

THE 4-4-2

4 NEWS – 4 GLANCES – 2 QUESTIONS

ECONOMIC BULLETIN

Highlights from the Cabo Verde Leave No One Behind Assessment

OCTOBER 2021

INTRODUCTION

The 4-4-2 aims at sharing, at the end of each month, some punctual insights from calculations and analysis made in the past weeks by the UN and its partners on economic development and SDGs. It will stay away from subjective analysis, to focus on objective data, most of them published by the National Statistics Office and the Central Bank.

In this issue:



4 NEWS

CONTINUED SUPPORT TO POOR HOUSEHOLDS TO COPE WITH THE CRISIS



4 GLANCES AT

THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS IN CABO VERDE



2 QUESTIONS TO

CRISTINA PIRES FERREIRA, UNICEF, COORDINATOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP





4 NEWS OF ...

Coping with the crisis in poor households



After increasing by 3% in 2020, remittances increased by a staggering 29% in the first semester of 2021 compared to the same period last year, proving to be an important cushion for households, many of the poor

(source: Banco de Cabo Verde)



29,000 households benefit from the Social Inclusion Income (RSI) in September 2021. They were less than 5,000 in the beginning of 2020

(Source: Instituto Nacional de Previdência Social)

Recovery needs to take over social protection



The number of beneficiaries of the lay-off regime decreased from 16,050 in May 2020 to 3,667 in September 2021, showing that the economy is (slowly) taking over governmental measures

(Source: Instituto Nacional de Previdência Social)



In 2022 proposed State budget, debt service's overwhelming weight reaches 14.6% of GDP, only 0.6% short of the combined share of GDP of Education, Social Protection and Health (15.2%)

(source: Ministry of Finance)

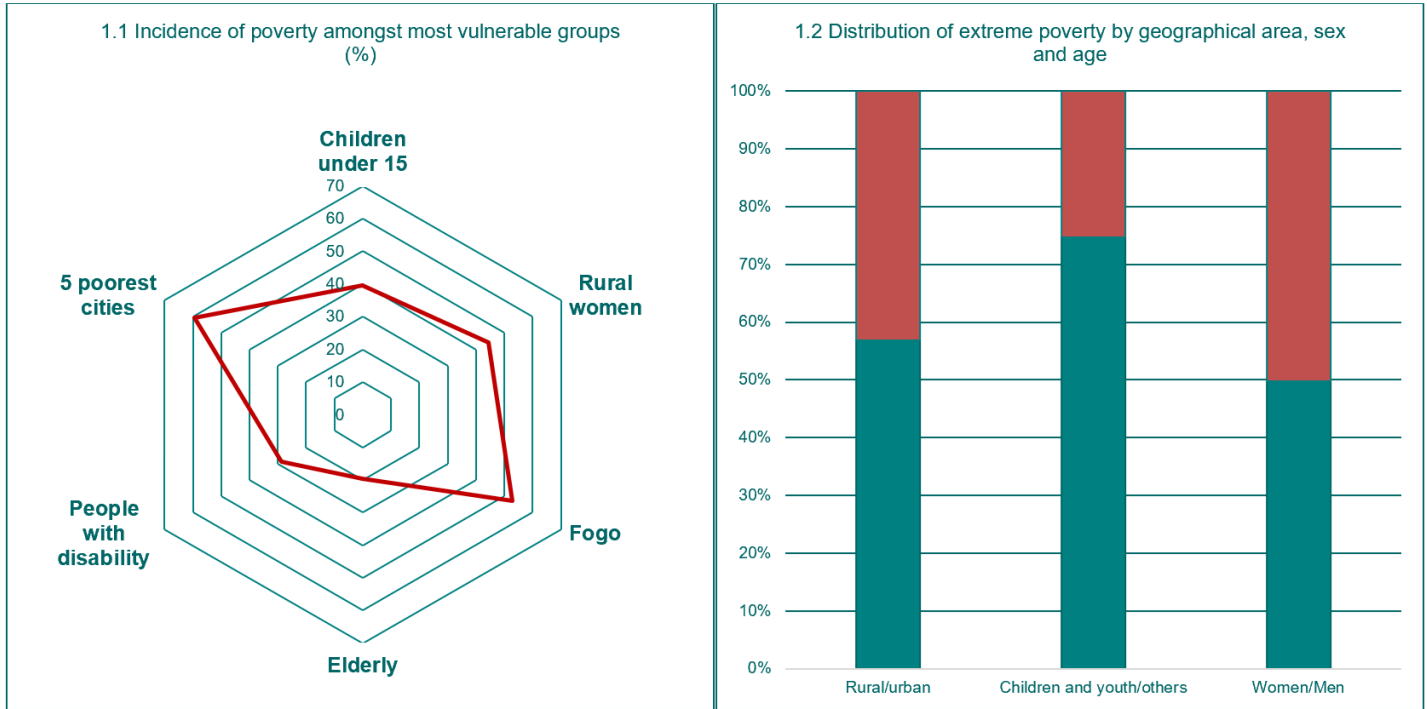
Highlights from the Official Gazette

- The technical conditions were established for the installation and operation of the home and day care centers for the elderly, which will provide integrated care to elderly people through collective housing, for temporary or permanent use, fostering coexistence and the biopsychosocial well-being of users (BO 24-09).



4 GLANCES AT...

The face of poverty in Cabo Verde in 2020



Glance #1

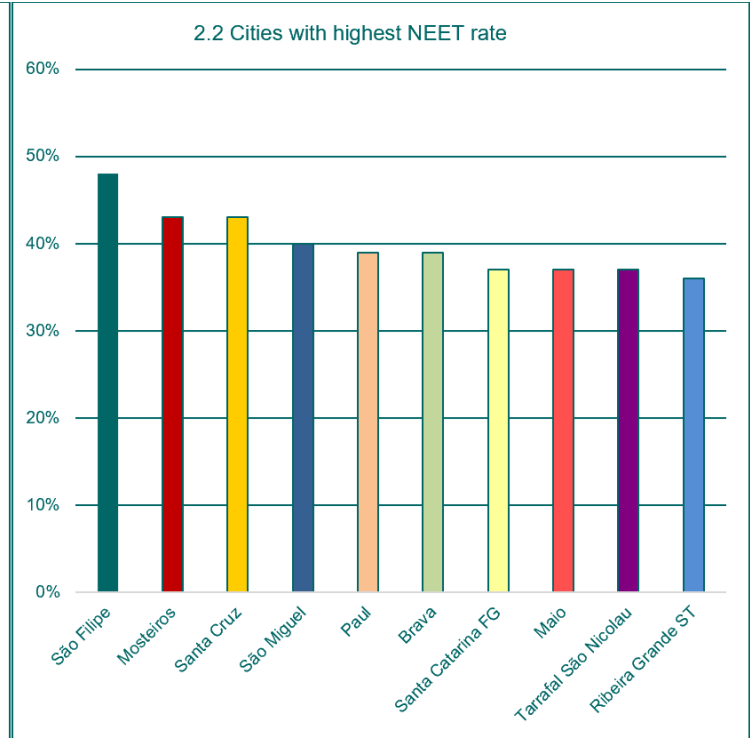
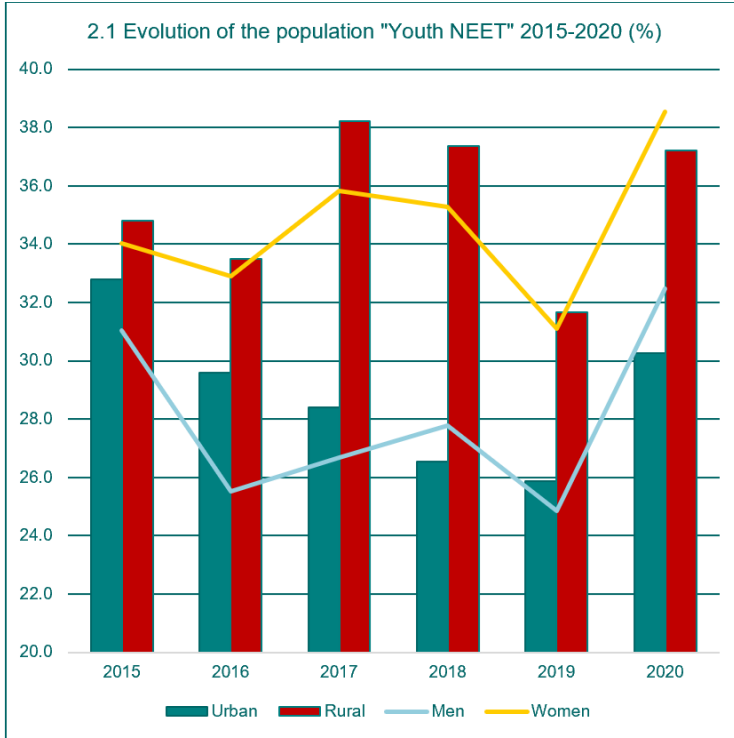
At the end of 2020, 31.6% of the Cabo Verdean population is poor, 1% more than a year before, and 13.1% was extremely poor. Women were 53.6% of the poor in 2015, and they are now 49.7%. Poverty amongst elderly was halved between 2015 and 2020, from 44.3% to 19.6%. In rural areas, almost half of the population is poor (44.9%), and a quarter extremely poor (24,3). In urban areas, a quarter of the population is poor (25.8%), and less than a tenth is extremely poor (8.6%). 75% of the very poor are young (under 35). COVID impacted poverty, and especially extreme poverty very differently in different islands. Fogo, for instance, experienced an increase of extreme poverty by 63.4% from 2015 to 2020, to reach 33%. Despite COVID, the proportion of population living with less than 50% of the median income decreased from 15.5% in 2015 to 5% in 2020.





4 GLANCES AT...

Youth NEET (15-35 years old)



Glance #2

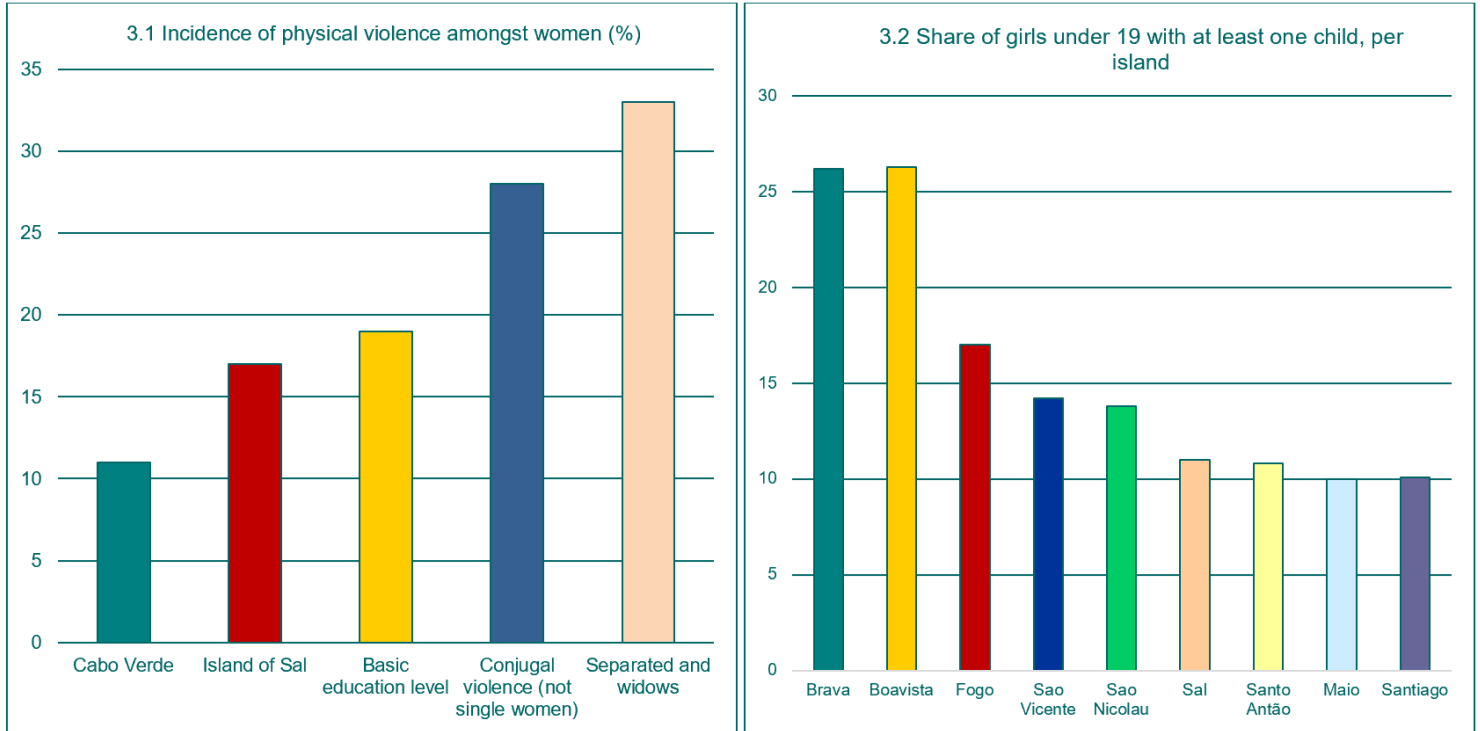
The Proportion of youth NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) decreased from 32.5% in 2015 to 27.8% in 2019, with a broad gender gap (+6% for women) and a widening urban/rural gap (from +2% to +6%). Yet in 2020 the proportion increased by 7.6%, mainly due to COVID-19. 60% of jobs lost due to COVID were lost by youth, 70% amongst them being aged 25-34 and 55% men. 77.9% of youth NEET has already worked at least once, but 28.8% of young women NEET are still looking for their first job (vs 18.1% men). Inequalities between islands and municipalities are important, with Fogo, Brava and Maio the most affected islands when it comes to youth NEET as a share of their population. Though a correlation cannot be established based on evidence, the same municipalities and islands are featuring the highest (by far) level of inactivity amongst women, independently of their age.





