

# COVID-19 SOCIO ECONOMIC RESPONSE PLAN



# SEYCHELLES



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Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



IAEA  
International Atomic Energy Agency



Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty



International  
Labour  
Organization



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

SGP The GEF  
Small Grants  
Programme



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

UN WOMEN  
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women

UNAIDS  
JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

UNDP  
Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

UN environment

UNESCO  
United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

unicef  
for every child

UNFPA  
Ensuring rights and choices for all since 1969

UN HABITAT  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

UNIDO  
UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

UNODC  
Global Maritime Crime Programme

UNWTO  
World Tourism Organization

World Health  
Organization  
Seychelles

# COVID-19

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RESPONSE

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**Note:** This document was drafted by the UNRCO based on inputs from United Nations Country Team members working in Seychelles and extensive discussions with the Government of Seychelles. It addresses comments and suggestions received from DCO quality assurance team.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This plan provides direction for a multisectoral cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Seychelles (GoRS) and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to address the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis in Seychelles. It has been developed to answer a request for support from GoRS, and it provides an integrated and coherent framework for action from the UNCT following the UN Global framework for socio-economic response to the COVID-19 crisis.

The objectives of the response are to ensure the continuity of essential services during the remainder of the crisis, to mitigate the crisis' social and economic impacts on the population in the short to mid-term (up to mid 2021), and to support a coordinated and multisectoral recovery effort in a way that leads to a nation more resilient to future stresses and shocks.

The plan offers a basis for partnership in meeting Seychelles' needs, aligned with the UN global priorities to assist member states to "recover better" from this crisis. It presents the value-addition the UNCT can provide following the pillars of the global *UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19*. It is informed by the UN Global Humanitarian Response Plan and the WHO Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for Seychelles, alongside the specific plans individually developed by UNCT members.

This plan is presented along four pillars: 1. Protecting health systems, 2. Protecting people and basic services and promoting community resilience, 3. Economic recovery, and 4. Macroeconomic response. For each, relevant elements of the SPF that contribute to the pillar are rapidly highlighted, before specific new objectives and activities are summarized.

The proposed areas of collaboration are aligned with the *Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF)* that directs the cooperation between GoRS and the UNCT and contributes to *Seychelles' National Development Strategy*. Regular consultations with GoRS by UNCT members and by the Resident Coordinator's Office ensure that these areas are aligned with GoRS' relief, recovery and development priorities (a final alignment will be conducted when government plan is finalized).

The current UN commitments to Seychelles under the SPF already address many priorities covered under the five UN pillars of a multisector support with: (i) strengthening of the health system, (ii) helping ensure that basic services reach the most vulnerable, and (iii) supporting economic transition towards a more diversified and shock-resilient economy. Elements of the SPF that already serve the recovery objectives are not all presented, but some are highlighted where necessary. Meanwhile, this plan presents the complementary activities directly related to the COVID-19 crisis response. They are presented in the text, and summarized by pillar and agency in appendix, along with a related budget.

The plan will evolve with the situation, as well as with requests from the government. A key initial element of this response plan is a series of assessments, policy option papers and research products that will be produced to inform decision making and technical assistance.



# INTRODUCTION

## DEVELOPING A MULTISECTORAL RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS

### 0.1 Situation and needs

#### a. The COVID-19 health crisis in Seychelles

Since the breakout of an epidemic in Wuhan, China, COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020 and has spread to over 210 countries. Seychelles reported its first case March 12 and has recorded 149 cases as of October 20, all of whom received medical care (updates at <http://health.gov.sc>).

From January, WHO has been supporting the Government of the Republic of Seychelles (GoRS) to develop, implement and adapt the medical and public health components of their system to prepare against and respond to the spread of COVID-19. Working together, they have been able to stop the spread of the virus, to treat all persons infected to date, and to establish the protocols for Seychelles to gradually reopen some of its domestic social and economic activities, while working together on the next steps of reopening Seychelles to the world.

Beyond its health component however, the COVID-19 crisis is having multiple impacts on the economy, the availability of public services, law and order, food security, unemployment, and poverty. In preparation for a response beyond the public health sector, the United Nations globally, and members of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Seychelles, have developed elements to complement the initial crisis response and to plan for a recovery phase.<sup>1</sup>

#### b. Possible impacts of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable in Seychelles

Early analyses produced by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and GoRS point to the following likely impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Seychelles.

**Impacts on the economy:** The pandemic will have severe effects on economic growth. Much of the initial impacts stemmed from the preventive lockdown of the population, government's bans on certain types of activities, the closure of borders and international travels, firms and institutions taking proactive measures to avoid infections, business downsizings and closing, and individual reducing consumption.

The reduction in industrial and tertiary services production around the world is then affecting domestic consumption, international trade and the balance of payment, as well as public and private debts and fiscal space. Tourism represents the largest share of Seychelles' economy and depends on the economic performance of the main originating markets (Europe, Asia, and the Middle East). Amid sharp falls in tourism revenues and with tourism not forecasted to significantly resume before the last quarter of 2020. Seychelles' economy is likely to experience a severe downturn, which could exacerbate its vulnerability to economic and climatic shocks. Data for the financial sector paint a similar portrait, as the two largest markets for Corporate Service Providers<sup>2</sup>—Asia and Europe—both face looming uncertainties. Seychelles' economy is hence likely to contract by at least 10.8% in 2020, against an earlier projected growth of 3.8%. Its unemployment rate of 2.3% in 2019 already soared to double digits from March 2020.

<sup>1</sup> The UN Country Team for Seychelles comprises 19 agencies, funds and programmes of which four reside in Seychelles: The World Health Organization, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the Office of Drug and Crime (UNODC). The other agencies work from their respective regional or global headquarters (see their list and contacts in appendix).

<sup>2</sup> Corporate services include the formation, management or administration of entities, for which the service providers can serve as registered agent, director or other similar officer, provide a registered office, place of business or address, or serve as a nominee shareholder.

The food and agricultural sector will also be impacted. On the supply side, it has been hurt by shortages of labor that curbed the production and processing of food, and by disruption in the supply chains. In Seychelles, limited flight movements are affecting the semi-industrial fisheries sector the most, as 90-95% of the catch are air-freighted (tuna on ice). On the demand side, diminished export earnings and ensuing currency depreciation translate into more expensive imports, including for basic foodstuffs, resulting in higher food prices on the domestic market. The impact of the pandemic on supply chains has been massive for health partners. Border closures, restriction on import, export and port operations, reduced commercial aviation and shipping operations, and restriction on movements to/from and within countries directly impacted the availability of food, fuel, and other essential needs.

**Impact on people, especially vulnerable groups:** Globally, the disease has demonstrated severe impacts on vulnerable groups including older people, the chronically ill, the immunologically compromised and people with disabilities. They need special care to avoid being infected and to be treated, but some may be discriminated against, hence limiting their access to prevention and treatment services. Risks are heightened for pregnant women who are more susceptible to contracting many transmissible illnesses. Although the medical impacts of COVID-19 are less severe in most cases on younger and otherwise healthy population groups, the indirect effects of confinement or the reduced economic activity greatly influence the ability of people to secure a basic living. Sluggish economic activity will bring about unemployment, declining wages, and loss of income. Domestic violence is also expected to increase due to the confinement and unemployment, compounded by the disruption in support services. As schools close, students will miss out on opportunities to learn. School closure and some confinement measures may also increase protection risks for children.

The crisis can have significant impacts on migrant workers due to the loss of incomes, restricted movement, and a spike in prices. They may not have access to all social protection schemes, leaving them unable to rely on some of the response offered to nationals.

## 0.2 Priorities for cooperation between Government and the United Nations

### a. National priorities for response

The pandemic led the Seychelles into a public health emergency paralleled by a severe economic downturn. While the government swiftly organized to address the health crisis, it also had to readjust its national priorities for the year to mitigate the impacts of the economic crisis. On March 20, H.E. President Faure hence announced steps to sustain the economy and protect its citizens from the impacts of the crisis in the immediate future (detailed later). By April 8, a revised national budget for 2020 was adopted that addressed these priorities.

While GoRS is developing its multisectoral response (to be released end June), the revised 2020 budget indicates key priorities as: (i) **healthcare**, to contain and combat the disease; (ii) **food security**, to ensure sustenance during the crisis; (iii) **wage retention and job security** for employees in the private sector; (iv) **social protection**, to ensure the safety of the most vulnerable; (v) **increased security**, to prevent the proliferation of crime during the economic downturn; (vi) **investments in infrastructure**, to support economic growth; and (vii) **investments in programs and projects that will improve the lives of all citizens**.

### b. UN multisector response to the immediate impacts of COVID-19

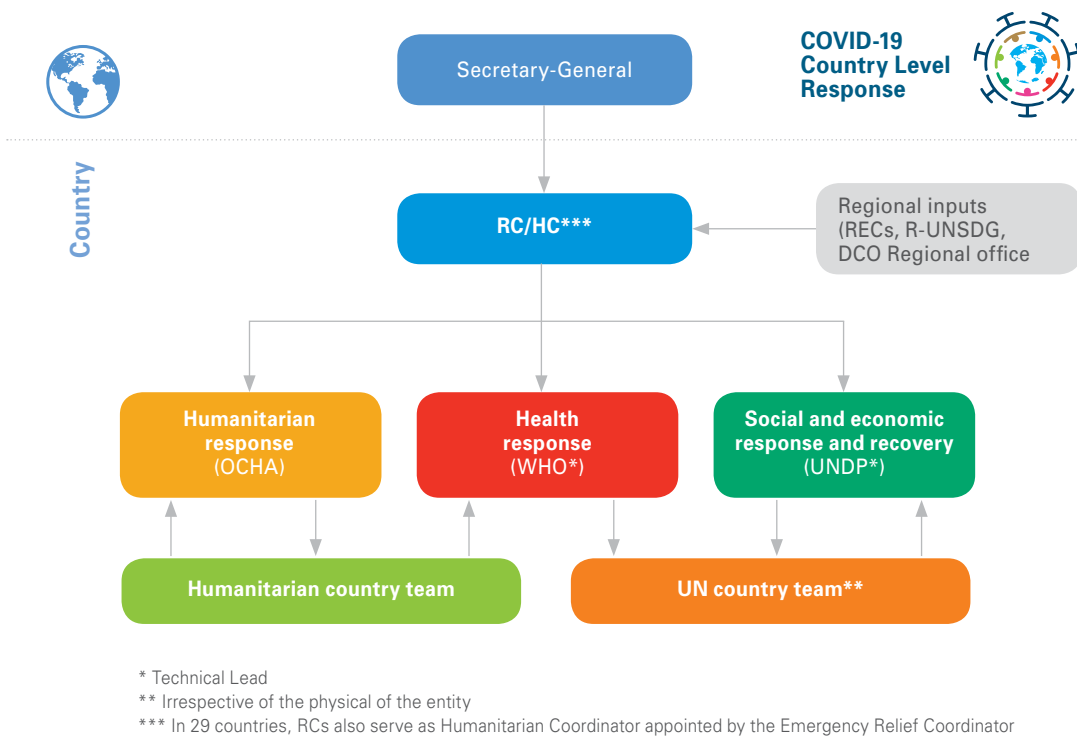
In Seychelles, from the beginning of the crisis, UN agencies partnered with GoRS by providing over USD 800,000 in cash and in kind (with equipment and supplies). Additionally, they provided technical assistance, policies and guidelines, conducted analyses and developed knowledge products that supported the immediate health response. UNCT members have since developed sectoral responses to help support governments worldwide in addressing the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.



Globally, the UN agencies, funds and programmes have been supporting nations to address the immediate needs of their most vulnerable people, and to plan for and support recovery to achieve a new sustainable and inclusive economy that leaves no-one behind. To direct that effort, the UN developed a global approach for a multisectoral support to recovery, organized in five pillars: (1) **Health First:** Protecting health services and systems during the crisis; (2) **Protecting People:** Social protection and basic services; (3) **Economic Recovery:** Protecting jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises, and the most vulnerable productive actors; (4) **Macroeconomic Response and multilateral collaboration;** and (5) **Social cohesion and community resilience.** The UN will work in Seychelles along these five priorities to address the challenges raised by the COVID-19 pandemic. Note however that the work on social cohesion and community resilience is merged under pillar 2.

Under the leadership of the UN Development Coordination Office, supported by a network of global and regional expertise, the World Health Organization has been working with governments to answer the medical priorities of the COVID-19 response; the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has been coordinating the humanitarian response; and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) has been acting as the technical lead in the socio-economic recovery efforts. At the national level, with guidance and support from the UN Resident Coordinator (RC), the UN Country teams members are collaborating to work as one across all aspects of the response.

**Figure 1: Organization of the United Nations' COVID-19 country-level response**



Source: UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19 - April 2020. Note that OCHA has not had to intervene directly in Seychelles although it can provide support if necessary.

### 0.3 Institutional bases for partnership

#### a. Government request for UN Support to a COVID-19 Multi-Sectoral Response

The UN has been providing assistance to Seychelles from the onset of public health crisis in January. On March 19, the UN RC further extended a United Nations Country Team offer of support to address the economic and social consequences of the crisis. On March 27, GoRS requested United Nations assistance to design a multi-sectoral collaboration plan that could assist in minimizing the social and economic impacts of COVID-19, especially on the most vulnerable, while stimulating a recovery program to help Seychelles recover better.

Since then, the UNRCO has been working with all UNCT members (with UNDP, WHO, FAO, and UNODC present in Seychelles and 15 agencies, funds and programmes cooperating from their headquarters) to organize their contributions along the UN framework for an immediate socio-economic response to the crisis, in alignment with existing agreements with the Government, as well as commitments under the 2030 Agenda, and the African Union Agenda 2063.

