

Joint SDG Fund

Template for the Joint Programme Evidence-based Final Narrative Report

SDG FINANCING PORTFOLIO - COMPONENT 1

Cover page

Date of Report: 07 / 11 / 2023

Programme title and Country

Country: Cabo Verde

Joint Programme (JP) title: Sustainable, Integrated and Inclusive Finance Framework for Cabo

Verde (SIIFF-CV)

MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00122124

Programme Duration

Start date: 25/06/2020

Original End date: 25/06/2022 Actual End date: 15/06/2023

Have agencies operationally closed the Programme in its system: Yes

Expected financial closure date: 31/01/2024

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Programme Budget (US\$)

Total Budget (as per Programme Document, without co-funding): 995.000

Agency/Other Contributions/Co-funding (if applicable): **500.000**

Joint SDG Fund Contribution and co-funding breakdown, by recipient organization:

Agency/others	Joint SDG Fund contribution	Co-funding	Total
UNDP	535.000	50.000	585.000
ILO	230.000	50.000	280.000
UNODC	230.000	50.000	280.000
Government		350,000	350.000
Total	995.000	500.000	1.495.000



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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Name
AC	Anti-Corruption Anti-Corruption
AML/CFT	Anti-Money Laundering / Combating the Financing of Terrorism
CPLP	Community of Portuguese language countries
CSO	Civil society organizations
DFA	Development finance assessment
DNP	National Planning Bureau
ENCAVE	National Strategy to Prevent and Combat Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and the Financing of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction
FDI	Foreign direct investment
ILO	International Labour Organization
INFF	Integrated national financing framework
JP	Joint programme
LNOB	Leave no one behind
MAF	Management and accountability framework
MAPS	Mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support
MF	Ministry of Finance
NDC	Nationally determined contributions
NRRP	National Response and Recovery Plan
PEDS II	National strategic plan for sustainable development
PPP	Public-private partnership
PUNOs	Participating United Nations Organizations
REMPE	Special Regime for Micro and Small Enterprises
SDG	Sustainable development goals
SIDS	Small island development states
SNP	National planning system
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework



Executive summary

The Joint Programme (JP) has played a pivotal role in shaping Cabo Verde's sustainable development landscape and its finance architecture. Led by the national government, with UNDP (JP's UN technical leader), UNODC and ILO support, the JP has facilitated significant advancements in critical areas for national progress:

Strategic planning and financing:

- **PEDS II development:** The JP provided technical support for the development of the Cabo Verde's new national strategic plan for sustainable development (PEDS II) 2022-2026. Additionally, it assisted in creating the legal framework for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) operationalization.
- **Conference of PEDS II development partners:** A successful gathering of development partners in Boa Vista, in April 2023, government managed to secure commitments from various partners to finance PEDS II.

Financial initiatives and assessments:

- **INFF approach demonstration:** Cabo Verde Stock Exchange's sustainable finance platform, Blu-X, raised over \$35 million in capital markets to finance the SDGs. A digital marketplace, Negocia, was established for SDG-focused entrepreneurships and investments, with disbursement funds allocated for youth and women-led small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
- **Development finance assessment (DFA) and INFF roadmap:** The JP produced sound technical publications offering clear recommendations for policy and institutional reforms across financing strategy, monitoring and evaluation, and coordination mechanisms.

Business environment enhancement through legal framework and crime prevention:

- **Money laundering and terrorism financing strategies:** National frameworks complying with international standards were developed and approved, enhancing the country's business environment and attractiveness to investors. Among them, the national strategy to combat money laundering and terrorist financing and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (published in the Official Bulletin 3-April-2023) is of critical importance.
- **Judiciary and law enforcement capacity building:** the JP collaborated with the Public Prosecutor's Office, enhancing the capabilities of magistrates and judiciary operators to manage organized crime, financial crime, and corruption cases.

Social protection, labour market development and formalization efforts of the informal economy:

- **Fiscal space for social protection** 's **studies:** Assessments and recommendations coming from 2 studies supported by the JP supported the government decision to expand social protection to vulnerable groups in the country: a fiscal space for social protection study and an actuarial study on the impact of extending the coverage of medical assistance benefits to the population in poverty and extreme poverty, namely the elderly and people with disabilities, who are not already covered by any social protection systems.
- **Informal economy assessment:** Around 52% of jobs being informal led to an evaluation of the Special Regime for Micro and Small Enterprises (REMPE), resulting in recommendations for legislative and administrative improvements.
- Labour market information system (LMIS): Updates to this system serve as a crucial
 policy and technical tool for measuring economic and social progress, enabling informed
 decision-making.

The contributions of the Joint Programme across multiple sectors underscore Cabo Verde's commitment to sustainable development, bolstered by international best practices and collaborations, positioning the nation for inclusive growth and long-term progress.



Context

As a continuity of the INFF scoping mission and the SDG Roadmap (MAPS mission, 2019), the Joint Programme build on different recent or ongoing, UN-facilitated and government-led strategic assessments and planning processes, to align a programmatic, results-based, SDG aligned planning and a sustainable financing ecosystem (budget, taxes, domestic private sector development, FDI, climate finance) within an integrated governance framework (intersectoral, multilevel coordination) and monitoring system (including integration of gender-sensitive, human rights-based indicators). The purpose is to accelerate the momentum for SDGs and National Development Plans (PEDS and Ambition 2030) at the heart of a holistic reform process, involving all relevant local, national and international actors, to optimize existing public and private finance flows, mobilize new sources of finance, and channel them toward the sectors, areas and populations that need them most; To develop, in this sense, a capacity building plan for financial inclusion of the furthest left behind, for them to gain access to financial services by being able to design, present and implement bankable, sustainable projects; to allow for a diversification of the sources of finance for national development plans and SDGs, in a sustainable and inclusive way, by identifying and gathering efforts to drive the transition from an aid-dependent economy to a self-reliant, sustainable development path.

As highlighted by the INFF scoping mission and many UN-supported assessments, positive indicators allow for optimism on sustainable development in Cabo Verde. Strong governance institutions establish a solid foundation to build human capital: credible administration, clear parliament role, solid court of auditors, and functioning checks and balances. The creation of a National Planning System (SNP) in 2014 improved the quality of multiannual planning and provided the structures and instruments to implement a programmatic and budgetary planning cycle. Herein, the linkages between medium and short-term planning provide a foundation for Cabo Verde to emerge as a leader and standard-bearer for innovation in terms of planning and finance integration. This process is paving the road toward a result-based planning and budgeting, and a transparent and open government that allow for information sharing and joint decision making, between the public administration and citizens, and for a strengthened fight against illicit financial transactions.

However, many SDG gaps remain, mostly linked to the SIDS condition: energy and water scarcity, territorial dispersion, limited connectivity, and relative isolation. The effect of these factors results in a constrained financing landscape, with a small fiscal basis and limited domestic market. The need to mobilize public and private investment for the PEDS and SDGs takes place in a challenging context. Some bottlenecks need to be addressed also in terms of system of monitoring and review for both public and private finance, and institutional governance and coordination mechanisms and platforms for effective PEDS/PEMDS/SDGs implementation.

Within the National Planning System and the Budget Law, the JP was to catalyze different ongoing, Government-led and UN-facilitated processes seeking to establish an efficient public administration system to set new standards for governance innovation for African, CPLP, and SIDS countries. Aligning planning and budgeting exercises based on objectives, linked with SDG targets and fully integrating human rights indicators and local level plans to leave no one behind, can show how a country facing many development challenges can optimize public revenues and spending, and mobilize private finance (investments, private sector development, PPPs) for SDG aligned national priorities and SDG accelerators, achieving its transition from aid-dependent to a self-reliant sustainable and inclusive development based on economic transformation, with reinforced transparency and accountability



Joint Programme Results

1. Overview of Strategic Final Results

1.1. Overall assessment

Above expectations (fully achieved expected JP results and made additional progress)
In line with expectations (achieved expected JP results)
Satisfactory (majority of expected JP results achieved, but with some limitations/adjustments)
Not-satisfactory (majority of expected JP results not achieved due to unforeseen risks/challenges)

The majority of expected JP results were achieved and additional progress on them were made, as on the resources mobilized for financing the SDGs in the country. But neither a proper financing strategy was explicitly produced nor the governance mechanism was also created due to the national government reluctancy to appropriate the INFF methodology.

1.2 Key results achieved

The 3 key transformative and catalytic results fostered by the Joint Programme (JP) that enhance systemic change in the country are:

- The new national strategic plan for sustainable development (PEDS II) 2022-26 was built with relevant technical support from the JP. The PEDS II is a new generation of national sustainable development plans with a qualitative improvement and a human rights and gender approach. It was built through a comprehensive broad participative process, based on evidence from studies and evaluations. The PEDS II includes 28 thematic and crosscutting programmes with their respective logical frameworks and indicators, based on SDGs with a deep analysis of gender and human rights.
- By the end of the JP, USD 35 million coming from private and international sources were mobilized through the Stock Exchange to finance the SDGs. It was due to the Blu-X sustainable development platform created with the support of the JP that allows for issuance of sustainable bonds (blue, green, SDGs, etc). It was also facilitated by the enhancement of the business environment facilitated by the JP through the creation of legal framework and crime prevention, with emphasis in the national strategy to combat money laundering and terrorist financing and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (published in the Official Bulletin on 3 April 2023) that was built with critical JP support, and it is currently under implementation.
- Increased inclusion of LNOB groups on the development process of the country. Recommendations from two studies produced by the JP on fiscal space for increasing social protection and an actuarial study on the impact of extending the coverage of medical assistance benefits to elderly and people with disabilities not covered by any social protection systems, contributed to the government decision to extend social protection to vulnerable groups aiming to bridge the gap in coverage and achieve universal social protection; SDG indicator 1.3.1 (percentage of total population covered by social protection regimes) in Cabo Verde rose from 48.4% in 2018 to 51.5% in 2022. Also, as around 52% of jobs are informal in Cabo Verde, an informal economy assessment on the Special Regime for Micro and Small Enterprises (REMPE) was produced by the JP leading to recommendations for legislative and administrative improvements.



1.3. Results achieved on Integrated National Financing Framework/SDG financing building blocks

Implementation stages	Planned (0%)	Emerging (1-49%	Advancing (50-99%	Complete (100%	Previously completed	Not applicable
		progress)	progress)	progress)		
1. Inception phase						
2. Assessment & diagnostics						
3. Financing strategy						
4. Monitoring & review						
5. Governance & coordination						

The INFF Roadmap was developed and published.

The DFA was developed and published, outlining clear recommendations and action points for policy and institutional reforms across three building blocks: Financing Strategy, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Coordination Mechanism. For each of these three building blocks, key pillars have been outlined in the DFA based on the thorough DFA methodology and assessment exercise.

The Development Finance Assessment informed the empirical analysis and data collection and have significantly contributed to more awareness of the potential of the INFF process in terms of contributing to the country's development objectives (i.e. Ambition 2030) among government counterparts and, crucially, non-UN development partners.

The assessment of money laundering and corruption risk and vulnerabilities in Cabo Verde was carried out in January 2021 evaluating the implementation of the Action Plan and associated recommendations of recent assessments pertaining to Anti-Money Laundering / Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) and Anti-Corruption (AC) regimes in Cabo Verde, and the UN Convention against Corruption and its Implementation Review Mechanism (UNCAC IRM 2017 &2018) designed to mitigate vulnerabilities regarding AML/CFT and AC in Cabo Verde.

A fiscal space study was done conducting an analysis on the fiscal space for social protection assessing the current situation of social protection, estimating the gap to achieve the goal of universal extension of social protection. In addition, this study identifies alternative scenarios within the fiscal space that can be implemented in the medium and/or long term to achieve SDG 1.3. about extending social protection coverage.

An actuarial study reviewed the impact of extending the coverage of medical assistance benefits and funeral allowance to the population in poverty and extreme poverty in the Mutual Fund (FM) system managed by the CNPS, namely the elderly and people with disabilities, who are not already covered by any social protection systems.

All these diagnostics and assessments are critical inputs to contribute to the national financing strategy.

