



UNITED NATIONS
SEYCHELLES



DECADE
OF
ACTION

2021 UN Country Annual Results Report SEYCHELLES

March 2022



THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development



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FOREWORD BY UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR



I am pleased to present the Annual Results Report 2021 on behalf of the United Nations Country Team in Seychelles. The report details progress on implementing the UN and Government of the Republic of Seychelles Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) 2019-2023 and the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP). The SPF and SERP are aligned to the national development priorities, the African Union Agenda 2063, the SAMOA Pathway and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Responding to COVID-19 remained a national priority for 2021. This year's UN Country Team (UNCT) Annual Report* provides an overview of the key achievements of the UN agencies to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and to promote a resilient recovery through a green and inclusive approach in Seychelles. In the spirit of the UN's commitment to Leave No One Behind, UN agencies engaged in skills building, enhanced institutional capacities and outputs, and reinforced development partnerships.

The UN – in collaboration with the government and the private sector – trained more than 200 health sector workers, as well as key personnel in other industries such as tourism in case detection, investigation and contact tracing. In addition, the Seychelles laboratory network was expanded and capacity of staff at sampling stations enhanced to improve access to testing, helping to reduce transmission levels.

The UN supported Seychelles in moving towards a green, resilient, and more inclusive approach to recovery. Technical assistance and capacity

building for the Blue Economy was provided through maritime security activities. The UN also worked with our development partners to foster the resilience of fishing communities and encourage a green recovery through initiatives around shoreland management, marine and wetlands conservation.

The pandemic highlighted the fragile food security situation of Seychelles, like that of other small island developing states (SIDS). In response, the country successfully held 11 National Food Systems Dialogues within the broader global context of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit and produced a national food systems pathway with clear recommendations. The dialogues resulted in 96 project ideas, providing the basis for a more resilient and inclusive approach to recovery. A Regional Dialogue on food systems, around food security and food waste, was also held in 2021. This helped to strengthen the partnership in food security between Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion and Seychelles.

In the latter part of the year I had the opportunity to visit the Seychelles and to meet with the government in person. Discussions centred around the progress of UN reform, the upcoming Common Country Analysis process and the review of progress on the current cooperation framework and the process of elaborating the new Cooperation Framework agreement. The UN Seychelles Liaison Office was officially opened to strengthen the UN's partnership with the government and to expand UN cooperation to new sectors. The UN has highlighted the specific vulnerabilities of SIDS, contributing to advocacy around better ways to manage debt and access financing for development

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Seychelles for its continued collaboration. The UN appreciates the support of all its partners, including bilateral and multilateral development actors, regional cooperation bodies, international financial institutions, the private sector, civil society organizations, and academia.

I believe that working in partnership is vital for achieving a greener, more resilient and more inclusive recovery as we accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs.

Christine Umutoni
Resident Coordinator, United Nations Mauritius & Seychelles

* The UNCT Annual Report presents the key achievements of the UNCT in Seychelles. More details regarding specific projects and initiatives are provided in the individual agency's annual reports.

UN COUNTRY TEAM IN SEYCHELLES

19 AGENCIES UNDER THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

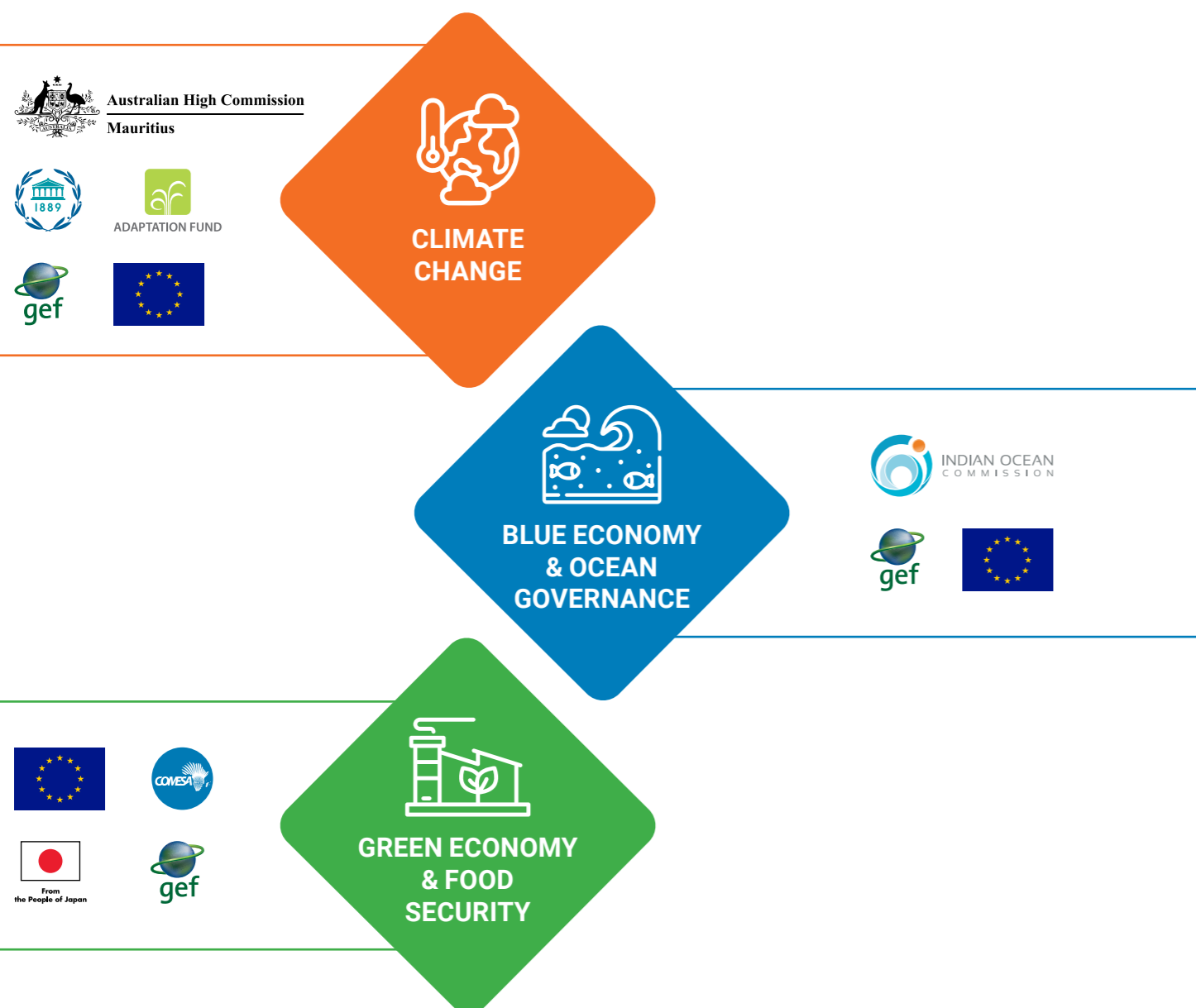
The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) comprises the heads of the UN agencies, funds, and programmes active in Seychelles. The UNCT leads the implementation of the Strategic Partnership Framework 2019 – 2023, which constitutes the development cooperation between the Republic of Seychelles and the UN.

- UNITED NATIONS MAURITIUS**
Christine N. Umutoni
UN Resident Coordinator for Mauritius and Seychelles
- IAEA** International Atomic Energy Agency
Shaikat Abdulrazak
- IFAD** Investing in rural people
Ibrahim Bamba
- unicef**
Mohamed Malick Fall
- UN environment programme**
Frank Turyatunga
- UNODC** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Sylvie Bertrand
- UNWTO** World Tourism Organization
Elcia Grandcourt
- UN Women**
Hubert Gijzen
Maxime Houinato
- UNIDO**
Stephen B. Kargbo
- UN HABITAT** FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE
Omar Sylla
- World Health Organization**
- ECA** Southern Africa Office
Mama Keita
- UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS** OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
Abigail NOKO
- FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Charles Mbuli Boliko
- IOM** International Organization for Migration (IOM) The UN Migration Agency
Celine Lemmel
- ILO** International Labour Organization
Coffi Agossou
- UNDP**
Amanda Serumaga
- UNAIDS**
Jude Padayachy
- UNFPA**
Koffi Kouame

KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS IN THE COUNTRY

Collaboration and partnership are at the heart of UNCT's work in support of the government's effort to recover from the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and achieve its development objectives.

Through technical and financial support from and results-driven coordination with development partners, the effectiveness and impact of the UNCT activities in Seychelles have significantly improved in the following areas:



In 2021, the UN continued to work closely with key stakeholders from the Government of Seychelles, the private sector, and civil society in a number of different areas and sectors, in order to implement the outcomes set out under the Cooperation Framework and also drive momentum in the country in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The main ministries/institutions, private sector organizations and civil society organizations with which the UN has partnered in 2021 as well as the areas of collaboration are listed below:

Area of Collaboration	Ministry/Institution
Health Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health
Green Economy and Food Systems Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment Seychelles Agricultural Agency National Assembly of Seychelles
Coral Reefs Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine Conservation Society of Seychelles Nature Seychelles
Climate Change & Environment Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment Seychelles Park and Gardens Authority University of Seychelles
Sexual Reproductive Health & HIV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health Seychelles National Youth Council National AIDS Council
Training and Capacity Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industry Seychelles Federation Workers Union
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning & Trade National Bureau of Statistics of Seychelles
Agenda 2030/SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism



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KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS



POPULATION
98 500



GDP PER CAPITA
US\$12,189



LABOUR FORCE
52,917



HDI
0.796



INFLATION
9.77%¹



GINI COEFFICIENT
0.300



LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH
MALE 72.7
FEMALE 82.0

OVERALL CONTEXT

The Republic of Seychelles comprises over 116 islands scattered over 1 million square kilometres of sea in the middle of the Western Indian Ocean. The Seychelles archipelago is composed of two distinct collections of islands: the Mahe group, which includes 43 islands in all, and the coralline group, numbering 73 or more islands that are mostly only a little above sea-level.