4 GLANCES AT...

Women and girls

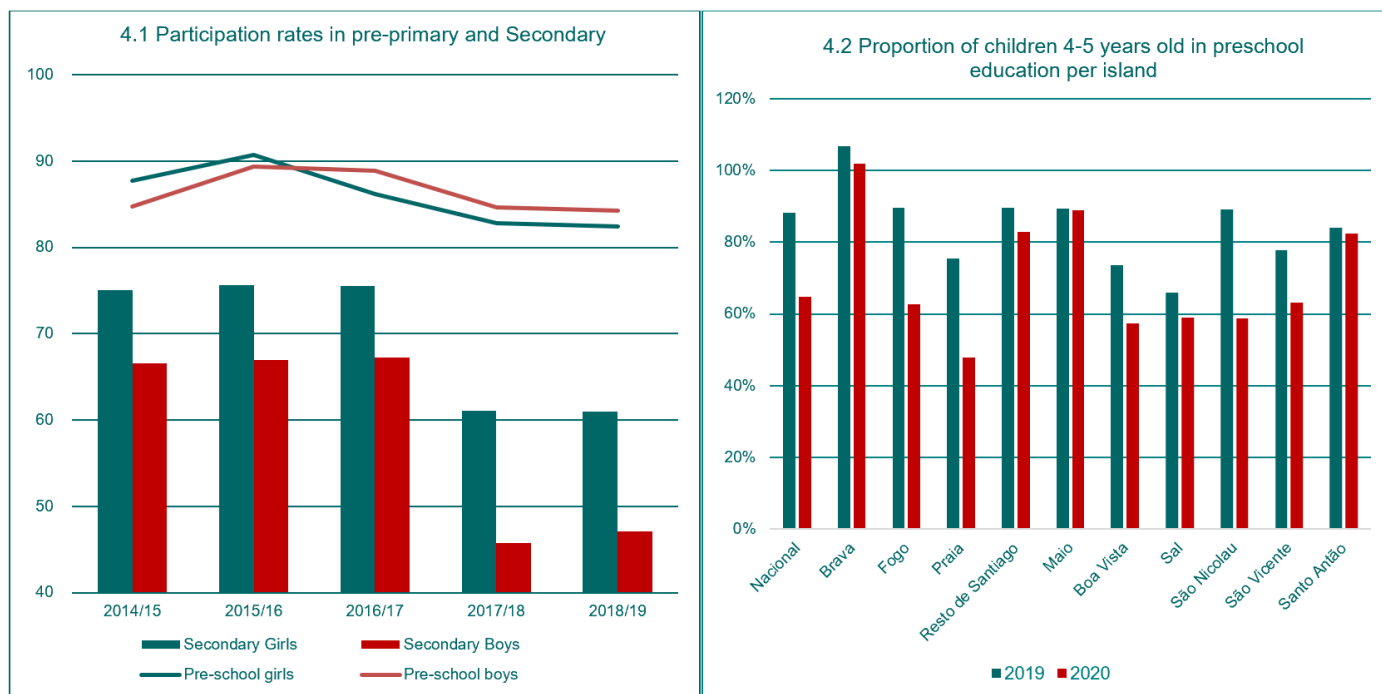


Glance #3

Gender gaps are few, but persistent, with no significant improvements in access to managerial positions in businesses and presidency of municipal councils (1/22), for instance. The gap in employment rates, which was 3.4% in average over the last decade, is closed for now. Yet 63% of Cabo Verdean identifying remittances and 67% identifying non-contributory social protection as their main source of income are women. 92.6% of the persons citing family responsibilities as the main reason for not looking for a job are women. The incidence of adolescent pregnancy – a persisting national issue - varies among islands. Pregnancy and early maternity, despite retention policies in the educational system, can delay or even compromise the school trajectory, impacting the entire life cycle of girls. Suffering from Gender-based violence is a critical barrier that hampers access to human rights, own revenues, and a good physical and mental health. Some groups are more exposed to VBG and therefore face more risks of being left behind. Poverty is not amongst the aggravating factors.



4 GLANCES AT... Children and adolescents



Glance #4

Human capital has received constant public investment since the country's independence. Even in difficult times this commendable national trend continued: after graduation (2007), when external public debt took over Official Development Aid to complement domestic finance, throughout the 2008 crisis and consequent slow recovery until 2016, and in COVID times, despite a 25% decrease in public revenues. As a result, indicators are outstanding compared to regional benchmarks, though they are slightly deteriorating. However, different education reforms, such as compulsory, free, 8-year-long basic education, may have a significant positive impact on schooling. Pre and post COVID outbreak pre-school enrollment rate did not change much in many islands, such as Santo Antao, Maio, Brava or Sal, while this rate decreased drastically in Praia and Fogo from 2019/20 to 2020/21 schooling years.

2 QUESTIONS TO...

CRISTINA PIRES FERREIRA

UNICEF, COORDINATOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP



WHO ARE THE GROUPS AND SUBGROUPS MOST AT RISK OF BEING LEFT BEHIND AND WHY DO THEY FACE SPECIFIC BARRIERS IN THEIR ACCESS TO THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS?

Among the 9 (nine) groups identified at risk of being left behind in Cabo Verde, I would like to highlight four, two of them are at the extremes of the life cycle, on the one hand, children in a situation of great poverty, with disabilities, who live on the street, and exposed to different types of violence (physical and psychological). On the other hand, elderly people in extreme poverty who find themselves socially isolated and without access to different social protection schemes.

