

# **2015 CABO VERDE Annual UN Country Results Report**

March 2016

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## Foreword

The political situation in the country remained stable in 2015, even as the country started preparations for the elections scheduled for 2016, ie the presidential, legislative and municipal elections. Leading up to the elections the political ambiance and debate became increasingly politicized and divisive, particularly considering the high stakes for the two main parties; Partido Africano para a Independência de Cabo Verde (PAICV) in its third mandate and Movimento para a Democracia (MpD) in opposition during three consecutive mandates. The National Election Board (CNE) was appointed by the Parliament and a Constitutional Court was for the first time established. In addition, the country, with support from the international community, including the UN, undertook revision of electoral files, conducted civil education campaigns and media training.

Legislative elections were held as planned on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016. As per the results, Cabo Verde kept up its tradition of peaceful and credible elections, without major incidents or serious violence reported<sup>1</sup>, and which this time led to alternation of power. According to preliminary results, and the opposition party, MpD, gained absolute majority. Abstention rate however was around 34%, almost 15% higher than in the 2011 legislative elections (23%). While, final results will be announced by the CNE shortly, the country is preparing for the presidential and municipal elections, primarily held by MpD, planned for between September-November. . There are no signs that indicate any increased risk for political violence and there are all the reasons for the international community to congratulate Cabo Verde on these results, encourage the continued tradition of calm and peaceful elections and calling the population to use their civic rights and obligations to vote. The United Nations are already in contact with future government to continue to support strengthening the democratic tradition and its institutions, the election process as well as civic engagement. .

In economic terms, 2015 continued to see a decreasing GDP (falling between 1-1.5% over the last three years) while the high level of debt led to double-digit budget deficits, with public debt estimated at 120% of the GDP by end 2015. This situation has some extent been provoked by the end of the transitional period following the LDC graduation, which led to reduced access to development assistance funds and concessional loans. Other constraining factors is the very limited productive and fiscal base (typical to SIDS) combined with recession in partner countries such as Portugal and other EU member states. As a result, unemployment among youth remained at around 36 %, i.e. almost double the national average of 16% with majority of employees working without a formal contract (59%). The weakness in the organization of the employment sector, with its significant gender related dimensions, is identified as one factor, which impedes the productive sector to create more sustainable, decent jobs. Together with Luxemburg, a UN joint programme has produced strategic results on eg informal sector as well as for the strategic tourist sector. A follow up programme is being developed and approved at this time of writing this report.

Related to this is the significant imbalance that exists between the education and employment sector, starting from early childhood education, primary/secondary education, university and professional training. As a result of a partnership between the government, the Global Partnership for Education and the UN, a new education policy was developed and approved in the Council of Ministers end 2015 and which can effectively address these imbalances as well as the current significant drop out rates between primary and secondary education.

Another strategic policy document was realized with support of the UN, namely the adoption of the Charter in favor of Blue Growth by the Council of Ministers in November 2015, expected to leverage the significant potential impact of the Blue Economy on FDI, job creation as well as sustainable development overall.

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<sup>1</sup> Some 20 observers from the African Union were invited to accompany the elections and they too could confirm that the election process was peaceful, credible and transparent.

The reconstruction efforts following the Fogo volcano eruption end 2014 continued and a post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) was developed with support from the UN System, EU and the World Bank and calculated the economic impact to US\$ 28 million and needs for recovery to a total of US\$ 34 million. This led the Government to take fiscal dispositions to establish a fund to support the displaced populations yet international funding/investment for the recovery continued slow albeit with support from EU, and from AfDB in the pipeline. Disaster risk reduction capacity building actions are ongoing with support from UN and funded by Luxembourg and JICA.

During 2015, the UNCT has been very successful in benefiting from the Delivering Results Together Fund and would like to thank donors for providing this unique opportunity for a small team, in a small MIC, to strengthen the operationalization of the Delivering as One (DaO), integration and impact of its mandates. In Cabo Verde, Spain maintains its development cooperation, and continuing partnership with the UN.

South South Cooperation is increasingly considered strategic, with Cabo Verde both benefitting and sharing its solid development experiences. Brazil is proving one significant partner in this and with support from UN, options for a new social protection programme were developed using the Brazilian experience. Other example is capacity building for public administration. Funded by the EU, the regional UN programme based in Cabo Verde uses SSC as methodology to reach results on strengthening economic governance and oversight capacity of supreme oversight institutions in PALOP countries.

It is difficult to end this foreword, without commending Cabo Verde for its results on the MDGs and for immediately embracing the new Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. It is safe to say that most of the MDGs were achieved with highlights on poverty reduction, education and health and that it is at large based on strong government leadership, governance practices and historic cooperation with development partners, in particular the UN, who together with the country celebrated its 40 year anniversary during 2015. The SDGs were embraced and strategic efforts are already underway to see them embedded in national plans and strategies. Another global priority was prioritized at the highest level, the COP 21 in Paris, preparing for which the UN supported a high level dialogue with international community.

Finally, I, on behalf of the UNCT, wish to thank the international community present in Cabo Verde for excellent cooperation in terms of joint advocacy efforts, new partnerships and solidarity. One example was the presence of the entire diplomatic community as a show of support at the event to join forces to end violence against women, organized at the UN House with the presence of the President of the Republic in commemorating the Orange Campaign.

## Executive Summary

- ❖ Among the first countries in its region to embark on the SDGs' mainstreaming process, Cabo Verde embraced the post-2015 agenda as a pioneer country, with significant buy-in observed around the SDG's adaptation, ownership and "localizing" efforts. The country has committed to the integration of the new development agenda into policies and programmes, providing thus the UN System with a unique opportunity to push for an innovative integrated action together with line ministries and policy making bodies, view a view to strengthen and align national planning efforts, as well as sectoral strategies and policies.
- ❖ Aiming at creating the conditions for a strategic discussion around the new Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, the UNCT with technical leadership from UNDP has supported the organization of four major events: a) The International Conference on "SDGs in SIDSs and MICs: a perspective from Africa" (June 2015) and which resulted in the formal "Praia Outcome Statement", reaffirming the specific needs of SIDS in the context of the SDGs and highlighting the importance of building national ownership, integrating the SDGs into national development plans and strategies, and facilitating innovative financing for development and knowledge exchange through South-South and Triangular Cooperation; b) A dialogue among municipalities and other local actors around their role in implementing the SDGs took place in Praia in October, resulting in an increased awareness of the need to "localize" the SDGs, building on the lesson learned of the implementation of the MDGs and as a strategy to decentralize action and develop new partnerships to create sustainable results at the local level; c) a national workshop on "SDGs Prioritization, Mainstreaming and Financing in Cabo Verde" (Dec. 2015) helped develop the links between national planning instruments and sustainable development, and prepare line ministries and other stakeholders to develop common integrated long-term planning objectives and d) a national dialogue with NGO's and Civil Society Organizations around their role in implementing the SDGs (Jan. 2016).
- ❖ Follow up to the National Transformation Forum supported by the UN in 2014 allowed strategic advances in area of demographic dynamics to better understand and prepare for its implications particularly as concerns youth, employment and social protection. Another main priority has been the preparation of a white paper on education in partnership with the Global Partnership for Education and which was approved by the council of ministers end 2015. The MAF resulted in monitoring and acceleration of MDG achievements particularly on maternal and infant mortality and gender. UN Advocacy and visibility of human rights strengthened throughout the year including support to visit of the special rapporteur, government human rights reporting requirements (reports published on migrants and torture) and a major study on persons with disabilities, advocacy on sexual and reproductive rights and health, launch of the Orange Campaign (GBV) and a one year Free & Equal Campaign to strengthen fight against violence and discrimination against women, children and members of LGBT community.
- ❖ Following the Early recovery action plan completed after the Fogo emergency and as part the post-disaster needs assessment later approved by the council of ministers, central and local actors were trained on the PDNA methodology during a series of workshops held with the WB and EU. Additional funding from the EU, AfDB, and from Germany are in the pipeline. UN Support allowed the establishment of a disaster observatory, to facilitate the analysis of historical data around disaster risks in Cabo Verde, and localized vulnerability studies on volcanic and seismic risks in Fogo and Brava Islands. Urban vulnerability assessments developed in 2015, allowing local stakeholders to scale up and replicating as of 2016. Governmental participation in the Sendai Conference was also ensured and leveraged to advocate for enhanced priority to DRR. As a result, establishment of long-term partnership with a foreign university under preparation to ensure nation-wide vulnerability assessment and disaster mapping using hazard mapping already completed in 2014. The approval by the Council of Ministers of key protected areas management tools also represents a significant change in the protection of marine and terrestrial resources and biodiversity, crucial for the country for which tourism is one of the key drivers of sustainable economic growth.

- ❖ Coordination mechanisms at the UN have been strengthened through individual pillar group meetings, mid-term review meetings with national counterparts and the revision of all thematic working groups. A breakthrough was achieved with nomination of national leaders and co-leaders for the four pillar/results groups something which improved significantly national ownership and quality of the intended integrated programme planning and implementation. While the high level of turnover above all in the ministry of foreign affairs (MIREX) slowed down and delayed the formal agreement to establish the DPG, critical agreements were achieved in establishing a high level overall development coordination mechanism under joint UN-Government leadership. In addition, DPG ad-hoc meetings continued in 2015, with special emphasis on the SDGs' roll-out, the preparation of the next PRSP and planning cycle.
- ❖ The efforts of UN joint resource mobilization resulted in successful applications to the 2014 & 2015 DRT-Fund. It also helped UN teams to strengthen joint planning, coordination and implementation which in turn facilitated government ownership. An internal Task Force composed of the UNDP-UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Office, ILO, UNIDO, UN-Habitat and the RCO was created to provide strategic guidance and support the implementation of the new resource mobilization strategy. Hence, recommendations and materials was produced by the Task Force, along with a comprehensive PRMS roadmap and engagement of the government and international development partners. With the finalized recruitment of a PRMS coordinator place within the RC Office, the implementation of the PRM Strategy will continue in 2016. Training on results orientation and M&E facilitates achievement of results and resource mobilization.
- ❖ Full participation of NRAs in the UNDAF Annual Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation and Reporting exercises throughout the year. Strong NRAs' engagement in the DRT-related activities (implementation of funds in 2015 and development of a funding proposal/joint planning for the funds to be disbursed in 2016), including through joint programming initiatives. Continued NRA's involvement in UNCT meetings, activities, events and advocacy campaigns throughout 2015, but also as active members or co-chairs of UNCT Thematic Working Groups. Bilateral meeting between NRAs and UN RC continued during 2016.
- ❖ Given the particular characteristics of Cabo Verde as a SIDS, geographic considerations have proven crucial in the planning phase throughout past UNDAF preparation experiences. In this regard, and also considering the decentralized nature of the country, development partners expressed their interest in aligning priorities through a more "localized" integrated planning approach along with monitoring efforts based on disaggregated data. These opportunities will be further looked into in 2016 through the activities of the government-chaired Development Partners Group. The ambition would not only focus at joint UN-government planning level, but also integrate the international development partners in the process, given the particular planning momentum created by the concomitant nature of cycles with a number of partners (and at first the EU and the World Bank). Strong buy-in exists at the Development Partners Group level for the formalization of coordination mechanisms and the creation of an instrument allowing aid institutions to share country analyses, surveys and studies.

