

Evaluation of the Government of Seychelles & United Nations Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) 2019-2023

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VOLUME I: MAIN REPORT





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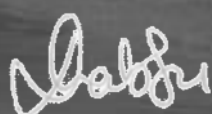
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ARID	Association for Rights, Information and Democracy
ART	Anti-Retroviral Treatment
AU	African Union
BE	Blue Economy
BOP	Balance of Payments
BPoA	Beijing Platform of Action
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CBD	Convention of Biological Diversity
CCPAS	Climate Change Policy Assessment of Seychelles
CDR	Commitment to Reducing Inequality
CDWC	Citizens Democracy Watch Seychelles
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEPS	Citizens Engagement Platform, Seychelles
CIP	Climate Investment Platform
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CPAGE	Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality
CPD	Country Programme Document
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
DaO	Delivering as One
DFID	Department for International Development
DoICT	Department of Information, Communication and Technology
DoH	Department of Health
EBA	Ecosystem Based Adaptation
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EDB	Economic Development Board
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
ESC	Evaluation Steering Committee
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAFP	Forestry and Agro Forestry Policy
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
GANHRI	Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GER	Global Compact on Refugees
GERD	Gross Domestic Expenditure on R&D
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
GHSI	Global Health Security Index
GIE	Gender Inequality Index
GoS	Government of Seychelles
HDI	Human Development Index
HDR	Human Development Report
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAR	Intrac-Action Review
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDU	Intravenous Drug Users
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organisation for Migration

IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KBA_s	Key Biodiversity Areas
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MAF	Management Accountability Framework
MoACCE	Ministry of Agriculture Climate Change and Environment
MoESA	Ministry for Employment and Social Affairs
MoF	Ministry of Fisheries
MoFNPT	Ministry of Finance, National Planning & Trade
MoFAT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MoLGCA	Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs
MPA_s	Marine Protected Areas
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
MSM	Men who have sex with Men
MSME_s	Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
MSP	Marine Spatial Plan
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
NA	National Assembly
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NDC	New Building Code
NDS	National Development Strategy
NFNSP	National Food and Nutrition Security Policy
NFPL	National Forestry Policy and Legislation
NGO_s	Non-Governmental Organisations
NHRI	National Human Rights Institutions
NISTI	National Institute of Science, Technology and Innovation
NLM PAP	National Labour Migration Policy and Action Plan
NRTD	National Recommendations Tracking Database
ODA	Official Direct Assistance
OECD-DAC	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development – Development Assistance Committee
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OMT	Operations Management Team
OoP	Office of the President
PCG	Programme Communication Group
PCU	Programme Coordinating Unit
PMT	Programme Management Team
PUC	Public Utilities Corporation
PV	Photovoltaic System
RCO	Regional Coordinators Office
RCOC	Regional Coordination Operations Centre
REEFISH	Project aimed at understanding the ecological and evolutionary processes shaping fish biodiversity in coral reefs
RISDP	Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAMOA	Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway
SC	Steering Committee
SCG	Seychelles Coast Guard
SDG_s	Sustainable Development Goals
SEC	Seychelles Energy Commission
SeyCCAT	Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust
SETS	Seychelles Employee Transition Scheme

SIDS	Small island Development State
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound
SMSP	Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan
SNAIP	Seychelles National Agricultural Investment Plan
SP	Seychelles Police
SPDF	Seychelles People's Defence Force
SPF	Strategic Partnership Framework
SPGA	Seychelles Parks and Garden Authority
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
SWIOFish3	Third South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
ToC	Theory of Change
ToRs	Terms of Reference
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UN	United Nations
UN CCA	UN Common Country Analysis
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNWTO	Voluntary National Review
VAWG_s	Violence Against Women and Girls
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WHO	World Health Organisation
WIOMSA	Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Introduction: The Government of Seychelles (GoS) and the United Nations (UN) jointly signed the first 'Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) 2019-2023: Securing Human Development for Generations' on 30th August 2018. The SPF consolidated the work of the UN system in a single coherent strategy providing a platform for common policy work, strong coordination of programmes and timely delivery of results. The SPF had 5 outcomes (78 outcome indicators and 54 outputs) across the four strategic priority areas namely: i) Economic Transformation; ii) Environmental Sustainability and Resilience; iii) Human Capital Development and Data Development; and iv) Science, Technology and Innovation Development. In line with the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards for Evaluation (2021) guidelines, the GoS and UN commissioned an independent evaluation of the Seychelles SPF (2019-2023). The **purpose** of the evaluation was to assess the achievements and progress made against planned results and in particular to make recommendations for the development of the successor SPF. The **overarching objectives** of the evaluation of the SPF were to: i) ensure accountability of UN entities to stakeholders; ii) provide lessons learned, deliver clear recommendations to support the next SPF cycle and ensure accelerated progress towards SDGs; and iii) serve decision makers at all levels by providing a transparent and participatory platform for learning and dialogue with stakeholders with respect to national progress, challenges and opportunities, and best practices in the context of system-wide response. The primary users of this evaluation would include: UNCT, UN resident and non-resident agencies, government, civil society and other stakeholders. The data collection methods included extensive desk review, online interviews and physical data collection in Seychelles. An independent Consultant firm Primson Management Services (PMS) with a team of international and national consultants was commissioned to undertake the evaluation of the SPF over a period of 6 months stretching between September 2022 to the March 2023.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

RELEVANCE AND ADAPTABILITY: The Seychelles SPF was strongly aligned to national development priorities and SDGs: The Seychelles SPF 2019-2023 was relevant to development priorities. The plan's four (4) strategic priority areas were informed by relevant national documents such as i) national development priorities and aspirations as outlined in the Seychelles Vision 2032 and National Development Strategy (NDS) 2019 – 2023; ii) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and iii) the country's human rights commitments and other internationally agreed development goals and treaty obligations, including the Samoa Pathway and the Africa Agenda 2063. The UN in Seychelles working closely with government adapted to the unforeseen negative impact of Covid-19 and were able to continue implementing the SPF with a slower pace.

COHERENCE: The Results Framework for the Seychelles SPF 2019-2023 was moderately robust and supported by a Theory of Change. The results of the evaluability assessment for the Seychelles at the beginning of the evaluation process showed that the SPF was not evaluable. The outcome indicators lacked baseline and target figures. To make the SPF evaluable, an extensive desk review was conducted to construct the baselines and targets. Despite this shortfall, the SPF was supported by a Theory of Change. Most of the outputs were not clearly linked to the outcome indicators. Alignment of UN programmes to elements of the results framework in the SPF was relatively weak but the UN programmes were strongly linked to the national development priorities. Fewer UN agencies directly used the outputs contained in the SPF as most preferred to use their agency results frameworks. Most UN Agencies were thinly spread across the five outcomes thereby weakening focus, impact and prioritisation of their core mandates. Distribution of UN agencies across the five outcome areas and also feedback from consultations with some UN agencies suggested relatively weak prioritisation on who was supposed to do what in the five outcome areas. The results suggested the need for prioritisation of areas of focus that are determined by the agencies core mandates and comparative advantage.

EFFECTIVENESS: The UN in Seychelles successfully implemented their maiden SPF. The evaluation analyzed the performance of planned outcomes and outputs across the five outcome areas. The evaluation noted dearth of monitoring data for the planned results. The following are the performance ratings for the 5 outcome areas.

Outcome Areas	Performance Ratings
Outcome 1: By 2023, the Seychelles economy will be diversified and provides varying investment opportunities in the blue economy	Satisfactory 
Outcome 2: By 2023, the population, especially most vulnerable, has increased agricultural productivity, food and nutrition security and enhanced livelihood opportunities	Not Achieved 
Outcome 3: By 2023, national, sub-national, and community levels have enhanced capacity for sustainable management of natural resources and the environment to mitigate and cope	Good Progress 
Outcome 4: By 2023, the population of Seychelles, especially women, children, youth, vulnerable and high-risk groups, have increased access to quality, integrated healthcare, education and services that safeguard and promote quality of life	Satisfactory 
Outcome 5: By 2023, Government has robust data, science, technology and innovation to support inclusive socio-economic development	Good Progress 

Key: Indicator Performance Rating:

● Achieved ● Good Progress Made ● Satisfactory ● Not Achieved ● No information

EFFICIENCY: Overall the UN in Seychelles efficiently managed the delivery of the SPF. The OMT has developed the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) to address issues of efficiency in the UN system. However, not every agency was participating in Seychelles BOS. Albeit this, where it was possible, the findings revealed that joint UN programmes involving more than two UN agencies contributed to efficiency and reduction of transactional costs and duplication of activities. To a large extent, the UN in Seychelles applied the UN **normative frameworks/programming** guidelines on results-focused, partnership, coherent policy support, capacity building and risk-informed programming as well as the programming principles (LNOB, Human Rights, GEWE, accountability and use of quality data) across the five outcome areas. Nonetheless, the evaluation observed the absence of timely and updated statistical data and information to inform performance of SPF results framework.

Delivering as One (DaO): Despite Seychelles sharing the same UNCT with another country (Mauritius) and the fact that over 80 percent of the UN agencies were non-resident, the UN in Seychelles had begun to operationalise the DaO principles through the RC and the local UN Coordination Office under the RCO established in 2021. Key achievements included: i) UNCT Retreat with Entire Seychelles Government in 2022; ii) joint UN support towards COVID-19 Fight, and iii), although not yet systematic, common resource (office space, vehicles and communication) utilization among UN agencies. Nonetheless, the findings identified the need for more systematic and deliberate joint programming planning, implementation, and monitoring among programme staff to further actualise DaO principles.

COORDINATION: Given the country context (fewer resident UN agencies in the Seychelles), the UN effectively coordinated the delivery of the SPF. The few structures available (PMT, OMT, UNPCG) were relatively very effective on delivery of multiple roles. However, there was for the country to establish a Monitoring and Evaluation Group. Through the leadership of the RC the UNCT in Seychelles successfully developed and implemented her maiden CF. There is evidence of a functional RC system executing its mandate as provided for in the UNSDG guidelines.

Management Accountability Framework (MAF); There was evidence of a functional RC system executing its mandate as provided in the UNSDG guidelines. RC's leadership of the UNCT and engagement with host government and other stakeholder was evident. However, regularity of monthly UNCT meetings is an area requiring attention.

LESSONS LEARNT

The implementation of the SPF generated many lessons that are critical for the remaining part of period (2023) as well as the development of the successor CF. The following are the main lessons:

Lesson 1 – Health Security a Priority: The COVID-19 response raised the importance of health security and enabled a collective view of pandemics as a threat to national security. As a result, the successor CF should include a built-in emergency response component supported by sufficient resources.

Lesson 2 - Non-physical presence of most UN Agencies in Seychelles (95% of Agencies) limit opportunities for joint programmes and coordination: The situation considerably reduced contact opportunities and generated delays in communication by UN agencies and implementing partners. To remedy this situation, some UN agencies opted for employment of local staff or recruitment of focal staff to represent them and oversee implementation of their programmes.

Lesson 3 - Inadequate data to effectively adapt to government needs: The high turnover of Seychelles government officials, presented a huge challenge in enhancing institutional capacities for reporting on implementation of the SPF.

Lesson 4 – Sustainability of SPF Results: To promote sustainability, it is imperative to strengthen post-implementation monitoring and maintenance arrangements prior to project completion and the hand-over of facilities. The absence of a clear hand-over exit strategy for the programme could potentially limit meaningful country ownership of support from the programme.

Lesson 5- Meaningful Engagement of Private Sector and CSO Vital: Non-involvement of the private sector at all stages of the programme design planning, launching, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, may in turn limit participation and benefit of vulnerable groups. When the private sector is meaningfully involved, they are more likely to effectively contribute toward the achievement of set SPF targets with the Government and UN able to closely monitor their contribution.

Lesson 6 -Non-Completion of SPF results framework indicator data. This in some cases made some variables non-evaluable. As much as 90% of the results framework outcome indicators lacked either baseline or end line data.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are informed by a systematic analysis of the emerging results of the evaluation against the TORs as well as suggestions generated during consultations with stakeholders who included i) UN Agencies; ii) Government; iii) Private Sector and iv) CSOs.

RELEVANCE AND ADAPTABILITY

- i. The successor SPF should consider continuing to align the development of SPF to national, regional and global development priorities that are relevant to the Seychelles.

COHERENCE

- i. The design of successor CF, should consider wider consultation of all stakeholders in order to increase ownership and buy in of the provisions of the CF.
- ii. The preparation of the successor CF should consider evaluability and therefore ensure that the results framework is populated with baseline and target values.
- iii. The successor CF should consider the development of a robust ToC that is supported by visual presentations showing pathways of change.
- iv. The UN agencies should be encouraged to develop their country programmes after the development of the SPF. This would enhance coherence of programmes in the country.

EFFECTIVENESS

- i. There is need to coordinate all stakeholders (Government, Private Sector, CSOs and UN Agencies) for planning for the successor CF by end March 2023 in order to increase effective delivery of the planned results of the CF;
- ii. The RCO staff should facilitate training of all CF stakeholders (Government, CSOs, Private Sector and UN agencies. This could enhance better generation and tracking of planned results;
- iii. Consider full utilisation of UNINFO in order to track progress on the implementation of the SPF; and
- iv. The RCO should consider the popularisation of the content of the SPF for buy-in and joint implementation by all stakeholder.

EFFICIENCY

- i. The UN agencies should invest more in supporting institutions (National Bureau of Statistics Seychelles) for the generation of timely monitoring data through the leadership of the RCO; and
- ii. The UNCT and PMT should coordinate the development of a Joint Work Plan with all participating UN Agencies.

Coordination

- i. The existing three coordinating structures (PMT, OMT and UNPCG) should be considered for the successor CF and an additional structure Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation Group to be established; and
- ii. Consider appointment of UN-lead agencies for outcome areas that are co-chaired by relevant government entities for greater ownership and accountability of results.

PART I: INTRODUCTION, COUNTRY CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY

I INTRODUCTION

I.1 Background

The UN and Government of Seychelles (GoS) developed the Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) 2019-2023: [Securing Human Development for Generations](#) to contribute to the attainment of Seychelles' development objectives. Signed on 30th August 2018, the Seychelles SPF 2019 – 2023 was the first strategic cooperation framework between the UN and the GoS and outlined the collective vision and shared response of UN Agencies in the country. In line with the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards for Evaluation (2021) guidelines¹, the GoS and United Nations Country Team (UNCT) for Mauritius and Seychelles commissioned an independent evaluation of the Seychelles SPF 2019-2023. The evaluation was a mandatory system-wide country evaluation that ensured accountability, supported learning, and informed decisions regarding the design of the next [Cooperation Framework \(CF\)](#). The evaluation was grounded in the following principles: i) independence; ii) impartiality; and iii) rigorous methodology. The evaluators consisted of an international and national consultant supported by a quality control expert and project manager from the consulting firm, PMS. The primary users of this evaluation would include UNCT, UN Resident and Non-Resident Agencies², GoS, Civil Society, and other stakeholders with an interest in the results of the evaluation.

I.2 Purpose and Objectives of the Seychelles SPF Evaluation

Purpose of the Evaluation: The purpose of the evaluation was to systematically assess the contributions of the SPF towards the achievement of the country's development priorities, identifying gaps and lessons towards attaining SDGs. The evaluation also [sought to assess](#) the progress made towards implementing the Seychelles SPF 2019-2023, the relevance of the SPF to current and future national contexts and international obligations, and the effectiveness of the management arrangements in place for the implementation of the Cooperation Framework (CF). In addition, the evaluation assessed the extent to which the SPF adhered to the principles of the UN's "Delivering as One" through the coordination of different agencies to exploit their comparative advantages. Further, the evaluation aimed to enhance accountability on the agreed national objectives and countries' priorities. The evaluation sought to inform the preparation of the next Seychelles SPF 2024-2028.

Objectives of the Evaluation: The evaluation was anchored around three main objectives as follows:

- i. To ensure accountability of UN actions to stakeholders in Seychelles.
- ii. To provide lessons learned and deliver clear recommendations to support the next SPF Seychelles cycle and ensure accelerated progress towards the SDGs; and
- iii. To serve decision-making at all levels by providing a transparent and participatory platform for learning and dialogue with stakeholders regarding national progress, challenges and opportunities, and best approaches in the context of the system-wide national response.

I.3 Scope of the Evaluation

The evaluation covered the SPF implementation period from 1 January 2019 to 31 August 2022 and adopted the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development – Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) criterion, which included relevance, effectiveness, coherence, efficiency, coordination, and sustainability, as well as an assessment of the degree to which the implementation of the UN guidelines of gender equality and women empowerment, human rights, non-discrimination, disability inclusion, environmental sustainability, and delivering-as-one were integrated into both the SPF design and implementation. The evaluation assessed the accomplishment of planned results of the CF within the period of the evaluation. The evaluation also sought to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of SPF management structures and to offer recommendations for the remaining period of the implementation of the SPF.

¹ UNEG (2021) Guidelines for the evaluation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

² In Mauritius UN Resident Agencies include UNDP, WHO and IOM while Non-Resident Agencies include: UNFPA, UNEP, UNAIDS, FAO, UNIDO, IAEA, OHCHR, UN WOMEN, ILO, UNODC, UNECA, UNWTO, UN Habitat, UNESCO and IFAD. This suggests limited presence of UN agencies in the country.

Furthermore, the evaluation aimed to assess the relevance of the current Theory of Change (ToC) and propose a revised ToC, if necessary. Five SPF outcomes under the four key pillars of the SPF, namely i) Blue Economy; ii) Agriculture, Livelihoods, Food and National Security; iii) Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change, Mitigation and Resilience; iv) Human Capital Development and Quality of Life; and v) Data Development, Science, Technology and Innovation were the main focus of this evaluation.

Before the data collection exercise, the consultants used the UNSDCF Evaluability Guidelines to conduct a light evaluability assessment of Seychelles SPF³. Further, considering that implementation of the Seychelles SPF was delayed due to the on-set and negative impact of COVID-19, the scope of work also included an analysis of the potential impact of COVID-19 on the implementation and results of the SPF. The evaluation process spanned the period 11 October to the 5th of April 2023.

Uniqueness of the Seychelles CF Evaluation: Seychelles presented a unique country compared to other countries concerning the CF evaluation. The following were some of the unique features to be considered for this evaluation: i) Majority of the UN agencies (over 80 percent) were non-resident, operating from outside the country; ii) Most UN agencies did not have country programs. Instead, their work was within the framework of regional programs; and iii) Seychelles did not have the full range of the traditional structures for coordinating the CF. The methodological approach for evaluating the CF was, therefore, tailor-made to suit the country context. Thus, there were fewer physical one-on-one interviews with UN agencies in-country and more online key informant interviews (KIIs). The evaluators dedicated considerable time to consultations with Government stakeholders. An online all-stakeholder consultation around all outcome areas was facilitated to get a consensus on the outcome areas.

1.4 Structure of Evaluation Report

This report is presented in two (2) parts. The first part comprises 1) an Introduction, Background, Purpose, Objectives, and Scope of the Evaluation; 2) Presents Country Context; 3. Program Context; and 4) Methodological Approach. The second part of the evaluation presents the evaluation findings which include 5) relevance; 6) coherence; 7) effectiveness; 8) efficiency; 9) sustainability; 10) Assessment of SPF structures; 11) normative frameworks; 12) impact of COVID-19; 13) gaps and lessons learned; 14) strategic positioning; 15) conclusions and recommendation.

³ United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) September 2020: Evaluability Assessment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework. 20 September 2020.

2 COUNTRY CONTEXT

Geography and Demography: Seychelles is an archipelagic nation of 115 islands located off the eastern coast of Africa in the Indian Ocean⁴ with a total surface area of 455Km². In addition, the country has an exclusive economic zone of approximately 1.37 million km². The ethnic composition of Seychelles' population is Seychellois Creole 93 percent, British 3 percent, French 1.8 percent, Chinese 0.5 percent, Indian 0.3 percent, and 1.2 percent for others. Christianity is the dominant religion in the country, with up to 82 percent of the population adhering to Roman Catholicism. Hinduism and Islam are practiced by 2 percent and 1 percent of the population, respectively. The Island has no indigenous population, with the current population comprising immigrant generations. Creole is the mother tongue of most Seychellois. The constitution of Seychelles recognizes Creole, English, and French as national languages. Three-quarters of the population live on the main island of Mahe. According to the World Bank and national statistics, the population of Seychelles was 99,728 as of 2021, with females accounting for 48.7 percent of the population⁵. However, the population and housing census completed in June 2022 indicated that the population of Seychelles is 100,447 inhabitants⁶. This represented a growth rate of 0.7 percent from the figure that was recorded in 2020. Of the total population, one-fifth is younger than 15 years, and an additional one-sixth is under age 30. A total of 1,665 births and 925 deaths were registered in 2021. Of the 925 deaths, 18 were infant deaths, and the infant mortality rate stood at 10.8 per thousand live births compared to 11.6 recorded in 2020. The total fertility rate stands at 2.5, and the life expectancy for both sexes is significantly higher than the global average of 74 years. There were 781 births registered in the first half of 2022, of which 410 were males, and 371 were females. Comparatively, the proportion of legitimate births has decreased from 24.2 percent in 2018 to 17.5 percent for the first six months of 2022. The proportion of acknowledged births (where the father has recognized the baby) has increased from 61.9 percent in 2018 to 66.7 percent in the first six months of 2022. The proportion of non-acknowledged births has risen from 13.8 percent in 2018 to 15.7 percent for the same period of 2022⁷.

Inequalities: Generally, the level of human development attainment in Seychelles is remarkably high. This is reflected in the national income, with a Human Development Index (HDI) score of 0.801 (ranking 62nd out of 188 in 2019). This makes Seychelles the first African country to attain such a high level of human development. This is primarily attributed to the country's long-standing policies of universal education and healthcare provision, in addition to the provision of appropriate social safety nets, which afford citizens a certain standard of living. Further, the degree of income inequality is relatively low, as reflected by the country's improvement in the Gini Coefficient to 32.1 percent in 2018, down from 46.8 percent recorded in 2013⁸. However, the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP's) Human Development Report (HDR) for 2020 confirms that wealth in the country is not evenly distributed. The wealthiest 10 percent of Seychellois earn 40 percent of the total income.⁹ Using the 2022 Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) ranking of 161 governments worldwide on the extent to which they are taking steps to reduce inequality based on actions in three areas or pillars vital to reducing the level of inequality: social spending, taxation, and labour, Seychelles is ranked ten on the fallers list.¹⁰ Regarding gender equality, according to the 2013 Ibrahim Index of African Governance, Seychelles is ranked second out of 52 African countries.¹¹ Seychelles scored 83.8, well above the average score

⁴<https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-investment-climate-statements/seychelles/#:~:text=With%20a%20GDP%20of%20%241.1,wealth%20is%20not%20evenly%20distributed.>

⁵ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/seychelles/overview>

⁶ <http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/17324/Seychelles>

⁷ <https://www.nbs.gov.sc/downloads/population-abridged-version/download>

⁸ World Bank, available at <https://knoema.com/atlas/Seychelles/topics/Poverty/Income-Inequality/GINI-index>

⁹ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-investment-climate-statements/seychelles/#:~:text=With%20a%20GDP%20of%20%241.1,wealth%20is%20not%20evenly%20distributed>

¹⁰ <https://oxfamlibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/621419/rr-cri-2022-111022summen.pdf;jsessionid=C5B10A0B882D181A6DBCE272C2629648?sequence=6>

¹¹ The Ibrahim Index of African Governance is an attempt to statistically monitor African governance levels throughout all the countries of Africa.

of 53.8 for the 54 African countries. Further, the ratio of female to male labor force participation is about 90 percent.

2nd
by Ibrahim
Index of African
Governance (2020)

Population of
99,728
(2021)

455 km²

archipelagic nation of

115 islands

**Highest per
capita GDP**
in Sub-
Saharan
Africa

62 out of 189
countries on the
Human
Development
Index

0.801
Human Development
Index (2019)

Economic Context: Buoyed by sustained rapid economic growth¹², Seychelles is the most prosperous nation in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The country has one of the highest per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Africa, at \$13,306 as of 2021, attaining the high-income country status in 2015¹³. The Island Nation mainly has a service-driven economy, with services accounting for 75 percent of GDP. The key economic drivers for Seychelles are tourism and fisheries. Specifically, tourism is the most significant contributor to the economy of Seychelles, accounting for more than 70 percent of foreign exchange earnings. In comparison, the fisheries sector accounts for 8 percent of the country's GDP. Despite the commendable growth and development over the years, the country is over-dependent on tourism and fisheries which makes it vulnerable to considerable economic and environmental shocks including natural disasters¹⁴¹⁵. For instance, due to the heavy reliance on tourism for employment, revenue, and foreign exchange earnings, the sector was adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic during 2019-2022¹⁶. In addition, there is insufficient economic diversification, food insecurity, limited technical capacity, weak policy and legislation, weak institutional capacity and limited human resources, constraining the country's ability to benefit from economies of scale.

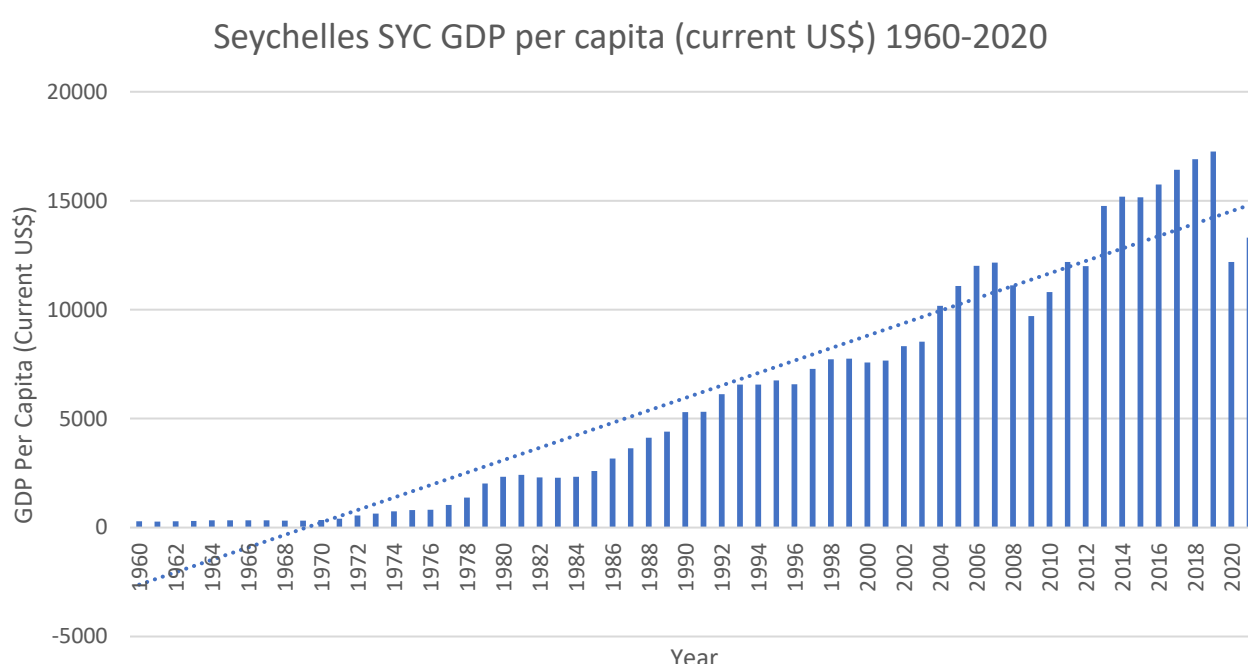


Figure I: Per Capita GDP for Seychelles (Current US\$)¹⁷

Governance: Seychelles was a former British colony that became independent on 29th June 1976. The Constitution of the Third Republic of Seychelles is the supreme law of the land and establishes the country's system of government. The Constitution provides for the three separate branches of the state, which puts in place a separation of powers – the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary. The Head of State is the

¹² Statistics from the country's Central Bank show that during the period 2013-2017, Seychelles recorded an average annual growth rate of 4.8 percent in real GDP terms.

¹³ Seychelles graduates to high-income country status according to World Bank standards. http://www.mfa.gov.sc/static.php?content_id=18&news_id=1071

¹⁴ Government of the Republic of Seychelles (GoRS)- United Nations (2019). Sustainable Partnership Framework (2019-2023).

¹⁵ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/seychelles/overview>

¹⁶ Seychelles was one of the SSA countries that was hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic, with output contracting 7.7 percent in 2020. However, Seychelles' early and widespread vaccination campaign allowed it to open its borders to tourists from March 2021. Partly as a result, in 2021 tourist arrivals bounced back and GDP growth reached 7.9 percent, nearly 2 percentage points more than projected at the time.

¹⁷ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?locations=SC>

President, who is directly elected by popular vote and may hold office for up to two consecutive five-year terms. The President appoints a Council of Ministers, subject to the approval of a majority of the legislature. The Council of Ministers acts as an advisory body. The country is divided into 25 administrative divisions.¹⁸ Seychelles is a multiparty democracy, and the last general elections were held in 2020. Further, the Constitution of Seychelles provides for the establishment of the National Assembly, its composition, and the election of Members and bestows upon the institution the legislative power to make and pass laws. The National Assembly currently comprises up to 35 Members, of whom 26 are directly elected to represent constituencies and 9 are distributed on a proportional basis to those parties that win a minimum of one-tenth of the vote. Members of the National Assembly serve five-year terms. Members can belong to a political party or be independent.¹⁹

Status of SDGs: Despite data gaps encountered during the review, evidence revealed that Seychelles had made notable progress on some SDGs. By 2021, the country had achieved SDG 4 – which looks at “Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all,”; and SDG 7 – which is “Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.” Everybody in Seychelles has access to education at primary and secondary levels, and the country has attained almost universal access to electricity (99.5 percent), basic education, and portable water (93 percent). For SDG 3 (Good health and wellbeing), SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), SDG 14 (Life below water), SDG 16 (Peace, justice, and strong institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals), some challenges exist that are hindering their achievement. However, the country is on track to achieve SDG 16, while there is some moderate improvement for SDGs 3, 9, 14, and 17. Despite Seychelles’ robust health system, the 2019 Global Health Security Index points to significant weaknesses in the system’s capability to address biological threats such as COVID-19²⁰. Conversely, progress towards achieving SDG 6 has stagnated and is not moving forward. Considering SDG 5 (Gender equality), the data revealed that Seychelles is facing challenges in achieving this goal to the extent that it is characterized by a decreasing trend in terms of its achievement. For example, the number of women in parliament has significantly reduced from 44 percent in 2016 to 21% in 2020. With regards to SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (Climate action), and SDG 15 (life on land), there have been some significant challenges that are hindering their achievement. Progress on these goals has stagnated, while for SDG 10 and SDG 12, the trend information is not readily available to make it possible to track the progress. On the other hand, for SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), there is no trend information for the three SDGs to assess the progress made to achieve these goals. Nonetheless, the data shows that Poverty is low, at 0.04 (2019) as defined by country’s Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), and the degree of income inequality is relatively low with a Gini index of 28 percent in 2017/2018.

Official Development Assistance: During the SPF period 2019-2023, Seychelles graduated from countries eligible for official development assistance. At the time of the 2017 review of the DAC List, the DAC agreed on the graduation of Seychelles. The country was also not included in countries eligible for ODA in 2022.

Seychelles National Development Planning: Seychelles current development process is guided by the new Vision 2032 and the National Development Strategy (NDS) 2019-2023. **Vision 2032:** The Vision 2032 was officially launched in 2019 under the vision “A resilient, responsible and prosperous nation of healthy, educated and empowered Seychellois living together in harmony with nature and engaged with the wider world” and under the theme ‘Towards a sustainable and inclusive future’. The Vision 2032 reflects the long-term development aspirations of the people of Seychelles. The Vision 2032 is being rolled out through the implementation of a

¹⁸ Britannica, available at <https://www.britannica.com/place/Seychelles/History>

¹⁹ The National Assembly of Seychelles, available at <https://www.nationalassembly.sc/our-system-government>

²⁰ African Development Bank (2021). Seychelles Country Strategy Paper, 2021-2025. Available at https://seychelles_-country_strategy_paper_2021-2025_0.pdf

series of three five-year National Development Strategies (NDS), beginning with the first National Development Strategy 2019-2023. The Vision acts as a compass that sets a clear and decisive direction for the desired destination.

The Strategic Partnership Framework 2019 – 2023: Seychelles and the UN jointly signed the first Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) 2019-2023 on 30th August 2018. The SPF consolidates the UN's commitment to supporting the country's efforts to meet the SDGs by 2030. Informed by the pillars of the Vision 2032, the three-year Strategic Plan 2018/19 – 2020/21 priorities, related SDGs, and regional and international treaties, the Seychelles SPF 2019-2023 had the following four strategic priority or outcome areas of cooperation: i) Economic transformation; ii) Environmental sustainability and resilience; iii) The human capital development and data development; iv) Science, technology, and innovation development.

The SPF also included crosscutting areas under each of these four strategic priority areas that address aspects of Governance, Gender Equality, and Human Rights identified as critical elements for sustainable development in a peaceful society. Overall, the Seychelles SPF 2019-2023 sought to support national development aspirations as articulated in the NDS and national sectoral plans, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, and other international commitments. Table I presents the key outcome areas and participating UN agencies as provided in the SPF.

Table I. Seychelles SPF 2019-2023 Focus Areas in Brief

SPF Priority Areas		SPF Outcomes	# Outcome Indicators	# Outputs	Participating UN Agencies
Economic Transformation	1	By 2023, the Seychelles economy is diversified and provides varying investment opportunities in the blue economy	13	5	UNIDO, UNICEF, UNESCO, IAEA, IOM, UNECA
	2	By 2023, the population, especially most vulnerable, has increased agricultural productivity, food and nutrition security, and enhanced livelihood opportunities	9	8	FAO, IAEA, IFAD, UN Women
Environmental, Resilience and Disaster Risk Management	3	By 2023, national, sub-national, and community levels have enhanced capacity for sustainable management of natural resources and the environment to mitigate and cope with disasters and the effects of climate change	21	16	UNDP, UNEP, UNWTO, FAO, UNIDO, UNODC, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, ILO, IOM
Human Capital Development and Quality of Life	4	By 2023, the population of Seychelles, especially women, children, youth, vulnerable and high-risk groups, have increased access to equality, integrated healthcare, education and services that safeguard and promote quality of life.	25	17	WHO, FAO, UNAIDS, OHCHR, UNFPA, IOM, UN-Women
Data Development and Science Technology and Innovation	5	By 2023, Government has robust data, science, technology and innovation to support inclusive socio-economic development	10	8	UNDP, UNWTO, FAO, UNIDO, UNODC, UNICEF, UNESCO, IAEA, UNFPA, ILO, UN-Women
Total			78	54	

The Seychelles SPF comprised 5 outcomes and 78 outcome indicators spread across the outcomes. There were a total of 54 expected outputs from strategic interventions by 2023.

UN Normative Frameworks for Integrated Programming: In line with the UN guidelines and to achieve the expected SPF outcomes and to ensure their contribution to the national development priorities, the UN and SPF partners (Government and Private Sector) are expected to operationalize the four UN principles for integrated programming (1. Human rights, gender equality, and women’s empowerment; 2. Sustainability and Resilience; 3. Accountability and data development; and 4. Inclusion and equity to ‘leave no one behind’) and five mutual reinforcing programming approaches (1. Results focused programming; 2. Capacity development; 3. Risk Informed Programming; 4. Coherent Policy Support; and 5. Partnership) in the delivery of their work. Figure 2 presents the UN normative frameworks for integrated planning.



Figure 2: UN Normative Frameworks Guiding UN Programming

Stakeholder Mapping: Table 2 presents the SPF stakeholders, some of whom were consulted during this evaluation. See list of people interviewed in Annex 7

Table 2: SPF Stakeholders

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS	RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS
RCO	RCO SPF Evaluation Coordinators, RCO M&E and Data Manager, RCO SPF programme staff
SPF STRUCTURES	Steering Committee, UNCT, OMT, ORGs, UN Communication Groups
UN	UNDP, WHO, IOM, UNFPA, UNEP, UNAIDS, FAO, UNIDO, IAEA, OHCHR, UN WOMEN, ILO, UNODC, UNECA, UNWTO, UN Habitat, UNESCO and IFAD
UN RELATED FUNDS AGENCY	GCF, GEF, MPTF, IDF
GOVERNMENT	Ministry of Fisheries (MoF), Ministry of Agriculture Climate Change and Environment (MoACCE), Ministry for Youth, Sport, and Family (MoYSF), Ministry for Employment and Social Affairs (MoESA), Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Ministry of Finance, National Planning & Trade (MoFNPT), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs, Ministry of Health (MoH), Seychelles Police, Seychelles Coast Guard/Seychelles People’s Defence Force Office of the President, Department of Information, Communication and Technology, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC)

CSOS/NGOs/Private Sector	University of Seychelles, Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT), Seychelles Parks and Garden Authority (SPGA), Nature Seychelles, Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bank of Ceylon, Bank of Baroda, workers organisations, Absa Bank, Seychelles Bankers Association, Bank Al Habib, Island Conservation Society, Seychelles Island Foundation, Global Vision International, Terrestrial Restoration, Action Society of Seychelles, Green Island Foundation, Wildlife Club Seychelles, Agricultural Producers Association of Seychelles, Association of Fish Processors and Exporters, Fishing Boat Owners Association, WIOMSA, Association for Rights, Information and Democracy-ARID, Citizens Engagement Platform, Seychelles (CEPS), Citizens Democracy Watch Seychelles (CDWC)
DONORS	Asian development bank, World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Islamic Development Bank, USAID, SDC, DFID, JICA, European Union, and selected country donors (at least 5 countries)
BENEFICIARY GROUPS	Youths, males, females drawn from site visit for the blue ocean economy, tourism and improvement of coastal areas.

3 METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

Evaluability of Seychelles SPF 2019-2023: An evaluability assessment was conducted during the inception phase involving mainly the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO). Overall, the evaluability assessment for the Seychelles SPF 2019-2023 indicated a moderate rating. Almost 90 percent of the indicators were without baseline values nor targets. Taking note of the absence of an indicator-populated results framework of the Seychelles SPF, the consultants and the RCO agreed to bridge the gaps by using available national data sets to populate indicators for the results framework. Documents used included the NDS 2019-2023, National Voluntary Review Report, and other national data sources. Additionally, the evaluation relied on the Country Programme Documents and CPAPs of the UN agencies working or with programs in Seychelles. It was generally acknowledged that due to the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, there were delays in the production of crucial national and UN documents. Accordingly, where the baseline data for the SPF baseline year (i.e., 2019) was not available, the evaluation utilized available 2020 data as the baseline for the relevant indicators, and where possible, compound indicators were split for more straightforward measurement.

Evaluation Conceptual framework: The evaluation was based on the criteria laid out in the [OECD-DAC](#) principles for the evaluation of development assistance as defined in the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) guidelines. OECD-DAC variables assessed include relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact. The evaluation assessed strategic positions for successor CF, looking at alignment to national priorities, value added for the UN, and key recommendations. The evaluation assessed the degree of incorporation of the four UN normative programming principles (LNOB, Human Rights, GEWE, sustainability and resilience, and accountability) and the five programming approaches (results focus, capacities, risk-informed programming, coherent policy support, and partnerships) in CF implementation.

Data sources and data collection methods: The evaluation was mainly based on analysis of secondary data contained in various reports generated by all stakeholders of the CF (UN SPF Annual Reports, UN agency reports including evaluation reports, Government reports informing the results of the SPF and other sources informing the status of the SPF outcome indicators. Desk review of secondary data was one of the leading data sources for the evaluation. Online focus groups and key informant interviews were conducted with SPF coordination structures including the Programme Management Team (PMT), Partnership and Communication Group (PCG), and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT). Online interviews on SPF Outcomes were conducted with respective UN Agencies (resident and non-resident) who shared their opinion of the status of results around the outcomes. Consultations with selected SPF beneficiary groups were conducted. Focus group discussions with the private sector and civil society were also conducted. Key Informant interviews were conducted with the government, UN, private sector, and civil society to discuss the status of the planned results and share additional information to inform the SPF evaluation. A list of all consulted stakeholders is included in [Annex 6](#). Upon sharing a draft report of the SPF, a validation workshop was organized where the draft SPF was shared with the broader stakeholders. Their inputs strengthened the final evaluation report.

Limitations of the evaluation: Seychelles did not have results groups around the five outcome areas, which could systematically track results and produce annual reports. The country also did not have a monitoring and evaluation theme group to assist with coordinating the results of the implementation of the SPF. The incomplete indicator data on the outcome indicators (targets) also meant the consultants had to estimate the targets for the outcome indicators. While the Seychelles had a comprehensive [ToC](#) strongly linked to the national development priorities, the results framework was not populated with indicator data (baselines, and targets). The evaluability exercise conducted at the start of the inception phase resolved that a comprehensive desk review be conducted to populate the results framework to a level where the SPF was evaluable. Monitoring statistical data for the Seychelles was available up to 2020, which left the greater period of the SPF without monitoring statistics. This negatively affected the [extent and](#) quality of the evaluation.

Data Analysis: results data on the five outcome areas were gathered through desk review and through online and physical informant interviews, including focus group discussions. The results were triangulated to come up with emerging results. The consultants used manual data analysis, which worked with the key themes of the evaluation. The analysis also included a gendered assessment of the results.

Governance: The evaluation was coordinated through the RCO. The Joint UN Evaluation Steering Committee is the apex governance structure that oversaw the evaluation process. They reviewed and approved the inception report, reviewed the draft evaluation report, and provided feedback before the exhaustive stakeholder validation. The SPF coordination structures of the UNCT, the PMT, the UCG, and the OMT were consulted and provided their inputs to the evaluation reports.

PART II: EVALUATION FINDINGS

4 RELEVANCE AND ADAPTABILITY

EQ 1: How relevant is the design of the SPF to national development needs and priorities as articulated in the key national development documents (Vision, NDS, etc.) and relevant global development protocols as well as SDGs?

EQ 2: How adaptable was the implementation of the SPF to emerging contexts?

Assessment of relevance entails establishing the degree to which the programme is related or useful in relation to a pre-defined standard or benchmark. To this end, evaluators looked at the relevance of the SPF in relation to: i) National development priorities (Vision 2030 and NDSs); ii) Agenda 2030 for sustainable development (SDGs); iii) The development needs of the country in light of its changing context of moving from middle income country to upper income country including the changing global context.

4.1 Relevance

The Seychelles SPF was strongly aligned to the national development priorities and SDGs:

Overall, the evaluation revealed that the SPF was relevant to the national development priorities of the GoS. The plan's four (4) strategic priority areas, namely, i) Economic Transformation, ii) Environmental Sustainability and Resilience, iii) Human Capital Development and Quality of Life, and iv) Data, Science, Technology, and Innovation Development were informed by and thus aligned to the draft NDS 2019-2023 priorities²¹ and the aspirations of the Vision 2032 concerning the sectors of focus. The NDS was anchored on six pillars, namely, Governance, Human Capital Development, Social Cohesion, Science, Technology, and Innovation Development, Economic Transformation, and Sustainability and Resilience. SPF was also aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, and other international commitments. Given its Small Island Developing State (SIDS) status, the SPF was further guided by the principles and obligations of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and other regional commitments such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP). The development of the SPF was also guided by the four UN principles for integrated programming, namely: 1) Leave no one behind; 2) Human rights, gender equality, and women's empowerment; 3) Sustainability and resilience, and 4) Data Development. However, compared to other countries with respect to the CF development, the Seychelles SPF 2019 – 2023 was developed without input from the most recent UN Common Country Analysis (CCA) report. Being the first ever SPF to be developed for the country, the UN had not conducted any CCA prior to the development of the Seychelles SPF 2019-2023 to inform the Plan.

²¹ The process of developing the NDS 2019-2023 had not been completed at the time the SPF was being designed. Thus, it was informed by the draft version of the NDS 2019-2023.

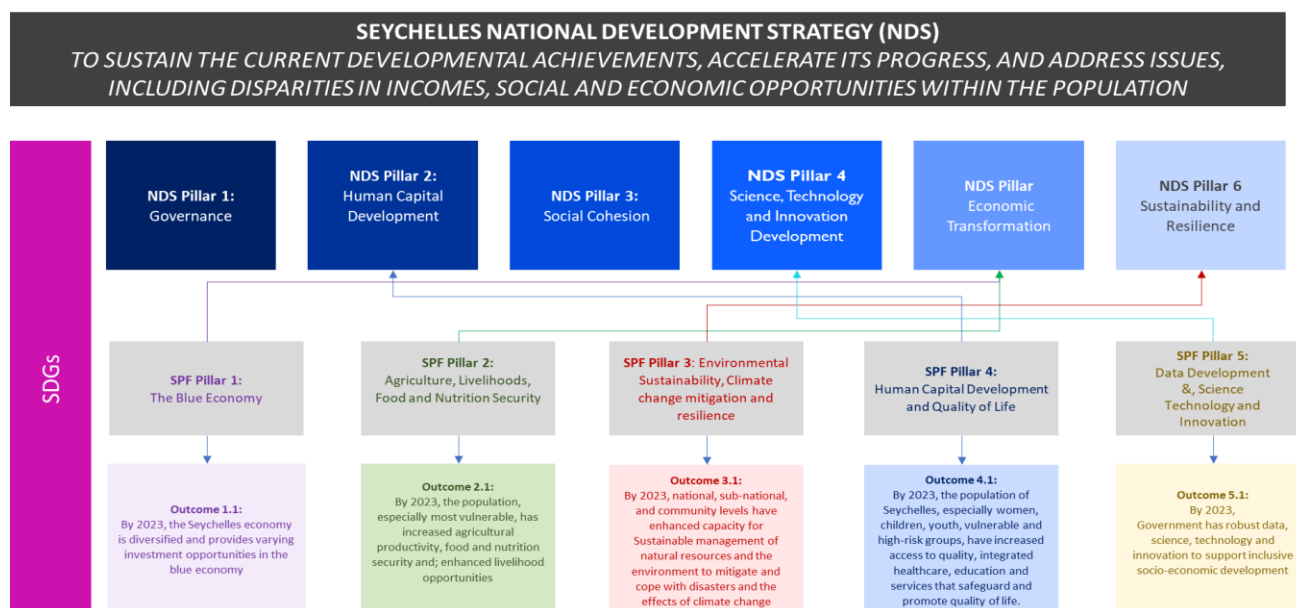


Figure 3. Alignment of Seychelles Strategic Partnership to NDS

SPF Alignment to NDS: The SPF was strategically and completely aligned to the NDS, and other strategic national policy documents mentioned above despite the fact that the SPF was finalised earlier (2018) than the NDS (2019). Several factors contributed to this alignment: 1) the GoRS was engaged in the development of the SPF, hence one common position (GoRS-UN) on the development priorities outlined in the SPF; 2) the fact that both the NDS and the SPF were informed by the same Vision 2032; and 3) the development challenges that informed the development of the SPF had not changed when the NDS was finally completed.

4.2 Adaptability

The implementation of the SPF 2019-2023 was significantly and negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Notwithstanding the challenges that came with the pandemic, evidence revealed that both the UN and GoS demonstrated high levels of adaptability to the COVID-19 problem through implementation of various mitigation measures such as the National Response Plan for COVID-19 aimed at preventing the further spread of the disease and thus ensured continuity of UN support and implementation of GoS programmes amidst COVID-19. In general, the evaluation team noted that the UNCT continued its pivotal support to Seychelles. Furthermore, through the World Health Organization (WHO), the findings revealed that the UN continued to offer close support including strengthening the capacities of the Seychelles health and other sectors to overcome and recover from the disease. Though with a slowed down pace, the UN in Seychelles, continued to implement the provisions of the SPF 2019-2023.

The Socioeconomic Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Seychelles: The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 11th March 2020. The pandemic presented an unprecedented crisis in history with far reaching implications on the global economy and human health. Prior to the pandemic, Seychelles had consistently performed favorably on many development indicators. In 2019, Seychelles became the first African country to achieve very high Human Development status. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic threatened to reverse the economic progress and adversely impact the economy and way of life of the people. Seychelles economy is mainly dependent on tourism, fishing as well as imports. However, the pandemic came with external shocks which were transmitted through disruptions in international travel and tourism demand; fluctuations in fishing stocks and instabilities in the prices of essential commodities such as food and fuel prices. Seychelles was also exposed to fiscal risks emanating from the share of short-term domestic debt in total government debt and fiscal risks from state owned enterprises, particularly Air

Seychelles, whose financial difficulties had been exacerbated by the decline in the global travel industry²². For instance, the tourism revenues declined by 70 percent contributing to the decline in real GDP for Seychelles in 2020 by 13.3 percent²³.

Further, the loss of income from tourism and the backward-forward linkages of this loss impacted many macroeconomic variables such as foreign exchange, Balance of Payments (BOP), and led to employment losses especially in the services sector. The budget balance as a share of GDP was 0.9 percent in the year 2019 and was estimated by the IMF at -15.5 percent in 2020 and -6 percent in 2021. Public sector debt to GDP was 55.3 percent in 2019 and 88.6 percent (projected) in 2020²⁴.

According to the World Bank (2020), the majority of low-income workers were employed in accommodation and food service activities, health services, and business support activities. It was estimated that the travel and tourism industries contributed both directly and indirectly approximately two-thirds of the total employment in Seychelles. As a result, they were significantly impacted by COVID-19. The unemployment rate jumped to 4 percent in the third quarter of 2020, from 2.3 percent in the last quarter of 2019. This was primarily driven by a decline of 1.7 percent in employment in tourism-related industries due to the drastic drop in visitor arrivals. However, the unemployment rate peaked at 4.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2020 and started to decline thereafter due to the mitigating impact of the financial assistance for job retention program implemented by the GoRS.

In the education sector, all schools in Seychelles were closed and only online lessons were conducted during the outbreak. However, this came with several challenges which included teachers being hesitant and unsure of how to deliver lessons via distance teaching modes. In addition, not all households had access to online learning platforms or to learning materials or resources, therefore making it difficult for the pupils to follow the lessons being offered²⁵.

UN Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

UN Support to the Policy Framework: The UN provided technical assistance for the adaptation and rolling out of third-generation Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR²⁶), including Training of Trainers (ToT). This translated into improved management of COVID-19 surveillance and treatment throughout the pandemic period. Indicating the efficacy of the UN intervention, the evaluation findings revealed that the first three waves of COVID-19 were managed at national level using the skills and knowledge acquired during the IDSR training. Following the training of multi-sector regional teams and the rolling out of the decentralized COVID-19 response, the fourth wave was managed at sub-national levels with oversight at national level²⁷. The UN through the WHO also provided technical assistance in the development of a Hotspot Strategy²⁸ through a multistakeholder consultative process involving community leaders, District Administrators, NGOs and other stakeholders. Implementation of the Hotspot Strategy facilitated among other things timely case detection and isolation of the disease, thereby preventing further transmission of COVID-19²⁹.

UN Support to Strengthening Capacity: In responding to the pandemic, the UN started with country-level coordination, planning, and monitoring capacity upgrading by facilitating the development of a National

²² <https://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/397391492188173264/mpo-syc.pdf>

²³ Ibid

²⁴ UNDP (2020). Assessment-of-the-Socio-Economic-Impact-of-Covid-19-in-Seychelles

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶ IDSR is a strategy adopted by countries in the WHO African Region for enabling comprehensive public health surveillance and response systems for priority diseases, conditions, and events at all levels of health systems.

²⁷ UN Seychelles (2022). 2021 UN Country Annual Results Report, Seychelles.

²⁸ The hot spot strategy is a guide to facilitate the decentralisation of surveillance activities and prioritising resources based on need— provides critical steps to ensure effective case detection, investigation, isolation and contact tracing.

²⁹ UN Seychelles (2022). 2021 UN Country Annual Results Report, Seychelles.

Response Plan for COVID-19, supporting the Department of Health (DoH) to establish a Public Health Emergency Operation Centre, equipping the Centre, and training its staff. Additionally, a risk communication and community engagement approach, system for surveillance, rapid response, and case investigation and a public health emergency contingency plan was developed and implemented at the country's points of entry. To respond to the changing disease dynamics, the emergency contingency plan provided for the review and updating of COVID-19 Transport Standard Operating Procedures. Further, capacities of national laboratories were strengthened for COVID-19 testing and of the national health system to ensure infection prevention and control through protocols, training relevant staff, and procuring protective gear, laboratory equipment, and supplies, and improved service delivery. The UN supported the DoH to develop procedures and train health care workers in case management and operations, and logistics support helped with procurement, prepositioning, and distribution of supplies across the inner and outer islands³⁰.

The UN supported the training of more than 200 public health officials, clinicians, health and safety officers and human resource personnel in tourism establishments to build their knowledge and skills in case detection, case investigation and contact tracing. Further to the capacity building, the UN provided regular supportive supervision missions to reinforce acquired knowledge and skills and provided on the spot corrective measures to address identified gaps. The support resulted in the prompt detection of cases, investigation of risk factors, timely isolation and quick identification of contacts for risk assessment and appropriate categorization and support, which eventually led to halting further transmission, prompt isolation, and monitoring of clinical progress to avert morbidity and mortality³¹. The UN also supported capacity building of staff working at sampling stations through the training of 65 Ministry of Health (MoH) personnel and 94 key Ministry of Education staff on sampling and rapid antigen testing while maintaining biosafety and quality. This facilitated for early diagnosis for prompt isolation, therefore reducing transmission, including within school settings and improved access to testing³². The UN also delivered webinars on journalists' safety covering the pandemic and the media sector's response and contribution to countering and deconstructing misinformation, hate speech, and racism to promote cultural diversity, peacebuilding, and sustainable development³³.

In an effort to leave no one behind, UNAIDS in consultation with the National AIDS Council, provided supplies for the COVID-19 response to four NGOs to protect key vulnerable populations at risk of HIV infection. Additionally, the WHO assisted the Seychelles health sector by providing support to assess SIDS Pooled Procurement implementation. WHO also helped to institutionalize the Seychelles National Health Account and enhanced capacities in international health regulations through the National Action Plan for Health Security Implementation³⁴. The WHO working together with the Ministries of Health and Tourism trained 110 health and safety officers, human resource officers and general managers at tourism establishments to expand capacity case detection, investigation and contact tracing, in harmony with the unique nature of Seychelles, whose economy depended on tourism. Another 75 participants were trained in preparation for them to supervise tourism establishments on Praslin, La Digue islands and other inner islands. To reinforce acquired knowledge and skills from the training, the central MoH and WHO team embarked on supportive supervisory visits together with the district public health officers starting with Mahe, where nine tourism establishments were visited in the last quarter of 2021³⁵.

Implementation Challenges of the SPF due to COVID-19: COVID-19 remained the main challenge in the implementation of the UN SPF in Seychelles. The COVID-19 restrictions limited the number of activities that could be carried out in 2020 and 2021. