Economic Context and Background
Throughout the last decades, Cape Verde has gone through a process of economic and social transition that culminated in its graduation from the status of LDC in 2008. Cape Verde’s economy grew on average at around six percent in real terms in the last decade ending in 2010 despite the sharp decline in domestic growth in 2008 and especially in 2009 as a result of the global economic and financial crisis of 2007 and 2008. Estimates based on recent IMF data also points to the remarkable improvement in growth volatility in the last decade; indeed, the 10-year period starting in 2000 saw a decline in growth volatility of around sixty percent of the levels observed in the 1990s. The latest government programme (2011) also emphasizes important gains toward poverty reduction in the last decade that resulted from the combination of a strong and less volatile economic growth and targeted policy interventions. Poverty rate in Cape Verde reached close to 27 percent in 2007 compared to 37 percent in 2001, which indicates that growth has helped lifting, at least, some groups of people out of poverty.

Despite the overall positive developments in Cape Verde in the last decade, there are a series of challenges that remain and that could risk the country’s ability to continue to expand at a sustainable pace and to further advance in reducing the number of people living in poverty. Among the main social challenges are the ability of the economy to generate new and decent jobs and the disparities between specific groups, sectors, and geographic regions.

Cape Verde is currently in the process of reforming its national social protection framework as part of the country’s efforts to build a more inclusive strategy for economic growth. As requested by the government, the UNDP will, in close collaboration with UNICEF and ILO, aid the country throughout this process of redesigning its social protection framework.

Preliminary analysis on the supply side of the current social protection framework indicates the existence of a highly fragmented system in terms of programs and objectives, as well as a large number of implementing actors and a low level of coordination between these actors. Moreover, the many different interventions that currently comprise the social protection framework are not part of a clearly defined national strategy for social protection or for unlocking economic growth. There is also a significant gap in understanding systematically the demand for social protection programs. Finally, there is little information on vulnerabilities and on factors that exacerbate the risks associated with the intergenerational transmission of poverty. As a result, there is likely room for improving how the existing social protection framework addresses the country’s main socio-economic vulnerabilities and risks in a systematic way.
The current research proposal is part of an overall UNDP effort to inform policy making by supporting in-depth research that will inform the reform process in its early stages. In particular, this proposal seeks to identify the main risks of poverty traps and vulnerabilities associated with different stages of the lifecycle of an individual or a household. According to Cain, strategies of social protection that address vulnerabilities across the lifecycle amplify the transformative potential of social protection because they have the potential of generating a cascade of outcomes that mutually reinforce one another. Conversely, the cumulative impact of discrimination, risk, vulnerability, and exclusion during an individual’s or a household’s lifecycle can reinforce poverty cycles. For instance, poor maternal and early nutrition has been associated with stunted growth and other life-long health impacts for the next generation; in addition, early pregnancy among poor women can exacerbate the risks associated with poor maternal and early nutrition because of the additional burden an early pregnancy can impose on the ability of a young woman to properly care for herself and her newborn.

**Objective**

The study aims at

1. Mapping vulnerabilities or sources of social exclusion at different stages in the lifecycle in Cape Verde;
2. Identifying mismatches between the demand and the supply of social protection mechanisms in Cape Verde;
3. Designing an instrument for defining priorities of social protections that are tightly linked to the dynamics of the demographic profile of the population of Cape Verde.

In terms of empirical results, the study expects to identify key vulnerable groups in Cape Verde and the major risks they face that constitute sources of vulnerability leading to chronic poverty. It is also expected that by mapping key vulnerabilities, the study will be able to identify weaknesses and shortfalls in the existing social protection framework.

The results will be presented in a final report that will include a diagram representing a mapping of the main vulnerabilities faced by individuals and households, their implications and the possible lifecycle outcomes.

**Methodology**

We propose that the study adopts a “lifecycle” approach to systematically identify risks associated with social exclusion, a methodology that has been developed by World Bank practitioners (see Hoogeveen, Tesliuk, and Vakis) and is proposed in Cain. This approach recognizes that risk, vulnerabilities, and

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exclusion across an individual’s life can have cumulative negative effects that can be transmitted across generations and may result in chronic poverty. Changes in the level of risks and vulnerabilities at important stages of an individual’s life can mark an important shift from one lifecycle to another (Cain; Bonilla and Gruat). A social protection framework that has the potential to decrease the likelihood of well-known negative shifts in the lifecycle would have a higher likelihood of successfully tackling chronic poverty. In the long-term, a social framework based on a lifecycle approach has the potential to decrease the overall costs associated with social protection because such a framework would have a higher ability to (1) capitalize on the positive gains of successive social protection initiatives that strengthen one another and (2) to decrease the likelihood of shifts to lifecycles leading to chronic poverty.