## Key Development Trends

We wish to highlight in this section changes in social, economic and political conditions that have impacted the implementation of the UNDAF in 2015 and forward, but also developments related to major national strategies, budget decisions, policy initiatives and legislative reforms, including those drawn from international human rights obligations/mechanisms.

### Pillar 1: Inclusive growth and poverty reduction

- ❖ Cabo Verde's Strategic Trade Development Plan (STDP) for the 2015-2020 period was approved last June. It sets up a strategy for the modernizing of the sector and integration of the country in the new regional and international context. The overall objectives of the 2015-2020 STDP are to increase the trade sector's share to 15% of the GDP and increase the coverage rate, calculated on the sum of exports and re-exports, to 65%.
- ❖ To achieve it, efforts should be put in place to pursue the following specific objectives: (a) Promote the development of production and competitiveness of domestic goods and services, especially with regards to fisheries and agricultural products such as coffee, sugar cane and local fruits, but also the manufacturing of ECOWAS raw material, and tourism services. The objective is to double the value of the contribution of the manufacturing, food and beverage industries sub-sectors in the GDP; (b) promote the improvement of internal distribution and increased purchase of locally-produced fresh fruits, vegetables, meat and fish by touristic resorts and medium-sized hotels. The goal is for 30% of this production to be directed to touristic accommodation establishments; (c) Stimulate trading, leasing, storage, bunkering to achieve a 15% average annual growth in exports and re-exports of goods; (d) Encourage the discovery of new supply markets, reduce intermediation, promote economies of scale, improve import management and encourage joint purchases, to diversify the import market and reduce the current share of Cabo Verde's top 5 suppliers from 71.3% to 60%; (e) Promote and encourage the internationalization of activities by national companies in the service and industry sectors where Cabo Verde has important potentials, particularly with regards to ICT, international trade, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals and the construction sector.
- ❖ The objective is to have, on average, one new Cabo Verdean company operating in the international market, per year, and increase the business volume generated abroad by subsidiaries of national companies, which is currently insignificant, to 15% of total national goods exports. Following the approval of the STDP, the Government organized, in November 2015, the first National Trade Forum with the objective of creating a dialogue platform for the alignment of the economic development agenda between the Public and Private Sectors. During the Forum, the National Trade Council was created to act as a permanent enabling structure for formulating and coordinating Cabo Verde's trade policy. The Council is chaired by the Minister of Trade and the High-Council of the Chambers of Commerce.
- ❖ Value chains' studies related to Quality Management in Post-Harvest and training with Producers' Associations highlighted that the private sector is revealing increasingly active, recording increasing investment in the agricultural sector. Domestic producers' demand for job creation in the preservation and treatment of post-harvest products, aimed at placing quality products on the market, is growing and tourism markets begin to be specifically targeted by a number of national producers.
- ❖ With the adoption of the Charter in favor of Blue Growth through a Council of Ministers' resolution (112/2015, 25 November 2015), several initiatives have been taken to give greater impetus and visibility to the Blue Economy in Cabo Verde. Partnerships are being sought to continue to identify reform needs and potential investment for the sector, as for example the recent request of the Government for technical and financial support from the African Development Bank.

### Pillar 2: Consolidation of institutions, democracy and citizenship

- ❖ As a result of strengthened production, dissemination and analysis of gender inequality data, commitment of international and national partners to mainstream these results throughout their planning exercises rose, with positive effects in terms of resource mobilization and partners' willingness to support women's empowerment, as well as to analyze the differentiated impact of the policy measures on men and women.
- ❖ For the first time in the country, and as a part of the preparations for the legislative, local and presidential elections, women belonging to the various political parties constitute themselves as a non-partisan, multi-party coalition gathered to promote a national awareness-raising process alongside electors and party leaders in order to increase the access of women to prominent political positions, as well as gender equality mainstreaming as a specific item in the electoral program's agenda.
- ❖ The finalization of the 2015-2016 Agricultural Census is expected to bring fundamental analytical instruments which will increase knowledge about the role of the agricultural sector in the economic and social development of Cape Verde. Indeed little is known, to date, about the actual contribution of this sector to the GDP and general consensus is that this contribution could be underestimated. From now on, data collected from this census will serve as an instrument to guide policies towards a more adequate intervention.
- ❖ With the creation and implementation of pilot projects regarding school nutrition (which include aspects such as procurement of local products, hygiene and food quality, capacitation of the educational community, modernization of schools equipment, production of laws and norms that regulate school nutrition and mobilization of different national stakeholders including the private sector), the technical and legal conditions for the gradual implementation of a national program on school health and nutrition in Cabo Verde are being established. With this new program, substantial improvement has been introduced regarding the quality of available food. The appropriation by government authorities and other partners of this new school nutrition model represents the guarantee of its sustainability.
- ❖ Planning and leadership capacity of the national health system has been upgraded at primary care level. Important strategies were developed e.g. the Human Resources Plan for Health Development and the National Essential Medicine List. Manuals of technical guidelines for diabetes mellitus and for oncologic diseases were developed and implemented in local health structures. A forum on alcohol consumption consequences was organized in order to establish a multisector platform to fight against this major health risk factor.

### **Pillar 3: Reduction of disparities and inequalities**

- ❖ Cabo Verde achieved the Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5. The mortality rate of children under 5 decreased by 60% between 1990 and 2014 (from 56 per 1000 to 22.5 per 1000 livebirths) and the maternal mortality rate went down from 79 to 9.4 per 100,000 livebirths over the same period. At the same time, 95.6% of births were assisted by a health professional in 2014 and the measles immunization coverage reached 96.7% in 2011 against 79.8% in 1998; but perinatal causes remain responsible for 65.9% of infant mortality. On MDG 6, substantial progress has also been made over the last decades: HIV mother-to-child transmission rate decreased from 5.6% in 2011 to 2.9% in 2013; 56% of HIV-affected people had access to antiretroviral in 2014 against 39% in 2010; malaria cases are in pre-elimination phase (under 1 per 100,000) and tuberculosis treatment success rate is above the 85% rate recommended by WHO (90.5% in 2014).
- ❖ The National Health Policy (2007) reaffirmed the principles of equity, solidarity and universality in the development of the national health system and the provision of services. The UN is aiming to reinforce capacities and policy dialogue in order to finalize and implement the national health financing strategy, through national priority programs to improve quality and to attain universal coverage of the entire population. A decentralized approach has been chosen, with the development of local health services and an emphasis on human rights and gender-based approaches, partnership building and civil society's inclusion.

- ❖ With the publication of Law-Decree nº 8/2014 (January 27, 2015), elaborated using a participatory methodology supported by the UN and which allowed ideas and suggestions to be gathered from justice, health, education, labor, social reintegration and prosecuting authority professionals, the country consolidated the normative conditions necessary for the full implementation of the special Gender-Based Violence law adopted in January 2011. This important step, whose approval has been the result of a long technical assistance and advocacy process, provides a legal framework for the adoption of law implementation measures and other key achievements such as the creation of the Victim Support Fund, and guarantees the availability of resources for the financing of such measures. The regulatory law, which was elaborated with the support of the UN, makes it mandatory to create procedural manuals for the various different sectors, and reinforce the capacity of public agents regarding gender equality and GBV, as well as to set up of a monitoring system for the measures adopted. The country is now better positioned to respond to the needs of the victims of Gender-Based Violence, both in terms of services and skills available, with nearly nationwide coverage.
- ❖ So far, the government has shown commitment in developing policies to reduce the drug demand. However, improvements can be made towards enhancing the response's quality, effectiveness and cost-efficiency. In this sense, within the framework of the Integrated National Programme on Drugs and Crime (2012-2016), elaborated by the Government of Cabo Verde with UN technical assistance, an improvement in health treatment and socio-professional reintegration of drug addicts has been targeted through promoting a continuum of evidence-based and ethical drug dependence treatment and care services in the community, using the one-stop-shop model which has proven low cost for the provider and more accessible for the patient.
- ❖ A wider and deeper debate on decentralization and regionalization was initiated in the year 2015 with strong civil society participation. The aim of the discussion is to strengthen the dialogue on territorial management and the State reform to enhance local development potentials. The UN's contribution aims at further promoting this debate on decentralization and deepen the institutional relationship between the central and local governments. As an example, the percentage of municipal accounts submitted to the courts of auditors has increased from 80% in 2014 to 95% in 2015 thanks to modular structuring of SIM and trainings in budgeting and budget management.

#### **Pillar 4: Environmental sustainability and adaptation to climate change**

- ❖ The Fogo Volcano eruption started in late November 2014 and ceased on February 7, 2015, after 88 days of emitting large quantities of magma. The 2014-15 eruption left a trail of devastation, displacing 994 people whose houses were covered by lava and destroying agricultural land, the winery facility and the livelihood of the affected communities. The adverse effects on the livelihoods of the population of Chã das Caldeiras and the economy were significant. According to the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), the total economic cost (physical damages and production losses) has been estimated at US\$28 million. Of this amount, 76 per cent refers to the value of destroyed assets and 24 per cent to changes in production flows of goods and services. The estimated value of damage of assets and disruption of production flows is equivalent to about 2 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), which indicates that the impact of the disaster on the national economy would be of limited relevance, as discussed later. The most affected sectors have been agriculture (in terms of damage and production losses), housing and agro-processing. The total amount for the recovery process is estimated at CVE 3,411.2 million, equivalent to US\$ 34.7 million.
- ❖ Cabo Verde benefited from various emergency programs over the last years because of its apparent vulnerability. However, concerns based on the sustainability of these interventions have been redundant. In recent interventions carried out by UN agencies in 2015, three strategic orientations have been developed: i) immediate emergency interventions to solve the immediate problems of food insecurity caused by phenomena of prolonged drought and volcanic eruption; ii) implementation of activities able increase the

resilience of the affected population iii) promotion of long-term activities leading to the achievement of sustainable results. To achieve increased resilience, innovative interventions have been privileged, with an emphasis on the provision of micro-irrigation kits, animal feeding and veterinary drugs. These interventions led to the resumption of productive activities, providing sustainable income to populations able to continue to produce and ensure their own food security, even in a context of particular vulnerability to disaster.

## Results of the One Programme

This section highlights the collective progress of the UN development system towards the pillars of the UNDAF, including through the implementation joint work plans, particularly the influence of outputs delivery in achieving national targets, but also the value added of inter-agency, multi-sectorial collaboration and partnerships.