Supported by well-entrenched democratic institutions, the country is politically and socially stable and has relatively solid public institutions based on the rule of law. For the past 10 years, Seychelles has constantly improved in the

Mo Ibrahim Overall Governance Index, moving from sixth to third place among African countries, with a most recent score of 72.3. The country performs particularly well in the categories of Participation, Rights, Inclusion and Equality, and Gender.

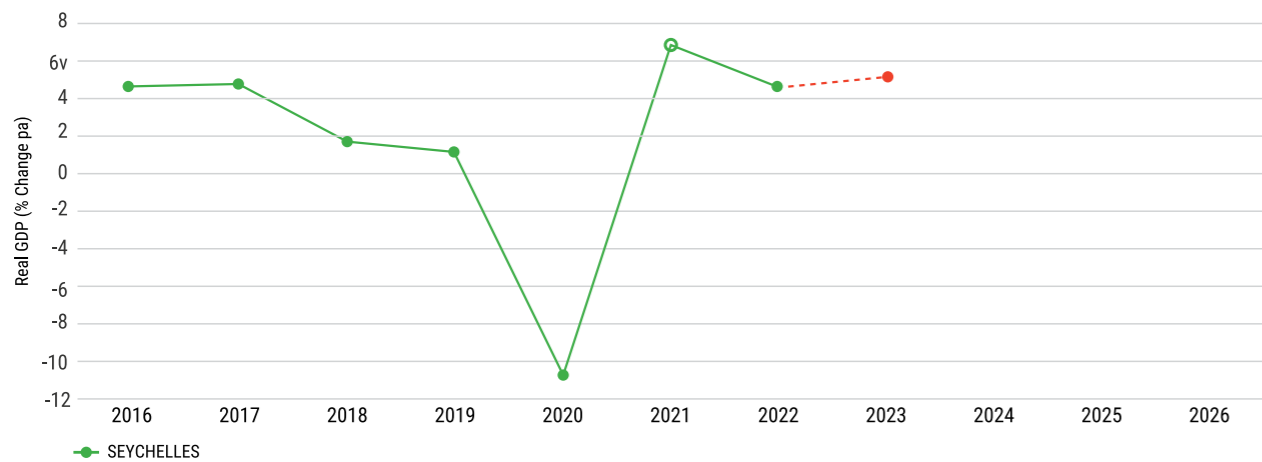
Seychelles has experienced rapid economic growth and attained high-income status in 2015². It is mainly a service-driven economy with services accounting for 78 percent of GDP³. However, its high dependency on tourism left it highly vulnerable to the effects of the pandemic. Seychelles' economy contracted by 10.8 percent in 2020 but swiftly bounced back to a growth rate of 6.8 percent in 2021 according to latest estimates.

¹ CBS, 12-Month average as at Dec 2021

² Seychelles graduates to high-income country status according to World Bank / www.mfa.gov.sc/static.php?content_id=18&news_id=1071

³ National Bureau of Statistics, Seychelles

Figure 1 : GDP per head (US\$)



Source : ©The Economist Intelligence Unit 2022. All rights reserved. Derived from World Bank Indicators

After the border reopened in March 2021, the Seychellois Rupee (SCR) rapidly regained most of the value it had lost in 2020, and by the end of 2021, Seychelles had received a very positive review from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on its economic management of the crisis, recognizing substantial progress in restoring macroeconomic stability and in implementing the agreed structural reform agenda. Prices, however, rapidly increased in 2021 (10 percent inflation compared to 1.2 percent in 2020), in part due to disruption to the supply chain for essential supplies (including food and energy products), which affected those on the lowest incomes most, in a country which, despite being considered high-income, 40 percent⁴ of the population already lived below the national poverty line before the COVID-19 crisis.

The government of President Ramkalawan that came to power in October 2020 dealt with the health crisis and its economic and social effects in a pragmatic, effective, and composed manner. Throughout most of 2020, public expenditure had been high (SCR 11.17 billion), but income extremely low (SCR 7.3 billion)⁵. The government ensured that citizens and residents would be protected from the worst effects of the crisis by strengthened health services, increased social protection coverage to ensure a minimum income for all, and support for employers to avoid the loss of businesses. At the same time, as income from tourism dwindled, the government mainly had to rely on revenue from the fishing sector, while also having to rely on loans from international financial institutions including a 32-month loan of about US\$107 million from the IMF. The full and early re-opening of the tourism sector allowed more normal economic activity

to be resumed: this provided the government with tax income to continue functioning, while working to meet the structural reform expectations attached to the IMF support.

While the partial opening of borders from August 2020 (following a complete closure in March 2020) helped maintain some tourism activity and keep the number of COVID-19 infections very low up to Christmas 2020 (211 cases and no deaths between March and December), 2021 opened with a spike in COVID-19 cases (3,978 cases and 21 deaths in the first quarter). The government responded by organizing a swift vaccination campaign, which saw over 65 percent of the population fully vaccinated by the end of May, making Seychelles the first African nation “fully” vaccinated against COVID-19. This successful campaign allowed Seychelles to rapidly reopen to international tourist arrivals from 25 March. Over the year, citizens and residents learned to live with COVID-19 and – due to the high vaccination coverage and to the strengthened public and private health sector capacities – the number of COVID-19 deaths remained low (126 in 2021), despite a quarter of the population (24,230 individuals) having tested positive for COVID-19 in 2021.

Socially, the COVID-19 crisis continued to have a marked impact. The lack of employment, school closures, lockdowns, and other restrictions on movement since March 2020 exacerbated domestic violence and gender-based violence (GBV)⁶ globally, and prevented headway being made in curbing the epidemic of drug abuse.

Regarding long-term planning and relations with the UN system, along with the short- to mid-term response embedded in the national budget, the government has been working on a new National Development Strategy to be finalized in 2022, which the UN will use as its main reference point in working with Seychelles to strengthen our long-term partnership to promote sustainable development.

PROGRESS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Seychelles produced its first Voluntary National Review in 2020, in which the government reaffirmed its ambition to achieve the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Significant data gaps make it challenging to monitor Seychelles’ progress in achieving all the SDGs, especially regarding SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities). Nonetheless, the country is on track to achieve SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy).

In line with its commitments to the 2030 Agenda, the Government of Seychelles revised its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in 2021 with technical support from the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to combat the effects of climate change through coastal adaptation and build on the country’s momentum as a champion of the Blue Economy, recognizing the sector enormous potential towards climate action and economic recovery. The government also committed the country to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 26.4 percent by 2030. The revised NDC was submitted to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN FCCC) in June 2021.

In 2021, Seychelles also successfully went through the review process of the 3rd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) with the assistance of Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Regional Office for Southern Africa. The country also submitted a state report on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

It should be noted that in 2021 Seychelles further strengthened its commitment to promoting the Decent Work Agenda, and continued implementation of its Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) 2019-23.

Culturally, the Seychelles’ traditional Moutya dance has been added to UNESCO’s list of intangible heritage. The Moutya dance is the first cultural tradition of the island nation to receive such recognition.

Figure 2 : Sustainable Development Goals progress



Source : ©Sustainable Development Report, Seychelles SDG profile

⁴. World Bank Database
⁵. Economist Intelligence Unit, 2021
⁶. Violence Against Women during COVID-19, UNWomen



©UNWomen Ryan Brown

UN SUPPORT TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES

2.1 OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS

The UNCT's consistent and coordinated approach to supporting the Government of Seychelles resulted in remarkable achievements in 2021. While the primary focus of the UN agencies was working towards mitigating and recovering from the effects of COVID-19, other strategic results were not abandoned. Our agencies delivered 75 activities in line with the Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF), building skills, improving institutional capacities and outputs, and strengthening development partnerships while ensuring no-one is left behind



Figure 3 : Contributions by Strategic Priority Area of the Cooperation Framework in 2021

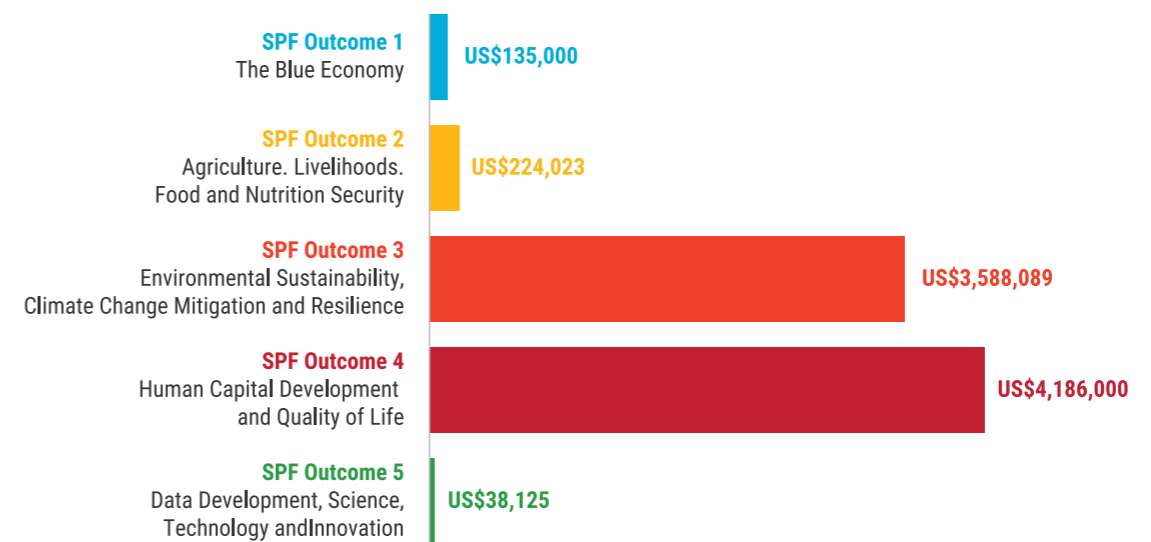


Table 1 : Contributions by agencies to implementation of the Cooperation Framework in 2021

UN (United Nations) Agencies	Contribution (US\$)
UNDP (UN Development Programme)	4,019,000.00
WHO (World Health Organisation)	3,589,589.00
UNODC (UN Office on Drugs and Crime)	212,125.00
IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)	201,240.00
UNFPA (UN Population Fund)	78,000.00
UNRCO (UN Resident Coordinator's Office)	36,283.00
ILO (International Labour Organization)	30,000.00
UNAIDS	5,000.00

Technical support and operations are not included in these estimates.



