

Update on the context and situation of children

National Context

Cabo Verde is a small developing island state (SIDS). Its population is approximately 537,661 people, of which 267,570 are women (49.8%) and 28.6% are children under the age of 14.

The country is known for its strong political governance and development course, which inspires confidence in development partners. The country graduated from the Least Developed Country (LDC) list at the end of 2007 due to its good performance in terms of human development and economic growth.

Inequality has decreased according to the Gini index from 53 in 2001 to 42 in 2015. Life expectancy is 73 years, the highest in Sub-Saharan Africa and on a par with Mauritius and Seychelles. The country has experienced a great dynamic of economic growth, passing from a GDP growth of 1% in 2015 to 6% in 2019. It is one of the main tourist destinations on the African continent. However, despite this success, there are still a considerable number of development challenges. Although poverty has declined, it still remains considerable with a rate of 35.2% (10.6% extreme poverty). There is substantial and particularly high unemployment among young people (25,7%) and women (11,9%) compared to the national average of 10,7% in first quarter 2019. The uneven spatial distribution of tourism development reflects the accentuated regional differences in poverty rates, human development and access to employment.

With an economy depending on tourism, emigrant remittances and preferential financing, Cabo Verde is extremely vulnerable to both global economic shocks and natural disasters.

Despite this, Cabo Verde has impressively achieved most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) in 2015. More, the country has a successful history of South-South and triangular cooperation.

Child Profile in Cape Verde

With regard to child health, a reduction in infant mortality from 24.9 (2008) to 15.8 (2017) can be observed. Perinatal infections continue to be the main causes of infant mortality, followed by congenital, infectious and parasitic anomalies which also suffered slight increases in the period.

The reduction in mortality in the 0-1 year range is an advance because it is the major component in terms of infant mortality (under 5 years), accounting for about 85% of deaths in this age group, especially in rural areas. With this, there has been a great reduction in the probability of a 1-year old child dying before reaching the age of 5 in Cape Verde, with mortality between 0-5 years of age falling from 28.1 in 2008 to 17.0 in 2018.

On the other hand, maternal mortality has fluctuated over the years. It should be noted that the small population of the country does not allow for a better sizing of the data, considering the denominator per 100,000.

The improvement in these mortality indicators is partly related to free access to prenatal and vaccination services.

In the area of malnutrition, Cape Verde has made considerable progress, reflected in the reduction of the acute malnutrition rate from 5.2% (2009) to 4.4% (2018) and chronic malnutrition from 13.3% (2009) to 11.0% (2018). Still, one of the biggest challenges facing children under 5 in the field of nutrition is the high prevalence of anaemia, which affects 43% of children.

Several interventions have been carried out to prevent and treat malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, including anemia, and among them, the Home Fortification strategy stands out. From the standard formulation, the country has created a national brand called VITAFERRO, which provides children under 5 years of age with about 50 percent of recommended daily micronutrient intakes.

In 2019, according to data from the Ministry of Education, the education system had approximately 131,000 students distributed as follows: 17,108 in preschool, 84,699 in compulsory primary education (1 to 8 years of schooling) and 28,554 in secondary education. The pre-school access rate has increased slowly, from 80% in 2017 to 81.6% 2019, and the demand for education for 0-3 year olds has increased timidly from about 7,000 children in 2015/16 to 7,343. The disparities between islands/municipalities in terms of access and quality are noteworthy. To illustrate, the municipalities of Praia, Sal, São Vicente and Boavista have pre-school access rates below the national average (81%); the municipalities of Boavista and Sal due to the tourism boom have become privileged destinations for immigration and national migration involving increased class sizes, lack of premises and qualified teachers, while Santo Antão is losing students.

The legal system has been constantly evolving in terms of legislation concerning to child rights and the UNICEF supports has being very important. The Statute of Child and Adolescent, the Criminal Code – CP (in revision) and the Code of Criminal Procedure - CPP, the Labor Code, include a set of legal rights and guarantees for children and adolescents. The country possesses an institutional framework that brings together different state organizations and NGO 's that work to fulfil the Rights of the Child. The Government strategies for children is embodied in several sector action plans, including protection, justice, health and education, among others. The Capeverdean Institute for Child and Adolescence – ICCA continue playing an important role in the Child Protection System. The finalization of the Child and Adolescent Protection Policy document and its action plan (2020-2021), aligned with the CRC constitute an important result achieved in 2019. Cabo Verde (22nd and 23rd May) was evaluated in 2019 by the committee of expert on the right of the child regarding the Convention on the Right of the Child and a list of recommendations were adopted which has being discussed and implemented by different sectors with the support of UNICEF. More, the reinforcement of ICCA 's and others child protection stakeholders' capacities, namely, prosecutors and judges, psychologists, social workers, media professionals among others, constitute another important result in 2019 followed by actions to protect children against sexual violence.

