

2021 UN Country Annual Results Report **MAURITIUS**

March 2022



THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	10
Foreword by UN Resident Coordinator	ii
UN Country Team In Mauritius	iii
Key Development Partners in the Country	iv
1.0 KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS	10
Overall Context	10
COVID-19 in Mauritius	12
Progress on Sustainable Development Goals	12
2.0 UN SUPPORT TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES	15
2.1 Overview of Cooperation Framework Results	15
2.2 Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes, and Outputs	19
a. Transformed businesses	19
b. Ageing society, health, and labour market reforms	24
c. Ocean economy and tourism	29
d. Inclusive, quality education and skilling	33
e. Social protection and gender equality	37
f. Resilience to climate change	40
2.3 Focus on the Socio-Economic Response Plan to Covid-19	43
Pillar 1: Health System Strengthening, Prevention and Containment	43
Pillar 2: Promote Social Protection for Vulnerable Groups	45
Pillar 3: Socioeconomic Impact Assessment and Early Recovery Planning	45
2.4 Support to Partnership and Financing the 2030 Agenda	47
2.5 Results of the UN Working Together	50
2.6 Evaluation and Lessons Learned	51
2.7 Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization	53
3.0 UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR 2022	56

© United Nations Mauritius 2022

All rights reserved. The text of this publication may be freely quoted, reproduced or translated, in part or in full, provided that the source is acknowledged.

Cover Photo: ©Vashish Sookrah

Designed by: Ziyaad Pondor

FOREWORD BY UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR



On behalf of the United Nations Country Team in Mauritius, I am pleased to present the Annual Results Report 2021. The report highlights progress on implementing the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP), and the UN-Government of Mauritius Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) 2019-2023. The SERP and SPF are aligned to national priorities, the SAMOA pathway, Africa Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

In the year 2021 Mauritius emerged from the immediate after-shock of the COVID-19 crisis and continued the path to recovery. This year's UN Country Team Annual Report* provides an overview of the key achievements of the UN agencies to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and to promote a resilient recovery through a green and inclusive approach in Mauritius. These included building skills, improving institutional capacities and outputs, and strengthening development partnerships while standing firm on our commitment to Leave No One Behind.

Through strong collaboration the UN worked with the Government of Mauritius, the private sector and other partners to increase the resilience of businesses to the effects of climate change. This included agro-forestry and livestock initiatives; training in COVID-safe sustainable practices for the tourism industry; and support for re-invigorating the tea industry; as well as creating a more robust food regulatory environment.

In 2021, support and technical expertise were provided to address the complex and linked challenges of population ageing. UN initiatives also looked at the effects of ageing on the labour market, economic growth, and population health. The agencies worked to ensure that essential health services were appropriately delivered, especially for vulnerable groups such as youth, migrants, and older people.

Furthering the aim of building recovery on resilient and green foundations our agencies worked closely together and in collaboration with the government, the private sector and other partners to enhance climate resilience and biodiversity protection, reduce disaster risks, and create incentives for the transition to renewable energy. Technical assistance and support to strengthen the tourism ocean economy were provided through low-carbon resource efficient tourism and maritime security initiatives. To maximize local communities' capacities for disaster preparedness and response, the UN conducted a mapping exercise to prioritize key activities to be implemented in line with the capacity for disaster risk management initiative (CADRI) report.

With the pandemic highlighting food security issues for small island developing states (SIDS) in particular, the UN in Mauritius supported the government to hold National Food Systems Dialogues. These took place within the context of the wider global UN Food Systems Summit 2021. The national dialogues were attended by 850 people, with 36 experts sharing their knowledge on a range of topics related to green, fair, and resilient recovery. A national food systems pathway was elaborated with clear recommendations to be implemented in 2022 and beyond. A Regional Dialogue on food systems, around food security and food waste was also held in 2021. This helped to enrich renewed partnership on food security between Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion and Seychelles.

As part of the continuous efforts of the UN in Mauritius to ensure an inclusive recovery the UN agencies contributed significantly to modernization of technical and vocational education and training facilities for youth to narrow skills gaps. Additionally in 2021, the UN worked in partnership with the government to see stronger, social protection policies and programmes to reach the most vulnerable groups, to support the elimination of gender-based violence, and to enhance women's roles in public life. Highlighting the specific vulnerabilities of SIDS, the UN has advocated around the issues of debt management and accessing finance for development.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Mauritius for its continued collaboration. The UN appreciates the support of its partners, including the Development Partners Group, multilateral development actors, regional cooperation bodies, international financial institutions, the private sector, civil society organizations, academia and others.

To accelerate achievement towards the SDGs I believe that strong partnerships and collaboration are vital for supporting the country's long-term vision, while ensuring a resilient, greener, and more inclusive economy.

Christine Umutoni
Resident Coordinator, United Nations Mauritius & Seychelles

* The UNCT Annual Report presents the key achievements of the UNCT in Mauritius. More details regarding specific projects and initiatives are provided in the individual agency's annual reports.

UN COUNTRY TEAM IN MAURITIUS

18 AGENCIES UNDER THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) comprises the heads of the UN agencies, funds, and programmes active in Mauritius. The UNCT leads the implementation of the **Strategic Partnership Framework 2019 – 2023**, which constitutes the development cooperation between the Republic of Mauritius and the United Nations.

Christine N. Umutoni
UN Resident Coordinator for Mauritius and Seychelles

Shaukat Abdulrazak
International Atomic Energy Agency

Elcia Grandcourt
World Tourism Organization

Stephen B. Kargbo
United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Eunice G. Kamwendo
Economic Commission for Africa

Abigail NOKO
Office of the High Commissioner

Charles Mbuli Boliko
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Coffi Agossou
International Labour Organization

Jude Padayachy
United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Koffi Kouame
United Nations Population Fund

Ibrahim Bamba
Investing in rural people

Frank Turyatunga
United Nations Environment Programme

Hubert Gijzen
United Nations Environment Programme

Omar Sylla
United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Sylvie Bertrand
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Maxime Houinato
United Nations Women

Celine Lemmel
International Organization for Migration

Amanda Serumaga
United Nations Development Programme

Dr Laurent Musango
World Health Organization

KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS IN THE COUNTRY

Collaboration and partnership are at the heart of UNCT’s work, supporting the Government’s effort to recover from the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and achieve its development objectives.

In 2021, the Development Partners Group (DPG) met on a regular basis, providing a forum to further effective dialogue, cooperation, and collaboration between the UNCT and the Development Partners in the country.

The DPG, established in 2019, comprises bilateral and multilateral development partners providing support to the Republic of Mauritius and is chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator for Mauritius and Seychelles.

Through technical and financial support from and results-driven coordination with the Development Partners, the effectiveness and impact of the UNCT activities in Mauritius have significantly improved in the following areas:

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Collaboration with the **AFD** to support the Government of Mauritius in formulating its revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC's) in the context of COP26.
- Collaboration and pooling of resources between the UN, the **Australian High Commission**, and the **British High Commission** to build the capacity of Government Officials on Climate Change Diplomacy



GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Collaboration and Financial Support from the **Australian High Commission** and the **Government of Japan** to support initiatives encouraging women empowerment and addressing the issue of gender-based violence.



GREEN ECONOMY

- Collaboration and financial support from the **Government of Japan** to promote private sector investment in circular economy opportunities in Mauritius
- Collaboration and financial support from the **British High Commission** to build the capacity of young professionals and graduates in the field of renewable energy.



BLUE ECONOMY AND OCEAN GOVERNANCE

- Partnership with the **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)** and the **European Union** in promoting maritime governance and limiting maritime crime through technical support and capacity building
- Financial Support from the **European Union** to empower artisanal fishers in Mauritius to improve their livelihood.



COVID-19 SUPPORT & RECOVERY

- Financial support from the **Government of Japan** to digitalise and improve the effectiveness of the management of COVID-19 by implementing a Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) in government-owned health laboratory networks.
- Collaboration with the **Government of Japan** to analyse the impact of the COVID-19 on the business community in Mauritius and identify potential opportunities.



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Consultation with the **AFD**, the **European Union**, the **Indian Ocean Commission**, **Region Reunion** and **JICA** in supporting the implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy of the country in an effective and coordinated manner.



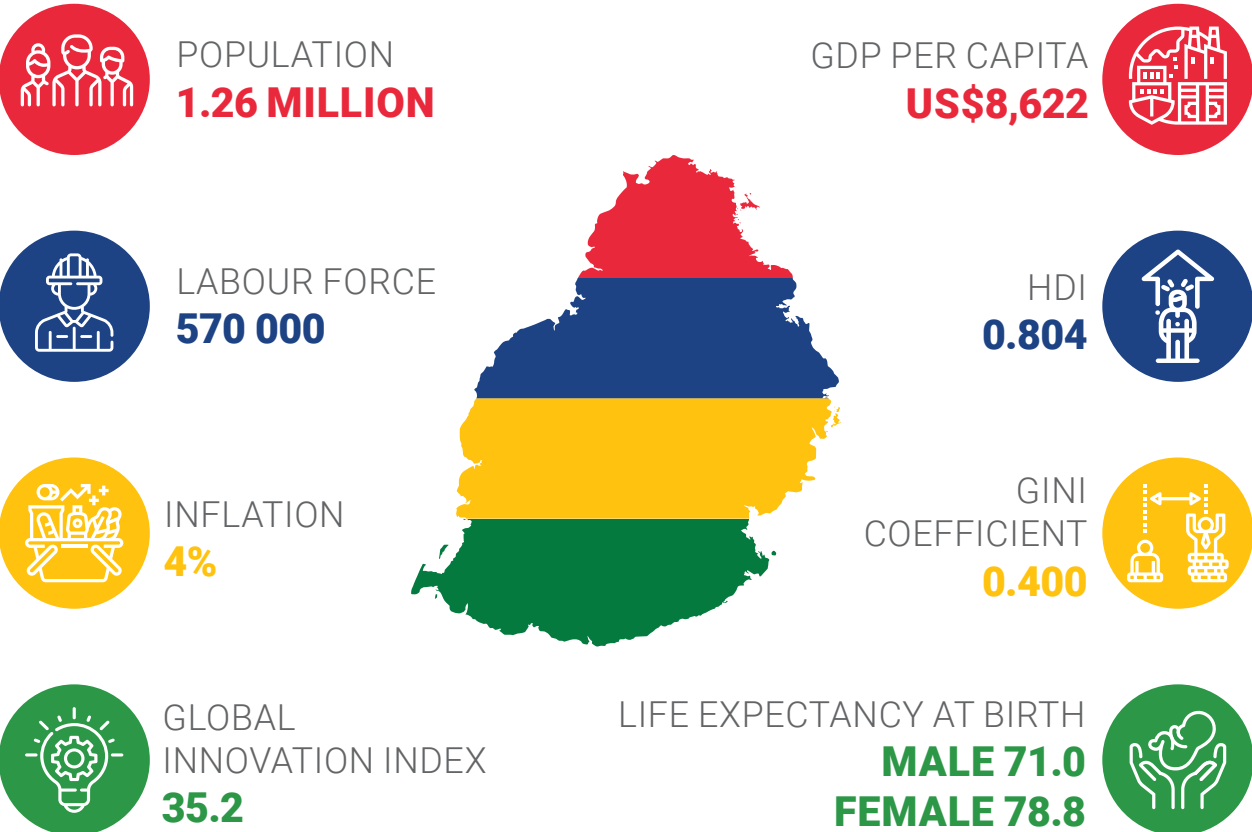
In 2021, the UN continued to work closely with key Ministries in the Republic of Mauritius in numerous areas and sectors to implement the outcomes set under the Cooperation Framework and drive the momentum in the country in advancing the SDGs. The main Ministries/institutions with which the UN has partnered in 2021 as well as the areas of collaboration are encapsulated below:

Ministry/Institution	Area of Collaboration
Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security	Green Recovery and Food Systems Transformation
Ministry of Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity	Social Protection and Impacts of COVID-19
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade	Mainstreaming of the SDGs, ACFTA, Elimination of Gender-based violence, Human Rights
Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping	Coral Restoration and protection of biodiversity in the Coastal Zone
Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change	Climate Change, Solid Waste Management, and Green Economy
Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management/ NDRRMC	Disaster Risk Reduction
Ministry of Tourism	Tourism Strategy and COVID-19 protocol
Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare	Women empowerment and Elimination of Gender-based violence
Ministry of Health and Wellness	Health Response to the COVID-19 pandemic and digitalization of the health system
Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives	SME development and Industrial policy
Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities/MARENA	Renewable Energy
Minister of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms	Business Continuity Plan for the public service
Statistics Mauritius	Digitalization
National Drugs Secretariat	Drugs abuse
Rodrigues Regional Assembly	Youth Empowerment and Sexual Reproductive Health
National Productivity and Competitiveness Council	COVID OSH and Resource Efficiency Capacity development training of the Tourism and Hospitality sector



© UNEP/ SWITCH Africa Green

KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS



OVERALL CONTEXT

Within 50 years, the small island state of Mauritius has transformed from a low-income mono-crop economy based on sugar production to a well-diversified economy driven by export-oriented manufacturing, tourism, and financial and business services. Mauritius has an Exclusive Economic Zone that covers an area of 2.3 million square kilometres.

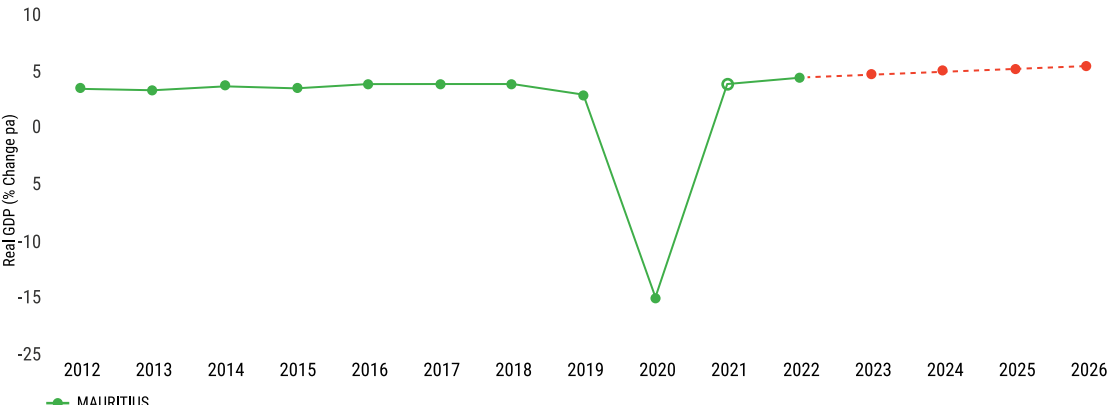
As a multi-party parliamentary democracy, the country has been politically and socially stable and has relatively solid public institutions based on the rule of law. For the past 10 years, Mauritius has maintained first place among African countries in the Mo Ibrahim Overall Governance Index, with the latest score (2019) of 77.2, performing particularly well in terms of security and the rule of law.

Regional integration is an essential component of Mauritius' overall development strategy to boost economic growth and achieve sustainable development. The country is an active member of the

Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). Mauritius is also a signatory to other internationally agreed development goals and treaty obligations, including Agenda 2030, the Samoa Pathway, and the Africa Agenda 2063.

Mauritius is party to several regional and international human rights instruments. Mauritius continues to make excellent progress in fulfilling its reporting obligations to treaty bodies and engaging on human rights. In 2021, Mauritius successfully submitted State reports on the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination. Mauritius is continuing to prepare additional State reports on the Convention on the Rights of Children, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Figure 1 : GDP per head (US\$)



Source : © The Economist Intelligence Unit 2022. All rights reserves. Derived from Word Bank Indicators, Statistics Mauritius

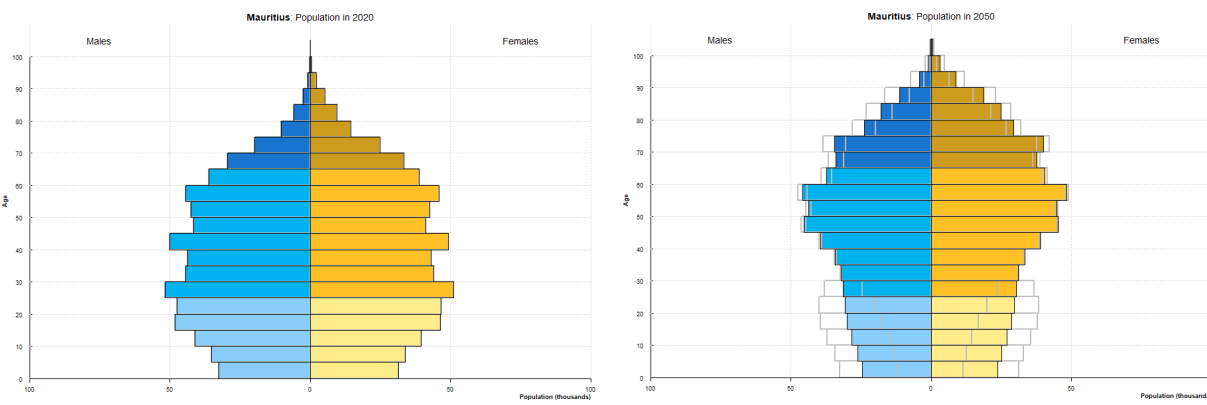
Mauritius' gross domestic product (GDP) per capita has increased from US\$9,291 in 2012 to US\$11,216 in 2018, enabling Mauritius to attain the status of high-income country for the first time ever. However, as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, GDP per capita fell to US\$8,490 in 2021. The International Monetary Fund projects that GDP per capita should reach back to its pre-pandemic level in 2026.

Over the years, Mauritius has built a robust welfare system, providing free education and healthcare services and an array of social protection schemes, especially to the most vulnerable. As outlined in its Vision 2030, the Government of Mauritius (GoM) focuses on addressing unemployment, eradicating poverty, and opening the country to economic investment while encouraging

innovation. Mauritius is classified as having a high level of human development; it has received a rating of 66 out of 189 countries, as indicated in UNDP's 2020 Human Development Index¹.

Mauritius has undergone a stark demographic transition from high levels of fertility and mortality in the 1950s to low mortality and fertility levels at present, and is now facing a fast-aging population. The mean age of the population is 37.3 years (2018), and the proportion aged 65 years and above has increased from 6.3 percent in 2000 to 11.0 percent in 2018, with projections suggesting this proportion will increase to about 27 per cent by the middle of this century. The total dependency ratio per 100 is expected to rise from 79.0 in 2020 to 90.7 in 2050³.

Figure 2 : Population in 2020 and 2050



United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division 2 World Population Prospects 2019, Volume II: Demographic Profiles. Medium-variant projections for 2020-2100 are shown as thin coloured lines, and uncertainty is shown in lighter shades for 95 percent prediction intervals.

Source : © 2019 United Nations, DESA, Population Division. Licensed under Creative Commons License GG BY 3.0 IGO

¹ UNDP, Human Development Report 2020, New York, 2020, p. 242.
² National Population Policy, Republic of Mauritius (2019-2030)
³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division World Population Prospects 2019, Volume II: Demographic Profiles

COVID-19 IN MAURITIUS

As of December 2021⁴



Total number of cases: **66 929**



Total number of death due to COVID 19: **762**



Recovery rate from COVID-19: **95.1%.**

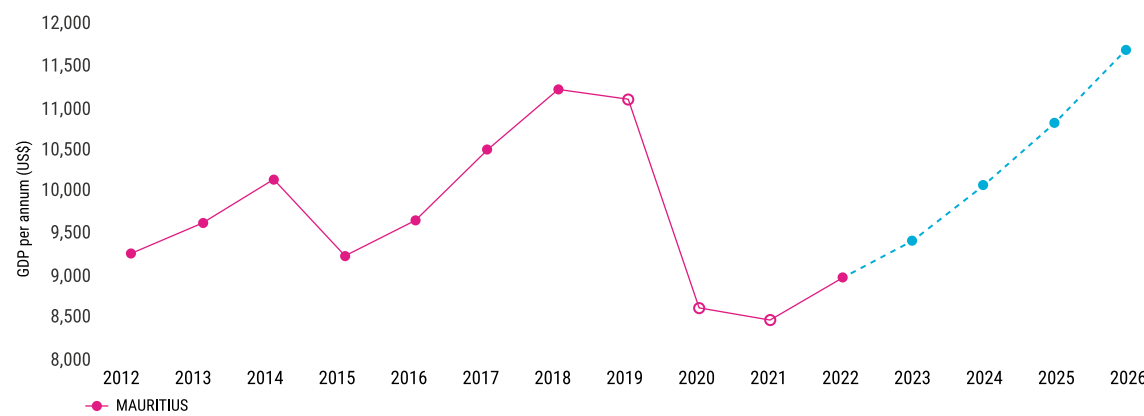


Persons fully vaccinated per 100 population: **72.2%**

As a Small Island Development State (SIDS), Mauritius is also struggling to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The country is highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, especially in its coastal zones. The rising sea level and increasing

frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones and heavy rainfalls result in considerable economic loss and environmental degradation, negatively affecting the more vulnerable first.

Figure 3 : Real GDP (% change pa)



Source : © The Economist Intelligence Unit 2022. All rights reserves. Derived from Word Bank Indicators, Statistics Mauritius

Mauritius registered its first COVID-19 case in March 2020 and immediately announced a lockdown. An effective public health response kept the number of cases to a minimum. By the end of 2020, Mauritius had registered 513 cases and 10 deaths. However, after several months of being COVID-free, Mauritius faced a second wave of COVID-19 from March 2021, far harsher than the first. The government reimposed several restrictive measures to keep transmission in the community low. A total of 66,929 cases and 762 deaths were registered by the end of

2021, as Delta and Omicron variants were detected in the territory.

The impact of the pandemic on the Mauritian economy was severe, due to the country's dependency on the tourism sector. Mauritius faced a steep recession in 2020 with an economic contraction of 15 percent, but thanks to a successful vaccination campaign and eased travel restrictions, Statistics Mauritius estimates that the economy achieved GDP growth of 3.9 percent in 2021.

⁴ Source WHO Situation Report 21 December 2021

PROGRESS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Mauritius ranks 95 of 165 countries in terms of progress towards achieving all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. With an SDG Index Score of 66.7, Mauritius performs slightly higher than the average regional (Sub-Saharan Africa) score of 51.9, and is considered to be moderately improving overall.

Figure 4 : Sustainable Development Goals progress



Source : ©Sustainable Development Report, Mauritius SDG profile

BEFORE THE PANDEMIC, MAURITIUS WAS ALSO MODERATELY IMPROVING ON:

- i. ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages (SDG 3),
- ii. ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education (SDG 4) to achieve gender equality and women empowerment (SDG 5),
- iii. ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (SDG 7),
- iv. building resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (SDG 9), and
- v. making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (SDG 11).

Mauritius produced its first Voluntary National Review in 2019, in which the government reaffirmed its ambition to achieve the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

Mauritius has achieved the No Poverty goal (SDG 1) and is in a good position to maintain this, with none of the population living below the extreme poverty line.

Figure 5 : Percentage Achieved by Goals



Source : ©Sustainable Development Report, Mauritius SDG profile

However, the pandemic reversed recent gains in poverty reduction and women’s labour force participation⁵, and significant challenges remain to achieving the other SDGs, as shown in the dashboard above.

In line with its commitments to the 2030 Agenda, the Government of Mauritius also revised its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in 2021

with technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), making a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030. The revised NDC was submitted to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN FCCC) in October 2021.

⁵ World Bank Mauritius Overview



UN SUPPORT TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES

2.1 OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS

The UNCT's consistent and coordinated approach to supporting the Government of Mauritius resulted in remarkable achievements in 2021. While the primary focus of the United Nations agencies was to work towards mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 and recovering from it, other strategic results were not abandoned. Our agencies delivered more than 100 activities in line with the Strategic Partnership Framework, enabling the enhancement of building skills, improving institutional capacities and outputs, and strengthening development partnerships while standing firm on our commitment to **Leave No One Behind**.



Figure 6 : Expenditure by SPF Outcome (US\$)

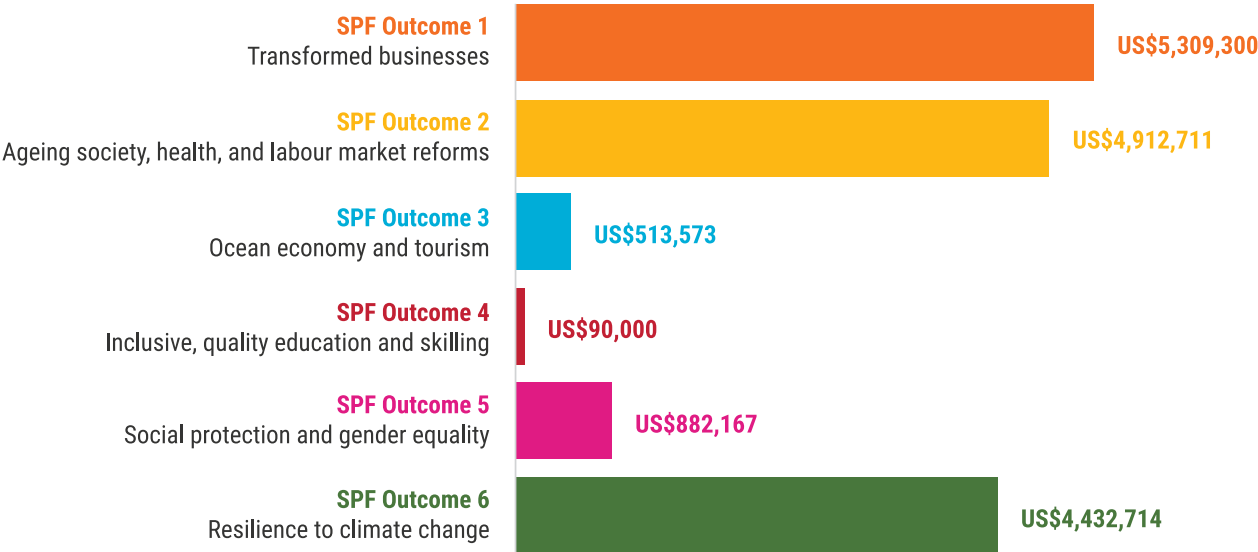
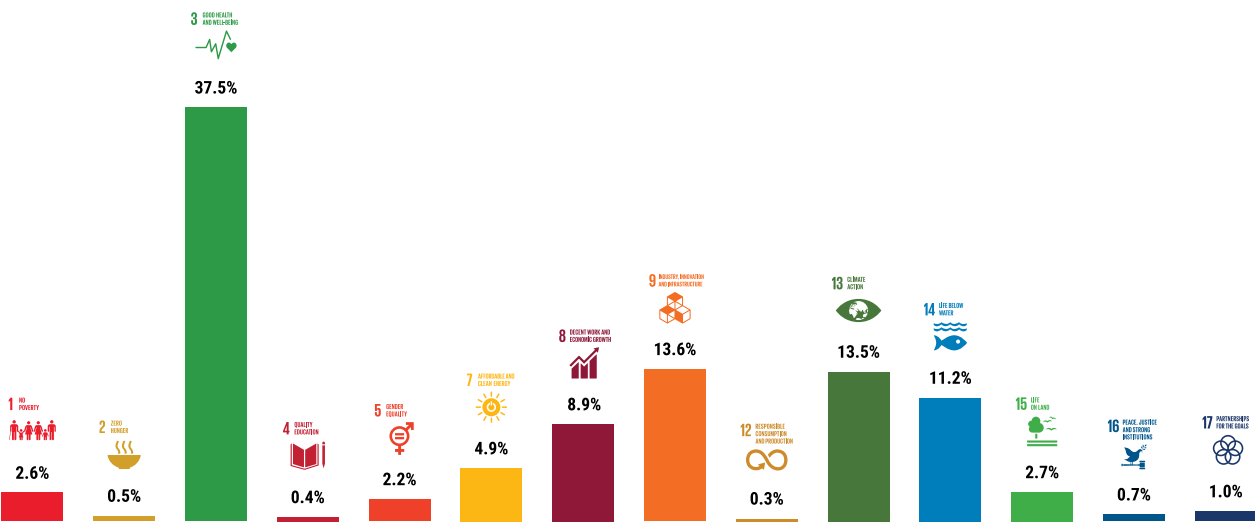


Table 1 : Contributions by agencies to implementation of the Cooperation Framework in 2021

UN (United Nations) Agencies	Contribution (US\$)
UNDP (UN Development Programme)	10,869,321.87
WHO (World Health Organisation)	3,618,808.00
UNFPA (UN Population Fund)	920,670.58
IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)	304,550.00
ILO (International Labour Organization)	162,200.00
UNEP (UN Environment Programme)	130,762.00
UNRCO (UN Resident Coordinator's Office)	89,152.47
UNODC (UN Office on Drugs and Crime)	25,000.00
UNESCO (UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)	10,000.00
UNAIDS	5,000.00
UN Habitat	5,000.00

Technical support and operations are not included in these estimates.

Figure 7 : Expenditure by SDGs (US\$)



23 PROJECTS
PARTIALLY OR FULLY INTEGRATED
YOUTH
IN THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION

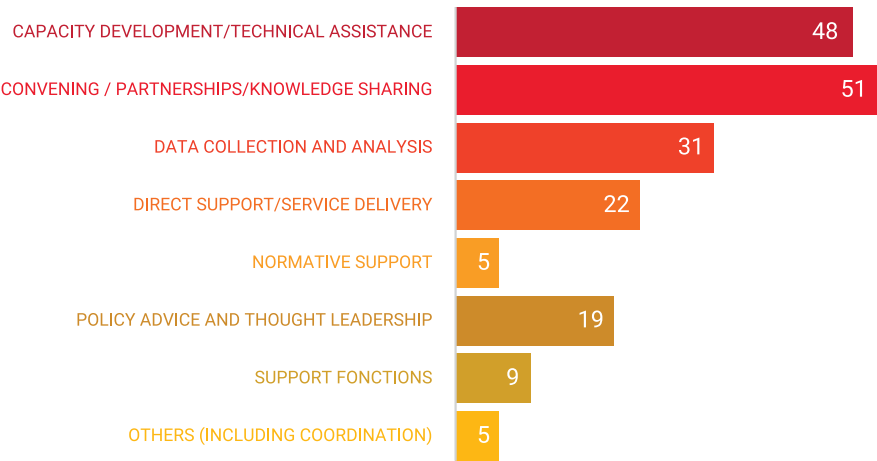


36 PROJECTS
PARTIALLY OR FULLY INTEGRATED
GENDER
IN THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION



18 PROJECTS
TARGETING
DISABILITY INCLUSION

Figure 8 : Type of support delivered



Some projects cover more than one function

CAPACITY BUILDING, KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE, AND WEBINARS

More than 3,000 persons, including civil servants, were trained on



Entrepreneurship



Gender-Based Violence



Tourism



Green Recovery



Disaster Risk Management



Plastic Pollution Reduction



Organic Farming



Labour and Migration issues



850 PERSONS
ATTENDED THE
NATIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS DIALOGUE AND CONSULTATIONS
IN MAURITIUS

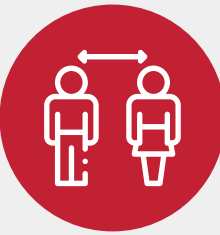
36 experts imparted their knowledge on green, fair and resilient recovery, food processing; livestock; the whole value chain across food systems; fisheries; and youth empowerment

50% of the participants were **aged 31–50**, and **42% were women**



REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON FOOD SYSTEMS
ESPECIALLY ON
FOOD SECURITY & FOOD WASTE
WAS ALSO HELD IN 2021

This helped to enrich renewed partnership between Comoros, Madagascar, Maurice, Reunion and Seychelles.



3 COVID-19 RESEARCH PLATFORM
WEBINARS BRINGING TOGETHER
14 EXPERTS & 90 PARTICIPANTS TO DISCUSS THE SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PANDEMIC



©UNEP Switch Mauritius

2.2 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES, AND OUTPUTS

A. TRANSFORMED BUSINESSES

*“By 2023, there is a stronger policy and regulatory environment that promotes **innovation and increased productivity** in targeted traditional and new sectors⁶”*

NATIONAL VISION: STRONG ECONOMY

1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

5 GENDER EQUALITY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

The United Nations in Mauritius worked with the government to give new impetus to economic growth through innovation and increased productivity in targeted traditional and new sectors by creating a more robust regulatory environment and market conditions for a new generation of transformed businesses.

✓ Extension services provided to allocate land use according to its suitability for specific crops and forestry activities.

A national action plan was developed under the ‘Enhancing livelihood and Agriculture productivity through Agroforestry development in Mauritius’

project. This resulted in a programme for **upscaling agroforestry in underutilized or abandoned agricultural land** being developed and implemented by the Ministry for Agro-Industry and Food Security with Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) support.

Two national enterprise transformation strategies delivered. ✓

The study “Reigniting the engine of growth A forward-looking business model for the Mauritian tea industry” was produced by FAO at the request of Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security to support the development of an inclusive business model for a thriving and sustainable

⁶ For example: ICT, Pharma, Renewable energy, Agrifood

tea sector in Mauritius. This is in response to the abandonment of tea gardens due to declining global tea prices and rising costs of production⁷. To progress on this transformation, the FAO provided governance frameworks to small-holder farmers to enable an inclusive agri-food system, strengthened post-harvest management, agro-processing, and set up a database of best practices for key strategic value chains.

FAO also supported the development of national **Livestock Information System software** to replace the outdated tagging system and to enable the traceability of livestock in Mauritius and Rodrigues from farm to fork.

✓ Capacity strengthened for biotechnology application in agriculture and food safety monitoring in Mauritius.

IAEA procured an **inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer** (ICP-MS) for the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security Livestock and Veterinary Division (LVD) to further strengthen the multi-institutional laboratory’s capabilities to control veterinary drug residues and associated food contaminants, and to contribute to the development of modernized analytical capabilities.

The **Food Act 1998 and Food Regulations 1999** was reviewed by the Ministry of Health and Wellness with assistance from the WHO to update and align these pieces of legislation with the international food regulation standards and guidelines established by **Codex Alimentarius**, FAO, WHO, and regional and international best practices. Leveraging WHO Mauritius expertise, the technical committee reviewed the food legislation and drafted legislation for a new **Food Standard Agency**. The new legislation incorporating international norms ensures an appropriate level of protection of human life and health by applying risk-based assessment and management to food control matters.

✓ The United Nations contributed to improving ‘ease of business’ across government and assisted in the provision of quality business development services through ‘one-stop-shop’ service centres.

Fourteen returning Mauritian citizens from France, Ireland and the United Kingdom have been supported by IOM Mauritius under **Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration** (AVRR) Programmes to set up micro-enterprises. Preliminary qualitative data collected by the end of 2021 from the beneficiaries showed that the three micro-enterprises had



©UNDP Mauritius SGP GEF

⁷ FAO. 2021. Reigniting the engine of growth: A forward-looking business model for the Mauritian tea industry. Rome.

contributed to the capacity of the returnees to generate income to sustain their livelihoods as well as those of their families. These returnees benefitted from social and economic assistance and business development services, including business counseling and business planning services to fine-tune business opportunities; better understand the details of their new ventures; and make realistic sales, revenue and expenditure forecasts for the next three years.

The UNDP assisted the Government of Mauritius with **Business Continuity Planning (BCP)** for five key services. Of these, the UNDP is funding the implementation of three critical services: the **Electronic Document Management System (EDMS)** for the Ministry of Public Service (the pilot ministry), a **Parliamentary EDMS** for the National Assembly as part of the Digital Parliament, and **process automation** of the Registrar General Department. With the approval of the Work from Home Protocol, the government is gearing towards becoming more resilient in future lockdown situations.

✓ **Policy advice and support provided to increase the resilience of businesses to the effects of climate change.**

The SWITCH Africa Green programme published impact sheets from 6 projects in three key sectors - Agriculture, Tourism and Manufacturing that supported about 500 micro Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in Mauritius. The impact sheets provide a snapshot of the results and achievements of the businesses in Mauritius from adopting and implementing sustainable consumption and production practices and patterns in their business operations⁸.

⁸ https://www.unep.org/switchafricagreen/resources?keys=&type=253§or=All&field_country_page_target_id=45

An agreement was signed, and funds were disbursed under SWITCH Africa Green programme for **South-South cooperation** on the feasibility of **biogas production** as a source for alternative energy, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emission in Mauritius with technical support from Ghana.

Two reports have been produced in 2021 under the **Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)**, an inter-agency United Nations initiative established in 2013: "Improving SME Access to Green Finance in Mauritius" which was completed by UNEP Finance Initiative in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Industry; and "Report on Integrating Green Economy Learning" completed by Civil Service College Mauritius (CSCM) in collaboration with UNITAR, which will be launched in 2022.

Approximately 460 public officers have been trained in **project management and strategic planning** by CSCM, which also has a dedicated online platform, iTrain. CSCM offers courses related to **Green Economy (GE)**, such as GE and Trade, Green Fiscal Reform, Sustainable Finance, and Introduction to GE.

**HERMAN AGATHE,
AGRICULTURAL ENTREPRENEUR**



© UNEP Switch Mauritius

Through the SWITCH Africa Green programme, **Herman Agathe**, a young entrepreneur running an integrated farm in Roche Bon Dieu, Rodrigues Island, was trained at the Centre de Formation Agricole Frère Remy in sustainable consumption and production practices in various aspects of farming, straddling horticulture, agricultural practices and poultry farming, pig rearing and related activities and others.

"The programme supported me in my training in my business by giving me the right information," Herman said. "This has now enabled me to be independent of my parents and get my project on its feet." Agathe has doubled his sales from around MUR 15,000 (US\$380) yearly in 2014 to MUR 30,000 (US\$760) three years after his initial training. He is now focusing on acquiring a larger piece of land to grow his business. Through the SWITCH Africa Green Programme, Herman improved his management skills, and marketing, raising the visibility of his products. He was also trained in bookkeeping, which improved his marketing skills and interpersonal skills. The training also improved his skills in efficient rainwater harvesting, which was essential for his start-up. Through sustainable waste management, Herman is now able to produce compost from green waste and animal waste: useful for his farming and for sale within the community. He was able to reuse wastewater that came from vegetables and rice washing – containing no kitchen detergents – for irrigation purposes. Finally, he was able to recycle old metal to improve his animal farm shelter.



© Government Information Service, Mauritius

B. AGEING SOCIETY, HEALTH, AND LABOUR MARKET REFORMS

By 2023, there is a comprehensive approach to address challenges posed by population ageing including its effects on population health, the labour market, and economic growth

NATIONAL VISION: STRONG ECONOMY, A FULLY OPEN COUNTRY



In 2021, support and technical expertise were provided by the United Nations to establish and operationalize a comprehensive approach to address the complex and linked challenges of population ageing and its effects on the labour market, economic growth, and population health. The United Nations also worked to ensure that essential health services were appropriately delivered, especially for vulnerable groups.



Entomological surveillance of tiger mosquitoes established.

As part of the efforts to achieve SDG 3, the IAEA supported two expert missions conducted by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life Vector Biology and Control Division, to develop the

Specific Operation Risk Assessment (SORA) for RAPS operations to release sterile mosquitoes over sparsely populated areas in Mauritius. These missions enabled the establishment of entomological surveillance and produced model maps of the spatio-temporal distribution of tiger mosquitoes, the vector of transmission of Dengue fever and Chikungunya.

Strengthened services to increase employability, especially for young people, women and persons with disabilities.



Working towards SDGs 3, 5, and 10 while ensuring no one is left behind, the UNFPA provided training to 60 midwives on the **management of antenatal and postnatal care**, and to 106 doctors on **identification of health issues among the ageing population**. Additionally, 206 young people were sensitized

on **preconception health** (knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours) and about opportune times for childbearing for **good maternal and child health** outcomes. Social media such as Facebook were used for several sensitization campaigns to promote preconception care to better reach the target audience.

A **standard operating procedure (SOP)** has been developed for detection and health assessment of learners at school, as well as guidelines for screening and assessment for **special needs education**. In this context, a one-day workshop was organized for 36 health professionals from the Ministry of Education who worked with special needs students to support the development of this SOP.

UNFPA also provided infrastructure work and part of the equipment to be used in the established **fertility clinic**.

As part of UNFPA's communication and advocacy campaign on population ageing and its effect on population health, two short videos were produced on **reducing dementia risks** and reducing risks of falls, osteoporosis, fractures and loss of mobility; Pamphlets on menopause, erectile dysfunction and preconception care, and booklets on sexually transmitted infections were also produced.

**23,654 PERSONS
IN RODRIGUES
NOW KNOW
THEIR HIV STATUS**



Capacities were increased on the formulation and implementation of population and health policies to achieve SDG 3.

Leveraging the expertise of WHO in data collection on health issues, Mauritius established **baseline data on cervical cancer**, which will enable the monitoring of trends to address cervical cancer as a public health problem. The agency supported **advocacy activities aimed at a wide range of stakeholders at the national level to encourage effective strategies** to eliminate cervical cancer and improve palliative care. The cervical cancer country profile supported the development of effective strategies to reduce/eliminate cervical cancer – a curable and preventable type of cancer. WHO also helped the country to strengthen the current national HPV vaccination

programme among schoolgirls, and is also guiding the development of regular communication campaigns targeting various age groups. Baseline standardized data on cervical cancer at national level guides the national cancer screening programme for early detection and treatment of cervical cancer and saving lives.

WHO supported the government's efforts to **address the high prevalence of non-communicable disease risk factors** including alcohol abuse. WHO provided the necessary guidelines to draft new alcohol regulations to align the **national alcohol abuse policies** with the Global Alcohol Strategy. The new regulations aim to reduce access to alcoholic drinks and strengthen the ban on advertising, promoting, and sponsoring alcoholic drinks, to better protect the younger generation and promote a healthy lifestyle in the general population

Another significant change in 2021 was the operationalization of **antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance** through WHONET software and reporting on Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System 2021 data call. Furthermore, multidrug resistant organism surveillance was initiated with the support of the National Infection Prevention and Control Committee. As part of implementation of the National Action plan on AMR, **infection prevention and control (IPC) guidelines** have been developed and disseminated and more than **2,500 doctors and nurses trained on IPC through coordination from WHO**. Mauritius is a signatory to the 2021 Call to Action on Antimicrobial Resistance. WHO coordinated the **operationalization of WHONET software** for laboratory surveillance.

The first profile summarizing available evidence on **climate hazards, health vulnerabilities, health impacts**, and progress to date in the health sector's efforts to realize a climate-resilient health system has been produced. Small Island, the Mauritius Health and Climate Change country profile, presents evidence and monitors health and climate change progress. It documents the impact of heat stress on the population's health, for vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, the socially isolated and individuals with pre-existing conditions; as well as on food and nutrition security. It sets out progress in the activities implemented and critical recommendations for the

way forward. WHO coordinated the data collection process and liaised with the Ministry of Health focal point for timely compilation, review, and validation of the country profile.



Growth of capacities for labour statistics and data for development.

To further to the country level dialogue on Mixed Migration, held under the aegis of the SAMM Project, the IOM, in coordination with government stakeholders in Mauritius, conducted the **assessment of national migration data in Mauritius** in 2021 to better inform socio-economic development. This comes in response to the the 2013 Migration Profile for Mauritius which acknowledged that the country is both a source and a destination country for international migration and reveals a fundamental challenge: the **inadequacy of data** for the formulation of migration policy. The consultations and discussions held with key stakeholders in the government during the assessment of migration data were an opportunity for them to understand the state of migration data in Mauritius and to reflect on the means to fortify the capacity of the country in terms of the collection, storage, analysis, reporting, sharing and use of migration data in the Republic of Mauritius.

The **Migration Governance Indicators (MGI)** follow-up assessment was undertaken in 2021 to evaluate progress since the first comprehensive national MGI profile was published in 2017. This follow-up assessment also assessed COVID-19 policies from a migration governance perspective. The report provides the government with concrete recommendations. Through this follow-up assessment, IOM supported the government to **track progress made on migration management and identify policy levers** that can bolster migration governance.



Strategy and policy to engage with and harness the potential of the diaspora and to position migration as a driver for social and economic development.

The IOM launched a new pilot **diaspora engagement project** which provides the government with a **draft strategy and policy** to engage with and harness the diaspora's potential and position migration as

a driver for social and economic development. This project engages the youth diaspora through volunteering activities. It is intended to help enable the Mauritian diaspora, especially youth, to participate in the development of Mauritius and reinforce and strengthen their cultural ties with their country of origin, as well as to improve the knowledge, capacity, and skills of national stakeholders to coordinate other similar diaspora initiatives.

Capacity building of key staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was carried out in 2021 on the **mapping and profiling of the Mauritian diaspora in three countries** to better understand its needs and assess its potential to contribute to socio-economic development. The **training manual for diaspora engagement** has been shared with the Ministry to pursue the **transfer of knowledge**. Besides, a **Diaspora Engagement Strategy and Action Plan** has been prepared, and the strategy implementation is expected to start after July 2022.

Review and application of employment laws for improved protection of workers' fundamental rights.



On 1 July 2021 Mauritius became the first country in the Indian Ocean, the third in Africa and the seventh in the world to ratify the **"ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190)"** and its accompanying **"Violence and Harassment Recommendation, 2019 (No. 206)"** with the technical assistance of ILO. The ILO Convention No.190 is the first international treaty to address violence and harassment in the world of work, and was adopted by the International Labour Conference in June 2019. The Convention and its Recommendation (No. 206) provide a common framework of action and a unique opportunity to shape the future of work based on dignity and respect. They also underline the right of every worker to a world of work free from violence and harassment. The ILO Violence and Harassment Convention is the first **international labour instrument** that defines violence and harassment in the world of work, including gender-based violence. Mauritius is required to adopt, in consultation with representatives of employers' and workers' organizations, an inclusive, integrated and gender-responsive approach to prevent and eliminate violence and harassment through

prevention, protection and enforcement measures and remedies well as guidance, training and awareness-raising.

At the request of the National Wage Consultative Council (NWCC), the ILO provided **technical assistance for a study on the impact of the introduction of the national minimum wage in Mauritius**. The NWCC thereafter used the study to produce its annual report

and issue recommendations on **minimum wage adjustments**. The study includes elements on the evolution of the wages and incomes in Mauritius from the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis to the second quarter of 2020. Moreover, the study mainstreams gender, with a detailed empirical comparison of how the **minimum wage has impacted women and men**, including estimates of the effect of minimum wage on gender wage inequality.





© Government Information Service, Mauritius

C. OCEAN ECONOMY AND TOURISM

By 2023, the marine sector has an integrated policy and regulatory environment that promotes sustainable resource management, and private-sector led diversification, and job creation

NATIONAL VISION: STRONG ECONOMY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



The United Nations provided direct support to support the Government of Mauritius in its strategic objective to develop a fully-fledged ocean economy as a pillar for future development.

✓ Green recovery of the tourism industry.

ILO and UNEP jointly provided technical assistance and capacity building for the revision of operational guidance and regulations for the hospitality sector and the food production supply chain to reduce environmental impacts and effectively implement COVID-19 safety control measures. This enabled businesses to re-open and trade safely and responsibly. Tools have been developed to measure greenhouse gas emissions and resource efficiency (including single-use plastics and food waste), and hotels have been trained on its use. This supported the tourism and hospitality sectors for a greener recovery in Mauritius through improved knowledge

and capacity of policymakers and key stakeholders across the tourism value chain under the PAGE Green Recovery Fund (GRF) framework.

A country roadmap for low carbon and resource-efficient tourism was developed by UNEP and endorsed by the national industry. UNEP organized capacity-building workshops on use of the assessments and tools developed. On **Operation Coshare**⁹, at least two batches of Training of Trainers for 25 trainers were conducted during Sept-Oct 2021. More than 1400 (1200 Taxi drivers; 21 Operators of Airport of Mauritius Ltd; 26 boat houses and luxury boats; 227 DMC, Tour Operators and Hotels) individual beneficiaries received the protocol training subsequently (via online and in-person training). This resulted into 2023 implementation of the Covid-19 OSH to beneficiary enterprises until the end of 2021.

24 tourism officials in Mauritius participated in 5-day online training activities in 2021 on **tourism**

statistics, investment in tourism, and the creation of opportunities in the sector conducted by UNWTO. Since the pandemic began, UNWTO, in collaboration with Member States, Affiliate Members, international organizations, and other tourism partners, has been consolidating intelligence on the local, national, and international measures and policies undertaken to mitigate and combat the effects of the crisis on tourism and to accelerate recovery.

✓ Financial support to increase the resilience of Mauritian fishing communities.

With financial aid from the Government of Japan, FAO initiated the **REEFFISH project**, which sponsored 500 small-scale fishers in the Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles REEFFISH project. The REEFFISH project aimed to **improve livelihoods and food and maritime security** by strengthening the resilience of fishing communities that depend on fishing around coral reefs in the African part of the Indian Ocean.

✓ Government capacities strengthened on ocean economy and maritime security, including migration and addressing transnational crime (linked with national ocean policy paper; marine spatial plan).

✓ Technical expertise provided to establish mechanisms to strengthen the exchange of information and intelligence on transnational organized crime, maritime safety, and security.

The capacity of 31 persons (25 males and 6 females) was built on **Integrated Border Management (IBM)**



©UNODC Mauritius

and **Trafficking-in-Persons/ Smuggling of Migrants (TiP/SoM)**. They were trained to understand better and address the risks and threats posed by migration-related transnational organized maritime crime in the region, including migrant smuggling. This was delivered by IOM, in partnership with the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the Regional Centre for the Fusion of Maritime Information (RCFMI) in Madagascar, and the Regional Maritime Operational Coordination Centre (RCOC) in Seychelles, and in line with the "Supporting the Western Indian Ocean mechanism for maritime security: promoting maritime governance on migration issues in the IOC region" project. The trainees represented various ministries and other public sector agencies that operate in either border management or migration management.

Leveraging IOM's technical expertise, a feasibility assessment was completed on setting up a **secure dedicated network and database for migration-related information** and intelligence sharing in the context of maritime security in 2021. After identifying the training needs in four Indian Ocean countries in 2020, the capacities of border management/migration management stakeholders in the Western Indian Ocean region have been built up. The **feasibility study** findings and recommendations made in the report serve as inputs for policymaking at regional and national levels to augment maritime security in the Indian Ocean Commission area.

Key Trafficking in Persons (TiP) **stakeholders were mapped** to establish a Technical Working Group to implement the project and coordinate counter-trafficking actions as part of the 2-year project "Improving the Referral Trafficking in Persons (TiP)

⁹ ILO SCORE Programme enhanced with the COVID-19 Occupational Safety and Health

referral outcome in Comoros and Mauritius” by IOM. The project is intended to address the key trafficking problems previously identified by IOM and national stakeholders, with a focus on institutionalization and implementation of national referral mechanisms in consultation with the TWG members and other stakeholders. Standard operations procedures (SOPs) were developed to identify and protect victims of trafficking. The project also established an **awareness-raising campaign** to sensitize the targeted audience on TIP and the refurbishment of a male victim shelter set up by the government. The project helped with the identification of Victims of Trafficking in Persons 13 (7 female and 6 male), supported the return and reintegration of 5 victims and facilitated legal support for 6 of the victims, based on the needs identified.

IOM and UNODC also backed the development of a **National Action Plan (NAP) against TIP** for Mauritius through a consultative approach. The NAP prioritizes actions for national stakeholders, with a monitoring and evaluation framework to guide and track progress made towards fighting trafficking in persons. Under the SAMM project, UNODC supported efforts to assess and potentially **strengthen the existing anti-TIP legislation**; identified the need to boost the capacity of criminal justice practitioners to effectively investigate and prosecute TIP cases (as limited prosecution was identified as a major challenge); facilitated sensitization workshops on child sexual exploitation; and proposed measures, in line with international legal standards, to adequately protect child victims of TIP.

In parallel, UNODC Regional Office for East Africa shared the findings of its Regional Legislative Assessment, which analyses gaps in national anti-TIP legislation and provides recommendations on the same. The assessment will be used to support the government in activities aimed at **reinforcing the anti-TIP legislative framework**.

UNODC contracted legal experts to review legal frameworks in place and develop recommendations/drafts of legislative reform to ensure legislative compliance from disruption through to detention, and issued recommendations to improve this existing legal framework. It also encouraged the participation of senior prosecutors in three Prosecutor Network Forums, and helped to organize the Conference on Maritime Crimes held in Mauritius in collaboration with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in Mauritius with the participation of senior prosecution from the entire region, the European Union Naval Force Somalia, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre. The DPP participated in person, and 100 staff of his office attended the conference. This allowed a real exchange on legal issues pertaining to maritime crimes with the views and problems of national practitioners on one side, and the answers and sometime solutions of the experts on the other side.

UNODC also contributed to amendment of the **Dangerous Drugs Act** to empower the Forensic Science Laboratory to examine suspected illicit drugs by a sampling strategy based on UNODC guidelines.

To **augment the capacity of police officers and prosecutors** in SADC Member States to effectively investigate and prosecute cases related to cyber-enabled crimes, UNODC and the South African Development Community (SADC) jointly organized **National Hybrid Cybercrime training**, with the assistance of INTERPOL. Special focus was on sexual violence against women and girls. The training was also an occasion to create a **pool of regional experts/trainers** capable of delivering training to other police officers.



©UNFPA, Sensitization campaign through paintings by secondary school students in the context of life skills training

D. INCLUSIVE, QUALITY EDUCATION AND SKILLING

*By 2023, the education and training system offers **higher quality, inclusive services** and equips all learners with knowledge and skills for enhanced employability¹⁰*

NATIONAL VISION: COHERENT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY



As part of the continuous efforts of the United Nations in Mauritius to see a strengthened education and training system that offers quality, accessible and inclusive services, our agencies contributed significantly to modernization of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) facilities and provided a wide array of training to narrow skill gap in the world of work. The United Nations equipped learners with knowledge and skills for enhanced employability through a series of activities and programmes.



Enhanced life skills education to empower Mauritian and Rodriguan youth.

UNFPA's continuous efforts towards SDGs 3, 4 and 5 made possible the training of 1,300 adolescents aged 14-17 years old on **life skills**. The trainers were provided with a life skills manual. UNFPA also organized an online **Youth-to-Youth message** Video Clip competition on **"Resilience Building against Addictive Behaviour"**: 84 entries were received island-wide with more than 5,000 follow-ups on the

social network platform of the Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation. Furthermore, around 130 participants, including ministry officials and animators of outreach programmes who work in youth centres for out-of-school young people and counsellors of secondary schools, benefited from training in interpersonal communication and counselling skills, to equip adults/educators who work with the youth and intend to provide counselling services with listening skills.

Four songs have been produced with specific sensitization messages targeting young people. These songs are aired on radio and television to reach a maximum number of youths around Mauritius and Rodrigues Island.

In December 2021, UNFPA signed an Agreement with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for a Matching Fund Project entitled **"Preparing youths and women to be key stakeholders of the new transformative journey of the island"**. In total, 12,000 youth benefitted from **entrepreneurship and employability** counseling sessions under the **Rodrigues Matching**

¹⁰ Includes entrepreneurship skills and skills for emerging blue, green, and digital economy jobs, and cultural and creative industries

WARREN PERMAL, YOUNG ARTIST

I am very proud to be part of this initiative of the UNFPA through the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation. As a young artist, it has been very inspiring to use my talent as a sensitization tool to educate young people about their health and well-being."



© UNFPA Mauritius



© UNFPA Mauritius

BÉGUÉ RODDY, PEER EDUCATOR

I joined the peer educator group through a friend from my village who is also a peer educator at the Youth Counselling Centre. I attended the peer educator training programme in April 2021 and, upon obtaining my certificate, I voluntarily enrolled to be a facilitator of the Youth Counselling Centre and also of the Youth Caravan, at the request of the Head of the Centre.

This person believed in me and my potential. So she gave me the responsibility to manage the drama and dance group alongside other young people. However, despite the difficulties I encountered, this responsibility allowed me to grow, become more responsible, and develop more confidence in myself. Moreover, even my mother and the parish priest made me understand that they were proud of this change. Before, I used to go out all the time and would stay out till late. But now I am more responsible.

I have participated in all the activities organised by the Youth Commission, including those funded under the Matching Fund Programme at the level of the Regional Assembly and UNFPA for young people and this has made me grow and to make progress both individually and socially. I have passed on my skills and knowledge to other younger people in my village and to the youth at the centre as well as to everyone I meet.

My parents, friends, and people in my locality as well as my relatives have congratulated me for this change. Indeed, I have changed positively thanks to the trainings and my participation in the numerous activities organised by the Youth Commission with the financial support of UNFPA and the Regional Assembly of Rodrigues – both of whom I thank immensely for having contributed to my personal development."

Bégué Roddy, 27 years old, Peer Educator, animator of the youth caravan (2021), Mte Charlot, Rodrigues



© UNFPA Mauritius

Fund Concept. Additionally, 17 officers were trained to provide counseling and orientation services related to entrepreneurship, and 237 young and women entrepreneurs were trained.

UNFPA procured a customized and equipped **Youth Caravan**, and various behavioural change communication materials were disseminated in the island of Rodrigues. A Facebook page was created to promote young entrepreneurs, and a Parents' School was established.



Capacities enhanced on labour and migration issues for progress on SDG 8.

Under the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) Project, capacity building training was organized for 22 tripartite constituents of Mauritius through ITC-ILO facilities, notably in courses of three months or less on several subjects linked to **migration** (Measuring and Analysing Labour Migration Data, Skills Recognition of Migrant Workers, Social Protection, and Portability with Regards to Migrant Workers). 9 scholarships were also offered to tripartite constituents' representatives of Mauritius for a three-year diploma designed for practitioners and experts on Labour Migration governance.



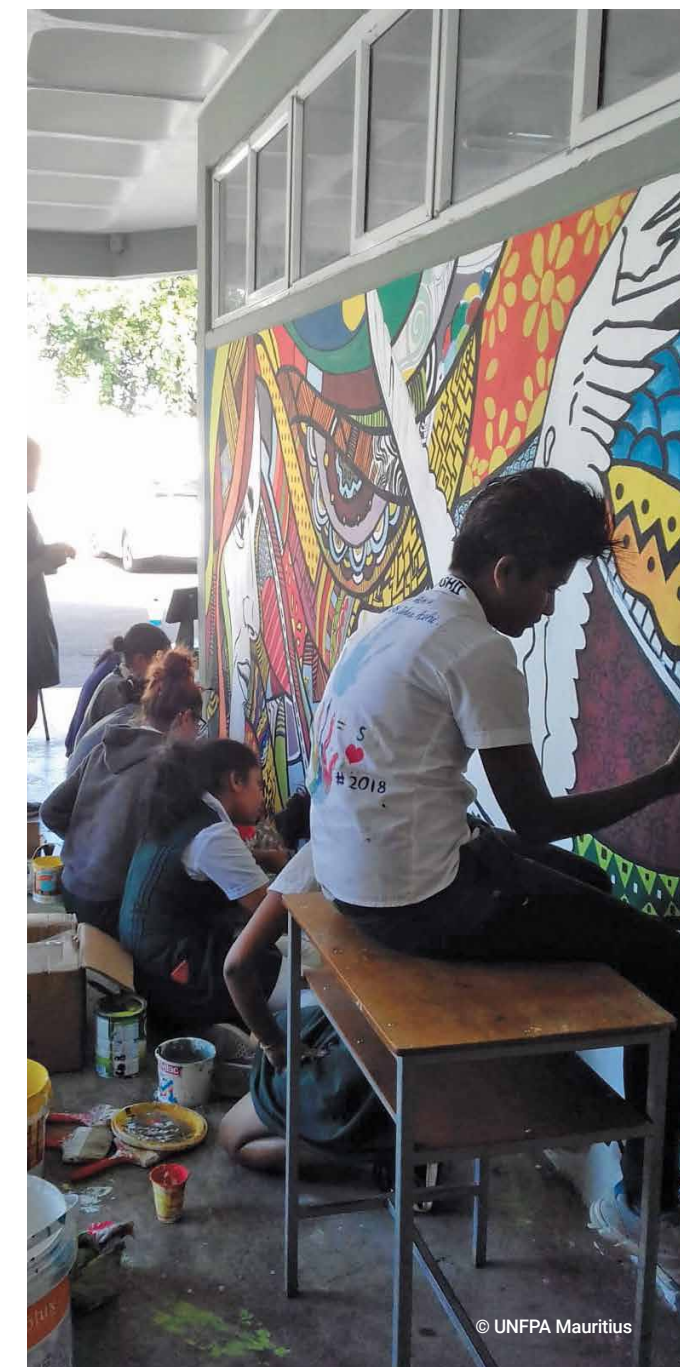
Modernisation of TVET facilities to attract more learners.

UNDP is working to build job skills and empower the next generation of food growers on Rodrigues Island through an **organic farming school**. A new college has opened for higher-level courses in addition to the existing boarding school on agriculture for youth in Rodrigues. The organic farming module was developed by Small Grants Programme (SGP) Foundation Resources et Nature (FORENA), which provides expertise and information sharing on organic farming for smallholder farmers and NGOs supporting unemployed women, persons with disabilities, school leavers, and street children. Through FORENA, several SGP grantees are the first EU-certified grower for organic fruits and vegetables in Mauritius.

Sustainable Cities promoted through Creativity.



The City of Port Louis was included in the **UNESCO Creative Cities Network** in the field of music, in 2021. Contributing to SDGs 4 and 11, the UNESCO Creative Cities Network was launched in 2004 to promote cooperation with and amongst cities, recognizing creativity as a major factor in sustainable urban development.



© UNFPA Mauritius



© ILO Mauritius

E. SOCIAL PROTECTION AND GENDER EQUALITY

Outcome 5. By 2023, social protection policies and programmes are strengthened and rationalized to reach the most vulnerable, eliminate GBV, and enhance women's socio-economic and political empowerment.

NATIONAL VISION: COHERENT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY, A SAFER LIVING ENVIRONMENT



In 2021, the United Nations strengthened its partnership with the Government of Mauritius to see stronger, rationalized social protection policies and programmes that reach the most vulnerable groups, work to eliminate gender-based violence (GBV), and enhance women's role in public life.

✓ For the safety and the empowerment of GBV survivors.

As part of the UNDP sustained actions towards gender equality and women's empowerment (SDG 5), assistance was extended to the Prime Minister's Office to refine the **Gender-Based Violence Mobile Application (Lespwar)** for community safety.

In order to contribute to the **socio-economic empowerment of women**, training for sustainable livelihoods was imparted to 29 GBV Survivors. Participants were awarded with a nationally

recognised certificate and handed a hamper to start their business. Some 1,309 women, including teenage mothers and 1563 men and boys, were sensitized on GBV and its impact on sexual and reproductive health in 52 sessions, including **Entertain to Educate** by UNFPA. Thirty-nine Community Development Officers were trained on the Trainers Programme to promote active membership of boys and men against GBV. 10,000 flyers on GBV mobile application distributed. Around 63 field workers, including 10 government officials, attended training on GBV. UNFPA and UNDP jointly conducted a feasibility study on setting up an integrated **shelter for survivors of GBV** in Mauritius.

A **workshop on international conventions relating to gender-based violence** allowing participants to learn about international law and how to adapt it to suit Mauritian legislation. This is joint initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, the ILO, and the United Nations in Mauritius was followed by a second training



© UNFPA Mauritius

SATEEDANAND JEEWOOTH, SENIOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

I am fully involved in organizing the Community Development Programme for the community. I have had the opportunity to follow a one-day Training of Trainers Programme on issues related to Gender Concepts, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and the consequences of GBV for Sexual and Reproductive Health that high caliber resource persons succinctly elaborated. The Programme was held on Thursday 22 July 2021 at the National Women Development Centre of Phoenix and 40 Field Officers were present.

I would like to seize the opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, especially Mrs Bhunjun, Mrs Jodhoa and her team from the Family Welfare and Protection Unit, who have deemed it crucial to arrange for the organization of such a laudable Programme for us. This Capacity Building Programme was indeed very enriching, interesting and up to level, as we, Field Officers are at the outreach. I, myself have gained knowledge of such issues and my perception for handling any task has changed significantly. I am now, more gender sensitive while planning a project.

I was further requested during the Training Programme to come up with an Implementation Plan from July till December 2021, which I successfully implemented within the community. Numerous Entertain to Educate activities, comprising indoor and outdoor games, were held in my district, coupled with dissemination of information on GBV and the immediate service response to people at grassroots especially men, boys and youths (males). The response was very positive from the participants, and they were encouraged to increase reporting on cases of GBV through hotlines and the mobile application LESPWAR.

In that vein, I would like to thank also the UNFPA for bringing such types to programme to us and the community. The only thing that hampered its smooth follow up was the COVID-19 pandemic and the sanitary conditions. Otherwise, more people could have been reached.

Thank you again for the initiative that was taken to organize the activity for the first time for us Field Workers, especially me, and I hope to get more of such exposure."

Mr Sateedanand JEEWOOTH, Senior Community Development Officer, responsible for 10 Community Centres in the District of Black River and Lower Plaines Wilhems

session at the National Empowerment Foundation. The workshop's objectives were to increase understanding of the framework surrounding international conventions, including the recently ratified ILO Convention 190, and to raise national awareness, through the media, of GBV-related international instruments to which Mauritius is party.

To support the functions of gender sensitive parliaments, all Members of the Parliamentary Gender Caucus have been trained on the formulation of gender sensitive legislation and gender mainstreaming in policies and programming.



Baseline data established for the Women In Trade Protocol.

To empower women to participate in regional value chains, the UNDP established a consultative platform involving Mauritian women in trade to inform the content of the forthcoming Women in Trade Protocol under the African Continent Free Trade Area agreement. A **baseline study** on the trade profile of women in the export sector and identified challenges, as well as recommendations, were submitted to the Regional Service Centre for inclusion as a common regional paper to the AfCFTA Secretariat.



Human rights, gender equality, and women's empowerment reporting mechanism enhanced.

OHCHR continues to engage with the Government of Mauritius by promoting state party reporting through the Mauritius National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up. Mauritius successfully submitted State reports on Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and a report on the Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC). Mauritius continues to work towards preparing additional State reports to other treaty bodies and implementation of recommendations. Reporting to treaty bodies provided an opportunity for various stakeholders in Mauritius to coordinate and consult to take stock on progress made towards the implementation of



Enhancement of the capacity of health professionals to improve public health service delivery on HIV and AIDS.

human rights obligations. It provided a good platform for consultation with civil society organizations.

In 2021, UNAIDS provided **Spectrum computer modelling** package training to estimate and project HIV and AIDS cases. This resulted in an update of Mauritius's estimates and projections of HIV prevalence.

In line with its **advocacy and information sharing strategy** about the HIV and AIDS situation in Mauritius and SADC countries, and to better inform senior officials of the new Global AIDS Strategy and the UN Political Declaration's 2025 commitments, UNAIDS facilitated SADCs **High-level International Conference on Aids and Sexually Transmitted Infections In Africa** (ICASA) meeting. The workshop was also tasked with drafting the proposed roadmap for rolling out the Global AIDS Strategy and Political Declaration in the SADC Region, to secure commitment to aligning the new strategy and targets with the National Strategic Plans and to consider and discuss draft annual HIV and AIDS report along with HIV Monitoring and Evaluation Indicator Framework and other vital documents to be presented during the upcoming Joint meeting of SADC Ministers of Health and Ministers Responsible for HIV and AIDS.

Improvement of the quality and quantity of data and statistics on HIV and AIDS and substance abuse.



A **National Survey among People who Use Drugs in Mauritius** was conducted by the National Drug Secretariat of the Prime Minister's Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, and the WHO. The Survey provided comprehensive information to guide the national drug response, including the socio-demographic characteristics of drug users, their living conditions, employment status, the age of onset of drug use, frequency and patterns of drug use, and extent of drug use.

Additionally, a study on **mapping of the best practices** of National Parliaments on strengthening HIV, TB and malaria responses, including in the context of COVID-19, was made available by UNAIDS.



©UNEP Switch Africa

F. RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

By 2023, integrated policy frameworks and enhanced community action promote climate and disaster resilience and biodiversity protection, and create incentives for the transition to renewable energy

NATIONAL VISION: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, A SAFER LIVING ENVIRONMENT



Under this outcome, two joint flagship initiatives are the **Partnership for Action for Green Economy (PAGE)** and the **Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI)**. Our United Nations agencies worked closely together and in collaboration with the Government of Mauritius to enhance climate resilience and biodiversity protection, reduce disaster risks, and create incentives for the transition to renewable energy.



Promotion of nature-based solutions, sustainable consumption and production practices for a green recovery.

In 2021 UNEP continued to support Mauritius on environmental sustainability and resilience by promoting **nature-based solutions, sustainable consumption and production practices, resource efficiency, and ecosystem restoration resulting in reduced carbon emissions, creation of green jobs, and protection of the environment** under SDGs 9 and 13. Under the PAGE Green Recovery Fund (GRF)

framework, **tourism and hospitality** sectors were reinforced for a **greener recovery** in Mauritius by improving knowledge and capacity of policymakers and key stakeholders across the tourism value chain. This sub-output is also in line with SPF outcome 3.

Also, in line with SPF 1, support was provided for the transition to a green economy in Mauritius through deployment of **green business practices** including enhanced use of agricultural waste for manure and energy generation. The capacity of 17 government staff, businesses, and other stakeholders was enhanced on **biogas generation** and testing for pesticide residue on agricultural produce from using treated manure. An assessment has been undertaken on biogas plant demonstration, and equipment has been procured for pesticide residue testing at the **National Environmental Laboratory (NEL)**. In addition the **PAGE national steering committee** has been an excellent platform to share and propose ideas and foster collaboration among interested stakeholders.

The framework also includes supporting the transition to a more sustainable, **resilient food system** in Mauritius through improved knowledge and capacity of policymakers and key stakeholders across the agro-food value chain. In this context, **green job macro-economic modelling** was conducted, with a focus on agro-food sectors and on impacts of economic stimulus. The findings of this modelling are guiding further engagement and capacity building with the finance, environment, labor, and agriculture ministries.



Climate-resilient practices applied by local communities, including disaster preparedness and response.

A mapping of the United Nations priorities in line with the National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strategy recommendations was developed by IOM to feed the consolidation of an **Action Plan** with concrete actions to implement, especially related to capacity-building, awareness, and environmental migration policies. This is part of the efforts to ensure resources are maximised to allow local communities apply **climate-resilient practices**, including disaster preparedness and response.

A two-day workshop was held on **local disaster risk reduction** in urban Mauritius, and training was delivered by UN Habitat on **CityRAP methodology** to officers of the Municipality of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill on urban resilience participatory planning. Furthermore, a **Regional Assessment on Urban Vulnerability and Resilience** was produced by UNHabitat to deepen understanding of disaster risk and urban vulnerability dynamics in the SADC Member States, including Mauritius.



Enhanced national capabilities for analysis, monitoring, and mitigation of Ciguatera and other fish poisonings.

A national training course on using **portable fluorimeters to monitor petroleum hydrocarbons** in seawater was delivered by IAEA to boost national capabilities for analysis, monitoring, and mitigation of ciguatera and other fish poisonings. A national team was set up equipped with knowledge and expertise to enhance national capacities for **long-term post-oil spill contamination mitigation** in response to the accident caused by the MW Wakashio cargo in Mauritian waters.

Enhanced monitoring tools and capacities on nuclear and nuclear-related techniques.



To improve **monitoring of the impact of coal ash disposal** and landfill solid waste disposal on groundwater and air quality using nuclear and nuclear-related techniques, IAEA provided the Ministry of Environment, Environmental Laboratories with lab equipment and related consumables to support the analysis of samples.

Recommendations provided on the human rights implications of toxic and otherwise hazardous substances.



With the support of OHCHR, Mauritius received a visit of the Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights in 2021. The expert on international law, including law on human rights and the environment, was mandated by the United Nations to examine the human rights implications of toxic and otherwise hazardous substances. The Special Rapporteur provided recommendations to the Government of Mauritius to address human rights-related concerns pertaining to the Wakashio oil spill.

A roadmap for a plastic-free Mauritius elaborated with the support of the United Nations.



THE UNDP GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME (GEF SGP) SUPPORTED NGOS ENGAGED IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES. THANKS TO THE WORK OF ITS GRANTEES:



10 HECTARES
of endemic forests
were conserved



30,000 ENDEMIC TREES
were preserved



996,803 KG OF CO₂
were mitigated



149 THREATENED ENDEMIC BIRDS
were protected



2 HECTARES OF NATIVE, ENDEMIC WATERSHED
were restored



12 JOBS
were created
in forest
conservation

A **roadmap for a plastic-free Mauritius** was formulated as a result of a two-day consultative workshop. The roadmap was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change. Supported by UNDP, this initiative – participated in by key stakeholders and members of civil society – aims to build consensus around a shared vision for reducing plastic pollution in the Republic of Mauritius. Visual communications materials were produced to **raise awareness on the measures, policies, and institutional and legal framework to tackle plastic pollution**. As a side-event to the Workshop, an exhibition was organized to sensitize members of the public about plastic products that have been banned under the Environment Protection (Control of Single-Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020 and the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020.



NGOs supported by the United Nations to implement sustainable development initiatives.



Youth engaged to raise awareness on climate change and its challenges for small island developing states (SIDS).

A youth-led draft report was developed by UNESCO to review the climate change challenges in Mauritius and other Eastern African Small Indian Ocean Island States, including, but not limited to: **i)** Climate Change and Small Island Developing States; **ii)** Coastal Populations and the Blue Economy; **iii)** Emerging Wave of Climate Migration in SIDS; **iv)** Climate Science and Capacity Building; **v)** Education and Youth in SIDS; **vi)** Rapid Global Urbanization in SIDS; **vii)** Stressed and Emerging Culture and Identities; **viii)** Sustainability Policy as a Cross-Cutting Issue; **ix)** the Ethics and Morality of Climate Action; and **x)** Challenges and Opportunities of Climate Change Resilience with needed concrete articulations.

Knowledge sharing workshop on Invasive Alien Species prevention, control, and management.



The UNDP organized an online inception workshop for the 'Mainstreaming Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Prevention, Control and Management' project in collaboration with the Ministry of Agro-industry and Food Security. This two-day webinar gathered several experts in the field who shared their know-how and expertise to ensure the project's success.

SEA AND LAND INITIATIVES

- ▶ In August 2020, MV Wakashio ran aground off the South-East coast of Mauritius. 1,000 tons of oil were spilled in the lagoon, impacting the natural environment of 17 coastal villages and the lives of 50,000 people. The disaster prompted a state of National Emergency and a request for support to the UN and International community. As part of the UN family, the UNDP, in collaboration with the African Development Bank, launched an Oil Spill Recovery Programme to support community-level early recovery. The project strengthened community resilience through alternative livelihood opportunities in partnership with 5 NGOs. The Trou d'Eau Douce Fishermen Cooperative acquired new equipment and support to sensitise the community on sustainable fishing practices. Eco-Sud's Resilient Organic Community Project focused on increasing food security through agroecology.
- ▶ By September 2021, 271 individuals had received training and kits to kickstart their new livelihoods. Working with 7 families, Caritas helped to run aquaponic systems to help set up a cooperative for "farm to table" fish and crop production. The Mauritius Megafauna

Conservation Organisation protects main megafauna and trains professional divers. Working with UNDP, the NGO provided certified diving training and lessons on marine ecosystems. 52% of trainees had new jobs in diving centres and fish farms by the end of the training period.

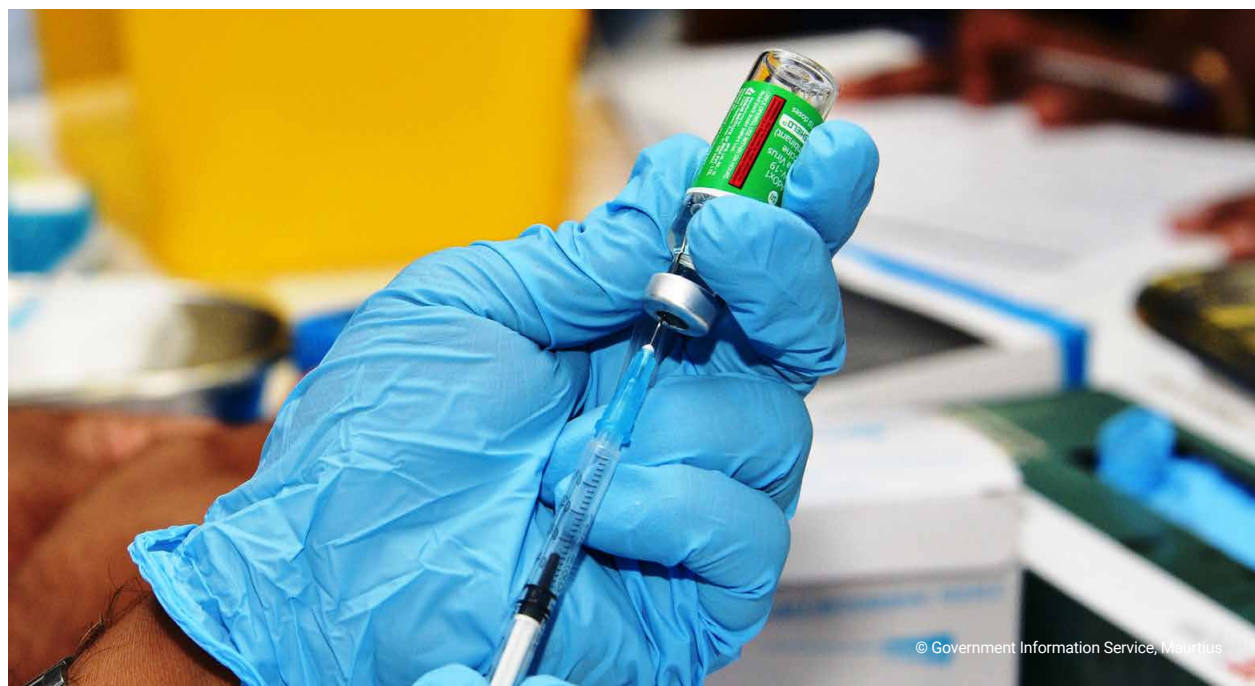
- ▶ Reef Conservation developed a new guide on mangrove protection and management. The NGO received new computer and scientific equipment for educational programmes and mangrove surveys. By August 2021, more than 100 students and adults had benefited from sensitisation sessions.
- ▶ Working with the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute, UNDP and AFDB supported a Humanitarian Emergency Assistance Scheme. Training and equipment were provided to 225 households of the South-East coast to start organic crop and egg production.
- ▶ For disaster risk management, the UNDP contributed equipment to the National Coast Guard and the Police Helicopter Squadron; while also supporting the review of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

2.3 FOCUS ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESPONSE PLAN TO COVID-19

At the request of the Government of Mauritius, and based on the SPF agreement, the United Nations in Mauritius developed a phased **COVID-19 Socioeconomic Response Plan (SERP)** in 2020. The objective of the plan was to assist the Government of Mauritius to prepare for and protect people from the pandemic and its impacts in the immediate term; to respond during the outbreak; and, in the medium to long term, plan for

and implement recovery from the socio-economic impact. The key areas of focus of the plan are directly aligned to the five pillars of the United Nations Global Socioeconomic Response Plan.

In 2021, the determination of the United Nations in Mauritius to support the government to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, protect the health system and recover economically while leaving no one behind remained firm. This year the United Nations focused on **vaccination, capacity building to readapt existing skills to a new crisis and to maximize the use of digital tools, and collaboration to manage the impacts of COVID-19.**



PILLAR 1: HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING, PREVENTION AND CONTAINMENT

FOCUS ON

PROTECTING HEALTH SERVICES AND SYSTEMS DURING THE CRISIS

SPF OUTCOME

AGEING SOCIETY, HEALTH, AND LABOUR MARKET REFORMS

COVID-19 Vaccination. WHO Mauritius provided major technical support to the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) to improve logistics and

supply chain management, especially regarding the vaccination programme. The agency conducted several assessments, including a COVID-19 vaccination needs assessment, a health facilities cold chain assessment, a warehouse and cold room storage conditions assessment, a health products supply chain assessment, an ultra-cold chain equipment assessment, COVID-19 vaccines stock analysis, a COVID-19 vaccination centre visit and a storage conditions assessment. Gaps and needs were identified, which led to a series of proposed actions and recommendations to the relevant authorities in these areas. Passive cold chain standards operating procedures were developed, and regional hospitals' pharmacists and private clinic managers were trained accordingly.

488,070 RECEIVED THROUGH
VACCINES COVAX*

WHO supported and coordinated the process to elaborate the **National Vaccines Deployment Plan (NVDP)** for COVID-19. WHO contributed to setting up a robust framework that enabled the Government of Mauritius to:

- Design strategies for the deployment, implementation and monitoring of the COVID-19 vaccine(s) in the Republic of Mauritius
- Introduce and deploy COVID-19 vaccines on a phased basis
- Ensure that country strategies, activities planned and related financing were adequately aligned to the current national COVID-19 recovery and response and support plans, and integrated into national governance mechanisms

An updated **COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan** was developed by the Ministry of Health and Wellness, in collaboration with WHO, following the resurgence of new local COVID-19 cases in March 2021 and, subsequently, Delta cases within the local community. New measures were taken to re-organize the screening process to handle contacts and positive cases. The importance of the vaccination roll-out, the high rate of comorbidities amongst the Mauritian population, and the handling of persons with disabilities have also been taken into consideration in the elaboration of the revised Plan.



To further support the Government of Mauritius's COVID-19 response, UNDP contributed a total of US\$2 million to purchase COVID-19 vaccines for the Mauritian population through the **COVAX facility**.

UNDP provided technical support to secure an **Electronic Laboratory Information System**, which adheres to the WHO guidelines in response to the Ministry of Health and Wellness's need to scale up its capacity to process a higher number of COVID-19 tests on a daily basis and to provide for timely and effective reporting capability. In collaboration with the UNDP Global Centre for Technology, Innovation and Sustainable Development the **OpenELIS software**, based on open-source software, was made available to the Ministry of Health and Wellness through a repository for digital tools. The software has now been customized to provide for a flexible COVID-19 test catalogue; batch process bio-samples; and generate barcodes for improved printing and reporting capabilities. The government plans to upgrade the system into a **National Laboratory Management System** available to all public hospitals and medical centres for overall health system strengthening.

Additionally, two financing agreements were signed between the Ministry of Health and Wellness and UNDP under the **Support to Resilience through Digital Transformation and Capacity Development Project** and for the expansion of the **Laboratory Information Management System** at Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport and the Central Health Laboratory Network.

Under these agreements, UNDP supported:

- the supply, installation, testing and commissioning of armoured cables at Victoria Hospital
- the procurement and installation of a 500 litre autoclave for the treatment of healthcare waste
- the legal drafting of a Digital Health Law
- the establishment of the COVID-19 Laboratory Information Management System through an open-source software with the help of the University of Washington Department of Global Health

One of the components of the Agreement is the development of a **Passenger Laboratory Information Management System** to ease health data capture and diseases surveillance in the context of COVID-19. In this regard, a Digital Public Health **Passenger Locator Form** has been developed.

* Including donated, allocated and facilitated doses through COVAX. Source: UNICEF's COVID-19 Vaccine Market Dashboard.

PILLAR 2: PROMOTE SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

FOCUS ON

- ▶ SOCIAL PROTECTION AND BASIC SERVICE
- ▶ SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

SPF OUTCOME

- ▶ QUALITY, INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND SKILLING
- ▶ SOCIAL PROTECTION AND GENDER EQUALITY

Through the joint efforts of UNFPA, UNDP and IOM to leave no one behind, **micro-level socio-economic impact assessments** were conducted focusing on the socio-economic impact of the crisis. Impacts were assessed on livelihoods, employment, and access to social services among the vulnerable and marginalized in communities, including people living with disabilities and migrants and other mobile populations such as asylum seekers, refugees, and stateless persons. These studies were intended to gauge the crisis's impact on migrants, displaced populations, and host communities in terms of their financial and socio-economic well-being and post-crisis recovery and development. Multi-sectoral and multi-partner coordination mechanisms were set up to facilitate information exchange between stakeholders and coordination of next steps to ensure no person is left behind.

IOM completed a **rapid assessment of the socio-economic impacts** of the COVID-19 pandemic on migration management in Mauritius in 2021. The assessment is part of IOM's support to the Government of Mauritius and is funded by the European Union in the framework of the Southern Africa Migration Management project. The Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) report highlighted the **well-managed response of the government** with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic and underlined a number of socio-economic impacts on migration management and migrants in the country. The study findings have been shared with the Government of Mauritius and are expected to serve as **inputs for policymaking**



©Vashish Sookrah

to strengthen the response to the pandemic, better manage migration, and ensure safe, orderly, and dignified migration.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNAIDS contributed to **equipment distribution**, including 500 boxes of bleach, masks, and 250 boxes of soap during the second lockdown in Mauritius to protect key vulnerable persons against COVID-19. **Hygiene packs** were distributed to NGOs PILS and AILES in Mauritius.

UNDP partnered with the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare and Social Welfare, the Australian High Commission, the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office and UN Women to document **women's COVID-19 stories in Mauritius**. The UNDP Mauritius **"Gendered Voices" Newsletter** draws on women's experiences during the confinement period and in the wake of the 'new normal' to highlight the gendered implications of COVID-19 in Mauritius. It also aims to illustrate the intersectionality of women's identities and experiences, to contribute to our understanding of effective policy responses,

and to add to the echo of their voices. Additionally, UNDP supported the High Level Committee on the Elimination of Gender Based Violence to formulate the National Strategy and Action Plan on the Elimination of GBV (2019-2024).

PILLAR 3: SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND EARLY RECOVERY PLANNING

FOCUS ON

- ▶ PROTECTING JOBS, SMES, AND VULNERABLE PRODUCTIVE ACTORS
- ▶ MACROECONOMIC MONITORING AND FORECASTING ACTIVITIES

SPF OUTCOME

- ▶ SPF OUTCOME TRANSFORMED BUSINESSES
- ▶ SPF OUTCOME OCEAN ECONOMY AND TOURISM

Three digitalization projects were implemented financed jointly by UNDP and the government



An **Electronic Document Management System** (eDMS) on a pilot basis at the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms. The eDMS is a single repository to be used to organize, share, retrieve, reuse, and manage documents. Based on the outcome of this pilot project, the system will be replicated and deployed to all ministries and departments



A **Parliamentary Electronic Document Management System** to be used as a central repository to store and manage critical documents and electronic voting facilities relating to the Sitting of the National Assembly



Automation of the **Data Capture Process** at the Registrar General Department to electronically process and record documents

Acknowledging that market intelligence has become increasingly important in planning and management of the tourism industry and to provide decision-makers and the tourism sector with data and insights for better planning and management, the UNWTO created a **Tourism Market Intelligence System**. Understanding consumer trends and behaviour, monitoring change in demand and supply patterns is critical to ensure the sector's competitiveness, resilience, and sustainability. The impact of COVID-19 on tourism has accelerated the need for comprehensive, reliable, and up-to-date tourism market intelligence that supports the recovery of the sector and its future planning.

In addition, the PAGE Green recovery project, comprising United Nations agencies UNEP, ILO, UNIDO, UNDP and UNITAR, was launched to support COVID-19 recovery efforts in Mauritius. The project produced a green job macro-economic modelling with a focus on agro-food sectors and on impacts of economic stimulus, the findings of which are guiding further engagement and capacity building with the finance, environment, labour, and agriculture ministries. This will support the transition to a more sustainable, resilient food system in Mauritius through improved knowledge and capacity of policymakers and key stakeholders across the agro-food value chain. Additionally, 2020 beneficiaries of the Operation CoSHARE were provided with technical assistance and capacity building to revise operational guidance and regulations for the hospitality sector as well as the food production supply chain to reduce environmental impacts and effectively implement COVID-19 safety control measures to enable businesses to re-open and trade safely and responsibly.

2.4 SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIP AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA



Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires a paradigm shift from the usual siloed approach to one that promotes effective and inclusive partnerships. This will require that we build at national, regional and international level *“collaborative relations between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and, as mutually agreed, to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits”*¹¹.

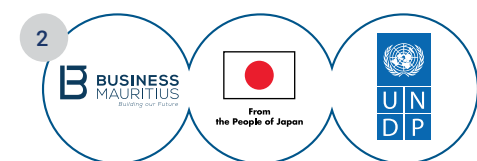
As countries recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, collaborative and effective partnerships are needed between stakeholders across all sectors to contain the spread of the virus but also to build back better.

INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS IN ADVANCING EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE AGENDA 2030 / THE SDGS



The UNDP in Mauritius catalysed a unique **collaboration between public, private and international organizations with financial assistance from the Government of Japan to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the business community in Mauritius**. Building on the expertise of Business Mauritius and Statistics Mauritius, this assessment provided Mauritian entrepreneurs and the private sector with much insight on how to recover from the crisis and rebuild. Moreover, it has also promoted an evidence-based dialogue between

the private sector and the Government and will inform businesses and the regulatory environment on the most effective way forward.



The concept of circular economy – an economy in which waste and pollution do not exist by design, products and materials are kept in use, and natural systems are regenerated¹² – can accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The circular economy can help countries achieve multiple SDGs, including SDGs 6 on energy, 8 on economic growth, 11 on sustainable cities, 12 on sustainable consumption and production, 13 on climate change, 14 on oceans, and 15 on life on land. However, this transition from a linear to a circular economy will require a joint effort by all the concerned stakeholders. In 2021, **UNDP partnered with Business Mauritius, with financial support from the Government of Japan, to analyse the opportunities for private sector investment in Mauritius** as well as the policy and regulatory environment to catalyse this transition.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS LEVERAGED FOR FINANCING SDG ACHIEVEMENT



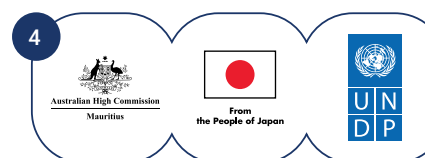
Achieving the SDGs requires both the participation and contribution of all relevant stakeholders. As key actors in the socio-economic development of countries, the private sector has often been heralded as a major catalyst of the impetus needed to achieve Agenda 2030. In 2021, the UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme mobilized funding from the **Mauritius Commercial Bank Forward Foundation (MCBFF) to improve agricultural land resilience through nature-based solutions and support the farmers' community** in Mauritius. The MCBFF manages the MCB Group Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities effectively and efficiently.



Building on the support provided to the Government of Mauritius to increase the deployment of renewable energy in the country, **UNDP has collaborated with the British High Commission and the Australian High Commission in Mauritius to build capacity on the island to support this sector**. In collaboration with the Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency, the British High Commission is sponsoring renewables energy courses for unemployed engineering graduates, technicians and registered professional engineers. Similarly, the Australian High Commission will be supporting the delivery of technical training on renewable energy and entrepreneurship skills for women and women entrepreneurs.



In preparation for the 26th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26), **the United Nations in Mauritius mobilized financial support from the Australian High Commission and the British High Commission to strengthen the capacity of public officials in climate diplomacy and negotiation**. At a four-day workshop organized by UNITAR, participants had the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge of previous climate change negotiations, the key expectations and outcomes for COP26, as well as to develop their abilities in priority identification and country position for Mauritius.



Although there has been much progress in Mauritius regarding gender equality in recent years, many challenges remain exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The UNDP has leveraged, in 2021, financial support from the Australian High Commission and the Government of Japan to strengthen responses to gender-based violence promote gender equality and women empowerment in support of the country's effort in achieving SDG. Through support from the

Australian High Commission and collaboration with the Ministry of Gender Equality, an animated cartoon on gender equality was produced to raise awareness about the root cause of gender equality and to challenge gender dynamics in the country. Moreover, with the collaboration of UN Women, a Policy Priority Paper on the gendered implications of COVID-19 in Mauritius was developed. Similarly, with the support of the Government of Japan, an economic empowerment programme for GBV survivors was carried out, equipping beneficiaries with skills and tools to start up their businesses.

SOUTH-SOUTH PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE AGENDA 2030



Through the SWITCH Africa Green Project, funded by the European Union, UNEP has catalysed a **partnership between institutions in Mauritius and Ghana on the development of biogas production in Mauritius**. As such, building on their experience and expertise in the biogas sector, institutions in Ghana have demonstrated and provided technical support to Mauritian authorities on the testing of biogas as a source for alternative energy, thereby contributing to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

¹¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/about>

¹² <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-economy>

2.5 RESULTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS WORKING TOGETHER

THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR'S LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION OF MORE COHERENT AND EFFICIENT UNITED NATIONS INTERVENTIONS TO SUPPORT MAURITIUS ACHIEVE THE SDGS

In 2021, implementation of United Nations Development System reform in Mauritius continued to increase the visibility, coherence, and synergies of engagement with the government and development partners to support achievement of the SDGs and the African Union's Agenda 2063 - commitment to support Africa's new path for attaining inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development. In Mauritius, of 18 United Nations agencies contributing to the SPF outcomes, only three (WHO, IOM, UNDP) have a physical presence with the head of the agency in the country. Despite this, the Resident Coordinator (RC) and the RC's Office (RCO) continued to engage both resident and non-resident United Nations agencies by organizing virtual United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings and personally attending interagency working group meetings. United Nations agencies, especially those without physical presence, increasingly appreciated the support they receive from the RC and RCO to reach out to government line ministries and other sectoral stakeholders. Significantly, the RCO premises is currently hosting liaison officers for United Nations entities participating to the SPF but that do not have a physical presence in Mauritius, namely UNODC, Global Compact and – in the future – UNFPA.

BETTER AND MORE COHERENT UNITED NATIONS JOINT PROGRAMMING, TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE SPF

Leveraging her convening power, the RC coordinated joint initiatives bringing together different United Nations agencies for increased coherence in delivering the SPF. In this regard the RC and RCO supported the **Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)**, a



joint initiative bringing together five United Nations agencies – UN Environment, ILO, UNDP, UNIDO and UNITAR – to provide integrated and holistic support to Mauritius on inclusive green economy, ensuring coherence and avoiding duplication. Leveraging the United Nations agencies' comparative advantage and knowledge expertise, the RCO coordinated a joint technical initiative by **UNDESA and UNITAR with the Government of Mauritius, producing analytical work on policy coherence post COVID-19**, that links short-term to longer-term development towards achieving the SDGs.

Despite the COVID-19 restrictions, the RC successfully organized a very successful UNCT retreat which was attended by the Prime Minister of Mauritius, the private sector, development partners, and other stakeholders for an overall attendance of more than 70 people. The UNCT annual retreat provided an opportunity to take stock of the previous year's performance, discuss emerging key priorities with key stakeholders, and share views on supporting the government and the communities to recover better.

In 2021, under the leadership of the RC and support from DCO, the UNCT participated in the "SDG Leadership lab" to enhance holistic collaboration among United Nations entities towards achieving the SDGs. As a result, strong bonds and commitment were established among UNCT and Programme Management Team (PMT) members who become

more engaged and more knowledgeable of the importance of working together, further enhancing the joint efforts of the PMT to support the ongoing Common Country Analysis (CCA). The CCA report will generate knowledge that will be critical for the development of the next United Nations Cooperation Framework 2024-2029.

Under the Leadership of the RC, the United Nations supported initiatives around blue and green bonds and private sector engagement through Business Mauritius, and Global Compact. The RC also coordinated efforts of UN agencies, UNFPA, UNDP, ILO, UNEP, UNECA, IOM to jointly elaborate the SDG fund proposal and initiated discussions on how to support the country to develop the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) for financing the SDGs. The Convening power of the RC, coordination support provided to UN agencies has greatly contributed to UN agencies working together with more coherence and a more that is highly appreciated by the Government and other Development Partners. The PMT coordinated the elaboration and integration into the UNCT Joint Work Plans (JWPs). The JWPs have been fully uploaded into UNINFO to ensure real-time monitoring and reporting of the Cooperation Framework results.

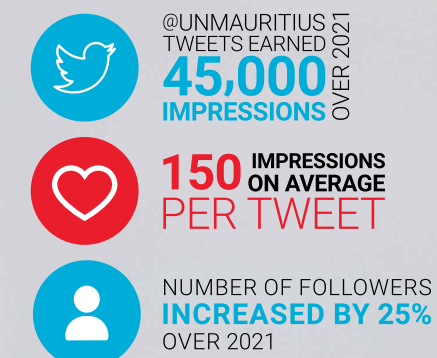
INCREASED EFFICIENCY

In collaboration with the United Nations Development Coordination Office, the RC supported the UNCT and the Operations Management Team to elaborate and implement the Business Operation Strategy (BOS) for Mauritius, which includes harmonized business operations for increased effectiveness and efficiencies. The BOS identified five key areas of working together (Common administration services and including common Facilities/Premises, Common Procurement services, Common Human Resources services, Common ICT services. Using established long-term agreements is contributing to supporting programmes to achieve planned results quicker and with better quality. The following United Nations agencies are participating in the Mauritius BOS: UNDP, WHO, UN, IOM. Furthermore, the UNCT completed the common premises stock take, noting that three agencies are already in a United Nations common premises.

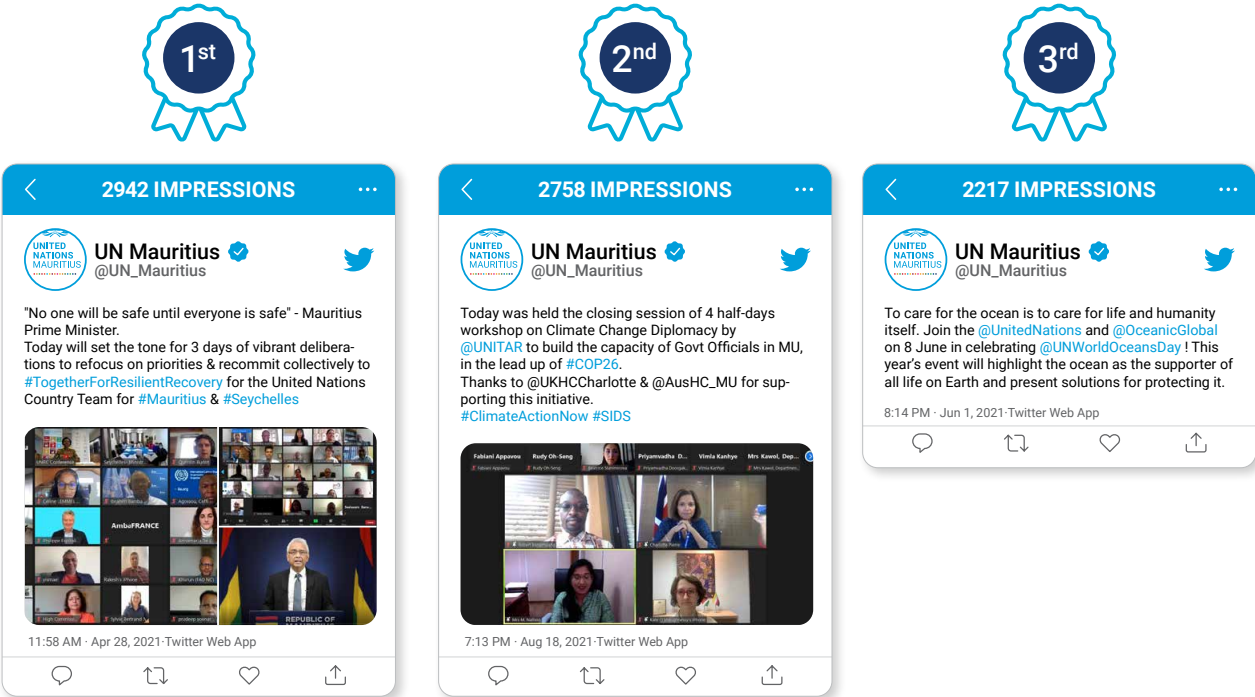
COMMUNICATING AND ADVOCATING AS ONE

In the spirit of promoting joint communications and advocacy initiatives amongst the UNCT a United Nations Partnership and Communication Group (UNPCG) for Mauritius and Seychelles was established this year. The group has representatives from the UNCT, who are responsible for either the communications role in their respective agency or have been designated communication focal point. The group aims to ensure a collaborative and inclusive approach towards partnerships, resource mobilization and communication within the UNCT and with key partners; and to engage in advocacy and communication activities to promote the visibility of the Cooperation Framework process and results, SDGs and other development agendas. UNPCG meets quarterly, with additional focused meetings as necessary. A key output for 2021 was the production of the first multi-year Joint UNCT Communications Strategy and work plan. Throughout the year the UNCT collaborated on various international days with lead agencies initiating videos, social media campaigns and organizing workshops and webinars for other agencies' inputs and support. To date these collaborations have been ad hoc, but the new Joint UNCT Communications Strategy will enable forward planning for more targeted collective engagement with allocated resources. The UNCT website for Mauritius United Nations in Mauritius is now active. Internal communication channels are being strengthened to ensure the United Nations agencies provide fresh and relevant content. Through the United Nations' websites we look forward to showcasing the impact of the United Nations' work in Mauritius.

OUR PRESENCE ON SOCIAL MEDIA



TOP 3 TWEETS OF 2021



2.6 EVALUATION AND LESSONS LEARNED

Despite several challenges, the United Nations made collective efforts around 15 SPF outputs through more than 100 activities and programmes.

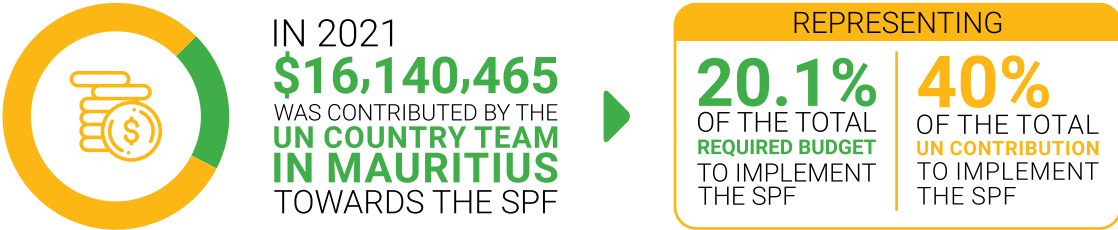
COVID-19 remained one of the biggest challenges in 2021. COVID-related restrictions have limited the number of activities carried out in 2021. Indeed, the pandemic created delays and cancellation of activities like face-to-face training and workshops, international recruitment and international purchasing, and sensitization campaigns (because of the closure of schools and community centres). The number of participants per training event and capacity-building session had to be reduced due to 'physical distancing' limitation. However, this is expected to change in 2022, as the country opens up to travel and physical meetings thanks to successful vaccination campaigns.

Another significant challenge faced by United Nations is the non-physical presence in Mauritius of 80 per cent of our agencies. This situation considerably reduces contact opportunities and generates delays in communication between United Nations agencies and implementing partners. To remedy this issue, several agencies – such as UNFPA and UNEP – have decided to either recruit local staff members or to set up country focal points mechanisms to represent their agencies in the various UNCTs to enhance their support to the RCs and the governments and to reduce the limitations caused by the non-resident status.

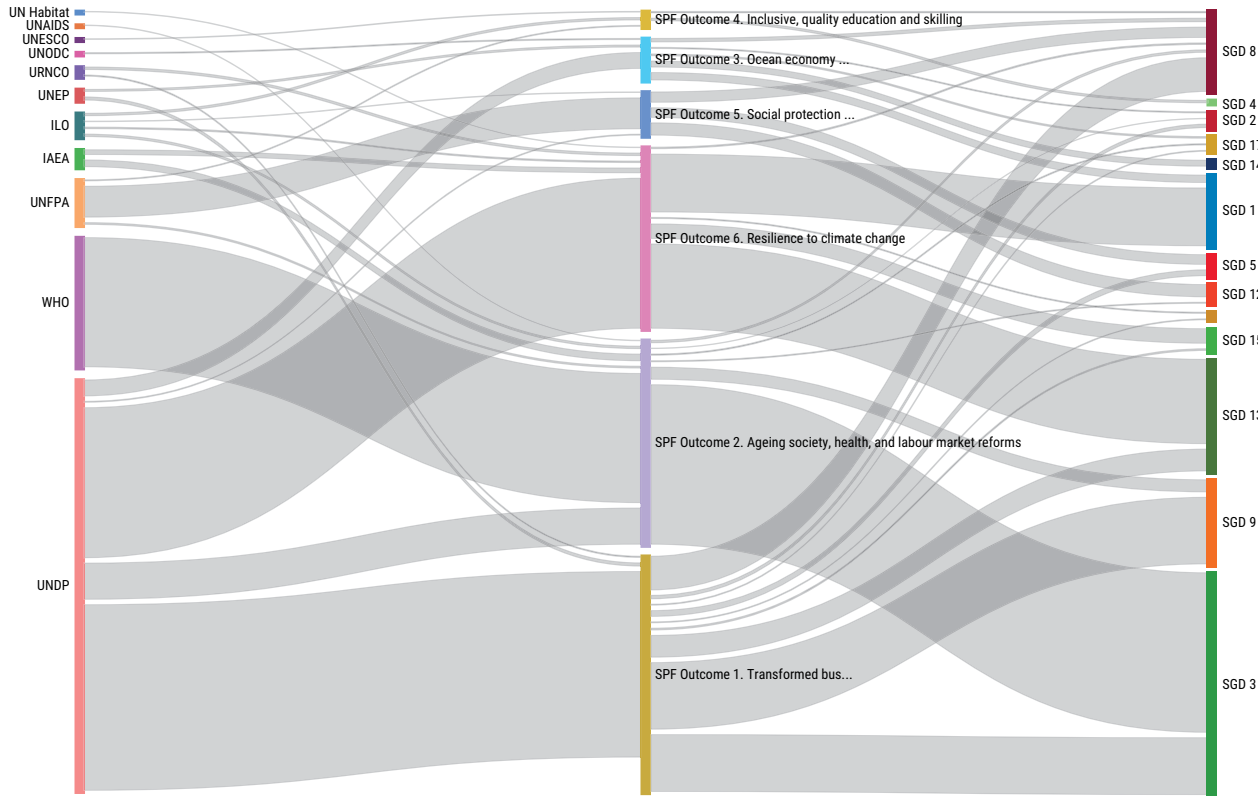
Our agencies have also highlighted inadequacy of data to effectively adapt to the government's needs and monitor economic and social landscape changes. Moreover, the high turnover of government officials in the civil service in Mauritius also makes it challenging to enhance the capacity of Mauritius' national mechanism for reporting and follow up in a sustainable way because of the new composition.

2.7 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

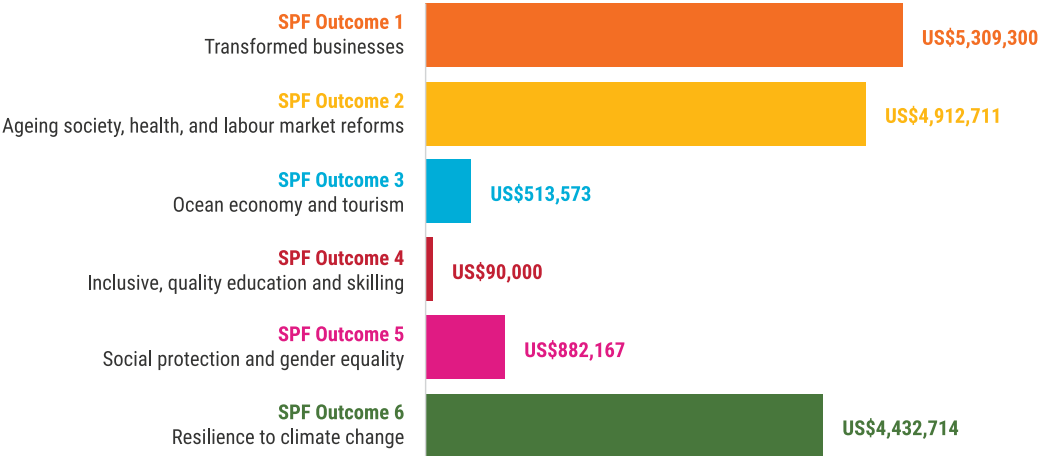
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



EXPENDITURE BY SOURCE AND TARGET

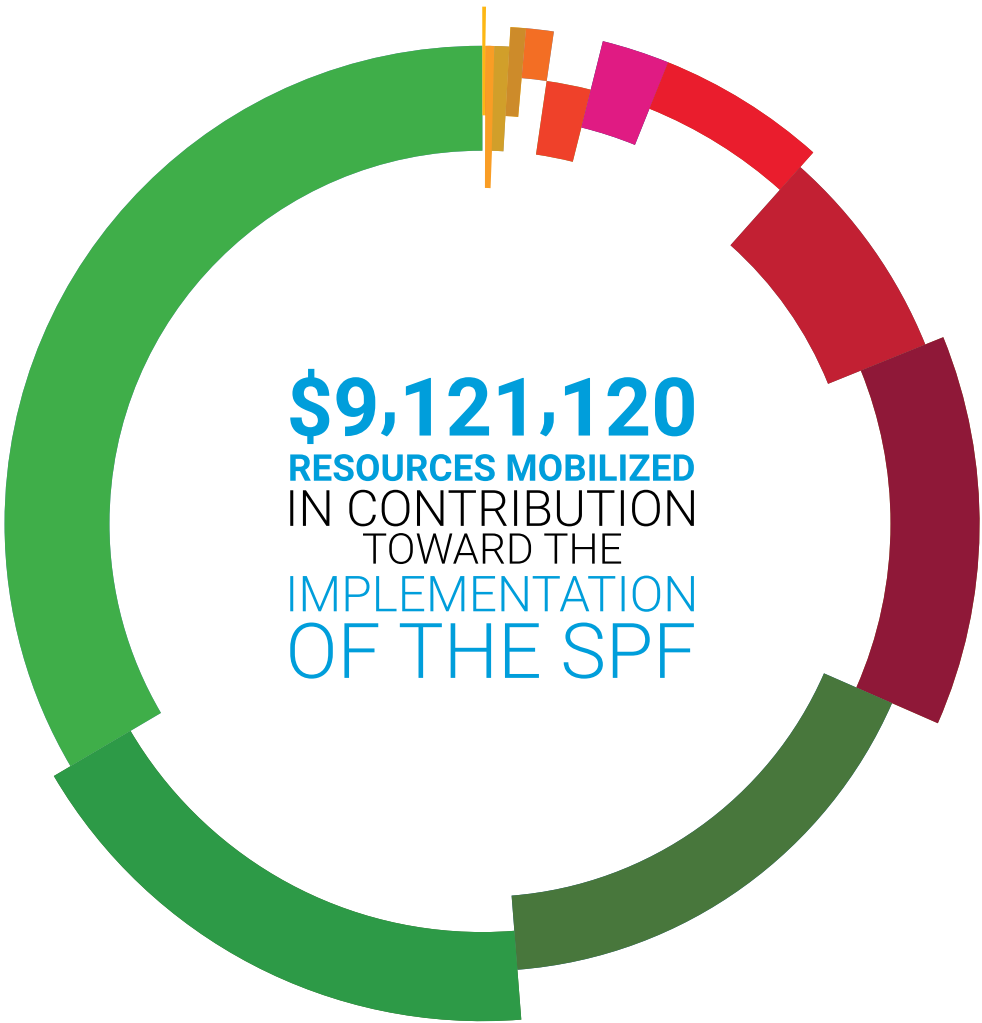


CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2021 BY STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS OF THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK



RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

In 2021, the United Nations Country Team in Mauritius mobilized resources from the government, development partners and Multilateral Funds to finance



GOVT OF MAURITIUS	US\$3,051,276.13	EUROPEAN UNION	US\$199,938.60
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY	US\$1,623,747.88	MCB FORWARD FOUNDATION	US\$48,796.56
GREEN CLIMATE FUND	US\$1,570,060.00	UN WAKASHIO RECOVERY FUND	US\$83,400.00
GOVT OF JAPAN	US\$1,162,277.00	AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION	US\$42,921.60
ADAPTATION FUND	US\$627,700.00	UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT FUND	US\$25,652.47
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AfDB)	US\$500,000.00	BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION	US\$5,350.00
GOVT OF GERMANY (INCLUDING PAGE)	US\$145,000.00		

UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR 2022

I. THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR WILL LAUNCH THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK EVALUATION

To better prepare for the next Cooperation Framework cycle, which will start in 2023, the RC will launch the **evaluation of the current SPF**, in collaboration with the UNCT. The evaluation exercise is vital for ensuring greater **transparency about the UNCT's achieved results**, promoting joint work and efficiencies, and generating knowledge to inform and improve development programming. The whole exercise usually takes up to nine months and is initiated in the penultimate year of the current framework.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT PROGRAMMES UNDER THE JOINT SDG FUNDS

In order to achieve greater system-wide coherence and efficiency to support national priorities and needs, the UNCT will endeavour to develop and implement joint programmes. Following a Call from the Joint SDG Fund, the UNCT for Mauritius has developed a Joint Programme for Mauritius to support the deployment of **ocean renewable energy** in the country. Bringing together the expertise of ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNECA, UNEP and UNFPA, this Joint Programme will strengthen the policy framework, establish financial mechanisms and build capacity to catalyse public and private sector investments in ocean renewables technologies. This will help the Government achieve its objective of 60 percent use of renewable energy by 2030.

III. PROMOTION OF POLICY COHERENCE

In the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic there is a crucial need for a **holistic and coherent approach** to addressing the complex and multi-dimensional – health, social and economic – consequences of the crisis. As the country recovers from the pandemic,

effective governance and integrated recovery planning are vital for increasing the likelihood and pace of achieving national development objectives and the SDGs. In 2022 the United Nations in Mauritius will continue to support the COVID-19 recovery efforts of the Government of Mauritius by building capacity and strengthening institutional mechanisms to promote policy coherence. This will ensure that key stakeholders have the appropriate tools to catalyse policy synergies and balance policy trade offs, across sectors and between short- and medium-term priorities.

IV. THE UNITED NATIONS WILL SUPPORT THE NATIONAL HOUSING AND POPULATION CENSUS OF MAURITIUS

Statistics Mauritius will conduct the 19th Housing and Population Census in 2022. The Census is the largest single statistical exercise in terms of resources mobilized and staff deployed to be undertaken in the country, and it enables the gathering of information at the lowest area level. This Census round, postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be conducted using Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI) technology with the support of the United Nations and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). The United Nations consultancy will provide technical guidance and oversight with the design and development of the CAPI applications as well as the setting up of information technology infrastructure and data quality control measures. For the South-South partnership, the Government of Kenya, through the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, will loan some 8,000 tablets and related accessories. Some of the main results of the Census are expected to be available as early as August 2022.



© Government Information Services, Mauritius

ACRONYMS

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Agreement
AFD	Agence Française de Développement
AfDB	African Development Bank
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IORA	Indian Ocean Rim Association
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PAGE	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SERP	Socio Economic Response Plan
SIDS	Small Island Developing State
SME	Small to Medium-Size Enterprise
SPF	Strategic Partnership Framework
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
WHO	World Health Organization

2021 UN Country Annual Results Report MAURITIUS

March 2022



UNITED NATIONS
MAURITIUS



DECADE
OF
ACTION



mauritius.un.org



[@UN_Mauritius](https://twitter.com/UN_Mauritius)