



UNITED NATIONS
Mauritius and Seychelles



2022 United Nations Annual Results Report Seychelles

March 2023



THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development



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3.0 UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR 2023

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Foreword

On behalf of the United Nations in Seychelles, I am pleased to present the Annual Results Report 2022. The report highlights key achievements of the United Nations team as envisaged through the joint United Nations – Government of Seychelles Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) 2019-2023. The SPF is aligned to national priorities, the SAMOA pathway, Africa Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Seychelles continued its impressive recovery in 2022 with GDP growth at 5.8 per cent, overcoming obstacles arising in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and exacerbated by global commodity, food and energy shocks. The main drivers of recovery were the fisheries and tourism industries, with tourist arrivals reaching pre-pandemic levels. However due to its inherent structural vulnerabilities as a small island state, Seychelles needs to build resilience to climate change and transform the economy to achieve its development agenda. During the year, the United Nations Country Team continued supporting Seychelles in moving towards a green, climate-resilient, and more inclusive recovery.

Innovative green initiatives such as the Ridge to Reef project made considerable progress in the management and protection of key biodiversity areas. Fifteen hectares of coastal and mangrove ecosystems, along with an additional 52 hectares of forest around watersheds, were restored using nature-based solutions. In addition, coral reef restoration and rehabilitation activities resulted in improved ocean eco-system integrity, supporting climate adaptation and the livelihoods of coastal communities.

To maximize opportunities for digital transformation for a more resilient economy, a range of support was provided to the Government of Seychelles to encourage the uptake of digital tools, improve public service delivery, and facilitate effective partnerships with the private sector. In addition, the Blue Economy was enhanced with a new data-driven management system to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable tourism at key heritage sites on the islands.

Across the United Nations' interventions in the country emphasis was placed on gender equality and women's empowerment. In addition, with a key focus on leaving no one behind United Nations agencies worked closely with national stakeholders to enhance equitable access to services. For example, health care was improved through a range of United Nations technical support, from building the capacity of health sector professionals to respond to health management demands to promoting best practices in sexual and reproductive health policies and services for women and young people. Meanwhile, advocacy and training were conducted to increase awareness of the rights of migrants, including access to social protection measures.

For small island states like Seychelles, regional collaboration and integration is a priority, given the limited access to financing due to its high-income status. The United Nations has facilitated regional collaboration between countries in the Indian Ocean in areas such as maritime security, labour mobility, migration, and climate adaptation and mitigation. In the spirit of UN reform and delivering as one, two joint programmes were launched with resources from the Joint SDG Fund on resilient food systems and the areas of Blue and Green economies.

The United Nations family places partnership at the heart of its work. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Seychelles for the continued confidence it places in the United Nations. We value the support of all our partners, including the Development Partners Group, multilateral development actors, regional cooperation bodies, international financial institutions, the private sector, civil society organizations, academia and others. I have no doubt that by continuing to engage in results-driven coordination we will make the transformative changes necessary to not only recover but also to become more resilient and accelerate towards achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

As the current SPF comes to an end, we appreciate the government's commitment as it takes visible ownership and actively engages in the design of the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, and we look forward to its successful implementation from 2024.



Ms. Lisa Simrique Singh
UN Resident Coordinator for Mauritius & Seychelles



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.

RESIDENT AGENCIES



NON-RESIDENT AGENCIES WITH A PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN THE COUNTRY



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

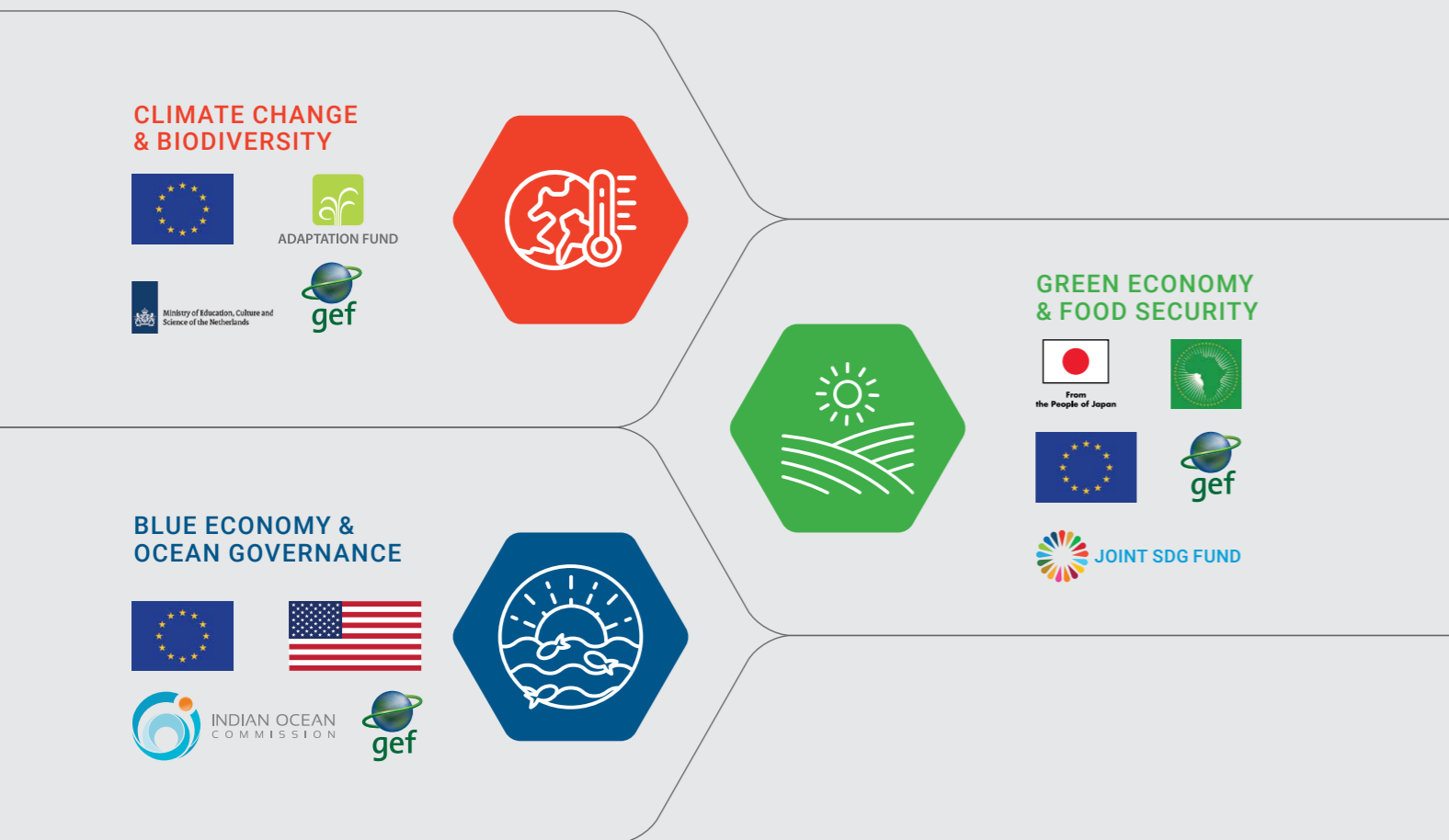
NON-RESIDENT AGENCIES



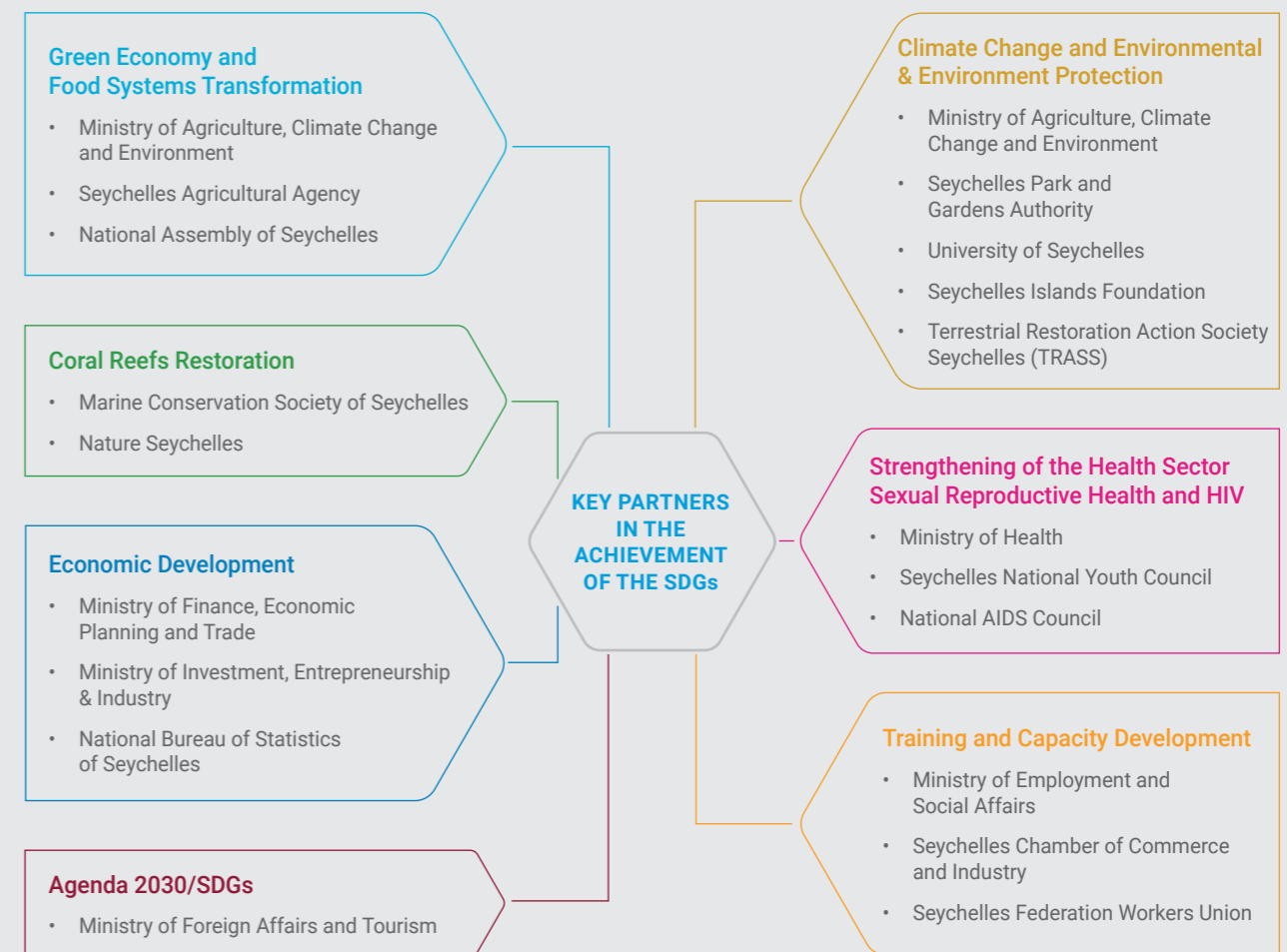
Key development partners of the United Nations development system in the country

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 to achieve its development objectives.

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



In 2022, the United Nations continued to work closely with key stakeholders from the Government of Seychelles, the private sector, and civil society in a legion of areas and sectors, to implement the outcomes set under the Cooperation Framework, and also to drive momentum in the country in advancing the SDGs. The main ministries, institutions, private sector organizations and civil society organizations with which the United Nations has partnered in 2022, as well as the areas of collaboration, are set out below:





1.0

KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

1.1 Seychelles at a Glance

Despite multiple overlapping crises continuing to affect the country in 2022, Seychelles continued to progress on several SDG indicators. This progress is underpinned by recent improvements in the governance framework. For instance, Seychelles is now ranked 23rd out of 180 countries for the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) – first in both Africa and the Indian Ocean, and immediately after France.

In general, even though Seychelles has suffered from repeated shocks, the country maintains a very high Human Development Index, ranked 69th in UNDP's 2021-2022 Human Development Report. These outstanding achievements notwithstanding, the country remains highly vulnerable to exogenous shocks; because, among other reasons, it imports 95 per cent of its energy in the form of fossil fuels (equivalent to more than 10 per cent of GDP), and 90 per cent of the food it consumes. This vulnerability exacerbated the impact of the shockwaves felt in 2022, such as inflation, and a strong US dollar.