UNICEF commitment to the challenges:

UNICEF's intervention in the current Country Programme (2018-2022) is aligned with the UNDAF 2018-2022, National priorities, Agenda 2030 and the Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

Major contributions and drivers of results

The Country Programme Document (CPD) for the cooperation cycle covering the period 2018 - 2022, which constitutes an agreement between the Joint Office of UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF and the Government of Cabo Verde, expresses the strong commitment of the three agencies to support the country in its development efforts through the adoption of policies and strategies aimed at strengthening human capital, drastically reducing poverty and inequality, promoting inclusive economic growth and building resilience to climate change. To this end, the three agencies are committed to supporting the country in (i) improving the conditions of access of the population, particularly the most vulnerable, to education and health services, in (ii) natural resource and biodiversity management, in (iii) promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development and, finally, in (iii) strengthening democratic governance.

UNICEF's contribution to the achievement of the above-mentioned objectives is particularly noteworthy in the areas of strengthening human capital, especially in improving the conditions of access of the most vulnerable populations, especially women and children, to basic services such as education and health. Here are the key results achieved in 2019, by result areas of the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021:

Goal Area 1 - Every child survives and thrives

The country has continued to give priority to child survival and development, with the anaemia rate among children under five years of age falling from 52 per cent to 43 per cent as a result of the joint efforts of the health and education sectors through the implementation of micronutrient supplementation and fortification, deworming campaigns and nutrition and food education. In the field of Early Child Development (ECD), the country has initiated national reflections and technical capacities in the health sector for the integration of ECD through nutrition services, which have reached 95% of the national nutrition and child health technicians.

The immunization programme was evaluated internally on Effective Vaccine Management (EVM), with 100% of immunization providers technically strengthened in EVM to improve the quality of services. Programmatic management and statistical data capacities were strengthened in 100% of the immunization services, enabling the immunization coverage rate to be maintained above 90%. The introduction of the HPV vaccine has been announced by the Government as a national priority and planning and mobilization of partnerships have been initiated to guarantee the immunization of nine-year-old girls in 2020.

With the aim of improving the quality of services and reducing maternal and infant mortality, the quality of care of pre-natal, maternal-infant and neonatal services has been assessed, with the support of UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA. The perinatology committee was revitalized, and the maternal death audit committee was established. Within the framework of South-South Cooperation, Cabo Verde has been invited as a member of the technical partnership between CPLP countries and Brazil for capacity building towards the reduction of maternal mortality, which in Cabo Verde oscillates 18.8 (2016), 47.2 (2017) and 37.8/100,000nv (2018).

Attention to integral adolescent health has been integrated into Primary Health Care and extended to 4 more municipalities, guaranteeing coverage of 60% of the country's municipalities with responses to the specific needs of adolescents, in complement to civil society.

The country has continued efforts to certify the elimination of the HIV/AIDS and Syphilis transition, resulting in (i) a revised national HIV law to be submitted to Parliament in 2020; (ii) strengthened community participation and psychosocial monitoring capacity among networks of people and women living with HIV for the support of mothers and children at the community level; (iii) Strengthened monitoring and data collection system at the decentralized level; and (iv) Strengthened national capacity for early detection in the two regions of Barlavento and Sotavento, and the PoC network expanded to cover 88 per cent of the national territory.

Goal Area 2 - Every child learns

The country's institutional capacity to provide a quality educational service for children aged 0-3 and 4-5 years has been strengthened, on the one hand, by training caregivers (20) in one of the municipalities with the highest demand for services for 0-3 year-olds, Santa Catarina de Santiago, and, on the other, by training all the pedagogical coordinators of the 22 deconcentrated structures of the Ministry of Education in the new guidelines for pre-school education. In addition, 163 kindergartens for the poorest children, out of a total of 570, have received kits of materials to improve educational conditions, and professionals for 0-3 year-olds have received an edutainment guide (0-3 year-olds) to support educational action. In addition, a strategic, holistic and specific action orientation for the universalization and quality of preschool has been established in a Policy Document and Action Plan (2019-2022) for Preschool.