#### b. UN existing partnership with the Government of Seychelles

*The Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) 2019-2023* is the UN's main cooperation agreement with the Government of Seychelles to coordinate UNCT activities in supporting national development aspirations. In alignment with the *National Development Strategy (NDS)*, it aims to **(1) enhance opportunities for the sustainable utilization of the blue economy, industrialization and agriculture development, (2) support environmental sustainability, resilience and disaster risk management, (3) strengthen human capital development with quality health care, education and quality of life, and (4) promote science, technology, innovation and data development to facilitate socio-economic development.**

The SPF focuses on the long-term changes the UN and GoRS aim to bring to the development of Seychelles, but it is flexible in terms of the programs and activities needed to achieve these results. It can be updated to reflect the response to the COVID-19 crisis. The SPF can therefore serve as an existing agreement to implement the action plan presented below.<sup>3</sup>

#### c. The role of development partners in Seychelles

Seychelles is a high-income nation, where the role of development partners is one of technical assistance rather than financial support. The country can access credit lines from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the African Development Bank, but not at the concessional rates of middle- and lower-income nations. Since the beginning of the crisis however, while the economic shutdown drastically constrained public revenues, the response to the crisis led to high expenses, which will constrain the fiscal space needed to fund recovery, while debt servicing may further burden the economy and weaken the external balance.

Seychelles, along with many other small island states hence requires specific fiscal assistance to weather the crisis and strengthen its capabilities to recover and rebound. Since early June, with support from the RCO, the President of Seychelles has been driving the point for support to Seychelles and to SIDS, during a series of international political fora. The RCO has been working with the World Bank, IMF, AfDB and bilateral development banks to explore options, has been advising GoRS and will continue to work with it, with IFIs and with the private sector to develop innovative approaches to financially support the recovery and adaptation efforts.

The following sections present the response plan following four of the five pillars of UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19.

<sup>3</sup> Links between elements of this response plan, and commitments under SPF, Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 are presented in appendix.





# PILLAR 1. HEALTH FIRST

## PROTECTING HEALTH SERVICES AND SYSTEMS DURING THE CRISIS

### 1.1 Seychelles' initial health response

In view of the global threat posed by COVID-19, GoRS established a national inter-sectoral disaster management working group that developed a *Seychelles National Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19* with the support of WHO. The plan was launched March 11, ahead of the first declared case of COVID-19 on the island. It focuses on strengthening: (i) **coordination, planning and monitoring** of the response; (ii) **risk communication and community engagement**; (iii) **surveillance, rapid response and case investigation**; (iv) **procedures at points of entry**; (v) **laboratory capacities**; (vi) **infection prevention and control**; (vii) **case management**; and (viii) **operational support and logistics**.

To achieve this, the government's revised budget for 2020 increases national spending on health care by SCR50.6 million to build an isolation center, renovate the barracks at Ile du Swet to increase quarantine capacity, accelerate the renovations of Baie Lazare Health Center, construct La Digue Hospital, and adapt Seychelles Hospital's Diagnostic Centre.

WHO has been working with the government to implement the *National Preparedness and Response Plan*, supporting with logistical assistance to procure and distribute essential health supplies, assistance to health service delivery, workforce training, and the deployment of medical surge support. It assisted the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre, mobilized funds and human resources, supported the procurement and transportation of equipment, medicines and personal protective equipment, and provided technical assistance on the adoption of various epidemic preparedness and response strategies.

Other UNCT members also provided immediate support to Seychelles in its health response:

- **The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** purchased COVID-19 diagnostic kits, diagnostic and biosafety and biosecurity equipment, including Real Time PCR equipment for virus detection and personal protective equipment.
- **The International Organization for Migration (IOM)** developed a *Guidance for Employers and Businesses on the Protection of Migrant Workers During the COVID-19 Crisis*, and shared multi-lingual COVID-19 information posters to ensure accessibility of health information to migrants, and supported the state in assisting stranded migrants. It supported border management with enhanced health security by recording border and health data and analyzing these to reinforce operational and policy responses, and guided the gradual removal of border and other travel restrictions.
- **The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** mobilized funds to strengthen the national health system and prepare frontline services to provide critical care, purchasing vital non-medical supplies, and creating public health messages and related communication.
- **The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** provided funds to contribute to the setting up of the Public Health Emergency Operation Centre, and the equipment of the quarantine facilities in collaboration with WHO.
- **The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** raised resources to procure PCR testing kits and extractor equipment through a partnership with the private sector.

## 1.2 Health needs and priorities for the recovery phase

**In the next 12 to 18 months, the health needs will include:**

**Continuing to strengthen the health sector:** This will be done on the one hand by continuing to implement WHO's *Country Cooperation Strategy* (2016-2021) for Seychelles, which aims to strengthen the health sector, including its capacity to address communicable diseases, possibly scaling up and adapting some of its components to reflect the experience of COVID-19. On the other hand, WHO and other UNCT members will continue to support the implementation of the Government's *National Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19*, helping adapt the response in the view of the evolution of the pandemic.

**Preparing and accompanying the gradual and safe reopening of the economy** as well as its adaptation to the new realities of living with the risks posed by COVID-19. WHO already supported the government to safely exit the lockdown stage by helping craft sectoral guidance notes on how to return to normalcy, reopening businesses, public spaces, and public services. In the reopening stage, WHO and other UNCT members will provide guidance and support on further adapting and implementing these notes. They will work with the government to link public health management with the adaptation of economic and social activities to resume and adapt in the presence of a virus unlikely to be eradicated soon. This will be done across economic and social sectors with FAO, IOM, UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNWTO, and WHO.

## 1.3 United Nations inter-agency collaboration with Government for recovery

### a. Elements of the SPF that already address the needs

**The UN is already supporting Seychelles to strengthen the quality of its health service**, under the *Strategic Partnership Framework* Priority 3 (Human Capital Development and Quality of Life), which supports NDS Pillar 2 (placing people at the center of development). This remains a priority in the post COVID-19 recovery phase during which the UN will continue to work with GoRS under the leadership of WHO to (i) **reduce communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, health complications**, especially for high risk and vulnerable populations, and **risks to quality of life**, promoting healthy lifestyles and fighting alcoholism and substance abuse; and (ii) **strengthen the health system** by building national capacities for health preparedness and response to emergencies and disasters, and by enhancing effective coordination and innovation in service delivery. This will be done by following WHO's *Strategic Agenda for Seychelles* planned until 2021 under five priorities:

- Strategic Priority 1: **Halt, and reversal of the rising burden of non-communicable diseases** (NCDs) through a multi-sectoral approach to address the 4 diseases and 4 risk factors most responsible for current & future NCDs in Seychelles.
- Strategic Priority 2: **Introducing new and ensuring sustained delivery of existing interventions targeting emerging or re-emerging conditions to eradicate, control and/or eliminate targeted communicable diseases.**
- Strategic Priority 3: **Putting in place innovations in quality, effectiveness & responsiveness in provision of essential services** focusing on person centeredness, client management & service organization.
- Strategic Priority 4: **Attaining a fit for purpose and motivated health workforce** through improvements in regulation, production and management of the health workforce.
- Strategic Priority 5: **Achieving health for all at all ages** through the promotion of health through the life course.

## Action plan narrative - PILLAR ONE

### b. Objective 1.1 Supporting implementation of the Preparedness and Response Plan

WHO will continue to lead the UNCT in helping the government implement its national *Preparedness and Response Plan*,<sup>4</sup> with the support of other UNCT members.

#### Activities 1.1.1: Country-level coordination, planning, and monitoring

- Facilitate the development of a National Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19.
- Facilitate the finalization of a 72-hour response plan for COVID-19.
- Support the Department of Health (DoH) to establish a Public Health Emergency Operation Centre (PHEOC).
- Establish functionality of PHEOC e.g., equipping PHEOC.
- Support DoH in PHEOC training.
- Review WCO operational Plan based on the *National Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19*.

#### Activities 1.1.2: Risk communication and community engagement

- Support the review of the *Risk Communication Plan for COVID-19*.
- Support adaptation of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials for COVID-19, ensuring their relevance to Seychelles context.
- Support DoH in developing a platform for public information and rumor management.

#### Activities 1.1.3: Surveillance, rapid response teams, and case investigation

- Facilitate the adaptation of updated case definition and its dissemination to all health facilities, including private health facilities and outer islands.
- Support the enhancement of existing respiratory disease-surveillance systems, including indicator-based surveillance, community event-based surveillance, and sentinel surveillance to ensure early detection of suspected cases.
- Support the engagement of the private sector in case identification and surveillance.
- Support DoH in developing and rolling out a training of trainers for Rapid Response Teams.

#### Activities 1.1.4: Points of entry

- Support the development of a public health emergency contingency plan at the Points of Entry (PoEs).
- Support the review and update of the COVID-19 transport Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

#### Activities 1.1.5: National laboratories

- Support sustainability and revision of protocol for COVID-19 testing.

<sup>4</sup> Note that this the Preparedness and Response Plan only addresses the health components of the response. The Government's larger multisectoral response plan is expected to be released end June.

**Activities 1.1.6: Infection prevention and control**

- Assist Seychelles in conducting a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) gap analysis.
- Ensure at least minimum requirements for Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) are in place at all facilities and inhabited islands.
- Ensure compliance with basic IPC principles at the first point of care (usually primary care) – standard precautions, triage, isolation facility, etc.
- Support prevention of healthcare-associated infections in patients and in healthcare workers.
- Support the development of policy for confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Health Care Workers (HCWs) who have been in contact with patients.

**Activities 1.1.7: Case management**

- Support DoH to train HCWs, including ambulance teams, in case management of COVID-19.
- Support the development of a protocol for intensive care service for COVID19 cases.

**Activities 1.1.8: Operational support and logistics**

- Support the development of transport and distribution plan for COVID-19 supplies, that includes inner and outer islands.
- Support the development and review of procurement plan, prepositioning, and distribution.

**Activities 1.1.9: Support easing of public health and social measures post COVID-19 to support economic recovery**

- Develop cross-sectoral guidelines for implementation of mitigation measures.
- Train Public Health Officers (PHOs) on the implementation of the “new normal” guidelines.
- Train Health and Safety Officers (HSO) in tourism establishments and other critical sectors.
- Provide supportive supervision and monitoring of implementation of the “new normal” guidelines across sectors.
- Monitor the status of implementation of the easing of public health and social measures.

**Activities 1.1.10: Contribute to health system strengthening and preparedness of frontline services to provide critical care**

- Purchase COVID-19 diagnostic kits, diagnostic and biosafety and biosecurity equipment, including Real Time PCR equipment and personal protective equipment.
- Develop Guidance for Employers and Businesses on the Protection of Migrant Workers During the COVID-19 Crisis; share COVID-19 information to ensure accessibility of health information to migrants; support state in assisting stranded migrants; support border management; guide the gradual removal of border and other travel restrictions.
- Procure protective clothing, disinfectants, fumigation supplies, bedding for quarantine and isolation centers equipment.





- Support rollout of a public messaging campaign targeting vulnerable and at-risk communities for prevention, containment and behavioral change.
- Support the rollout of the Department of Health Digital Surveillance and Mapping mechanism for contact tracing and containment. Working with the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Social Welfare.
- Procure equipment for health workers and to respond to gender-based violence; develop targeted communication and messages to promote maternal health, as well as youth engagement and participation in the fight against COVID-19.
- Raise resources to procure PCR testing kits and extractor equipment through private sector partnership, shared tools and research on COVID-19 and drug trafficking and use as well as resources to address COVID 19 at sea with relevant government agencies.



# PILLAR 2. PROTECTING PEOPLE

## SOCIAL PROTECTION, BASIC SERVICES, COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

### 2.1 Overview of situation, needs, and priorities

**The COVID-19 crisis is impacting the poorest and most vulnerable the hardest** and it can lead to perpetuate poverty across generations. It affects the quality of diets and nutrition, which can quickly translate into increased morbidity and malnutrition among the population groups with the highest nutrition needs. Fear, worry and acute stressors coupled with diminished availability of social workers can leave women and children exposed to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. Quarantine and isolation policies, coupled with financial stress on families, individuals and communities further exacerbate domestic violence, while care and support to the survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and domestic abuse may be disrupted when health service providers are overburdened.

Although Seychelles is ranked with a very high human development index, it is affected by deep income inequalities: In 2019, while the richest 10 percent of the population enjoyed 40 percent of the nation's income, the 40 per cent poorest only shared 15 percent of that total income, and 39 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line of USD 10.X per day. Seychelles moreover faces a severe drug crisis, with an estimated 5,000 to 6,000 drug addicts among its working population of 60,000. Aside from the persons directly affected, the dependence can run entire families into poverty, violence, disease, and social exclusion, effects that are likely to be heightened by the economic crisis.

To mitigate the immediate impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on poverty immediate priorities are **to limit the deterioration of human assets and rights, social cohesion and livelihoods; and to protect, assist and advocate for the most vulnerable groups**. To address these, the Government of Seychelles has provided a comprehensive set of social protection services from the onset of the crisis to protect the most vulnerable.

To recover better, a priority is to strengthen the resilience of people, systems and institutions against future crises. This involves (i) **strengthening protection mechanisms for vulnerable groups**; (ii) **enhancing agricultural productivity, food and nutrition security**; (iii) **supporting the uninterrupted delivery of basic social services**, and (iv) **promoting social cohesion and community resilience**. The UNCT already supports activities under these priorities as part of its Strategic Partnership Framework, and UN agencies have designed responses to answer the specific needs brought about by the COVID-19 crisis.

### 2.2 Seychelles' initial response in protecting people

#### a. Government support to protect incomes, employment and welfare

On April 8, the Government of Seychelles presented its amended 2020 budget with a significant set of expenses on social programs to protect people from the immediate impacts of the economic downturn. Its protection objectives are in terms of **food security** to ensure the sustenance of all during the crisis, **wage retention and job security** for all employees in the private sector, and **social protection** to ensure the safety of the most vulnerable.

The Government hence earmarked SR 1.3bn (USD 78m) for social assistance to be delivered through NGOs, Government-created Councils and Funds, and Government schemes assisting small entrepreneurs or promoting educational and social initiatives. This increase of 620 per cent over the earlier 2020 budget covers the wage grant assistance to the private sector and a range of social programs. The funded include (i) initiatives under the Agency for Social Protection to provide financial assistance; (ii) an allowance to support social workers providing home care to the elders; (iii) an increase to the Day Care scheme to financially support parents with children in a child-minding facility; (iv) a doubling of the Unemployment Relief Scheme budget to support the Department of Employment in helping re-skill workers, particularly in the tourism sector; and (v) a doubling of the budget for the social safety nets program.

#### b. Government assistance to ensure food security

While about 80% of the food consumed in Seychelles is imported, the disruption in supply chains reduced food availability and led to an increase in prices. To ensure immediate food security at affordable prices, Seychelles wants to accelerate the local production of food stuff in the short term, with the longer-term view of lessening its dependency on food imports.

To assess needs and capacities, in early March GoRS consulted with key food producers (fishers' and farmers' associations) and with agencies that support land-based food production. This highlighted that the 475 registered farmers who cultivate 305 hectares of principally state-owned agricultural land (on farm averaging 0.5 hectare) needed agricultural inputs to till both their land and the extra 14 plots GoRS made available to them to step up food production. While GoRS holds most stocks of key agricultural inputs—fertilizers, seeds and plant protection products—its reserves were likely to last less than four months given the anticipated rise in local food production necessary to balance the decrease in food imports. GoRS has since been looking for support to procure seeds, fertilizers, and live chicks (for the broiler industry).

## 2.3 United Nations inter-agency collaboration for recovery

### a. Elements of the SPF that already address the needs

A central element of the SPF is to help develop human capital and quality of life (SPF Priority 3). This includes **(i) promoting gender equality, eliminating violence against children, women and girls, protecting children's rights and enhancing access to quality education for all; (ii) increasing human rights awareness and practices and supporting compliance with international human rights norms and standards; (iii) harnessing the demographic dividend by investing in young people; (iv) supporting the development and implementation of a structured framework for migration and human mobility; and (v) involving the youth at all stages of collaboration.**

These objectives remain **central to protecting people and basic services in the socio-economic response to the COVID-19 crisis.** The SPF objectives of protecting people and helping develop their capacities will be maintained and adapted to the crisis response. The UN has extensive experience supporting governments to develop social protection systems and to strengthen social services reaching the most vulnerable. In Seychelles, the UNCT will expand the scope of SPF Priority 3 – Human Capital Development to collaborate with the government to adapt, extend and scale-up social services as necessary. In response to the heightened needs for food security and employment protection, SPF's aim of developing sustainable agriculture will be prioritized. The UNCT will hence scale up their planned investment in **(i) enhancing local agricultural productivity, food and nutrition security; and (ii) creating sustainable livelihood opportunities,** to reduce poverty and social exclusion among vulnerable groups. These actions will be enhanced by specific response to the issues exacerbated by the crisis.

## Action plan narrative - PILLAR TWO

### b. Objective 2.1 Protecting people

#### Activities 2.1.1: Strengthening social protection

**To support the Government's social protection initiatives, UNDP is financially contributing to the National Disaster Response fund social protection objectives.** It will collaborate with the Department of Health, the Ministry of Family Affairs, and the UNCT to (i) support the rollout of mobile testing and screening centers for frontline prevention (airport and seaport health professionals) and on Praslin and La Digue islands; (ii) promote inter-governmental and UN coordination and business continuity; and (iii) support the Department of Health, Family Affairs, Civilian Police Surge Capacity, and volunteer mechanisms to increase frontline capacity to ensure the effectiveness of containment.

**The health of migrants is critical in controlling the epidemic as is the need to account for migrants in emergency preparedness and response.** In the recovery phase, IOM will work with ILO, UNODC and UNHCR to analyze the impacts of COVID-19 on migration and trade and to develop regional and localized responses. Along with WHO and UNODC, it will continue to support border management with enhanced health security and the gradual removal of border and travel restrictions. It will also provide protection services to migrants, and will facilitate the engagement of the diaspora in the response.

Persons intending to seek asylum should also be given an opportunity to express their interest to do the same at the point of entry while health precautions are being taken. **The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** South Africa Multi-Country Office stands ready to process the claims of all asylum seekers who express this interest.<sup>5</sup>

#### Activities 2.1.2: Developing child protection

**The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** and the Government of Seychelles developed a strong case in 2019 to cooperate with the private sector to address the main protection issues faced by children and the youth in Seychelles. The COVID-19 crisis has amplified some of these issues, especially in relation to the drug addiction crisis, which is allegedly driving many children in situation of deep vulnerability, and to the potential for widening income inequalities during the unfolding economic crisis.

In response to the crisis, UNICEF reiterated its commitment to support Seychelles in (i) **strengthening its child protection capacities**, (ii) **reviewing and improving its social budgeting capacities**, (iii) **assessing and strengthening its social protection system**, and (iv) **developing innovative partnerships to promote and fund child protection efforts, including with the private sector.**

#### Activities 2.1.3: Supporting drugs and crime control

During the COVID-19 outbreak, the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** focused on addressing some immediate impacts of COVID on drugs and crime, while seeking resources to provide immediate support to the public health services. It raised resources for Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing kits and extractor equipment through a partnership with the private sector. It continued to provide Somali language translation services for the court through video-link to allow for testimony in international piracy cases. Its law enforcement mentors continued their capacity building work with maritime law enforcement

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR is not present in Seychelles, but is engaging with IOM and other UNCT members especially in relation to regional work with the Indian Ocean Commission, and disaster risk management planning (protecting people forcibly displaced).

agencies to ensure security for protecting the blue economy. With other agencies, UNODC developed guidelines on COVID-19 in relation to prisons, to drug use, to GBV, to access to justice, to Human Rights, as well as COVID-19 onboard ships. The office shared these and a research report on the impact of COVID-19 on drug trafficking and drug use trends with the Anti-narcotics Bureau, the Marine Police, the maritime law enforcement agencies, and Seychelles' Agency for Prevention of Drug Abuse and Rehabilitation (APDAR).

**In the recovery phase**, Most of UNODC work planned under the SPF will continue, focusing on **limiting local drug use and related infections, on advancing maritime security to prevent the exploitation of marine resources and the potential impact of maritime crime on the environment and on the Blue Economy, and on border management with IOM and WHO**. The Global Maritime Crime Program (GMPC), which focuses on maritime security to ensure the proper utilization of the Blue Economy will be essential, and UNODC could assist in assessing the maritime security aspects of COVID-19, building on the Blue Economy action plan developed by the Government with UNECA and the Indian Ocean Commission. The guidance it developed during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the health and safety of prisoners and of drug users can further help develop adapted protection services for these population during the recovery.

#### **Activities 2.1.4: Promoting human rights accountability**

From the immediate onset of the pandemic breakout, **the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights** (OHCHR) provided guidelines on ways to continue respecting human rights across the population to ensure a successful public health response while protecting people's social, economic and civic rights.

The preparation of the UN response plan gave OHCHR the chance to actively re-engage with the Government, which will allow to **strengthen the mechanisms ensuring the promotion of human rights during the crisis and after**. Following SPF objectives, OHCHR will support Seychelles to prepare the human rights reports due, to use an online tool to record, monitor and track the implementation of recommendations from human rights mechanisms, and to establish a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up. That mechanism will serve as a national structure to coordinate the process of State party reporting to human rights mechanisms and the implementation of recommendations and a synergy with the national SDG structure.

### **c. Objective 2.2 Enhancing agricultural productivity, food and nutrition security**

#### **Activities 2.2.1: Assessing food security needs and options**

The Ministry for Fisheries and Agriculture requested support from the UN to help safeguard Seychelles national food and nutrition security in the early months of the crisis. GoRS further needed support to assess the possible impacts of the crisis in terms of food security as well as to design immediate response and mid- to long-term adaptation plans. The **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations** (FAO) offered help in implementing **a rapid assessment of food security needs** and in refining its recovery plan for the national agricultural sector, while the European Union will help procure urgently needed agricultural inputs.

### Activities 2.2.2: Promoting agriculture-based livelihoods and food security

**FAO will align the priorities of its Country Program Framework to support the implementation of Government's plan.** Aside from priorities resulting from this assessment, there are opportunities to work with the private sector starting with strengthening the capacities and resilience of Seychelles' 475 small farmers while boosting local food production. The FAO could also support opportunities arising under the draft action plan for the Blue Economy to promote food security, and a diversified, sustainable economy. As part of social protection interventions, there is potential to develop subsistence agriculture even for non-farming households. Platforms earlier developed at the district level through the support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) can be used to promote home gardening, to distribute equipment and basic inputs and to train people to grow some of their own foods in their gardens or in shared spaces, exploring alternatives such as vertical farming when land is scarce. While this could be done on a cost-recovery basis, vouchers could be distributed to poor families to obtain the supplies and technical support necessary. In the recovery phase, cash for work programs can further help build shock-resilient productive agricultural infrastructure—e.g., dikes or irrigation systems, and value chains be developed for the transformation of the production—e.g., for the local use of the fish caught.

**The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** also contributes to increase agricultural productivity, food and nutrition security and to enhance livelihood opportunities in Seychelles. Its planned results and activities under the SPF remain relevant: Agricultural productivity, food and nutrition security and enhanced livelihood opportunities, as well as data, science, technology and innovation to support inclusive socio-economic development.

In response to COVID-19, some capacity building activities under the 2018-2019 program were delayed to the fourth quarter of 2020 and project workplans were revised to prioritize some procurement activities, including the in-kind contribution to the COVID-19 health response. The IAEA further reprioritized some of its budget towards improving food security to: (i) increase national capacity for high crop production; (ii) build institutional laboratory capacity and set up systematic residue/contaminant testing and monitoring programmes; and (iii) raise awareness and build technical capabilities to prevent and deal with invasive exotic tephritid fruit fly pest outbreaks, suppress melon fly, and create economic surplus to farmers and backyard growers.

## d. Objective 2.3 Supporting the continued provision of quality basic services

### Activities 2.3.1 Addressing reproductive health needs and gender-based violence

In the recovery, the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** will continue to help ensure women, children, youth, vulnerable and high-risk groups access quality, integrated healthcare and education services that safeguard and promote quality of life, by: (i) helping ensure the continuity of care, including in terms of services for sexual and reproductive health as well as the treatment of HIV and hepatitis; (ii) addressing Gender Based Violence; and (iii) ensuring the supply of modern contraceptives and other reproductive health commodities.

**UN Women's response to COVID-19 includes** policy advice and programmatic interventions in five priorities: (i) the mitigation and reduction of gender-based violence; (ii) Social protection and economic stimulus serving women and girls; (iii) the equal sharing of care work; (iv) the leadership and participation of women and girls in COVID-19 response planning and decision-making; and (v) data and coordination mechanisms that include gender perspectives. These are to be mainstreamed in all of UNCT's interventions to address the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

**UNAIDS** globally contributes to the COVID-19 socio-economic recovery plan with studies and recommendations on how to include people affected by HIV/AIDS in needs assessment and in response, in combatting stigma and discrimination, and in ensuring equal and fair access to services and support for all. These recommendations will be mainstreamed in all relevant interventions supported by UNCT members.

### Activities 2.3.2 Promoting COVID-19-adapted services in education, science and culture

The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has been assisting the response with information technology solutions, guidelines and resources for distance learning, media information literacy to fight disinformation and discrimination linked to the pandemic, open science, access to information, assessments of impacts and sharing of experiences for promoting a culture of resilience. UNESCO has also been mobilizing youth for the Sports Challenge against COVID-19 in Africa, and helping Seychelles participate in global social media campaigns and webinars to stand together and strengthen humanity.

For the recovery phase, while planning for further consultation with national authorities (UNESCO National Commission, embedded in the Ministry of Education), UNESCO has developed specific interventions addressing the impact of COVID-19 that will complement its existing workplan under the SPF in five of its six sectors of collaboration with Government:

- **Education:** Supporting the development and strengthening of distance learning programmes at the higher education at the higher education level as well as among professional centers, improving access to online learning materials, digitizing the education curriculum, developing online resources for teachers and students, training both learners and educational staff to use the online tools, holding virtual meetings with partners to share experiences as well as available tools and resources.
- **Natural science:** Improving access to online tools in relation to resilience to climate change, disaster risk reduction, and groundwater resources management.
- **Culture:** Conducting UNESCO surveys on the impact of COVID-19 on (i) the culture sector, (ii) intangible cultural heritage, (iii) the museum sector, and (iv) World Heritage; Conducting individual assessments on (v) distance museum education resources, and (vi) online resources for World Heritage sites.
- **Social and human science:** Integrating in policymaking, inclusive development, youth engagement, and peace promotion activities: (i) Ethics and COVID-19 responses; (ii) skills development and resilience of youth to mitigate socio-economic challenges; (iii) and innovative approach to sports and health in a context of lockdown or confinement.
- **Communication and information:** (i) webinar on safety of journalists covering the Covid-19 pandemic and reflections by journalists on media sectors response and contribution towards countering disinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic in Seychelles; (ii) webinar on deconstructing, misinformation, hate speech and racism for the promotion of cultural diversity, peace building and sustainable development.
- **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission:** Capacity Building in Marine and Technology, and tools/applications for sustainable development and management of ocean and coastal resources.

## e. Objective 2.4 Promoting social cohesion and community resilience

### Activities 2.4.1 Promoting sustainable urbanization and waste management

**UN-Habitat** did not have on-going activities in Seychelles by the time of the COVID crisis, but it had budgeted USD200,000 under the SPF to contribute to sustainability and resilience. At the end 2019, UN



Habitat answered a request from the Government with a plan of action towards sustainable urbanization in Seychelles, which would directly contribute to addressing dire social and environmental needs and to “recovering better” from the COVID-19 crisis.