To date, the national government has not explicitly elaborated a financing strategy for PEDS II. The JP provided the necessary inputs in terms of studies & assessments and offered resources and specialised technical assistance. However, the government has implemented several actions and initiatives, based on national defined priorities, with the support of the JP, which have succeeded in mobilising financial resources to finance the achievement of the SDGs in the country:



- Conference of PEDS II development partners: A successful gathering in Boa Vista, April 2023, saw the government securing commitments from various partners to finance PEDS II priorities.
- Cabo Verde Stock Exchange's sustainable finance platform, Blu-X, raised over \$35 million in capital markets to finance the SDGs.
- A digital marketplace, Negocia, was established for SDG-focused entrepreneurship and investments, with disbursement funds allocated for youth and women-led SMEs.

A complementary strategy was developed with the JP support: The National Strategy to Combat Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing and the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

The Monitoring and Evaluation System in Cabo Verde has made important progress, contributing to the construction of solid foundations for a more effective Monitoring and Evaluation of public policies. Several capacity-building actions in monitoring and evaluation of public policies were carried out by the IP.

The new national strategic plan for sustainable development (PEDS II) 2022-26 built with relevant technical support from the Joint Programme (JP) includes a Monitoring and Evaluation instruments and approach. The JP also supported the creation of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) operationalization 's legal framework.

A statistical bulletin on monitoring informal employment is being produced providing the state of informality and monitors the labour market trends with a focus on informal jobs and informal sector. It is updated annually.

To date, no INFF Oversight Committee or governance mechanism is functioning. An agreement with the national entity in charge of the INFF was reached concerning the coordination mechanism for the INFF that would build on the government's Ambition 2030 coordination structure, with the draft ToRs for this mechanism included in the INFF Roadmap.

However, a dialogue & coordination platform from the government with international partners has been agreed upon and the first informal meetings has been held both at general level and at thematic SDG level, specifically on health and on the extreme poverty eradication strategy.

1.4. Contribution to SDG acceleration

SDGs indicators	Baseline	Expected target	Actual results achieved/to be achieved in the near future	Reasons for deviation from targets, if any
17.1.2	66.5%		70.8%	
1.3.1	48.4%		51.5%	
1.b.1				

1.5. Contribution to SDG financing flows

Although the national government has not explicitly formulated a financing strategy for PEDS II, with the support of the JP it has implemented actions and initiatives that have demonstrated significant success in mobilizing both private and international financial resources for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Cabo Verde.

By the end of the JP, USD 35 million coming from private and international sources were mobilized through the Stock Exchange to finance the SDGs. This sustainable platform will continue to unleash private financial flows, from national and international sources, for the SDGs. Detailed information is provided in the following paragraphs:



Blu-X Sustainable Development Platform: The Blu-X sustainable development platform, created with the support of the JP, has played a pivotal role in mobilizing funds for the SDGs. This platform operates within the Cabo Verde Stock Exchange and allows for the issuance of various sustainable SDGs-focused bonds. To date, the Blu-X platform has successfully issued six bonds: 3 social bonds, 1 sustainability bond, 1 blue bond and 1 green bond. These bonds have been instrumental in channeling financial flows towards SDGs. The following table provide further information on the bonds issued to date:

Nº	Issuer	Description	Issue date	Amount (EUR)	Modality
1	ASSOCIAÇÃO NACIONAL DOS MUNICÍPIOS CABOVERDIANOS	ANMCV SOCIAL BOND, 3,5% 2021 2026	02/11/2021	8 343 536	Private Placement
2	MORABI COOPERATIVA DE CRÉDITO	MORABI SOCIAL BOND SÉRIE A, 4% - 2022 / 2032		906 906	Private Placement
3	AGRUPAMENTO COMPLEMENTAR DE EMPRESAS _ PRRA_O	ACE SUSTAINABILITY BOND Série A – 3,5% - 2022 2027	24/03/2022	15 417 404	Private Placement
4	INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK	IIB Solidary Indexed Bond Série A (2,90% + SOS) - 2022 2024	18/11/2022	2 720 718	Private Placement
5	INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK	IIB Marine and Ocean- based Blue Bond Série D - 4% 2023 2028	01/03/2023	3 174 171	IPO (Public)
6	ÁGUAS DE PONTA PRETA	APP Green Bond Série A – 4,75% 2023 2033	01/08/2023	4 534 530	Private Placement

Within this framework of the Blu-X sustainable development platform, the JP has contributed, and will significantly contribute, to unleash private financial flows to support the achievement of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) targets through the issuance of blue and green bonds. It highlights the effectiveness of the JP's strategic approach in aligning financial instruments with national environmental and social priorities.

Beyond Blu-X, the government's initiatives, such as the Negocia digital marketplace and the successful conference in Boa Vista securing commitments from development partners for the new national sustainable development strategy (PEDS II), underscore the comprehensive nature of the JP's support.

Furthermore, the JP contributed to enhancing the business environment by creating a legal framework and implementing crime prevention measures addressing issues such as combating money laundering, terrorist financing, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. This has fostered a conducive environment for investment, further attracting private and international sources.



These early indications showcase a collaborative and multifaceted approach, involving financial markets, public-private partnerships, and targeted initiatives. This multifaceted approach fosters a sustainable and inclusive financial ecosystem aligned with the broader development goals of Cabo Verde, mobilizing resources for the achievement of SDGs and NDC targets.

1.6. Results achieved on contributing to UN Development System reform at the UN

The JP served as a mechanism to enhance collaboration within the UN system, particularly by strengthening partnerships with governments and other stakeholders, with the RC and RCO facilitating policy coherence and the reduction of duplication of efforts. The JP facilitated efficiency gains and reduced transaction costs by pooling resources and expertise from multiple agencies through a coordinated approach.

