

Annual Progress Report of Cabo Verde 2030 Acceleration Fund

for the period of 1st January to 31st December of 2024

March 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Cabo Verde 2030 Acceleration Fund aims to support strategic and coherent actions towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in Cabo Verde and to draw up and mobilize funding/financing for strategic interventions through which the UN development system and its partners—acting together and drawing on each other’s comparative advantages—can contribute to the achievement of Cabo Verde’s United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), ultimately contributing to Agenda 2030.

Currently, the Fund enjoys the generous contribution of the Government of Luxembourg. The United Nations in Cabo Verde, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, have carried out various actions and initiatives to mobilize additional resources for the Fund. Initially, a contribution has been negotiated with the Spanish Cooperation, AECID, to support both outcomes of the Fund in 2025.

In 2024, the Joint Programme Promoting Local Development in Cabo Verde, implemented by UNDP and UN-Habitat, stood as the sole initiative channeled through the Cabo Verde 2030 Acceleration Fund. It contributed to both key outcomes: Outcome 1 (Prosperity & Planet) and Outcome 2 (People & Peace).

Though the programme began in February 2024, its initial four-month inception phase led to this report covering activities from July to December 2024, which marked the first year of implementation. During these foundational months, efforts focused on establishing a robust operational base to support the Joint Programme for Local Development.

One of the primary achievements during this period was strengthening local revenue systems. A methodological framework was introduced to enhance municipalities’ revenue performance. Through technical visits and discussions with 17 of the 22 municipalities, recommendations were formulated, aiming to achieve a 15% increase in municipal revenues by the end of the programme.

I. Purpose

The Cabo Verde 2030 Acceleration Fund aims to support strategic and coherent actions towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in Cabo Verde and to draw up and mobilize funding/financing for strategic interventions through which the UN development system and its partners—acting together and drawing on each other’s comparative advantages—can contribute to the achievement of Cabo Verde’s United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), ultimately contributing to Agenda 2030.

The Cabo Verde 2030 Acceleration Fund’s joint program implementation, follow-up and reporting is carried out within the strategic framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2023-2027), structured around three strategic areas and four outcomes. The UNSDCF adopts an integrated programming approach that combines interventions from different sectors, government and non-government stakeholders both at national and local level supporting the National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development (PEDS II 2022-2027), which in turn is also aligned with the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

This 2024 report presents the results contributing to the outcomes and outputs of the Acceleration Fund and the synergies which made it possible to achieve the results. One outcome of the UNSDCF is induced by the contributions of the Programmes:

- Strategic priority area 3: transformative governance and strengthened territorial cohesion - Outcome 3.1: 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.

In 2024, the Joint Programme Promoting Local Development in Cabo Verde, implemented by UNDP and UN-Habitat, stood as the sole initiative channeled through the Cabo Verde 2030 Acceleration Fund. It contributed to both key outcomes: Outcome 1 (Prosperity & Planet) and Outcome 2 (People & Peace).

The purpose and long-term impact envisioned by the Joint Programme (JP) Promoting local development in Cabo Verde is to reduce poverty in Cabo Verde, addressing territorial disparities in access to basic services and economic opportunities whilst contributing to the consolidation of democracy. The JP objective is “local development action in Cabo Verde is strengthened and responds to local development needs such as gaps in the provision of social and financial services, and capitalizes on local and regional potentials”.



II. Results

Narrative reporting on results:

Results by outcomes of the Joint Programme :

- Outcome 1 - Strengthening local revenues: A methodological framework was established to improve the performance of the municipalities' own revenues. Technical visits and discussions with 17 of the 22 municipalities resulted in the identification of recommendations to increase municipal revenues by 15% by the end of the program.

The recommendations of the study on municipal revenue sources and approaches to financing local development from 2014 were categorized and grouped by areas of intervention: regulatory or legislative (20 recommendations), digitisation and efficiency of procedures (8), administrative management of local revenue (6), service level agreements (5). This categorisation made it possible to explore and discuss deeply in each municipality in order to identify the specific recommendations.

- Outcome 2 - Effective management of local development: A series of specific training programmes have been implemented to strengthen the technical and managerial skills of local authorities. The training enabled capacity building, equipping 46 municipal professionals with essential skills in internal control, financial management and accountability, to promote transparency and efficiency.

Best practices were shared by municipalities, tools and guidelines were developed, including the drafting of guidelines for the implementation and improvement of internal control systems and audit offices. In addition, the 'Duty to Inform' platform was introduced to facilitate better data sharing between municipalities and the Ministry of Territorial Cohesion. The platform is more user-friendly and easy to use, clearly identifying the necessary information to be shared by municipalities and the deadlines for doing so. Thus, collaboration between municipalities and government bodies was strengthened, leading to better compliance by municipalities with national regulations and emphasising the importance of timely and accurate reporting.

