



UNITED NATIONS
CABO VERDE



UN Country Team Annual Results Reports 2025

.....
Cabo Verde



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2025

50 years of partnership for peace, people and sustainable development

Foreword

by the Resident Coordinator

In 2025, Cabo Verde celebrated a historic dual milestone: 50 years of independence and 50 years of partnership with the United Nations.

This moment of national pride and international recognition was marked by the **visit of UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed**, who recalled that **UN cooperation with Cabo Verde began even before independence, grounded in solidarity, shared values, and a mutual commitment to human development.**

Over five decades, this partnership has evolved around three core pillars: **supporting self-determination and nation-building; driving development and progress toward the MDGs and SDGs; and positioning Cabo Verde as a champion of peace, human rights, and multilateral cooperation.**

From **early nutrition and vaccination campaigns** to today's **investments in artificial intelligence, renewable energy, climate-resilient development, telemedicine, and inclusive education**, the United Nations has remained a trusted and enduring partner.

Currently, **20 UN Agencies, Funds, and Programmes** work closely with national institutions to advance the country's long-term development vision.

To commemorate this 50-year milestone, the UN launched the **SDGs in the Islands** initiative, engaging authorities and communities across the archipelago to assess progress, identify remaining gaps, and **co-design solutions for accelerated action.**

In 2025, the UN supported several significant national achievements: the elimination of measles and rubella; enhanced emergency-response capacity following Hurricane Erin; expanded digital and inclusive learning; and updated social protection registries covering 64% of the population.

Child-protection systems were strengthened with 99% civil-registration coverage; climate action advanced through the submission of NDC 3.0, enhanced blue economy footprint, and progress was made in youth entrepreneurship, justice-sector modernization, and maritime-security capacities.

Despite these important gains, challenges persist, including data gaps, limited sectoral coordination, gender-based violence, delays in the justice system, intersectoral coordination and financial constraints.

Yet Cabo Verde remains a compelling example in the region of how sustainable development can advance through national leadership, democratic governance and strong regional and international partnerships.

Looking ahead to 2026, the UN reaffirms its commitment to deepen support in three flagship areas—**digital transformation, the blue economy and local development**—while placing **renewed emphasis on the eradication of extreme poverty, a strong national commitment.**

A special thank-you to the Government and Cabo Verdean Nation, to all international development partners, and to United Nations colleagues for their dedication to ensuring that no one is left behind. Together, we will continue striving to do more, better, and accelerating progress toward a future where no one is left behind.

Patricia Portela de Souza

UN Resident Coordinator in Cabo Verde

Key UN results in 2025 include the elimination of measles and rubella, stronger capacity to respond to emergencies, expanded access to digital and inclusive learning, and broader social protection coverage, now reaching 64% of the population

In Fogo, the SDGs took root with the youngest generation. UN Resident Coordinator visit to a kindergarten under the SDGs in the Islands initiative.
Photo by: UN Cabo Verde

On the ground in São Vicente, UN Resident Coordinator joined authorities and UN agencies Representatives to strengthen coordinated support for communities affected by Erin Storm.
Photo by: UN Cabo Verde

Cabo Verde and the UN

50 years of shared vision and development

Cabo Verde celebrates 50 years of independence, a milestone that also marks **five decades of partnership with the United Nations**. To commemorate the occasion, the UN organized a physical exhibition with photographs, texts, objects **“Cabo Verde and the United Nations 50+”**, highlighting key historical moments of this collaboration and reflecting on the country’s development trajectory.

Since independence, Cabo Verde has been recognized as **a nation of peace, dialogue, and stability, an example of democratic governance and constructive international engagement**. The partnership with the United Nations has supported institutional strengthening, the formulation of public policies, and the response to national and global challenges.

Displayed from July to October 2025, in Pracinha Escola Grande, in the heart of the capital. Open to the public, the exhibition received visits from prominent figures and students. **In 2026, the exhibition will travel to New York**, expanding the international visibility of this shared journey and the ongoing commitment to sustainable development, peace, and multilateralism.



Celebrating 50 years of Cabo Verde–UN partnership — from school meals to artificial intelligence, and from independence to a shared future.

Photos by: UN Cabo Verde

Click here to **watch**



When Global UN Leadership Meets the Island Vision



Visit of UN Deputy Secretary-General **Amina J. Mohammed**

In **July 2025**, the UN Deputy Secretary-General visited Cabo Verde to participate in the celebrations marking the country's 50th independence anniversary and five decades of partnership with the United Nations. She took part in official ceremonies and held high-level meetings with national authorities.

The Deputy Secretary-General also engaged with young entrepreneurs at the Tech Park CV, highlighting the role of youth, innovation and digital transformation in advancing sustainable development in Small Island Developing States. The visit marked the inauguration of the exhibition "Cabo Verde and the United Nations 50+" together with the Prime Minister, reaffirming the shared commitment to accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.



Visit of ILO Director **General Gilbert F. Hounbo**

In **May 2025**, the ILO Director-General made his first official visit to Cabo Verde. The mission reaffirmed the ILO's commitment to advancing social justice, decent work and tripartite social dialogue.

The Director-General met with the President and the Prime Minister to discuss tackling extreme poverty and strengthening youth employability. The agenda also included an extraordinary session of the Social Concertation Council and a lecture at the University of Cabo Verde, attended by the Minister of Family, Inclusion and Social Development. **Both engagements reinforced the role of education, youth participation and social dialogue in building a more just and equitable society.**

Visit of UNOWAS Special Representative **Leonardo Santos Simão**

The United Nations Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel, Leonardo Santos Simão, has warned of the growing threat posed by **disinformation to peace, democracy, and stability** in the region. Speaking at the Regional Conference on Information Integrity, held in Praia in September 2025, Simão emphasized that **advances in digital technologies and artificial intelligence** have amplified the spread of false information. He stressed that combating these challenges requires **coordinated action among governments, civil society, the private sector, and international organizations**, drawing on frameworks such as the **Global Digital Compact** and **African Union strategies on democracy and digital transformation**.



UN-Habitat Executive Director **Ana Cláudia Rossbach**

In **December 2025**, the UN-Habitat Executive Director visited Cabo Verde, reaffirming over 15 years of partnership on adequate housing, urban resilience and territorial planning.

She visited social housing projects in Praia and São Miguel, including **402 new housing units in Zona K (Palmarejo Grande)**, showcasing efforts to strengthen climate-resilient housing. Meetings with authorities representing all 22 municipalities supported improved territorial governance. **With European Union support, UN-Habitat continues advancing the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, reinforcing the commitment to leave no one behind in sustainable urban development.**

UN Country Team



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Indira Campos
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Key development partners

of the UN development system in the country

The contributions of development partners, both financial and strategic, are essential to delivering results. In 2025, **total contributions to the UN in Cabo Verde reached \$16.8M**. **Core funding remained a critical foundation (\$4.7M)**, complemented by strong support from **Luxembourg (\$2.9M)**, the **Global Environment Facility (\$2.8M)**, the **European Union (\$2M)**, and the **Global Partnership for Education (\$1.1M)**. **Pooled funds** also played an important role, notably through the **Joint SDG Fund** and the **UN Trust Fund for Human Security**, reinforcing collective action.

Bilateral partners including **Spain and Portugal**, contributed to advancing sectoral priorities, with **China and Brazil** supporting agriculture and urban resilience through South-South cooperation. Foundations such as the **AKELIUS Foundation** supported innovation in education, while collaboration with the **World Bank** remained strategically important, enhancing synergies in areas such as **social protection and human capital development**.

At the national level, the UN maintained strong partnerships with key government institutions, including the **Ministries of Agriculture and Environment (15% of programme expenditure)**, **Finance (13.2%)**, **Family and Social Inclusion (13.1%)**, and **Health (11.4%)**. Municipalities played a central role in implementation, representing **11.3% of programme delivery**, in support of local development initiatives.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS



\$16,757,936



DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS (USD)

DONOR	0-100% SHARE BAR	AVAILABLE
Core Funding	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>	USD 4,709,250
Luxembourg	<div style="width: 60%;"></div>	USD 2,876,237
The Global Environment Facility	<div style="width: 60%;"></div>	USD 2,822,173
European Union	<div style="width: 50%;"></div>	USD 2,003,500
Global Partnership for Education	<div style="width: 30%;"></div>	USD 1,083,000
The Joint SDG Fund	<div style="width: 20%;"></div>	USD 636,175
China	<div style="width: 15%;"></div>	USD 536,713
Spain	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>	USD 314,175
The World Bank	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>	USD 300,000
Portugal	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>	USD 253,596
AKELIUS Foundation	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>	USD 200,900
Montreal Protocol Fund	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>	USD 190,325
UN Trust Fund for Human Security	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>	USD 164,478
Systematic Observations Financing Facility	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>	USD 23,432
Korea	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>	USD 100,000
the Netherlands	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>	USD 65,000
Regular Programme Of Technical Cooperation	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>	USD 40,000
The Green Climate Fund	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>	USD 24,691
Brazil	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>	USD 16,000
Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>	USD 9,000
Others	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>	USD 289,291

TOTAL AVAILABLE

USD 16,757,936

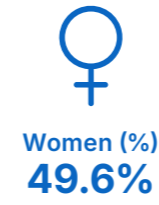
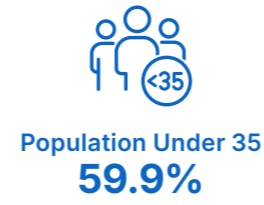


A fisherman mending his net — a reminder that sustainable livelihoods are at the heart of Cabo Verde's blue economy.

Photo by: FAO, Cabo Verde

Cabo Verde

at a Glance



POPULATION

- Urban population 75.8%
- Diaspora ~1.5 million
- Life Expectancy 76.1 years
- Median age of the population 31



POVERTY

- Extreme poverty 2.28%
- Absolute poverty 24.75%
- Social protection coverage >60,3%



GENDER

-
- Seats held by women in parliament
36.1%
- GBV - Gender Based Violence 11%
 - Women unemployment 8.2%
 - Men unemployment 7.9%
 - Cabinet positions held by women 33.6%
 - Female labour force participation 52.1%
 - Male labour force participation 64.6%



LABOR MARKET

- Informal employment 47.5%
- Unemployment rate 8%
- Youth NEET* 23.1%

*Not in Education, Employment or Training



EDUCATION

ACCESS TO
PRIMARY SCHOOL
~100%



- Literacy rate (15 years +) 88.5%
- Men literacy 92.9%
- Female literacy 84.1%
- Primary school completion 84.2%
- Secondary school completion 65.4%



HEALTH

- Moderate or severe food insecurity 24.5%
- Maternal mortality rate 36.8 / 100,000
- Infant mortality 14.3 por 1,000
- Universal health coverage 71%



ENERGY

ELECTRICITY ACCESS
93.7%



- Access to clean water 94.8%
- Access to clean fuels 82.4%
- Renewable energy 18.9%

Source of Information: INE, WorldBank, UN Country Analysis



ECONOMY

GDP GROWTH 2025

6.3%



- GDP per capita 5,192 USD
- Public debt to GDP (2025) 102.5%
- Remittances 12.9% of GDP
- Tax-to-GDP ratio 18.1%
- Agriculture (% GDP) 5.8%
- Industry (% GDP) 22.5%
- Services (% GDP) 71.7%



ICT

- Internet use 74%

Chapter

1

Key developments in the country and regional context

UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA Resident Representative in Cabo Verde overlooking the Salinas de Santa Maria Protected Landscape — a symbol of the country's natural heritage.

1.1. KEY SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Cabo Verde's economic outlook remains **positive yet exposed to significant risks**, reflecting both resilience and structural vulnerabilities. After the historic **20% contraction in 2020**, the economy rebounded strongly, with growth reaching **7.2% in 2024** and an estimated **6.3% in 2025**, driven largely by tourism and services, alongside a gradual recovery in agriculture. Growth is projected to stabilize close to its potential, supported by continued investment in infrastructure and climate-related projects. Inflation was expected to remain contained, until the new conflict in the Middle East, while external balances are improving, with the current account projected to shift to a modest surplus and foreign reserves remaining robust at around 9 months of import coverage.

This sustained recovery has translated into **tangible development gain**. High literacy, good social protection coverage and major public health achievements, including the elimination of malaria, rubella and measles, underscore the impact of long-term investments in human capital. Cabo Verde's reclassification as an **Upper Middle-Income Country in July 2025** further reflects this progress.

However, economic growth remains volatile and highly dependent on tourism, exposing the country to external shocks such as fluctuations in global demand, energy and food prices, and trade disruptions. Climate-related risks, including extreme weather events such as the Erin episode in northern islands, droughts, sea-level rise, pose increasing threats to infrastructure and

livelihoods. Domestic challenges also persist, including high public debt delays in state-owned enterprise reforms, and structural labour market constraints.

Looking ahead, sustaining progress will require **accelerating economic diversification**, strengthening fiscal and debt sustainability, and scaling up investments in climate resilience and productive sectors. Initiatives such as the **blue economy**, including the Blu-X, and digital economy demonstrate the country's potential to unlock new growth engines. Combined with ongoing fiscal reforms and international partnerships, Cabo Verde is well-positioned to navigate uncertainty while advancing a more **resilient, inclusive and sustainable development pathway**.



The United Nations in Cabo Verde strengthened strategic partnerships and mobilized financing to accelerate the 2030 Agenda, aligning national priorities with sustainable impact.

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Photo by: Inforpress / Assinatura Plano de Trabalho Conjunto para 2025

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



7.2%
GDP growth in 2024



6.3%
Projected GDP growth in 2025



9 months
Import coverage by reserves



Upper middle-income country status achieved in July 2025

1.2. SDG PROGRESS – SDG TRACKER TOOL

Cabo Verde continues to demonstrate **solid progress across key development areas**, supported by **stable governance and sustained investment in human capital**, while facing **structural constraints that require accelerated action**.

The country has achieved notable progress in social protection and human development **60,3% of the population is covered by social protection, one of the highest rates in Africa**, significantly reducing vulnerability. Health outcomes are advancing, with a **Universal Health Coverage index of 71%** and high life expectancy. **Education access is nearly universal**,

and women’s political representation has improved, with **36.1% of parliamentary seats held by women**. These achievements reflect a solid foundation for inclusive development.

Labour market conditions have improved, with **unemployment declining from 10.3% in 2023 to 8.0% in 2024** (INE, IMC 2024). However, **informal employment (47.5%), youth NEET (23.1%), and gender disparities** continue to limit inclusive growth. Education and health systems must now **shift from access to quality and outcomes**, as completion rates declined and **non-communicable diseases,**

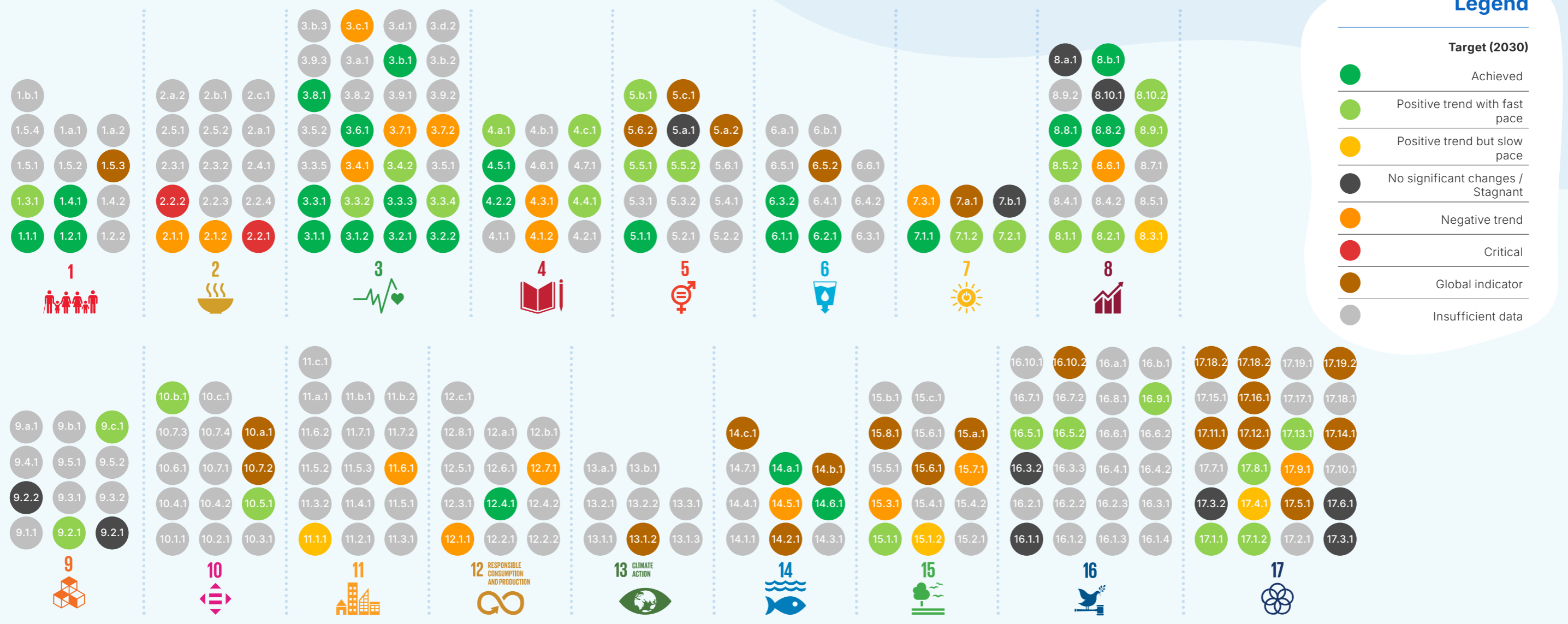
responsible for 57% of deaths, are on the rise. Food insecurity is easing but remains fragile: **8% of the population faced acute/severe food insecurity** in 2024 (Cadre Harmonisé, April 2025), with structural constraints in agriculture and fisheries persisting.

Climate change remains the most significant threat, with droughts and the **August 2025 floods** exposing vulnerabilities in infrastructure, livelihoods, and food systems. Energy dependence on imports (with **renewables at 18.9%, 2024**) constrains sustainability, while **rapid urbanization (76% urban, IMC 2023)**, housing deficits, and weak waste management

systems increase pressure on cities. **Malnutrition (14.8% stunting)** and the rising burden of obesity further strain development outcomes.

Unlocking the full potential of the **blue and digital economies**, strengthening labour market linkages, and scaling up climate resilience and renewable energy will be critical to ensure that Cabo Verde’s progress translates into **inclusive, sustainable, and resilient development** for all.

Performance Trends of Cabo Verde’s SDG Indicators (2015–2025)



Chapter

2

UN System Support Through Cooperation Framework

Fishermen at sea in Cabo Verde, representing the vital role of coastal communities in sustainable development and the blue economy.

Photo by: FAO Cabo Verde



2.1. UN SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

During 2025, the UN System in Cabo Verde **moved beyond traditional programme implementation** to assume a **strategic role as an accelerator and integrator**. Our added value lay in **connecting silos, anticipating trends, and positioning the country** as a reference among **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)** and a reference for the region and the continent in good governance and human rights principles.



Empowering young Cabo Verdean women through knowledge exchange on aquaculture in Shanghai, under the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme.

Photo by: FAO Cabo Verde

How did we move the needle in 2025?

The United Nations adopted, under the leadership of the Government, a **“soft mid-term review” approach**, enabling **real-time course correction**. This exercise has **identified bottlenecks**, reinforced **institutional learning**, and confirmed the need to intensify focus on eradicating extreme poverty and strengthening territorial cohesion.

Under the leadership of the Government, the United Nations has aligned its programmes and initiatives in 2025 with the **new UN SIDS Strategy**, supporting Cabo Verde to **turn vulnerabilities into opportunities**. Under the Decade of the Ocean, **blue economy initiatives** gained traction (e.g., FBIL incubator in Fogo and Brava). Food security was bolstered through **South-South partnerships** (e.g., FAO-China project), while climate action advanced with the **updated NDC 3.0**.

The United Nations has supported advancing the country’s **digital ambition**—not only through tools but through governance. We supported the creation of a **Data Verification Centre**, co-organized the **Regional Conference on Information Integrity** (UNESCO), and trained **226 justice professionals in artificial intelligence**.

At the same time, the **human rights movement gained renewed visibility and depth**, grounded in the principles of human rights, gender equality, and

gender empowerment. Initiatives such as the **Human Rights Concert** and the **“Free & Equal” campaign** exemplified bold, inclusive advocacy, advancing the **rights of LGBTQI+ communities** while promoting **dignity, equality, and the commitment to leave no one behind**. The approval of the **Statute of the Artist** further strengthened this trajectory by extending social protection to cultural professionals, reflecting accountable and transparent governance and reinforcing inclusive, rights-based development.

These results were made possible through the mobilisation of **approximately US\$49 million** between 2023 and 2025 (**representing 42% of the overall UNCF resource requirement**) with key partners including **Luxembourg, the Global Environment Facility, and the European Union**. This collective effort highlights the importance of **foresight, innovation, and digital transformation** in driving sustainable and inclusive progress.

This trajectory reaffirms our shared commitment to **accelerating the 2030 Agenda in Cabo Verde**, guided by human rights principles, strengthened gender equality and empowerment, and a steadfast determination to leave no one behind through **accountable, forward-looking, and innovative approaches**.

Making a Difference

Lead Agencies
UNESCO / UNOWAS

 **Praia, 3–5 September 2025**

Disinformation and digital manipulation are **real threats to peace and democracy**. It was with this conviction that **Cabo Verde** hosted the **Regional Conference on Information Integrity**, bringing together **governments, regional institutions, media, civil society, and international partners**.

The event examined the **growing role of artificial intelligence** in how **information is created, distributed, and manipulated** — and the impact of this on **democratic processes, social cohesion, and public trust**.



Regional Conference on Information Integrity
Photo: UNESCO

CONCRETE OUTCOMES: a set of , including:

-  Updating **legal and regulatory frameworks** aligned with **human rights standards**
-  Developing a **common regional approach** to **digital platform governance** and AI
-  Investing in **media sustainability** and **fact-checking ecosystems**
-  Expanding **media and information literacy** in local languages
-  Establishing regional mechanisms (**observatory and rapid response systems**) to **detect and counter disinformation**
-  Building an **"information integrity economy"**
-  Ensuring effective implementation of the **Praia Action Plan and Policy Framework** at **national and regional levels**

As highlighted by
the UN Resident Coordinator:


“Safeguarding information integrity is essential to peace, governance, and sustainable development.”

Tawfik JELASSI
Sous-Directeur général de l'UNESCO pour la Communication et l'Information

interviendra à la
Conférence régionale sur L'INTÉGRITÉ DE L'INFORMATION
de l'Ouest et au Sahel

Tawfik Jelassi, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, participant in the Regional Conference on Information Integrity in Praia, Cabo Verde

Photo by: UNESCO DAKAR

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2.2. LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The United Nations Country Team in Cabo Verde is structured through **dedicated groups on gender and human rights, disability, youth, and PSEA**. These groups collaborated closely, **filled scorecards, and followed data to ensure equity was mainstreamed** across all areas. Strong coordination with government institutions, municipalities, and NGOs reinforced accountability and partnerships, keeping the most marginalised groups firmly at the center of the UN's development agenda.

2.2.1. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Cabo Verde advanced its national gender agenda between 2024 and 2025, reaching a historic milestone with no recorded cases of femicide across the country. This highlights the impact of long-term strategies that reduced the share of women victims of violence from 22% in 2015 to 11% in 2020.

The gender scorecard report for the UN in Cabo Verde shows **significant progress**. The UN scored 'Exceeds Requirements' on seven gender scorecard indicators, up from three in 2024, out of a total of 15 indicators..

The **Common Country Analysis** exceeds requirements by integrating **gender analysis across 80% of sections** and providing consistent sex disaggregated data.

Regarding **Joint Programmes, all operational programmes mainstream gender equality**. A new screening tool approved in November 2025 ensures gender considerations are in the design and budgeting.

Communication efforts also exceed standards by addressing nontraditional areas like LGBTQI rights through the **Free and Equal campaign**. Advocacy focused on political participation and the **16 days of activism** involved multiple agencies.

In terms of partnerships, the team exceeds requirements through **collaboration with the Ministry of Family and ICIEG**. 60% of joint work plan activities advanced gender equality, including strategic support for **gender responsive budgeting**.



Engaging directly with communities affected by Storm Erin, the UN Resident Coordinator reaffirmed the United Nations' commitment to support recovery efforts that leave no one behind.

Engagement with **civil society exceeds standards** through partnerships creating the first **Democratic Workers Association**. Consultations included voices from rural women and sex workers for national assessments. At the internal level, a **Gender parity strategy** was adopted in November 2025. Current data shows **women represent 54.8% of personnel** and leadership roles are evenly divided.

The gender coordination mechanism exceeds standards, being chaired by a Head of Agency, including **59% senior staff**.

Finally, **capacities meet requirements** as the UN conducted inter agency training and a training plan for 2026 and 2027 is now active.

In November 2025, the Working Group on Women, Youth, Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel, gathered in Cabo Verde. The meeting brought together 70 participants from 16 countries. Discussions focused on strengthening regional cooperation and enhancing the participation of women and young people in peacebuilding. The mission reinforced Cabo Verde's role as a platform for regional dialogue.

[Click here to read](#)



West Africa and Sahel convene to advance women and youth in peace.

2.2.2. Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

In 2025, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Cabo Verde strengthened its commitment to disability inclusion through coordinated action, advocacy and improved accessibility. The UN Disability Task Force developed a 2025 action plan, which was approved by the UNCT. Disability issues were regularly discussed in UNCT and Operations Management Team meetings, including measures to improve accessibility to the UN compound.

The UNCT also approved a Disability Champion competition across UN agencies to promote institutional engagement. Advocacy for the rights of persons with disabilities was consistently reflected in speeches and public communications by the Resident Coordinator and UNCT.

Disability inclusion was strengthened through evidence and analysis. The 2025 Un Country Analysis (CA) incorporated dedicated analysis on persons with disabilities, including issues related to social protection, human rights, access to basic services such as education, and inclusive urban planning.

The UNCT also engaged Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) through annual consultations and data workshops, while collaborating with the National Statistical Institute to identify data gaps and strengthen disability-related statistics. Efforts also included accessibility assessments of UN facilities and the adoption of guidelines and checklists to ensure accessible venues for UN activities.



A powerful moment of art and advocacy, celebrating Human rights, dignity and inclusion.

Making a Difference



Lead Agency
UNDP

Programme
PRO PALOP-TL

Cabo Verde: The Impact of Pro PALOP-TL on Public Financial Management

Innovative Partnerships: The UN and the Private Sector Joining Forces for Youth Development

In Cabo Verde, a new generation of public finance professionals is redefining transparency through the Postgraduate Programme in Public Finance, funded by Pro PALOP-TL in partnership with ISCTE-IUL. This strategic investment, financed by the European Union and implemented by UNDP, has created a sustainable knowledge ecosystem.

For Member of Parliament Isa Miranda, the programme was the catalyst for a profound transformation. Today, as a member of the Parliamentary Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, she exemplifies the shift towards highly technical and evidence-based analysis. "This programme changed the way I perform my role as a parliamentarian," she states, emphasizing that mastering budgetary tools has strengthened the rigor of parliamentary oversight.

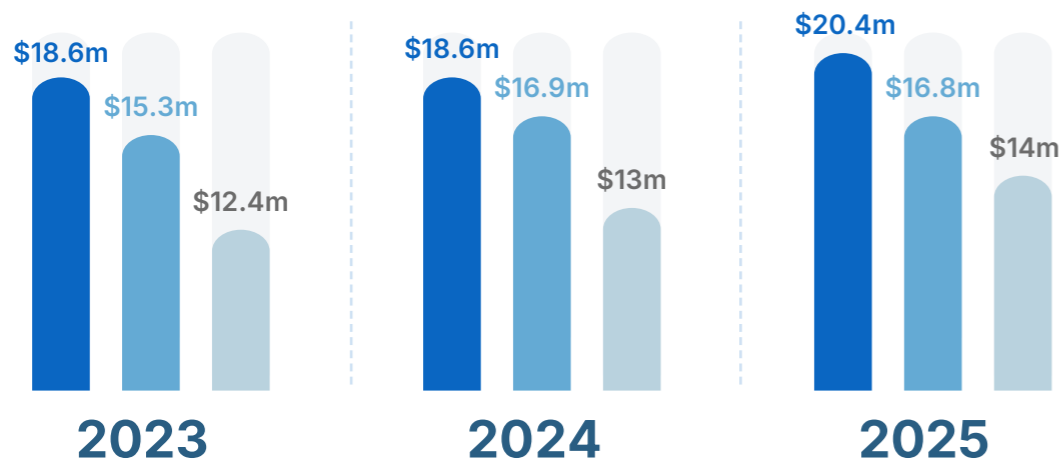
The transformation also extends to the Inspectorate-General of Finance (IGF). Teodoro Monteiro, a young financial auditor currently pursuing a Master's degree, highlights: "The postgraduate programme enabled me to understand that internal control is the cornerstone of sound public financial management. My commitment is to bring this rigor to the municipal level, where transparency has the greatest impact on citizens."

This cycle of excellence helps ensure credible, capable, and accountable institutions. By strengthening the skills of those responsible for oversight, the programme contributes to the transparent and ethical management of public resources, ultimately serving all Cabo Verdean citizens.

2.3. SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

2.3.1. Partnerships and financing for sustainable development

● Total Required Resources ● Available Resources ● Total Expenditures



Financing the Cooperation Framework (UNICEF)

level in 2025 since the start of the Cooperation Framework implementation, at approximately M\$14. This reflects a **continued upward trend** compared to M\$13 in 2024 and M\$12.4 in 2023, representing a **moderate increase of around 8% from 2024**.

In terms of delivery performance, 2025 recorded the **strongest delivery rate, at 83.40%**, compared with 76.77% in 2024 and 80.89% in 2023.

Against the **M\$116 required to finance the Cooperation Framework for 2023–2027**, total available funding recorded between 2023 and 2025 amounted to M\$48.95, representing **42.2% of the total required**. **Total expenditure over the same period stood at M\$39.32**.

The **largest funding sources** since the beginning of the Cooperation Framework implementation are **Core UN Funding** (M\$13.5), the **Global Environment Facility** (M\$8.8), the **European Union** (M\$4.66), **Luxembourg** (M\$4.36), and the **Global Partnership**.

Strengthening access to essential health services for children and families in Cabo Verde.

Photo: OMS

Strategic Priority 1, which focuses on Strengthened Human Talent and Social Capital, **M\$5.2 secure**. Expenditure reached **M\$4.86 expenditure**, resulting in a delivery rate of 93%.

Strategic Priority 2 addresses Inclusive Economic Transformation, Prosperity, and Just Transition to a Healthy Environment. This sector had the **largest pool of available resources at M\$6.53 available**, yet the actual required resources were significantly higher, at **M\$10.04 required**. Total expenditure amounted to **M\$4.74 expenditure**, yielding a delivery rate of 72.5%.

This rate is the **lowest among the three priorities** and indicates a **notable funding gap** relative to its ambitious goals.

Strategic Priority 3 is centered on Transformative Governance and Strengthened Territorial Cohesion. Available resources stood at **US\$4.99 million**, with **expenditure reaching US\$4.37 million expenditure**, resulting in a **strong delivery rate of 87.6%**.

Building people-centred solutions through dialogue on Human Security.

Photo by: ONUDC/UN Habitat Cabo Verde

Annual expenditure reached M\$14 in 2025, the highest level since the start of the Cooperation Framework implementation.



Leading Donors in 2025

While core funding represents the highest part of financing the UNCF (28%), in terms of individual contributor, Luxembourg was the largest in 2025, providing US\$2.87 million under a triannual programme supporting local development. Additional support included an initiative focused on the transition from the informal to the formal economy, alongside a partnership with WHO to support universal health coverage. The Global Environment Facility followed as the second largest donor with an allocation of M\$2.82 (including small grants). The GEF represents a highly

stable and structural pillar of funding, driven largely by **environmental and climate-related priorities**.

The **European Union** was the **third largest donor** with an allocation of **M\$2.00**, rising from M\$0.46 in 2023 and M\$2.20 in 2024. In 2025, the **delivery rate of EU funds was 77%**, focus on a programme aiming to strengthen **public financial management institutions across PALOP-TL countries**.

China displays a steady but highly targeted funding pattern, mostly in **agriculture** as part of a **South-South cooperation** programme, with available

resources at M\$0.67 in 2024 and M\$0.54 in 2025. This is complemented by a 99% delivery rate.

Spain contributed M\$0.66 in 2024 and M\$0.31 in 2025, with a **joint localization project anticipated in 2026** with an allocation of €0.7 million.

The **Joint SDG Fund** is a **strong partner** in the development of Cabo Verde, with M\$0.55 in 2023, M\$0.64 in 2025, and M\$1 expected for 2026 and M\$1.5 in 2027. In 2025, the **delivery rate exceeded 94%**.

Making a Difference

Lead Agency
FAO

South-South Cooperation: China & Cabo Verde Partnership

Since September 2023, Cabo Verde has been implementing the FAO–China South-South Cooperation project, which has delivered significant advances in **strengthening technical capacities, knowledge transfer, and adapting agriculture to the challenges of climate change**.











Chinese experts are working directly with Cabo Verdean farmers and livestock producers, sharing expertise on pest control, soil and animal production management, and other techniques to adapt to climate change.

For example, **upland rice planting experience** has begun with promising results. This innovative technique is a major step forward for **agricultural resilience**.

The initiative has been recognized during the official visit of the Minister of Agriculture and Environment, Gilberto Silva, to the People’s Republic of China in January 2026. Chinese officials reaffirmed their commitment to deepening the strategic partnership with Cabo Verde, highlighting the project as a solid foundation for **medium- and long-term agricultural development** across the archipelago.

Minister Silva underlined the project’s potential to modernize Cabo Verdean agriculture, making it more resilient to the effects of climate change and prolonged droughts.

Donors (top 10)

	Available	Expenditure
 Core Funding	\$ 4,709,250	\$ 4,300,427
 Luxembourg	\$ 2,876,237	\$ 2,696,551
 The Global Environment Facility	\$ 2,822,173	\$ 1,509,721
 European Union	\$ 2,003,500	\$ 1,538,522
 Global Partnership for Education	\$ 1,083,000	\$ 955,972
 The Joint SDG Fund	\$ 636,175	\$ 551,050
 China	\$ 536,713	\$ 530,125
 Spain	\$ 314,175	\$ 269,081
 The World Bank	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
 Portugal	\$ 253,596	\$ 252,056
Top 10 Total	\$ 15,534,819	\$ 12,903,505
Grand Total	\$ 16,757,936	\$ 13,976,562



High-level visit by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Cabo Verde's independence.