The best concrete example was the joined approach and collaboration undertook by the UNCT, specifically by 7 UN Agencies including the 3 JP PUNOs, in supporting capacity building and technical assistance during the formulation of the new national sustainable development plan of Cabo Verde – PEDS II 2022-26, facilitated by the RCO through the JP. It was done by pooling resources from the UN Agencies, in the form of technical expertise and financial support based on the specialised knowledge and mandate of each agency in relation to national priorities. Key results were:

- Gender equality and human rights were integrated into all programmes of the new PEDS II, with indicators in the key logical frameworks.
- 456 government staff received training in various areas such as RBM or gender-sensitive budgeting to ensure effective programming and implementation of the PEDS II.
- Developed and strengthened dialogue platforms with national and local entities, civil society, and international partners as part of the formulating process providing key inputs for the PEDS II building process.

The collaborative efforts under JPs also fed into and reinforced broader UN strategic planning, enhancing the overall impact of UN interventions at the national level. As the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNCF) 2023-27 in Cabo Verde was formulated at the same time as the PEDS II, the JP contributed to its formulation through various common steps of the processes: foresight exercise (future-proof planning), prioritization or the LNOB assessment.

1.7. Results achieved on cross-cutting issues

The JP has yielded significant results in promoting cross-cutting UN issues. Policy instruments, such as the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (PEDS II) and the study on fiscal space for social protection, developed with Joint Programme (JP) support, are actively shaping decisions in key areas. These instruments serve as crucial tools for poverty eradication, expanding social protection, advancing gender equality, upholding human rights, and achieving SDGs, particularly focusing on leaving no one behind (LNOB) and formalizing women's small businesses in the informal sector.

The integration of gender indicators and targets into all 28 PEDS II program log frames underscore a commitment to the social and economic empowerment of girls and women. Moreover, the alignment of PEDS II with SDG targets and indicators, coupled with policies emphasizing "no one is to be left behind," ensures a comprehensive approach to sustainable development. Recommendations for integrating human rights targets in line with ratified conventions further fortify the commitment to universally recognized principles.



In measuring progress, indicators related to the Decent Work Country Agenda provide valuable insights for policy guidance. The project's contributions to SDG achievement are evident in the ongoing development and utilization of instruments that facilitate decision-making, thereby advancing poverty eradication, extending social protection, and formalizing women's businesses in the informal sector. The success of these initiatives underscores a holistic and inclusive approach to sustainable development in the country.

1.8. Results achieved on COVID-19 recovery

The approval and launch of the Joint Programme (JP) SDG Fund INFF took place in July 2020, while Cabo Verde, as the rest of the world, was struck by the outbreak and continuous impact of COVID-19, imposing shifting gears on planning and financing, focusing on the immediate response to the crisis in alignment with the UN Socio-Economic Response Framework. Due to these change in government priorities, the UN and the JP PUNOS (UNDP, UNODC and ILO) decided to concentrate joint programme efforts and activities in the first months on assisting the country and its planning system to build in a participatory manner the country's priorities in the new COVID-19 context to mitigate the short-to-medium term impacts of the crisis.

In the framework of and beyond the JP, the UN and the JP PUNOS have been instrumental in supporting the government developing a National Response and Recovery Plan (NRRP) through the Response and Recovery Coordination Platform, installed by the National Government and the UN, with an active role for JP PUNOs, integrating key national ministries, civil society organizations, representatives of the private sector and international partners.

Accordingly, the entire INFF timeline was pushed back by 12 months, explaining the JP time extension provided.

1.9. Strategic Partnerships

The JP has strategically partnered with diverse stakeholders, particularly in the private sector and with development partners, to drive transformative change in SDG Financing. Notably, a collaboration with the Stock Exchange of Cabo Verde led to the creation of the sustainable finance platform Blu-X, raising over \$35 million in capital markets from private sector including national and international banks like the International Investment Bank (IIB). Additionally, the JP worked with NGOs to establish Negocia, a digital marketplace supporting SDG entrepreneurship and investment, including the disbursement of guarantee funds for youth and women-led SMEs.

Private sector involvement is integral, with collaborations with Chambers of Commerce and the tourism sector. The JP fosters inclusivity by engaging the Parliament, local authorities, civil society, and international financial institutions like the World Bank.

Governmental partnerships span various sectors, involving the Ministry of Finance, State Secretariat for Enterprise Development, and others, showcasing a coordinated approach to SDG implementation. Collaboration with entities like the National Statistics Institute and trade union centers ensures a comprehensive data-driven strategy. Engagements with the Ministry of Justice and relevant commissions highlight efforts to combat financial crimes through the National Strategy.

The DFA dialogues, occurring over four weeks, exemplify the diverse and collaborative approach, bringing together government, private sector, civil society, and international stakeholders. These dialogues, including financing discussions on blue economy and youth entrepreneurship,



1.10. Additional financing mobilized

Source of funding	Yes	No	Type of co- funding/co- financing	Name of organization	Amount (USD)	Comments
Government						
Donors/IFIs						
Private sector						
PUNOs			funds	UNDP	650.000	Initiatives including SSC, regional integration, financial inclusion, sustainable finance, youth and innovation
Other partners			funds	Lavanta Fund	300.000	

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2. Results by JP Outcome and Output

2.1. Results achieved by Fund's global results

Based on the indicators of the Fund's global framework, the results achieved were:

- 1. Additional financing to accelerate SDG achievement was leveraged: more than USD 35 million
- The ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged from private sector partners was approximately 3:1.
- The ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged from private sector partners was 35:1, exceeding the expected result.
- 2. Integrated financing instrument for accelerating SDG progress implemented
- 1 integrated financing instrument was tested; it was implemented with the lead of a public-private partnership; and it function as a partnership framework in place for integrated financing strategies to accelerate the SDGs: The Blu-X sustainable finance platform with the Stock Exchange.

2.2. Results achieved by Joint Programme Outcome

Outcome 1: Identify, mobilize, and align financial flows with the accelerators and interventions identified during the MAPS/INFF scoping mission (Financing Solutions for SDR Roadmap).

By the end of the JP, USD 35 million coming from private and international sources were mobilized through the Stock Exchange to finance the SDGs. It was due to the Blu-X sustainable development platform created with the support of the JP that allows for issuance of sustainable bonds (blue, green, SDGs, etc).