Economic recovery gained momentum after the borders reopened at the end of 2021, driven by tourist arrivals, which caught up to pre-pandemic levels. GDP grew by 5.8 per cent in 2022 (7.9 per cent in 2021), and in the third quarter, employment had grown 11.4 per cent year on year.

Whilst Europe still holds the main origin markets accounting for 71 per cent of tourist arrivals, investments to develop non-traditional markets such as Middle East, Africa, India and China are paying dividends, with arrivals from Africa growing from 2021 to 2022, Asia reaching 17 per cent of total visitors, and South Africa and the United Arab Emirates leading by share of repeat visitors.

Although the worst period of the pandemic and its socioeconomic impact seemed indeed behind, COVID-19 cases continued to peak regularly, for a total of 169 deaths by September 2022. Moreover, the inflationary pressures of post-COVID-19 supply chain disruptions, coupled with the invasion of Ukraine, have affected state and households' finances, as well as income inequality and poverty, though the impact was moderated by sustained fiscal support such as significant budget increases to protect income, welfare and employment, as well as food security.

THE OUTLOOK FOR 2023 REMAINS UNCERTAIN, WITH A FORESEEN SIGNIFICANT SLOWDOWN IN GDP GROWTH

Offering a continued social safety net for the most vulnerable while resuming fiscal consolidation was one of the more complex challenges for the country in 2022. In addition to the anchoring of the price of 14 essential commodities, the government initiated a temporary salary inducement and electricity subsidy for employees in the lower income brackets in July 2022. The high level of risks related to food security convinced the government to extend the existing free breakfast scheme for primary students to secondary students in September 2022.

Private debt is another issue, with nonperforming loans having nearly doubled, from 4.3 per cent of total gross loans in December 2019 to 7.1 per cent in April 2022.

In the second half of 2022, hiking interest rates from the United States Federal Reserve in response to inflation made the United States dollar stronger than ever, and dollar-backed bonds and other financing instruments much more attractive. This led key analysts to calculate that as much as US\$80 billion could be pulled out of emerging economies by global investors; this has critical implications for the financial services offered by Seychelles, as well as fuel imports and debt servicing, among others.

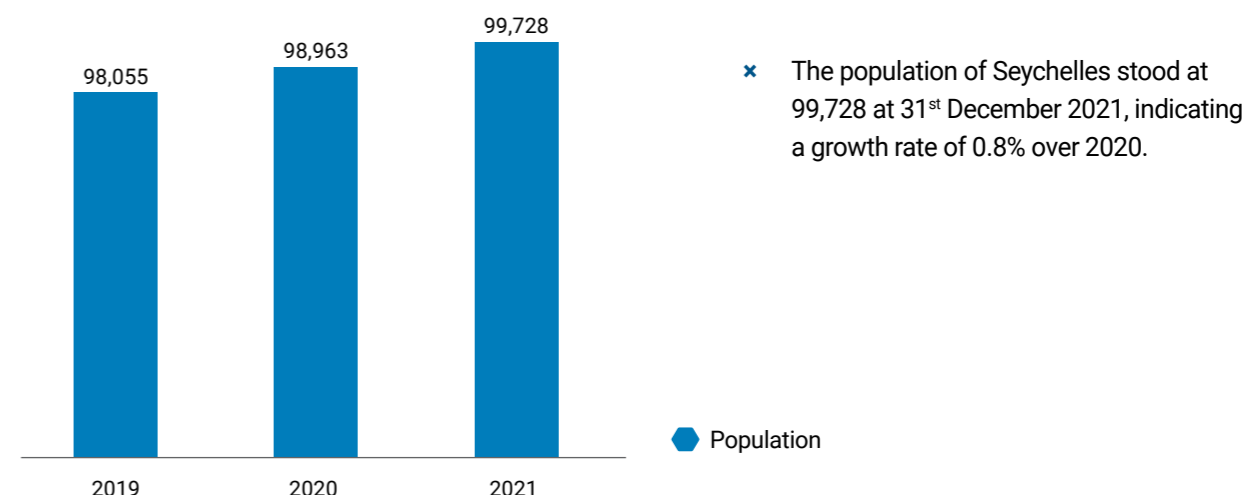
The September 2022 oil exploration and drilling agreement between the Government of Seychelles and an international oil company, which could boost national revenue and energy reserves but also have harmful effects on Seychelles' coastal environment, underscores the urgency for the country to find the right balance between protecting its natural environment and strengthening its energy security.

The outlook for 2023 remains uncertain, with a foreseen significant slowdown in GDP growth (3.6 per cent GDP growth according to the latest World Bank estimates, compared to 11 per cent for 2022 – half the growth projected for 2022), which could likely translate into limitations to public revenues and job creation.

SEYCHELLES AT A GLANCE

POPULATION

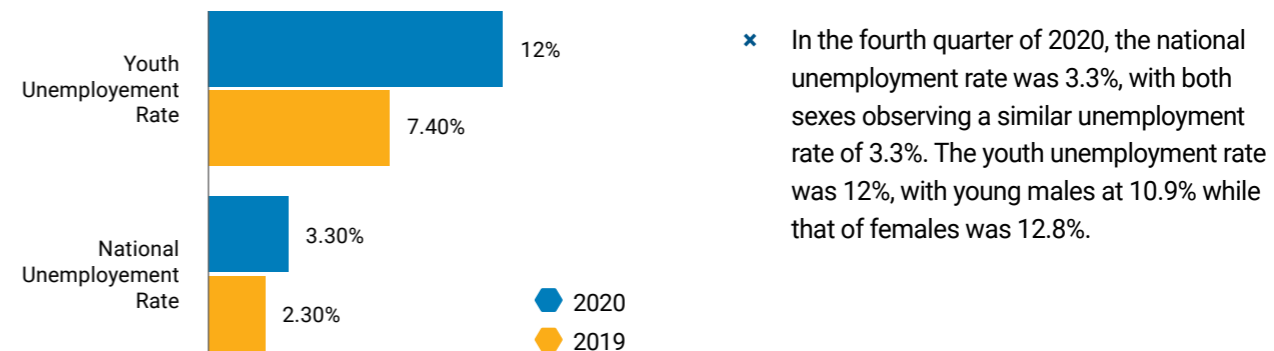
Figure 1 : Demographics (Population)



Source : National Bureau of Statistics, Seychelles

UNEMPLOYMENT

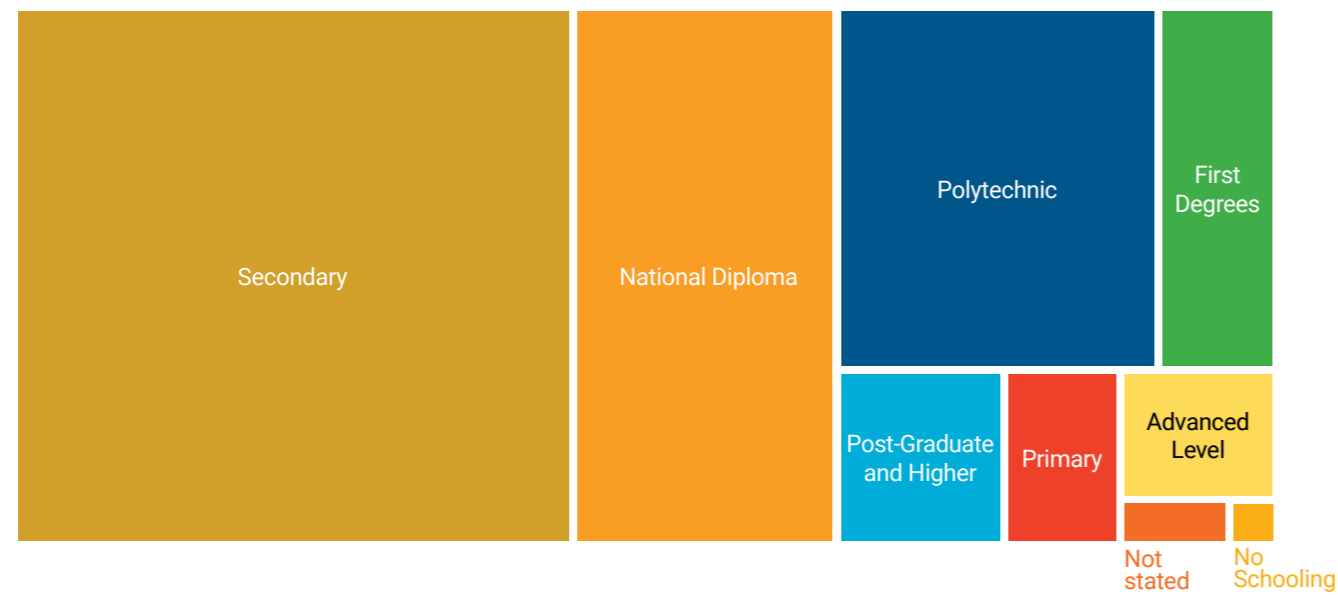
Figure 2 : Unemployment Rate



Source : National Bureau of Statistics, Seychelles

EDUCATION

Figure 3 : Percentage distribution of employed population by educational attainment, 2020

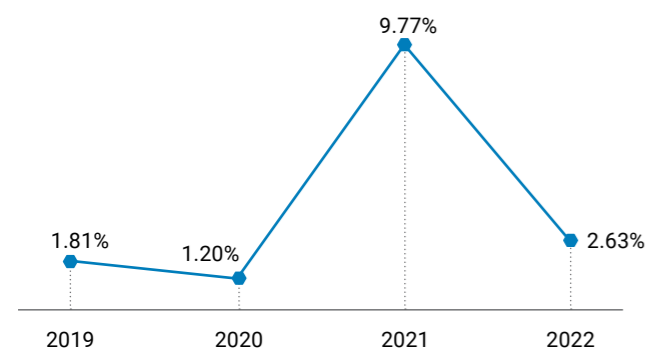


● No Schooling	0.3%	● Advanced Level	3.1%	● First Degrees	6.1%
● Primary	3.1%	● National Diploma	20.9%	● Post-Graduate and Higher	4.3%
● Secondary	44.4%	● Polytechnic	17.2%	● Not stated	0.7%

Source : National Bureau of Statistics, Seychelles

"ALL ITEMS" 12-MONTH AVERAGE INFLATION RATE

Figure 4 : Inflation rate

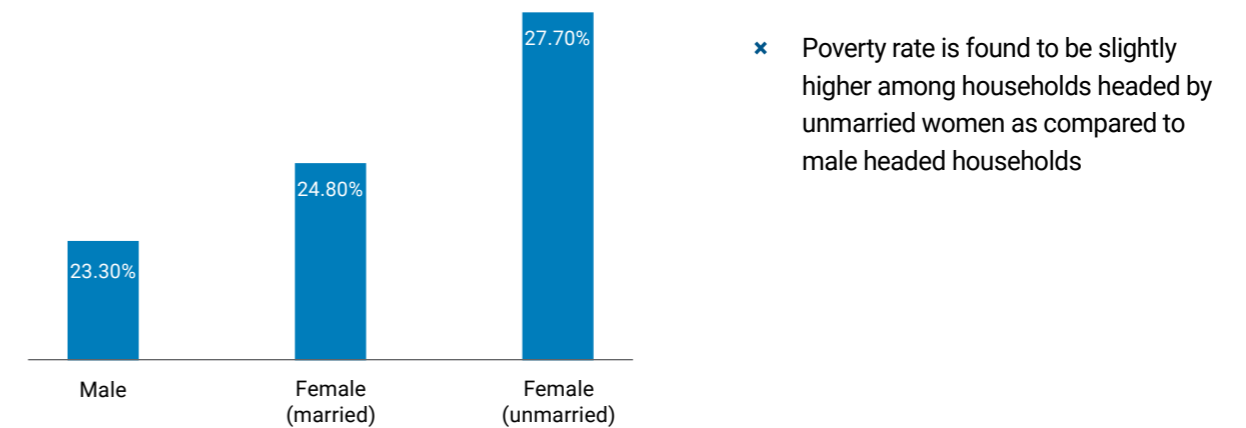


× "All items" 12-monthly average inflation stood at 2.63% and the core inflation 1.40%. Increases were recorded in "Fish" (2.78%), "Other Food" (1.13%) and "Non-Food" (2.85%).

