Island developing state (SIDS) country²⁷⁷ especially vulnerable to external shocks due to its limited resource base. This long-term duration recovery process would entail the following risks:

- A long-term downturn of the key drivers of the country's economic growth: tourism, FDI and remittances. This could lead to a vicious cycle of low consumption and investment, massive unemployment, MSME liquidity constraints and solvency risks, a continuous drop in public revenues and a dramatic and long-lasting increase in public and private debt. Private debt is likely to increase significantly, adding to the risk of defaults on mortgages, bankruptcies and widespread unemployment, which can have systemic repercussions on the economy. Most MSMEs in both formal and informal sectors are having difficulties in sustaining or recovering business²⁷⁸.
- An aggravation of the impact on people's economic well-being: massive jobs (19,800) and income losses, in both formal (44%) and informal (56%) sectors²⁷⁹, and the rise in monetary poverty.
- An increase in multidimensional poverty, which can have long-lasting effects on poor households. It is due to new constraints accessing basic public services, as a result of containment measures and the decrease in critical public investments (lack of fiscal space to attend competing priorities) needed to reinforce health, education and social protection systems among others, to drive economic and social sustainable development. Half of the poor households, especially poor families with working age members, remained out of social protection programs coverage before the pandemic.

Given the country's degree of economic openness, the mobility effects imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic pose a higher risk than in more self-contained, less externally dependent countries.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis will also intensify other risks currently existing in the country development path:

- Food insecurity resulting mainly from climate change-induced 4-years (2016-19) drought is intensified by the pandemic. 36.0% of population experience moderate or severe food insecurity during the last semester of 2020²⁸⁰ with an already 12.6% on malnutrition prevalence in 2019, and it could increase developmental delays in children under 5, which was already a national problem before the COVID-19 outbreak²⁸¹. It could also decrease the ability of rural poor to work, further affecting the revenues of poor families. Although agricultural production during the 2019-20 period was, on average, slightly higher than during the previous period (2018-19), average annual output over the past five years was down significantly compared to prior periods²⁸².
- Missing out on the development potential of the young generation (the demographic dividend). The current situation concerning youth unemployment (over 25% of those aged 16 – 24), school dropout (54.1% of net schooling rate in secondary education), NEET (youth Not in Education, Employment, or Training represents 30% of the youth population) and migration (the age pyramid of Cabo Verdean emigrants shows that the majority of people who emigrated are in the 15-24 age group – brain drain) put the country at risk of failing its youth. The country is struggling to equip young people with the skills required to service their economies (there is a weak link between higher education levels and better job prospects) and improving the quality of the education²⁸³.

Youth are also three times more likely to be unemployed compared to adults, and it is likely that youth will again be disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 generated global recession, with a higher percentage of young people being unemployed compared to adults, and a slower uptake of employment by young people during the recovery²⁸⁴. In fact, those aged 16-25 are over twice as likely as older employees to have suffered job loss due to the pandemic²⁸⁵.

- The level of inequalities in the country, given the disparities among municipalities and islands in access to basic services, youth unemployment rates, and poverty, notably in rural areas. COVID-19 crisis, by hitting harder the most vulnerable populations, could exacerbate inequalities.
- Existing gender inequalities will be deepened because of the disproportionate impact of the crisis on women.
- The structural weakness of the domestic economy, wherein the informal sector accounts for 52.5% of total employment, limits its resilience and capacity to respond to external shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.
- Significant levels of violence and crime, particularly homicides among youth, sexual abuse of children and gender-based violence, and the perception of impunity in the country with justice delays it is being deteriorating during the pandemic. The gaps left by security

forces – which suffered from several COVID-19 cases among its ranks and had to deal with new priorities – in addressing crime more generally, associated with the country's vulnerability to illicit trafficking and organized crime, affected law enforcement.