The JP contributed to the enhancement of LNOB groups inclusion on the development process of the country. Recommendations from a study and discussion on fiscal space for increasing social protection that the JP produced, contributed to the government decision to extend social protection to vulnerable groups aiming to bridge the gap in coverage and achieve universal social protection; SDG indicator 1.3.1 (percentage of total population covered by social protection regimes) in Cabo Verde rose from 48.4% in 2018 to 51.5% in 2022. Also, as around 52% of jobs are informal in Cabo Verde, an informal economy assessment on the Special Regime for Micro and Small Enterprises (REMPE) was produced by the JP leading to recommendations for legislative and administrative improvements.

In relation with Outcome 1 indicator - Percentage of increase in domestic revenues allocated to sustainable development as percent of GNI: in the 2021 state budget the indicator was 17.5% and in the state budget 2023 was 19.3%, with an increase of more than 10% from the baseline in 2021. This increase is impressive as it has to be taken into account that Cabo Verde's GNI grew by 6.4% in 2021 and 17% in 2022: in real terms it has been a sharp increase of domestic revenues allocated to sustainable development between 2021 to 2023

Outcome 2 Support an enabling policy environment that will bring public and private, local, national and international actors together to implement Cabo Verde's sustainable development priorities

The new national strategic plan for sustainable development (PEDS II) 2022-26 was built with relevant technical support from the JP. The PEDS II is a new generation of national sustainable development plans with a qualitative improvement and a human rights and gender approach. It was built through a comprehensive broad participative process, based on evidence from studies and evaluations. The PEDS II includes 28 thematic and cross-cutting programmes with their respective logical frameworks and indicators, based on SDGs with a deep analysis of gender and human rights.



The JP also facilitated the enhancement of the business environment facilitated through the creation of legal framework and crime prevention, with emphasis in the national strategy to combat money laundering and terrorist financing and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (published in the Official Bulletin on 3 April 2023) that was built with critical JP support, and it is currently under implementation.

2.3. Results achieved by Joint Programme Output

Output 1.1. A Development Finance Assessment, building on existing diagnostics and assessments, with a particular focus on women's financial inclusion, is completed to identify the current status and prospects of the public spending and financing flows opportunities.

A Development Finance Assessment was completed, utilized as an important input in the building of the new national sustainable development plan (PEDS II).

Output 1.2 A Financing strategy is developed in an integrated, participatory manner to effectively manage finance for results based on common targets for all stakeholders.

Although the national government has not explicitly elaborated a financing strategy for PEDS II, the government has implemented several actions and initiatives, based on national defined priorities, with the support of the JP, which have succeeded in mobilising financial resources to finance the achievement of the SDGs in the country:

- Conference of PEDS II development partners: A successful gathering in Boa Vista, in April 2023, saw the government securing commitments from various partners to finance PEDS II priorities.
- Cabo Verde Stock Exchange's sustainable finance platform, Blu-X, raised over \$35 million in capital markets to finance the SDGs.
- A digital marketplace, Negocia, was established for SDG-focused entrepreneurship and investments, with disbursement funds allocated for youth and women-led SMEs.

Output 1.3. A Capacity building platform is installed for human and institutional capacities of key actors from public and private sectors are strengthened to ensure the quality of program and results-based planning and budgeting processes within the National Planning System, integrating non state actors (Municipalities, CSOs, University, Trade Unions, etc.).

The JP focused on building national capacities to ensure transformation, impact and long-term sustainability. The main key areas where national capacities have been strengthened are: development planning, financial management, intelligence gathering, economic and financial crime analysis and resolution, data production and monitoring, monitoring and evaluation.

Output 2.1 National Planning System and National Investment System are strengthened into an intersectoral, multilevel governance (decision/policy making) and monitoring system for PEDS, Ambition 2030, and SDGs.

Several capacity-building actions in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of public policies were carried out by the JP enhancing the M&E system in Cabo Verde, also supporting the creation and operationalization of the M&E legal framework. The new national strategic plan for sustainable development (PEDS II) 2022-26 built with relevant technical support from the Joint Programme (JP) includes improved M&E instruments and approach.



To date, no INFF Oversight Committee or governance mechanism is functioning. However, a coordination platform from the government with international partners has been agreed upon and the first informal meetings has been held.

Output 2.2 The legal and policy framework is improved, and match-making platforms are installed, to attract sustainable, inclusive private investment.

The National Strategy to Combat Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing and the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction was developed with the support of the JP strengthening capacities of key actors in intelligence gathering and analysis of economic and financial crimes, as well as in investigation techniques.

The Blu-X sustainable development platform created with the support of the JP allows for issuance of sustainable bonds (blue, green, SDGs, etc) mobilizing resources coming from private and international sources through the Stock Exchange to finance the SDGs.

Output 2.3: A capacity building strategy is implemented to reinforce transparency of the business environment, foster enterprise formalisation and promote financial inclusion of the populations from the poorest islands, especially women

An informal economy assessment on the Special Regime for Micro and Small Enterprises (REMPE) was produced by the JP, as around 52% of jobs are informal, leading to recommendations for legislative and administrative improvements.



3. Challenges and Changes

3.1. Challenges faced by JP

The JP faced important challenges, including delays in implementation stemming from a challenging macroeconomic and fiscal context, compounded by the government's limited human resources and capacities, particularly within the Directorate of National Planning (DNP) from the Ministry of Finance (MF). The COVID-19 pandemic, national and municipal elections further hindered progress, diverting attention away from INFF implementation, which was not prioritized during the immediate recovery phase in 2020.

The government's preference for engaging key partners separately rather than jointly posed a significant obstacle, reflecting a limited commitment in the INFF methodology and process. Efforts to address capacity issues included resource allocation for a technical coordination team and consultants, primarily advancing in INFF-related activities where the MF/DNP had a limited role, necessitating potential reprogramming.

Cabo Verde's social and economic emergency, exacerbated by COVID-19, the war in Ukraine, and climate crises, contributed to delays in development. Institutional constraints, such as leadership changes in key institutions, hindered progress in addressing economic and financial elements. Limited institutional capacity and slow responses from national institutions added further complexity, prompting the use of alternative sources and networks.