Source : National Bureau of Statistics, Seychelles

POVERTY RATE BY GENDER

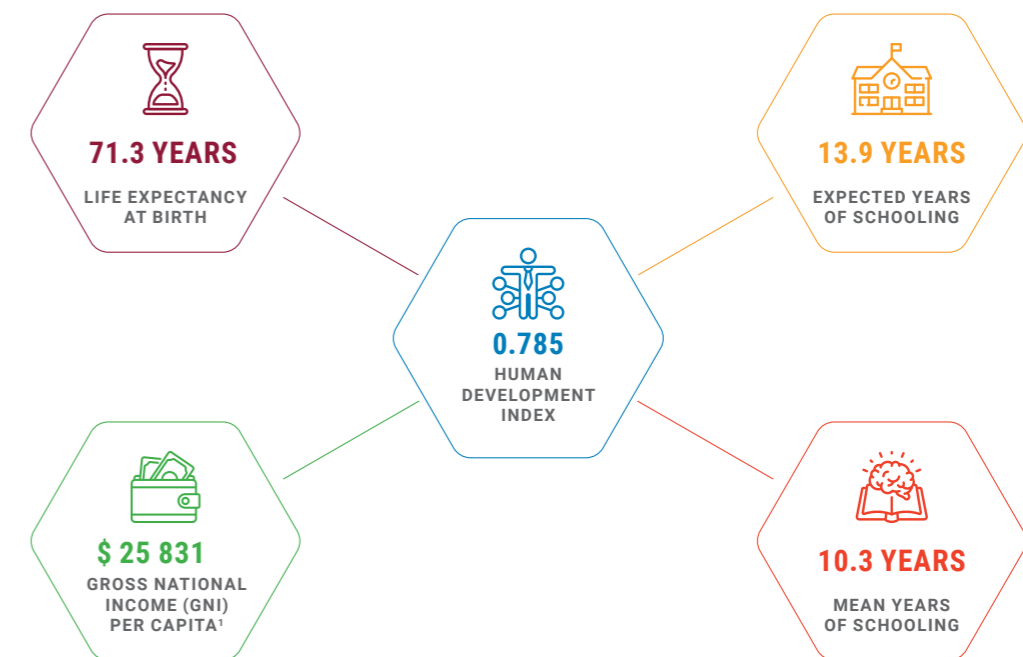
Figure 5 : Poverty rate (%) by the demographic characteristics of the household head



× Poverty rate is found to be slightly higher among households headed by unmarried women as compared to male headed households

Source : Progress Towards Inclusive Growth, World Bank, April 2022

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX



Source : The 2021/2022 Human Development Report

× Seychelles ranks 72 out of 191 countries in the HDI ranking. The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and having a decent standard of living.

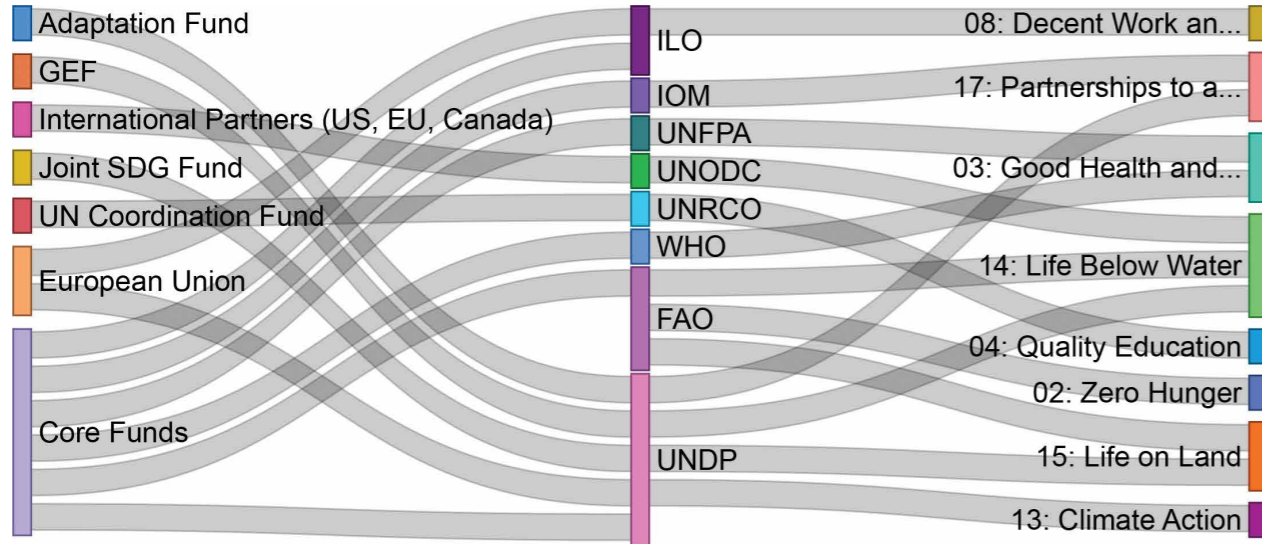
1 (footnote 2017 PPP \$)



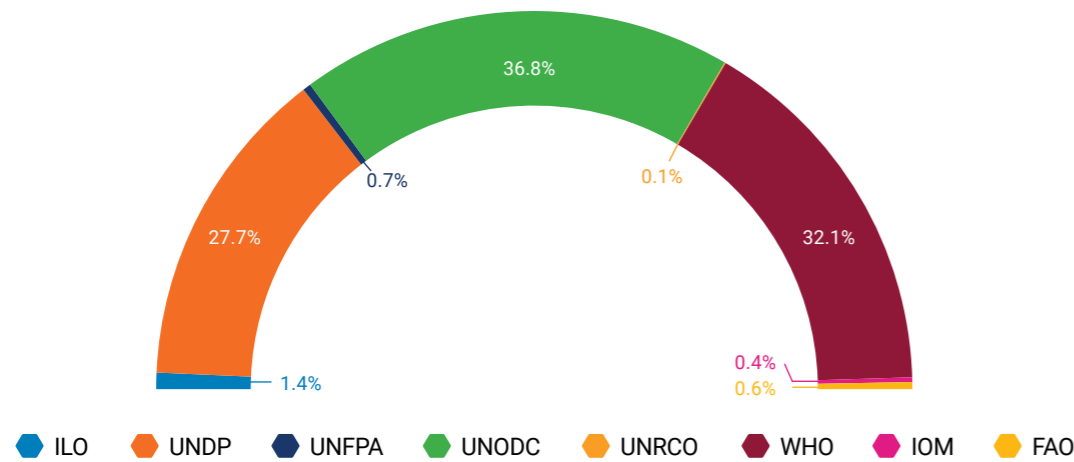
2.0 UN SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL PRIORITIES

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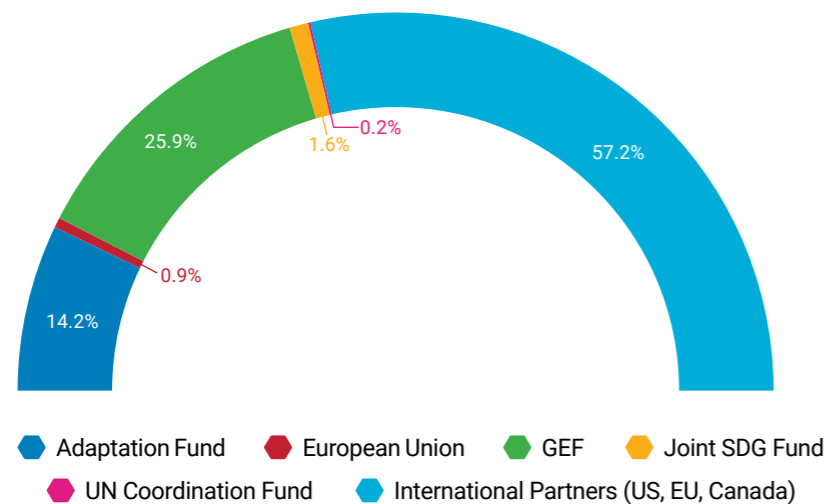
2.1 OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS



CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2022 BY UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES



RESOURCES MOBILIZED TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK (SPF)



THE BLUE ECONOMY

- ✘ Sustainable tourism management, biodiversity conservation, and underwater cultural heritage promotion were improved with technical support from the United Nations.
- ✘ The United Nations helped to strengthen maritime security in Seychelles' waters.



AGRICULTURE, LIVELIHOODS, FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

- ✘ The United Nations' actions resulted in increased resilience to the effects of climate change in the agro-industry sector, with a particular focus on small-scale farmers.
- ✘ 15 hectares of coastal and mangrove ecosystems, along with an additional 52 hectares of forest around watersheds, have been restored using nature-based approaches.
- ✘ The United Nations provided advanced support to the development of Seychelles' national forest policy and legislation.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND RESILIENCE

- ✘ The United Nations is investing in innovative approaches to enable coral reef restoration.



HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE

- ✘ Health-care quality has improved following implementation of the Health Infrastructure Master Plan.
- ✘ The capacity of the government and health sector professionals to respond to emerging health management demands were enhanced.
- ✘ Strategies, policies, and legislation were improved to enable effective integrated health care.
- ✘ The United Nations' actions led to increased awareness among the local population of issues and best practices in adolescent sexual reproductive health, and in child and maternal health.



- ✘ The United Nations' actions led to increased awareness of HIV testing, counselling, and treatment services, which mainly targeted high-risk populations.
- ✘ A United Nations-supported mass media campaign increased awareness of the dangers of substance abuse, alcoholism and smoking, reducing the prevalence of anti-social behaviour, and promoting healthy and peaceful living.
- ✘ The United Nations facilitated intra-governmental coordination and enabled the government to implement its COVID-19 Response Plan.
- ✘ Risk communication and community engagement actions were promoted.
- ✘ The capacity of the health system for screening, disease surveillance, risk assessment and capacity of treatment, including at ports of entry, were improved.

- ✘ The United Nations handled procurement, storage and distribution of adequate critical supplies (medicines, hardware, machines, gear and so on), as well as other essential health commodities, in response to COVID-19.
- ✘ Strong advocacy from the United Nations resulted in increased understanding of the importance of social protection and its extension to migrant workers.
- ✘ The United Nations in Seychelles provided technical support to the Government of Seychelles on implementation of recommendations from all human rights mechanisms, and increased capacity on use of the national recommendations tracking database and the fight against trafficking in persons.
- ✘ The capacity of key stakeholders in Seychelles was developed in the area of labour migration management.
- ✘ The United Nations supported national legislation on the protection and promotion of artistic freedom.

 **DATA DEVELOPMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION**

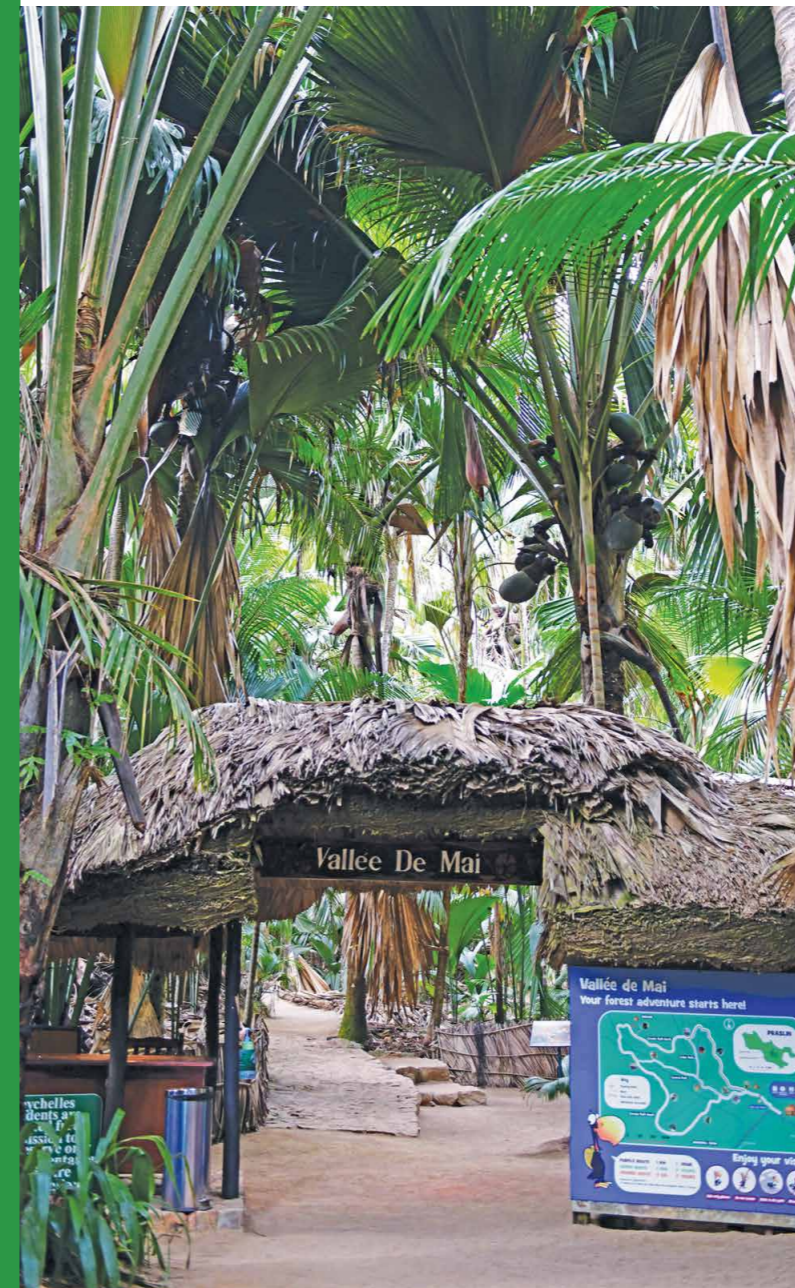
- ✘ The United Nations contributed significantly to an improved labour market information system and migrant labour statistics.
- ✘ Seychelles has a stronger statistical system for tourism monitoring thanks to the development of the first Seychelles Tourism Satellite Account.