**The plan aims to design and implement an integrated programme to increase the climate resilience of cities in Seychelles.** The proposed activities are organized around four outputs, of which one or two could be prioritized in the crisis response: (i) a **Housing and Urban Profile** focusing on the situation and needs for housing low income households in the face of the economic crisis brought about by COVID-19; (ii) the development of **climate-sensitive participatory spatial plans** to prioritize investments to improve urban resilience in Seychelles’ densest urban area; (iii) an **assessment of the waste stream and the identification of solutions** to improve waste management in Seychelles; and (iv) a **knowledge exchange platform** to build capacity on urbanization for the Indian Ocean Small Island Developing States.

In implementing this plan, UN-Habitat would contribute to both social cohesion and community resilience. It would build local capacity of government and civil society in community development, decentralization, and disaster risk reduction; generate community-data and mapping, capturing otherwise invisible acute vulnerabilities; integrate information into broader data and monitoring platforms for advocacy and more targeted responses; and expand community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives to reach vulnerable and marginalized groups with appropriate and intelligible risk information.





# PILLAR 3. ECONOMIC RECOVERY

## PROTECTING JOBS, SMES, AND VULNERABLE PRODUCTIVE ACTORS

### 3.1 Overview of situation, needs, and priorities

Seychelles' economy is especially vulnerable to the global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The island's dependence on air and freight transport and high dependence on revenue from foreign tourism contribute to a heightened vulnerability to external shocks. While its service-based economy expanded by 3.9% in 2019—a rate faster than comparable island economies in other regions—the pandemic has reversed this trajectory and, the impact of the crisis is likely to induce at least a 10.8 % decline in the economy in 2020, with a substantial increase in unemployment due to the high reliance on tourism.

Economic recovery is about protecting jobs and workers, ensuring decent work and protecting productive assets. Enabling the continued or improved activity of small producers, informal workers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across sectors is vital to ensure the production of, and access to, food and other essential goods and services. Stimulus packages that support income and decent employment are critical to prevent disruptions in key employment sectors.

Environmental considerations are central to the response and recovery efforts. Stimulus packages should help transition to a healthier, resource efficient green and circular economy, based on sustainable consumption and production patterns linked to sustainable value chains.

### 3.2 Seychelles' economic recovery response

#### a. Priorities from Government's budget revision

The Government's April 8 budget revision for 2020 covers all the key recommendations identified under the UN Global Framework for socioeconomic response. The measures associated with this budget should be detailed in the government's response plan under preparation. The measures announced currently cover:

- **Protecting jobs and vulnerable workers:** Wage retention and job security in the private sector are priorities. The main expenses aim to (i) **guarantee the salaries** of all employees in the private and public sector from April to June (recently extended to December for Seychellois); (ii) **support youth employment**, with the refund of 40% of the salary of youths to an employer for their first year of employment and subsidies to young entrepreneurs; and (iii) **support** SMEs with loans as well as the financing of small- and medium-sized agricultural and horticultural projects.
- **Providing immediate financial support for businesses:** President Faure further announced measures to mitigate the shock on businesses, which include (i) **delaying the repayment of taxes and dues** to government, as well as the repayment of loans, (ii) **reducing the price of electricity** and **providing access to credit** for businesses, and (iii) supporting agriculture by purchasing agricultural production from farmers, making land available to the Farmer's Association, and reducing interest rates for investment loans in agriculture or fisheries.

### 3.3 United Nations inter-agency collaboration

#### a. Elements of the SPF that already address the needs

Under SPF Strategic Priority One (Economic Transformation), the UNCT supports Seychelles to promote a more diversified, forward looking and resilient economy. Under Outcome 1, to **establish a comprehensive blue economy strategy, and to promote blue economy as driver of wealth creation and equitable wealth distribution, prioritizing the tourism sector**, which support Pillar 4 of the NDS, “Innovative Economy” by (i) strengthening institutional and legislative capacity to manage and govern the blue economy; (ii) advancing maritime security; and (iii) supporting the diversification of the economy into technology-based production, promoting entrepreneurship, developing industrial estates and enterprise centers and fostering regional integration and structured migration. Under Outcome 2, to (i) **enhance local agricultural productivity, food and nutrition security, and** (ii) **create sustainable livelihood opportunities**, to reduce poverty and social exclusion among vulnerable groups.

These priorities remain central to recover from the impacts of COVID-19. The UNCT’s continued support under this pillar will help promote decent work for all, including for entrepreneurs, small and medium enterprises, farmers and the most vulnerable productive actors.

### Action plan narrative - PILLAR THREE

#### b. Objective 3.1 Informing the multisector response

##### Activities 3.1.1 Assessing COVID-19 impacts and informing policy options

**The UN Country team is pulling its efforts together to assess the impacts of the crisis on multiple social and economic sectors.** Some assessments will be multisectoral and be conducted by several UNCT members, other will be sector-specific and conducted by a single agency. All will involve as much as feasible the relevant Government ministries, departments and agencies. The joint socioeconomic assessment led by UNDP as well as the sectoral assessments and analytical work will help inform the socio-economic response and government policies for a more sustainable recovery including appropriate and effective fiscal and financial response measures (contributing to pillar 4 on macro-economic response).

This will be reinforced by UNCT assistance under the SPF to strengthen statistics and data analytics, which will support the gender analyses and the social inclusiveness of all the recovery initiatives. The UNRCO will develop a research plan to compile the assessments, studies and research of UNCT members, help develop cooperation, and contribute to the dissemination of their work. The policy-oriented analytical work proposed by the UNCT members is presented along this document in the relevant subsections and summarized in appendix.

Based in part on the results of these assessments, the UNCT will advise the government as requested on formulating its recovery plans, policies and programs so they contribute to economic transformation and greater sustainability as well as social inclusion. This will be conducted under the technical leadership of UNDP, which has put aside funding to support the policy dialogue, and in coordination with the RCO to ensure the complementarity of the multisectoral approaches and recommendations.

### c. Objective 3.2 Protecting and promoting employment

#### Activities 3.2.1 Protecting jobs and vulnerable workers

In the immediate response, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has advocated for safety at work and the sustainability of businesses and jobs through its labor guidelines. In the recovery phase, it proposes to support the government with assessments and support in protecting jobs affected by COVID-19 and strengthening social protection mechanism through:

- **Integrated policy advice and program support, focusing on protecting workers and sectors most impacted by the crisis** (e.g., in the travel, trade, tourism, labor intensive manufacturing and construction sectors) and on preventing the collapse of economic activity and jobs by assisting businesses to contain layoffs and protecting households and individuals through expanding social protection, teleworking and work-sharing policies. It can offer know-how on stimulating the economy and boosting employment once the recovery is underway. Among others, ILO prepared a series of sectoral briefs (on health, tourism, agriculture, etc., see appendixes) on the basis of preliminary assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on specific social and economic sectors and industries which can be adapted to country-level context.
- **Support to the tripartite forum that will provide a platform for government, unions and employers to table concerns and work together more effectively** to overcome the complex challenges faced with the current situation of COVID-19.
- **Support in assessing unemployment benefit programs** to measure improvements needed to for labor markets adjustments during the crisis.
- **Help in setting up employment-intensive programs**, based on tried initiatives such as the Employment-Intensive Investment Programme, which creates short-term employment for vulnerable people in the immediate aftermaths of shocks, or the program *Promoting Decent Employment for Women through Inclusive Growth Policies and Investments in the Care Economy* re-positioned to understand the gender employment impacts of COVID-19 and to design gender-responsive fiscal stimulus packages.

Considering the high dependency of Seychelles economy on foreign workforce, and that people on the move are part of the solution to the COVID-19 crisis,<sup>6</sup> the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** will support the operationalization and implementation of the labor migration policy as well as of policies facilitating labor mobility.

#### Activities 3.2.2 Promoting decent work and the diversification of a more resilient economy

Under the SPF, ILO already aims to contribute to an economic, social and environmental transitions towards full, productive and freely chosen employment and decent work for all. For this, it planned to carry out studies of jobs in the blue economy, skills and competencies mapping, and employment impact as well as to design a country-level project on employment creation initiatives in the blue economy on the basis of its existing regional programme.

For the COVID-19 recovery, ILO proposes to collaborate with GoRS in protecting and improving the productive sectors and promoting the diversification of the economic base and livelihood opportunities. To this end, ILO is leading the *Impact assessment of COVID19 on labor migration in SADC* conducted jointly with IOM, UNODC and UNHCR, and is proposing:

<sup>6</sup> As put forward by the UN Secretary General's in its COVID-19 Policy Brief People on the Move.

- **Investments to improve productivity and working conditions in micro and small firms**, repurposing its global SCORE program to deliver information and services to micro, small and medium size enterprises (MSMEs), including on COVID-19-specific occupational safety and health training, business continuity planning, entrepreneurship support, manager-worker dialogue, and on-line delivery channels and training.
- **Supporting young people and social partners in entrepreneurship and social innovation in response to COVID-19** by coordinating action for crisis response and sustainable development with governments, civil society, youth organizations, volunteer groups and the private sector (along the example of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth). ILO can also help labor market institutions develop mitigation programs such as the Job Youth Guarantee implemented after the 2008 crisis. In the particular context of skills mismatch in Seychelles, the development of competencies through the implementation of skills programmes will be key for better employability of youth and the workers affected by the crisis.

### Activities 3.2.3 Supporting the recovery and adaptation of the tourism industry

**The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)**'s global response to COVID-19 supports impact assessments of COVID-19 onto the tourism sector, and provides recommendations and measures to sustain jobs and help companies at risk. These include on (i) how to manage the crisis and minimize its impact on tourism, (ii) how to accelerate the recovery of tourism sectors with a financial stimulus and tax package, support to SMEs and online courses as well as a toolbox on crisis communication for tourism, and (iii) how to diversify the tourism markets and the touristic products to help recover. To help governments plan for tourism recovery, UNWTO has prepared a COVID-19 response recovery technical assistance package of possible assistance on (i) economic recovery, (ii) marketing and promotion, (iii) institutional strengthening and resilience building.

In Seychelles, UNWTO plans to initially help measure the impacts of the crisis on tourism through its ongoing three-year tourism statistics project with the NBS. It is then working with the government to prepare terms of reference for further collaboration, which could include **(i) protocols on how to safely re-open the tourism industry, (ii) training of tourism sector to implement these protocols, and (iii) developing a public-private partnerships for a coordinated approach to tourism recovery.** (Some of this would involve WHO and IOM).

### d. Objective 3.3 Collaborating on recovery with non-UNCT members

While developing their contribution to economic recovery, UNCT members can collaborate with and benefit from the support of UN bodies that are not directly part of the UNCT for Seychelles.

### Activities 3.3.1 Cooperating with the private sector

**The UN Global Compact** has been supporting the private sector engagement in taking a role in the COVID-19 response globally. It has provided guidelines for businesses to contribute to the immediate response of the crisis by (i) adhering to health and safety guidelines and providing economic cushions to workers, including through ensuring worker safety and social distancing and securing wages for those working from home; (ii) providing financial and technical support to governments by contributing to the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund; and (iii) repurposing their facilities and business plans to focus on meeting the needs of this crisis.

A Global Compact Local Chapter (GCLC) for the islands in the region is being setup in Mauritius. It will be the interface between the private sector and the UN in working towards the SDGs and will provide tools, training and support to its members to transform their businesses so they can actively contribute to realizing the SDGs in a profitable manner. In the context of COVID-19, they are central to ensuring that the economic recovery is socially inclusive and sustainable.

In Seychelles, working with government to align to national COVID-19 recovery priorities, the **GCLC should be steered towards supporting private sector engagement in addressing the impacts of COVID-19 and in adapting to recover better** from the pandemics by protecting jobs, and promoting a more diversified, and resilient recovery that benefit the most vulnerable. In partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs, the **UNRCO will engage with the business community in Seychelles to involve the private sector in the post-COVID-19 recovery and get them to adhere to the Global Compact's engagements**. As this partnership develops, the RCO will highlight possible opportunities to collaborate with the UNCT.

### Activities 3.3.2 Promoting trade

**The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** has produced analyses and recommendations on trade and the response to COVID-19, including on the Blue Economy. In the global UN Recovery framework, UNCTAD proposed a series of technical assistances to address trade challenges and facilitate trade flows.

The UNRCO will interface between UNCTAD and UNCT to involve UNCTAD in the response via technical assistance to: (i) **Protect jobs and vulnerable workers**, UNCTAD promotes E-commerce and digital solutions to allow secure access to services needed during crisis, particularly by vulnerable groups. These include financial services for sending or receiving remittances, grants, and short-term bridge loans to micro and small businesses, and digital payments of emergency funds to individuals and households. E-trade readiness assessments can provide a basis for seizing advantages from digital solutions, and the E-Trade for Women initiative helps women digital entrepreneurs become a force for change and economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. and (ii) **Promote decent work and the diversification of a more resilient economy**, UNCTAD can help develop business linkages support between large enterprises and local suppliers in the agricultural and tourism sectors to help subsistence farmers and small tourism operators turn their activities into prosperous businesses. The Business Facilitation Program implemented in 37 countries, could be quickly adapted to new emergencies. The Trade, Gender and Development program, which includes supporting entrepreneurial skills development, and a trade and gender assessment toolbox to evaluate the gender impact of policies, including COVID-19 related ones can further support women-owned micro and small businesses to become part of the global economy through capacity building and their integration in procurement chains (see advocacy on women empowerment).

### Activities 3.3.3 Leveraging environmental investments to fund part of the recovery

**The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)**, made of UNEP, ILO, UNDP, UNIDO and UNITAR is assisting COVID-19 recovery plans to support national sustainable development and climate change priorities through technical advice, analysis and capacity-building.