- The impact of extreme weather events and the disaster risk management capacity. For example, in the city of Praia it is estimated that up to 22% of residents live in landslide-prone settings, whilst at least 63% of the areas identified as being a risk of different types of events, such as flooding, cover built-up urban areas. People in informal settlements are particularly at risk during the COVID-19 pandemic, because they often live in overcrowded conditions, lack adequate housing and basic services such as water and sanitation, and many are informal workers who survive on day-to-day income. Specific measures to assist non-nationals migrants are yet to be put in place during the post-disaster recovery.



277 UNDESA Working paper No. 170; [How long will it take for LDCs and SIDS to recover from the impacts of COVID-19?](#), October 2020
 278 UNSDG, [Policy Brief on impact of COVID-19 in Africa](#), May 2020
 279 Ministry of Finance, 2020 forecasts, 2020
 280 FAO, Rapid Food Security Assessment, November 2020
 281 Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, National Situation of Food Security pre-COVID-19, April 2020
 282 [FAO, National agrifood systems and COVID-19 in ECOWAS: October 2020](#)
 283 MIF, Africa's youth: action needed now to support the continent's greatest assets, 2020
 284 [UN/DESA Policy Brief #67: Protecting and mobilizing youth in COVID-19 responses, May 2020](#)
 285 London School of Economics, Generation COVID: emerging work and education inequalities October 2020

9. Challenges, Opportunities and Emerging Issues towards achieving the 2030 Agenda

This section offers a summary of the main elements of this Country Common Assessment through the identification of the key challenges, opportunities and emerging issues towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. It includes also the identification and analysis of the main challenges that prevent the country from accelerating progress on the SDGs.

9.1. Challenges and opportunities

The main challenges are related to structural constraints linked to a small domestic market and fiscal basis and a high cost per capita of public and private services (energy, water, health, education, transportation, IT, etc.). These structural constraints are worsened by climate change (e.g. 3 consecutive years of drought) and the COVID-19 crisis.

Regarding the achievement of the SDGs, key challenges identified by the government, with UN support, are linked to the availability of public and private financing to ensure the investment needed to unleash Cabo Verde's potential, to the scarcity of energy and water to make the development of these sectors sustainable, and the stock of human capital needed to provide skilled manpower to these sectors and receive decent work in exchange (see SDG accelerators below).

As a small island economy, Cabo Verde faces the challenge of mobilizing significant resource to finance the SDGs. The current elaboration of the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) is an opportunity to boost the mobilization of SDG finance, through the optimization of public revenues and investment. The INFF will also support the design and pilot implementation of innovative financing instruments, the creation of conditions and indicators to access to climate finance and concessional finance and the reinforcement of an enabling environment to diversify foreign direct investments, especially greenfield investment. Innovative financial instruments, such as blue bonds, are opportunities to provide a crucial entry point for sustainable development finance, so is the AfCFTA framework to develop sustainable activities that will encompass into regional blue/green value-chains.

Economic diversification, technological upgrading and innovation are opportunities for recovery and sustainable development. Cabo Verde's economy is concentrated in the services sector as it lacks natural resources and economies of scale to sustain a significant manufacturing base. However, tourism, hard hit by the pandemic crisis with a 60% decrease in both demand and revenues, hasn't substantively contributed to decent employment and local economic development, with the exception of the construction of all-inclusive resorts and real estate but national MSMEs are not well integrated in the tourism value chain. A more resilient, more competitive future is linked

to the transformation of the economy in an ocean-based (blue) circular economy that benefits all the islands and unleashes the potential of the digital economy. In order to maintain its natural resources as well as use its comparative advantage in relevant sectors, strengthening of sustainable practices and introduction of circular economy will be key for the country. Even before the COVID-19 crisis, there was consensus on the need for greater economic diversification. This diversification is now more urgent than ever: diversifying tourism offer, connecting local value chains to hotels and restaurants, boosting blue economy, enhancing local agriculture and fisheries system and untapping the potential of digital economy. By adopting a more local vantage point focused on decentralization and sector diversification, Cabo Verde will be able to chart a more sustainable and inclusive course.