2.2 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES, AND OUTPUTS



1. THE BLUE ECONOMY

BY 2023, THE SEYCHELLES ECONOMY IS DIVERSIFIED AND PROVIDES VARYING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BLUE ECONOMY.



ENHANCED SUSTAINABLE TOURISM MANAGEMENT, BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE PROMOTION.

Through the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust, Seychelles is also enhancing sustainable tourism management and biodiversity conservation in Vallée de Mai, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, through the procurement of point-of-sale (POS) system and installation with the Seychelles Island Foundation (SIF). SIF staff were trained on the new POS system. A visitor science app – a phone application to facilitate the data entry for SIF's research monitoring programme – has been developed and tested. This enabled analysis of visitor statistics and visitor flow management, with a special focus on a sustainable tourism strategy.

Seychelles also increased its capacity for underwater cultural heritage through a 10-day workshop which was a culmination of a series of capacity-building and awareness-raising activities on underwater cultural heritage promotion, supported through the Japanese Funds-in-Trust (JFIT).





INCREASED MARITIME SECURITY IN SEYCHELLES WATERS

During 2022, the capability of Seychellois maritime law enforcement agencies to participate in regionally coordinated joint operations at sea was increased. This supports SPF Outcomes 1, 2 and 3. In 2022, the UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme focused on capacity building to integrate various areas of previous training into single activities to allow Seychellois maritime law enforcement personnel and judicial actors to rehearse the entire sequence of events, from receipt of information on suspected illicit activity at sea to a successful prosecution, through the launching of a maritime law enforcement operation with appropriately maintained vessels.

This was accomplished primarily through a coordinated and progressive package of maritime domain awareness training (identifying and locating suspect vessels at sea), maintenance and planning, boarding operations, and development of a case package for prosecution. Those skills were then integrated in a tabletop setting through a Maritime Rule of Law tabletop exercise, involving all the agencies and personnel involved in that chain of events, before being put into practice through a two-week full scale simulated operation in Seychelles, conducted alongside regional counterparts from Kenya and Mauritius in Maritime Rule of Law Exercise 1 (MROLEX 1). This exercise featured a simulated information flow from the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) in Madagascar to the Regional Coordination

of Operations Centre (RCOC) in Seychelles, leading to decision-making on launching an operation, managing maintenance failures, safely boarding a suspect vessel, handling evidence and detainees, and then developing an effective case package for handover to prosecutors.

These skills directly support SPF Outcomes 1, 2 and 3, by providing a credible enforcement mechanism to protect sea life resources, which is needed to maintain investment and livelihood opportunities in the blue economy, food security and sustainable natural resource management.

To promote maritime governance on migration issues, IOM supported the development and facilitation of a regional tabletop simulation exercise for IOC countries, including Seychelles. The main objective of the exercise was both to strengthen through practice the level of coordination between and within countries, and to improve the capacity of border management officials to address migration-related issues in the maritime context, especially to understand and improve law enforcement responses in the field as they relate to migration management and migrants in maritime contexts.

IOM also organized a regional stocktaking workshop (in collaboration with the IOC) on migration and maritime security in a regional context. The workshop provided an opportunity for national law enforcement officials from the region to meet and discuss regional cooperation and transnational organized crime. IOM also donated equipment to the RCOC.

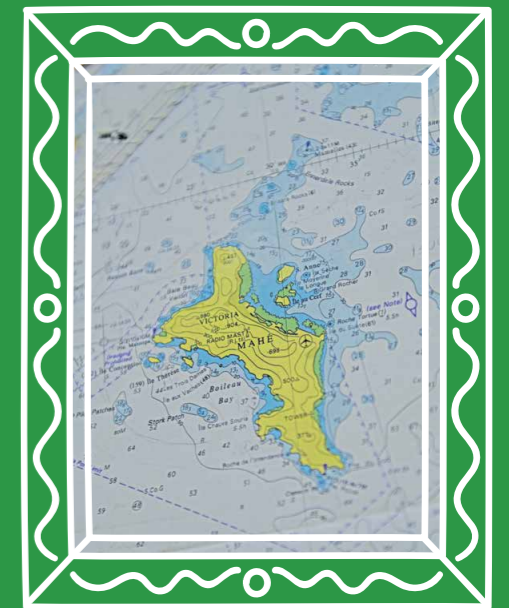


UN in Action

OPERATION YELLOW FIN

The Seychellois authorities entered into and successfully carried out Operation Yellow Fin on 14-23 November 2022, one week after the completion of MROLEX 1. This was a combined operation with the Mauritius National Coast Guard and was coordinated by RCOC, based on information from the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre that a vessel was fishing illegally in the Seychelles-Mauritius joint management area.

The vessel of interest (VOI) was located by Seychelles Air Force and Mauritian police aircraft and initially observed to be flying no flag. The vessel described itself as a Taiwanese fishing vessel and later was observed with a Mauritian flag displayed. The vessel attempted to flee when approached by the Mauritian National Coast Guard. Using proportional escalation of force based on national government decisions, warning shots were fired, and the VOI stopped. On boarding, Mauritian personnel found tuna and bonito fish along with 18 Taiwanese, Chinese, Indonesian and Filipino crew members onboard and no evidence of Mauritian registry. The vessel was then escorted to Port Louis to be handed over as evidence for legal finish procedures.





2. AGRICULTURE, LIVELIHOODS, FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

BY 2023, THE POPULATION, ESPECIALLY THE MOST VULNERABLE, HAS INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY, FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY, AND ENHANCED LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES.



Under this outcome, the United Nations agencies on environment, development, and food and agriculture – FAO, UNDP and UNEP – are working towards the resilience of small-scale farmers to the effects of climate change. These projects, which promote resilience to the impact of climate change through nature-based solutions that have positively affected farming communities, rejuvenated endemic biodiversity, and mitigated water scarcity through community engagement.

INCREASED RESILIENCE OF THE AGRO-INDUSTRY SECTOR TO THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON SMALL-SCALE FARMERS.

The Nairobi Convention, through the WIOSAP project, is working on improving the water quality by using constructed wetland wastewater treatment at a farm in the south of Mahé Island and promoting community-based ecological coastal rehabilitation using an ecosystem approach. The first project is a small-scale demonstration project that can eventually be replicated by the farming community, especially small-scale farmers, for better awareness of protection and sustainable farming practices. The production of livestock is currently not being maximized due to wastewater management issues. The Department of Agriculture and the Environment Department have joined forces in Seychelles to tackle wastewater pollution issues in the farming community. The ultimate purpose of the project is to develop a wastewater system that can be replicated within the farming industry, and to create fertilizer for better crop production by treating and recycling wastewater. The Environment has designed the



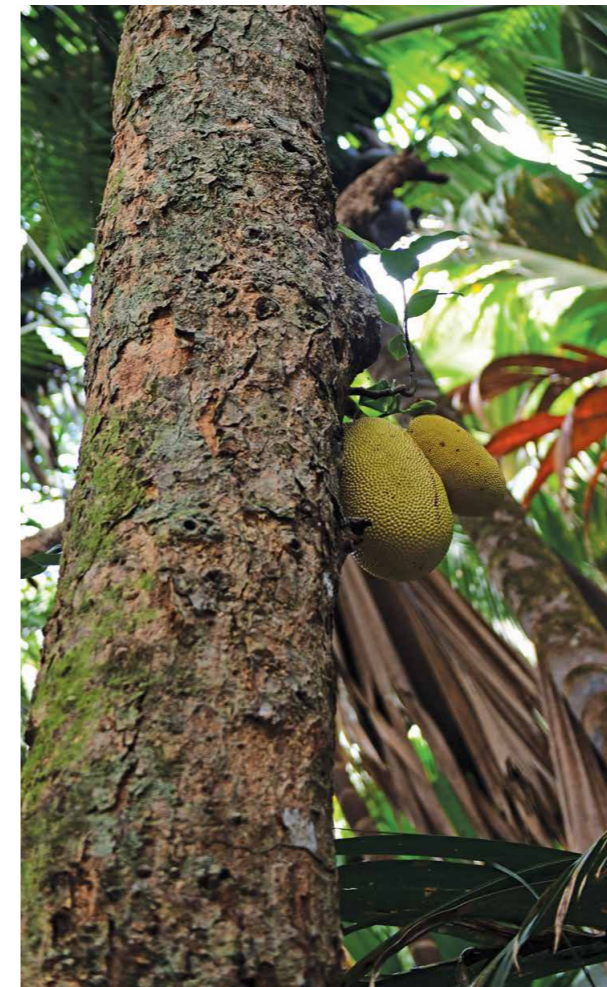
constructed wetland and irrigation system through a local architect. The design was approved by the Seychelles Planning Authority, and the tendering process for construction of the wastewater system and irrigation is currently ongoing.

Through implementation of the Ridge to Reef project, considerable progress has been made towards management and protection of key biodiversity areas (KBAs), application of sustainable land management practices through agroforestry, watershed management and restoration of ecosystems with UNDP support.

15 HECTARES OF COASTAL AND MANGROVE ECOSYSTEMS, ALONG WITH AN ADDITIONAL 52 HECTARES OF FOREST AROUND WATERSHEDS HAVE BEEN RESTORED USING NATURE-BASED APPROACHES.

Five KBAs, covering over 2,000 hectares, have been identified and will be designated once the legislative and national consultative reviews are completed in the coming year. This has been made possible with approval of the Nature Reserves and Conservancy Act by Cabinet.

Agroforestry and improved farming techniques through climate-smart agriculture initiatives are ongoing, and substantial reforestation efforts have reduced overall greenhouse gas emissions. The following legal and policy instruments have been revised and are in the process of approval: Forestry Bill; Breadfruit and Other Trees Act; as well as regulations under the Nature Conservancy Bill, among other reviews to integrate and synchronize existing legislation.



THREE WATERSHED COMMITTEES, INCLUDING MORE THAN 40 PER CENT WOMEN AND 20 PER CENT YOUTH, AND 140 WOMEN ARE DIRECT BENEFICIARIES OF RESTORED ECOSYSTEM SERVICES, PARTICIPATING IN REFORESTATION, AGRICULTURE OR AGROFORESTRY PRACTICES AND FARMING

Under the Ridge to Reef project, reporting on gender has improved and youth markers have been established. Three watershed committees, including more than 40 per cent women and 20 per cent youth, and 140 women are direct beneficiaries of restored ecosystem services, participating in reforestation, agriculture or agroforestry practices and farming. District-level training and awareness of nature-based solutions are being rolled out through a strategic communication and awareness campaign, enhancing community engagement at decision-making level.

ADVANCED SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SEYCHELLES' NATIONAL FOREST POLICY AND LEGISLATION.