Although PAGE is not active in Seychelles, it could help bring international lessons using the tools it developed to guide analysis, promote green jobs and foster sustainable investments and business models

by (i) **Analyzing the cross-sectoral impacts of a green economic recovery options through the integrated green economy modelling framework**, which can compare benefits related to jobs, growth, inequality and sustainability between a business as usual scenario and job-rich green recovery options; (ii) **Projecting the social and employment outcomes of recovery packages: The Green Jobs Modelling tool** can inform policymakers to understand the social, employment and climate related outcomes of alternative economic recovery options by analyzing alternative policy and investment scenarios; (iii) **Promoting low-carbon, competitiveness and creating jobs in the industrial sector:** A set of documents: “Green Industrial Policy and Trade: A Toolbox”, “Practitioner’s Guide to Strategic Green Industrial Policy”, and “Green Industrial Policy: Concept, Policies, Country Experiences” — can help policymakers to design green recovery strategies for the industries and enterprises, particularly to make SMEs, which are the most affected by the COVID-19 crises, more competitive, low-carbon and resource efficient. (iv) Monitoring long-term impacts of green recovery packages: The green economy progress measurement framework can assist in monitoring and evaluating the progress of green recovery efforts to achieve selected SDGs, as well as national economic and employment targets.

Recognizing the financial impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the abilities of non-governmental actors to continue their efforts to preserve Seychelles biodiversity, the UN could also provide support in finding innovative means to finance these.







# PILLAR 4. MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION

## 4.1 Overview of situation, needs, and priorities

Seychelles receives over 300,000 international visitors per year, and its economy is highly reliant on the tourism industry. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored severe vulnerabilities in its economy including its high dependence on Europe (38% of total trade) as well as on services (84% of GDP). Due to COVID-19 the country is projecting a loss of over 70% in tourism revenues for 2020, with its borders closed to international travel by air or by sea. If the crisis prolongs, Seychelles could lose many of its hard-won gains in economic development, fiscal stability, and growth of a thriving service sector. Apart from the very real public health risks, Seychelles faces the possibility of major adverse economic consequences that include a balance of payments crisis if the current account balance deteriorates further, and large sustained job losses if the tourism industry does not rebound quickly.

### a. Macroeconomic Response: Need to increase resilience to external shocks

The government has already taken important steps to strengthen the health system, to shore up the social safety net and to ease pressures on the private sector. The mix of recent fiscal and monetary policies includes rolling out a new budget with an additional USD 57m for the COVID-19 response. While the announcement in May that the IMF Executive Board has approved a USD 31.2 million in emergency assistance to Seychelles is welcome, it however may not be sufficient if the crisis prolongs. While the government's response has been expansive in addressing immediate concerns, more measures are needed to increase longer-term resilience to external shocks. These include leveraging better the economy's considerable blue economy resources, reducing Seychelles' heavy dependence on tourism, and increasing trade with the rest of the African continent through the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

### b. Multilateral and regional collaboration: Trade policies, connectivity, policy coordination and environmental commons

Confronting the effects of the pandemic requires coordinated global efforts supported by regional initiatives and institutions. In this, four areas of coordination are particularly relevant:

**First, prioritizing regional cooperation on trade policy** to coordinate and harmonize trade measures that impact supply chains and connectivity. This would help lower the cost of fighting the crisis and set the stage for a quicker economic recovery, while ensuring that trade policy initiatives do no harm. This highlights the potential of Africa's Continental Free Trade Area to generate significant economic gains and contribute to structural transformation and to rebuilding economies through the opportunities they provide for pooled procurement of essential drugs and medical supplies, as well as for enabling local pharmaceutical production.

**Second, promoting improved connectivity and lower transaction and transport costs.** Stepped up multilateral and regional cooperation to facilitate trade and strengthen logistics, and fast-tracking customs procedures for the import of medical supplies, critical products and essential goods, can strengthen the

effectiveness of the response. A regional approach is also needed to strengthen air cargo capacity and maintain borders open for humanitarian assistance. Facilitation of e-commerce and cross-border digital services, including regional payment systems to offset the adverse impacts of lockdown policies is essential. Harmonized approaches to regulation and other dimensions of fintech to overcome logistics disruptions are critical.

**Third, strengthening monetary coordination and financial stability through regional coordination to avoid national policies with negative consequence on neighboring nations.** The regional and sub-regional financial institutions are important providers of liquidity, complementing global financial institutions in financing investment; the provision of regional public goods, stable and counter-cyclical finance; and the pooling of international reserves. Countries need to harness existing regional capacity to complement other sources.

**Fourth, cooperating to strengthen environmental resilience and avoid future pandemics.** The performance and resilience of socio-economic systems depend on the state of the natural environment and ecosystems. Sustainably managing environmental commons requires concerted and integrated collaborative action and policy measures to promote sustainable consumption and production, “just transitions”, deep decarbonization and to build environmental protection into key economic areas (agriculture, transport, energy, buildings and construction, telecommunication). This would strengthen response to future crises while enabling countries to pursue the SDGs, build resilient economies and address climate change.

## 4.2 Government of Seychelles macroeconomic response

This section will be updated as the Government finalizes its COVID-19 response plan.

## 4.3 United Nations inter-agency collaboration

### a. Elements of the SPF that already address the needs

Under SPF Strategic priority 4, the UNCT promotes the production and use of data for decision making; as well as of science, technology and innovation. They contribute to Pillar 4 of the NDS and are particularly relevant to inform the COVID-19 response by: (i) **strengthening the national statistical framework and systems** to support evidence-based policy and planning can help ensure that resources target people the most in need and to measure and compare the impacts of different approaches over time; (ii) **monitoring the implementation of the national development strategy and of policies and programs promoting the SDGs** This could be amended to **add data and analysis to understand the implications of COVID-19** by monitoring the impact of the pandemic on critical systems (e.g., food system and agricultural product trade corridors, water, sanitation and other essential non-food item procurement chain) and on population groups most at risk (e.g., people with health preconditions and migrants and woman most exposed and susceptible to the disease and less able to cope); and (iii) **helping develop legislative policy frameworks, institutional capacity and structures to enhance the effective and efficient use of science, technology and innovation** for sustainable development.

## Action plan narrative - PILLAR FOUR

### b. Objective 4.1 Informing macroeconomic policy options

#### Activities 4.1.1 Complementing national level analytical work with regional comparisons

In complement to the policy-oriented analytical work presented under Pillar 3, regional UN bodies will **develop analytical tools and products to inform the national analyses and recommendations with lessons from across Africa and the Indian Ocean**. These will include regional economic forecasting and

policy messages, outlooks and analyses of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, and macroeconomic modelling to simulate the impact of emergency and medium-term responses and recovery policies.

**The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa** (UNECA) has already provided comparative analytical work to inform policy and programming decisions. Early in the crisis, it organized a meeting of African ministers of Finance, which on March 22 produced a report articulating a joint *Emergency Request to the international Community on COVID-19 Response* – in part making the case for debt alleviation across the continent so that nations could fund their response to the COVID-19 crisis. Early May, it published a joint comparative analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on trade on all Island States of the Indian Ocean, preparing a paper focusing on Seychelles. This helped point to the island states' similarities, differences and complementarities in terms of COVID-19 impacts, and of possible directions for response and recovery. At about the same time, UNECA's joint policy paper with WHO *COVID-19: Lockdown Exit Strategies for Africa* offered a comparison of situation and possible options for deconfinement and reopening across the continent.

UNECA has also established an Africa UN knowledge hub for COVID-19 that provides information and resources relevant to Africa on the pandemic from sources including WHO, regional UN agencies, Ministries of health of African governments and credible news channels. It will help present and discuss best practices and support coordination at the regional level.

**UNECA will continue to support the analysis of COVID-19 impacts, and studies related to COVID-19 lessons learned and best practices in Africa**, notably on (i) macroeconomic policy and governance; (ii) regional integration and trade; (iii) private sector development and finance; (iv) data and statistics; (v) technology, climate change, and natural resource management; (vi) gender, poverty and social policy; (vii) economic development and planning.

**The Partnership for Action on Green Economy** (PAGE), which brings together UNEP, ILO, UNDP, UNIDO and UNITAR is exploring how to assist COVID-19 recovery plans to support national sustainable development and climate change priorities through technical advice, analysis and capacity-building. Although PAGE is not active in Seychelles, it can propose tools to guide analysis, promote green jobs and foster sustainable investments and business models. It can also help study how government could be partly relieved of its debt obligations through a debt for climate change swap mechanism with the obligation for government to fund a climate change fund in parallel to promote green recovery. Seychelles has already done this following the 2008 financial and economic crisis and now could be the time to make full use of existing local initiatives including Seychelles Blue Bonds, as well as to learn from other region, for instance with the work of to swap Caribbean external debt for annual payments into a resilience fund, which can be a source of funding for investments for crisis response and the SDGs.

#### **Activities 4.1.2 Informing public budgeting, debt management, and risk insurance**

The UN family can deploy technical support and analytical tools to help the government of Seychelles improve debt management over the medium to long term while stepping up expenditures that will help respond to the crisis and help meet the SDGs.

- In terms of promoting social budgeting, **UNICEF's assistance will support social expenditure monitoring and mapping of budgets for social development priorities to assist government in balancing public expenditures towards COVID-19 recovery and SDG priorities** in an affordable and sustainable manner.
- If requested by Government, the **United Nations Environment Programme** (UNEP) can further provide technical assistance e.g., on green fiscal policy or on green growth.

**The UN system will accompany the Government to explore and use existing financial instruments for sovereign risk insurance**, so Seychelles can receive financial support to face future disasters. It will also help government develop mechanisms for disaster risk reduction and management, as well as for climate change adaptation, learning from the experience of other SIDS around the world, including:

- **The African Risk Capacity (ARC) mechanism of sovereign risk insurance** started as a World Food Programme (WFP) project to help African states ensure against the risk of droughts. Every year, member states pay an insurance premium against droughts and work with the ARC to develop or update a response plan in case of a disaster. During the year, in case the rainfall is too low and reaches an agreed trigger, the government will receive an agreed amount, based on the severity of the crisis to implement an early response.<sup>7</sup> What started as a program has become a specialized agency of the African Union. It now sets standards for disaster risk management, and provides technical assistance in early warning, contingency planning, and climate financing as well as peer review and political oversight of disaster response plans. It then provides a risk pooling and insurance service to its members, so they can receive prompt financial support to provide early response to a drought of a severe and infrequent magnitude. Although the ARC has been initially developed to respond to droughts, in 2020 it will open an insurance mechanism for Outbreaks & Epidemics and is developing a range of other insurance products and capacity building programmes against disaster risk.
- **The Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility** is an example of a regional mechanism that pools members contributions and support from multilateral and bilateral aid agencies to help Small Islands Developing States prepare against and respond to the impacts of natural disasters. It has demonstrated its ability to rapidly respond to disasters such as cyclones, and in 2020, it has been used in supporting its members' response to COVID-19 and is an example to learn from for SIDS to negotiate some assistance independently from their income level.
- **The Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative** is an insurance mechanism set up by the World Bank that has shown its value in helping respond to crisis: in 2015 for instance, Vanuatu received \$2 million through its insurance policy to respond to the impacts of a major cyclone, a payout eight times larger than the government's emergency budget, which was critical to the humanitarian response.
- **The World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery** develops insurance solutions and provides finance to help vulnerable countries proactively manage disaster risks through a portfolio of financial instruments. The Bank is also developing other approaches to Sovereign Risk Insurance for disaster risk management.

#### **Activities 4.1.3 Advocating for SIDS specific international support**

Despite high levels of development, faced with this sudden global crisis accompanied by a domestic economic shock, the vulnerabilities of Seychelles aggravated to the level where it needs the support of the international community to weather the crisis and strengthen its capabilities to recover and rebound. To reopen the economy while preventing the spread of the virus, safeguarding food security, averting an economic crisis and resuming its progress towards achieving the SDGs, **Seychelles needs help with innovative financial approaches.**

<sup>7</sup> Usually, there is a four-to-six-month lag between low rains and the beginning of severe food insecurity. Receiving money early allows to implement an early response to minimize the drought's impact.

On behalf of the UNCT, the **UNRCO will continue to work with the Government to advocate for international financial support to Seychelles despite its “high income status,”** pointing that the crisis is likely to have a lasting negative economic impact on the nation, which could lead to deleterious effects on social indicators if the government cannot fund a decisive multi-sector response in the next 12 to 18 months. On debt planning, the UNRCO will help facilitate a dialogue with international finance institutions and development partners to finance the recovery. It will help guide the government to apply the Principles of Promoting Responsible Sovereign Lending and Borrowing, and use tools such as the Integrated National Financing Frameworks to better link planning and financing processes. It can further provide a platform for dialogue through the Financing for Development Forum’s annual discussions on debt issues. It will then work with relevant UNCT members in Seychelles and across SIDS to propose initiatives and instruments to free resources for COVID-19 response, and SDG acceleration.

**The RCO will continue to** engage with International Finance Institutions to stay aware of their areas of support, inform the UNCT, and **assist the Government in helping negotiate support that does not jeopardize Seychelles’ recovery with an unsustainable debt burden.** It will work with the African Development Bank (AfDB), which has set up a COVID-19 Rapid Response Facility and other financing modalities such as investment projects or partial credit guarantee, is developing a strategy document for Seychelles, and is looking forward to strengthening a strategic partnership with UN on the COVID-19 response and beyond. Similarly, the World Bank in Seychelles will continue to be a key partner for both the analytical work it produces<sup>8</sup> and the financial support and technical assistance it provides to the Government and its experience developing innovative financing mechanisms in preparation and response to disasters.