CAPACITY BUILDING, KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE, AND WEBINARS



700 PERSONS
ATTENDED A
HYBRID-MODE REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON FOOD SYSTEMS, SPECIFICALLY ON
FOOD SECURITY & FOOD WASTE

This helped to enrich renewed partnerships between Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion and Seychelles.

6 topics were discussed: crops; food processing; livestock; the whole value chain across food systems; fisheries; youth empowerment

50% of the participants were **aged 31–50**, and **42% were women**



3 COVID-19 RESEARCH PLATFORM
WEBINARS BRINGING
TOGETHER
14 EXPERTS & 90 PARTICIPANTS TO DISCUSS THE
SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PANDEMIC

2.2 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES, AND OUTPUTS



OUTCOME 1: THE BLUE ECONOMY

By 2023, the Seychelles economy is diversified and provides varying investment opportunities in the blue economy



Advancing maritime security by providing equipment and legal review of the law of the sea and port security

As part of the efforts to ensure the maritime security of Seychelles, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Maritime Crime Control Programme drafted a legal review of the Law of the Sea and Port Security in Seychelles and used this analysis at a meeting with the Prosecutor's Office and the Coast Guard to discuss recommendations to improve the existing legal framework. The Global Maritime Crime Control Programme in Seychelles is mandated to enhance the state's capacity to disrupt transnational organized crime at sea through effective patrolling of trafficking routes

based on accurate maritime domain awareness, and to enhance cooperation on maritime law enforcement through the sharing of information and active operational coordination. In addition, the Programme's legal component has a mandate to develop prosecutorial, investigative and judicial expertise to ensure legal processes regarding maritime crimes are successfully completed.

Legal experts contracted by UNODC reviewed the legal frameworks in place. They developed proposed legislative amendments to ensure legislative compliance from disruption through to detention. They also issued recommendations for improving the existing legal framework. UNODC also provided office and information technology to Prosecutor's office to enhance effectiveness.

made a presentation on the international legal framework governing TIP and the findings of the Regional Legislative Assessment. The recommendations presented included: **i)** harmonizing national legislation, especially addressing penalties that conflict with each other under Penal Code Sections 134, 135 and 251 and the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act (Act 9 Of 2014); **ii)** including provisions on asset seizure and freezing in the TIP Act to enable confiscation of proceeds of crime in TIP offences; **iii)** establishing and operationalizing a national data collection mechanism on the identified victims, investigation and prosecution of TIP cases; and **iv)** including a specific provision on non-refoulement.

Within the regional maritime security project, a feasibility assessment was completed in 2021 on establishing a secured dedicated network and database for migration-related information and intelligence sharing in the context of maritime security. Consultations, as well as the feasibility assessment, have improved key regional and national stakeholders' awareness of strengths, gaps and challenges concerning migration-related information and intelligence sharing in the context of maritime security.

A comprehensive national review of Seychelles' Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) profile completed



IOM delivered foundation courses on Integrated Border Management (IBM) and Trafficking in Persons / Smuggling of Migrants (TIP/SoM) to 25 persons (11 male and 14 female) from public agencies working in border management and migration management as well as civil society organizations. A comparison of the post-training assessment and the pre-training assessment indicates that the foundation courses improved knowledge and skills with respect to IBM and TIP/SoM. The participants agreed that they would implement the acquired learning in their work settings to support migrants and other persons.

IOM provided technical support for a comprehensive national review of Seychelles' Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) profile in the context of an MGI follow-up assessment. The review assessed migration governance and identified key strengths, gaps and areas with potential for further development. The MGI report, which was submitted to the Government of Seychelles, provides concrete insights, recommendations, and policy levers that the government can use to strengthen migration governance and related structures in Seychelles.



©Joanna Prosper



linking Seychellois law enforcement agencies and case management.

In other thematic areas, UNODC provided technical assistance to the Seychelles Police Department Financial Crime Investigation Unit (FCIU) by embedding a Financial Investigation Advisor for financial investigations. Ongoing strategic and operational advice was also provided to FCIU on financial investigations and capacity building activities.

Increased capacity of criminal justice practitioners on Integrated Border Management (IBM) and Trafficking in Persons / Smuggling of Migrants



To combat trafficking in persons (TIP), UNODC organized a workshop to draft regulations and revise anti-TIP legislation, and drafted a scenario-based simulation exercise to assess the functionality of existing Anti-TIP legislation and gaps in national coordination. UNODC also organized a specialized anti-TIP training event for judiciary personnel, and a workshop for criminal justice practitioners to strengthen capacity to effectively detect, investigate and prosecute TIP, including training of trainers (ToT).

In cooperation with the National Coordination Committee on TIP (NCCTIP) and the TIP Secretariat, UNODC conducted a scenario-based simulation exercise intended to assess the functionality of the Seychellois Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act (Act 9 of 2014), as well as to identify potential areas for enhancing national coordination and cooperation on identifying, investigating and prosecuting TIP cases. The scenario-based exercise brought together 14 criminal justice practitioners (9 females and 5 males) to discuss challenges and best practices in the legislation and its implementation. UNODC

A senior legal expert embedded in the Prosecutor's Office conducted a review of considerations for ensuring successful conclusion of legal processes including legal frameworks and their application at national level, jurisdiction for narcotics trafficking at sea, evidential provisions, the extent to which investigations are effective and mutual legal assistance.

In July 2021, UNODC provided logistic support for the repatriation of suspected pirates to Somalia after their acquittal by the Supreme Court of Seychelles. The security of the Seychellois institutions, the safety of the trip and the airline and respect for the human rights of the individuals were all ensured with the assistance of the airport authorities in Nairobi and in good coordination with the Somali institutions.

The agency also supported the improvement of Seychellois court efficiency with the development of **Electronic Case Management System (eCMS)**.

At the prison level, piracy suspects held in Seychelles prisons were given welfare items by UNODC in line with the Nelson Mandela Rules. Dynamic security training was also delivered to the Seychelles Prison.

UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme provided information technology to the Seychelles Ministry of Foreign Affairs for better database use,

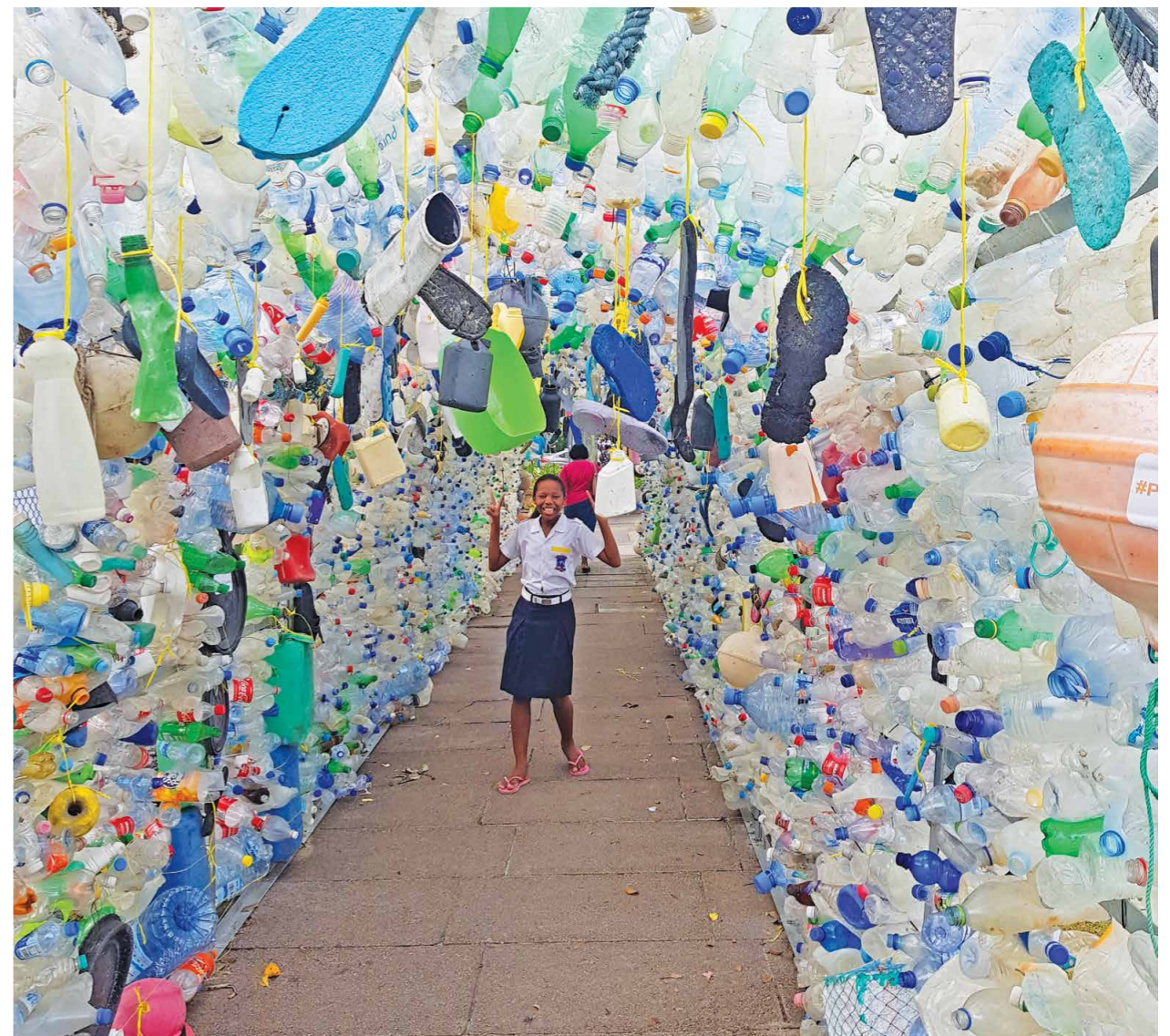
Seychelles was provided with visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) simulator facilities to support VBSS training. UNODC trained the Seychelles marine police, coast guard and marine academy on:

- ▶ outboard maintenance
- ▶ standing operating procedures for the collection of evidence in fisheries cases
- ▶ evidence handling
- ▶ detection and safe handling of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear material
- ▶ VBSS integrated with Fusion Centre Information Sharing applied to practical operations.