### Pillar 1: Inclusive growth and poverty reduction

- ❖ A high level Conference was organized on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Praia with the participation of partners that were already engaged in high level UN-African SIDS representatives' discussions on the issue. The main objective of the Conference was to mobilize the Cape Verdean society around this agenda and also to strategically position Cabo Verde on this matter at international level. An outcome statement was released from this conference (Praia declaration) integrating a series of recommendations that fed the final document presented at the World Summit held in New York, reflecting the positioning of the African SIDS' group on this matter. Besides, executives and technicians from all sectors including the private sector and the civil society are now able to put into practice the methodology for the integration of SDGs in the national development policies as a result of the training session organized with UN support.
- ❖ The Government of Cabo Verde was supported in 2015 in strengthening law enforcement in the area of trade facilitation for enhanced integration into the international trading system for more equitable growth. National counterparts were sensitized towards the importance of transparency on policies and adopted regulations on trade facilitation as well as the simplification of procedures to enhance the business environment, increase state revenue, ease the creation of income generating activities and property ownership, or support economic growth and equity promotion. Making the laws and regulations on trade facilitation automatized and inter-connected with the main authorities involved in trade development matters improves the transparency and accountability of policy makers. It also increases the capacity of the government, national bodies and relevant stakeholders to carry out trade negotiations internationally and elaborate business regulatory reforms in view of supporting equitable growth. With such perspective, a capacity building exercise was conducted in 15 Customs computerized offices and presentations were made to increase appropriation of methodologies on information collection and registration of the information systems. Additional group sessions allowed stakeholders to familiarize themselves with the importance of the transparency of rules and procedures to the businesses as well as the connection with the main authorities involved in trade development.
- ❖ The capacity of key actors have been strengthened in terms of designing and monitoring evidence-based policies and strategies, including the enhancement of the regulatory and administrative relevant framework, to improve the industrial and economic performance and investment for an inclusive growth. Achievements made with FAO support include the development of a Strategic Plan for Agrarian Research, a diagnosis for the Strategic Plan for Support and Rural Council, an Action Plan for the National Council for Food and Nutritional Security and the review of the Country Programme Framework.
- ❖ Recognizing the need to make gender indicators and sex disaggregated data more widely available in support of evidence-based policy formulation, UN Women has technically and financially supported the National Statistics Institute (INE) and the Cabo Verdean Institute for Gender Equality and Equity (ICIEG) in the

elaboration, editing and launching (500 copies distributed) of the periodical publication “Men and Women in Cabo Verde – 2015 Facts and Numbers.” The publication contains information on Cabo Verde’s progress on SDG 3 regarding gender equality and gender-based violence, as well as the update of gender information available on different dimensions: population, households, migrations, health, education, employment, gender-based violence, influence and power. It also highlights new trends resulting from analyses such as time use and unpaid work, family practices, security and governance (SHaSA) and child labor.

- ❖ There is a need to better study and address the issue of informal employment at the national level, considering the percentage of active population that the informal workers represent, and their contribution to the economic indicators. The advocacy work initiated during 2015 in partnership between ILO and UNDP has been aiming in this regard to contribute to the development of a national strategy in the coming years, through social dialogue. At a more technical level, the planning of the new project Employment – Employability has been finalized after the signature of the new Indicative Programme for Development from the Luxembourg (PIC IV). The Ministry of Youth, Employment and Human Resource Development has now a set of diplomas as part of the establishment of a legal framework for the regulation of professional practice in the areas of hosteling, catering and tourism. These legal qualifications will, in the near future, enable actors to establish professional cards for business relating to the above mentioned sectors and contribute to the organization of these sectors and above all, introduce discipline, rigor and competitiveness. Once the legislative package approved by Parliament, tourism facilities (hotels, restaurants and travel agencies) will be in position to only hire professionals holding the business card, on pain of being penalized.
- ❖ Regarding the improvement of the orientation of labor policies and programs, key results have been achieved with the ILO and UNDP support. The country has fundamental tools, such as the annual survey on employment, and data on the real contribution of the informal sector to the economy (special module conducted in 2015); and the outline law on employment, which will enable to improve the efficiency of employment policies and contribute to the creation of more decent jobs on a medium term. As a matter of fact, this survey allowed to assess: a) that the informal sector non-agricultural, contributes for 12 per cent of the GDP; b) that the country has 33, 228 informal units; c) that 80 per cent are located in urban areas and 20 per cent in rural areas; d) that 60 per cent of those units are managed by women; e) and that the active people in those sectors have an average of six years of schooling; iii) those data (desegregated by sex, age, area of living) underline inequities in those categories but also in employment access and job type. These information will enable the policymakers to formulate strategies and policies aiming to reduce the asymmetries and disparities between regions and focus their efforts of job creation on specific business sectors and regions with high unemployment rate.
- ❖ Considering the need to have better access to labor market information, which would enable the production of better policies, a diagnosis on a labor market information system is being developed. This study will make available to users (policymakers, universities, private and public sectors, international organizations) information, on how to build a labor market information system, where information on the labor market such as the profile of employers and employees, type of activity, monitoring system of the existing work, location (central and local) and the type of intervention of each actor, should be available. This diagnosis will help set-up a modern and comprehensive mechanisms for tracking information on the labor market. Over 300 young people (aged 20-30 years) from rural areas were trained in the management field to strengthen their skills for the creation of self-employment opportunities and 80 young people were provided a kit of equipment to be better prepared to undertake a job research or create their own business. In addition, with a view to boost the resumption of livelihoods after the Fogo volcano eruption, 20 young women from the community of Chã das Caldeiras are now assisted in creating their own companies in different fields such as tourism, catering, etc.
- ❖ A strategic trade dialogue was organized in Mindelo in November 2015 with the objective to analyze the role of trade in the context of the Cabo Verdean economy (insularity, small size of the market scale, etc.). One of the outcomes of this dialogue has been the creation of the National Council on Trade gathering together

private and public institutions. This will help to increase private sector's participation in the creation of livelihoods and sustainable jobs.

- ❖ With UNIDO support, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises have benefited from improved support services from the Agency for the Enterprise Development and Innovation (ADEI) through the creation of a Venture Capital Fund, as an alternative financial tool to facilitate the access to finance. UNIDO provided technical assistance to update the feasibility study conducted in 2012 and support the development and implementation of the investor's mobilization strategy including the creation of an investor's database. Two training sessions in Financial Analysis of Investment Project Scenarios (COMFAR III) were offered to 26 participants, including ADEI's technical staff and national consultants (Praia and Mindelo) and COMFAR adopted as feasibility tool for business investments, so as to reinforce the institutional capacities of ADEI.
- ❖ Support given to employment creation took place at various levels, targeting two main objectives: the improvement of both labor market management and the integration of youth into the labor market. The interventions were directed to different institutions and led in particular to the institutional reinforcement of the IEPF (Instituto de Emprego e Formação Profissional), its decentralized centers/support services and human resources capacity. Achievements were made through a wide range of complementary activities: from an analysis of the labor code and conflictual situations between workers and employers (and its divulgation through a radio programme) to the disclosure of REMPE ("Monotribute: a special fiscal and social security regime") among micro entrepreneurs and Micro and Small Enterprises; to the preparation of an Employability manual (3 volumes: procedures, roadmap and directory); or the elaboration of a manual entitled "Business Skills for Creative". All these activities included specific capacity building and adequate training, either to the use of the manuals or to improve training techniques on SIYB (Start and Improve your Business programme), including a coaching component.
- ❖ Besides, an important advocacy effort was initiated around Green Jobs to lay the foundations for the releasing of a green jobs agenda for the country through the promotion of decent work which included also a gender-based approach.
- ❖ The Third Phase of the West Africa Quality Program was officially launched in Cabo Verde on 20 June 2015 in presence of the Minister of Tourism, Investment and Business Development. With the technical support of UNIDO, an office was settled and staff recruited, a communication plan elaborated, journalists trained in Quality, a database of laboratories of ECOWAS region created and labs assessed to receive technical assistance. Through this program, Cabo Verde participated in the ECOSHAM (ECOWAS Standards Harmonization Model, i.e. the ECOWAS structure in charge of publication of regional standards) Technical Management Committee (TMC) meeting in Dakar (9-11 March 2015), and in the TMC & ECOWAS Ministries in charge of Quality meeting in Accra (23-24 March 2015). The project is aiming to improve the quality infrastructure, contribute to strengthen value chains and increase the competitiveness of companies by implementing market standards and technical regulations for export products, through a situational analysis, inspections and traceability schemes.
- ❖ In order to promote value chains and best production practices in agriculture, livestock and fisheries, a study on the coffee value chain was carried out with technical and financial support from FAO and agricultural areas rehabilitated with horticultural production and drip irrigation systems, benefiting to a group of women heads of household. UNIDO provided technical assistance for the value chain analysis and cluster mapping of the marine fisheries sector to provide a socio-economic assessment for a viable fishing sector fully integrated in development of hyper Sea Cluster, one of the main economic sectors defined by the Government. This technical report allowed the Government to gather information on the current status of the marine fisheries sector and to address the major constraints faced at multiple levels of the value chain (human resource capacity, value addition, market development and compliance) in order to develop an action plan for the upgrading and reinforcement of the Cluster.

- ❖ An action plan for gender mainstreaming in this sector was developed with UN Women support through a participatory approach involving public and private institutions as well as the civil society. As part of this plan, three capacity-building workshops have been organized to increase knowledge of professionals from public institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector on the inclusion of gender-based approaches in the tourism sector, as well as three other awareness-raising sessions with the Cabo Verde Hotel and Tourism School (EHTCV) and domestic and international institutions as part of the National Seminar on Green Jobs. In a same effort to mainstream gender-based approaches, a 40-hour Gender and Self-Esteem course has been introduced in the Hotels and Tourism School CV's extracurricular activities, benefiting 25 students.
- ❖ The introduction of entrepreneurship in the general and technical secondary education system as part of Cape Verde's curriculum reform has helped to create an education system that joins theoretical and practical learning, thus responding to the socio-economic needs of the country. With technical support from UNIDO, entrepreneurship teaching started in September 2014 for 9th and 12th grades, covering 12 schools in six islands and 5.863 students, including 54% of females, with a view to lay the entrepreneurial foundations for a dynamic and competitive private sector in Cape Verde.
- ❖ Fruit of an MoU between ICIEG (Cabo Verdean Institute for Gender Equality and Equity) and ADEI (Business Development and Innovation Agency) supported by the UN, business and management skills of a total of 56 female business managers and owners in areas related to agribusiness and tourism were enhanced, as well as the financing and market access capacities of 18 women producers' associations and cooperatives in the islands of Maio, Boa Vista and Santiago. This further contributes to the promotion of strategies and operational tools for women's integration into formal labor in urban and rural areas, including the implementation of investment programs for decent labor.
- ❖ In addition, two female entrepreneurs representing the AMES (The Association of Female Entrepreneurs of Santiago) were able with UN Women support to reinforce their knowledge and their business management skills by participating in the training provided as part of a partnership between UN Women and the Embassy of Israel. The strengthening of the skills of the members of the association of women entrepreneurs created the basic conditions to proceed with an in-depth profile study and map of female entrepreneurs on "Santiago: Profile and Needs", which is being concluded.