- Outcome 3 - Participatory planning and coordination: Preparations have been made to provide technical and financial support to local projects, with the development of selection criteria for municipal/intermunicipal projects. A draft guideline for the call for project proposals has been prepared to facilitate the funding process. A points system will be used to select the municipal/intermunicipal projects. The selection criteria includes feasibility, alignment with national strategies and the promotion of SDGs, transformational impact, participatory approach and strategic partnerships, sustainability, governance and transparency, and gender mainstreaming. This criteria will ensure alignment with strategic priorities.

Activities related to this outcome consist of technical and financial support to municipalities for the implementation of local projects that respond to local needs and priorities. The year 2024 was the year of preparation for the start-up activities of the call for project proposals, with the development of essential instruments for the project funding process, such as the Call for Proposals Publication Directive, the Organisational Note and the Selection Committee Procedures, as well as the evaluation criteria.



Launch event of the joint programme in January 2024

- **Qualitative assessment:**

Challenges Faced in 2024

One of the primary challenges encountered in 2024 was the collection of financial data, particularly from management accounts. However, with the active support of the Ministry of Territorial Cohesion, the required data was ultimately secured. The Ministry's leadership on the national front proved instrumental in mobilizing national entities and fostering more cohesive and coordinated actions.

Another notable obstacle was the impact of municipal elections and the subsequent transition periods on the scheduling of activities. Delays in appointing team members, as well as setbacks in the procurement of goods, services, and subcontracted contracts, further hindered the timely execution of several planned activities, which, in turn, affected overall progress.

Additionally, challenges related to inter-island transportation prevented a scheduled visit to one of the islands, despite comprehensive logistical preparations. This highlighted the need for future planning to better accommodate such logistical complexities.

Solutions and Lessons Learned

To address these challenges, the project timeline was adjusted, including a rescheduling of the "call for proposals," ensuring smoother integration of newly elected municipal teams. Mediation and dialogue sessions were introduced as a means to overcome inter-municipal resistance effectively. Enhanced logistical planning and improved inter-institutional coordination also played a pivotal role in resolving mission management issues.

Outlook for 2025

The year 2025 is anticipated to be a critical phase for extending activities, with a focus on improving local revenue performance, strengthening local development management, and financing municipal projects. Efforts will continue to align initiatives with strategic priorities, enhance institutional capacities, and promote inclusive and transparent local governance. The lessons learned in 2024 will be leveraged to accelerate progress and ensure more impactful results in 2025.

As the Joint Programme's activities commenced in July, there are yet to be tangible results or personal success stories to share. Nevertheless, the groundwork laid in 2024 positions the initiative for significant achievements in the coming year.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Outcome 1: Prosperity, Planet To improve economic opportunities for populations furthest left behind (women, youth, poorest municipalities) of ongoing and innovative local initiatives (municipalities, CSOs, local businesses, Communities), to be scaled up as solutions for SDG accelerators (National SDG Roadmap and national sustainable development plan), within the broader decentralization process : water-energy nexus, vocational training and employment in tourism, logistics/transportation tech-based services, agribusiness and fisheries, and climate change adaptation (SDG 6.1, 6.4, 6.B, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 11.A, 12.2, 12.B, 13.B, 14.7, 15).			
Indicator: Number of direct beneficiaries experiencing, on a long-term basis, enhanced economic opportunities as a result of initiatives co-financed by the MPTF and international partners' matching funds. Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 600	Achieved: 12,647% or 7,588 beneficiaries (2022)		Data disaggregated by gender, made available by National Institute of Statistics and through UNINFO
Indicator: Number of women among them Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 250	Achieved 13,412% or 3,353 women (2022)		
Indicator: Percentage of beneficiaries that consider their economic inclusion has been improved on a sustainable basis thanks to MPTF support. Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 70%	n/a		Survey among beneficiaries
Output 1.1 Women, youth, local businesses and communities, identified with relevant national and international partners and local authorities, benefit from additional technical and financial support Indicator 1.1.1: Number of local businesses/cooperatives and CSOs benefitting from technical support and financing, based on ongoing initiatives funded by UN partners and responding to local strategic plans Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 50	Achieved 166% or 83 entities (2022)		Reports on capacity building, including projects documents in Annexes Minutes of the Steering Committee showing formal approval by Governmental counterparts of the projects
Indicator 1.1.2: Percentage of beneficiaries (local businesses/cooperatives and CSOs) working specifically on women economic and social empowerment (or women-owned businesses) Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 40%	On track 25% (2022)		Survey among beneficiaries of the additional technical and financial support
Indicator 1.1.3: Percentage of beneficiaries (local businesses/cooperatives and CSOs) working specifically on youth socioeconomic inclusion (or youth-ran businesses and CSOs) Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 30%	Achieved 35% (2022)		