Despite these challenges, adaptability and flexibility were highlighted as crucial for the JP's success in navigating the unfavourable political and economic context, emphasizing the need for continued efforts to address bottlenecks and enhance collaboration for effective program implementation.

3.2. Changes made to JP (if applicable)

The only modification requested by the JP was the extension of the JP duration for 12 months, due to the COVID-19 pandemic impact in the JP.

The approval and launch of the Joint Programme (JP) SDG Fund INFF took place in July 2020, while Cabo Verde was struck by the outbreak and continuous impact of COVID-19, imposing shifting gears on planning and financing. Due to these change in government priorities, the UN and the JP PUNOS (UNDP, UNODC and ILO) decided to concentrate joint programme efforts and activities in the first months on assisting the country and its planning system to build in a participatory manner the country's priorities in the new COVID-19 context to mitigate the short-to-medium term impacts of the crisis. Accordingly, the entire INFF timeline was pushed back by 12 months, explaining the JP time extension provided



4. Sustainability and Country Ownership

4.1. Sustainability and country ownership

Despite the limited commitment of the government with the INFF methodology, the government ownership of the key products and processes carried out with the support of the JP guaranteeing the sustainability and scalability of the results achieved: i) the approval and implementation of the PEDS II with its SDG-oriented evidence-based approach and clearly defined priorities, including the sound Monitoring and Evaluation system developed; ii) the sustainable financial platform established at the Stock Exchange with government support; iii) the approval and implementation of the National Strategy to Prevent and Combat Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and the Financing of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (ENCAVE) with its operational plan; and iv) the implementation of the recommendations from the study on fiscal space for increasing social protection that extended social protection to vulnerable groups.

The focus on building national capacities ensures long-term sustainability. The main key areas have been: development planning, financial management, intelligence gathering, economic and financial crime analysis and resolution, data production and monitoring, monitoring and evaluation. The JP's priority on supporting existing institutions and structures enhances the likelihood of continued success.

Cabo Verde's JP has made substantial progress in financial reforms and sustainable development. The ongoing initiatives, inclusive dialogues, and commitment to ownership at the national level bode well for the continued success of the SDG financing initiatives beyond the JP's closure. The comprehensive approach to social and economic development, coupled with ongoing national initiatives, strengthens the foundation for long-term sustainability.



5. Communications

5.1 Communication products

The JP had an initial communication strategy. Emphasis was placed in giving visibility to the JP participating in several events with national authorities and public, private, and international partners: the DFA dialogues, the launch of the PEDS II strategy, the Ambition 2030 exercise consultations and International Forum, private sector conference on tourism and SDGs, etc.

5.2 Events

Type of event	Yes	No	Number of events	Brief description and any highlights
JP launch event (mandatory)			1	It was done at the same time as the launching of the DFA (development finance assessment) dialogues in 2021
Annual donors' event* (mandatory)				During the informal partners forum held periodically by the RC during 2021 and 2022, international donors were regularly informed about the INFF
Partners' event ** *(optional)			2	Plenary Finance Dialogue session with partners in Q1 2021; Virtually and in Person for consultation and presentation of the Survey preliminary analysis and methodology Presentation of results in 2023

6. Lessons and Best Practices

6.1. Key lessons learned, best practices, and recommendations on SDG financing

The two most important lessons learned from the JP are:

- The need to ensure the participation, leadership and involvement of the national entity leading the financial strategy process and responsible for the implementation of the INFF methodology. The formulation of the JP was done jointly with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and its National Planning Bureau (DNP) and therefore the limited implementation of the methodology by them was not expected. Surely, if the JP had had regular meetings at the highest level, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, it is possible that the implementation of the financing strategy would have been adjusted and improved. The JP had constant and regular meetings with the director of the DNP that allowed for the success of many of the JP's initiatives and actions, but it was not enough to achieve full ownership of the INFF methodology for the creation of the financing strategy and governance mechanisms.
- The need to implement minimum JP internal management mechanisms for greater synergy and efficiency among the PUNOs and greater impact of the JP: a full-time common JP coordinator, monthly JP meetings, named PUNOs focal points, etc.

Three best practices to highlight:

- Technical support to the process of creating the national sustainable development plan opens doors and allows for greater impact and alignment of national priorities with the SDGs and therefore facilitates national ownership to mobilise resources to finance the SDGs.
- The mobilisation of private resources, both domestic and international, through the joint work with the Stock Exchange and the creation of the Blu-X sustainable finance platform.
- The national ownership and the work with the wide range of inter-sectoral actors and different ministries, from the Ministry of Justice to the Ministry of Family and, of course, the Ministry of Finance, which allowed for a greater, more strategic, sustainable and coherent impact.



6.2. Key lessons learned and best practices, and recommendations on Joint Programming

Working together is better that alone as it has more impact. But JPs need to be very successful, to walk the talk. As a joint programme means more time & cost investment for UN Agencies (in terms of time invested, transaction costs, coordination costs, innovation barrier), specially for the ones with bigger programmes, compare to a bilateral programme, it is crucial to show, in the UN 2.0, the reform and the bigger impact of agencies working together.

A Joint Programme requires a lot of coordination, but once the JP is well established, it performs better and have bigger impact:

Some lesson learnt from Cabo Verde experience:

- The critical importance of having a single coordinator for the join programme with an
 agreement by all the agencies to allocate the resources in the lead agency budget, but PUNOs
 participating in the selection process.
- To explicitly nominate the JP team, including focal points for each agency that can be accountable for the programme execution and actions.
- To have the first Steering Committee with the co-lead of the government representative in the first month of the JP execution in order to set the tone and guarantee the ownership of the JP from the national side.
- To have JP team meetings with at least a monthly frequency.
- To improve the JP team efficiency, it is good to use the "self-assessment" questions in the UNSDG guidance note on a new generation of JP.

Challenges to be address by JPs:

- How to exchange and interact collectively with counterparts (ministers, national or international entities) that are used to dealing with a single Agency and with their programme officer.
- How the knowledge arising from the Joint Programmes can influence and is incorporated in the bilateral programmes and projects of the PUNOs.
- JP results are not always relevant and impactful if the JP is merely a sum of bilaterally-implemented activities by PUNOs.