Within the framework of the Inclusive Education Policy and Programme, a new national system for reporting the specific needs of children at school, based on the CIF (Classification of Functional Incapacities) has been progressively installed, providing more adequate educational responses underpinned by pedagogical differentiation, through: the training of all 23 deconcentrated pedagogical support teams and most of the 3,000 primary school teachers in the use of the different instruments; the provision of teaching materials to 7 of the 23 teams; and the monitoring and analysis of the system's efficiency.

The technical and institutional capacities of the Ministry of Education have been created and strengthened to:

- determine the quality of basic learning in primary education on the basis of external evaluations and on a large scale through the training of technical managers and teachers at different levels to plan, organize and apply tests in Portuguese language and mathematics to a sample of approximately 12,000 pupils.
- implementing the new educational project and school management model, which required, on the one hand, the training of all school principals (2 to 3 elements) on leadership and its pedagogical dimension; pedagogical coordinators as well as pedagogical subdirectors of school clusters in half of the 22 municipalities of the country, in the area of pedagogical supervision. On the other hand, training in pedagogical differentiation and formative evaluation for about a quarter of primary school teachers.
- the management and monitoring of the Education Sector Plan, which involved, on the one hand, the training of about ten executives from central services for the elaboration and implementation of monitoring plans and, on the other hand, the training of school principals and all teachers in the use of the Integrated School Management Information System used in all primary and secondary schools.

Goal Area 3 - Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

The child protection program achieved significant results in 2019 through the Annual Work Plan - AWP. The child and adolescent protection policy document and the respective Action Plan (2020-2021) were established and submitted to the government for approval. It encompasses guidelines for more articulated governmental and non-governmental action in favor of children. Considering that CV has positioned on KRC – 5 – Violence Against Children it was possible to mobilize 100,000 USD – through UNICEF thematic fund (for the year 2019 and 2020) to implement a case management and information system that can identify children victims, support and ensure that essential services are provide to them. More, the CP programme carried out several capacity building for different stakeholders to face the challenges already identified in this sector. For instance: a) a training program was done for more than 40 public prosecutors and judges and other child protection professional to better use the Statute on Child and Adolescents and other legal instruments; b) a training program was done for more than 35 media professionals on the journalistic treatment of children's rights in the media; c) a training program was done for 45 professionals (psychologist and social workers) on forensic psychology that work on the prevention and fight against Sexual Violence. The International Council Adoption (CAI) attended an International Conference on the Hague Conventions (1980, 1993 and 1996), 2 and 3 April 2019 - South Africa, once the country has been making efforts to ratify those convention. A training program was done for the inter-ministerial focal point on the statistical package STATA (statistical modelling) for better use of child sectorial data. In a joint initiative of the National Assembly in partnership with ICCA and UNICEF, a Legal Framework on sexual crime is under way to prepare a specific Law

proposal on Sexual Abuse and Exploitation to fill the gaps already identified in the Penal Code (a national atelier was done) and it's expected to be approved in 2020 in the parliament. The Government (Ministry of Family/ICCA), UNICEF and SOS Village held an International Forum on the Alternative care of Children an Adolescent aimed to build a new culture of child and adolescent care system. The CP program mobilized important expertise from WCARO (a CP specialist to support the country in the ongoing process of developing of the case management and information system. Several sectorial meetings were done and an atelier/workshop with the key stakeholders - health, Education, Protection NGO's, Justice, International Council Adoption related to the SOP on Case Management). Likewise, a mission from the head quarter (CP Specialist) came to support the country in the identification of strategies that could contribute to prevent violence against children with focus on sexual violence and violence in school (it was an opportunity to strengthen the Education and Protection staff capacities). The mission allowed us to identify the possibility to the country endorse the save to learn global initiative which has being discussed with the Ministry of Education. UNICEF and partners Celebrated the WCD and the 30.^o CRC through a Juvenile Parliament that counted with more than 80 juvenile deputies at national level (18-20 november). At the end, a letter of recommendations was elaborated by the juvenile deputies that contains the main challenges and proposal solutions for this sector.

Goal Area 4 - Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

Within UNICEF's activities, due to insufficient funds it was not possible to develop an integrated project document on Climate Resilience-WASH - Risk and Disaster Reduction. However, some data from the CLAC - Study of Children's Vulnerability for Climate Change in Cape Verde was updated in Portuguese and the production of communication material was prepared for its broad dissemination.