Regional integration represents a significant opportunity to export Cabo Verde's services and products, even more so once the AfCFTA is fully implemented and operational. The assurance that Cabo Verde's products respect the relevant international standards and guidelines will be one of the key aspects of Cabo Verde's future development. For the last decade, ECOWAS countries represented in average only 1% of Cabo Verde's imports, and 0.2% of exports, letting important room for improvement in terms of regional trade, especially in a context of decelerating globalization and accelerating regionalization²⁸⁶.

As water and energy shortages are a critical limiting factor for economic development in the country, renewable energies are an opportunity instrumental for the country's prosperity, and one of the five SDGs accelerators. Currently a quarter of energy resources is provided by renewable sources, and this share should go up to half in 2050, according to the energy masterplan.

Inequalities between and within islands are a key challenge for the country to lay the foundations required to achieve sustainable development with a view to building a better future for all. The three islands where extreme poverty remains high, i.e. Fogo (20.2%), Brava (18.8%) and Santo Antão (17.1%), are at risk of being left behind. The opportunity to benefit from the job creation linked to the SDG accelerators and the PEDS 7 platforms will depend on a dramatic improvement in their access to quality education, vocational training, digital literacy and access to finance and mobility.

9.2. Emerging Issues towards achieving the 2030 Agenda

One of the main barriers to economic inclusion is linked to rural development. The critical gaps, in terms of rural development, is better organization of rural workers and value chains, and their access to markets, arable land, and credit. The emerging challenge is the reinforcement of public and private investment in agriculture directly, but also in access to cheap energy for rural areas, desalination of water and irrigation efficiency. These investments must be accompanied with technical and technological support to improve the quality and stability of agricultural production, to access new markets linked to tourism and exports.

Another important factor of economic exclusion is youth unemployment, still high at 32.4%, in regards to the PEDS' objective to reduce youth unemployment rate from 42.9% in 2016 to 21.5% in 2021. The challenge that was reinforced by the impact of COVID-19 crisis on youth employability (see Youth in LNOB chapter), is to reduce the skills mismatch between labor force training and the needs of the labor market tend to drive high youth unemployment. It requires increasing the rates of Technical, Vocational Education Training (TVET) enrolment (5.7% of total secondary education enrollments, one of the lowest in the subregion) and the provision of on-job formal training by public-private partnerships (only 16.6% of the firms in the country offer formal training to their workers vs. the West Africa's average of 25.2% in 2018²⁸⁷).

Finally, despite improvements in women's socioeconomic condition, there are still gaps that need to be addressed to reduce gender inequalities in economic opportunities and different challenges emerge for the post-crisis period. The challenge will be to transform the structure of women employment, for now highly concentrated in the service industry (83%), and in the informal sector (60%), in order to make their jobs/sources of income more decent and resilient, and reach equal pay, equal opportunities targets. In this sense, different gaps needs to be bridged, especially in rural areas; access to land tenure and credit; transition toward formality of women owned informal businesses; extension of social protection coverage for women; and recognition of unpaid care work and better salaries for paid care work (nurses, teachers, etc.), among others.

To seize the opportunities linked to the build forward approach and the SDG accelerators, within the

institutional arrangements and the INFF described in the previous chapter, different issues would need to be addressed during the coming months, while UN Country Team (UNCT) is on "emergency mode", as stated in the UN socioeconomic framework for COVID-19 response. These issues were identified together with the Government in the COVID-19 socioeconomic impact assessment and the Ambition 2030. They need to be supported by the UN and partners to enable the rapid progresses needed on the above-listed accelerators. Two of the issues have been already mentioned in the paragraphs above, i.e. fostering gender and youth inclusion and the systemic reinforcement of local agriculture and fisheries systems. The other issues are:

- Support data collection and analysis, indicators setting, and the installation of an innovation system. Reinforcing the National Planning Systems to enable them to directly collect and analyze, but also coordinate the collection and analysis from all relevant public and private players, including University, of quality data needed to inform difficult decisions to be made by national Governments in the coming month to prioritize public investment in a context of shrinking fiscal space. Innovation will help optimize public and private investments' efficiency and unleash new solutions.
- Improve institutional capacity building and provide Government and CSOs with management tools, based on ICT and looking at the digitalization of public administration and service delivery, especially for the social protection, health and education systems. Collective procurement of health equipment and medicine, as well as IT equipment for the education sector, with other countries, could also represent a meaningful support.