Photo by: UN Cabo Verde

Sharing knowledge in the field to strengthen sustainable farming and local resilience.

Photo by: FAO

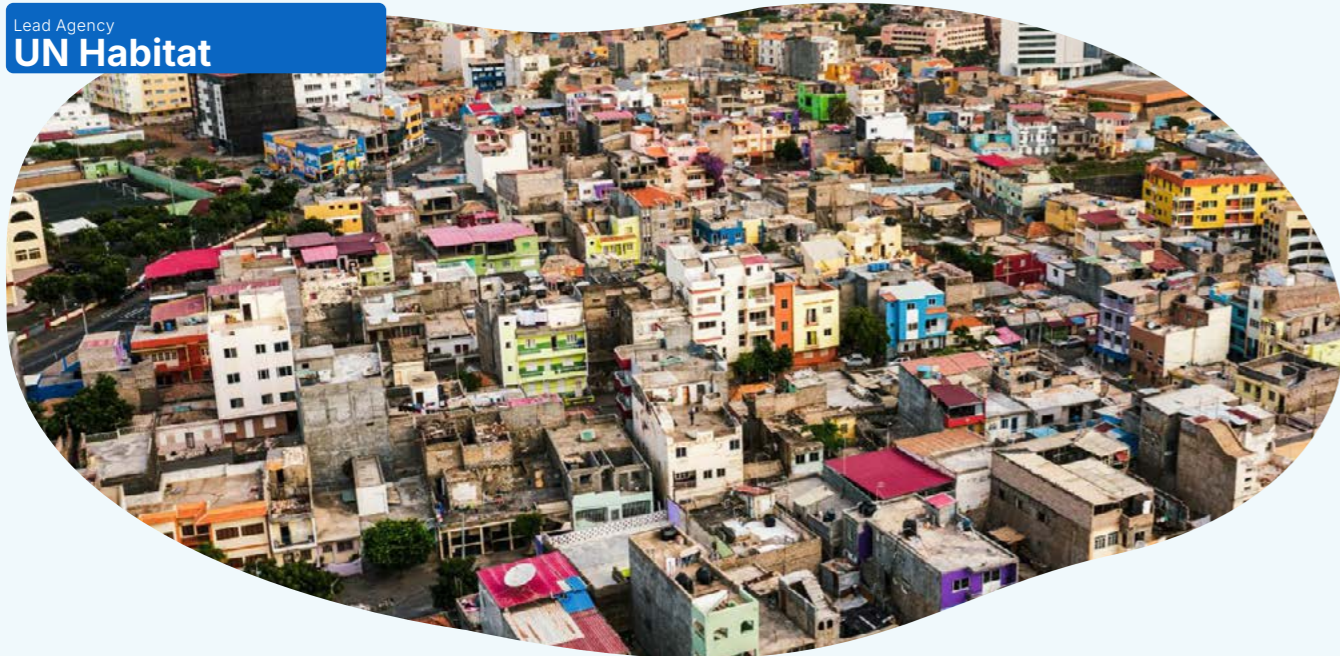


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Making a Difference

Lead Agency
UN Habitat



Cabo Verde and Brazil Strengthen Housing Cooperation

In 2025, Cabo Verde and Brazil reached the final stage of a technical cooperation project aimed at **reducing the national housing deficit**. This initiative is part of the **Simetria Urbana programme**, a trilateral partnership between the **Brazilian Cooperation Agency**, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and **UN Habitat**. The project focused on sharing knowledge to build **sustainable urban environments in the Global South**.

Throughout 14 months of activities, **four technical missions** took place, allowing experts to exchange best practices in housing planning and social management. Two municipalities, São Domingos and São Miguel, made significant progress in creating their **Municipal Housing Plans**.

One major achievement involves the development of a **national policy for Social Interest Housing Technical Assistance** with central government and local technical institutions. Additionally, the project established new rules for the **management of social condominiums**. These regulations encourage residents to participate in the upkeep and social organization of their housing units.

Experts also worked on technical methodologies. The João Pinheiro Foundation collaborated with the National Institute of Statistics to update how the **housing deficit** is calculated. This update ensures that future policies are based on **accurate, localized data**. The collaboration highlighted the importance of **building resilient infrastructure that can adapt to climate change**.

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Lead Agencies
UNDP & UNIDO



Photo by: UNIDO Cabo Verde

Innovative partnerships: UN and the Private sector joining efforts for the youth

In the islands of **Fogo and Brava**, geographic isolation has long constrained economic opportunity and private sector growth. Between November 2024 and October 2025, with the Joint SDG Fund project **"Bringing the local private sector into the municipal deal room for SDG localization"** UNDP and UNIDO worked to address this challenge by linking local economic actors with **stronger municipal systems**.

UNDP generated evidence base to strengthen local governance. A **private sector profile** was developed across four municipalities, combining surveys and focus group discussions with local businesses. This analysis was complemented by an **SDG contributory matrix**, identifying how enterprises contribute to SDGs. A dedicated gender analysis further highlighted the role of **women-led businesses**.

UNDP supported the formulation of **concrete public policy proposals** tailored to the territorial realities of Fogo and Brava. An **inter-municipal dialogue platform** was established to institutionalize collaboration between municipalities, the private sector, and civil society.

In parallel, UNIDO focused on strengthening enterprise level capacities.

A key achievement was the creation of the Fogo and Brava Innovation Lab, the first multi municipal incubator in Cabo Verde, formally recognized under national standards and providing a sustainable platform for entrepreneurship and innovation. Through the incubator, **27 new businesses** were supported and structured to better access the market, with three already securing seed capital totaling **60,000 CVE**. These initiatives are expected to generate around **15 new jobs** in the medium term.



The support from the incubator and the mentorship I received completely changed my business perspective. The monthly visits from the incubator manager to Fogo were crucial—someone who truly understood our local reality. I now feel much more prepared for the market and confident about growing my business."

Elizandra Lopes,
founder of the project Quinta da Vinha, shared

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2.4. UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

2.4.1. Innovative approaches to joint planning and delivery

Joint work plans and results groups

The **2025 Joint Work Plan (JWP)** marked a step-change in inclusive, data-driven planning under the UNCF 2023–2027. Over 130 national partners—including government institutions, civil society, private sector actors, academia, and representatives of vulnerable groups—actively **co-designed priorities**, ensuring that **“leaving no one behind”** translated into **targeted actions and measurable outcomes**.

Planning processes integrated **real-time data, SDG acceleration tools, and foresight methodologies**, enabling stronger alignment with national development strategies and improved prioritization across the three UNCF pillars. As a result:



100% of outputs were co-owned with at least one national partner



Cross-cutting markers (gender, human rights, climate) were embedded in over **90%** of interventions



Joint programmes contributed to **expanded social protection coverage** and increased access to **climate-resilient livelihoods**, particularly for **women and youth**

2.4.2. Efficient operations

Business operations strategy (BOS)

Implementation of **BOS 2.0** in 2025 delivered **significant efficiency gains**, with **cost avoidance tripling compared to 2024**, driven by **deeper inter-agency collaboration** and **expanded shared services**.

Key operational results:



Increased use of **common procurement, logistics, and premises**, reducing duplication



Enhanced **service integration across agencies**, improving speed and quality of delivery



Optimized resource utilization, contributing to measurable reductions in operational expenditures

The UNCT in Cabo Verde advanced the design of next-generation common services, including:



Fleet pooling (car-sharing systems)



Integrated security services



Shared infrastructure management



Common digital platforms and IT services

These innovations are expected to further **increase cost avoidance and operational efficiency in 2026**, while reinforcing the UN’s capacity to **deliver as one**.



UNCT Cabo Verde retreat with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Digital Economy and Business Development, strengthening strategic dialogue and joint action to accelerate sustainable development.

Photo by: UN Cabo Verde

2.5. LESSONS LEARNED AND EVALUATIONS

Strategic Mid-Term Assessment

The UNCT undertook in 2025 a light but strategically mid-term assessment of the current UNCF, through an **inclusive and participatory approach**, engaging government counterparts, development partners, civil society, and UN entities. This exercise provided a timely, **evidence-informed opportunity to take stock of progress, identify structural bottlenecks, and recalibrate strategic priorities** in a rapidly evolving national and global context.

Learning Through Data and Feedback

The process incorporated innovative methodologies, including **rapid feedback loops, digital data collection tools, and outcome harvesting techniques**, enabling more granular insights into programme performance. It emphasized the critical role of **real-time data, integrated analytics, and adaptive management** in enhancing development effectiveness. The assessment underscored the importance of leveraging **digital transformation and foresight analysis** to better anticipate emerging risks and opportunities, including those linked to **climate resilience, demographic shifts, and socio-economic vulnerabilities**.

Financing and Future Evaluation

Financially, implementation has reached approximately **42% of the Cooperation Framework resource requirements** (around **US\$49 million mobilized by 2025**), reinforcing the need for more **diversified and innovative financing approaches**—such as **blended finance, partnerships with international financial institutions, and results-based funding mechanisms**—to accelerate progress.

Building on these insights, a **comprehensive final evaluation is planned for 2026** to assess cumulative results, outcomes, and impact. This evaluation will directly inform the design of the **next Cooperation Framework**, with preparatory processes expected to commence in 2027, supported by the **MERL Team** (Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning) Team, integrating **advanced data systems, strengthened national statistical capacities, and innovative evaluation practices** for a more responsive, inclusive, and **future-oriented development results**.



Evidence-informed Stocktake

The mid-term assessment enable an inclusive, evidence-based stocktake that identified bottlenecks and recalibrated strategic priorities.



Adaptive data systems

Innovative methodologies and real-time data strengthened performance insights and informed adaptive management in a rapidly evolving context.



Future-oriented evaluation

The 2026 final evaluation will inform the next Cooperation Framework, with preparations starting in 2027 and a strong MERL and data foundation.

2.6. ACHIEVING UNCF PRIORITIES

2025 was not a business-as-usual year. Global shocks, including funding constraints following Russia’s war against Ukraine, rising food prices, and the impact of Tropical hurricane Erin, tested **Cabo Verde’s resilience**. The UN Country Team, under the leadership of the Government, responded with **greater agility, flexibility, and sharper focus on accelerating SDG progress**.

A defining moment was Cabo Verde’s **reclassification as an Upper Middle-Income Country (UMIC)**. This milestone brings new challenges, notably **reduced access to concessional finance**. The UN adapted its approach where possible, shifting from assistance to investment, by mobilizing **innovative partnerships**, including **South-South cooperation and private sector engagement**, and positioning Cabo Verde as a **knowledge hub for SIDS**.

A **soft mid-term review** of the Cooperation Framework, led by the MERL group with Strategic Priority teams and national partners, confirmed **solid progress** while highlighting the **need for recalibration**. Key adjustments include strengthening **municipal-level poverty tracking**, enhancing **climate early warning systems** after hurricane Erin, and embedding **digital inclusion as a cross-cutting accelerator**.

Despite funding volatility, **delivery remained strong at 83.4%**, supported by reallocation of core resources and diversified partnerships. However, the concentration of expenditure in the final months of the year, a pattern observed across the UNCF implementation period, points to persistent challenges in expenditure planning and disbursement pacing that warrant attention in the next programme cycle. **Strengthening national capacities** for the implementation of initiatives with the United Nations is a pressing need and should be the **main recommendation in the design of the next Cooperation Framework**.