## **Pillar 2: Consolidation of institutions, democracy and citizenship**

- ❖ The dissemination of research results on Time Use and Unpaid Work at national and international level has aroused the interest of academia, making possible the involvement of national, regional and international scholars in the analysis of the information produced and the development of studies on related thematic areas. The availability of gender disaggregated data and the warning call regarding existing gender gaps encouraged academic analysis of the demographic transition in the country. As a result, the importance of the adoption of gender perspectives in macro-economic analyses and their relationship with the adoption of a care system that meets women's needs has acquired increasing visibility and will further feed diagnoses used as the basis for the formulation of joint programs and specific projects.
- ❖ The UN has provided technical support to a number of Cabo Verdean statistical production and analysis processes that ensure the production of statistics for the formulation of gender-sensitive policies, programs and projects in different social sectors. As a concrete example, the harmonization of the Gender Observatory indicators carried out by ICIEG in partnership with the CIGEF-UNICV and INE, with the support of UN WOMEN has provided the country with more robust conceptual framework that responds to national and international needs for monitoring and evaluation of the gender situation and the production of information required to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the introduction of qualitative indicators aimed at developing the institutional capacity of monitoring and evaluation of gender equality and women's empowerment processes using the systematic recording and evidence basis of the implementation of international and regional agreements, in particular those regarding legal frameworks, policies, plans,

programs and resources available to promote gender equality. From now on, the main focus is to be placed at ensuring effective public access to the Gender Observatory's information.

- ❖ As part of the efforts carried out to strengthen women's participation in decision-making processes, at both national and local level, leadership and negotiating capacity of political women has been improved, as well as their advocacy capacity for representation in electoral processes. In this context, and as a result of the Women's Agenda initiative and of the project "Advocacy for increasing women's participation in the 2016 electoral processes" 53 people (including political leaders, representatives from women's associations, male and female MPs, diplomatic representatives and female candidates in the 2012 elections) participated in the advocacy workshop "For a greater representation of women in politics," organized by the Santiago Coalition of Women in Politics (made up of 80 women running as candidates in the 2011 municipal elections). 79 women and 227 men activists from the two main political parties across the country's 22 municipalities (with the exception of Maio), were sensitized to the need for greater women's participation in the next elections and in politics in general. Furthermore, political party leaders and officials were sensitized to the importance of achieving gender equality and women's empowerment commitments through 42 thematic meetings held in the country's different electoral areas.
- ❖ This also led to greater commitment and participation from the executive in the promotion of gender equality, which materialized through the government's commitment to increase efforts to achieve gender equality by 2030, as well as in being the second country in the world to join the "Step It Up for Gender Equality" movement launched by UN Women. In addition, enhancement of skills of the Network of Women Parliamentarians and employees of the Ministry of Finance helped create the conditions for the implementation of a pilot experience for the monitoring and evaluation of gender-sensitive budget initiatives, which allowed Cabo Verde to share this best practice with other countries in the Community of Countries of Portuguese Language (PALOP).
- ❖ Focus is still placed at ensuring that policies and institutional capacities are in place for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. Based on the findings and bottlenecks identified by the sectorial analysis of the education sector supported by UNICEF, the new Strategic Educational Policy approved by the Council of Ministers adopted a lifecycle approach providing equitable services from the preschool to higher education to foster the reduction of disparities and inequities. In order to better support decision makers, a costing model was developed and technicians of the line ministries were trained. In parallel, the National programme for Early Childhood Development was approved creating an enabling environment for supportive home environment and caring practices (0-3 years), restructuring the preschool system (4-6 years) and the National Plan to Preventing Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation was finalized and submitted to the Government. In the meantime, the National Plan for disabled persons has also been technically approved.
- ❖ UNDP's interventions have contributed to an increase in the number of accounts analyzed by the Court of Accounts by more than 40% (from 37 to 60). 2013 state accounts were analyzed by the Parliament, which led to a reduction in the number of accounts to be analyzed by the Court. UN strategic support has substantially contributed to strengthen the legislative oversight capabilities of the Parliament that was able to perform five institutional control initiatives and to increase its number of hearings in the Justice area.
- ❖ With UNDP support, the parliament and the network of women parliamentarians conducted for the 1st time in Cabo Verde a 2015 State gender-oriented budget analysis. This support enabled effective advocacy that resulted in increased allocations in the 2015 state budget in favor of two programs directly focusing on the promotion of gender equality, but also to design a balance scorecard compatible with the public finance management system (SIGOF) to monitor public spending. In addition, with the approval of the new law on the Planning System, public institutions are better equipped for the implementation of the new program-modeled budget. Through South-South cooperation training, specifically with Brazil, more than 200 executives and technicians of various sectors including the Ministry of Finance and Planning and line ministries, are now able

to apply the "results-based budgeting" approach in formulating, monitoring and implementing the state budget. In addition, the 29 managers and technicians of the departments responsible for planning and budget, are able to integrate the Human Rights-based approach in planning and budgeting. A monitoring and evaluation module was integrated into the public finance management system (SIGOF) and 100% of the investment projects have been revised, integrated into the platform and reliable indicators produced.

- ❖ In the area of external control of public finance, 21 auditors from the Cabo Verde Court of Auditors are now able to exercise preventive (ex-ante) and subsequent (ex-post) control through exchanges of experiences with the Courts of Auditors of Portugal and Timor-Leste. In terms of IPSAS, 11 auditors of the Court are well equipped to effectively conduct an external audit of accounts in and outside the country (e.g. with the African Union and three other partners following Court of Auditors' decision XXIII<sup>a</sup> of the Ordinary Session of the Conference Heads of State and Government of the African Union performed in Equatorial Guinea).
- ❖ The Office of the Ombudsman is now equipped with a Communication Plan which has helped him further interact with the citizens. In the meantime, as a result of a training of conflict mediators, the "Houses of Law" is now comprised of 33 new mediators available and distributed on all islands, able to help in conflict mediation and particularly around land conflicts. They will contribute to the resolution of small conflicts, thus avoiding that these types of cases are brought to court, already crowded with more complex trials. The model of "Houses of Law", created by the Government in 2010, was evaluated in terms of the quality of services provided and the role of this structure in promoting the access to justice. The Ministry of Justice has therefore an important instrument at disposal to help undertake measures to improve the performance of the "Houses of Law" and the quality of services provided to the citizens.
- ❖ The training of mediators and key outcomes from the Conference on restorative justice helped the government to better define the alternative means for conflict resolutions in the scope of the existing judicial system constitutionally oriented, improving the involvement of civil society and communities in the promotion of justice values for a peaceful society.
- ❖ The joint intervention of three UN Agencies (UNDP, UNICEF and UNODC) in the area of justice is expanding towards the consolidation of the legal system, making the protection of human rights and socio-economic progress as key means to prevent and combat corruption. Magistrates from the Public Ministry were trained to fight economic crime with the support of UNDP and UNODC and a Forum was held on corruption perception and reality as well as the role of public institutions, private sector and civil society in "breaking the chain of corruption". The government was also supported in the establishment of the new criminal code for children and adolescents.
- ❖ A partnership between the University of Cabo Verde (UNI-CV) and the National Directorate for Public Administration (DNAP) allowed the creation of an online training system with mandatory courses for public administration servants. This important technological support - "e-learning platform" - will benefit, during a first phase, early 2016, about 3250 public servants, and in the medium-term, all officials from the Public Administration. Given the territorial characteristic of the country (archipelago), this instrument will be essential for the promotion of equity in the access to training and career opportunities for public servants in Cabo Verde.
- ❖ With regards to the three elections scheduled for 2016, the UN helped update the electoral rolls with the registration of 45,000 new voters in January, at national and diaspora level. The UN supported electoral civic education efforts through the publication and divulgation of the brochure "guide for citizen electors" calling for the active participation of citizens in the electoral process and to a broader civic education campaign from the National Elections Commission (CNE) in collaboration with the National Commission for Human Rights and Citizenship (CNDHC).
- ❖ A tripartite Protocol was set-up between the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health and the National Institute of Statistics to facilitate the registration of civil status facts and production of vital statistics. This protocol's

creation is as a result of the revision of the Civil Status Code of Cabo Verde, approved by the National Assembly in December 2014. Starting in 2015, all children born at health facilities will be registered at site.

- ❖ A Joint Initiative on Justice for Children has been established with the participation of different UN agencies. In this regard a Conference on juvenile justice was organized in Cabo Verde following the International Congress held in Switzerland in January 2015. This Conference received technical support from the "Terre des Hommes" Brazil Foundation and helped to initiate a national debate on restorative juvenile justice, identifying key strengths and weaknesses, and opportunities for the introduction of this innovative to promote children rights. A Letter of Commitment was adopted with specific recommendations to the national authorities and civil society around this issue.
- ❖ In a context of increasing security concerns related to drug trafficking and youth urban crime, the UN System continued to support the government of Cabo Verde in its ongoing efforts to reform the criminal justice system. As key government partner in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the 2012-2016 national strategy on drugs and crime, the UN is currently supporting the government in the revision of the national plan against corruption. Cabo Verde's compliance with the UN Convention against Corruption is currently being assessed within the framework of the UNCAC review mechanism (visit of the reviewing experts from Malawi and Costa Rica in October 2015, country report to be submitted in 2016). At normative level, the national penal code has been revised to criminalize organized actions such as Trafficking in Persons or Maritime Piracy and to upgrade provisions on sexual crimes against children, so as to further harmonize the national legal framework with the international treaties and UN Conventions on drugs and crime. In addition, the anti-money laundering legislation has been reviewed and enacted with UNODC's technical assistance. At institutional level, criminal justice stakeholders, notably the judicial police and the Ministry of justice's prison management and social reintegration services have been assisted in the development of their strategic planning (Conference on Prevention and Combat against Crime – Judicial Police, Current Situation and Future Perspectives in May 2015; Third Conference on Social Reintegration in the Justice Sector in June 2015). At operational level, national capacity to detect money-laundering cases has been enhanced through a training delivered to around 30 staff from the registry and public notary in July. The training promoted by the financial intelligence unit and supported by UNODC provided tools for an effective response in identifying the proceeds of crime involving real estate and high-value properties. In addition, the capacity of Cabo Verdean law enforcement agencies on human rights has been enhanced as a result of an awareness-raising and capacity building intervention promoted by the Ministry of Interior in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, with the technical assistance from the UN, including a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Human Rights for Law Enforcement for 28 police officers, magistrates and staff from the Ministry of Justice.
- ❖ A mechanism for the monitoring and collection of wage data was established to increase available information particularly around the implementation of a minimum wage in the country. In a joint effort with the Institute of Statistics Cabo Verde (INE), a survey instrument was designed to measure and monitor the effect of the minimum wage on domestic workers, a predominantly female occupation. This survey was divided into two phases – pre and post implementation of this wage policy. As a result, an analysis document was produced together with policy recommendations.
- ❖ In line with the need to promote social dialogue and reinforce the intervention of employers' organizations, a strategic plan for the ACS (Associação Comercial do Sotavento) was endorsed, including a capacity-building programme for both managers and staff. The plan's strategic priorities include the revision of the statutes to promote adhesion of the agricultural sector, the recruitment of personnel and the training of staff and elected leaders to defend members' interests, train business leaders, promote trade, encourage market diversification and internationalization of companies. Support to a capacity building initiative for the CMSUNT-CS (Comissão de Mulheres Sindicalistas da União Nacional dos Trabalhadores de Cabo Verde), also allowed to promote the empowerment of women and the development of their capacity to ensure their social, professional and labor safety in the CPLP sphere.