Annex 1: Consolidated results framework

1. JP contribution to global programmatic results (full programme duration)

Joint SDG Fund Global Outcome 2: Additional financing leveraged to accelerate SDG achievement (Complete table below)

Indicators	Baseline 2019	Target (end of JP)	Result (end of JP)	Notes
2.1: US\$ & Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged disaggregated in terms of public sector funds	n/a	4:1	3:1	
2.1: US\$ & Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged disaggregated in terms of private sector funds	n/a	5:1	35:1	Blu-X Stock Exchange

<u>Joint SDG Fund Global Output 4:</u> Integrated financing strategies for accelerating SDG progress implemented (Complete table below and provide details as requested)

Indicators	Baseline 2019	Targets (end of JP)	Results (end of JP)	Notes
4.1: #of integrated financing	0	1	1	1 instrument: Blu-X sustainable finance platform led by
strategies/instruments that were tested				the Stock Exchange that issued SDGs-related bonds
4.2: #of integrated financing strategies that	0	1	1	1 instrument led by public-private partnerships: Blu-X
have been implemented with partners in lead				sustainable finance platform led by the Stock Exchange
4.3: # of functioning partnership frameworks for integrated financing strategies to accelerate SDG progress	0	1	1	The Blu-X sustainable finance platform is a partnership framework between the public and private sector to accelerate SDG progress

2. Selected global operational effectiveness indicators (full programme duration)

2.1. 🗅	oid your Joint Programme contribute to the improvement of the overall UNCT coherence?
	Yes, considerably contributed
	∑ Yes, contributed
	Explain briefly: The JP served as a mechanism to enhance collaboration within the UN system. The best concrete example was the joined approach and collaboration undertook by the UNCT, specifically by 7 UN Agencies including the 3 JP PUNOs, in supporting capacity building
	and technical assistance during the formulation of the new national sustainable development plan of Cabo Verde - PEDS II 2022-26,
	facilitated by the RCO through the JP.



2.2. Did	your Joint Programme contribute to avoiding duplication of efforts for the participating UN agencies in interaction with national/regional and local
authoriti	es and/or public entities?
	oxtimes Yes,
	□ N/A (if there are no other joint programmes in the country)
	Explain briefly: The JP served as a mechanism to enhance collaboration within the UN system, particularly by strengthening partnerships with
	governments and other stakeholders, with the RC and RCO facilitating policy coherence and the reduction of duplication of efforts. The JP
	facilitated efficiency gains and reduced transaction costs by pooling resources and expertise from multiple agencies through a coordinated
	approach. The best concrete example was the joined approach and collaboration undertook by the UNCT, specifically by 7 UN Agencies
	including the 3 JP PUNOs, in supporting capacity building and technical assistance during the formulation of the new national sustainable
	development plan of Cabo Verde – PEDS II 2022-26, facilitated by the RCO through the JP. It was done by pooling resources from the UN
	Agencies, in the form of technical expertise and financial support based on the specialised knowledge and mandate of each agency in relation
1	to national priorities

3. Results as per JP Results Framework

Joint Programme Results Frameworks

Results indicator	Baseline	Original Target	Revised Target	Result	Reasons for variance from original target
Outcome 1: Identify, mobilize and alugn financial floews with the accelerators and interventons identified during the MAPS/INFF scoping mission (Financin Solutions for SDR Roadmap)					
Outcome 1 indicator Percentage of increase in domestic revenues allocated to sustainable development as percent of GNI, by sector	17.5% (Budget 2021)	10%		10% (19.3% Budget 2023)	
Outcome 1 indicator Percentage of increase of FDI, official development assistance and South-South Cooperation investments mobilized within SDG-aligned PEDS programmes and objectives as a proportion of total domestic budget	TBD (Baseline; FDI in 2020)	5%			N/A INFF dashboard was not set up
Outcome 1 indicator Percentage of public expenses and private investments for which impact is tracked targeting specifically women	TBD (Gender Financing tool)	5%			N/A INFF dashboard was not set up



Output 1.1 A Development Finance Assessment, building on existing diagnostics and assessments, with a particular focus on women's financial inclusion and enterprise formalization, is completed to identify the current status and prospects of the public spending and financing flows opportunities					
Output 1.1 indicator Number of private sector representatives actively participating in the national consultations	0	50		55	
Output 1.1 indicator Number of SDG accelerators screened to identify current and potential, public and private investments	0	6		6	
Number of financing stakeholders and finance sources identified in the mapping of the financing landscape	0	100		200	
Output 1.1 indicator Number of recommendations endorsed by government to improve public spending and private investments in SDG- compliant PEDS programmes	0	30		20	
Number of recommendations targeting women financial inclusion	0	10		2	
Output 1.2 Financing strategy is developed in an integrated, particle targets for all stakeholders	cipatory mann	er to effectivel	y manage fii	nance for results base	d on common
Output 1.2 indicator Number of priorities aimed at optimizing public revenue (tax collection, reduction of illicit transaction/corruption/tax evasion) and reshuffling part of public spending toward SDG accelerators	0	20		n/a	Financing strategy has not been approved yet
Number of priorities targeting specifically women	0	10		n/a	Same as above
Number of priorities resulting in a draft law/public policy	0	10		N/a	Same as above
Output 1.2 indicator Number of priorities endorsed by the Government and approved by UNCTAD and GAO, creating an enabling environment for SDG finance	0	5		0	Recommendations under review by the government
Output 1.2 indicator Number of key financing solutions designed and integrated in the strategy to mobilize private investments for PEDS and SDGs- compliant initiatives	0	3		3	
Output 1.3 A Capacity building platform is installed for human and institutional capacities of key actors from public and private sectors are strengthened to ensure the quality of program and results-based planning and budgeting processes within the National Planning System					



Output 1.3 indicator Number of institutions (including directions of INE and Ministry of Finance) benefitting from a capacity building program to strengthen NPS and allow for an efficient implementation of the PEDS	0	20	15	
Output 1.3 indicator Number of human rights based, and environmental output indicators integrated in the Monitoring system of the NPS	0	70	80	
Output 1.3 indicator Number of decision makers declaring the capacity building program changed (for good) the way the personal of their institution work within the NPS	0	16	5	

Results indicator	Baseline	2022 Target	2022 Actual	2023 Target	Note (explainations / discrepencies with target)
Outcome 2 Support an enabling policy environment that will bring Cabo Verde's sustainable development priorities	Outcome 2 Support an enabling policy environment that will bring public and private, local, national and international actors together to implement Cabo Verde's sustainable development priorities				
Outcome 2 indicator Number of laws, policies and programmes including incentives for public spending (line ministries) and private investments in line with PEDS and SDGs priorities	0	10		5	
Outcome 2 indicator Number of SDG-compliant initiatives developed within public- private partnerships within the implementation of the INFF strategy (matching public and private funds	0	5		3	
Outcome 2 indicator Number of laws, policies, programs and initiatives integrating facilitation of women's access to sustainable development finance (as beneficiaries of public programs or private investments)	0	8		1	
Output 2.1 National Planning System is strengthened into an intersectoral, multilevel governance (decision/policy making) and monitoring system for PEDS, Ambition 2030, and SDGs					
Output 2.1 indicator Percentage of Activities budgeted, aligned with outputs and subprograms, and covered by at least one gender-sensitive, SDG-compliant and one gender-sensitive, human rights-based indicators, within the 35 programmes of the PEDS	0	100		100	



Percentage of financing gaps within SDG accelerators covered by a resource mobilization strategy in implementation	0	90	n/a	Financing strategy is not in place
Output 2.1 indicator Number of joint decisions implying actions/budget allocations from at least three ministries within the implementation of the INFF strategy and the SDG Intersectoral Coordination Mechanism (IMC)	0	15	n/a	The coordination structure proposed in the INFF is not yet formally approved
Number of joint decisions implying actions/budget allocations from at least one public stakeholder and one private stakeholder within the implementation of the INFF strategy and the SDG Intersectoral Coordination Mechanism (IMC)	0	10	n/a	The coordination structure proposed in the INFF is not yet formally approved
Number of joint decisions implying actions/budget allocations from at least one public stakeholder and women organization within the implementation of the INFF strategy and the SDG Intersectoral Coordination Mechanism (IMC)	0	10	n/a	The coordination structure proposed in the INFF roadmap is not yet formally approved
Output 2.1 indicator Volume of financing flows in SDG accelerators covered by the tracking mechanism based on UNINFO	0	TBD	n/a	Not built
% of data disaggregated by gender	0	100	n/a	Not built
% of data disaggregated by islands	0	70	n/a	Not built

Output 2.2 The legal and policy framework is improved, and a match-making platform is reinforced, to attract sustainable, inclusive private investment

Output 2.2 indicator Number of draft laws and policies based on priorities from the INFF strategy	0	3	n/a	Financing strategy is not in place
Output 2.2 indicator Number of SDG aligned investments interests expressed through the match-making platform	0	15	317	Investments from Blu-X and Fondo Levanta
Output 2.2 indicator Number of investments targeting initiatives including women empowerment (inclusion of women businesses in value chains, improving women's access to land/infrastructure/equipment, etc.)	0	5	160	Investments from Blu-X and Fondo Levanta

Output 2.3 A capacity building strategy and technical assistance programmes are designed and implemented to reinforce transparency of the business environment, foster enterprise formalisation and promote financial inclusion of the populations from the poorest islands, especially women



Output 2.3 indicator Number of institutions (including directions of Ministry of Justice) benefitting from a capacity building program	0	8	10	
Output 2.3 indicator Number of institutions (including the MSMEs ecosystem ProEmpresa/ProGarante/Procapital/Chambers of Commerce) benefitting from a capacity building program on support to Microenterprises financial literacy and inclusion and transition to formality	0	10	7	
Output 2.3 indicator Number of decision makers within trained institutions declaring the capacity building programs improved transparency	0	6	6	
Number of decision makers within trained institutions declaring the capacity building programs improved financial inclusion	0	8	5	



Annex 2: List of strategic documents

1. Strategic documents that were produced by the JP

Title of the document	Date (month; year) when finalized	Document type (policy/strategy, assessment, guidance, training material,methodology etc.)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
INFF roadmap	September 2020	Guidance	
Development Finance Integration in Cabo Verde (DFA)	December 2020	Assessment	Development Finance Assessment (DFA) and INFF Roadmap
Blu-X strategy	June 2021	Methodology	
Taxonomy for the implementation of blue bond	June 2022	Strategy	
Study on fiscal space for increasing social protection	September 2022	Strategy	
Country profile on decent work 2011-2020	October 2022	Guidance	
Assessment of the Special Regime for Micro and Small Enterprises – informal economy	January 2023	Assessment	

2. Strategic documents to which the JP directly contributed to

Title of the document	Date (month; year) when finalized	Document type (policy/strategy, assessment, guidance, training material, methodology etc.)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
COVID-19 Socioeconomic impact Assessment	July 2020	Assessment	JP personnel co-led the exercise with the government
Ambition 2030	September 2020	Strategy	JP personnel involved in drafting process
COVID-19 National Response and Recovery Plan	November 2020	Policy	JP personnel co-led the exercise with the government
Report Assessment of ML and Corruption Risks in Cabo Verde Final (005).pdf	April 2021	Assessment	Technical assistance from the JP
Compilation of Criminal Law - I	November 2021	Guidance	Financial support
PEDS II 2022-26	November 2022	Strategy	JP personnel involved in drafting process and technical assistance from the JP
National Strategy to Prevent and Combat Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and the Financing of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction	April 2023	Strategy	Technical assistance from the JP



Annex 3. Communications materials

1. Communication products

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)
Argument piece in Foreign Policy magazine: Cape Verde Is Emerging as a Global Pivot Point	10/2020	https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/10/20/cape-verde-is-emerging-as-a-global-pivot-point/
Several articles and news about JP activities and events have been published on this website.	2020 - 2023	https://www.governo.cv/
Many articles and news about JP activities and events have been published on this website.	2020 - 2023	https://caboverde.un.org/pt