OUTCOME 3: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND RESILIENCE

By 2023, national, sub-national, and community levels have enhanced capacity for sustainable management of natural resources and the environment to mitigate and cope with disasters and the effects of climate change



✓ The UN contributed to reduce the vulnerability of Seychelles to climate change

UNDP has continued to bring in innovative adaptation approaches that enhance community resilience through ecosystem-based adaptation and build coastal community resilience through hard engineering.



OUTCOME 2: AGRICULTURE, LIVELIHOODS, FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

By 2023, the population, especially most vulnerable, has increased agricultural productivity, food and nutrition security and enhanced livelihood opportunities



✓ Improved national communities through increased water storage capacities

UNDP and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) increased water storage capacities in Val D'Endorre for the farming community by installing two water storage tanks. This action under the Climate Smart Agriculture framework helped to effectively mitigate the challenges of seasonal drought and ensure crop production in Seychelles.

✓ Resilience of fishing communities strengthened

With financial aid from the Government of Japan, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) initiated the **REEFFISH project**, which sponsored 500 small-scale fishers in the Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles. The REEFFISH project was intended to **improve livelihoods and food and maritime security** by strengthening the resilience of fishing communities that depend on fishing around coral reefs in the African part of the Indian Ocean.

WAYNE BIBI, 18 YEARS OLD

I enrolled on the Net-making and Artisanal Fishing Course at Seychelles Maritime Academy as I was encouraged to take the training provided by the ILO and the Ministry of Employment, given my interest to work as a boat boy. Ever since I was little I have had a great love for the sea. I have always been fascinated by the people who worked at sea, and thus I decided to take the opportunity.


The course itself was very interesting and fun. I have learned a lot through the course and gained new skills especially in first aid, fire-fighting, security awareness, net crafting and artisanal fishing. The most exciting part was the boat trip where I got the chance to put in practice what was learned in class. I got the chance to navigate the boat and learnt to read the GPS. Additionally, we were like a real crew on board, cooking, cleaning and fishing together.

Since completing the course, I have had the chance to go on my first eight-day fishing trip on board the Sainte Cecile vessel. I have applied at a few establishments through my search for a job and await a response.


I think the re-skilling programme is a good initiative as we get the opportunity to learn new skills that will enable us to secure careers for the future and thus contribute to the economy.

My advice to anyone wanting to enrol on the re-skilling programme is to take the opportunity, as it will enable the acquisition of new skills and knowledge which will help someone to achieve their lifelong goals. It is an investment that one can embark on for their future."


TO REDUCE THE VULNERABILITY OF SEYCHELLES TO CLIMATE CHANGE, UNDP SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES:



THE FIRST WATER RETENTION BARRAGES to be constructed in Seychelles were made using gabion cages and rocks to create reservoirs for water users to adapt to drought



TWO NEW WETLANDS were reprofiled in the Baie Lazare watershed, making a total of 40,000 m³ of water storage available for agriculture and the Public Utilities Corporation



FOUR COMMUNITY-BASED WATERSHED COMMITTEES were set up to participate in wetland and forest restoration work programmes, as well as networking activities and capacity building sessions

Under the Global Climate Change Alliance Seychelles Programme, UNDP was able to put in place an Integrated Shoreline Management Plan for La Digue Community. Hydrological dynamics and the productivity of stream channels were enhanced, and wetlands and flood buffering capacity were increased. Beach berms were improved, and the effects of coastal flooding and saltwater contamination were mitigated.

✓ **Business plans for protected areas set up**

The UNDP-supported Seychelles Protected Areas Finance Project helped to put in place business plans for protected areas. E-ticketing was established for Seychelles Parks and Gardens Authority, and the visitor experience was enhanced in national parks and trails. The project has improved revenue generation, and the management of marine and terrestrial protected areas and sub-systems has been enhanced to ensure conservation.

The Marine Conservation Society of Seychelles has transplanted 2,039 coral colonies within the Ste. Anne Marine National Park, with a total of 510m² restored with the support of UNDP under the Coral Restoration Project. This six-year project's aims

include developing a sustainable partnership and business approach to reef restoration, establishing coral farming and nursery facilities, and actively restoring degraded reefs, among others.

UN Habitat produced a Regional Assessment on Urban Vulnerability and Resilience to deepen understanding of disaster risk and urban vulnerability dynamics in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States, including Seychelles.

✓ **Rehabilitation of Plaine Hollandaise (safeguard of Seychelles' unique and precious species)**

The Terrestrial Restoration Action Society of Seychelles (TRASS) project, supported by the United UNEP, resulted in the rehabilitation of Plaine Hollandaise in 2021 to help safeguard Seychelles' unique and precious species. The restored wetland will provide both economic security (by protecting the world-renowned coral reefs and beaches of Curieuse Marine Park), and physical security (by reducing the occurrence of floods). The TRASS project, in general, is intended to rehabilitate the wetland, starting with restoring the degraded foothills with anti-erosion measures.



OUTCOME 4: HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE

By 2023, the population of Seychelles, especially women, children, youth, vulnerable and high-risk groups, have increased access to quality, integrated healthcare, education and services that safeguard and promote quality of life

✓ **Capacities enhanced to address the skills and labour shortages resulting from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic**

The Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) adopted and operationalized the Strategic Plan Programme in 2021 following the International Labour Organization's (ILO's) training of representatives through the Entrepreneurship Trainers Academy. ILO also provided guidance and technical inputs for the finalization of the Strategic Plan for the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) programme. This SIYB Plan includes the development of innovative and inclusive business models.

ILO established a re-skilling, transformation and empowerment programme to address the skills and labour shortages resulting from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. A number of vocational training sessions were provided for 80 beneficiaries in various areas, including the blue economy, such as: personal survival techniques, fire-fighting and prevention, elementary first aid, personal safety and social responsibility, hairdressing, food production, front office, first aid at sea, proficiency in ship security awareness, fishing, marine vessels repairs and maintenance, and provision (food, drinking water and so on). The strong advocacy by the SCCI for economic recovery at country level, in collaboration with the Seychelles Federation Workers Union (SFWU) and with the support of ILO, was also key for protecting the business community and workers.

In line with SCCI's policy framework on "Pathways to Recovery & Prosperity" (RAP), the SCCI published

✓ **Supported evidence generation for policy making (SeychellesNEXT report)**

"A Comprehensive Framework to Emerge Stronger in the New Reality", a response to the national budget announced by the Minister of Finance. In March 2021, SCCI published a proposal addressing redundancy, training and re-skilling. The RAP positioned SCCI as the lead actor driving the recovery agenda. To achieve this result, the ILO established a survey platform that enabled SCCI to run seven enterprise surveys to identify members' needs and concerns from May 2020 to July 2021. The ILO also provided SCCI with two policy frameworks, one as the pandemic broke to help SCCI engage with government, and the second at the start of 2021 to support and update the RAP framework. The ILO also supported the development and launch of a "Seychelles NEXT" report on the changing nature of the workplace post-pandemic in September 2021.

✓ **Capacities enhanced on international labour standards reporting**

The ILO provided technical expertise to the Government for the preparation of its Article 22 reports. Training on international labour standards reporting which was attended by a senior female official from the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs was organised by the agency. As a result, all Article 22 reports due by the Seychelles were received within deadline.

The ILO also assisted the Ministry of Employment to review the Industrial Relations Act (IRA) to address

all possible incompatibilities with various national labour laws, the comments of the ILO supervisory bodies on the IRA based on ILO Conventions 87 and 98, and the concerns of social partners and other stakeholders.

Moreover, a gap analysis was published to help determine Seychelles' readiness to adopt ILO

Convention 188, in advance of ratification of the Convention in the future.

The life of women and youth in Seychelles has been improved through UNFPA's close collaboration and support to the Ministry of Health and Health of Seychelles and the Seychelles National Youth Council (SNYC).



TESSY MADELEINE, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

UNFPA helps to improve skills of partners in Seychelles on comprehensive sexuality education for more impact.

Ms. Tessa Madeleine is the Coordinator of the HIV AIDS Support Organization (HASO), an NGO at the forefront of the national response to HIV and AIDS and harm reduction in Seychelles. In the last quarter of 2021, she took part in online training on "Comprehensive Sexuality Education for Teachers and Educators" organized by UNFPA. For her, this initiative came just at the right time.

"As the Programme Coordinator for HASO and as someone already involved in conducting CSE sessions in various secondary schools, the training modules in this course have been very essential in boosting my knowledge and skills. With this training, I can better deliver sensitization sessions to adolescents and young people."

On successful completion of the training, she was awarded a certificate of completion on 16 November 2021, as well as a laptop.

"As a token of my dedication to the cause, I was presented with a laptop by the Programme Manager of the National AIDS Council, which I intend to use as a teaching aid in the training process. We would really like to express our sincere gratitude to UNFPA and partners for this remarkable opportunity, and we look forward to their continuous support in this light," says Ms. Madeleine.

Ms. Tessa Madeleine,
Program Coordinator, HASO – Seychelles

NATIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN FOR SEYCHELLES



POLICY ADVICE AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

The response to COVID-19 remained one of the country's priorities for 2021 and, as such, the WHO's support for improving the policy environment for the COVID-19 preparedness and response continued. Key contributions included the establishment of coordination mechanisms and structures for the COVID-19 response, with clear terms of reference (TOR). Additionally, training was also supported for the members of the various structures on their respective TORs to ensure their effective participation. The coordination mechanism and structures established have enabled streamlined, timely reporting for evidence-based decision-making and policy guidance.

