



# Cabo Verde

Promoting awareness and advocacy of the human security approach in overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic in vulnerable communities in Cabo Verde

## Background information

As a Small Island Developing State with an economy heavily reliant on tourism-related trade, imports and services, Cabo Verde has been deeply affected by the multidimensional consequences of COVID-19 and the exacerbating impacts of climate change and natural disasters, especially drought. This situation is further compounded by rapid urbanization that has led to a proliferation of informal settlements located in the peripheries of major urban centers and often in areas of poor accessibility and high risk and exposure. Those living in these areas face infrastructure deficiencies, limitations in basic service delivery, economic insecurity, and risks related to health, and personal and community safety, with the highest levels of vulnerability among women and youth. In this context, recovering from COVID-19 and safeguarding Cabo Verde's sustainable development progress requires enhancing the resilience of marginalized urban populations and strengthening inclusive development planning at the local level, particularly in urban settings.

## Goals and objectives

The key objectives of the programme are to (i) build effective participatory local strategies in three of the most vulnerable urban communities of Cabo Verde, integrating human security to cope with and overcome the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and other risks; and (ii) incorporate the human security approach into the local development plans of the three municipalities through community-led processes with a view toward upstreaming lessons into the national sustainable development plan.



**DURATION**  
October 2021 – September 2023



**UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES**  
UNODC, UN-Habitat



**OTHER KEY PARTNERS**  
Ministry of Health and Social Security, Ministry of Justice and Labour, Ministry of Infrastructure, Land Planning and Housing, Municipalities of Praia, Sal and Boa Vista, Local NGOs

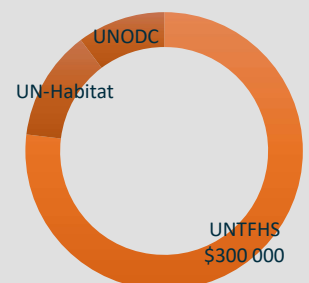


**BENEFICIARIES**  
225,000



**TOTAL BUDGET**  
US\$ 390,000

POOLING OF RESOURCES



# Beneficiaries

The programme directly benefits 225,000 people in Espargos, Sal Rei and Praia, focusing on women, youth, the elderly and disabled people. The wider population of the target areas will also benefit indirectly from the programme.

## Applying the Human Security approach

Recognizing the new reality of continuous, intersecting shocks, the government, the United Nations system, and partners are applying the human security approach to elaborate local plans and processes that will enhance Cabo Verde's capacities to withstand, mitigate and recover from future shocks, and upstream these strategies into the National Response and Recovery Plan (NRRP) and the national sustainable development plan. This process begins with a participatory and inclusive household and community assessment, with a focus on the most vulnerable communities and subgroups, to identify immediate recovery needs as well as mid- and long-term development priorities across all areas of social and economic development. Leveraging digital technology and a block-by-block methodology through the human security lens is supporting a disaggregated and comprehensive assessment of the multidimensional impacts of compounding challenges at the local level.

Such an analysis enables the government to clarify those areas and groups that are furthest behind and experiencing the highest levels of vulnerability, as well as to pinpoint how these insecurities impede sustainable development progress more broadly. In addition, by engaging local communities at the outset, the programme recognizes the importance of creating highly targeted sub-strategies in the design and implementation of the NRRP that will address the underlying causes of economic and community insecurity, and the growing inequalities that are undermining social cohesion and the creation of a resilient society, particularly in urban areas.

Through the application of human security, the programme is also enabling greater coherence between the design and implementation of national development plans and mutually reinforcing bottom-up approaches that ensure national plans are responsive to local realities and provide opportunities to leverage and build local capacities, including those of municipal officials. This hybrid approach strengthens multi-level governance and recognizes the essential role of local government in advancing inclusive development, enhancing preparedness, and ensuring recovery strategies put the country on a more sustainable path moving forward.



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