- ❖ An external in-depth review of the 2012-2016 National Health Development Plan, including a financial assessment, was performed and adopted by the “Conselho Nacional de Saúde”, the multisector advisory committee of the Minister of Health on health policy and strategies. The national capacities to implement the 2005 International Health Regulation were also assessed with the support of an international team of experts and an action plan was developed involving the different stakeholders responsible for the enforcement of the 2005 IHR. To reinforce the coordination and performance of different sub-systems, a national meeting on health information systems and epidemiologic surveillance was organized by the MOH with technical and financial UN support. Financial support was also provided for the recruitment of two statistic officers for the DNS (National Health Directorate). Important results were achieved, namely, the timely production of the EPI monthly report, the publication of a trimestral report with essential health statistics and the improvement of the quality of the epidemiological report.
- ❖ The leadership program in Primary Health Care (MOH, Ministry of Finance and Harvard University) was supported to increase planning, supervision and field support monitoring capacities. All health centers have now an action plan, implemented and monitored by the leadership team with coverage targets to improve performance on priority public health programs, such as maternal and neonatal health, child and adolescent health, reproductive health, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, malaria. The Health Region of Santo Antão officially launched in 2015 received modernization support including refresher training for nurses and distribution of equipment to improve quality of services. An inter-sectoral forum was also organized in order to develop a multi-sectoral plan and mechanism to fight use of alcohol among youth, one of the most significant cause of morbidity and mortality on that island. Technical and financial support was provided to revise/define the essential health packages for the different levels of the health services.
- ❖ The 2015-2020 Human Resources Development Plan for Health was developed and its implementation supported. Two maxillofacial doctors have concluded their scholarship training and reintegrated the two central hospitals. The national health professionals and officers participated in technical meetings and refresher training in the country and at regional or global levels on epidemiologic surveillance, laboratories, malaria, immunization, Convention-Cadre on Tobacco, health technologies. The regulation of the pharmaceutical sector continued to be a major priority. The National Medicines Commission “Comissão Nacional de Medicamentos” was created and published in the Official Bulletin. The National Essential Medicines List was finalized and will be also published in the Official Bulletin. Technical support from a WHO Collaborative Center was finally provided to the MOH to review the National Pharmaceutical Policy (2003).
- ❖ Non communicable diseases (NCD), specifically cardiovascular diseases and cancers are the main causes of morbidity and mortality in Cabo Verde. Following the development of a 2014-2020 multisector action plan, technical and financial support was provided to reinforce the capacities of health professionals to develop guidelines to prevent and control oncologic diseases and diabetes, one of the major risk factors of cardiovascular diseases, and supervise its implementation in the local health services. A strategic and multisector plan was developed to fight alcohol abuse, main cause of disease, incapacity and death. Additionally, a strategic plan was initiated for oral health development.
- ❖ National awareness campaigns corresponding to international or regional health days, namely, for food safety, road security and protection of children, were promoted, involving stakeholders from public and private institutions, NGO and academies. With the support of the “EU/Luxembourg/WHO partnership program to achieve universal health coverage” technical and financial support was provided to the development of the referred strategic plans and policies, reinforcement of regional health systems and services and the strengthening of capacities on policy dialogue.
- ❖ The UN joint program on nutrition and school feeding was strengthened with the recruitment of a Nutritionist to reinforce the capacity of the National Nutrition Program with an objective to follow-up on education materials’ development and school communities’ training and implementation of national campaigns on safe feeding and nutrition. As examples, an intersectoral partnership was built among the Ministries of Health,

Education/FICASE, Rural Development and IEPF (Employment and Professional Training Institute) for training of trainers on healthy feeding and a handbook for teachers on Feeding and Nutrition produced. A national education campaign was launched on potable water and ecologic containers supplied for school children and professionals from the islands of Sotavento, Boavista and Sal. Moreover, a national education campaign was articulated around WHO food safety key messages, involving health and education institutions and NGOs, and a pilot project launched for the training of school food vendors on hygiene and good practices on food safety.

- ❖ An analysis on the National Situation of informal settlements, taking into account the 5 UN-Habitat deprivation concepts (drinkable water, basic sanitation, sustainable housing, adequate space and security of tenure) was conducted, socialized with partners and approved by the Government of Cabo Verde. In the meantime, a Resource mobilization Strategy on the Participatory Slums Upgrading Programme (PSUP) was also adopted by the country. A Cooperation Agreement was signed with the Government (National Institute of Territorial Management - INGT) around Slum Upgrading Communications for behavioral change and 10 Videos produced on Territorial and Urban Citizenship and resilience in communities composed of informal settlements.
- ❖ With the technical and financial support from FAO, methodologies for the Agricultural Census have been produced, validated and used for the 2015-2016 census. Models of procurement of local products for school canteens have been created and include public call, direct procurement and partnership programs with the agricultural and fishery sector. Alternative models for the management of school canteens have been created, including private outsourcing for food production and distribution as well as centralized management of school canteens. School canteens' hygiene has been further enhanced through the elaboration and validation of harmonized norms on hygiene and handling of food, the renovation of canteens' equipment, the capacitation of cooks and canteen managers and the regulation of school canteens' equipment. With FAO support, law No. 89/VIII/2015 has been approved and published on May 28th, 2015 to regulate the judicial regime of school health and nutrition and implements the National Program for School Health and Nutrition. On February 22nd, 2016 was also published Decree No. 11/2016 on the Regulation of the Law on School Health and Nutrition.
- ❖ The phasing out of the pilot project "Support to the implementation of National Volunteer Programme in Cabo Verde" has been supported through strategic planning that will help the National Volunteer Corps forge and expand strategic partnerships, scale up the intervention and ensure sustainability and impact. The organization of the International Volunteers' Day further helped disseminate information about the relevance and contribution of volunteers' work to peace and development and promote volunteerism with the local communities and universities.

### **Pillar 3: Reduction of disparities and inequalities**

In line with the national priorities and the UN commitments and technical guidelines, agencies member of the pillar 3 pursued efforts with a view to further build capacities to reduce disparities and promote equity.

- ❖ Cabo Verde was able for the first time to provide data disaggregated by sex on child labor, following interventions in the area of child labor and activities carried out done together with the National Institute of Statistics (integration of a module on child labor in the continuous multi-purpose survey in 2013, whose results were validated in March 2014). This allowed the elaboration of a list of hazardous work, then proposed in the normal national legislation approval circuit. This process has not only contributed to strengthen national ownership, but also to facilitate the use of data in the context of advocacy and public policy formulation.
- ❖ Social protection interventions led by ILO helped reinforce the "non-contributive" social protection system of Cabo Verde through strengthening of the CNPS' (Centro Nacional de Pensões Sociais) institutional capacity and human resources skills for a better use of the existing mechanisms and instruments for social pension management. This process included the update of the procedures' manual, trainings and the reactivation of

the Centre's website, an important mean of communication and governance. Besides, support was also provided for advocacy and information sharing around the national single registry for social protection's proposal designing, together with the proposal of a cash transfer programme.

- ❖ Dialogue has been enhanced on the mandatory social protection system at the INPS Forum (Instituto Nacional de Previdência Social) under the theme "Social Security and the challenges of sustainability", with an objective to promote and stimulate the ongoing debate and reflection on social security and challenges related to its longevity and financial sustainability. The discussion was encouraged by a tripartite representation. A two-day-discussion was held with the use of the assessment-based national dialogue technique, not only to analyze the current situation but also to identify gaps and challenges. Further recommendations were made in order to continue this work in the future.
- ❖ A national document with options for a coherent cash transfer program to increase the effectiveness and equity of social transfer in Cabo Verde has been technically validated and submitted to the government in early 2015. These policy options were developed based on an analysis of social vulnerability, the country's macroeconomic and fiscal situation, and institutional capacities to implement such a program. Technicians of central and local institutions in charge of social protection in Cabo Verde received trainings to increase their level of understanding of the social protection concept and enable them to apply it to strengthen mechanisms for the coordination, management, monitoring and implementation of social protection programs.
- ❖ Technical capacities of national technicians were reinforced in trade union policies for decent work generation for young workers, in promoting and defending workers' rights (in link with the ILO supervisory system), on the transition to formalization of employment as well as on thematic areas such as labor inspection, green jobs policies, project cycle management, rural development or entrepreneurship as a result of a collaboration with ILO and its International Training Center (ITC).
- ❖ The national health financing strategy towards universal health coverage was finalized with support from UNFPA and WHO to key stakeholders from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Planning and Finance, INPS, the Ministry of Solidarity, the civil society and NGOs. In order to improve access and quality of health services, focus has been placed on financing solutions of priority health programs such as the Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI), Polio eradication, Nutrition, Maternal and Neonatal health, Adolescent health, sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.
- ❖ Cabo Verde is better prepared to achieve objectives developed under global and regional initiatives such as the "Global Strategy for Poliomyelitis Eradication – End Game 2013-2018" and "Measles and Rubella Elimination by 2020". Progress was made towards the improvement of the quality of epidemiological surveillance (non-polio acute flaccid paralysis rate of 1 in 2014; only 3 cases reported in 2015). The national health system is now better prepared at technical and organizational levels on Effective Vaccine Management (EVM) and immunization techniques (strategic and operational plans developed such as the VPI introduction plan, the Effective Vaccines Management Improvement National Plan and the EPI Cold Chain Rehabilitation Plan). The EPI's capacity was strengthened on management, organization, planning supply chain, logistics, monitoring of vaccines as well as information management and weekly monitoring (notification report of measles and other diseases preventable by vaccination produced on a timely basis). Strategies were produced for the introduction of two new vaccines in the national calendar – the Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) and the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) – following joint UNICEF/WHO advocacy contributing to the mobilization of international partners as well as the First Lady for the acquisition of the HPV vaccines. The external review of the PAV was carried out by international experts and the report and recommendations are available, increasing knowledge and ownership of the EPI Program by the various stakeholders in order to identify obstacles and appropriate measures for strengthening routine immunization. Following the participation of the national and agency focal points in a regional planning workshop on the switch from tOPV (trivalent oral polio vaccine) to bOPV (bivalent oral polio vaccine) the "switch Plan" was also developed and financed by regional funds for polio eradication.