FAO elaborated a bioenergy roadmap and an action plan for the Government of Seychelles, based on technical discussions, outputs, and consultative workshops and training sessions. The roadmap for action outlines the next steps in the medium term for the sustainable development of bioenergy solutions in the country. The project identified which bioenergy options could be developed in the country, considering the specific environment and energy needs faced by the Seychelles. The project has significantly advanced support to the development of Seychelles national forest policy and legislation. It assisted with the preparation and consultation of key legislative documents, and these legislative results bring the forest sector's framework



conditions further into alignment with the Seychelles' national development objectives. The draft National Forestry Policy was discussed and validated by key stakeholders, including those from academia, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, integrating their relevant changes and paying attention to local contexts. In particular, key forestry stakeholders from the islands of La Digue, Mahé, and Praslin were involved in the development of the forest policy document. Furthermore, a first proposal for the forest management bill was prepared and discussed with forest stakeholders. This draft bill will be further consulted on and submitted for adoption, in a series of ministry-led efforts going beyond the end of the project.

The development and application of mapping tools was partially accomplished. Linkages were established with other projects and initiatives, including a similar project being implemented in Rodrigues Island, and current agricultural land use was mapped.

The capacity of Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE) staff to assess the role bioenergy can play within the country's renewable energy portfolio was enhanced through the project. Experts from key stakeholder institutions were trained to command FAO's BEFS approach and tools, which provided an evidence-based overview

of the sustainable bioenergy potential of a country. Furthermore, technical consultations were organized to understand the available sources of feedstock in various sectors, and the viability of bioenergy technologies in the country.

Concrete bioenergy options using biomass from agriculture, forestry and waste sectors were identified and assessed following the Bioenergy and Food Security approach and tools. The identified feedstock included crop residues, notably banana, livestock residues (from, for example, chickens, pigs and cattle), biodegradable waste, forest-harvesting residues, and additional forest harvesting from semi-natural Albizia-dominated forests. During the project, and based on the indications from the government, a specific set of bioenergy technologies were considered. These included electricity production from biogas based on combined heat and power (CHP) technology for the co-generation of heat and power, as well as biogas production and its upgrading to bio-compressed natural gas, which can be used as a renewable automobile fuel. Access to water is a key issue in the production of biogas, therefore desalination was included in the analysis. The direct involvement of national experts and the government, in particular MACCE and the Energy Commission, enabled the outcome of the project to be embedded in ongoing policy processes, including for renewable electricity and the agriculture sector.



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.



Seychelles is effectively managing its protected areas by creating the necessary legal and enabling frameworks towards and for the provision of ecosystem services, applying an integrated ridge-to-reef approach towards structural transformation, building resilience and reducing vulnerabilities. Under this outcome, the United Nations agencies on environment and development – UNEP and UNDP – are both enabling coral reef restoration through innovative approaches.

Under the second WIOSAP demonstration project, baseline environmental studies were produced, and the Rehabilitation and Management Plan was completed and is being used to guide the rehabilitation and management of the project site. Two hectares of wetlands and associated woodland, as well as the two hectares of degraded hill have been successfully rehabilitated, and are being regularly maintained to ensure the continued success of their recovery. The use of palm leaves as a barrier to reduce soil erosion

CORAL REEF RESTORATION ACTIVITIES HAVE ALSO RESULTED IN THE REHABILITATION OF REEFS PLAYING A KEY ROLE IN CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND COASTAL FOOD SECURITY.

has been replicated at other project sites, due to both its effectiveness and its low cost. The benefits of this innovative approach encouraged UNDP Accelerator Lab to collaborate with UNEP to undertake a scientific experiment to collect data on the effectiveness of this technique, so that it can be replicated in Rodrigues, an island in the Indian Ocean that has similar problems to the Seychelles. Seven training sessions for 61 participants were conducted in conjunction with other projects. Outreach activities with communities were also combined with the training sessions.

Coral reef restoration activities have also resulted in the rehabilitation of reefs playing a key role in climate adaptation and coastal food security. The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) have provided the basis for Seychelles to mainstream climate action into sectors, especially agriculture, where climate-smart techniques are increasingly being used. Women and young people have also specifically been trained in coral reef rehabilitation, and are actively engaged in marine research and restoration activities.





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.



Under this outcome, United Nations agencies were focused on improving the health sector, Seychelles cultural heritage, and protecting and enhancing human and labour rights.

QUALITY HEALTH CARE IS BEING IMPROVED FOLLOWING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE MASTER PLAN.

In the health sector, the United Nations provided technical support to guide formulation of the National Health Strategy Plan 2022-2026 and the Roadmap for Quality of Care for Seychelles. Combined, these advocated for the country to develop a quality-of-care strategy, which will bridge the various quality initiatives under a systematic and organized effort. The strategic documents will strengthen quality of care and highlight the key areas for improvement of the health-care system to deliver quality care that can respond to today's health challenges, including setting up an effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system, addressing the high turnover of health professionals, and tackling rising levels of non-communicable diseases, HIV and AIDS and other emerging diseases and epidemics, while effectively maintaining delivery of essential health services to ensure good health coverage. This will reduce the stress on the health-care system, in a context in which Seychelles has about 2 facilities per 10,000 population serving all subnational districts, providing an integrated and horizontal approach to primary care services, free at the point of use. The facilities provide immunization, antenatal care services, maternal child health services, dental services, and management of common ailments.



ENHANCED CAPACITY OF GOVERNMENT AND HEALTH SECTOR PROFESSIONALS TO RESPOND TO EMERGING DEMANDS OF HEALTH MANAGEMENT.

Seychelles faces lingering issues around the productivity and efficient utilization of the existing health workforce. In 2022, WHO supported workload analysis of health facilities. This activity was intended to establish staffing norms, identify skills gaps, and make recommendations for efficient utilization of the existing health workforce. The next steps will be to build Ministry of Health capacity to prepare National Health Worker Accounts (NHWAs) and establish proposed staffing standards. This is a continuation of the work already commenced on NHWA and projections including conducting policy dialogue to build consensus on critical issues for the Human Resource in Health (HRH) Strategy. The

Government recommended that workload analysis be conducted at health facility level to provide expert and stakeholder opinions on an efficient health workforce investment plan, in order to improve the quality of health services and the implementation of the Seychellois package of essential health services.

STRENGTHENED STRATEGIES, POLICIES AND LEGISLATION ENABLING EFFECTIVE INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE.

The World Health Organization (WHO) provided technical assistance for the review, development and updating of various policy documents, such as the National Health Strategic Plan, the National Rehabilitation Strategy, National Referral Guidelines, and the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Guidelines. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Health was unable to review and update the NHSP 2016-2020. During 2022, when most health activities were resuming, the Ministry reviewed NHSP 2016-2020 and the results were considered in the development of the 2022-2026 NHSP. The IPC unit also updated the National IPC guidelines, which await endorsement for dissemination. Another landmark initiative is the Assessment of the Rehabilitation Services in Seychelles and the consultative development of the National Rehabilitation Strategy Plan.

INCREASED AWARENESS AMONG THE LOCAL POPULATION ON ISSUES AND BEST PRACTICES IN ADOLESCENT SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND CHILD AND MATERNAL HEALTH.

The total fertility rate has declined significantly over the years and stood at an estimated 2.2 in 2020. However, the country continues to experience high rates of adolescent pregnancy and abortion, with 12 per cent of total live births to 10-19 year olds in 2020. For the last five years, the birth rate among adolescents aged 15-19 stood at approximately 60 per 1,000, above the global average of 42 per 1,000.

To ensure universal accessibility to reproductive health, and improve maternal and adolescent wellbeing, WHO provided technical assistance for the country to implement a strategic approach to address issues related to sexual and reproductive health (SRH), including unintended pregnancies, contraception, and abortion. This also included an

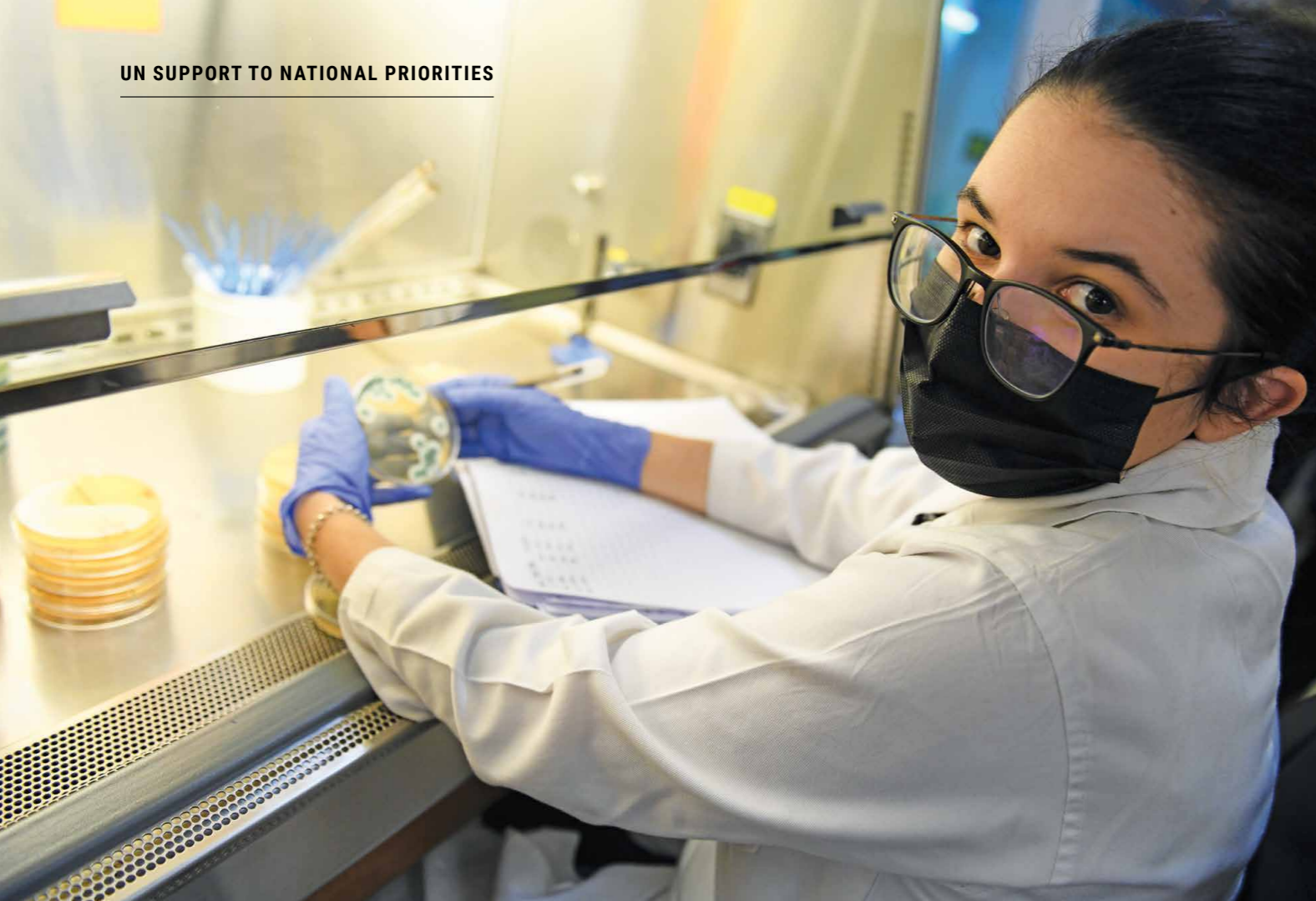


initial assessment to examine the current situation, existing policies and programmes on unintended pregnancies, contraception, and abortion, and provided insights into the needs and existing interventions to address these needs. The result of the assessment is now guiding the next step of piloting and expanding best practices in reproductive, maternal, child and adolescent health (RMCAH).

Additionally, WHO and UNFPA have supported various awareness raising activities and national campaigns related to RMCAH, including activities to commemorate World Health Day, Immunization Week, Breastfeeding Week, and World AIDS Day. Thirty-six young people and key populations were sensitized on SRH and HIV, and 49 trainers trained on comprehensive sexuality education (CSE).

UNFPA supported the development of the CSE manual which was piloted with a group of deaf adolescents, and will further be consolidated with tools and materials relevant to individuals with special needs, with a strong focus and aim of leaving no one behind. The CSE manual was also adapted to train police officers and prisoners, with the aim of training trainers to deliver CSE in closed settings.

The United Nations will continue to advocate for awareness raising and behavioural change strategies to support healthy practices in adolescent sexual reproductive health, and child and maternal health.



UN in Action

LABORATORY STRENGTHENING TASK FORCE

There has been an instrumental improvement in collecting and transporting samples from sampling stations to the laboratory, dramatically improving the sample delivery time. Additionally, staff have been trained in sampling for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and rapid diagnostic tests, and supportive supervision and monitoring are provided to ensure continuous improvement in sampling and testing. According to physiotherapist Patricia Rene, Team Lead, this enabled the timely realization of planned activities. Acupuncture therapist Londa Radeconde takes pride in confidently offering training on sampling for PCR and rapid antigen testing and conducting testing, and sampling following this opportunity, which she is thankful for. Moreover, Miss Cynthia Noshir, dental hygienist, highlighted that the experience has been fruitful as it empowered her in numerous areas and disciplines, such as coordination, implementation, and monitoring of activities, thus contributing to the public health response to the crisis.



INCREASED AWARENESS OF HIV TESTING, COUNSELLING, AND TREATMENT SERVICES WITH A MAINLY TARGETED FOCUS ON HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS.

WHO supported discussions within the Ministry of Health to reinstate efforts to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, starting with a scoping mission to assess the local situation. In 2022, it was observed that HIV testing in the community by NGOs had increased compared to previous years, as reported by the National AIDS Council (NAC). The overall testing rate was maintained despite the reduction of testing at health facility level as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions. Community engagement in HIV testing was a major achievement this year.

INCREASED AWARENESS OF THE DANGERS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE, ALCOHOLISM, AND SMOKING, TO REDUCE PREVALENCE OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND PROMOTE HEALTHY AND PEACEFUL LIVING.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the country continued to maintain its efforts to combat substance abuse, alcoholism, and smoking. WHO, in collaboration with the Department for Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation (DSAPTR), advocated to address harmful alcohol consumption

by updating the policies and legislative frameworks governing the management of a disconcerting trend in substance abuse disorders.

A major activity was the launching of the Dry March campaign, which challenged citizens to remain sober in the month of March. There were many other educational activities and communication products to further strengthen this campaign, using various media platforms. Youth were not left out as a poetry writing competition was held for primary and secondary schools as part of the campaign, with students encouraged to write poems on the effects of alcohol on health and well-being.

STRENGTHENED INTRA-GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT THE COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN.

WHO supported the country to develop and disseminate guidance documents and Standard Operating Procedures to meet the evolving needs related to the COVID-19 outbreak, and produced situation reports to guide decision making for the outbreak response at all levels. WHO further supported an Intra Action Review (IAR) of the COVID-19 response in the third quarter of 2022 to identify best practices, gaps and lessons. The IAR covered every pillar of the COVID-19 response and identified actions needed to update the COVID-19 Incident Action Plan (IAP).

To improve vaccination coverage, WHO supported targeted outreach to vulnerable and high-risk populations, and provided training on infodemic management. Furthermore, vaccine logistics management capacity was built and cold chain equipment procured for the country, to ensure the delivery of safe and effective vaccines.

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROMOTED.

Based on infection trends, WHO supported the targeted engagement of communities, particularly where clusters of COVID-19 infections were identified. Furthermore, WHO supported the development, printing and dissemination of informational educational and communications materials and awareness campaigns to promote infection prevention and control (IPC) practices in the country. In addition, WHO facilitated community mobilization towards improving COVID-19 vaccine booster uptake and training of key players in risk communication and community engagement on infodemic management.

STRENGTHENED CAPACITY OF HEALTH SYSTEM FOR SCREENING, DISEASE SURVEILLANCE, RISK ASSESSMENT AND CAPACITY OF TREATMENT INCLUDING AT PORTS OF ENTRY.

WHO supported the training of surveillance focal points in non-health-care settings (including tourism establishments, childminders and schools), expanding capacity for testing, case investigation contacts tracing and IPC in these settings and – given the unique nature of Seychelles the economy of which depends largely on tourism – allowed

THERE ARE CURRENTLY AROUND 13,000 MIGRANT WORKERS IN SEYCHELLES: A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF THEM FROM SOUTH ASIA, AND OTHERS FROM SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICA.

for the safe opening of these establishments. Furthermore, WHO built the capacity of the laboratory for genomic sequencing through the procurement of sequencing equipment and reagents, and the training of laboratory staff on genomic sequencing and bioinformatics, ensuring quality control.

PROCUREMENT, STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION OF ADEQUATE CRITICAL SUPPLIES (MEDICINES, HARDWARE, MACHINES, EQUIPMENT AND SO ON) IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19, AS WELL AS OTHER ESSENTIAL HEALTH COMMODITIES.

WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS and partners donated personal protective equipment, medical devices (such as ventilators), and testing reagents to provide added support to the COVID-19 response. WHO further supported the technical mission to assess the central medical stores to improve the operation's efficiency, and to ensure uninterrupted provision of medical supplies, assistive devices and technology.

INCREASED UNDERSTANDING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL PROTECTION AND ITS EXTENSION TO MIGRANT WORKERS.

Through the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) Project, the United Nations is strongly advocating to enable the access of migrant workers to social protection benefits. The United Nations brought together the government, employers and trades unions to explain key principles underlying the extension of social protection to migrant workers (for example equality of treatment, maintenance of rights, applicable legislation and mutual assistance) as well as on key principles of social protection policy and programme design (for example, the rights-based approach, universality, solidarity, collective financing, risk pooling, and so on). The team also presented data on migration. There are currently around 13,000 migrant workers in Seychelles: a significant proportion of them from South Asia, and others from Southern and Eastern Africa. At the same time, close to 30,000 Seychellois live abroad; and are not entitled to receive benefits from the Agency for Social Protection. Most migrant



workers' benefits are provided through private insurance or employer liability schemes, such as in the cases of sickness, maternity or health. Despite migrants paying tax, they have limited or no access to social protection benefits. As results of this discussions with the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs, the technical team has been tasked to conduct Study the possibility to set up bilateral or multilateral social security agreements with the main migrant sending countries as well as with countries where Seychellois are migrating to, to review the legislative framework governing social protection and come up with recommendations on legal reforms that would be required to align the law with key principles regarding the portability of social security rights and entitlements and to develop and disseminate comprehensive communication materials on social protection for migrant workers.

INCREASED CAPACITY ON THE USE OF THE NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKING DATABASE.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Regional Office for South Africa (OHCHR ROSA) provided technical support to the Government of Seychelles by enhancing the capacity of an official from the Human Rights

Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism on the implementation of recommendations from all human rights mechanisms. The official from Seychelles was capacitated to use the national recommendations tracking database, an electronic system facilitating the recording, tracking, and reporting on the implementation of human rights recommendations from international, regional, and national human rights mechanisms at national level. This took place in a Southern Africa sub-regional workshop on the information management capacity of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up organized by OHCHR ROSA and attended by officials from 14 countries in Southern Africa including Seychelles. The major challenge in relation to implementation of recommendations in Seychelles is the need for the government to establish and strengthen a national mechanism for reporting, following up, and operating as a national institutional structure to coordinate the process of State party reporting, with implementation of recommendations from all the human rights mechanisms.

In line with the recommendations of the US Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2021, a National Action Plan to combat TIP was developed. The National Action Plan identified institutional challenges and avenues for multi-sectoral partnerships, and presented

a comprehensive roadmap towards eliminating trafficking in persons in Seychelles. The drafting of the National Action Plan was successful in generating a coordinated approach towards combatting TIP, and creating a sense of accountability at the level of various ministries. IOM supplied the technical expertise needed to draft the NAP, and leveraged its goodwill with the Government of Seychelles to establish the document as a non-controversial tool for combatting TIP. IOM also facilitated consultations with various stakeholders that were crucial in the data collection process that went into drafting the NAP.

CAPACITY OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN SEYCHELLES DEVELOPED FOR LABOUR MIGRATION MANAGEMENT.

The workshop has helped government officials (from several public departments) and representatives of civil society organizations to meet and acquire knowledge with respect to effective labour migration management. In addition to learning about migration management frameworks, international conventions, standards, concepts and tools, participants had the opportunity to discuss contemporary labour migration issues and challenges in Seychelles, and to identify potential solutions. Stakeholders in Seychelles are now familiar with key concepts and challenges related to labour migration, and can situate their roles with respect to making labour migration safe, orderly and dignified.

The three-day capacity development was conducted using an interactive approach by labour migration specialists from IOM and ILO. The potential solutions to labour migration challenges identified during the workshop have been further discussed with representatives of the Department of Employment and actions have been prioritized. IOM is exploring avenues to support the Government of Seychelles to address these priorities.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION ON THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF ARTISTIC FREEDOM.

As a beneficiary of the UNESCO-Aschberg programme, Seychelles strengthened its national legislation on the protection and promotion of artistic

freedom with a focus on the status of the artist and cultural professionals and their socio-economic rights with United Nations technical assistance. This programme supports member states to further implement the 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, as well as the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist. The Seychelles Institute for Culture Heritage and the Arts was assisted to develop a participatory process to initiate consultations and policy dialogues regarding the status of the artist in the country. A baseline study on the status of artists in Seychelles was drafted, including a gap analysis on legislation concerning socio-economic protection of artists. It furthermore provides recommendations for the design or reform of regulatory texts on the protection of artists and cultural professionals. The United Nations provided capacity-building to the National Society of Authors, Performers and Composers (SACS) and advised the SACS on embracing current opportunities, acquiring good legal reflexes, and establishing an efficient and functional collective management model for copyright and related rights.

Seychellois women were empowered in the field of world heritage, as women representatives participated in the "Conference on Mentoring and World Heritage: Empowering African heritage professionals and achieving gender equality", which was held in the context of the 50th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention.

Capacity building was also delivered to Seychellois on the protection of movable cultural property, and in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural objects.

SUPPORTING SOUTH-SOUTH BILATERAL COLLABORATION AND DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT.

IOM provided technical assistance to the Government of Seychelles by facilitating virtual exchanges with Cabo Verde on the issue of diaspora engagement. This technical assistance was aimed at catalysing Seychelles' strategic partnerships, as well as enhancing its understanding and exposure to some of the good practices, experiences and lessons learned from their counterparts in engaging with their diasporas.



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 GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

The National Census, the backbone of evidence-based policymaking, was completed more efficiently in accordance with international standards with United Nations technical support. UNFPA supported the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of Seychelles to build the capacity of its officers through census tools workshop participation in Cote d'Ivoire with other statisticians and demographers from all over Africa. Thematic analysis is now underway.

As the government looks to enhance efficiency in the public sector, digital transformation is essential to create a paradigm shift from business as usual. UNDP supported the design of the national strategy and action plan for e-procurement that the Government is utilizing to revise the Procurement Act (2008). A readiness assessment for e-procurement was undertaken for the public sector and a South-South Mission was undertaken for both public and private sectors to draw lessons from Singapore's digital transformation journey. This shaped the preparation of a national roadmap and strategy for digital transformation. The mission has also generated a valuable partnership between government and private sector counterparts to enable transformation in Seychelles. The public sector also been enabled to cultivate strategic partnership with the private sector as part of efforts to bring the latter to the fore in sustaining development efforts.

Furthermore, the dialogues established during the preparation of the SDG Investor Map are guiding the government to signal strategic areas where the private sector can invest and have a positive impact.

UNDP's investment in development finance work is increasing capacity for resource mobilization. The Tax Inspectors Without Borders initiative is empowering the Revenue Commission to seal tax revenue leakages, while the Development Finance Assessment will provide opportunities to identify new mechanisms for mobilizing finance.

IMPROVED LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM AND MIGRANT LABOUR STATISTICS.

The ILO built the capacity of the National Bureau of Statistics and the Employment Department Seychelles on Labour Market Information System mainly on the production of labour market indicators using the Decent Work and SDG Framework, and data management (modelling, preparation, interpretation and publication). The intervention to improve the labour market information system resulted in the country having data available for decision-making, and provides policy makers with up-to-date and forward-looking information to formulate and monitor policies and actions that have an impact on the workforce and the labour market. It is also a system of alerts about possible gaps between labour supply and demand; informs individuals about employment opportunities and companies about the available workforce, and informs training institutions of unmet training needs.