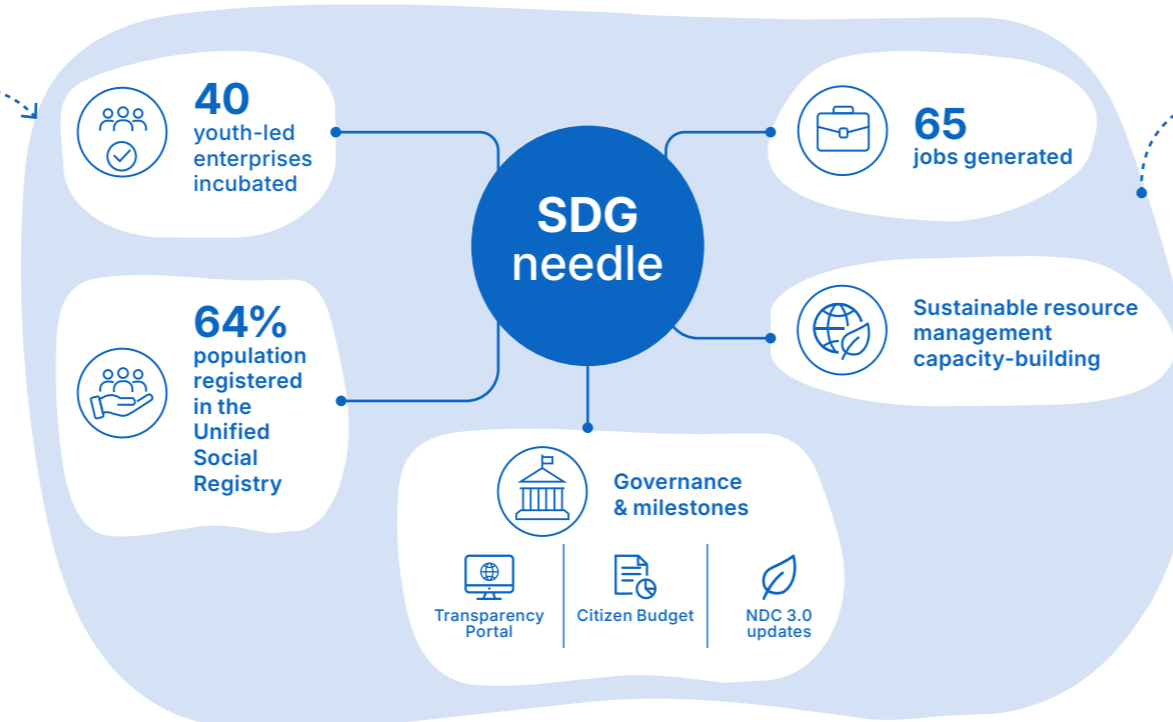
UN Resident Coordinator Patrícia Portela de Souza and WHO Representative Ann Lindstrand on the ground in São Vicente, engaging with communities affected by Storm Erin and supporting coordinated recovery efforts.
Credit: OMS Cabo verde

83.4%
delivery remained strong

Highest execution rate so far in the UNCF implementation period (2023-2027)

How did we move the SDG needle?

Economic inclusion advanced through the incubation of 40 youth-led enterprises (**45% women-led**), the creation of the **Fogo and Brava Innovation Lab**, and **65 jobs generated**. Social protection expanded significantly, with the **Unified Social Registry covering 64% of the population**. In governance and climate, key milestones included the launch of the **Transparency Portal and Citizen Budget**, updates to **NDC 3.0**, and capacity-building for **sustainable resource management**.



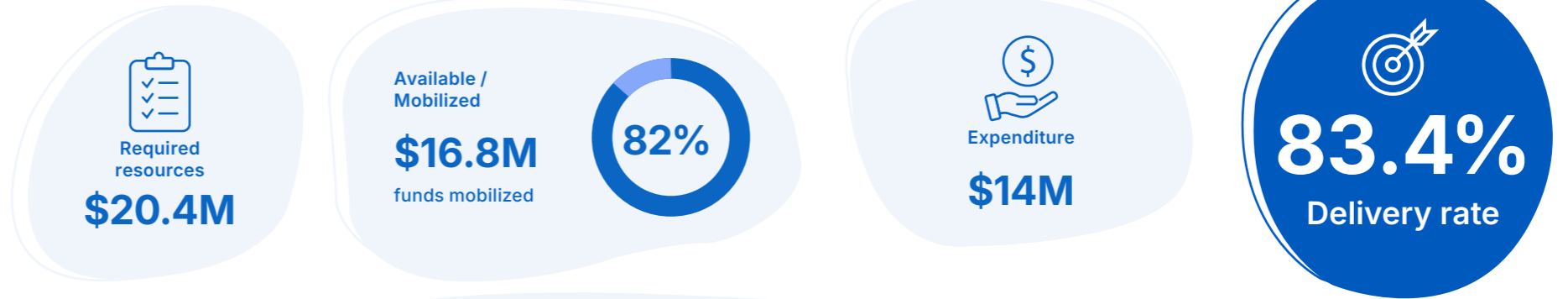
What comes next?

In 2026, priorities include a **dedicated LNOB mechanism** to track extreme poverty, a **joint digital flagship programme**, **expanded municipal early-response funds**, and a **UMIC-tailored financing strategy** focused on **blended finance and partnerships with development banks**.

This is how the UN moves from reporting to transforming—keeping Cabo Verde on track to 2030, leaving no one behind.

Financial Overview 2025

Cooperation Framework resources, delivery and SDG allocation



By Strategic Priority

	Available (US\$)	Required (US\$)	Mobilized (%)	Expenditure (US\$)	Delivery (%)
SP1	\$5.23M	\$5.29M	98.9%	\$4.86M	93%
SP2	\$6.53M	\$10.04M	65.1%	\$4.74M	72.5%
SP3	\$4.99M	\$5.07M	98.4%	\$4.37M	87.6%

- **SP1** Strengthened Human Talent and Social Capital
- **SP2** Inclusive Economic Transformation, Prosperity, and Just Transition to a Healthy Environment
- **SP3** Transformative Governance and Strengthened Territorial Cohesion

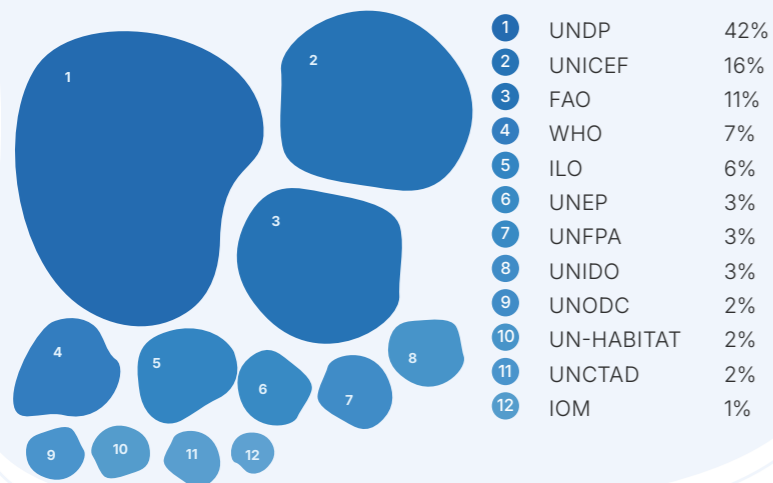
Delivery Rate per SDGs

% of total available



Where is the money going?

Available resources by UN entities

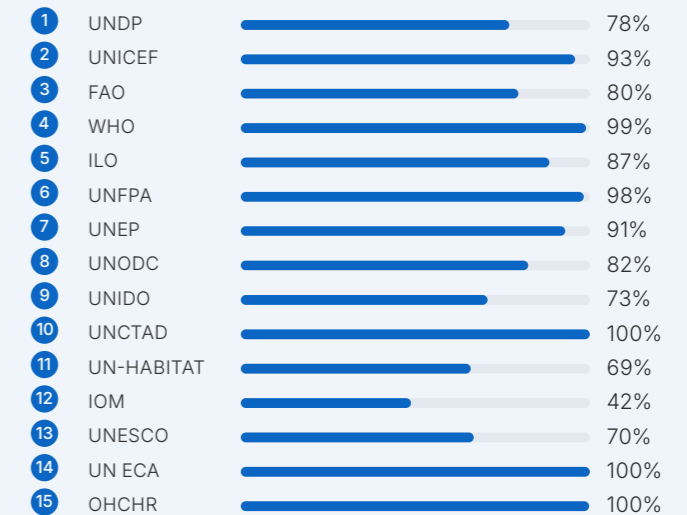


Where is the money coming from?

Contributing partners



Delivery rate by agencies



2.6.1. Strategic Priority 1

Human Capital and Social Development

Supporting Cabo Verde's efforts to **strengthen equitable access to quality health, education and social protection services, reducing inequalities and building the capacity of institutions to respond to risks and ensure no one is left behind.**



Key related SDGs



Contributing agencies



OUTCOME 1.1



By 2027, people in Cabo Verde, particularly the most vulnerable, have improved access to and utilization of **quality, inclusive and resilient health, education and social protection services.**

What matters most? Results that change lives.

In 2025, the UN System helped Cabo Verde achieve concrete results that **protect children, strengthen families**, and make the State better **prepared to respond to crises**.

In health: the country was verified **free of measles and rubella** — a achievement that protects generations. **New vaccines** were introduced (**Rotavirus, PCV13 and Hexavalent**), and the unified UN response to Tropical hurricane Erin **prevented post-disaster outbreaks**. The death certification system was reformed, with **70% of the territory covered** by trained professionals — essential for data-driven decision-making.

In education: **800 professionals were trained in inclusive education**, and **800 children with special educational needs** gained access to **digital learning resources**. The country is moving firmly towards the national target of **80% inclusion**.

In social protection: the **Unified Social Registry** was expanded and digitalized, now **covering 64% of the population** (327,581 individuals), integrating **16 social programmes**. **Over 1,000 vulnerable children** benefited from strengthened services, and **birth registration reached 99%** — a giant step towards guaranteeing access to rights from the first day of life.

How was it done?

The difference in 2025 was the UN's **integrated and anticipatory approach**. Instead of isolated interventions, the UNCT worked together — health, education and social protection — to **strengthen systems, not just projects**. The unified response to hurricane Erin is an example: agencies joined forces to prevent outbreaks, keep schools open, and protect displaced children.

In addition, we supported the adoption of **legal instruments** for **older persons and persons with disabilities**, and reinforced **child protection systems** with training and data.

What changes for whom?

A child born today in Cabo Verde has a **99% chance** of being registered, access to vaccines that eliminate diseases, and if they have special needs, they will find better prepared schools. A vulnerable family is enrolled in a single registry that links 16 social programmes. And when the next storm comes, the country will have **more resilient systems to respond**.



Making a Difference

Lead Agency

ILO

Area

Social Protection



Photo by: OIT Cabo Verde

Journalism, Data & Social Protection: A New Chapter in Cabo Verde

In 2025, the International Labour Organization (ILO) strengthened its approach to social protection in Cabo Verde by complementing ongoing investments in institutional capacity-building—under the ACTION/Portugal Project and previous initiatives—with a clear emphasis on **public engagement and the value of information**.

In this context, the **first edition of the National Journalism Award on Social Protection** stood out as an innovative initiative, mobilizing journalists from across the country in three categories and recognizing their role in **promoting a more inclusive, informed and citizen-centred social protection system**. By encouraging high-quality content, the Award contributed to **strengthening public debate** and enhancing understanding of social policies.

In parallel, work began on the **third Statistical Bulletin of the Social Protection System of Cabo Verde (2024)**, further consolidating evidence generation and supporting more **transparent and effective policy decision-making**.