Goal Area 5 - Every child has an equitable chance in life

With support from UNICEF, Cape Verde's social protection system is better prepared to respond to the new paradigm of managing public social policies at the level of the safety net (non-contributory social protection) so that it is more responsive and closer to the people - Municipalization of services. The work developed by UNICEF during 2019 has made it possible:

- To evaluate the "Process of Transfer of Resources, Management and Implementation of Public Policies for Social Inclusion in the 22 Municipalities, in the period from 2017 to 2018" more commonly referred to as the process of Municipalization.

The objective of the evaluation was to analyze the progress and sustainability of results, considering the transfer of competencies, strengthening and institutional ownership of this process of change by institutional actors. In summary, the evaluation concluded that several results were achieved, including greater efficiency in responding to the demands of the programme's direct beneficiaries, greater rigor in terms of monitoring/evaluation and compliance with deadlines, an increase in the number of families benefited by improvements in social housing, support for access to health services, an increase in family income through the RSI (Social Inclusion Income), thus contributing to an effective improvement in the social inclusion process in several municipalities in the country.

- To hold the II National Symposium on Family and Social Inclusion which was a moment of reflection with the social partners about the new vision of social inclusion policies based on the valorization of human capital and the sustainable development agenda. It was also a time to strengthen the skills to use the Single Social Registry in the analysis and diagnosis of the territorial social situation and to focus on the poorest and most vulnerable population as priority segments of social protection policy attention at the safety net level.

Based on the work developed around the Single Social Registry during the event, the management of social programmes, specifically the Social Inclusion Income Programme (CASH TRANSFER), was analyzed as a new social benefit at the safety net level.

- The technical and financial support of UNICEF in the implementation of five offices for the full monitoring of families benefited by the Social Inclusion Income (Cash Transfer) in the municipalities of Tarrafal de Santiago, Tarrafal de São Nicolau, Santa Catarina do Fogo, Maio and São Miguel, which improved the local monitoring of people covered by police and social protection measures.

The technical capacities of the social protection sector actors in the monitoring and evaluation of social programmes were strengthened, as well as the strengthening of municipal teams in the use of the family monitoring manual. In addition, the Handbook on Decentralized Management and Transfer of the Social Inclusion Project grants was prepared and socialized, with the aim of establishing the basic parameters and operational rules for the decentralization of the project components, the implementation of which is the responsibility of the Municipal Councils, namely the extension of the Single Social Registry and the monitoring of the households benefiting from the Social Inclusion Income.

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The II National Meeting of Coordinators of the Single Social Registry (SSR) should be highlighted as a space for reflection and evaluation of the process of institutionalization of the Social Registry in municipal services and the improvement of operational conditions to ensure that the target is met: to register the total poor population in Cape Verde by March 2020. It brought together around 21 participants (municipal SSR coordinators, social area councilors).

The meeting made it possible: to evaluate the 2019 registration process; to analyze the quality of data and propose improvements in the registration process; to identify the management practices of the municipalities of S. Miguel; São Vicente, S. Domingos, Praia and S. Filipe do Fogo; Strengthen skills in the processes of: updating data, use of management platform; Know the management process of social programs integrated in the SSR: Housing Realignment of Boavista; Social tariff of energy in S. Vicente; Social Income Inclusion; Plan the work of updating/correcting data and survey of priority population

The primer on the regulation of the fundamental right of people with disabilities was prepared. The primer is intended not only to help us get to know the public policies for social inclusion adopted by the Government of Cape Verde, but also to point out the main services and support available for people with disabilities, since it is through knowledge that we can demand and defend our rights when they are not fulfilled.

In the context of Governance Portfolio, and in joint activities supported by UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA, the following results were achieved. The technical capacities of 120 national statistical system professionals was reinforced (50 men and 70 women) in data production, data collection and analysis methodologies, as well as in the use of the application for data collection and are now able to provide better quality data to support evidence-based decisions and define indicators to enable the implementation of National Development Plan (PEDS) and the SDG's.