#### Activities 4.1.4 Promoting regional cooperation on trade

To support the work of the UNCT in promoting economic recovery and diversification, UNCTAD can provide **assistance to address trade challenges and facilitate trade flows.** The *Value Added to Trade (Va2t) Programme* works with more than 10,000 MSMEs across 56 countries focused on the most affected sectors including apparel, agribusiness and tourism. The UN work on shipping Key Performance Indicators and benchmarks will also help countries to monitor and analyze supply chain movements, especially the blockages of critical goods due to COVID-19. *ASYCUDA* is a key element to support measures taken by countries to limit the virus spread while continuing to enable trade by promoting minimal personal contact between customs agents and the trade community and ensuring business continuity.

**The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**, which works on inclusive and sustainable industrial development has recently developed a strategy specific to SIDS and a COVID-19 response plan, which could further guide both the UNCT and the Government in supporting Seychelles’ recovery.

Cross-border trade and human mobility are inherently interlinked, as without people, goods cannot move across borders. In that regard, IOM’s analytical work on regional migration and its support to operationalize and implement the labor migration policy and policies will help facilitate labor mobility.

<sup>8</sup> In the initial days of the crisis, it produced a very useful overview of possible social and economic impact of the crisis on Seychelles, and a 2019 study on Strengthening Regional Agriculture Exports from APEI+ Countries to Mauritius and Seychelles could help find cheaper food imports for Seychelles.





# MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS

## Implementation and coordination within the UNCT

The UN Resident Coordinator's Office will be in charge of:

- **Providing strategic level directions to the socio-economic response plan**, including revising the response plan to adjust to evolving realities and government requests, or linking with and updating the UN strategic partnership framework for Seychelles.
- **Liaising with Government and development partners, through regular meeting including the SPF steering committee** (which will serve for the COVID-19 response), and ad hoc interactions to present the evolution of the response, to facilitate dialogues between Government and UNCT members at both strategic and technical levels, and to help remove bottlenecks preventing the implementation of the response plan.
- **Helping coordinate the work of the UNCT members**, including by supporting their interactions with government, and by providing support in data management, knowledge management, communication, monitoring and evaluations, and reporting.

In its role of technical lead to the socio-economic response, UNDP will provide technical leadership in the socio-economic response, including through the provision of capacity for the design, drafting and scope of the response and recovery. It will actively engage UN agencies to participate, including the unique policy and analytic assets of regional economic commissions.

Each UNCT member will assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds they receive under the response plan. They will use their respective rules and regulations in the implementing process with partners and counterparts. UNCT members will work together and through the UNRCO to liaise and coordinate with authorities and implementing partners. Where relevant, they will organize joint training and capacity building activities, will jointly target and schedule their interventions to be complementary in areas where they intervene together, and will jointly monitor and report on the advancement of the project's work.

## Governance structure

As pointed by GoRS, to avoid duplication, the existing Seychelles-UN SPF Steering Committee (SEY-UN SC) be used as the steering committee for the multi-sector response to COVID-19. It is composed of the Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and the Blue Economy, the Principal Secretaries for Economic Planning, the Environment, Health, Education, and Poverty Alleviation, as well as the CEO of the National Bureau of Statistics, two members of the National Assembly, a Private Sector Representative, and a Representative from the Citizen Engagement Platform Seychelles (which gathers all civil society organizations working on social issues). For the UN side, it includes the UN Resident Coordinator, and representatives from UNDP, UNODC, and WHO. Other participants from Seychelles and from the UNCT can be invited to join in person or via teleconferencing to participate in the Steering Committee meetings. Similarly, representatives of

bilateral or multilateral financial institutions may be included in the steering committee if they contribute to finance part of the response.

The Steering Committee will provide the multisector response with strategic direction and guidance to ensure its objectives are met, progress is achieved against targets, and risks and issues are adequately addressed. When necessary, it will propose to modify directions of the response to adapt to evolving conditions related to the COVID-19 crisis and its impacts.

UNDP and the UNRCO will support the Steering Committee, by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions, ensuring that the response contributes effectively to the joint response plan's objectives, that it remains relevant and meets quality standards, that appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed, and that the project is implemented in compliance with UN and government rules and regulations.





# APPENDIXES

## Results and Resource Framework

Table 1: Summarized budget of the response plan

PILLAR, OBJECTIVE AND GROUP OF ACTIVITIES	BUDGET (USD)	AVAILABLE	TO RAISE
<b>Pillar 1. Health First: Protecting health services and systems during the crisis</b>	<b>\$3,911,721</b>	<b>\$717,572</b>	<b>\$3,194,149</b>
<b>Objective 1.1 Supporting implementation of the Preparedness and Response Plan</b>	<b>\$3,911,721</b>	<b>\$717,572</b>	<b>\$3,194,149</b>
<i>Activities 1.1.1: Country-level coordination, planning, and monitoring</i>	\$395,608	\$39,561	\$356,047
<i>Activities 1.1.2: Risk communication and community engagement</i>	\$379,000	\$32,900	\$346,100
<i>Activities 1.1.3: Surveillance, rapid response teams, and case investigation</i>	\$524,000	\$52,400	\$471,600
<i>Activities 1.1.4: Points of entry</i>	\$246,000	\$17,600	\$228,400
<i>Activities 1.1.5: National laboratories</i>	\$30,000	\$3,000	\$27,000
<i>Activities 1.1.6: Infection prevention and control</i>	\$577,113	\$57,711	\$519,402
<i>Activities 1.1.7: Case management</i>	\$1,047,000	\$104,700	\$942,300
<i>Activities 1.1.8: Operational support and logistics</i>	\$144,000	\$14,400	\$129,600
<i>Activities 1.1.9: Support easing of public health and social measures post COVID-19 to support economic recovery</i>	\$193,000	\$19,300	\$173,700
<i>Activities 1.1.10: Contribute to health system strengthening and preparedness of frontline services to provide critical care</i>	\$376,000	\$376,000	\$0
<b>Pillar 2. Protecting People: Social protection and basic services</b>	<b>\$2,339,000</b>	<b>\$315,000</b>	<b>\$2,024,000</b>
<b>Objective 2.1 Protecting people</b>	<b>\$610,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$410,000</b>
<i>Activities 2.1.1: Strengthening social protection</i>	\$250,000	\$200,000	\$50,000
<i>Activities 2.1.2: Developing child protection</i>	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000
<i>Activities 2.1.3: Supporting drugs and crime control</i>	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
<i>Activities 2.1.4: Promoting human rights accountability</i>	\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000
<b>Objective 2.2 Enhancing agricultural productivity, food and nutrition security</b>	<b>\$775,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$755,000</b>
<i>Activities 2.2.1: Assessing food security needs and options</i>	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
<i>Activities 2.2.2: Promoting agriculture-based livelihoods and food security</i>	\$755,000	\$20,000	\$735,000

PILLAR, OBJECTIVE AND GROUP OF ACTIVITIES	BUDGET (USD)	AVAILABLE	TO RAISE
<b>Objective 2.3 Supporting the continued provision of quality basic services</b>	<b>\$604,000</b>	<b>\$95,000</b>	<b>\$509,000</b>
<i>Activities 2.3.1 Addressing reproductive health needs and gender-based violence</i>	\$210,000	\$30,000	\$180,000
<i>Activities 2.3.2 Promoting COVID-19-adapted services in education, science and culture</i>	\$394,000	\$65,000	\$329,000
<b>Objective 2.4 Promoting social cohesion and community resilience</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>
<i>Activities 2.4.1 Promoting sustainable urbanization and waste management</i>	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000
<b>Pillar 3. Economic Recovery: Protecting jobs, SMEs, and vulnerable productive actors</b>	<b>\$880,000</b>	<b>\$227,500</b>	<b>\$652,500</b>
<b>Objective 3.1 Informing the multisector response</b>	<b>\$345,000</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>	<b>\$270,000</b>
<i>Activities 3.1.1 Assessing COVID-19 impacts and informing policy options</i>	\$345,000	\$75,000	\$270,000
<b>Objective 3.2 Protecting and promoting employment</b>	<b>\$535,000</b>	<b>\$152,500</b>	<b>\$382,500</b>
<i>Activities 3.2.1 Protecting jobs and vulnerable workers</i>	\$155,000	\$17,500	\$137,500
<i>Activities 3.2.2 Promoting decent work and the diversification of a more resilient economy</i>	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
<i>Activities 3.2.3 Supporting the recovery and adaptation of the tourism industry</i>	\$330,000	\$135,000	\$195,000
<b>Objective 3.3 Collaborating on recovery with non-UNCT members</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<i>Activities 3.3.1 Cooperating with the private sector</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Activities 3.3.2 Promoting trade</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Activities 3.3.3 Leveraging environmental investments to fund part of the recovery</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Pillar 4. Macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>
<b>Objective 4.1 Informing macroeconomic policy options</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>
<i>Activities 4.1.1 Complementing national level analytical work with regional comparisons</i>	\$70,000	\$0	\$70,000
<i>Activities 4.1.2 Informing public budgeting, debt management, and risk insurance</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Activities 4.1.3 Advocating for SIDS specific international support</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Activities 4.1.4 Promoting regional cooperation on trade</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$7,200,721</b>	<b>\$1,260,072</b>	<b>\$5,940,649</b>

Table 2: Full set of objectives and activities proposed under Seychelles response plan

PILLAR, OBJECTIVE AND ACTIVITY	LEAD
<b>Pillar 1. Health First: Protecting health services and systems during the crisis</b>	
<b>Objective 1.1 Supporting implementation of the Preparedness and Response Plan</b>	
<i>Activities 1.1.1: Country-level coordination, planning, and monitoring</i>	
- Facilitate the development of a National Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19.	WHO
- Facilitate the finalization of a 72-hour response plan for COVID19 .	WHO
- Support the Department of Health (DoH) to establish a Public Health Emergency Operation Centre (PHEOC).	WHO
- Establish functionality of PHEOC e.g., equipping PHEOC.	WHO
- Support DoH in PHEOC training.	WHO
- Review WHO Country Office operational Plan based on the National Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19.	WHO
<i>Activities 1.1.2: Risk communication and community engagement</i>	
- Share multi-lingual COVID-19 information posters to ensure accessibility of health information to migrants. Leverage community networks to ensure public health information is communicated in accessible and culturally appropriate ways to most vulnerable, including migrants.	IOM
- Support review of the Risk Communication Plan for COVID 19.	WHO
- Support adaptation of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials for COVID-19, ensuring relevance to country context.	WHO
- Support DoH in developing a platform for public information and rumor management.	WHO
<i>Activities 1.1.3: Surveillance, rapid response teams, and case investigation</i>	
- Facilitate adaptation of updated case definition and its dissemination to all health facilities, including private facilities and outer islands.	WHO
- Support the enhancement of existing respiratory disease-surveillance systems, including indicator-based surveillance, community event-based surveillance, and sentinel surveillance to ensure early detection of suspected cases.	WHO
- Provide technical assistance for abridge RRT training for ToT.	WHO
- Support DoH in developing and rolling out a training of trainers for Rapid Response Teams.	WHO
<i>Activities 1.1.4: Points of entry</i>	
- Support relevant ministries to enhance preparedness and response at POEs and along major mobility corridors to respond to COVID-19 and to support effective border management. Support border management with enhanced health security by recording border and health data and analyzing these to reinforce operational and policy responses; guide the gradual removal of border and other travel restrictions.	IOM
- Continue to enhance national level disease surveillance systems with a focus on POEs and the provision of data on population mobility to inform public health measures.	IOM
- Support the development of a public health emergency contingency plan at the Points of Entry (PoEs).	WHO
- Support the review and update of the COVID19 transport Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).	WHO

PILLAR, OBJECTIVE AND ACTIVITY	LEAD
<p><i>Activities 1.1.5: National laboratories</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support sustainability and revision of protocol for COVID 19 testing.</li> </ul>	WHO
<p><i>Activities 1.1.6: Infection prevention and control</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure compliance with basic IPC principles at first point of care (usually primary care) – standard precautions, triage, isolation facility, etc.</li> <li>- Assist country in doing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) gap analysis.</li> <li>- Support prevention of healthcare-associated infections in patients and in healthcare workers.</li> <li>- Support the development of policy for confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Health Care Workers (HCWs) who have been in contact with patients.</li> </ul>	WHO WHO WHO WHO
<p><i>Activities 1.1.7: Case management</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support DoH to train HCWs, including ambulance teams, in case management of COVID-19.</li> <li>- Support the development of a protocol for intensive care service for COVID19 cases.</li> </ul>	WHO WHO
<p><i>Activities 1.1.8: Operational support and logistics</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support the development of transport and distribution plan for COVID-19 supplies, that includes inner and outer islands.</li> <li>- Support the development and review of procurement plan, prepositioning, and distribution.</li> </ul>	WHO WHO
<p><i>Activities 1.1.9: Support easing of public health and social measures post COVID-19 to support economic recovery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitor the status of implementation of the easing of public health and social measures</li> <li>- Develop cross-sectoral guidelines for implementation of mitigation measures.</li> <li>- Train Public Health Officers (PHOs) on the implementation of the new normal guidelines.</li> <li>- Train Health and Safety Officers (HSO) in tourism establishments and other critical sectors.</li> <li>- Provide supportive supervision and monitoring of implementation of new normal guidelines across sectors.</li> </ul>	WHO WHO WHO WHO WHO
<p><i>Activities 1.1.10: Contribute to health system strengthening and preparedness of frontline services to provide critical care</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purchase COVID-19 diagnostic kits, diagnostic and biosafety and biosecurity equipment, including Real Time PCR equipment for virus detection and personal protective equipment.</li> <li>- Procure protective clothing, disinfectants, fumigation supplies, bedding for quarantine and isolation centers equipment</li> <li>- Support the rollout of a public messaging campaign targeting vulnerable and at-risk communities for prevention, containment and behavioral change</li> <li>- Support the rollout of the Department of Health Digital Surveillance and Mapping mechanism for contact tracing and containment. Working with the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Social Welfare.</li> <li>- Procure equipment for health workers and to respond to gender-based violence; develop targeted communication and messages to promote maternal health, as well as youth engagement and participation in the fight against COVID-19.</li> <li>- Raise resources to procure PCR testing kits and extractor equipment through private sector partnership, shared tools and research on COVID-19 and drug trafficking and use as well as resources to address COVID-19 at sea with relevant government agencies.</li> </ul>	IAEA UNDP UNDP UNDP UNFPA UNODC