<p>Indicator 1.1.4: Number of local businesses/cooperatives and CSOs that consider the additional support as a game-changer for their initiatives Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 65%</p>	n/a		
<p>Output 1.2 Women, youth, local businesses and communities receiving additional support from the MPTF are connected to local platforms with other public sectors and with private stakeholders (local authorities, CSOs, University, MSMEs, etc.) to ensure the solutions are enhanced within a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach Indicator 1.2.1: Number of joint initiatives (cofounded by municipalities, public agencies, or private stakeholders) developed by microenterprises connected to value chains (tourism, logistics/transportation tech-based services, agribusiness and fisheries) and economic services ecosystems, with a climate-resilience component Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 20</p>	Achieved 105% or 21 joint initiatives (2022)		<p>Agreements signed between suppliers (local businesses) and buyers (SMEs and</p> <p>MoU signed between beneficiaries and local authorities or public agencies/ministries</p>
<p>Indicator 1.2.2: Number of women-owned businesses Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 10</p>	On track 80 % or 8 women-owned business (2022)		
<p>Output 1.3 The solutions developed within the initiatives are integrated, together with relevant ministries and public agencies, into national policies and local administration processes, to influence strategic reforms: decentralization, enabling environment for businesses and employability, economic diversification Indicator 1.2.1: Number of governmental and municipal programmes designed together with the relevant Ministries, public agencies, CSOs or local authorities within the decentralization process (with delegation of competences to the local level) Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 30</p>	On track 83% or 25 municipal projects (2022)		Data provided by the National Institute for Statistics and through UNINFO
<p>Outcome 2: People and Peace To improve access to social services for the most vulnerable populations (women, youth, populations from poorest municipalities), to be scaled up as systemic changes to create a self-reliant public service delivery system within a sound governance framework at national and local level : Gender-sensitive public service delivery and law enforcement, health, education, social protection, nutrition (SDG 1.B, 1.2, 1.4, 2.3, 3.C, 4, 5.5, 5.A, 8.2, 8.3, 8.6, 8.9, 10.1, 10.2, 10.4, 10.5, 10.B, 10.C, , 16.4, 16.6)</p>			
<p>Indicator: Number of beneficiaries from improved public services, inspired in solutions co-financed by the Fund, approved and implemented Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 8000</p>	Achieved 255% or 20,386 (2022)		Human rights-based, gender-sensitive data provided by the National Institute for Statistics and through UNINFO
<p>Indicator: Number of women among them Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 4000</p>	Achieved 268% or 10,715 (2022)		
<p>Indicator: Number of children among them Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 2000</p>	Achieved 255% or 5,101 (2022)		

<p>Output 2.1 Institutional and human capacities of local and national institutions, including data collection and analysis, to deliver gender-sensitive and efficient public services to the most vulnerable populations is enhanced Indicator 2.1.1: Number of women and youth who lead national organizations on community development and civic participation Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 15</p>	TBD		<p>Youth and women's organizations report</p> <p>Annual report of the association of women and youth entrepreneurs</p>
<p>Indicator 2.1.2: Number of projects submitted by civil society, namely women and youth, which are effectively approved and financed through development funds Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 50</p>	TBD		
<p>Output 2.2 National and local capacities for climate change adaptation and disaster risks reduction are reinforced. Indicator 2.2.1: Number of national and local institutions integrating climate adaptation and disaster risks reduction (prevention, early warning, efficient response) protocols and practices within a systemic approach (information sharing, distribution of roles and responsibilities, adaptation of public buildings, etc.) Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 25</p>	Achieved 27 (2022)		Protocols, administrative official documents
<p>Indicator 2.2.2: Percentage of persons surveyed aware of the enhanced measures for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 40</p>	n/a		
<p>Output 2.3 The solutions developed within pilot administrations at local level are extended, together with relevant ministries and public agencies, to other local administrations, in the framework of the countries' strategic reforms : decentralization, health and social protection system, gender equality, quality of education and higher education Indicator 2.3.1: Number of local administrations enabled (legal/policy framework and capacities) to deliver climate resilient, efficient, gender-sensitive service delivery within a sound governance framework, partially decentralized. Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 10</p>	On track 30% or 3 (2022)		<p>Administrative service lines, public documents</p> <p>Survey distributed and collected in the local administrations concerned</p>
<p>Indicator 2.3.2: Percentage of women, youth and populations from the poorest municipalities covered by the strengthened local administration, satisfied with the new/enhanced public services Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 65</p>	n/a		