Also, with the joint efforts of UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA, reports were prepared on PEDS and SDGs. Involving the public and private sectors and civil society in the achievements of the SDG's in 2019, the following results should be considered: organized the capacity building workshop for development financing with the participation of all national financial institutions and the most important sources of financing were clarified, namely climate funds, possibilities of issuing green and blue bonds, mixed financing, SWAPS, among other financing sources; the ICT platform for M&E; The system developed to strengthen evidence-based planning from a cyclical perspective; the technical staff in the National Planning Directorate, the General Directorate of Administration and Planning in the line Ministries and the 35 programme managers trained in monitoring and evaluation for the correct implementation of policies to ensure the implementation of the PEDS and the SDG.

In September 2019, the Government of Cabo Verde volunteered to become part of the first cohort of 18 countries to roll-out an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) to help achieve the SDGs. In order to deliver integrated support: an inter-agency team of 9 agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, FAO, UNODC, UN Women, UNCTAD, the World Bank and the European Union) came to the country from 28 October to 8 November 2019, with direct support from the UN RC Office, the UNDP/UNICEF/UNFPA Joint Office, and the broader UNCT in Cabo Verde. The MAPS-INFF mission has developed a draft SDG Roadmap to be validated by the Government containing a series of practical recommendations and a 2020 Action Plan with a detailed timeline. The Action Plan is expected to become a Compact between the Government and development partners, including the UN, the EU, the World Bank and others. Through consultations with Government and stakeholders, the following accelerators have been prioritized: (1) Human capital development; (2) Harnessing the full potential of the blue economy through the sustainable use and conservation of marine biodiversity; (3) affordable renewable energy; (4) digital economy; and (5) Value added of the tourism industry. The acceleration potential of the identified accelerators will be further assessed through the application of quantitative methods, whereas data is available.

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Lessons Learned and Innovations

In the field of education

Regular consultations with national partners have resulted in greater agreement and commitment to achieve goals and implement planned activities. Approximately 90% of the work plan activities were successfully completed.

- Ongoing dialogue with national partners has helped to overcome many constraints related to administrative processes.
- UNICEF, through its cooperation and technical assistance work has continued to act as a partner and coordinating agency for the Global Partnership for Education, enabling the country to replicate funding (US\$1,100,000) for the programme Strengthening Quality Education, Inclusion and Reduction of Disparities.
- The programme approach has allowed for synergies between the thematic portfolios

In the field of health

The close technical cooperation relationship between national partners and UNICEF Cabo Verde has made it possible to integrate the strategic areas that contribute to child and adolescent health, having these areas integrated into strategic, central and decentralized planning, allowing for permanent monitoring of interventions in the country's 22 municipalities.

Coordination efforts between UNICEF and other United Nations agencies, particularly UNFPA and WHO, have contributed to robust technical collaboration in the country with regard to monitoring through the strengthened Health Information System (HIS), evaluation and programme planning aimed at strengthening the quality of the national response in the area of child health. Likewise, intersectoral coordination between health, education, food security and UNICEF in the areas of mother and child health, immunization and nutrition has contributed to the achievement of important results in terms of availability and access to integrated services, the institutional delivery rate of 93 per cent and infant mortality of 16‰ (2018).

Partnership and resource mobilization efforts have increased the stakeholder group with the participation of the private sector and civil society organizations (Cabo Verde Red Cross and the NGO VERDEFAM) in child and maternal nutrition interventions.

The promotion of South-South and Triangular Cooperation has enabled technical exchanges between the Cabo Verde and CPLP countries and Brazil by allowing the identification of knowledge-sharing mechanisms aimed at strengthening the quality of services, particularly in the area of mother and child health.

In the field of child protection

Approximately 100% of the Annual Work Plan Activities were successfully completed and 96-98% delivery achieved. The frequent contacts with the national partners successfully contributed for the achievement of the results of the programme.

The 2 Mission to Cabo Verde allowed the CP Specialist to strengthen the contact and technical assistance with the WCARO and Head Quarter CP team;

The joint office has allowed us to better integrate actions in favor of children (health, education, and environment portfolio).

In the field of child poverty

Regarding this thematic, it should be highlighted the II National Meeting of Coordinators of the Single Social Registry (SSR) as a space for reflection and evaluation of the process of institutionalization of the Social Registry in municipal services and the improvement of operational conditions to ensure that the target is met: to register the total poor population in Cape Verde by March 2020. It brought together around 21 participants (municipal SSR coordinators, social area councilors).

Also, the INFF-MAPS mission was an important gain to the country, aiming to define acceleration mechanisms for the implementation of the SDG's.