In line with the structures, WHO also supported the establishment of the first ever Public Health Emergency Operation Centre (PHEOC), which remained functional throughout 2021. Additionally, various COVID-19 response pillars – leadership and coordination, risk communication and community engagement, surveillance, case investigation and contact tracing, travel, trade and points of entry, diagnostics and testing, infection prevention and

control (IPC), case management and therapeutics, operational support and logistics, essential health systems and services, vaccination, and research and innovation – were formed to better coordinate the response. Support was extended to capacity building for all the members of the technical teams from each pillar, resulting in the empowerment of the technical teams to take up their roles as set out in the TOR developed, and ultimately in a more coordinated response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

 **154,440** RECEIVED THROUGH
VACCINES COVAX*

WHO also supported strengthening of the continuity of essential health services in 2021. This involved conducting a continuity assessment of essential services during the COVID-19 response, the findings of which have informed a policy decision on integration of COVID-19 into routine health service delivery, including the decentralization of COVID-19 vaccination and its integration into the routine immunization programme. The assessment findings also led to the opening of special clinics and a gradual resumption of specialized services.

* Including donated, allocated and facilitated doses through COVAX. Source: UNICEF's COVID-19 Vaccine Market Dashboard.



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NORMATIVE SUPPORT

During the year, several technical guidelines and tools were developed to support the COVID-19 response. With WHO support, the National Infection Prevention and Control Strategic Framework 2021-2025 was finalized, with corresponding guidelines and standard operating procedures to support its implementation. IPC improvement plans and management guidelines were also developed for healthcare workers exposed to and infected with COVID-19. These documents provide critical steps and approaches for effective IPC against COVID-19 and other pathogens. The capacity of IPC committees at different levels of the health system and tourism establishments was built, with the IPC committees trained to periodically assess the performance of IPC practices using a scorecard adapted from the WHO standard scorecard. The findings of these assessments have supported the government to institutionalize IPC as a standard clinical practice, contributing to a reduction in healthcare worker infections in the fourth wave compared to the second and third waves. It is anticipated that maintaining this IPC culture will eventually contribute to a reduction in hospital-acquired infections and re-build the community's confidence in the health system, thereby improving health-seeking behaviour.

WHO also supported the establishment of functional triage stations at all 17 public health facilities across the country. This has contributed to improved IPC practices and case detection. Initially triage was non-existent and COVID-19 patients would mix with other patients, with potential for hospital-based transmission in consultation areas. Triage cases can now avert preventable COVID-19-associated morbidity and mortality. Lessons learned from the health facilities informed the implementation of triage in large and small tourism establishments.

Normative support was also provided through efforts to expand COVID-19 testing capacity in the country. This includes the development of guidelines to set up "Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2" (SARS-CoV-2) RT-PCR testing laboratories country-wide, including support for the shipment of SARS-CoV-2 samples to the reference laboratory (KEMRI-Wellcome Trust, based in Kenya) for sequencing. With the introduction of mutation screening for variants of concern (VOC), staff were trained on using mutation screening assays to detect circulating VOC and, potentially, new variants. In addition, WHO experts built the capacity of 30 laboratory personnel and provided supportive supervision, enabling expansion of the Seychelles laboratory network from one to six laboratories during the year, and facilitating the

involvement of private laboratories in the national testing laboratory network. Such lab expansion has resulted in reduced workloads in the public health laboratory as well as reduced turnaround time for results, improving the timely diagnosis and isolation of cases. With continued technical support, the COVID-19 sampling network was also increased from 4 to 14 sampling sites, further improving access to testing across the country. This has also facilitated timely contact tracing, contributing to quick control of the fourth wave.

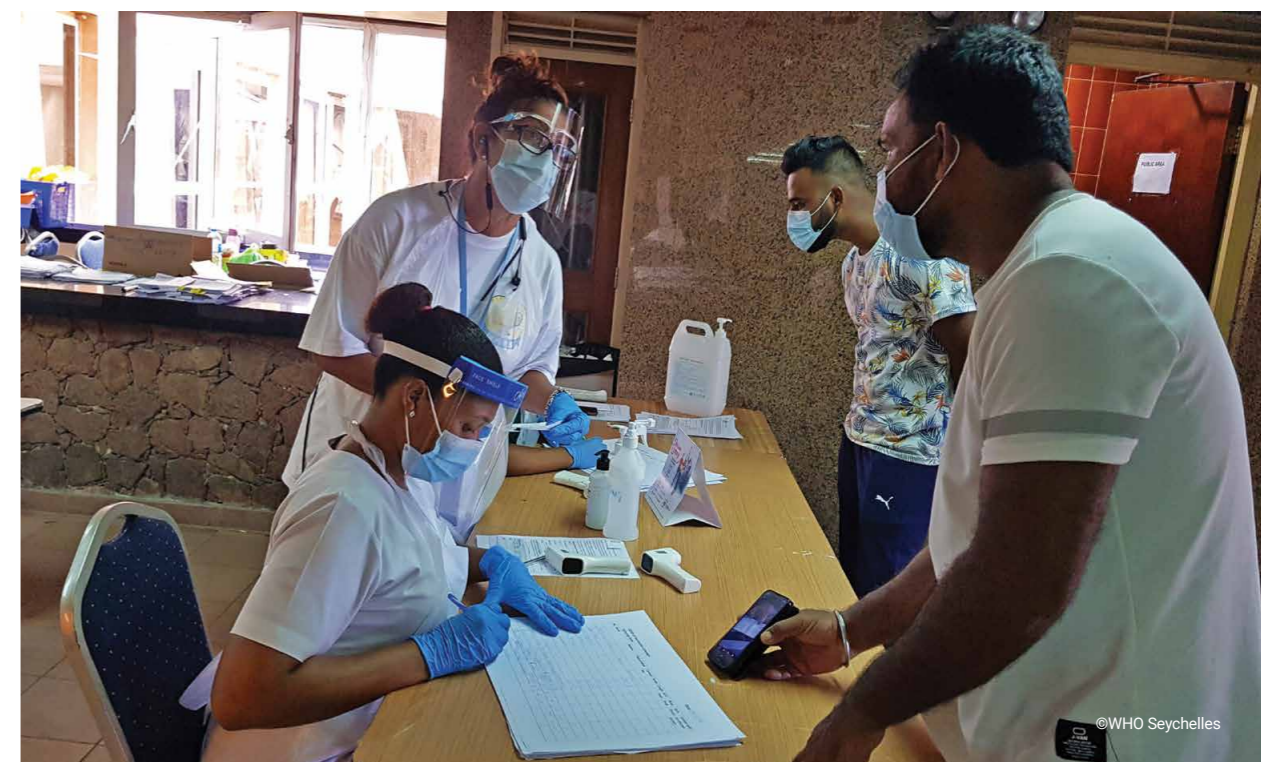
Furthermore, COVID-19 decentralization guidelines were developed for regional health teams. This informed various activities, from diagnosis to discharge of cases in the five regions. Each regional team is now responsible for case detection and follow up with contacts, helping to curtail the outbreak during the fourth wave. All of the above guidelines, developed with WHO support, are now providing strategic direction and focus for the COVID-19 response.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The capacity of hundreds of health workers and personnel in several other key sectors was enhanced in 2021 to support the national COVID-19

response. More than 200 public health officials, clinicians, health and safety officers and human resource personnel in tourism establishments were trained to build their knowledge and skills in case detection, case investigation and contact tracing. The training was based on WHO tools, including the standard surveillance training guidelines and packages for the COVID-19 response in the African Region. This capacity building was followed up with regular supportive supervision missions to reinforce acquired knowledge and skills, and also to provide on-the-spot corrective measures to address identified gaps. This resulted in the prompt detection of cases, investigation of risk factors, timely isolation and quick identification of contacts for risk assessment and appropriate categorization and support, which eventually led to halting further transmission, prompt isolation, and monitoring of clinical progress to avert morbidity and mortality.

The capacity of staff working at sampling stations was also strengthened through the training of 65 Ministry of Health personnel and 94 key Ministry of Education staff on sampling and rapid antigen testing while maintaining biosafety and quality. This has facilitated early diagnosis for prompt isolation, therefore reducing further transmission, including within school settings. This capacity building has further improved access to testing in



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the country and testing turnaround times and has also reduced workloads and burn-out in the public health laboratory.

Technical support was also provided for the adaptation and rolling out of third-generation Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR), including ToT. IDSR is a strategy adopted by countries in the WHO African Region for enabling comprehensive public health surveillance and response systems for priority diseases, conditions, and events at all levels of health systems. This capacity building has directly improved the management of COVID-19 surveillance since the start of the pandemic. The first three waves of COVID-19 were managed at national level through skills acquired during the IDSR training. Following training for multi-sector regional teams and the rolling out of the decentralized COVID-19 response, the fourth wave was managed at sub-national levels with oversight at national level.

With WHO technical assistance, a hotspot strategy was developed through a multi-stakeholder consultative process including the engagement of community leaders, the District Administrators (Das). The strategy – which is a guide to facilitating the decentralization of surveillance activities and prioritizing resources based on need – provides critical steps to ensure effective case detection, investigation, isolation and contact tracing. It was piloted in two districts on Mahe and lessons learned informed the rollout to 15 other districts. Implementation of the strategy facilitated timely case detection and isolation, thereby preventing further transmission.

The hotspot strategy was a precursor of the decentralization of surveillance activities and home-based care (HBC). Five regional multi-sectoral stakeholder consultation meetings took place to support the expansion of decentralization. A total of 52 health facility managers, Das, Public Health Officers, and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and faith-based organizations (FBOs), among other key stakeholders, were consulted during the process, resulting in increased community participation and ownership of the national response.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Tourism, WHO trained health and safety officers, human resource officers and general managers at tourism establishments to expand capacity for case detection, investigation and contact tracing, in harmony with the unique nature of Seychelles, whose economy depends on tourism. A total of 110 participants were trained, drawn from 46 large and medium-sized establishments (25 beds or more) on Mahe. Capacity building was also conducted for 75 participants from 39 large and medium-sized establishments on Praslin, La Digue islands and other inner islands.

To prepare them to supervise tourism establishments, public health officers completed similar training. They were also trained on how to conduct supportive supervision and given the tools needed to conduct supervision within their districts. To reinforce acquired knowledge and skills from the training, the central MoH and WHO team embarked on supportive supervisory visits together with the district public health officers starting with Mahe, where nine tourism establishments were visited in the last quarter of 2021. Supportive supervisory visits continue in 2022.