Regarding the blue economy, a pool of experts from various structures (the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy, the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs, Seychelles Chamber of Commerce

and Industry, Seychelles Federation of Workers' Union, and University of Seychelles) have relevant knowledge and capacity to assess the social and employment impacts of climate and green/blue policies. The country's objective is to be in the position to collect statistics through evidence-based research and policy advice, and to build a model based on national accounts data, the needs and policy priorities.

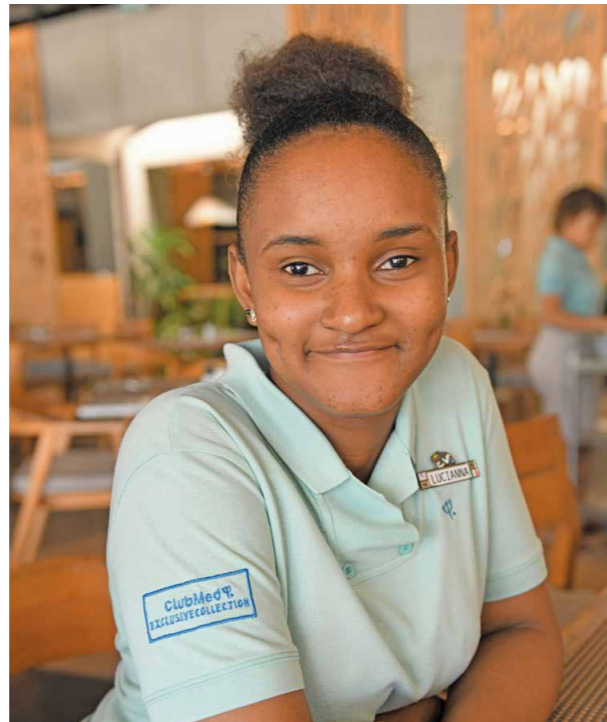
Through a capacity building workshop, the ILO, under the SAMM project, and the ILO Statistics Department held a Data Production Workshop to develop the Master Data Plan for a national Labour Market Information System, which includes information on labour market statistical indicators as well as indicators on skills and labour migration. The capacity building workshop also provided training on the conceptualization and measurement of labour migration statistics.

Furthermore, the ILO, under the SAMM project, has supported the National Labour Migration Plan (NLMP) Advisory Committee with the aim of harmonizing labour migration statistics within the country and at regional level, in line with ILO-recommended statistical definitions and methodologies.

STRENGTHENING THE STATISTICAL SYSTEM ON TOURISM THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIRST SEYCHELLES TOURISM SATELLITE ACCOUNT.

The National System of Tourism Statistics of Seychelles was assessed and strengthened with the support of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). This enabled the development of the first Tourism Satellite Account. The project served to improve the information base for making decisions on planning, policy-making, marketing, promoting and regulation in the sector, but also for compiling a first experimental Tourism Satellite Account so the economic importance of tourism can be measured directly using the same concepts, classifications, and definitions as other sectors of the economy, such as fisheries, agriculture, and manufacturing.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism (MFAT) and the National Bureau of Statistics have been



consistently the main user and main producer of tourism statistics respectively. They continue to be important as the key implementers of the project recommendations.

The capacity of local people were enhanced through seminars, workshop, and training programmes, on the UNWTO tourism definitions, concepts, classifications and the approach to the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA), and the analytical capacity of the TSA.

The project used the two main manuals prepared by UNWTO in recent years to capture the United Nations' statistical recommendations (also referred to as the International Recommendations) for member states to develop a consistent and useful set of basic economic statistical data and indicators:

1. International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008 (IRTS 2008) – designed to support the production of a high-quality set of basic data and indicators in each country, and strengthen the international comparability of tourism statistics.
2. Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework (2008) – a framework showing the relationship between tourism and other economic activities through macro-economic data, which allows the country to design models and forecasts for tourism activities and the economy.

2.3 SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIP AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA



Achieving the sustainable development goals requires a paradigm shift from the usual siloed

approach to one that promotes effective and inclusive partnerships. This will require that we build at national, regional and international level “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”.²

Collaborative and effective partnerships between stakeholders across all sectors are the foundations for a green and inclusive recovery from the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS IN ADVANCING EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE 2030 AGENDA/SDGS



The UNDP has catalysed an innovative collaboration between the Seychelles Parks and Gardens Authority (SPGA) and the Terrestrial Restoration Action Society Seychelles (TRASS), a local NGO,

to experiment with using dried leaves to curb soil erosion in Seychelles. Through this collaboration, 5,000 palm leaves, especially dried “latanier” leaves, were collected by the Terrestrial Restoration Action Society Seychelles (TRASS) and the SPGA in the National Park on the island of Praslin and used to construct a barrier to prevent fertile soil and sediment being washed away during heavy rainfall.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS LEVERAGED FOR FINANCING SDG ACHIEVEMENT



To enhance the management and conservation of biodiversity in Seychelles, UNESCO has supported Seychelles to mobilize financing from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust to establish a sustainable tourism management system for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Vallée de Mai. The implementing partner is the Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF), and aims to modernize visitor and scientific monitoring.



² <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/about>

Analysis of visitor statistics and visitor flow management will enhance sustainable tourism management and conservation. A new visitor science app will be developed to sensitize visitors on the value of nature conservation and particularly island biodiversity, as well as to improve their experience.



With support from the European Union and in close collaboration with the African Union, the FAO built the capacity of government officials from the ministries of agriculture and fisheries and other stakeholders in Seychelles on food and phytosanitary control. This training will support the country to enhance its data collection capacity to improve the food control system on the island in view to spur trade among African Union member states.



As part of the EU-funded "Port Security and Safety of Navigation programme for Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean", the UNODC and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Commission,

has supported Seychelles to enhance maritime security. The IMO conducted a port security risk assessment at Seychellois port facilities together with the Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA) and the Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority (SMSA). UNODC conducted various capacity building activities for maritime law enforcement officer and port security personnel.



The United Nations in Seychelles has successfully mobilized resources for two key projects from the Joint SDG Fund in 2022 to accelerate implementation of the SDGs in the country. Through "Contributing to establish an enabling environment to promote sustainable Green and Blue Economy in Mauritius and Seychelles", United Nations agencies including UNEP, UNDP, UNECA,



ILO, IOM and UNFPA will support the development of an integrated and gender-sensitive Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan in Seychelles to address the solid waste management challenge. Through the "Building the Resilience of Food Systems in Mauritius and Seychelles by leveraging on sustainable agricultural practices" project, UNDP, FAO and UN Women will support the country to promote the use of climate-smart agricultural methods and approaches to reduce its dependence on imported foods.

2.4 RESULTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS WORKING TOGETHER

RC/UNCT - FROM RECOVERY TO RESILIENCE

United Nations actions better coordinated to increase coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency to support Seychelles achieve the SDGs

The COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plan was completed with the remaining actions fully integrated into SPF implementation. The UNCT organized capacity building for the Programme Management Team (PMT) in Joint Programming and UNINFO for more coherent joint planning and monitoring of the CF.

The development of a new United Nations

Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) strengthened synergies among United Nations agencies, especially non-residents, enabling stronger engagement with non-traditional stakeholders such as the private sector and international financial institutions.

The UNCT organized a multi-sector Strategic Policy Dialogue attended by ministers, UNCT members, and regional directors. The policy dialogue allowed the UNCT to discuss with national counterparts emerging development challenges, and the government's directions to address them.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT TEAM

In 2022, the level of engagement of the PMT to support the implementation, monitoring, reporting of the SPF and joint resource mobilization was even stronger. The first comprehensive PMT Annual Work Plan to support the UNCT to coordinate implementation of the SPF was developed. Capacity building on UNINFO was conducted for PMT and M&E officers to strengthen the capacity of UNCT Mauritius and Seychelles to effectively plan, monitor, and implement cooperation framework through UNINFO. The PMT spearheaded elaboration of the Common Country Assessments (CCA) for Seychelles to generate empirical evidence that will feed into the new Cooperation Framework, 2024-2028.

The PMT supported the elaboration of two joint programmes: (i) The Joint SDG Fund programme on Blue and Green economy for Mauritius while it focused on circular economy for Seychelles. (UNDP, ILO, UNEP, UNECA, UNFPA) US\$1,437,800 to develop the enabling environment to scale up investments in the ocean renewable energy sector in Mauritius and the Circular Economy in Seychelles; (ii) the Joint SDG Fund Project on Resilient Food Systems in Mauritius and Seychelles (UNDP, FAO & UN Women) to support Mauritius to produce locally low-cost bio-fertilizers from seaweeds, and to support Seychelles to promote the use of climate-smart agricultural methods and approaches.

OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT TEAM

Increased efficiency

The Operations Management Team (OMT) supported the implementation and review of the 2020-2023 Business Operation Strategy (BOS). There is no separate BOS for Seychelles given the footprint of the United Nations in the country. The UNCT decided to have one Business Operation Strategy for both Mauritius and Seychelles. The BOS identified seven common services for collaboration: common administration services, common cleaning services, common United Nations premises, common procurement services, common parking

services, common security services, and common gender-responsive services. The following United Nations agencies are participating in the Mauritius/ Seychelles BOS: UNDP, WHO, UN, IOM. Furthermore, the UNCT completed the common premises stock take, noting that three agencies are already in a United Nations common "UN House". The United Nations care and staff wellbeing activities and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) were integrated into the BOS during the 2022 annual review. The Operations Management Team supported the Local Salary Survey, resulting in an increase of 10 per cent cost of living assessment.

Communicating as One

The United Nations Partnership and Communication Group (UNPCG) for Mauritius and Seychelles was established in 2021 to promote joint communications and advocacy initiatives among the UNCT. Still relatively new, the UNPCG began the implementation phase of its first multi-year joint UNCT Communications Strategy and Work Plan. During 2022 the UNPCG connected the work of the UNCT with strategic partners in Seychelles in support of the objectives of the communications strategy.

The UNPCG used social media as a key channel to



40% INCREASE
IN FOLLOWERS



FOLLOWERS MORE
THAN DOUBLED

implement communications strategy objectives. The group provided fresh, relevant content for the UNCT social media platforms. Twitter followers of @UNinSeychelles have more than doubled, while Facebook followers on the combined United Nations in Mauritius and Seychelles page have increased by 40 per cent. In this way, the UNPCG can engage with followers through these channels to promote the process and results of the Cooperation Framework, SDGs, and other development agendas.

MOBILIZE POLICY MAKERS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS (WOMEN, YOUTH, AND THOSE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES) TO ADVOCATE FOR ACCELERATED ACHIEVEMENT OF SDGS: SHOWING THAT EVERYONE CAN ACT AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

For the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence from 25 November to 10 December 2022 the UNPCG mobilized United Nations agency staff to provide a headshot and add a caption using the campaign slogan #PushForward as to how they will act to end violence against women. The message was then put on a social media card template with the United Nations in Seychelles/campaign logos. This coordinated action led to a significant increase in tweet impressions of 1,500 over 16 days, compared to 400, the norm for that month during the non-campaign period. Tweet impressions importantly indicate an organization's brand presence by measuring how many times the tweet is shown to people across the platform.

Another UNPCG-initiated online video campaign for International Women's Day garnered similar results, with Tweet impressions rising to 1,600. UNCT heads



of agency, the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Mauritius and Seychelles, and Marie-Celine Zialor, Minister of Youth, Sports and Family of the Republic of Seychelles spoke on the theme of "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow". The short videos were recorded and formatted on branded social media cards and then disseminated on United Nations in Seychelles social media and agency social media outlets.

REPOSITION THE UNITED NATIONS IN SEYCHELLES AS A KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNER TO THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS PEOPLE BY DEMONSTRATING EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPF.

UNPCG mobilized press and media coverage of the 2022 UNCT retreat. The focus of the retreat in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis was to accelerate progress towards the SDGs. To that end, the 2022 UNCT Retreat for Mauritius and Seychelles took a forward-looking approach, promoting systems thinking towards sustainable development. The theme reaffirmed the

need to continuously use our United Nations collective efforts and visionary leadership to work towards long-term development, while adapting to an ever-changing environment. Press interactions effectively captured these elements, with coverage in the two main national newspapers and broadcasters, as well as regional coverage on online news outlets.