- ❖ Sexual and reproductive Health services (SRH) have been improved. Strategic and technical documentation procedures for the SRH have been developed and updated while SRH technicians have been trained in obstetric and neonatal emergencies care (EmOC) to contribute to achieve national goals towards reducing morbidity and infant maternal mortality. National capacity on audit of maternal deaths was reinforced at decentralized level. Complementary interventions between the public health sector and civil society were promoted to achieve results on SRH issues, including Family Planning (FP) at community level. The evaluation of the FP program, leaded by the NGO VERDEFAM, raised relevant inputs to improve current strategies and put the emphasis adolescents and men at central, decentralized and local level.
- ❖ Following the restructuring of the Ministry of Health for the implementation of the National Health Development Plan (PNDS 2012-2016), a programming framework was established between the National Program for Adolescents and the Health Program on Sexual and Reproductive rights. Specific Youth Services have been reactivated and health technicians have acquired competencies on specific techniques and integrated attention to adolescents, contributing to a more focused response on youth. The evaluation of the National Health Program for Sexual and Reproductive including Adolescent Health, including a perception of service delivery evaluation by Young and Adolescents people, contributed to the decision made for the designing of a new program structure and services, based on a primary care definition focused on adolescents and taking into account differences by gender, socio-cultural dimensions of sexual orientation.
- ❖ The HIV and HIV/TB protocols have been updated based on new WHO guidelines and the 2015-2019 Strategic Plan to fight Tuberculosis benefit from financial UN support technical (including for the development of its monitoring and evaluation capacity). The results of the study on Stigma Index at the national level have enabled the country to detain an in-depth knowledge on the profile of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHIV), and fed the definition of a strategy focused on key-populations including PLWHIV and the preparation of the Fourth 2016-2020 National Strategic Plan Fight against HIV/AIDS.
- ❖ The 2014-2017 Strategic Malaria Pre-elimination Plan was finalized with WHO assistance in the development of the concept note and dialogue with partners around documents submitted to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The development of the National Manual of malaria in the context of elimination was also supported, as well as a local plan against malaria in high-risk areas of the capital Praia and insecticides for vector control.
- ❖ On gender-based violence matters, the institutional and interventional framework of keys players involved in prevention and support to victim, including civil society organizations, has been further enhanced during the year. The justice, police and health sectors now have procedural protocols for Gender-Based Violence victims and 70% of municipalities include victim support services. Operational aspects of the Ministry of Justice's Gender-Based Violence Rehabilitation Program have been consolidated. In parallel, discussions started with the education sector regarding the inclusion of a module on gender equality and the culture of non-violence in Human Rights and Citizenship Awareness. Civil society organizations expanded their informational and awareness-raising activities to the entire national territory. As such, the national social mobilization capacity in the promotion of women's rights and the fight against discrimination was strengthened, creating the conditions for a successful launch of two international UN Women-led campaigns with considerable media coverage: "He for She" and "Free&Equal". "HeForShe", championed by the President of Cabo Verde had mobilized 5,000 men and boys by late November 2015 from all of Cabo Verde's islands to commit to fight violence and discrimination against women (thus meeting the established target). "Free&Equal" featured singer Mayra Andrade to promote LGBT rights, respect and non-discrimination for gender identity and sexual orientation.
- ❖ As part of measures taken to implement the GBV law, awareness-raising actions were initiated in elementary and high schools from the islands of Sal, Fogo and Santiago involving male and female students. In addition, the campaign "VBGSOM – *desta mão não sai violência*" ("No violence will come from this hand"), launched by the Olavo Moniz High School educational community in Sal Island was promoted by UN Women, while a video

report on the innovative initiative “Pro-Equality” Schools was produced and broadcast, portraying the main results of the program. In parallel, a nation-wide media campaign promoted equality between girls and boys, directed toward students and the entire educational community (radio, television and school distribution of the campaign’s promotional materials). Furthermore, in partnership with the Laço Branco (“White Ribbon”) society, made up of men devoted to ending violence against women, 120 men and boys participated in 10 Theater of the Oppressed sessions on gender equality, new masculinities and the culture of non-violence, carried out in various different neighborhoods in the urban area of Praia.

- ❖ The “Manual of Best Journalistic Practices in the Fight Against Gender-Based Violence” was disseminated by workshops among media professionals to advocate on the use of a correct approach in the treatment of information on Gender-Based Violence and a language that promotes gender equality. Two additional campaigns as part of the 16 Days of Activism were re-launched and intensified: (i) the international campaign UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls, bringing together Cabo Verde’s Head of State, political decision-makers, NGOs, state institutions and an unprecedented mobilization of the diplomatic corps in support of the cause, and, finally, (ii) the campaign to promote the SOS Gender-Based Violence Hotline to report and request police assistance in cases of Gender-Based Violence. Two new Care Centers for victims of Gender-Based Violence (in Praia and Calheta de São Miguel) extended the coverage to 20 of the country’s 22 municipalities. Finally, 29 Casas de Direito professionals (7 men and 22 women) received a formation around the Victim Support Center and Casas de Direito’s Operating Guidelines to improve the quality of services offered to victims of Gender-Based Violence.
- ❖ With regards to social reintegration of perpetrators of Gender-Based Violence, the “Gender-Based Violence Defendants Program” was launched by the Ministry of Justice’s Directorate General of Penitentiary Services and Social Reintegration. The department’s services is now equipped with technical, material and human capacity to conduct reflection groups throughout the country (with the exception of São Nicolau). In 2015, and only in the Praia district, 7 reflection groups made up of men charged of gender-based violence met, following a large increase in the number of defendants referred to this initiative by the Prosecutor General’s office.
- ❖ NGOs working to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment (OMCV, Morabi and Verdefam) have seen their capacity reinforced to intervene with the most vulnerable groups of women through financial support from UN Women. Target population’s capacities (young people, peri-urban communities, sons and daughters of victims of gender-based violence, junior high school and high school students, new Armed Forces recruits, grassroots community associations, etc.) were strengthened through on-site informational, educational and capacity-building on human rights, women’s rights, sexual and reproductive rights sessions.
- ❖ Cabo Verde’s capacity to prevent drug abuse and treat drug dependency has been enhanced with the availability of two additional services, notably, the One-Stop-Shop center- («Espaço de Respostas Integradas») based at the health center of Achadinha and the Drug-free unit at the central prison of São Martinho, both in the capital city of Praia. These pilot projects are expected to be replicated at national level to increase drug dependency care possibilities.
- ❖ Clinical Management on Drug Use care and treatment tools, including the treatment structure and protocol, the clinical governance guidelines and recommendations, and proposed screening tools (ASSIST, PHQ-9, GAD-7, AUDIT) were successfully developed in the reporting period for the pilot initiative (One Stop Shop Center. A therapeutic protocol for addiction treatment at national level has been finalized with UNODC technical assistance in view of standardizing dependency treatment procedures in the country. The capacity of public institutions and civil society organizations on drug use prevention, care and treatment has been strengthened through a number of capacity building activities targeted to more than 160 staff and volunteers from NGOs and CBOs, anti-drug community coalitions, law enforcement and health structures. Additionally, a booklet has been developed with UNODC support as a guiding tool for secondary school students and teachers on drug use prevention.

- ❖ The Institutional Framework and capacity development plan for the implementation of the National Program on Urban Development and Capacity Building of Cities (PNDUCC) was elaborated and approved by the Government of Cabo Verde together with its resource mobilization strategy. The Resolution to create the National Commission on Habitat III was elaborated and submitted to the Ministers Cabinet. The reporting elaboration process was launched and all the tools and themes approved. In parallel, the International Guidelines on Decentralization and Access to Basic Urban Services for All are now adapted to the national context to respond existing gaps in the inclusion of the urban poor. Decentralization debates were stimulated through a National Forum on Decentralization and Regionalization. For the first time, the issue was widely and openly discussed in the country after the experience of 25 years of local governance. As a matter of fact, the UN has positioned itself as an important partner in this thematic area.
- ❖ UN Habitat support to the implementation of the Municipal Information System (SIM) has contributed to the improvement of Country ranking in Doing Business Report 2015. The quality of services delivered to citizens by municipalities has increased considerably following the introduction of new management modules in the SIM platform (Municipal Management System) and training courses organized for local executives. To continue, the Doing Business Report recommended the country to maximize resources and strengthen the synergies among municipalities and also with central government. A study on the inter municipality was also developed, with UN Habitat support, and has identified bottlenecks and resolution mechanisms to be put in place to improve coordination and negotiations' frameworks between municipalities.

#### **Pillar 4: Environmental sustainability and adaptation to climate change**

The UN in Cabo Verde is working towards ensuring that natural resources are used and managed in a sustainable manner and helping to contribute to growth, poverty reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

- ❖ Work has been carried out with the Government to implement policies and institutional capacities for disaster risk management. In 2015 the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) of the Fogo Volcano Eruption was conducted jointly by the Government of Cabo Verde and representatives from different UN agencies, the World Bank and the European Union. The results were presented in the donors' conference held at the end of the year and donors started pledging aid for recovery according to the needs identified in the PDNA. The development of the PDNA process was a unique moment to strengthen local capabilities using a real scenario, the Fogo eruption. The PDNA methodology was adopted by the country and a pool of 117 civil servants from line ministries, agencies and institutes covering sectors including infrastructure, agriculture, health, land planning, education and emergency response and representatives from local government institutions was created and trained on PDNA and Preparedness for recovery methodologies. In addition, the Regional Project of Urban Resilience and Risks Reduction in Portuguese-speaking African countries was launched, its implementation strategy approved with partners of each country, experts recruited and all the implementing tools and instruments were elaborated. National resilience capacities have also been strengthened through the elaboration of Modules for training of trainers (TOT) in risk reduction and resilience in urban plans and strategies.
- ❖ Post-disaster recovery operations are aimed at helping people return to normal living conditions and to quickly resume their livelihoods and is an opportunity to build back better and strengthen the potential disaster prevention capabilities. In collaboration with national authorities and Fogo municipalities, and on the basis of consultations held with the United Nations agencies and other development partners, five priority interventions were identified for the Fogo recovery plan. These areas include the most immediate needs of individuals and communities for the rehabilitation of livelihoods. Resources have been mobilized to support the displaced population, particularly for access to drinking water, and rehabilitation of the existing houses. A guide and manual of best practices related to re-building, particularly in informal settlements was also produced and disseminated. Additionally, the regulatory framework on urban and housing policy was developed and approved.