As part of efforts to leave no one behind UNAIDS, in consultation with the National AIDS Council, provided supplies for the COVID-19 response to four NGOs: the Drug Utilization Response Network Seychelles (DURNS), the Alliance of Solidarity for the Family (ASFF), the HIV AIDS Support Organization (HASO), and the United Frontier Brigade of Seychelles, in order to protect key vulnerable population at risk of HIV infection. Hygiene supplies were also offered to the Agency for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and Rehabilitation (APDAR), and the National AIDS Council (NAC, which itself redistributing some to services at the Victoria Hospital).

Additionally, WHO assisted the Seychelles health sector by providing support to assess SIDS Pooled Procurement implementation. WHO also helped to institutionalize the Seychelles National Health Account and enhance capacities in international health regulations through the National Action Plan for Health Security Implementation.

OUTCOME 5: DATA DEVELOPMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION



By 2023, the Government has robust data, science, technology and innovation to support inclusive socio-economic development



The UN supported Evidence Generation (“School to Work” transition and COVID-19 impact surveys, empirical study on the impacts of COVID-19 on households and businesses)

The National Bureau of Statistics of Seychelles (NBS) strengthened the national labour market statistics by conducting “School to Work” transition and COVID-19 impact surveys. The ILO model questionnaire was used by the NBS for the Labour Force Survey, which adheres to the Resolutions of the 19th and 20th International Conferences of Labour Statisticians (ICLS). The ILO provided technical assistance to the NBS to develop questionnaires and methodologies to undertake the the aforementioned surveys. Moreover, the ILO supported the NBS’ participation in an online workshop held in June 2021 on the 20th ICLS Resolution on Work Relationships.

UNDP published the “Empowering the Private Sector to Diversify Seychelles’ Economy” paper in 2021. This paper draws on extensive national-level consultations and data analysis to stimulate debate on strategies for repositioning the private sector to effectively contribute to the country’s economic diversification.

It highlights the structure of Seychelles’ economy, emphasizing the place of the private sector, assessing trends towards economic diversification, articulating the efficacy of legal policy and institutional environment in facilitating private sector engagement, and proposing a suite of reforms to empower the private sector. The results of this report have informed Government decision to prepare an SDG Investor Map for Seychelles, expected to commence in 2022.

Support to the implementation of national digital strategy



The UN, through UNDP, supported the Government of Seychelles to implement the national digital strategy. This support entailed purchase of 100 ICT equipment to facilitate remote working in times of crisis. This will also facilitate transition towards paperless, efficient systems. Support also included commencement of a detailed assessment of the country’s e-procurement readiness as part of efforts to enhance transparency and efficiency in public procurement.

2.3 SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA



Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will require a paradigm shift from the usual siloed approach to one that promotes effective and inclusive partnerships. This will require that we build “collaborative relations between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and, as mutually agreed, to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits” at national, regional and international levels.

As countries recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, collaborative and effective partnerships should be built between stakeholders across all sectors to contain the spread of the virus and also build back better.

INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS IN ADVANCING EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE AGENDA 2030

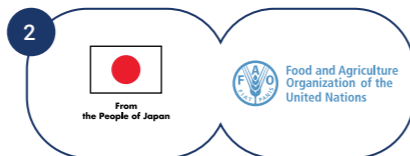


Through their political leadership and initiatives, parliamentarians have an essential role to play in catalysing the transition to a low carbon economy. In this respect, UNEP, in collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), conducted working sessions with members of the National Assembly of Seychelles to accelerate the country’s transition to clean energy. The working sessions were an opportunity to provide parliamentarians with key information and insights on renewable energy, as well as best practices from countries around the



world to support the formulation of policies and laws promoting the shift to renewable energy in the country.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS LEVERAGED FOR FINANCING SDG ACHIEVEMENT

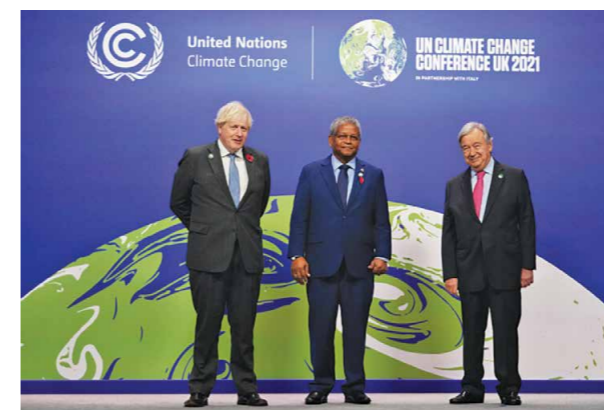


With considerable coral bleaching since 1998, Seychelles is now one of the countries with the highest coral mortality in the world. This has had a direct impact on fish stocks as well as livelihoods, negatively affecting the two main economic sectors of the country (fisheries and tourism) as well as food security for the population. Through the “Enhancing Livelihoods, Food Security and Maritime Safety through Increased Resilience of Fishing Communities Dependent on Coral Reef Fisheries in the African Coastal Countries of the Indian Ocean” project, FAO has mobilized resources from the Government of Japan to promote sustainable use of marine resources in these countries and to protect coral reef habitats. This initiative will build the capacity of the fishing community (including youth and women), improve the value chain and marketing as well as increase maritime safety and reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by using digital technology.

* <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/about>

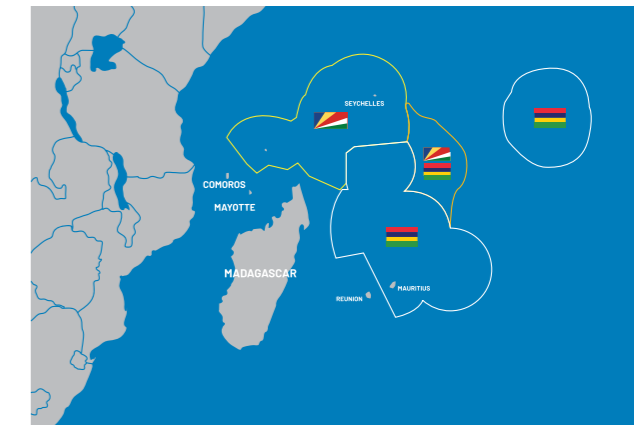


Access to and mobilization of climate finance is one of the main challenges hindering the capacity of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to implement climate mitigation and adaptation measures. To unlock the flow of climate finance in Seychelles, the UNDP has mobilized funding from the Climate Investment Platform to support the country to improve its capacity and readiness to mobilize climate financing for two priority projects. Through this support, the country aims to mobilize the necessary funding to create affordable financial mechanisms for residential homeowners to invest in photovoltaic systems and to improve groundwater treatment processes on La Digue to ensure the availability of potable drinking water for the population.



In preparation for the 26th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26), the UN in Seychelles mobilized financial support from the Australian High Commission to strengthen the capacity of public officials in climate diplomacy and negotiation. At a four-day workshop organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), participants had the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge on previous climate change negotiations and the key expectations and outcomes for COP26, as well as to develop their abilities in priority identification and country positioning for Seychelles.

SOUTH-SOUTH PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE AGENDA 2030



Under the GEF-funded Joint Management Area (JMA) Demonstration Project, UNDP has further strengthened the collaboration between Mauritius and Seychelles on co-management of the Extended Continental Shelf of the Mascarene Plateau. Through capacity building on marine spatial planning, law of the sea, monitoring control and surveillance, this project has reinforced the ability of both countries to adopt new management approaches and techniques concerning ocean governance. It has also catalysed joint management efforts and effective decision-making between the two countries in the world’s largest jointly and peacefully managed maritime zone.

Through UNDP in collaboration with the OECD under the Tax Inspectors without Borders Initiative, the UN system brought on board the Government of India to build the capacity of the Seychelles Revenue Commission to undertake tax audits. This is part of efforts to enhance recovery of tax resources from the private sector.

2.4 RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING TOGETHER

The Resident Coordinator's leadership and coordination of more coherent and efficient United Nations interventions to support Seychelles to achieve the SDGs

In 2021, implementation of United Nations Development System reform in Seychelles continued to increase the visibility, coherence, and synergy of engagement with the government and development partners to support achievement of the SDGs and African Union's Agenda 2063. In Seychelles, of 19 United Nations agencies contributing to the SPF outcomes, only WHO has a physical presence with the head of the agency in the country. Despite this, the Resident Coordinator (RC) and the RC's Office

(RCO) continued to engage both resident and non-resident United Nations agencies by organizing virtual United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings and personally attending inter-agency working group meetings. United Nations agencies, especially those without a physical presence, increasingly appreciated the support they receive from the RC and RCO to reach out to government line ministries and other sectoral stakeholders.

In 2021 the RCO established a fully functional RCO office with a nationally recruited coordination officer. The office space is for non-resident UN agencies to work in and utilize for meetings or conferences on official missions to the Seychelles.



Better and more coherent United Nations joint programming, to support implementation and monitoring of the SPF

Despite the COVID-19 restrictions, the RC organized a very successful UNCT retreat which was attended by the Minister of Finance of Seychelles, the private sector, development partners, and other stakeholders, with overall attendance of more than 70 people. The UNCT annual retreat provided an opportunity to take stock of the previous year's performance, discuss emerging

priorities with key stakeholders, and share views on support for the government and the communities to recover better.

In 2021, under the leadership of the RC and with support from the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO), the UNCT participated in the "SDG Leadership Lab" to enhance holistic collaboration among UN entities towards achieving the SDGs. As a result, strong bonds and commitment were established among UNCT and Programme Management Team (PMT) members, who

became more engaged and more knowledgeable of the importance of working together, further enhancing the joint efforts of the PMT to support the ongoing Common Country Analysis (CCA). The CCA report will generate knowledge that will be critical for the development of the next United Nations Cooperation Framework 2024-2029.