Different aspects of the study should be based on different methodologies. A first component will comprise an extensive literature review to construct a set of well-known lifecycle vulnerabilities and identify more clearly key vulnerable groups in Cape Verde. A second component will be an analysis of national data; this will complement the literature review to identify social exclusions along the lifecycle in Cape Verde and to construct a demographic profile for the national context.

Considered that data is limited, small scale surveys may be conducted to complement existing information on the major triggers of chronic poverty for specific groups in Cape Verde. In addition to these two components, the study seeks to develop a diagram designed to present a systematic view of the key risks during the lifecycle and their chain of impacts. In combination with the demographic profile of the country, this diagram is expected to provide a mechanism for evaluating social protection initiatives and guide the reform process of Cape Verde’s social protection framework.

**Key Tasks**

1. **Outline of the Study** in close collaboration with the economics adviser with the UN Joint Office in Cape Verde;
2. Literature review, data analysis, and definition of indicators; goal: mapping of risks and vulnerabilities;
3. Conduction of small scale surveys to complement existing information;
4. Updating of an existing 2011 matrix that compiles social protection policies in Cape Verde and other informal and private arrangements that protect vulnerable groups;
5. Analysis of the current social protection framework with the inputs from (2) and (3);
6. Presentation of preliminary results;
7. Delivery of the first complete draft of the study to be shared and discussed with national partners;
8. Final task includes the revision of the study in response to comments and suggestions and the delivery of the final version of the study. A version of the study shall be submitted for publication in a policy journal.

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The study should include a maximum of 30 pages, an executive summary, appendices with charts, tables, and a thorough description of the data. The economics adviser with the UN Joint Office in Cape Verde will be supervising and co-authoring the study and the paper for submission.

**Length of the Consultancy**
The consultancy includes 45 business days during a period of 2 months and should include one visit to the field (Praia, Cape Verde). A detailed outline must be presented by December 14, 2012. Draft 1 of the report is expected to be completed by January 15, 2013. Final report and paper for submission is expected to be concluded by February 15, 2013.

**Products and Payment of Fees**
Deliverables: Detailed outline of the study and the definition of the research methodology; data collected; survey design, conducted, and results presented (when applicable); one draft, a final version of the study, and a version for submission to a journal.

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<th>Proposed Deadline</th>
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<td>Draft 1</td>
<td>15 January 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Draft and version for Submission</td>
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15% of the fee will be paid upon the signing of the contract.

**Qualifications**
Preference will be given to candidates who have a:

- A Master or, preferably, a PhD in economics or a related discipline, and experience with research design and analysis;
- Minimum of 5 years of research experience in economics or related discipline. Experience with vulnerability analysis as described in the terms of reference is desired;
- Excellent capacity for economic analysis and data organization, with proven previous experience in quantitative and qualitative analysis;
- The ideal candidate has working knowledge of Portuguese and fluency in English;
- Excellent interpersonal, oral and written communication skills including the ability to give clear and concise presentations of complex material to a non-academic audience.

**Guidelines for Submission of a Proposal**
Electronic applications must be submitted by 6 December 2012 until 16H00 Cape Verde time to procurement.cv@cv.jo.un.org and should include:
1. A cover letter (in English or Portuguese) explaining the candidate (or lead author) interests and skills;
2. A copy of the resume CV and P11 form (attached);
3. A proposed outline of the study (in English or Portuguese) of a maximum of 3 pages, which should include a calendar of activities and a budget proposal;
4. Sample of previous analytical work (in English, Portuguese, or French);
5. Offeror’s Letter to UNDP confirming interest and availability for the individual contractor (attached)

Please write “Application for Consultancy: Study on Vulnerabilities across Lifecycle in Cape Verde” in the subject line of the email.

Proposals must include all five set of requested documents above. Proposals not meeting this requirement will not be considered.

Criteria for Evaluation of the Proposal

Individual consultants will be evaluated based on the following methodologies:

* Technical Criteria weight; [70%]
* Financial Criteria weight; [30%]

Only candidates obtaining a minimum of 70% point would be considered for the Financial Evaluation

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Approving Manager

Narjess Saidane, DRR