9.3. Building Forward & SDG Accelerators

By deepening structural vulnerabilities of Cabo Verde as a SIDS, the COVID-19 crisis is calling for optimal resources and opportunities utilization to boost recovery and sustainable development. The United Nations System can support the Government in identifying and prioritizing **policy solutions and investments to Build forward**, reinforcing Health, Education and Social Protection System, boosting job creation/income generation and adaptation to climate change, and smoothing the adaptation to the new normal, while improving governance

and human rights. This support should be defined within the SDGs accelerators, identified in the SDG Roadmap and assimilated by the Government within the Ambition 2030 process.

Alongside the five SDGs accelerators, **different cross-cutting drivers can act as levers for sustainable development**, such as decentralization and SDG Localization, adapting public service delivery and economic opportunities to the needs and potentialities of each island ; climate change adaptation, reinforcing agricultural and fisheries systems to build resilience in front of droughts and ocean acidification and helping the country monitoring the impact of climate change to take decisions for adaptation, and accessing climate finance ; and Justice and Human Security, protecting and promoting human rights and access to justice to all, good governance, efficient law enforcement, decent housing, equitable access to natural resources and protection from natural hazards, and food security.

The SDG Roadmap identifies **seven enablers, capable to positively influence SDGs accelerators**. These enablers are (i) ecosystem of finance and business development; (ii) reliable and sustainable inter-island transportation infrastructure; (iii) capacity of the State to create and maintain an enabling environment for private sector development and investment; (iv) broadband connectivity infrastructure across islands; (v) universal coverage of e-government services ; (vi) data to monitor impact of accelerators and (vii) good governance.

9.4. Multisector, multilevel coordination

The momentum created by the **coordination among Government, national partners, UN entities and international partners** for the immediate response to COVID-19 is an opportunity to institutionalize the harmonization of planning, programming, monitoring and financing for sustainable development. The process may build on the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Platform, co-led by the Government and the UN, and articulated with an international partners platform. Reinforcing this process, on the basis of pre-COVID efforts, the Government and the UN will improve coordination among governmental entities and with UN agencies around the constant monitoring of the impact of the crisis and the response by national and local authorities, as well as the construction of next PEDS

and the implementation of Ambition 2030, within a whole-of-Government, whole-of-society approach.

The **articulation with civil society, including the social partners and private actors** within the response process is also an opportunity to reinforce the participation of a wide range of CSOs and private sector representatives in the design and implementation of the response and recovery process. Besides, the role of the UN as a facilitator of the coordination of international partners' support to the immediate response positions the System as a key player to improve the integration of international partners into the planning and budgeting system, and the coordination among these partners.

This multilevel, multisectoral institutional framework will allow for the definition of **common inclusive and integrated objectives** for response, recovery and sustainable development (horizon 2030), and **budgeted projects and programs** to reach these objectives, in a Government-led, UN-supported process involving all partners. This process should be based on the PEDS 2017-2021 and its evaluation, on the evaluation of the impact of COVID-19 on the development process and the consequent National Response and Recovery Plan, the Voluntary National Review Report of 2021 and on the Ambition 2030 national strategy. It will prepare the elaboration of the PEDS 2022-2027.

The whole coordination framework and strategic planning (including financing strategy) process will be **anchored in the National Planning System**, for the contributions from all stakeholders to be harmonized based on the countries needs and priorities.



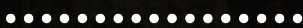
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