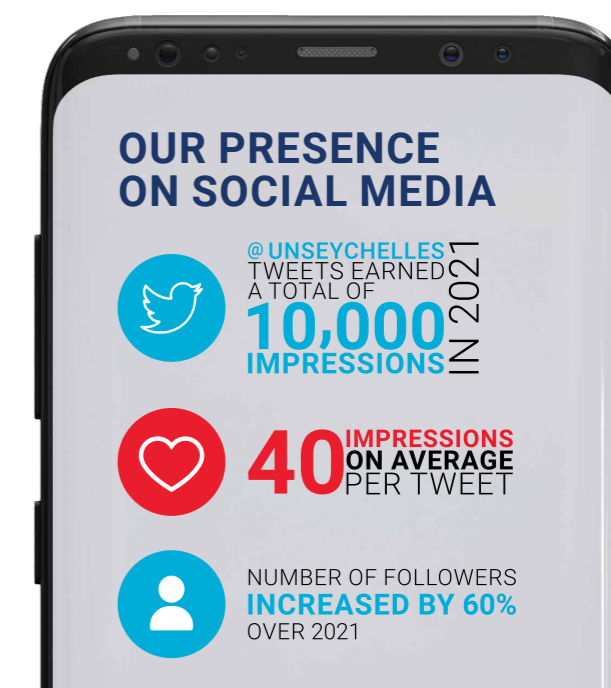
The RC coordinated the efforts of five UN agencies (UNFPA, UNEP, ILO, UNDP and IOM) to jointly elaborate an SDG Fund proposal and initiated discussions on how to support the country to develop the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) for financing the SDGs. The convening power of the RC and the coordination support provided to UN agencies has greatly contributed to the UN agencies working together with more coherence, and is highly appreciated by the government and other development partners. The Programme Management Team (PMT) coordinated the elaboration and integration of the UNCT Joint Work Plans (JWPs). The JWPs have been fully uploaded into UNINFO to ensure real-time monitoring and reporting of the Cooperation Framework results.

Increased efficiency

In collaboration with the UN DCO, the RC supported the UNCT and the Operations Management Team to elaborate and implement the Business Operation Strategy (BOS) for Mauritius and Seychelles, which includes harmonized business operations for increased effectiveness and efficiency. The BOS identified five key collaboration areas (common administration services, including common facilities/premises, common procurement services, common human resources services and common ICT services. Using established long-term agreements is contributing to supporting programmes to achieve planned results quicker and with better quality.

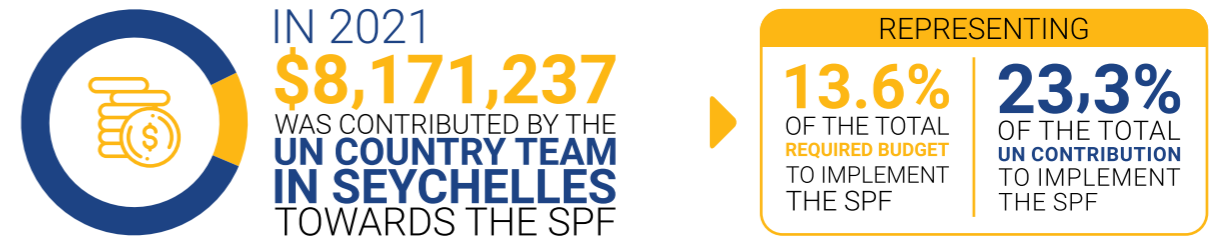
COMMUNICATING AND ADVOCATING AS ONE

In the spirit of promoting joint communications and advocacy initiatives amongst the UNCT a United Nations Partnership and Communication Group (UNPCG) was established in 2021 for Mauritius and Seychelles. The group has representatives from the UNCT, who are either responsible for communications in their respective agencies or have been designated as communications focal point. The group aims to ensure a collaborative and inclusive approach towards partnerships, resource mobilization and communication within the UNCT and with key partners and to engage in advocacy and communication activities to promote the visibility of the Cooperation Framework process and results, SDGs and other development agendas. The UNPCG meets quarterly, with additional focused meetings as necessary. A key output for 2021 was the production of the first annual Joint UNCT Communications Work Plan. Throughout the year the UNCT collaborated on various international days with lead agencies creating videos and social media campaigns and organizing workshops and webinars for other agencies' inputs and support. To date these collaborations have been ad hoc, but the new Joint UNCT Communications Work Plan will enable forward planning for more targeted collective engagement with allocated resources. The UNCT website for Seychelles United Nations in Seychelles is now active. Internal communication channels are being strengthened to ensure that the UN agencies provide fresh and relevant content. Through the UN's websites, we look forward to showcasing the impact of its work in Seychelles.

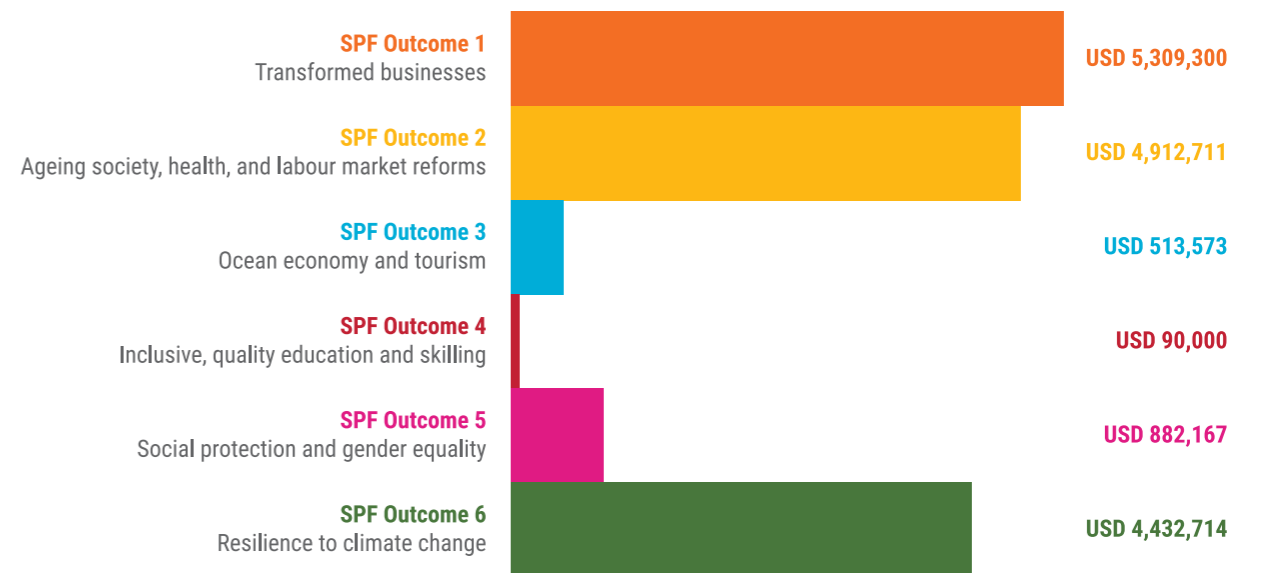


2.7 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

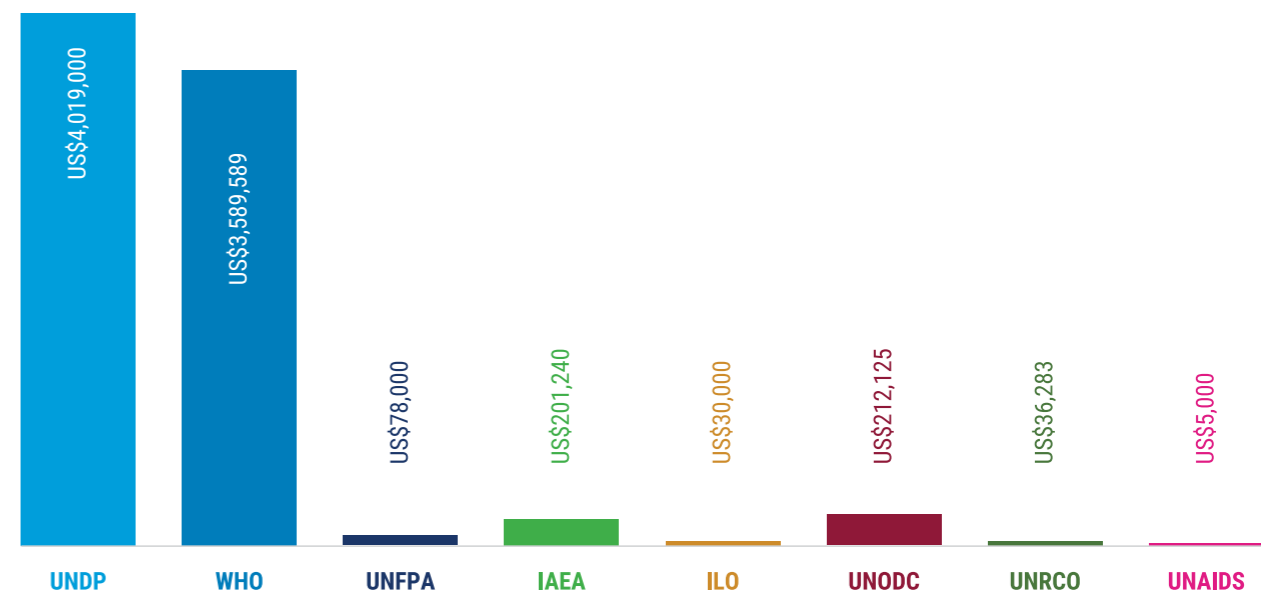
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2021 BY STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS OF THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