[Click here to read](#)


Lead Agencies

UNICEF / WHO

Area

Health



Photo by: Ministério da Saúde de Cabo Verde

A Generation Protected: How Cabo Verde Safeguarded Children from Measles and Rubella

In 2025, Cabo Verde reached a **historic public health milestone** with the **official verification of the elimination of measles and rubella**. This achievement reflects decades of sustained national commitment to immunization, reinforced by **targeted support under SP1**. With technical leadership from WHO, the country strengthened **case-based surveillance**, ensured timely investigation of all suspected cases, reinforced laboratory capacity, and maintained **equitable access to vaccination across all islands**. Special attention was given to monitoring coverage gaps and protecting vulnerable populations, including children and pregnant women. As a result, Cabo Verde sustained the **interruption of endemic transmission for more than 36 months** and a robust system capable of **rapidly detecting and responding to imported cases**. This success translates into **lasting protection for communities**, increased **health system resilience**, and **reduced risk of outbreaks**—bringing the promise of disease prevention and health security to life.

[Click here to read](#)


Lead Agency
WHOArea
Health

Turning Data into Lives Saved: Strengthening Mortality Information for Better Health Decisions

Reliable mortality data are essential for **protecting lives and reducing health inequalities**. In Cabo Verde, structural gaps in death certification and data systems once limited **evidence-based planning and monitoring** of health outcomes. In 2025, with technical leadership from WHO and financial support from the Government of Portugal, the country undertook a **comprehensive reform of its mortality registration system** under SP1. The initiative enabled the adoption of **international death certification standards**, integration of **mortality data into digital health platforms**, and **large-scale training of health professionals** across multiple islands in **ICD-11 coding and data use**. **Portugal's contribution** was instrumental in ensuring the continuity, depth, and national reach of this effort, strengthening coordination between health, civil registration, and statistics institutions. As a result, Cabo Verde now is better prepared to produce more **complete, timely, and disaggregated mortality data**—empowering decision-makers to **identify vulnerable populations, guide targeted policies**, and advance progress toward the **Sustainable Development Goals**.

Lead Agency
UNICEFArea
Education

From exclusion to access:
transforming learning for every
child

Photo by: UNICEF

From exclusion to access: Transforming learning for every child

For many children in Cabo Verde, especially those with special educational needs, school did not guarantee learning. Classrooms lacked the tools and trained teachers needed to include them, leaving many present but unable to fully participate or progress.

In 2025, this began to change. Cabo Verde expanded inclusive education by introducing **digital learning tools** and **strengthening teacher capacity** across the country, opening new ways for children to engage with learning.

Working as one, the United Nations partnered with national education institutions to train 800 professionals and deploy digital solutions that support **inclusive learning**. By combining expertise in education, technology, and social inclusion, the UN system helped scale a coordinated response aligned with national priorities.

Today, **3720 children have access to digital learning resources** adapted to their needs, allowing them to actively participate in class. At the same time, the education system is moving closer to its national target of including 80% of **children with special educational needs**.

The results are measurable: **800 teachers trained, 800 children reached**, and expanded access to **inclusive digital education** across the system.

By embedding inclusive practices and digital tools into the education system, Cabo Verde is building a model that can continue to expand—ensuring that **inclusion is no longer an exception, but the standard**.


STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 RESULTS

Human Capital and Social Development

Social Protection

Expanding inclusive social protection system that reach more people and strengthen families.



91,539
families



327,581
individuals


16
programmes integrated

- ✓ Cadastro Social Único Updated
- ✓ Legal Frameworks for older persons and persons with disabilities adopted
- ✓ 2,143 paternity/maternity cases resolved
- ✓ 2,000 children strengthened in online safety

Child Protection


+1,000
vulnerable children supported


99%
birth registration


5,714
children under 1 registered

Health

Strengthening health systems and services for a healthier and more resilient population.


CABO VERDE
achieved the elimination of measles and rubella


3
vaccines introduced


150
health professional trained in dengue case

- ✓ Unified response to Tropical hurricane Erin
- ✓ Access to potable water for children in Maio
- ✓ Technical assistance to stop dengue and malaria epidemics
- ✓ Death certification and cause-of-death systems improved

Territory Coverage


~70%
territory covered

Education

Building inclusive, quality education and expanding digital learning opportunities.


800
professionals trained


3720
children with digital learning access


80%
inclusion target by 2026

- ✓ Inclusive education strengthened
- ✓ Digital learning resources expanded
- ✓ Progress toward inclusion of children with special educational needs



OUTCOME 2.1

“By 2027, Cabo Verde has advanced a more **diversified, inclusive and sustainable economic transformation**, with increased **decent employment opportunities**, particularly for women and youth.”

The United Nations accelerated inclusive development in Cabo Verde by delivering concrete policy and economic gains. The adoption of the National Strategy for Food and Nutrition Security 2035 established a unified State framework to strengthen governance, coordination and accountability. The approval of the Statute of the Artist marked a breakthrough in extending legal recognition and social protection to cultural professionals.

Economic inclusion advanced through a strengthened SME ecosystem, unlocking opportunities for women and youth via targeted finance, skills and infrastructure. In Fogo and Brava, **40 young entrepreneurs (45% women)** were supported through incubation, while **8 SMEs upgraded operations** to drive **digital and food system transitions**.

Private sector engagement expanded **SDG localization** through inter-municipal platforms, while initiatives in circular economy, improved informality data, and business formalization empowered local actors, including **women-led enterprises** such as the **Kouro Azul fisheries cooperative**.

Efforts improved the business environment by strengthening the advocacy capacity of employers' organizations through a priority reform action plan, while promoting responsible business conduct in the fish-processing and tourism sectors through the ILO MNE Declaration.



Inclusive Growth in Action

The National Strategy for Food and Nutrition Security 2035 was adopted.

The Statute of the Artist was approved.

In Fogo and Brava, **40** young entrepreneurs were supported through incubation, **45%** of whom were women.

8 SMEs upgraded their operations to support digital and food system transitions.

OUTCOME 2.2

“By 2027, Cabo Verde strengthens the sustainable management of natural resources and enhances resilience to climate change and disasters.”

Cabo Verde accelerated its climate transition with strong backing from the United Nations. The updated **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0)** and the operationalization of the **National Secretariat for Climate Action** significantly strengthened coordination and delivery of **climate commitments**.

Capacity gains translated into action: **254 people (62% women)** in São Vicente and Santo Antão were trained in **sustainable resource management**, improving planning systems and enabling new regulatory frameworks. Technical support also advanced **low-carbon energy solutions**, reinforcing a more **resilient energy pathway**.

Momentum in climate finance was reinforced through the development of the **Green Climate Fund Country Programme** and four priority investment pipelines. The updated **2025–2028 Action Plan on Child-Centred Climate Resilience** sharpened focus on **vulnerable groups**.

Sustainability gains extended to heritage and tourism in **Cidade Velha**, where improved signage enhanced **cultural valorization while promoting sustainable tourism**.



Cabo Verde: quando a escassez de água impulsiona a inovação

Click here to watch



Stronger Resilient Sustainable Future

Cabo Verde's Nationally Determined Contribution was updated through NDC 3.0.

The National Secretariat for Climate Action became operational.

In São Vicente and Santo Antão, **254** people, **62%** of them women, gained capacity in sustainable resource management.

The Green Climate Fund Country Programme was developed, together with **4** priority investment pipelines.

The **2025–2028** Action Plan on Child-Centred Climate Resilience was updated.

In Cidade Velha, improved signage was introduced to support cultural valorization and sustainable tourism.

Making a Difference

Lead Agency
FAO

Area
Economic Transformation



The Guardians of João Varela: Women Sowing the Future of Cabo Verde

In João Varela, on the island of Santiago, a **group of 11 women**—all heads of their households—have taken on a vital role: serving as the **guardians of their community's food security**. Through an **FAO project** and a strategic partnership with consortium of NGOs Amigos da Natureza/CERAL and the Cape Verdean Foundation for School Social Action (FICASE), these farmers have become the **primary suppliers of fresh produce** for all **schools and kindergartens** in the municipality of **Ribeira Grande de Santiago**.

By purchasing directly from the João Varela Women Farmers' Association, the **State ensures that the food served to children comes straight from local plots, strengthening the circular economy and school nutrition**. This is one of the rare associations in the country composed exclusively of women, uniting different generations in favor of rural development.

The group's **operational success** is the result of both social and productive engineering: staggered planting management. Instead of random production, the 11 women coordinate a **planned rotation schedule** across their 2,000 m² plots. This planning ensures **crop diversity** and an **uninterrupted harvest throughout the year**.

This cooperative strategy allows the Association to meet market demands with precision and consistency, preventing stock shortages.

Through these sustainable practices and the introduction of organic techniques, the João Varela Women Farmers' Association does not just **grow vegetables; it empowers women, strengthens an entire community, and nourishes the future of Cabo Verde**.

“

Isabel Rodrigues, 65, is one of the association's pioneers. **“We were one of the first vulnerable families to fight for this space. We spent years preparing the land, facing scarce rainfall, but today we can say we have won,”** she recalls with pride.

“

It is from my hands that sustenance comes, not only for my family but for many children in the community”, says Isabel Rodrigues, one of the association's pioneers.

Lead Agency
UNECA

Area
Economic Opportunity



From ocean to opportunity: How Cabo Verde is trading its way to a green future

In Praia, from 30 September to 3 October 2025, the UN system joined the African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat with the support from the government of Denmark to run a four-day sensitization and green supplement consultation workshop on the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**. **More than 50 officials, business leaders, young people, and women entrepreneurs** mapped how Cabo Verde could compete in the continental market while protecting its oceans and climate. The UN Resident Coordinator, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Energy led the effort together. Mrs Ludmilde Fernandes Semedo, Director of Trade Services, National Directorate of Industry, Trade and Energy at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Energy, Cabo Verde. The government endorsed a road map to develop its **Green Supplement to its national trade strategy**, binding **fisheries, tourism, and renewable energy** into the continental market. With that roadmap signed, Cabo Verde is ready to show that **small island economies can lead on sustainable trade**.

“

The United Nation's support strengthens Cabo Verde in the implementation of the AfCFTA by promoting regional integration, sustainable development, SME capacity-building, and a more effective integration into the African continental market”, Mrs Ludmilde Fernandes Semedo, Director of Trade Services, National Directorate of Industry, Trade and Energy at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Energy, Cabo Verde.