The reason for this position is that in children lies the future development of the country and in the elderly the wisdom, the cultural and social heritage. We need to understand this heritage, to understand our identity, but also to go beyond, using it as a basis for innovation and cultural evolution. Data from the National Statistics Office (INECV) point to an increase in the elderly population, which specific characteristics demands tailored policy response. Children too have specific characteristics. This challenges us to find solutions to guarantee the full enjoyment of the human rights of these populations.

In addition to children and the elderly, I would like to highlight people with disabilities, particularly children and women, who belong to poor families, and those who live on the streets, exposing how vulnerable human life can be, questioning and calling for formulation, and the implementation of policies to safeguard the rights to basic services, social protection, in short, a life with dignity. I would also highlight girls and women, in situations of social vulnerability and who are victims of the most diverse forms of gender-based violence, which prevents them from realizing their rights in the same way as men.

The reality is complex and there are several barriers, causes that may be immediate, underlying or structural, which lead these groups to be left behind or run an increased risk of being left behind, in the realization of their rights as human beings and in the development process from the country.

The immediate causes lie mostly, in my opinion, in a key evidence that allowed the identification of these groups: poverty. Poverty understood as insufficient income to meet basic needs, associated with food insecurity, isolation (which prevents not only access but also the enjoyment of human rights agreed upon by the United Nations) and innate or acquired disability.

In terms of underlying causes, I would like to highlight:

1. Limited access to income, particularly the lack of quality and inclusive education/training - from pre-school to higher education - that values skills (skills, attitudes and feel) required for the labor market in a digital and lifelong learning age;
2. Indecent and undignified working conditions (child labor, with discrimination against women, people with disabilities, etc.);
3. Insufficient access (due to distance, limited transport options, lack of knowledge, etc.) and use of health services from a non-integrated perspective, particularly those related to the specificities of people with disabilities and those of sexual and reproductive health
4. Non-recognition or valuation of identity (ethnic, cultural, religious, sexual)
5. Intolerance, discrimination and violence, comprehensively associated and in its various forms, particularly based on gender and coercion of rights related to the expression of freedoms and responsibilities.

Amongst the structural causes of these obstacles that leads to leaving some groups behind, in the case of Cabo Verde, I would put forward:

1. the current sociocultural patterns inherited from a slavery-based society, built on a patriarchal culture;
2. the colonial past based on the power of the European ruler (mainly Portugal) that brings identity issues of being mestizo, neither African nor European (although there is much sympathy for European culture) but rather insular, Atlantic, being Cabo Verde an archipelago;
3. the Machi-centered society, pointing to a culture of assistance, which somehow contributes to maintain the cycle of poverty and dependency. The influence of religion is strong, and the important diaspora influences the way of seeing the world (if there is no food, God or someone from outside will send it)



2 QUESTIONS TO...

CRISTINA PIRES FERREIRA

UNICEF, COORDINATOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP



WHAT ARE THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK OF SOCIOECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INCLUSION ARE EMERGING FROM THE LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND ASSESSMENT?

It is important to work on aspects related to social norms and culture, which is why I believe it is critical to reinforce information and training on citizenship and human rights, both in formal and non-formal education, adaptable to different audiences and contexts of the country, accompanied by a reinforcement of the informative, educational and awareness-raising role of groups of children and young people (peer training) as well as the strengthening of intergenerational dialogue (involving elderly people) and with immigrants, among others.

In order to successfully design and operationalize policies relating to the most vulnerable groups and those at risk of being left behind, it is necessary to strengthen data collection and analysis within the statistical system so that there can be disaggregated, updated and comprehensive data on the country's reality, so that planning and evaluation are more inclusive. I would emphasize the availability of data on disability, in an integrated manner, involving different sectors and taking advantage of some already existing instruments, namely, the Unified Social Registry for social protection (Cadastro Social Unico – CSU).



NAÇÕES UNIDAS
CABO VERDE



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