

Country Brief

CABO VERDE

2023

A better quality of life for all in an
urbanizing world



UN-HABITAT

A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL IN AN URBANIZING WORLD

We promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.



UN-HABITAT

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URBAN CONTEXT AND TRENDS

Cabo Verde is an archipelago with ten islands (9 of which are inhabited), occupies an area of 4,033 km², located in the Atlantic Ocean 500 miles from the coast of Senegal, right in front of the cape of the same name, which forms the western end of the African continent. To this territory is added a maritime area of 734 265 Km² of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The country has a population of 491,233 inhabitants (INE 2021), with 364,106 urban inhabitants and 127,127 rural population.

The urbanization process in Cabo Verde has been increasing and the country registers an advanced urbanization rate, particularly in the context of its African sub-region, or even in relation to the continent. Currently, about 74.1% of its population lives in cities and the trend is for growth and it is expected that by 2050 it will be approximately 78%. This conjuncture represents both an advantage, as it is an opportunity to enhance the positive effects, reinforcing urbanization, as an opportunity for development; however, it is also a major challenge, as it represents great pressure on access to land and public services.

The national urban network is made up of 24 cities. Urban growth outside formal planning has resulted in the emergence of informal settlements on islands with greater migratory pressure, as is the case of Santiago (city of Praia) and S. Vicente (city of Mindelo), along with tourist islands: Sal and Boa Vista.

The pressure on the soil, basic structures and natural resources raises environmental concerns and pose resilience challenges to the country's cities, in the current context of climate change.

Access to urbanized land, adequate housing, sanitation, formal means of participation, availability of public spaces in adequate quantity and quality, as well as resilience and risk management can be pointed out as some of the main challenges of development urban in Cabo Verde.

Specifically, regarding housing needs by 2030, Cabo Verde is also mostly urban in nature, and it is estimated that the country will reach a population of approximately 621,141 inhabitants in 2030, considering an average annual growth of 1.12%. The Housing Sector Profile estimates that there will be an increase of 92,439 residents in cities, and a decrease of 2,536 residents in rural areas. Over 26,000 new homes will be needed in the cities during this period (with an annual average of between 1,700 and 2,000 units), while, due to the decrease in population in rural areas, there is no need for new homes in this area. The island of Santiago will have the biggest absolute increase, with more than 50 thousand inhabitants, followed by São Vicente and Sal with 15 and 11 thousand, respectively. Islands like Brava, Fogo and Santo Antão have much lower housing needs.





FACTSHEET



The total population of Cabo Verde is 491 233 inhabitants¹



74.1% of total population are living in urban areas¹



The estimated annual rate of urbanisation is 1.2%¹



34.4% of the total population are youth (15-34 years old)¹



The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Cabo Verde is 2.47%³ (2021)



Cabo Verde has a medium Human Development Index value of 0.662²



The unemployment rate is 14.5%⁴



31.60% of the population are living in poverty²



90% of the population has access to electricity¹



65.9% of the population are using safe potable water¹



Cabo Verde's production of CO2 emission is 1t CO2 per capita⁵



35.4% of cabo-verdeanos are vulnerable to food-insecurity⁶

1 - National Institute of Statistics (INE, Census 2021)

2 - National Strategy for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty (2022-2026)

3 - World Bank Data: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG?locations=CV>

4 - Country Profile Decent Work Cabo Verde, 2011-2020, ILO Cabo Verde, 2022

5 - Ministry of Agriculture of Cabo Verde, 2020 - Update of the First Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

6 - The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, FAO, 2022



UN HABITAT IN CABO VERDE

UN-Habitat plays a coordination role in monitoring and assessing the implementation of SDG 11 indicators and envisions well-planned, well-governed, resilient, and efficient cities and human settlements.

The Cabo Verde program aims to support the country at a normative level: policies, norms, programs, and plans for territorial management, housing, and urban development, which is being funded by the National Government and ONE-UN Funds, and at an operational level: participatory urbanization projects for informal settlements, promoted through the PSUP – Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme – present in the country from 2012 to 2022, funded by the European Union (EU).

To promote sustainable cities and communities, UN-Habitat Cabo Verde has been working on multiple integrated focus areas, including policy development, public space and human security, COVID-19 response. Recently, last February, a new Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Government of Cabo Verde, with a view to further expanding UN-Habitat's assistance to the country. The main elements entailed in this MoU include (i) technical assistance to MIOH, its direct and indirect administration structures, and its partners; (ii) providing and applying tools on housing and urban development in close coordination with MIOH and its partners; (iii) facilitating regional and international exchanges with other countries and advocacy and dissemination of the experience in the Republic of Cabo Verde at the international level; and (iv) supporting MIOH, as necessary and feasible, in mobilizing resources for projects implementation.