[Click here to read](#)



Making a Difference

Lead Agency
FAO

Area
Environment

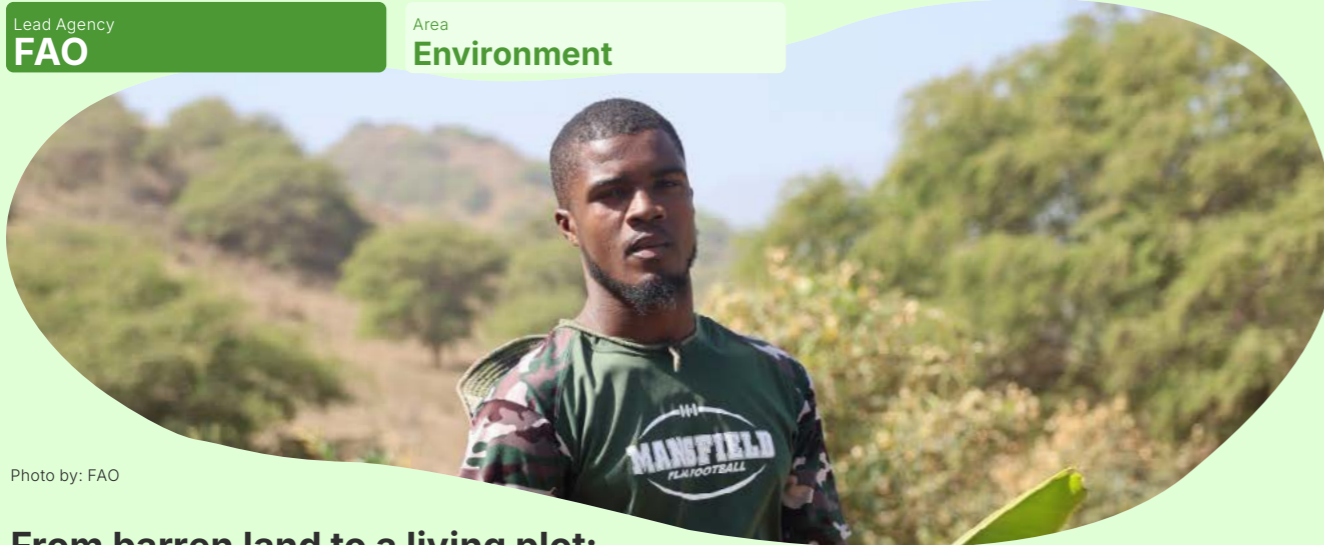


Photo by: FAO

From barren land to a living plot: Anizito Tavares' agroecological revolution

In Macati, in the municipality of Santa Cruz on the island of Santiago, 27-year-old farmer Anizito Tavares was aware of the uncertainty of relying solely on rain. On his plot, corn and beans only grew when it rained. But today, the reality is different.

The transformation took place through the **FAO-China-Cabo Verde South-South Cooperation project**. Anizito not only learned how to use the **drip irrigation system**, but also how to **protect the land and improve the soil** by introducing living barriers such as **aloe vera** to stop runoff and start to treat the soil with **organic fertilizer and plant cover**.

Even in a year with little rain, he was able to compensate for the lack of irrigation, and, for the first time, he does not have to stop farming when the dry season arrives. *'I can say that I have almost double the yield I had before. Before, the yield was very low, but now my land is productive,'* he celebrates.

In addition to corn and beans, the young farmer has introduced fruit trees and other crops to his plot, ensuring year-round results. Trained by Chinese experts on the project in combating the Fall Armyworm and improving soils, he now represents a new generation of farmers in Cabo Verde: implementing **sustainable techniques and technologies** with **concrete results**.

“

I can say that I have almost double the yield I had before. Before, the yield was very low, but now my land is productive,”

Lead Agency
UNICEF

From source to tap: Maio's journey to universal water access

On Maio Island, the project “Access to Potable Water Supply Networks”, funded by UNICEF, delivered tangible and life-changing results. A total of 114 families (389 people) now benefit from reliable access to safe drinking water, including 190 children and 21 elderly individuals. However, the remarkable achievement is the fact that 100% of the children on the island now have access to drinking water in their homes, through domestic connections, improving health, safety, and dignity. The project also ensured inclusion by supporting 11 people with disabilities, reinforcing the commitment to equity.

With this project, household water access coverage increased to 98%, bringing Maio close to universal access. Beyond households, water services were strengthened in key community facilities, including one preschool, one health unit, two churches, and three community centers.

This success was driven by strong collaboration between the Municipality of Maio, Águas e Energia do Maio, UNICEF, through the National Committee of Portugal, and local partners, advancing progress toward SDGs 6, 3, and 10.



Photos by: UNICEF

Making a Difference

Lead Agency
UNDP / UNICEF

Climate Promise Nationally Determined Contribution: a pathway toward a resilient future

In Cabo Verde, the Climate Promise project became a story of collective ambition. Across islands, ministries, civil society, and UN partners came together to shape the country's NDC 3.0, an updated climate plan grounded in real voices. Women's groups, youth leaders, and persons with disabilities contributed with ideas that were woven directly into national priorities.

As the plan was finalized and submitted to the UNFCCC, new foundations emerged. A roadmap for the National Secretariat for Climate Action began to take shape, strengthening coordination, while a digital GIS platform started mapping climate actions across the country.

Challenges remained, limited capacity and delays tested progress, but the partnerships held firm. With a financing roadmap underway and inclusion at its core, Cabo Verde's Climate Promise is no longer just a pledge. It is a shared pathway toward a resilient, fair, and climate-ready future.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 RESULTS

Inclusive Economic Transformation and Environmental Sustainability

Inclusive Economic Transformation

Promoting productive opportunities, decent jobs and an enabling environment for inclusive and sustainable growth.



40

youth business initiatives incubated (45% women)



8

SMEs upgraded



500+

young people mobilized

National Food Nutrition Security Strategy 2035 finalized

entrar:32 trade unionists and 33 stakeholders from the formalisation ecosystem trained in the formalisation of micro and small enterprises

Inclusive growth driven by a **stronger entrepreneurship and SME ecosystem**, through the adaptation of the ILO's Formalise Your Business (FYB) programme.

Municipal plans and priorities defined through an intermunicipal dialogue platform, with a focus on women and youth

40 farmers and technicians trained in circular economy

20 technicians trained in informality statistics

Kouro Azul cooperative formalized and consolidated, supporting **15 women fish vendors**

24 women developed business plans and accessed microcredit

241 young people trained, generating **60+ projects** and **65+ direct jobs created**

Inclusion & Innovation



45%

Women among youth business initiatives



224

women-owned businesses formalized 43 benefited from microcredit



65+

Direct jobs created

Climate, Biodiversity & Resilience

Strengthening climate action, biodiversity and community resilience for a more sustainable and resilient Cabo Verde.



NDC

update (Nationally Determined Contribution)



254

People trained in sustainable management and biodiversity



2025-2028

Child-centred climate resilience action plan updated

National Secretariat for Climate Action operationalized

157 women and 97 men trained in sustainable management and biodiversity in São Vicente and Santo Antão

4 concept notes developed on climate priorities

Stakeholder capacities strengthened in **low-carbon energy**

Heritage valorized and **sustainable tourism strengthened through new tourism signage in Cidade Velha**

Resilience in Action



157/97

Women and men trained



4

Concept notes on climate priorities



Cidade Velha

Sustainable tourism signage reinforced

2.6.3. Strategic Priority 3

Governance and Territorial Cohesion

Reaching all 22 municipalities and 25,000 people across the archipelago, efforts in 2025 deepened local governance, reinforced justice and security systems, and expanded economic opportunity — putting transparent, citizen-centred institutions at the heart of sustainable development.



Key related SDGs



Contributing agencies



OUTCOME 3.1

“By 2027, Cabo Verde has strengthened **democratic governance, human rights, and territorial cohesion**, ensuring more **inclusive, transparent and accountable institutions** for all.”

Efforts focused on strengthening public finance management, local development, and crime prevention. The implementation of the **Transparency Portal** and the **launch of the first Citizens Budget and the Gender Equality Seal** significantly improved **accountability and public trust** in state institutions. These initiatives provided a foundation for more **transparent public finances** and **inclusive governance**.

The justice sector saw significant reinforcement through the creation of reporting mechanisms for victims of violence and specialized training for officials. **226 justice professionals were equipped with skills in artificial intelligence** to improve institutional responses.

Furthermore, the rule of law was strengthened by increasing **maritime security capacity** to address **illicit trafficking and illegal fishing**. Advances in prison reform were also achieved by aligning national practices with the **Mandela Rules**, ensuring that correctional facilities meet **international standards for human rights**.

Efforts advanced decent work through stronger social dialogue and closer alignment with international labour standards. Results included the revision of

the hazardous child labour list, improved reporting to supervisory bodies, strengthened labour administration, and progress in developing regulations for mandatory occupational accident and disease insurance.

Territorial cohesion and municipal fiscal autonomy were central priorities. **The UN guided the development of revenue mobilization plans for all 22 municipalities in the country.** Around **150 municipal professionals and elected officials**, including **47% women**, received training in human resources management, project design and municipal governance. **25 territorial development projects** were approved across all municipalities in sectors such as agriculture, water and sanitation, renewable energy and digital governance, benefiting around **25,000 people**.

In the realm of security and financial integrity, the **Financial Intelligence Unit (UIF)** received specialized equipment and software to detect suspicious financial transactions. This combined technical training with advanced technology to protect the national economy from illicit flows. Additionally, an **AI Landscape Assessment was conducted with public and private sector actors**.



Making a Difference

UN CABO VERDE

Area
Human Rights



The night Cabo Verde came together for dignity

In Praia city, **Praça D. Luís transformed into a living stage** where **human rights found voice, rhythm and emotion**. The **Concert for Human Rights**, promoted by United Nations in Cabo Verde, in partnership with the Government and national institutions, reaffirmed as a milestone in advocating a **culture of peace**, a place where art becomes action and brings people closer to **universal values**.

Throughout **open dialogue and Human Rights Exhibition**, citizens of all ages engaged with their rights, in an environment where information became power and participation a path towards inclusion. Among attendees, young people shared the impact they experienced: "I realized that human rights are part of our daily choices and we all responsibility to make them happen."

As night fell, the square came alive. Well-known names in Cabo Verde music gave their voice to the causes of non-violence, peace, solidarity and tolerance, celebrating the power of art as a tool for social change. "Human rights are the melody, the essential music of our coexistence, and art is the instrument that stimulates empathy, solidarity and change."

The concert marked the end of the **16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls**, as well as the 10th anniversary of the "Free and Equal" campaign in the country, an initiative that has raised awareness, mobilized institutions and established equality as a national priority, reinforcing a decade of commitment to more just societies.

The celebration culminated in the Government recognition of **50-year partnership with the United Nations**, a journey that helped transform lives, empower communities and lead to Sustainable development of Cabo Verde.

10 of December has become the true expression that the country's commitment to a more just and respectful future for all. A true tribute to **dignity, equality and freedom**, in which every note reminded us that human rights are the essential melody of our coexistence.

Click here to **view gallery**



Lead Agencies
UNDP / UN Habitat

Area
Local Development



Municipal financial autonomy, digital inclusion and inclusive local development



Thanks to Luxembourg

In Cabo Verde, the **Joint Programme for the Promotion of Local Development**, a **€6.1 million initiative** is contributing to the **long-term transformation of local governance** and **bringing public policies closer to citizens**. Implemented by UNDP and UN-Habitat, with financial support from the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Territorial Cohesion and the National Association of Municipalities of Cabo Verde, the Programme supports local governments in **modernizing governance systems** and **strengthening institutional capacities**. In a context where **decentralization** is a key lever for accelerating territorial development, PCPDL is emerging as a catalyst for change across Cabo Verde's municipalities, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and guided by the United Nations' core principle of **Leave No One Behind (LNOB)**.

Since 2025, the Programme has entered a decisive operational phase, with activities now reaching almost the entire national territory. Twenty municipalities have developed action plans to strengthen their own-source revenue generation, nearly **150 municipal officials and technicians** have been trained **47% women**, and **25 territorial development projects** have been approved, directly benefiting nearly **25,000 people**. These initiatives support key sectors such as agriculture, water and sanitation, renewable energy, and digital governance, contributing to improved living conditions while strengthening **digital and financial inclusion** and promoting **more inclusive and sustainable territorial development**.

Together, these achievements position PCPDL as a practical platform that enables municipalities to deliver stronger, more transparent and more responsive local governance, ensuring that development efforts are **closer to citizens** and that **no one is left behind**.