- ❖ Through a climate change adaptation project, a survey was conducted in 8 municipalities, with more than 25 communities, to identify food security challenges and climate change adaptation needs and to formulate project proposals around these issues at community level. In this regard, thirteen demonstrative projects are being implemented in Santo Antão (Porto Novo and Ribeira Grande) and Santiago (Santa Cruz, S. Lourenço, Tarrafal e São Miguel). Most of the selected community-based pilot focused on mobilization, storage and water use efficiency. As a result, six communities (Chã de Furna, Tarrafal de Monte Trigo, Boca de Coruja, Fajã de Janela, Ribeira dos Penedos, Machado) have seen their capacity strengthened in mobilizing water for agriculture by increasing the base flow discharge of the spring sources with reservoirs to store water, benefiting more than five hundred rural families. Forty two technicians from local associations received a training to strengthen their capacity in results-based monitoring and evaluation using the tools and mechanism devolved by the project to better monitor project implementation in this field.
- ❖ Preliminary results of the applied climate change adaptation research on crop varieties of high-nutrition value (yam/orange-colored sweet potato; carrots; tomato, peppers and beets) have proven quite encouraging. 3 varieties of beets, 4 varieties of carrots, 6 varieties of tomatoes have been tested in different agro-climatological zones in terms of yield potential, pest and disease tolerance as well as commercial characteristics. The inventory of pest and disease in agriculture for the wet season was carried out in Santo Antão and Santiago. The data collected is being compiled in a database which also provide a platform for crowd sourcing and possibility to interact with farmers concerning new pests and diseases. In Santiago the inventory covered over 28 different crops (horticulture, fruits, tubers, roots, beans and grass) in 86 parcels of land examined in order to catalogue all pests and diseases. All samples were geo-referenced. The next phase consists in the preparation of vegetative materials to be disseminated to the farmers nationwide.
- ❖ Vulnerable families (1294) received vegetable seeds and 11,237 dryland seeds to mitigate the effects of drought resulting from poor agricultural year 2014-2015. Livestock rescue and animal feeding supplements were provided to 668 families in rural areas for a total of 11,344 goats for a period of three months. Micro-irrigation kits and other agricultural inputs were provided to 35 families to increase the resilience of beneficiaries. These interventions resulted in the normal resumption of the 2015-2016 agricultural season, saving an important part of cattle suffering from lack of food, and contributing as a whole to the improvement of the condition of population affected by the drought.
- ❖ Thirty Radiophonic program on “climate change and food security in focus” were produced and broadcast live at national level and on community radios to enlarge coverage. Key advocacy materials were also produced and disseminated to increase awareness around climate change-related consequences on food production and induced vulnerability for the communities.
- ❖ Protected areas were established (46) together with the Ministry of Environment (for a total of 205.513,09 ha) across the Cabo Verde islands together with the introduction of specific income generation activities for local communities in order to improve livelihoods and promote local-level engagement in conservation efforts. For example, turtle and endemic plants conservation helped protect fragile resources and created additional income for the communities and NGOs. Besides, seventeen protected areas were effectively operationalized with management tools. The policy and regulatory framework of the Autonomous Authority for Protected Areas was developed in parallel and submitted to the Government.
- ❖ The biodiversity of Cabo Verde is particularly sensitive to environmental consequences of climate change, as a Small Island Developing State and as an arid country neighboring the Sahel region. The financial sustainability strategy and plan for the Country's Protected Areas Strategy indicates that there is a financing gap of USD 1.8 million for investment in the national PA system management, infrastructure development and monitoring. Given the growing of the tourism sector and the importance of resource conservation, a 4.8 million dollars project was approved to safeguard biodiversity in Cabo Verde from current and emerging threats, by enhancing the enabling and regulatory frameworks in the tourism sector and activating a critical further subset of the national protected areas system (marine and terrestrial).

- ❖ The Government of Cabo Verde is in the process of reviewing and updating the National Implementation Plan (NIP) of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). With technical support from UNIDO, an inception workshop and first training (POP's inventory) were led in February 2015, with the participation of 28 consultants and staff members from Environment and Agriculture sector. The POP's inventory was elaborated and approved during a national workshop in November 2015, with the participation of 29 consultants and staff members from the agricultural and environmental sector so as to increase national efforts towards further compliance with the Convention.
- ❖ As part of the development of NAMAs (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions), the "foot prints" of gases emissions to the greenhouse priority sectors (energy, agriculture, livestock, transport, industry) were presented and validated at the national level with the contribution of more than 70 participants from different sectors. The legal framework has been established for the creation of the national inventory system for greenhouse gases to facilitate the collection, analysis and dissemination of data to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In addition, based on the IPCC guidelines, a database was designed to facilitate the management of such information. This will have a significant impact in the currently late reporting process of the Third Communication.
- ❖ UNIDO is supporting the Government's efforts in the promotion of renewable energies as well as energy efficiency markets and investments in line with the objective to reach a renewable energy share of 100% by 2020. As main partner of the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) based in Praia since 2010, UNIDO contributed to the identification of ten renewable energy pilot projects in six islands (photovoltaic system in an ice factory in Brava; photovoltaic system for water pumping in Praia Branca, São Nicolau; Hybrid Minigrid system in Carriçal, São Nicolau; Hybrid Minigrid system in Figueiras, Santo Antão; hybrid Minigrid system (PV + Diesel + Batteries) in Ribeira Alta, Santo Antão). In addition, the strategic plan for a 100% Renewable Energy-provided Brava Island and the feasibility study on the photovoltaic system for the University of Cabo Verde were elaborated. Furthermore, 95 technicians were trained on renewable energies, hybrid systems for rural electrification and Wind Power (including three as ToTs), 6 consultants on Financial Analysis of Investment Project Scenarios (COMFAR III) and 26 persons trained on Photovoltaic and solar thermal to enhance national installation and maintenance capacities.
- ❖ The Observatory of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECOWREX) is now operational with the technical support of UNIDO. The validated baseline reports received as part of the development of the National action plans and the SE4ALL action agenda have been analyzed and relevant valuable indicators extracted. The ECOWREX geospatial framework has been reviewed to develop a Spatial Data Infrastructure, and the software for producing the energy access maps is currently been validated. The ECOWREX Geospatial Platform is currently been upgraded. Lastly, the "Intigis" software has been chosen for the development of energy access maps and is currently under improvement to increase stakeholders' access to renewable energy options.
- ❖ ECREEE in collaboration with UNIDO organized a Side Event at the SE4ALL Forum in New York on "ECOWAS Regional Sustainable Energy Policies supporting national SE4ALL Actions". A SE4ALL technical assistance team visited Praia in May to follow-up on this collaboration. Furthermore, throughout a UNIDO international partnership with Royal Philips, 14 Philips Community Solar Light Centers were installed in 6 islands of Cabo Verde (5 in Santiago; 2 in Fogo; 2 in S. Vicente; 3 in Santo Antão; 1 in S. Nicolau and 1 in Sal). In parallel, a Philips Football Lighting Solar System was set-up in Praia as a way to promote renewable energies, energy efficiency and use of resources in favor of a development based on low carbon emissions and cleaner production.

## Results of Operating as One

- ❖ After the UNCT retreat in June, it was decided to reactivate the OMT, under the direction of the Deputy resident representative of the UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF Joint Office. One challenge that the OMT has been

facing is the very small number of resident agencies and hence the limitations of human resources, especially on operations. After this reactivation of the OMT, a number of actions, new procedures were developed, discussed and approved in the UNCT to be implemented during 2016. This include the LTA covering travel and cleaning, the establishment of a common roster for translators, interpreters and editors, and harmonizing national DSA rates. The establishment of a roster of pre-selected candidates (consultants) following the common consideration for recruitment and others is underway. These achievements mean a real breakthrough as will lead to efficiency and cost gains, the proven spirit of cooperation and joint action will contribute to the development of BOS during 2016. More specifically, a Road Map for the BOS's development has been developed and approved by the UNCT, to be implemented during the second and third quarter of 2016. The intention is to have a BOS document by the end of August, 2016, followed by its implementation.

- ❖ Through the experience of the Delivering as One, and the presence of the unique Joint Office of UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF (with one single set of business processes, one single budget, and one organizational and staffing structure) in Cabo Verde, the experience and pre-existing conditions for a full integration and coherence of internal UN programming already exist. This, combined with the DaO experience, and together with the presence and strong involvement across UNCT activities NRAs, led the UN System in Cabo Verde to enhance its strategic positioning and programming capacities. Within such a unique organizational set-up, and given the limited size of the country, the room for piloting innovative integrated planning, programming and implementation strategies around the SDGs together with strongly-aware and involved national institutions is indeed very promising. With such a perspective in mind, the UNCT submitted a funding proposal in January 2016 to benefit from the UNDAF Innovation Design Facility under the 'Sustainable Development and Integrated Planning' and 'Publish engagement and Partnerships' window to facilitate the alignment of efforts. This was approved and the team is ready for its implementation during 2016. Challenges exist around the fact of a new government forming and the time to ensure transfer of knowledge and commitment for a timely implementation.
- ❖ The availability of the funds from the DRT – Delivering Results Together during the last three years (2014-2016), with specific methodology and approach on the planning and implementation, helped the UNCT not only to better programme together but also implement together and obviously increases the motivation and appetite for the OMT to work jointly and develop the BOS that should be implementing during the next two years.
- ❖ The breakthrough with national and UN pillar leads and co-leads during the planning and mid-year review of the UNDAF in 2015 has strengthened the PMT works for joint and integrated programming and implementation, but also contribute to increase harmonized operation within the UN as well as with national partners, meaning strengthening HACT, NIM, using and strengthening the national procurement and evaluations systems, etc.

## Results of Communicating as One

- ❖ In 2015, increased visibility of the UN's positions on national development issues and other topics in which the UN is engaged was achieved through effective external communication and active public relations and engagement with the Medias.
- ❖ The UN Communication Group, in collaboration of other UN thematic groups, jointly worked towards a better knowledge, information and visibility over the impact of the UN's work on beneficiaries, advocating for issues of national concern and positioning the UN as a trusted partner of Cabo Verde's sustainable development.