PILLAR, OBJECTIVE AND ACTIVITY	LEAD
<b>Pillar 2. Protecting People: Social protection and basic services</b>	
<b>Objective 2.1 Protecting people</b>	
<i>Activities 2.1.1: Strengthening social protection</i>	
- Enhance capacities to ensure the protection and access to services of all migrants, travelers, displaced populations and local communities. Develop a Guidance for Employers and Businesses on the Protection of Migrant Workers During the COVID-19 Crisis. Support state in assisting stranded migrants.	IOM
- Support the rollout of mobile testing and screening centers for frontline (airport and seaport health professionals) for prevention and on Praslin and La Digue Islands.	UNDP
- Promote inter-governmental and UN coordination and business continuity.	UNDP
- Support the Department of Health, Family Affairs, Civilian Police Surge Capacity, and Volunteer mechanisms to increase frontline capacity to ensure effectiveness of containment.	UNDP
<i>Activities 2.1.2: Developing child protection</i>	
- Strengthen Seychelles' child protection capacities.	UNICEF
- Review and improve Seychelles' social budgeting capacities.	UNICEF
- Help strengthen Seychelles' social protection system.	UNICEF
- Develop innovative partnerships with the private sector to promote and fund child protection efforts.	UNICEF
<i>Activities 2.1.3: Supporting drugs and crime control</i>	
- Help develop adapted protection services for prisoners and drug users using the guidance developed during the early phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.	UNODC
<i>Activities 2.1.4: Promoting human rights accountability</i>	
- Strengthen mechanisms ensuring the promotion of human rights during the crisis response and after with government and civil society.	OHCHR
<b>Objective 2.2 Enhancing agricultural productivity, food and nutrition security</b>	
<i>Activities 2.2.1: Assessing food security needs and options</i>	
- Support GoRS in implementing a rapid assessment of food security needs and in refining its recovery plan for the agricultural sector.	FAO
<i>Activities 2.2.2: Promoting agriculture-based livelihoods and food security</i>	
- Strengthen capacities of small farmers to boost local food production.	FAO
- Support Government in developing value chains for the transformation of local fish catch.	FAO
- Support opportunities arising under the draft action plan for the Blue Economy to promote food security and a diversified, sustainable economy.	FAO
- Help develop subsistence agriculture for non-farming households through the promotion of home gardening.	FAO
- Support government in developing cash for work programs to build shock-resilient productive agricultural infrastructure—e.g., dikes or irrigation systems.	FAO
- Build capacity of laboratory and set up programme for systematic residue/contaminant testing and monitoring	IAEA

PILLAR, OBJECTIVE AND ACTIVITY	LEAD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve awareness and technical capabilities to prevent and deal with invasive exotic tephritid fruit fly pest outbreaks, suppress melon fly, and create economic surplus to farmers and backyard growers in the country.</li> </ul>	IAEA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support Better Sustainable Soil Management as Climate Change Adaptation Measures to Enhance National Food and Nutrition Security</li> </ul>	IAEA
<b>Objective 2.3 Supporting the continued provision of quality basic services</b>	
<i>Activities 2.3.1 Addressing reproductive health needs and gender-based violence</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide policy advice and programmatic recommendations on how to mainstream the following in UN and Government interventions to address the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis: (i) the mitigation and reduction of gender-based violence; (ii) Social protection and economic stimulus serving women and girls; (iii) the equal sharing of care work; (iv) the leadership and participation of women and girls in COVID-19 response planning and decision-making; and (v) data and coordination mechanisms that include gender perspectives.</li> </ul>	UN Women
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contribute to the COVID-19 socio-economic recovery plan with studies and recommendations on how to include people affected by HIV/AIDS in needs assessment and in response, in combatting stigma and discrimination, and in ensuring equal and fair access to services and support for all.</li> </ul>	UNAIDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Help Government address Gender Based Violence.</li> </ul>	UNFPA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure the supply of modern contraceptives and other reproductive health commodities.</li> </ul>	UNFPA
<i>Activities 2.3.2 Promoting COVID-19-adapted services in education, science and culture</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Education</u>: Support the development and strengthening of distance learning programmes at the higher education level; improve access to online learning materials; digitize the education curriculum; develop online resources for teachers and students; and hold virtual meetings with partners to share experiences as well as available tools and resources.</li> </ul>	UNESCO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Natural science</u>: Improve access to online tools –including animations for basic science concepts—in relation to resilience to climate change, disaster risk reduction, and groundwater resources management.</li> </ul>	UNESCO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Culture</u>: Conduct individual surveys on the impact of COVID-19 on (i) the culture sector, (ii) intangible cultural heritage, (iii) the museum sector, and (iv) World Heritage; Conducting individual assessments on (v) distance museum education resources, and (vi) online resources for World Heritage sites</li> </ul>	UNESCO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Social and human science</u>: Integrate the following in policymaking, inclusive development, youth engagement, and peace promotion activities: (i) Ethics and COVID-19 responses; (ii) skills development and resilience of youth to mitigate socio-economic challenges; and (iii) innovative approach to sports and health in a context of lockdown or confinement.</li> </ul>	UNESCO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Communication and information</u>: Prepare and deliver (i) webinar on safety of journalists covering the Covid-19 pandemic and reflections by journalists on media sectors response and contribution towards countering disinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic in Seychelles; (ii) webinar on deconstructing, misinformation, hate speech and racism for the promotion of cultural diversity, peace building and sustainable development.</li> </ul>	UNESCO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission</u>: Build capacity in Marine Technology, and tools/applications for sustainable development and management of ocean and coastal resources.</li> </ul>	UNESCO

PILLAR, OBJECTIVE AND ACTIVITY	LEAD
<b>Objective 2.4 Promoting social cohesion and community resilience</b>	
<i>Activities 2.4.1 Promoting sustainable urbanization and waste management</i>	
- Develop a Housing and Urban Profile for the Seychelles, targeting the three main islands of the country, assessing various aspects related to housing and providing recommendations in terms of institutional set up, policy formulation, legislation, housing development schemes and financial mechanisms.	UN-Habitat
- Develop climate-sensitive detailed spatial plans and participatory exercises for city resilience action planning at community level will be proposed to prioritize investments to improve urban resilience. A detailed plan would be prepared for Anse Royale to densify and extend an area, with a participatory approach to ensure ownership	UN-Habitat
- Assess the full waste stream and identify solutions for implementing the 3Rs (reuse, reduce, recycle) approach as well as support the mobilization of funds for improved waste management in the Seychelles	UN-Habitat
- Knowledge exchange platform: Build capacity on urbanization for the SIDS of the Indian Ocean and support a study mission to Rwanda to learn from the One Stop Centre of the City of Kigali	UN-Habitat
<b>Pillar 3. Economic Recovery: Protecting jobs, SMEs, and vulnerable productive actors</b>	
<b>Objective 3.1 Informing the multisector response</b>	
<i>Activities 3.1.1 Assessing COVID-19 impacts and informing policy options</i>	
- Conduct assessment of jobs in the blue economy, including impacts of COVID-19 employment impact.	ILO
- Conduct assessment of unemployment benefit programs to measure improvements needed to for labor markets adjustments during the crisis.	ILO
- Conduct skills and competencies mapping in the blue economy.	ILO
- Conduct impact assessment of COVID19 on labor migration in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) - National study for Seychelles.	ILO
- Conduct rapid impact assessment of Covid-19 on Migration	IOM
- Convene policy cross-sectoral dialogues on Seychelles recovery plan and resource mobilisation targeting vulnerable populations.	UNDP
- Conduct gendered socio-economic assessment of COVID-19 impacts on Seychelles	UNDP
- Conduct rapid assessment of COVID-19 Impact on Labor	UNDP
- Conduct Socio-economic and Trade Analysis for Western Indian Ocean Island States – Seychelles Focus	UNECA
- Update socio-economic analysis of COVID-19 impact in the IOC region	UNECA
- Conduct study on innovative green funding mechanisms to partially fund COVID-19 response in Seychelles.	UNEP
- Conduct assessment of the Corporate Social Responsibility tax to identify recommendations to ensure these resources deliver strong results for children.	UNICEF
- Conduct thematic budget analyses and budget briefs on social sector.	UNICEF
- Conduct assessment of maritime security aspects of COVID-19.	UNODC
- Conduct research on maritime crimes in Seychelles.	UNODC
- Conduct impact assessments of COVID-19 onto the tourism sector, and recommendations for recovery.	UNWTO

PILLAR, OBJECTIVE AND ACTIVITY	LEAD
<b>Objective 3.2 Protecting and promoting employment</b>	
<i>Activities 3.2.1 Protecting jobs and vulnerable workers</i>	
- Provide policy advice and program support, focusing on protecting workers and sectors most impacted by the crisis	ILO
- Scale-up employment-intensive programming	ILO
- Support the Ministry of employment, employers and workers to review the Industrial Relations Act, to manage the ratification process of the ILO Convention 188, work in fishing, to consider Labor migration in the Private Employment Agencies Regulations, to finalize the Occupational Safety Health Decree.	ILO
- Support the Ministry of Employment, Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Seychelles Federation of Workers Union (SFWU) to hold a tripartite forum that will provide a platform to table concerns and work together more effectively to overcome the more complex challenges faced by all today especially with COVID-19	ILO
- Support the operationalization of the National Consultative Committee on Employment to strengthen social dialogue in Seychelles	ILO
<i>Activities 3.2.2 Promoting decent work and the diversification of a more resilient economy</i>	
- Design a country-level project on employment creation initiatives in blue economy on the basis of the regional programme	ILO
<i>Activities 3.2.3 Supporting the recovery and adaptation of the tourism industry</i>	
- Support the Ministry of Employment and the NBS to undertake surveys on school-to work transition and on informal economy, to report on the SDG8	ILO
- Support young people and social partners in entrepreneurship and social innovation in response to COVID-19: (i) Support the re-skilling and skills development of youth and workers affected by the COVID-19 Crisis for their insertion and reinsertion in the labour market; (ii) Organize Start and Improve Your Business (SYIB) Trainings for youth entrepreneurs and support them to formality; (iii) Set-up an institutionalized mechanism to measure skills mismatches and anticipate future skill need (iv) Ensure the integration of gender in the Training and support strategy	ILO
- Develop public-private partnerships for a coordinated approach to tourism recovery.	UNWTO
- Work with industry, government, WHO and IOM on how to safely re-open the tourism industry	UNWTO
- Train tourism sector to implement reopening protocols	UNWTO
<b>Objective 3.3 Collaborating on recovery with non-UNCT members</b>	
<i>Activities 3.3.1 Cooperating with the private sector</i>	
- Facilitate UNCT engagement with the business community in Seychelles to involve the private sector in the post-COVID-19 recovery and get them to adhere to the Global Compact's engagements.	UNRCO
<i>Activities 3.3.2 Promoting trade</i>	
- Interface between UNCTAD and UNCT to involve between UNCTAD and UNCT to involve UNCTAD in the response through technical assistance to protect jobs and vulnerable workers, and promote decent work and the diversification of a more resilient economy.	UNRCO

PILLAR, OBJECTIVE AND ACTIVITY	LEAD
<p><i>Activities 3.3.3 Leveraging environmental investments to fund part of the recovery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Help bring international lessons to guide analysis, promote green jobs and foster sustainable investments and business models.</li> </ul>	PAGE
<b>Pillar 4. Macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration</b>	
<b>Objective 4.1 Informing macroeconomic policy options</b>	
<p><i>Activities 4.1.1 Complementing national level analytical work with regional comparisons</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support the socio-economic analysis of COVID-19 impact and studies related to COVID-19 lessons learned and best practices in Africa, notably on (i) macroeconomic policy and governance; (ii) regional integration and trade; (iii) private sector development and finance; (iv) data and statistics; (v) technology, climate change, and natural resource management; (vi) gender, poverty and social policy; (vii) economic development and planning.</li> </ul>	UNECA
<p><i>Activities 4.1.2 Informing public budgeting, debt management, and risk insurance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interface with UN system to provide advice to Government to explore and use existing financial instruments for sovereign risk insurance.</li> </ul>	UNRCO
<p><i>Activities 4.1.3 Advocating for SIDS specific international support</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to work with the Government to advocate for international financial support to Seychelles despite its “high income status” and to engage with International Finance Institutions to and assist the Government in helping negotiate support that does not jeopardize Seychelles’ recovery with an unsustainable debt burden.</li> </ul>	UNRCO
<p><i>Activities 4.1.4 Promoting regional cooperation on trade</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advise Government to make use of technical assistance available from UNIDO to combine UNIDO’s priorities for SIDS support with Government’s directions for COVID-19 recovery.</li> </ul>	UNRCO

## Linking proposed results to SPF, SDGs, and Agenda 2063

Table 3: SERP contribution to Seychelles' Strategic Partnership Framework

	BUDGET	AVAILABLE	TO RAISE
<b>Pillar 1. Health First: Protecting health services and systems during the crisis</b>			
<b>Priority 3. Human Capital Development and Quality of Life<sup>2</sup></b>			
<i>Outcome 4 – Human Capital Development and Quality of Life</i>	\$3,911,721	\$717,572	\$3,194,149
<b>Pillar 2. Protecting People: Social protection and basic services</b>			
<b>Priority 2. Environmental Sustainability and Resilience<sup>2</sup></b>			
<i>Outcome 3 – Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience</i>	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000
<b>Priority 3. Human Capital Development and Quality of Life<sup>2</sup></b>			
<i>Outcome 2 – Agriculture. Livelihoods. Food and Nutrition Security</i>	\$775,000	\$20,000	\$755,000
<i>Outcome 4 – Human Capital Development and Quality of Life</i>	\$1,154,000	\$285,000	\$869,000
<b>Priority 4. Data Development, Science, Technology and Innovation<sup>2</sup></b>			
<i>Outcome 5 – Data Development, Science, Technology and Innovation</i>	\$160,000	\$10,000	\$150,000
<b>Pillar 3. Economic Recovery: Protecting jobs, SMEs, and vulnerable productive actors</b>			
<b>Priority 1. Economic Transformation<sup>2</sup></b>			
<i>Outcome 1 – The Blue Economy</i>	\$150,000	\$20,000	\$130,000
<i>Outcome 2 – Agriculture. Livelihoods. Food and Nutrition Security</i>	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
<b>Priority 3. Human Capital Development and Quality of Life<sup>2</sup></b>			
<i>Outcome 4 – Human Capital Development and Quality of Life</i>	\$520,000	\$177,500	\$342,500
<b>Priority 4. Data Development, Science, Technology and Innovation<sup>2</sup></b>			
<i>Outcome 5 – Data Development, Science, Technology and Innovation</i>	\$160,000	\$30,000	\$130,000
<b>Pillar 4. Macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration</b>			
<b>Priority 4. Data Development, Science, Technology and Innovation<sup>2</sup></b>			
<i>Outcome 5 – Data Development, Science, Technology and Innovation</i>	\$70,000	\$0	\$70,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$7,200,721</b>	<b>\$1,260,072</b>	<b>\$5,940,649</b>

Table 4: SERP contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

	BUDGET	AVAILABLE	TO RAISE
<b>Pillar 1. Health First: Protecting health services and systems during the crisis</b>			
<i>SDG 03. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.</i>	\$3,911,721	\$717,572	\$3,194,149
<b>Pillar 2. Protecting People: Social protection and basic services</b>			
<i>N/A (related to culture, which is not clearly articulated in the SDG framework)</i>	\$48,000	\$0	\$48,000
<i>SDG 01. End poverty in all its forms everywhere in the world</i>	\$450,000	\$200,000	\$250,000
<i>SDG 02. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.</i>	\$255,000	\$0	\$255,000
<i>SDG 04. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.</i>	\$270,000	\$55,000	\$215,000
<i>SDG 05. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.</i>	\$160,000	\$30,000	\$130,000
<i>SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.</i>	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000
<i>SDG 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</i>	\$180,000	\$0	\$180,000
<i>SDG 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.</i>	\$160,000	\$0	\$160,000
<i>SDG 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.</i>	\$60,000	\$10,000	\$50,000
<i>SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.</i>	\$180,000	\$20,000	\$160,000
<i>SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.</i>	\$226,000	\$0	\$226,000
<i>SDG 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.</i>	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
<b>Pillar 3. Economic Recovery: Protecting jobs, SMEs, and vulnerable productive actors</b>			
<i>SDG 01. End poverty in all its forms everywhere in the world</i>	\$120,000	\$30,000	\$90,000
<i>SDG 04. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.</i>	\$210,000	\$135,000	\$75,000
<i>SDG 08. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable Economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.</i>	\$405,000	\$37,500	\$367,500

	BUDGET	AVAILABLE	TO RAISE
<i>SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.</i>	\$65,000	\$25,000	\$40,000
<i>SDG 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.</i>	\$80,000	\$0	\$80,000
<b>Pillar 4. Macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration</b>			
<i>SDG 08. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable Economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.</i>	\$70,000	\$0	\$70,000
<i>SDG 09. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>SDG 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$7,200,721</b>	<b>\$1,260,072</b>	<b>\$5,940,649</b>

Table 5: SERP contribution to African Union's Agenda 2063 goals

	BUDGET	AVAILABLE	TO RAISE
<b>Pillar 1. Health First: Protecting health services and systems during the crisis</b>			
<i>1.3. Healthy and well-nourished citizens.</i>	\$3,911,721	\$717,572	\$3,194,149
<b>Pillar 2. Protecting People: Social protection and basic services</b>			
<i>1.1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens.</i>	\$700,000	\$200,000	\$500,000
<i>1.2. Well educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation.</i>	\$220,000	\$55,000	\$165,000
<i>1.5. Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production.</i>	\$255,000	\$0	\$255,000
<i>1.6. Blue/ocean economy for accelerated economic growth.</i>	\$60,000	\$10,000	\$50,000
<i>1.7. Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities.</i>	\$520,000	\$20,000	\$500,000
<i>3.1. Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched.</i>	\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000
<i>3.3. Capable institutions and transformative leadership in place.</i>	\$160,000	\$0	\$160,000



	BUDGET	AVAILABLE	TO RAISE
<i>4.1. Peace, security and stability is preserved.</i>	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000
<i>5.1. African cultural renaissance is pre-eminent.</i>	\$48,000	\$0	\$48,000
<i>6.1. Full gender equality in all spheres of life.</i>	\$160,000	\$30,000	\$130,000
<i>6.2. Engaged and empowered youth and children.</i>	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
<i>7.1. Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful co-existence.</i>	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
<i>7.2. Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development Goals.</i>	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
<b>Pillar 3. Economic Recovery: Protecting jobs, SMEs, and vulnerable productive actors</b>			
<i>1.1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens.</i>	\$385,000	\$67,500	\$317,500
<i>1.2. Well educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation.</i>	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
<i>1.4. Transformed economies.</i>	\$140,000	\$0	\$140,000
<i>3.1. Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched.</i>	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000
<i>3.3. Capable institutions and transformative leadership in place.</i>	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
<i>6.2. Engaged and empowered youth and children.</i>	\$200,000	\$125,000	\$75,000
<i>7.1. Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful co-existence.</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>7.2. Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development Goals.</i>	\$80,000		\$80,000
<b>Pillar 4. Macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration</b>			
<i>1.4. Transformed economies.</i>	\$70,000	\$0	\$70,000
<i>7.2. Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development Goals.</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$7,200,721</b>	<b>\$1,260,072</b>	<b>\$5,940,649</b>

Table 6: Linking SERP contribution per SDG and Agenda 2063 Goal

	BUDGET	AVAILABLE	TO RAISE
<b>N/A (no SDG solely addresses culture)</b>			
<i>5.1. African cultural renaissance is pre-eminent.</i>	\$48,000	\$0	\$48,000
<b>SDG 01. End poverty in all its forms everywhere in the world</b>			
<i>1.1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens.</i>	\$570,000	\$230,000	\$340,000
<b>SDG 02. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.</b>			
<i>1.5. Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production.</i>	\$255,000	\$0	\$255,000
<b>SDG 03. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.</b>			
<i>1.3. Healthy and well-nourished citizens.</i>	\$3,911,721	\$717,572	\$3,194,149
<b>SDG 04. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education &amp; promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.</b>			
<i>1.2. Well educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation.</i>	\$230,000	\$65,000	\$165,000
<i>6.2. Engaged and empowered youth and children.</i>	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$125,000
<b>SDG 05. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.</b>			
<i>6.1. Full gender equality in all spheres of life.</i>	\$160,000	\$30,000	\$130,000
<b>SDG 08. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable Economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.</b>			
<i>1.1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens.</i>	\$265,000	\$37,500	\$227,500
<i>1.4. Transformed economies.</i>	\$210,000	\$0	\$210,000
<b>SDG 09. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.</b>			
<i>1.4. Transformed economies.</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>SDG 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.</b>			
<i>7.2. Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development Goals.</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.</b>			
<i>1.1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens.</i>	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000
<b>SDG 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</b>			
<i>1.7. Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities.</i>	\$180,000	\$0	\$180,000
<b>SDG 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.</b>			
<i>1.7. Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities.</i>	\$160,000	\$0	\$160,000

	BUDGET	AVAILABLE	TO RAISE
<b>SDG 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.</b>			
<i>1.6. Blue/ocean economy for accelerated economic growth.</i>	\$60,000	\$10,000	\$50,000
<b>SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.</b>			
<i>1.7. Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities.</i>	\$180,000	\$20,000	\$160,000
<b>SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.</b>			
<i>3.1. Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched.</i>	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
<i>3.3. Capable institutions and transformative leadership in place.</i>	\$185,000	\$25,000	\$160,000
<i>4.1. Peace, security and stability is preserved.</i>	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000
<b>SDG 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.</b>			
<i>7.1. Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful co-existence.</i>	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
<i>7.2. Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development Goals.</i>	\$130,000	\$0	\$130,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$7,200,721</b>	<b>\$1,260,072</b>	<b>\$5,940,649</b>

## Proposed list of analytical work

The list of assessments and studies to be conducted is being finalized by UNCT members. It includes:

- Assessment of food security needs and response
- Assessment of jobs in the blue economy, including impacts of COVID-19 employment impact
- Assessment of unemployment benefit programs to measure improvements needed to for labor markets adjustments during the crisis
- Conduct rapid impact assessment of Covid-19 on Migration
- Points of entry / border assessment.
- Assessment of full waste stream and identification of sustainable waste management solutions and funding
- Housing and Urban Profile
- Gendered socio-economic assessment of COVID-19 impacts
- Socio-economic and Trade Analysis for Western Indian Ocean Island States – Seychelles Focus
- Assessments on (i) distance museum education resources, and (ii) online resources for World Heritage sites
- Surveys on impact of COVID-19 on (i) intangible cultural heritage, (ii) culture sector, (iii) museum sector, (iv) World Heritage
- Thematic budget analyses and budget briefs on social sector
- Impact assessments of COVID-19 onto the tourism sector, and recommendations for recovery

## Contact list for the post-COVID-19 response

Table 7: Contacts for UN Country Team in Seychelles

ENTITY	REPRESENTATIVE	CONTACT FOR SEYCHELLES
FAO	Louis Muhigirwa <a href="mailto:Louis.Muhigirwa@fao.org">Louis.Muhigirwa@fao.org</a>	Antoine-Marie Moustache <a href="mailto:antmoust@seychelles.net">antmoust@seychelles.net</a>
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Table 8: UN websites on COVID-19 response (select entities)

ENTITY	LINK TO COVID-19 PAGES
FAO	<a href="http://www.fao.org/2019-ncov/en/">http://www.fao.org/2019-ncov/en/</a>
IAEA	<a href="https://www.iaea.org/covid-19">https://www.iaea.org/covid-19</a>
IFAD	<a href="https://www.ifad.org/en/covid19">https://www.ifad.org/en/covid19</a>
ILO	<a href="https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus/lang--en/index.htm">https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus/lang--en/index.htm</a>
IMF	<a href="https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19">https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19</a>
IOM	<a href="https://www.iom.int/covid19">https://www.iom.int/covid19</a>
ITC	<a href="http://www.intracen.org/covid19/">http://www.intracen.org/covid19/</a>
ITU	<a href="https://www.itu.int/en/Pages/covid-19.aspx">https://www.itu.int/en/Pages/covid-19.aspx</a>
OCHA	<a href="https://www.unocha.org/covid19">https://www.unocha.org/covid19</a>
OHCHR	<a href="https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/COVID-19.aspx">https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/COVID-19.aspx</a>
UN Women	<a href="https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response">https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response</a>
UN-Habitat	<a href="https://unhabitat.org/covid-19-pandemic">https://unhabitat.org/covid-19-pandemic</a>
UNAIDS	<a href="https://www.unaids.org/en/covid19">https://www.unaids.org/en/covid19</a>
UNCDF	<a href="https://www.uncdf.org/article/5452/covid-19">https://www.uncdf.org/article/5452/covid-19</a>
UNCTAD	<a href="https://unctad.org/en/Pages/coronavirus.aspx">https://unctad.org/en/Pages/coronavirus.aspx</a>
UNDESA	<a href="https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/covid-19.html">https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/covid-19.html</a>
UNDP	<a href="https://www.undp.org/coronavirus">https://www.undp.org/coronavirus</a>
UNDRR	<a href="https://www.undrr.org/">https://www.undrr.org/</a>
UNECA	<a href="https://www.uneca.org/">https://www.uneca.org/</a>
UNEP	<a href="https://www.unenvironment.org/covid-19-updates">https://www.unenvironment.org/covid-19-updates</a>
UNESCO	<a href="https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse">https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse</a>
UNFPA	<a href="https://www.unfpa.org/search/site/coronavirus">https://www.unfpa.org/search/site/coronavirus</a>
UNHCR	<a href="https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/search?query=coronavirus">https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/search?query=coronavirus</a>
UNICEF	<a href="https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/covid-19">https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/covid-19</a>
UNIDO	<a href="https://www.unido.org/unidos-comprehensive-response-covid-19">https://www.unido.org/unidos-comprehensive-response-covid-19</a>
UNODC	<a href="https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/covid-19.html">https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/covid-19.html</a>
UNOPS	<a href="https://www.unops.org/news-and-stories/news/covid-19-stay-up-to-date-with-the-latest-on-unops-support-to-response-efforts">https://www.unops.org/news-and-stories/news/covid-19-stay-up-to-date-with-the-latest-on-unops-support-to-response-efforts</a>
UNV	<a href="http://www.unv.org/News/UN-Volunteers-join-COVID-19-response">http://www.unv.org/News/UN-Volunteers-join-COVID-19-response</a>
UNWTO	<a href="https://www.unwto.org/tourism-covid-19">https://www.unwto.org/tourism-covid-19</a>
WFP	<a href="https://www.wfp.org/emergencies/covid-19-pandemic">https://www.wfp.org/emergencies/covid-19-pandemic</a>
WHO	<a href="https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019">https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019</a>





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