Click here to **read**



Making a difference

Lead Agency
IOM



Engaging the Diaspora

In 2025, IOM Cabo Verde strengthened institutional approaches to diaspora engagement by supporting the Government in finalizing and equipping Diaspora Spaces as dedicated platforms for operationalizing diaspora investment and participation in local development. Through technical assistance and coordination support, these Spaces, 10 in-country, 1 in Portugal, and 1 in the United States, were equipped to provide structured guidance to diaspora members and to serve as entry points for engagement at the municipal level. These Spaces serve to provide information on investment opportunities, administrative and procedural guidance, and referrals to entrepreneurship, business development, and municipal services. By reinforcing the functionality and readiness of these mechanisms, IOM contributed to embedding diaspora engagement within territorial development processes and to enhancing the enabling environment for sustained diaspora involvement in economic and social development linked to migration.

Lead Agency
UNDP



Bringing Renewable Energy to Communities Off the Grid

Access to electricity remains out of reach for many families living in remote communities across Cabo Verde. To respond to this challenge, the UNDP Accelerator Lab partnered with the University of Cabo Verde (Uni-CV) to design and produce Kafuka — a locally manufactured renewable energy kit, assembled in-house and built to last. Each Kafuka kit runs on solar energy, charging through a small panel to deliver reliable light for up to eight hours. Affordable, simple, and entirely produced in Cabo Verde, Kafuka represents a homegrown solution to a persistent development gap. In December 2025, ten families in Dacabalaio, São Domingos, received the first kits — a milestone that proved both the concept and the community's readiness. Kafuka is now expanding to thirty additional families across Maio Island and Calheta de São Miguel.

Click here to **read**



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 RESULTS

Governance and Territorial Cohesion



Governance, Justice & Accountability



200+

justice agents training in AI



1st

Citizens Budget launched



UIF

Equipment and software strengthened

- ✓ Transparency Portal strengthened public accountability
- ✓ Gender Equality Seal advanced inclusive governance
- ✓ Reporting mechanisms created for victims of violence
- ✓ Technical training reinforced the justice sector



Local Development, Security & Innovation



22

municipalities with stronger revenue mobilization



20

revenue plans developed



25

local projects financed

- ✓ Maritime security strengthened against trafficking and illegal fishing
- ✓ Progress achieved in prison reform
- ✓ AI ecosystem assessment conducted
- ✓ Fact-checking center created

Working together

Cabo Verde implemented eight Joint Programmes involving multiple United Nations entities and various international donors. These initiatives aimed to address social, economic, and environmental challenges through a coordinated approach. All Joint Programmes integrate gender equality and women’s empowerment across objectives, outcomes, and results frameworks.

One significant area of focus during this period was the eradication of extreme poverty. The Roadmap to accelerate the **eradication of extreme poverty** at the municipal level, funded by the SDG Fund and implemented by ILO and UNDP, targeted municipal interventions to lift residents out of severe financial hardship. Parallel to this, the programme for Accelerating the eradication of extreme poverty in Cabo Verde through economic inclusion was supported by the SDG Fund, with UNDP, ILO, and the World Bank managing the implementation to integrate economic opportunities for vulnerable populations.

Local development and territorial cohesion were also central to the 2025 agenda. The programme “Bring the local private sector into municipal priorities by supporting the localization of the SDGs”, supported by UNIDO and UNDP with a contribution from the SDG Fund, sought to align private sector activities with local sustainable development goals. Meanwhile, the Promotion of Local Development continued its multi-year implementation with a substantial six million euro contribution from Luxembourg. UNDP and UN Habitat focus on long term territorial improvements.

Simultaneously, UNODC and UN Habitat worked on promoting awareness and advocacy of the human security approach in Praia, Sao Filipe, and Sao Vicente, funded by the Human Security Trust Fund.




Joint Programms

- 01**


ILO / UNDP - 199K USD

Supporting the preparation of the roadmap for the GA in Cabo Verde and feasibility studies to accelerate the eradication of extreme poverty at municipal level through decent jobs and social protection

 Period
2024 - 2025
- 02**


UNDP / UNIDO - 250K USD

Bringing the local private sector into the municipal deal room for SDG localization

 Period
2024 - 2026
- 03**


UNDP / ILO / World Bank - 500K USD

Accelerating the eradication of extreme poverty in Cabo Verde through economic inclusion

 Period
2024 - 2025
- 04**


UNODC / UN-Habitat - 300K USD

UNTFHS - Promoting awareness and advocacy of the human security approach as a strategy to overcome the current crisis in the Municipalities of Praia, São Filipe and São Vicente in Cabo Verde

 Period
2024 - 2026
- 05**


UNDP / UN-Habitat - 6M USD

Promoting Local Development in Cabo Verde

 Period
2024 - 2027
- 06**

UNIDO / UN-Habitat - 1M USD

Building public-private partnerships to boost circular economy on the tourist island of Boa Vista

 Period
2025 - 2026

Chapter

3

UNCT Key Focus

INTO THE FUTURE

2026 constitutes a **pivotal year for Cabo Verde**, as the nation prepares for **Legislative and Presidential elections** and reaffirms its longstanding commitment to **democratic governance**. In this context, the United Nations will extend comprehensive support to national authorities and civil society to promote **just, fair, and transparent electoral processes**, in line with international standards and national aspirations. Concurrently, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) will uphold its collective commitment to delivering **coherent, integrated, and forward-looking support** across priority areas that advance the **National Strategic Sustainable Development Plan II** and accelerate **implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Under Strategic Programming and Development Priorities, the UNCT will operationalize **three UN-wide Flagship Interventions—Local Development, the Blue Economy, and Digital Transformation—**designed to generate catalytic cross sectoral impact and drive **transformative progress at national and local levels**.

In the area of **Governance and Institutional Reform**, the United Nations will continue to support reforms within **central and local public administration**. Technical assistance will be expanded to **social protection institutions** to enhance coverage, strengthen reform readiness, and respond to emerging demographic trends, including increased migration. Support will also continue for national efforts aimed at the **eradication of extreme poverty**, with a special focus on vulnerable groups such as **women, children and young people, and people with disabilities**.

To reinforce **UN System Coordination, Efficiency, and Accountability**, the UNCT will undertake an efficiency-oriented **Business Operations Review** and optimize the performance of **interagency Working Groups**, including establishing a new dedicated **Leave No One Behind (LNOB) mechanism**. Staff accountability for systemwide engagement will be strengthened, and a comprehensive review of the **United Nations Cooperation Framework (UNCF)** will enhance **monitoring, evaluation, and data quality**.

In alignment with the **UN 2.0 vision**, staff capacities will continue to be developed in **data literacy, digital skills, innovation, foresight, and behavioural science**.

Under **Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilization**, the UNCT will continue transitioning from traditional funding to **diversified development financing**. This includes deepening joint engagement with international development partners, elevating Cabo Verde's strategic priorities in regional and global platforms, advancing cooperation among **African Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**, and strengthening collaboration with **international financial institutions**.

In 2026, the United Nations will also broaden collaboration with international development partners to maximize collective impact and ensure coherent support to national priorities. Joint efforts will reinforce **climate resilience investments**, expand innovation in **digital and blue economy sectors**, and strengthen social and economic systems so that development gains remain resilient and equitable. Strategic partnerships—including with **civil society and the private sector**—will continue mobilizing catalytic resources and enhancing national institutional capacities.

The United Nations will strengthen institutional capacity in the **ethical and safe use of artificial intelligence** and support efforts to address **online misinformation and hate speech**.

Across all areas of cooperation, the UNCT reaffirms the full commitment of its **20 Agencies, Funds, and Programmes** to supporting Cabo Verde's national priorities. The jointly developed **2026 annual work plan** has already mobilized **more than USD 16 million** of the **USD 20 million required**, demonstrating **strong partner confidence** and **systemwide readiness to deliver results**. The UN will continue to pursue additional financing and coordinated action to support Cabo Verde's **long-term stability, prosperity, and democratic progress**—ensuring that **no one is left behind**.

KEY PRIORITIES FOR 2026



Digital Transformation

In 2026, **digital transformation** will be positioned as a **key cross-cutting accelerator** to drive **efficiency, scale and systemic impact** in Cabo Verde. Building on strong national investments and existing digital systems, the priority will shift from creating new solutions to **unlocking integration, interoperability and scale** across sectors.

The United Nations will support the development of a **digital flagship programme** to align and strengthen ongoing initiatives, particularly in **health, education and governance**. This includes identifying bottlenecks, improving data systems and supporting **evidence-based policymaking**.

In a context of reduced funding, **digital solutions** will enable more efficient and integrated approaches, supporting the transition from fragmented interventions to **scalable, high-impact programmes**. Strengthening **digital readiness and institutional capacity** will remain central.

A **human-centred approach** will guide all efforts, ensuring inclusion, trust and accessibility across islands and population groups. By connecting systems, institutions and people, digital transformation will enhance **public service delivery**, support **economic diversification** and reinforce Cabo Verde's ambition to become a **digital hub**.



Blue Economy

In 2026, the blue economy will be further developed as a **flagship area for sustainable growth, job creation and climate resilience** in Cabo Verde. The United Nations will support a more **integrated and investment-oriented approach**, focusing on key value chains and governance systems.

Priority areas include **sustainable fisheries transformation**, improved processing and **access to regional markets**, and strengthened **data and quality control systems**. Investments in **blue infrastructure**, including **port certification** and **coastal protection through nature-based solutions**, will also be supported.

The UN will promote stronger linkages between **tourism and local production**, while supporting **MSMEs with skills, regulation and circular economy solutions**, including waste management. Marine conservation and the sustainable management of protected areas will remain central to ensuring **long-term resilience**.

By combining economic opportunity with environmental sustainability, the blue economy will contribute to diversification, job creation—especially for youth—and increased resilience of coastal communities, positioning Cabo Verde as a reference among Small Island Developing States.



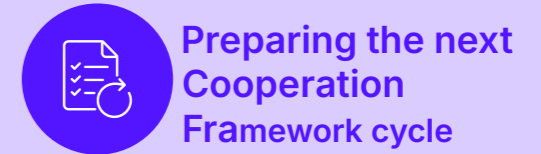
Local Development

In 2026, local development will be strengthened through a **coordinated, multi-level approach** aimed at **reducing territorial disparities** and enhancing **inclusive growth across all islands**. The United Nations will support the development of a **joint programme focused on municipal governance, economic inclusion and community resilience**.

Efforts will prioritize **strengthening local institutions** and improving **planning, data systems and service delivery** at the municipal level. Particular attention will be given to **linking national strategies with local implementation**, ensuring that development policies translate into tangible benefits for communities.

The programme will also support the scaling up of **local economic opportunities**, including in sectors such as agriculture and waste management, while promoting **formal employment for youth and informal workers**.

Leveraging the **Cabo Verdean diaspora** will be key to mobilizing **investment, innovation and entrepreneurship** at the local level. By reinforcing territorial cohesion and empowering local actors, these efforts aim to create more **balanced, inclusive and sustainable development pathways** across the country.



Preparing the next Cooperation Framework cycle

In preparation for the next Cooperation Framework cycle, the UN Country Team conducted a **soft mid-term assessment** of the current framework, providing a timely opportunity to reflect on progress, identify bottlenecks and refine **strategic direction**. This light and innovative exercise, carried out with strong internal and external engagement, reinforced the importance of **continuous learning**, data-driven decision-making and **adaptive management**.

The assessment highlighted areas of strong performance, while also identifying opportunities to enhance **coherence, integration and scale** across interventions. It further confirmed the continued relevance of current priorities while pointing to emerging needs and evolving national contexts.

Building on this process, a **final evaluation will be conducted in 2026** to assess overall results and impact, informing the design of the **next Cooperation Framework**, with preparatory processes expected to begin in 2027.

All stages will be supported by the **MERL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning) Team**, a multi-faceted and multi-agency group ensuring a **structured, inclusive and evidence-based approach**.



1975 2025