Our Thematic Focus

We contribute to the achievement of sustainable urban development in Cabo Verde through the following areas:

URBAN POLICIES AND LEGISLATION



Supporting policies, norms, programs and plans development (housing and urban development).

With UN-Habitat technical assistance the country developed its National Urban Policy:

- a) National Housing Policy (PNH)
- b) Territorial Planning and Urbanism National Policy (PNOTU)

Also supported the elaboration of the Spatial Development Framework for Cape Verde to support the elaboration of the Economic Profile of the Islands.



URBAN AND LAND USE PLANNING

In addition to assistance in the elaboration of the Territorial Planning and Urbanism National Policy (PNOTU), under the Participatory Slum Upgrading Program (funded by the EU) Participatory Neighborhood Plans were developed to support planning and land use in urban communities.



HOUSING AND SETTLEMENT REGENERATION

Following the elaboration of the National Housing Policy, UN-Habitat assisted in the elaboration of the National Housing Plan (PLANAH - Portuguese acronym) and developed a methodology for the elaboration of Municipal Housing Plans (PLAMUH) in 4 pilot municipalities.

BASIC SERVICES AND PUBLIC SPACE



UN-Habitat has been working on Public Space Projects to promote social cohesion and peace within the framework of the Joint UNODC & UN-Habitat Program (funded by Human Security Trust Fund).

This initiative has been using the creative Block-by-Bloc methodology in a community co-construction of public spaces integrating the human security approach.

Our Thematic Focus

We contribute to the achievement of sustainable urban development in Cabo Verde through the following areas:



LOCALLY GENERATED REVENUES

Elaboration of a Joint Programme with UNDP Cabo Verde to support municipalities in the identification and enhancement of local revenues by: (i) identifying the revenue potential and obstacles to the mobilization of these revenues within the municipal territory, and developing concrete municipal development strategies; (ii) Enhance urban/municipal economy.



URBAN AND LAND USE SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Implementation of the Community Managed Funds initiative (to support income generation activities) in the urban communities of Praia, Mindelo and Sal Rei to support vulnerable families in income generation activities and ensure greater economic and social inclusion.

Also, implementation of transformative urban projects (e.g., Community Center of Água Funda) supporting communities through the creation of spaces for educational and cultural activities.



About Our Projects

At Municipal Level



The Joint Programme (JP) UNODC & ONU-Habitat funded by Human Security was implemented.

Donor: Human Security Trust Fund

Budget: USD 300,000 (UN-Habitat - USD 150,000)

Partners:

- Ministry of Health and Social Security (MSSS);
- Ministry of Justice and Labour (MJT);
- Ministry of Infrastructure, Territorial Planning and Housing (MIOTH);
- Municipalities of Praia, Sal and Boa Vista;
- Local NGOs

Beneficiaries:

Directly: 395 (Men 49.6%; Women 50.4%)

Indirectly: more than 170,000 inhabitants of the cities of Praia, Sal Rei and Espargos

This programme aimed to promote awareness and advocacy on the human security approach as a key response component in overcoming the threats posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to the most welcoming communities in Cabo Verde. It focuses on increasing the resilience and human security of communities in urban environments through the joint elaboration of public space (as below), fostering lived local coexistence.

The JP helps protecting communities living in inadequate conditions and empower the population and local institutions to overcome the multidimensional impact of the pandemic by integrating the human security approach into their recovery plans and response to the COVID-19 crisis.



About Our Projects

At Municipal Level



Support in the finalization of Municipal Housing Plans (PLAMUH in their Portuguese acronym, equivalent to City-Wide Slum Upgrading Strategies).

Donor: European Union through the PSUP (Global Programme)

Budget: USD 90,000

Partners:

- Municipality of Praia (City Council);
- Ministry of Infrastructure, Territorial Planning and Housing (MIOTH);
- Community-based Association Lém de Paz.

Beneficiaries:

Direct beneficiaries of Água Funda Community: 2,500

Indirectly: more than 150,000 inhabitants of Praia City

The main objective of the PLAMUH is to promote the improvement of housing conditions for citizens for each city. Its elaboration was an initiative of the Municipal Councils and the Ministry of Infrastructure, Territorial Planning and Housing (MIOTH), with the support of the UN Habitat, through the PSUP – Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, funded by EU.

