



UNITED NATIONS
Mauritius and Seychelles



UN Family in Mauritius

Take a look at what the UN Family in Mauritius is up to!

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Social Justice for All



In preparation for the **World of Work Summit** ILO asks stakeholders in Mauritius - **What is social justice?**

You can watch their responses by clicking on the links below:

Ms. **Lisa Simrique Singh** - United Nations Resident Coordinator for Mauritius & Seychelles
<https://youtu.be/erBZqPRYX0w>

Hon. **Soodesh Satkam Callichurn** - Minister of Labour, Human Resource Development & Training

Mr. Dev Appalswamy - Director National Productivity and Competitiveness Council
https://youtu.be/j_nsjFxmCJA

Jane Ragoo - General Secretary Confederation des Travailleurs des Secteurs Publique et Privé
<https://youtu.be/zg5MbJ71RJQ>

Mr. Radhakrishna Sadien MSK - President, Congress of Independent Trade Unions
https://youtu.be/qwUSlnaf_bQ

Professor Sanjeev K Sobhee - Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius
<https://youtu.be/U606K-SBe2E>

Patricia Adèle-Félicité - Secrétaire Générale, Caritas Ile Maurice
https://youtu.be/eo_2W1vsVdc

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

A humanist study of migration in the 21st Century



The Stories of Migration campaign is a humanist study of migration in the 21st Century. IOM Mauritius and Seychelles in collaboration with their Goodwill Ambassador Paul Choy has developed a photographic exhibition of 15 stories of migration exploring the personal experiences of migration of people in different circumstances. The exhibition is combined with Migration Talks to use the power of storytelling to share ideas and experiences. Collectively the stories capture the multifaceted nature of migration and through the talks at universities and schools aim to highlight the issues and opportunities of migration and encourage dialogue and conversations about migration.

[Read more](#)

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

Goodnature Traps – Supporting local conservation



Focusing on areas known to have birds nesting sites, this initiative supports the recovery of the Mauritius Olive White-Eye bird population, considered the most threatened endemic birds and protect of Mauritius.

A first training session including organisations working on the conservation of local endemic species and restoration of forest areas, nature reserves, national parks and offshore islets was organised on 27 April.

Participants were introduced to the planning, monitoring and on-field requirements for the effective installation of the Goodnature traps.

[Read more](#)

Enterprise Go Digital: Strengthening SME Resilience Through Digital Transformation



The Enterprise Go Digital platform was officially launched on 28 April 2023, following successful tests carried by 10 pilot small and medium enterprises (SMEs) earlier this year. Implemented by the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC), this project funded by the UNDP through the financial assistance of the Japanese Government aims to strengthen the resilience of SMEs following the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to the launch, 10 pilot SMEs were selected to test the functionalities designed to aid operations around 1) sales automation, 2) inventory management to track and monitor stock, 3) production management and 4) enterprise marketing management.

While supporting SMEs' recovery, these features also enhance productivity by offering new opportunities for innovation and bringing together complementary enterprises as per their business needs.

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Supporting sustainable energy solutions for local communities



46 free rooftop photovoltaic kits have been provided to households of Résidence Muguet, under the Government of Mauritius-implemented, UNDP-supported and Green Climate Fund-funded 'Accelerating the transformational shift to a low carbon economy in the Republic of Mauritius' project (GCF Project).

One of the objectives of the \$28M GCF project is to equip 3,500 households with 1.5 kWp solar PV kits and provide them 75 free units of electricity monthly over a 20-year period, under the CEB Home Solar Project II scheme. Thus far, 500 PV kits, valued at MUR 100,000 each, have been deployed at no cost to beneficiaries in Mauritius and Rodrigues, with a target of reaching 2,000 households by the end of 2023.

This initiative to provide free rooftop photovoltaic kits to households demonstrate a crucial step towards

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United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)

Strengthening capacity to deliver healthcare to adolescents



On 4th April the UNFPA in collaboration with the WHO and Mauritian Ministry of Health and Wellness launched a "training of trainers" workshop for public health and youth officers and doctors to address adolescent health issues. The purpose of the workshop was to build the capacity to use youth friendly approaches in service delivery, and address issues of sexual and reproductive health, HIV prevention and addiction to illegal drugs. In her remarks the UNFPA Head of Office for Mauritius, Priscilla Li Ying emphasized, "In this period of heightened vulnerability, adolescents need quality healthcare and services with professionals who are accessible and who can effectively respond to their needs with knowledge and experience."

[UNFPA Mauritius | United Nations Population Fund](#)

Empowering young people through arts and culture



The UNFPA in Mauritius provided support for a three-day theatre workshop for secondary school teachers in April. The emphasis of the workshop was to encourage teachers to use performance art as an awareness raising tool to empower young people to make healthy choices, develop their self-esteem, and take charge of their futures. The teachers were supported to explore how they could use plays to address topics such as teenage pregnancy, bullying, suicide, prevention of drug abuse and violence.

[Read more](#)

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Family UNited – Placing family at the centre of drug abuse prevention



In May the UNODC in partnership with the Government of Mauritius and the private sector CIM Group launched a training for facilitators to support the Family United Programme. This family skills package recognizes that a healthy functioning family not only protects children from early experimentation with substance use and abuse but can directly contribute to the safe and healthy development of children. It supports caregivers to be better parents; strengthens positive age-specific and age-appropriate interactions; and helps children to acquire skills to make informed decisions. Through building such skills the programme is effective in preventing a wide range of social and health problems, including preventing substance use.

The programme aligns with the Government's holistic approach to the drug problem, which focuses on both addressing the supply of illegal substances and strengthening prevention activities.

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World Health Organization (WHO)

Empowering the Mauritius Police Force to implement tobacco control laws



From April to May 2023 in a truly collaborative effort, the WHO Mauritius partnered with an NGO, the Vie et Santé (VISA), the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the State Law Office and the University of Mauritius to build the capacity of 95 police officers to enforce new tobacco control laws. The training took place at the Police Training Centre in Beau Bassin and focussed on the global tobacco epidemic and the related socio-economic impact; the provisions of the Mauritius new tobacco laws; the tobacco industry interference and counteracting strategies; as well as new and emerging tobacco technology products. Importantly strategies were discussed about how to enforce the new law.

Mauritius has been a pioneer in tobacco control legislation and policies. The island was one of first countries to become Party to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Review, impose pictorial and written warning on tobacco packaging in 2008 and the first in Africa to institute tobacco plain packaging.

During the closing ceremony on 15 May 2023 at the Special Mobile Force Diamond Hall in Vacoas the Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr Kailesh Kumar Singh Jagutpal emphasized the role of each and every person in disseminating anti-tobacco knowledge and discouraging tobacco consumption in the country. While, Dr Anne Ancia, the WHO Representative in Mauritius informed "tobacco kills more than eight million people yearly. 80% of tobacco users live in middle and low-income countries. She emphasized the need for a multi-sectoral coordinated approach to address the scourge of tobacco. She further added, "by addressing tobacco, one of the main NCD risk factors, we can contribute to the global NCD target of reducing NCD mortality, morbidity and disabilities by 25% by 2025."

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Strengthening Health Security for Mauritius



The Ministry of Health and Wellness partnered with the WHO to cost and validate the Mauritius National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) during a five-day workshop in April 2023. With the support of WHO, the country was able to finalize the action plan to strengthen the national health security system drafted in November 2022. The NAPHS represents an important achievement for Mauritius showing political commitment and multi-sectoral engagement to advance a comprehensive preparedness and response plan. It is a milestone strengthening the country's health security through smart investment to protect the population and minimize the effects of outbreaks and pandemics.

This multi-year action plan for Health Security draws on multisectoral engagement using the One Health approach to strengthen public health emergencies detection, early preparedness, and swift response. It has been aligned with the Global Health Security strategy and the International Health Regulations 2005 (IHR) which recommends countries to strengthen, monitor and evaluate their IHR capacities for the early prevention, protection, control and response to the spread of diseases.

As a signatory of the International Health Regulations (2005), the Republic of Mauritius has already conducted voluntary and external assessments such as, respectively, the State Party Annual reporting (SPAR) and the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) which provide insights into strengths and weaknesses in compliance with IHR capacities. Results of these evaluations, coupled with lessons learned from the national response to the COVID 19 pandemic have enabled identification of all necessary actions to improve national capacities and define the national action plan for health security.

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Blood drive to mark WHO 75th anniversary year



On Friday 16 June, in collaboration with the National Blood Transfusion Service, WHO held a blood drive at their office as one of initiatives to celebrate the organization's 75th anniversary. This blood donation was special since WHO called all UN Agencies and Embassies in the country to join together to give blood for the Mauritian people as a way to promote Health for All. 34 pouches of blood were collected which will help to save lives or decrease the suffering of many people, such as pregnant women who face acute haemorrhage during their partum, or people who need to undertake cardiac surgery, or of course, all those suffering from leukaemia or other type of blood cancer.

[Read more](#)

UN Family in Seychelles

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Strengthening food safety and quality



In May as part of a two-year project to strengthen governance around food safety and plant health in 11 African Union countries, assessors travelled to Seychelles to validate the data gathered about the food control systems in the country.

The project, funded by the European Union and spearheaded by a team of experts from FAO, started with a series of trainings on the food control assessment tool and how to collect data around multiple indicators and across multiple ministries and agencies that form the food control system.

After a four-month data collection period, a validation mission was carried out in Mahé and Praslin islands which included field visits to markets, abattoirs, and food business operators to verify food safety data and identifying gaps.

The next step in the assessment process is the development of a report based on the verified data. Seychelles is one of the first two countries to implement the assessment.