2.5 EVALUATION AND LESSONS LEARNED

As we enter the penultimate year of implementation of the SPF, there is enough evidence to say that the United Nations has delivered on its promise to the people of Seychelles, in at least three out of four outcome areas. However, Seychelles as a small island developing state is particularly susceptible to its inherent vulnerabilities and exogenous shocks that constantly jeopardize the development gains achieved so far.

The 2022 final independent evaluation of the SPF states that due to the unique nature of Seychelles (a country with 95 per cent of United Nations agencies being non-resident and also in which for the first time the United Nations has had a cooperation framework with the government), there were relatively fewer coordination structures than is usual in other countries. However, the few structures available were relatively very effective in delivering on multiple roles.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE KEY LESSONS DRAWN FROM SPF IMPLEMENTATION.

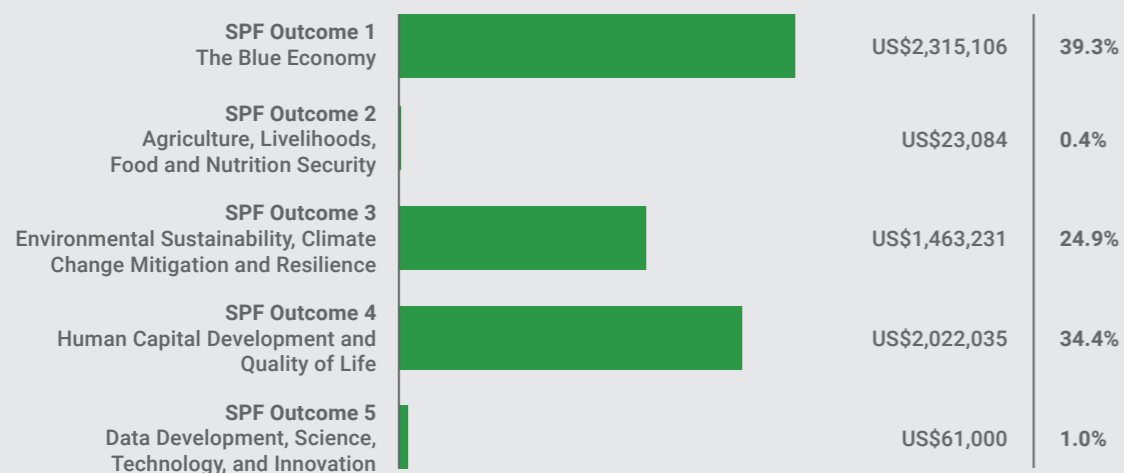
- The effects of COVID-19 and the unstable geopolitical landscape on key areas of the SPF demonstrate the need to invest more into strategic foresight tools and risk management and mitigation.** COVID-19-related restrictions limited the number of activities carried out in 2021 and 2022. The pandemic created delays and cancellations of activities such as face-to-face training and workshops, international recruitment, international purchasing and sensitization campaigns.
- Non-physical presence of the United Nations in Seychelles (95 per cent of agencies) considerably reduced contact opportunities and generated delays in communication by United Nations agencies and implementing partners.** To remedy this situation, some United Nations agencies opted to employ local staff or recruit focal staff to represent them and oversee implementation of their programmes.
- Inadequate data to effectively adapt to government needs.** Inadequate data or delays in production of statistics make it challenging to properly monitor the SPF.
- Increased buy-in of next CF results framework by strategic stakeholders will be key for the focus, implementation and monitoring of the results.** While the current SPF has limited buy-in from stakeholders, the process of its elaboration also serves as a lesson for the next one. As such, 2022 marked the kick-off of a series of national consultations with all stakeholders to increase awareness and buy-in for the next results framework.
- Non-completion of SPF results framework indicator data in some cases made some variables non-evaluable.** Almost 90 per cent of the results framework outcome indicators lacked baselines or targets making the indicators difficult to evaluate. Closely related to this issue was lack of statistical data to monitor the performance of some outcome indicators.

2.6 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

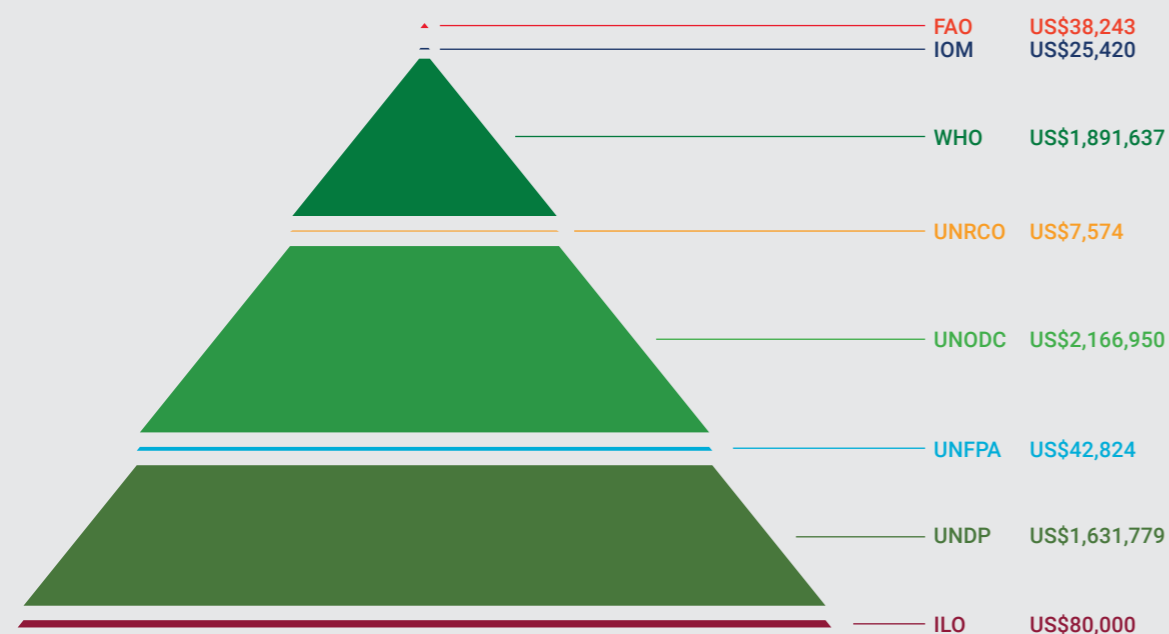
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2022 BY STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS OF THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

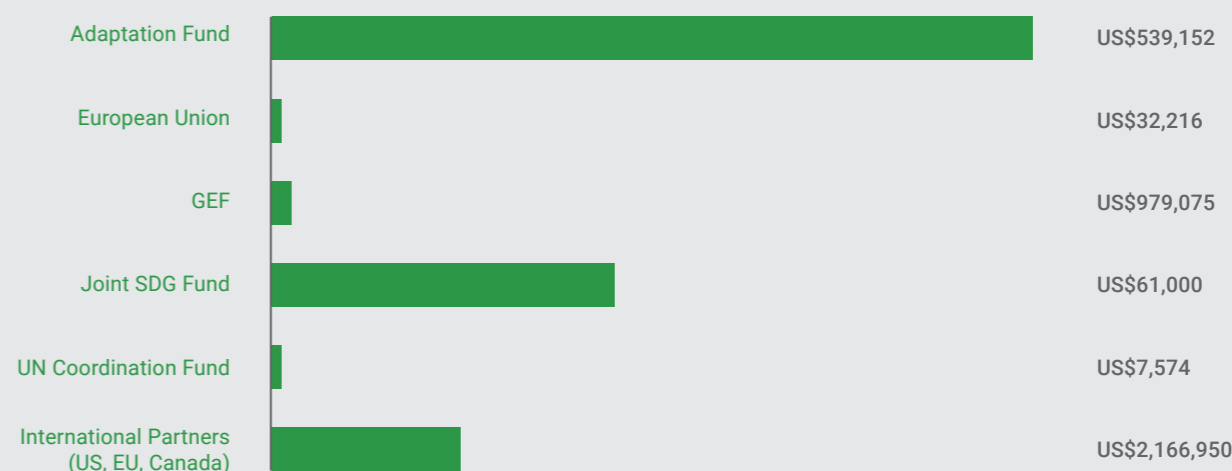
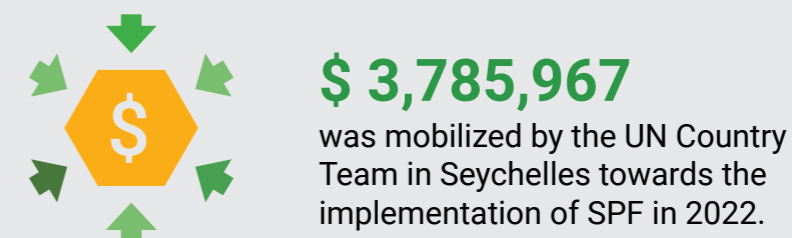


CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2022 BY UN AGENCIES



RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

In 2022, the United Nations Country Team in Seychelles mobilized resources from the government, development partners and multilateral funds to finance the implementation of the Strategic Partnership Framework.





3.0

UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR 2023



1. The United Nations system will finalize elaboration of the new UNSDCF

The current United Nations Government Cooperation Framework will end in December 2023. In preparation for a new UNSDCF, the UNCT completed key preparatory milestones, including the **final evaluation, the Common Country Assessments (CCAs) and comprehensive stakeholder consultations, which culminated in the Strategic Prioritization Retreat (SPR)**. The SPR established key priorities for the new UNSDCF. In 2023 the United Nations will finalize elaboration of the new cooperation framework, agree on the UNCT configuration, and develop Joint Work Plans to be uploaded in UNINFO. The UNCT will also complete the Gender Scorecard and PSEA training, which are vital for implementation of the cooperation framework, in the spirit of leave no one behind (LNOB).



2. The United Nations system will accelerate implementation of joint programmes

In 2022, the UNCT mobilized funds through the Joint SDG Fund, to support Seychelles to deploy circular economy, bringing together the expertise of ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNECA, UNEP and UNFPA. The United Nations will accelerate the implementation of the Joint SDG Fund Programme. The expected results are intended to strengthen the policy framework, establish financial mechanisms, and build capacity to catalyse public and private sector investments in the circular economy.



3. Strengthen the capacities of national institutions for policy coherence and system thinking

In collaboration with UNDESA and UNITAR, the United Nations initiated a partnership with the Government of Seychelles and academia to strengthen SDG mainstreaming, system thinking and its impact on decision-making and institutional reform to advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The capacity-building is intended to improve policy coherence. The UNCT will continue to work with government sectors and academia for more coherent, risk-informed policies.



4. The United Nations will support the National Bureau of Statistics data analysis for the National Housing and Population Census of Seychelles.

Seychelles has initiated the 2022 NHPC National Housing and Population Census. Data collection has been completed. The United Nations will support the National Statistics Bureau to analyse the data and produce thematic reports.



5. Follow-up of the High-Level Policy Dialogue in Seychelles.

The UNCT will continue to adapt implementation of the SPF according to government orientations received during the dialogue. Longer-term orientations will be integrated into the cooperation framework elaboration process, and updated with incoming priorities from the National Development Strategy.



6. Support a systemic approach to food security in Mauritius and Seychelles.

The United Nations will engage with the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture, and other relevant line ministries, as well as the private sector and academia, on strategic, forward-looking processes. These include public debate, planning, policy making, and budgeting on food security, within a broad, transformative approach based on the water, energy, food, environment and waste nexus.



7. Promote the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index

In an effort embedded in support to governments for partnerships and resource mobilization, the United Nations will continue its advocacy for better access to finance for small island developing states, including concessional and climate finance, based on the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index.

ACRONYMS

BEFS	Bioenergy and Food Security	SIDS	Small Island Developing States
CCA	Common Country Analysis	SMSA	Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority
CPI	Corruption Perception Index	SPA	Seychelles Ports Authority
DSAPTR	Department for Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation	SPF	Strategic Partnership Framework Agreement
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	TIP	Trafficking in Persons
GEF	Global Environment Facility	TRASS	Terrestrial Restoration Action Society Seychelles
ILO	International Labour Organization	UN	United Nations
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
IOM	International Organization for Migration	UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
IPC	Infection Prevention and Control	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IMO	International Maritime Organization	UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
MACCE	Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change, and Environment	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution	UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
NHSP	National Health Strategic Plan	UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office	WHO	World Health Organization
SAMM	Southern African Migration Management		
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal		
SERP	Socio-Economic Response Plane		



2022 UN Country Annual Results Report Seychelles

March 2023



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