At community level two main results: the continuous support in the implementation of the Community Funds Managed (CMF), in three different islands (Povoação Velha – Boa Vista, Iraque – São Vicente and Água Funda, Praia – Santiago), which entail the allocation of around USD 20,000 for each community for the purpose of financing local initiatives proposed by the residents, to function as a revolving fund in the long-term; and the construction of the Community Center in the community of Água Funda, in Praia. The project was a priority that arose from the previously elaborated Participatory Neighbourhood Plan, also elaborated for two other communities (Iraque and Água Funda).

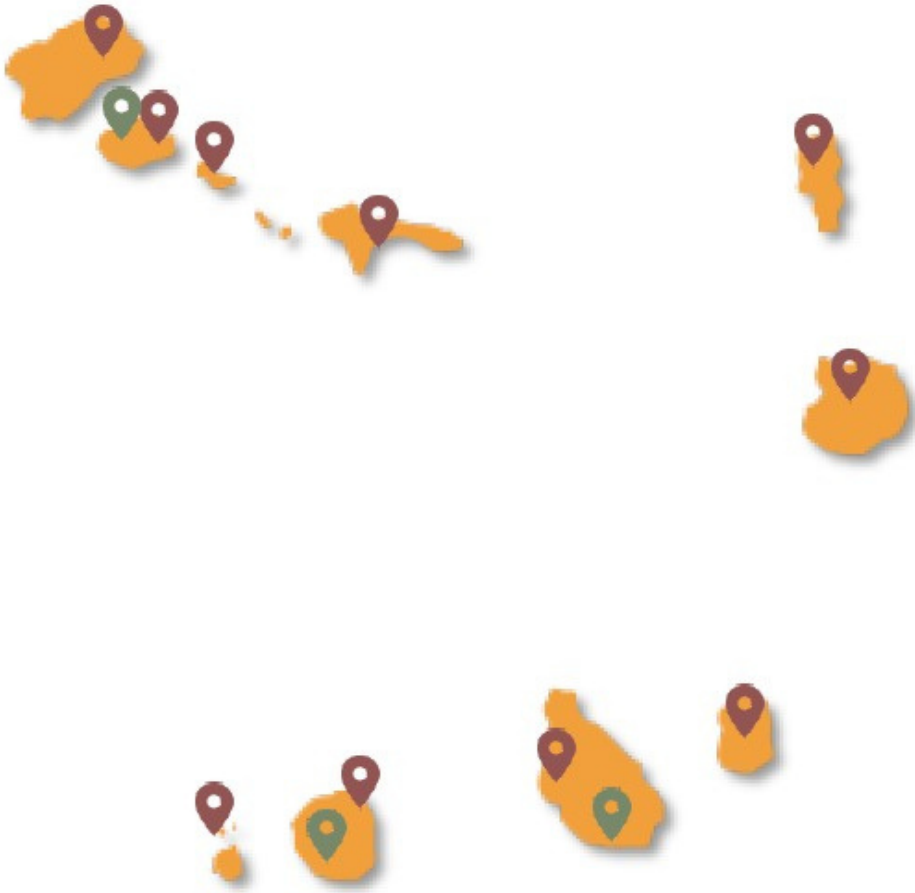
At the National Level



UN-Habitat provided technical support to the Government of Cabo Verde in carrying out a study, using the Spatial Development Framework tool, which supported the elaboration of the Economic Specialization Profile of the Islands (the PEEI in its Portuguese acronym). The PEEI is a crucial instrument for the recently-established Ministry of Territorial Cohesion for evidence-based decision-making concerning public and private investment across the country to reduce regional disparities and ensure a more balanced local development.

PIPELINE PROJECT- Concepts

MAP OF PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED



-  - PROJECT PROPOSAL #1
-  - PROJECT PROPOSAL #2

PIPELINE PROJECT- Concepts

Promoting awareness and advocacy of the human security approach as a strategy to overcome the current crisis in the Municipalities of Praia, São Filipe and São Vicente in Cabo Verde

Donor: UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS)

Duration: 18 months

Budget: 300,000 USD (UN Habitat-- 150.000 USD)

Location:

Municipalities of:

- Praia (Santiago Island);
- Mindelo (São Vicente Island);
- São Filipe (Fogo Island)

Partners:

- Ministry of Health (MS);
- Ministry of Justice (MJ);
- Ministry of Family and Social Inclusion (MFIS);
- Municipalities of Praia, São Vicente and São Filipe
- Ministry of Infrastructure, Land Planning and Housing (MIOTH);

Target Beneficiaries:

Direct: The local community of Praia, Mindelo, São Filipe and the neighboring communities

Indirect: Inhabitants of the islands of Santiago, São Vicente and Fogo

The main goals of this Joint Programme (JP) between UNODC/UN-Habitat are to help protect urban communities living in vulnerable conditions and to empower and develop capacities of communities and local institutions to overcome the multidimensional impact of the crises through the integration of the human security approach in their local development plans.