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United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Strengthening the legal protection of artists and cultural professionals



On 12 June 2023, UNESCO in partnership with the Seychelles National Institute for Culture, Heritage and Arts launched the first phase of the UNESCO-Aschberg programme in Seychelles. The project aims to strengthen the legal protection of artists and cultural professionals in the country through the development of a new law on the status of the artist. A series of consultative meetings were conducted in the three main islands, respectively Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue. To ensure the engagement was inclusive over 100 artists from different fields were consulted in Creole, English and French languages. The consultations provided an opportunity for UNESCO and Island Legal Solutions (ILS) to gather an assessment of the current cultural ecosystem in Seychelles and identify gaps in current legal frameworks to be filled.

World Health Organization (WHO)

Inaugural Food Safety Week



The inaugural Food Safety Week was launched at the Seychelles Hospital on 5 June with WHO Seychelles Representative Dr Rex *Mpazanje* and the Public Health Commissioner, Dr Jude Gedeon in attendance. World Food Day is marked to raise awareness of the important role of safe and nutritious food to sustaining life and promoting good health. Unsafe food containing harmful bacteria, viruses, parasites, or chemical substances causes more than 200 diseases, ranging from diarrhoea to cancers. It also creates a vicious cycle of disease and malnutrition, particularly affecting vulnerable groups. Additionally, foodborne diseases undermine sustainable development by putting a strain on healthcare systems and harming national economies, tourism, and trade.

WHO Seychelles also organised an awareness raising Food Safety Week march on 7 June starting at the Red Roof building in the grounds of the Seychelles Hospital to Central Victoria.

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Regional

ILO

Advancing Social justice for all!



The International Labour Organization held its **111th annual Conference** in Geneva from 5–16 June 2023. Worker, employer and government delegates from the ILO's 187 Member States addressed a wide range of issues, including: a just transition towards sustainable and inclusive economies, quality apprenticeships, and

Mauritius also took part in this conference and the delegation was led by Hon Soodesh Satkam Callichurn, Minister of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training. He was accompanied by the employers' and workers' representatives, Mr Pradeep Dursun, Chief Operating Officer, Business Mauritius and Mr Sadien, Radhakrisna, President of the Congress of Independent Trade Union and by Ms Shirine Jeetoo, Deputy Director, Labour and Industrial Relations Division.

[Watch here](#)

The **International Labour Organization's World of Work Summit** also took place on the **14 and 15 June**, under the theme of "**Social Justice for All**". The Summit brought together 17 Heads of State and Government, the ILO's Director-General, and high-level representatives from the United Nations, other international organizations, and employers' and workers' organizations. There was also an address from the UN's Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres. Participants discussed policies and actions that can advance social justice and highlight the key role of social justice in creating a more sustainable and equitable world. In addition to the individual leaders' addresses, the agenda included four high-level panels focusing on different issues relevant to expanding social justice. Panellists explained their visions of, and priorities for, social justice, and share the actions they are taking.

The two days Summit was an opportunity to discuss and inform the proposal to forge the **Global Coalition for Social Justice** – a multi-lateral initiative that was welcomed by the ILO's Governing Body of the International Labour Office at its 347th Session in March 2023.

[Watch here](#)

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

75th anniversary year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights



The 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) will be celebrated on 10 December 2023. Ahead of this milestone, the anniversary initiative, Human Rights 75, will rekindle the spirit, impulse, and vitality of the UDHR and renew a worldwide consensus on human rights.

As a "common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations", the UDHR is a global blueprint for international, national, and local laws and policies and a bedrock of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

In the decades since the adoption of the UDHR in 1948, human rights have become more recognised and more guaranteed across the globe. It has since served as the foundation for an expanding system of human rights protection that today also focuses on vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and migrants.

However, the promise of the UDHR, of dignity and equality in rights, has been under a sustained assault in recent years. The Declaration's 30 articles that address rights and benefits, have been realized by many yet are still outside the reach of others. As the world faces new and ongoing challenges –pandemics, conflicts, exploding inequalities, imbalances in the global financial system, racism, climate change –the values, and rights enshrined in the UDHR provide guideposts for our collective actions that do not leave anyone behind.

"Together, let's rejuvenate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, demonstrate how it can meet the needs of our time AND advance its promise of freedom, equality and justice for all".

[Read more](#)

**FREEDOM, EQUALITY
AND JUSTICE FOR ALL**

WHO Mauritius ➔ Launch 2023 WHO Global Tobacco Report, 31 July, Mauritius

ILO/WHO ⇒ National Youth Symposium, 15 September, Seychelles

ILO/SAMM ⇒ Employers' Organisations Meeting, 2-3 October, Mauritius

ILO/SAMM ⇒ Tripartite Meeting "Skills Mobility Partnership in the Indian Ocean Region", 5-6 October Mauritius

UNCTAD ⇒ Regional Workshop on CropWatch Innovative Cooperation Programme, 7-10 October, Mauritius

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