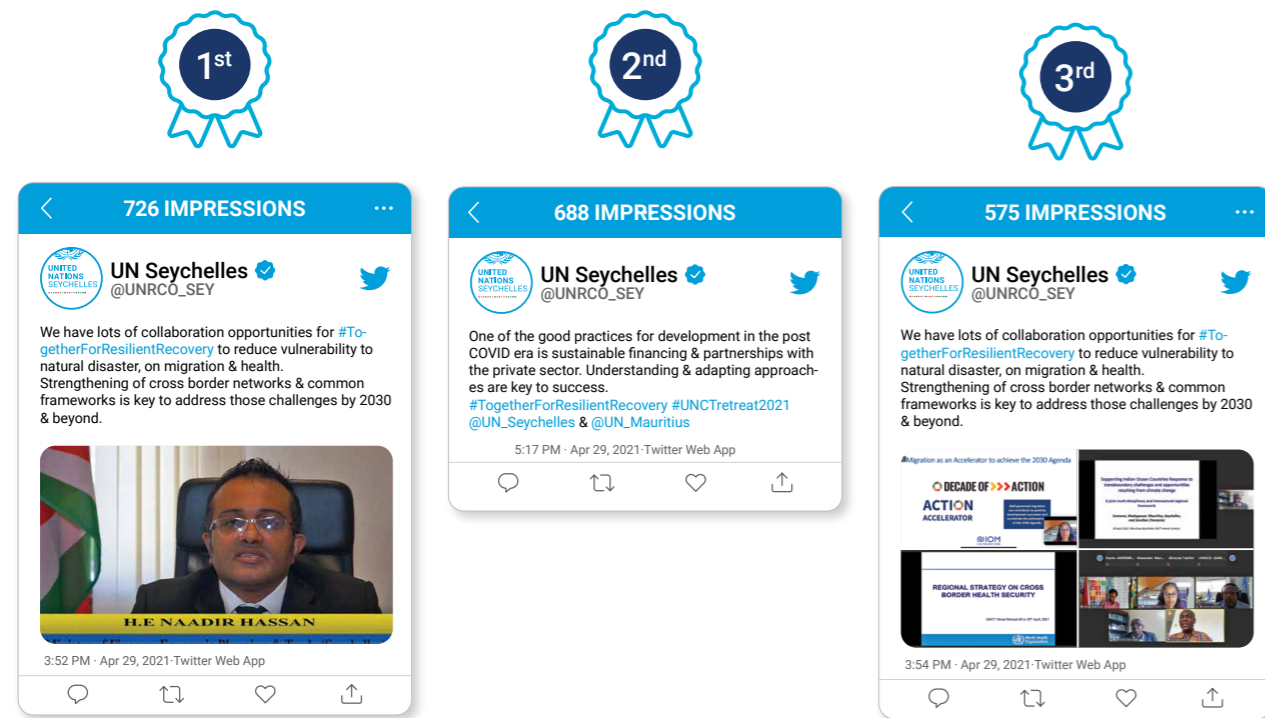


CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2021 BY AGENCIES TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK



Technical support and operations are not included in these estimates.

TOP 3 TWEETS OF 2021



2.5 CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

COVID-19 remained one of the biggest challenges in 2021. COVID-related restrictions have limited the number of activities carried out in 2021. Indeed, the pandemic led to the postponement or cancellation of activities like face-to-face training and workshops, international recruitment and procurement and sensitization campaigns (because of the closure of schools and community centres). The number of participants in each training and capacity-building session had to be decreased due to 'physical distancing' limitations. However, this is expected to change in 2022, as the country opens up to travel and physical meetings thanks to successful vaccination campaigns.

UN agencies also noted emerging competing priorities which stalled the implementation of planned activities. Because most of the staff were re-purposed and there was need for continuity of essential health services, planned response activities were disrupted. Human resource limitations led to delayed implementation of activities. Also, the proliferation of misinformation on social media platforms was faster than the spread of the COVID-19 itself: this had significant negative effects on health-seeking behaviour leading, for

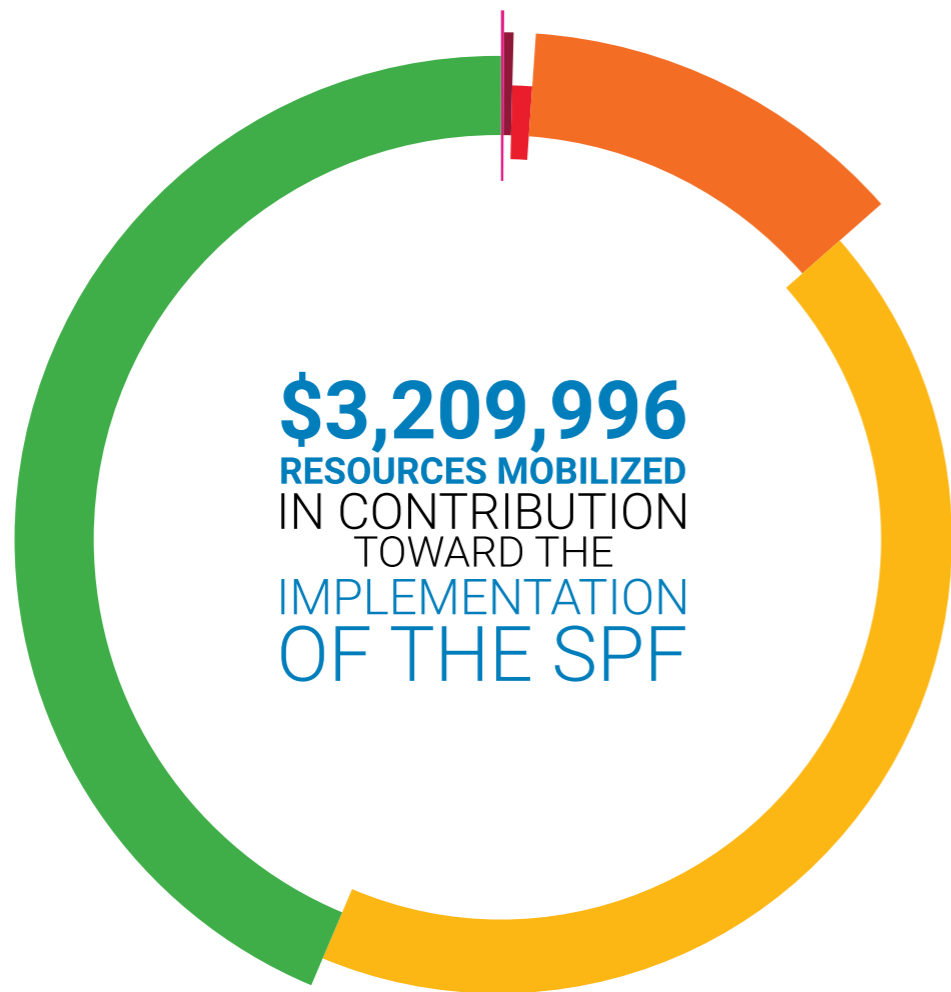
example, to poor uptake of vaccinations, by building barriers in the community and therefore affecting uptake. As such, building staff capacity at all levels of the healthcare system and having dedicated staff to respond to outbreaks is key. Mainstreaming outbreak preparedness and response in routine health services was achieved through building the requisite capacity coupled with the provision of resources.

Another significant challenge faced by UNCT is the lack of physical presence in Seychelles of 80 percent of our agencies. This considerably reduces contact opportunities and generates delays in communication between UN agencies and implementing partners. To remedy this some agencies, such as UNFPA and UNEP, have decided to either recruit local staff or to set up a country focal points mechanism to represent their agencies in the UNCT, enhance their support to the RCs and the government and reduce the limitations caused by the non-resident status.

Overall, strong leadership at all levels coupled with political commitment is key to ensuring timely decision-making, the availability of required resources, logistics and implementation.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

In 2021, the United Nations Country Team in Seychelles mobilized resources from the government, development partners and Multilateral Funds to finance



ADAPTATION FUND	US\$1,399,047.14	GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY	US\$1,377,265.79
EUROPEAN UNION	US\$397,400.24	UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT FUND	US\$22,782.61
UN COORDINATION FUND	US\$10,578.40	AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION	US\$2,921.60

UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR 2022

I. THE UN RC WILL LAUNCH THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK EVALUATION

To better prepare for the next Cooperation Framework cycle, starting in 2023, the RC will initiate evaluation of the current SPF in collaboration with the UNCT. This evaluation exercise is vital to ensure greater transparency on the results achieved by the UNCT, promote joint work and efficiency, and generate knowledge that informs and improves development programming. The whole exercise usually takes up to nine months and is initiated in the penultimate year of the current framework.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT PROGRAMMES UNDER THE JOINT SDG FUNDS

With a view to achieving greater system-wide coherence and efficiency to support national priorities and needs, the UNCT will endeavour to develop and implement joint programmes. Following a Call from the Joint SDG Fund, the UNCT for Seychelles has developed a Joint Programme for Seychelles to support the deployment of ocean renewable energy in the country. Bringing together the expertise of ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNECA, UNEP and UNFPA, this Joint Programme will strengthen the policy framework, establish financial mechanisms, and build capacity to catalyse public and private sector investments in ocean renewable energy technologies. This will help the Government achieve its objective of 60 percent renewable energy by 2030.

III. PROMOTION OF POLICY COHERENCE

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the crucial need for a holistic and coherent approach to addressing the complex and multi-dimensional (health, social and economic) consequences of the crisis. As countries recover from the pandemic, effective governance and integrated recovery

planning will be vital for increasing the likelihood and pace of achieving national development objectives and the SDGs. In 2022 the UN in Seychelles will continue to support the COVID-19 recovery efforts of the Government of Seychelles by building capacity and strengthening institutional mechanisms to promote policy coherence. This will ensure that key stakeholders have the appropriate tools to catalyse policy synergies and balance policy trade-offs across sectors and between short- and medium-term priorities.

IV. THE UN WILL SUPPORT A NATIONAL POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS OF SEYCHELLES

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) will conduct a Population and Housing Census in 2022. The Census is the largest single statistical exercise in terms of resources mobilized and staff deployed to be undertaken in the country, and it allows the gathering of information at finest geographical resolution. This Census round, postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be conducted with the support of in-house staff and consultants from the UN. The NBS conducted intensive training for the enumerators in 2021 and a pilot Census was carried out with UNFPA's support. In addition to detailed coverage of the census questionnaire, the training provided a practical orientation to a new approach to data collection that involves the use of digital tablets or computers to record interview responses.

ACRONYMS

CCA	Common Country Analysis
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
DCO	Development Coordination Office
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IMF	International Monetary Fund
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
SERP	Socio-Economic Response Plane
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SPF	Strategic Partnership Framework Agreement
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
SADC	Southern African Development Community
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN FCCC	Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WHO	World Health Organization



2021 UN Country Annual Results Report SEYCHELLES

March 2022



UNITED NATIONS
SEYCHELLES



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OF
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