- ❖ 2015 was an intense year for UN Cabo Verde and in particular its communication dimension considering the 40th anniversary of the UN presence in Cabo Verde and the 70 Years of the United Nations, and the implementation of its communication plan. In this context the UNCG organized and released the Commemoration Stamp of the UN Cabo Verde's 40 years on 6 October 2015. It was then distributed in different places with the main objective to disseminate the information on the anniversary of the UN presence in Cabo Verde. For the UN's 70 years celebration, the UN Communication Group organized several visibility activities to call attention of people for the UN mandate. Young artists were involved as well youth from social inclusion projects implemented by the UN and national partners. This year, high level press meetings as well as other advocacy events were also organized with the national Medias (radio, TV, newspapers, etc.). Interviews were published and broadcasted in the three largest Medias in Cabo Verde (TCV national television, Inforpress and Education Radio) on global issues, including the UN presence in Cabo Verde, the MDGs/SDGs and human rights.
- ❖ On the program side, thematic advocacy activities were organized throughout the year such as the launch of three UN Campaigns ("He for She", the "Orange Campaign" against GBV and the "Free and Equal" campaign) in presence of high-level national leadership. Others issues set as priority by the UNCT for the year received increased visibility with UNCG support such as youth entrepreneurship, early childhood development and child nutrition.
- ❖ Gender communication tools were designed channels including traditional and social media, media briefings and interviews have been used to disseminate key messages towards civil society, e.g. on the occasion of the "He for She" campaign. Relayed by the President of Republic, this campaign saw more than 5000 boys committing to change attitudes towards gender discrimination and gender-based violence as well as to inform citizens of their rights, gender equality and domestic violence legislation during the six-month-long campaign.
- ❖ Regarding the SDGs, the UN communication group supported national partners and UNCT's initiatives in creating conditions for a strategic dialogue around the new 2030 Agenda. In this regard, the country organized a three major activities related to the SDGs: i) The International Conference on "SDGs in SIDSs and MICs: a perspective from Africa" (June 2015) and which resulted in the formal "Praia Outcome Statement"; ii) A dialogue among municipalities and other local actors around their role in implementing the SDGs which took place in Praia in October and iii) a National Workshop organized together with the Ministry of Finance and Planning on "SDGs' Prioritization, Mainstreaming and Financing in Cabo Verde" (December 2015) which aimed at further aligning national planning instruments and global sustainable development priorities.
- ❖ During all these different events, the UNCG coordinated the elaboration of communication tools and its distribution to all national and regional Medias and as well on online communication channels. Videos, electronic banners, posters, and SGD cards were produced, printed and disseminated through different channels including social Medias. A national online campaign was launched with SAPO.cv and reached 308.242 people between 5 October and 5 November 2015, with 497 clicks on the SDGs' banners and icons.
- ❖ With the ongoing consultations, the UN encouraged Cabo Verdean citizens to vote and choose their priorities through of MY World Survey which was re-published during the year, until September 2015. A partnership was established with the national ATM Company Vinti4 for SDGs' dissemination during a period of 10 days through their ATM interfaces nation-wide, to create a visual contact with SDGs' icons and promote national appropriation.
- ❖ Hundreds of youth were engaged in a conversation related to the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 and the SDGs, creating opportunities for synergies with the post-2015 Agenda with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality and non-discrimination as critical development layers. In this context, two press visits were organized in partnership with the REJOP - Journalists' Network for Population and Development on the emergency situation in the Fogo Island other in Santo Antão, resulting in a highly-satisfactory media coverage.

- ❖ Several internal communications channels were further used in 2015, such as the UN bulletin “MORABEZA”, UN media clipping “UNCV na Imprensa” and regular UN calendar updates.
- ❖ Through social media platforms, the UN reached more than 208,000 people. Young artists were called and engaged to add their voices and talents to the UN causes and priorities. The UN Cabo Verde website has registered 39,719 unique visits and 13,922 returning visitors.

## Lessons Learned and Way Forward

### Pillar 1: Inclusive growth and poverty reduction

- ❖ Supporting data production and gender analysis are key for evidence-based planning to increase women’s economic empowerment and to ensure gender mainstreaming into sectorial plans for integrated strategies and measures addressing gender specific needs in different areas, such as decent work, local development, and agriculture and food security. As such, the UN will continue to support the country in conducting gender analysis of statistical databases of key economic sectors, such as the Agricultural Census and the Informal Sector Inquiry. For the first time, national statistics regarding these important economic sectors will make available data disaggregated by sex, age and area of residence (rural or urban), as well as evidence that will facilitate the elaboration of public policies and projects that take into account the specific needs and expectations of men and women.

### Pillar 2: Consolidation of institutions, democracy and citizenship

- ❖ Gender disaggregated data and statistics are important tools to produce evidence-based policies, monitor and assess progress and impacts and to ensure accountability. Given monitoring requirements in the context of the sustainable development goals, now greater than ever, the country needs to produce advanced and more regular statistics, including gender indicators. Despite considerable progress in this field, we still face several challenges linked in particular to the insufficient capacity to produce timely, regular and consistent gender statistics and analysis, weakness in the political and legal frameworks to push gender mainstreaming in national plans and policies and needs to increase resource allocation for gender data collection and analyses or capacities to use them in policy decisions-making processes. The centrality and the mainstreaming of GEWE in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are key entry points to strengthen dialogues with different stakeholders in support to the implementation of the national plan for gender equality as well as in following up with high political commitments recently made context of in the Step It up for Gender Equality: Planet 50-50 by 2030. This context will allow the UN to support advocacy actions in positioning gender equality as a key central thematic in the context of national discussions on the SDG agenda. As such, the UN will continue to support the country, namely the National Statistics Institute, the Capeverdean Institute for Gender Equality and civil society organizations for continuous progress in this field.
- ❖ It is not possible to sustain a gender mainstreaming approach without increasing sectorial capacities in gender planning and budgeting. As such, during 2016, the UN will continue to support the country in delivering capacity-building activities in the implementation of a system aimed at monitoring gender-sensitive planning and monitoring initiatives (designed by the Network of Women Parliamentarians with the UN support) involving four ministries (health; education and sports; higher education, science and innovation; and rural development).
- ❖ Activities around women’s political leadership enhanced have demonstrated the importance of managing political tensions during the discussion on policy options and the value, during training sessions and meetings, of efforts to strengthen affective proximity, through specific dynamics. Concepts such as meritocracy, gender

mainstreaming and gender sensitive language are key for this audience and require specific deconstruction efforts. Workshops are also needed to inform the different fields for follow up/future intervention.

- ❖ Cabo Verdean authorities have taken consistent and systematic actions against drug trafficking and organized crime, including the strengthening of human and material capacities. Despite the achievements made in Cabo Verde in countering drug trafficking and organized crime, with visible impact in terms of cocaine seizure and convictions, the country still faces some challenges related to the consolidation of gains obtained and enhancement of the capacity to respond to emerging challenges posed by organized crime. But also by petty and medium-scale crime, including urban crime, which has triggered a perception of much insecurity among the population. In relation to national legal framework on Drugs and Crime, Cabo Verde has ratified all major UN Conventions on Drugs and Crime, including the Vienna, Palermo and Merida Conventions, as well as regional legal instruments within the framework of ECOWAS. The country managed to harmonize the above international legal commitments with its national legal framework by creating laws on drugs, organized crime, and terrorism. However, taking into account the public health issue and new crime trends related to crack and alcohol addiction, there is a need to reformulate the domestic laws regarding the Drug Demand Reduction in order to better frame the national intervention in this field and harmonize the national policy to the international standards. In this context, the national institutional capacities (central and local levels) on drug dependency prevention and treatment will be strengthened in line with international guidelines in this field. The Government's efforts will be supported regarding the prison reform and the social reintegration of youth inmates, with a view to align the Prison System with international standards such as the Standards Minimum Rules for Treatment of Prisoners and preventing the preventing criminal recidivism in Cabo Verde. In addition, the National Plan against Corruption should be reviewed and implemented in light of the recommendations from the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

### **Pillar 3: Reduction of disparities and inequalities**

- ❖ Increased coordination has been assessed in some domains and activities among participating agencies, resulting in a higher-quality response. This will be to reinforce, based on clear strategies and mechanisms. Despite the results achieved, a lack of evidence-based activities is still noticed, although necessary to support the strategies and actions to reduce disparities and inequities.
- ❖ The first national-level meeting (since the approval of the Gender-Based Violence Law in 2011) to assess the functioning of the Sol Network (Institutional Gender-Based Violence Victims Support Network) brought together various different players involved in the implementation of the law, public institutions representing the health, education and justice sectors, public magistrates and NGOs in order to evaluate the state of effective implementation of the prevention, protection and criminalization measures outlined in the law. Working group presentation sessions and plenary discussions helped identifying the main constraints for an adequate implementation of the law and priority points of intervention. The issue of institutional coordination and articulation and weaknesses inherent to the non-existence of a mechanism aiming at monitoring and evaluating the law were among weak points the assessment pointed out as requiring urgent analysis. Although various measures were implemented, various tools developed to facilitate the harmonization of procedures, greater effectiveness seen in terms of judicial responses reflected in the number of cases resolved and significant investments made in terms of improving the capacities of those professionals providing services, the absence of a central monitoring system prevents us from having obvious data and information available to assess the response's effectiveness. As a result of this, the UN included a special focus on this theme in its 2016 annual plan of activities in order to support the country in enhancing this component of its response.
- ❖ To better assist populations in need of drug dependence treatment services, the priority is to reinforce the capacities of the professionals providing health services in all the provinces of the country. The community-based services for drug users will continue to be developed based on local priorities relevant to the Cabo

Verdean context. The implementation of this programme will also be guided by the UNODC-WHO Principles of Drug Dependence Treatment; finally, an articulated and integrated program between the different structures will be necessary to implement the protocol treatment and the clinical management tools.

- ❖ Community monitoring and socio-psychological support for mothers and children born from HIV/AIDS positive mothers have proven very effective. The treatment dropout rate is very low, turning around 2%. It was noted that 98% of mothers are in PMTCT. A joint and articulated work has also been crucial to advance towards decision-making on EPI and polio eradication strategies and should inspire future practices in this regard.

#### **Pillar 4: Environmental sustainability and adaptation to climate change**

- ❖ One of the most important achievements made during the reporting period was the selection of 17 project demonstrations. This selection was part of an in-depth, participatory and community-led process of designing and planning different types of projects. Community and rural extension workers were first trained in how to facilitate a participatory process for identifying and designing demonstration projects. They then worked with a task force to design 29 demonstration projects. These proposals were submitted and screened by the technical committee, who evaluated them based on specific criteria, including food insecurity vulnerability index. The community groups/associations which proposed use of renewable-energies for water mobilization, also received technical support from the School of Business in Renewable Energies to assess the specific needs and identify the dimensions of the system accordingly (size, type of technologies, configurations). This collaboration has already begun, focusing on ensuring a common M&E framework is developed for all projects and baseline information is appropriately recorded.
- ❖ Additionally, based on a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the project, the School of Business in Renewable Energies will help raise awareness on the value and management of renewable energy systems, and build capacities of the relevant community associations to implement the systems and develop the most appropriate management system. This will include financial aspects to ensure adequate funds are made available for maintenance and replacement as well as technical training to ensure efficient operation and management of the applied technologies. Additionally, the task force that led project formulation will reinforce local partnerships and broaden the participation forum for other rural partners, community and farmers associations, and delegations of other institutions (e.g. health, municipalities and water and sanitation services).
- ❖ However, there're different approaches that should be considered and are not related to a specific UNDAF' Pillar.
- ❖ As mentioned before, throughout the mobilization of the DRT funds now and for the next years and others similar initiatives will certainly reinforce the UNCT capacities and works for better programming and implementing jointly.
- ❖ The joint work with national and UN pillar leads and co-leads will continue and should be strengthened for joint and integrated programming and implementation, but also contribute to increase harmonized operation within the UN as well as with national partners, by simplifying and harmonizing procedures.