The first Human Security Programme in the country (2021-2022) has been implemented through the innovative Block by Block methodology, which uses gaming as a participatory tool to engage vulnerable groups. This current programme aims to extend and replicate Human Security tools and mechanisms to the other urban communities in Cabo Verde.

The same methodology will be used to reduce the impact of the crises by raising community awareness of the relevance of the human security approach in local development.

The expected accomplishments are:

A- The human security approach is assumed as an integrated dialogue strategy/platform for the elaboration of multisectoral awareness/action plans to address the crises and its impact on the security of the vulnerable communities;

B- The resilience of vulnerable urban communities is strengthened to face the threats caused by current crises by integrating the human security approach, through a collaborative and integrated methodology;

PIPELINE PROJECT- Concepts

Reducing regional asymmetries and promoting local development in Cabo Verde

Donor: Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg

Duration: 3 Years

Budget: 300,000 USD (UN Habitat – 150,000 USD)

Location:
Cabo Verde: all 22 Municipalities

Partners:

- Ministry of Territorial Cohesion (MCT);
- Municipal Governments (22);
- National Association of Municipalities of Cabo Verde (ANMCV);
- UNDP Cabo Verde

Target Beneficiaries:

All the 22 municipalities in Cabo Verde, particularly the urban population in the 22 cities.

It is also a JP, to be implemented by UN-Habitat and UNDP. The purpose and long-term impact envisioned by this JP is to reduce regional asymmetries and promote local development, contributing to the consolidation of democracy in Cabo Verde. The JP will contribute to the United Nations Cooperation Framework (UNCF) outcome 3.1: “Outcome 3: By 2027, more people, especially women, youth, and those in vulnerable groups, freely exercise their rights, participate in, and benefit from, inclusive, resilient, transparent, and accountable institutions and a more modernized, transformative and effective system of democratic governance that upholds the rule of law, at national and local levels.”

The JP will also contribute to the National Strategic Plan (PEDS II) outcome: “By 2026, 100% of municipalities have adopted results-based planning and budgeting instruments”. The concerned indicator is “% of municipalities have adopted results-based planning and budgeting instruments”.

The Programme objective is to support that the Local development agendas in all 22 municipalities in Cabo Verde are increasingly better planned, resourced, and managed in an efficient and participatory way.



IMPACT STORY

Social engagement and quality of life: the construction of the community center in the Água Funda settlement

Água Funda is an informal settlement that developed in the city of Praia and is considered one of the most precarious in the municipality.

However, it has a population committed to transforming the urban condition of its neighborhood and improving its quality of life. Part of this collective effort resulted in the community's decision, with support from local and government partners, to build a Community Center.

This Community Center designed by the local community, under the leadership of a Lém de Paz community association, was inaugurated last September (2022) and has a multipurpose common room for events, meetings and training activities, a room for children's activities, in addition to bathrooms and an outdoor space.

Around 600 people directly benefited, and another 4 thousand from Jamaica, Achada Mato and surrounding areas.

The community leader, Mr. José Firmino, recognizes that the Community Center "has been providing socio-cultural and educational activities that foster the well-being, safety, autonomy and empowerment of the local community".

He also states "today our children have a place to stay, before we had to leave them in Achada Mato and other places before going to work".

It is important that the space dedicated to children, in addition to guaranteeing their safety and an environment for their socialization, is also a strategy for building the emancipation of women insofar as it can reduce the burden of the double shift usually assumed by them.

The initiative was implemented within the framework of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP), which is funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Program for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat), in partnership with the City Council of Praia.



Donors and Partners




Contact Us


Mathias SPALIVIERO


Senior Human Settlements Officer
Portfolio Manager for Cabo Verde
E-mail: mathias.spaliviero@un.org

Jeiza Barbosa

Technical Analyst and Country Focal Point
E-mail: jeiza.barbosa@un.org

 Ave. OUA - Largo das Nações Unidas - CP. 62
Cidade da Praia, Cabo Verde

 www.unhabitat.org

 ONU-Habitat Cabo Verde



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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN
SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi 00100, Kenya
T: +254-20-76263120
E: unhabitat-info@un.org

www.unhabitat.org

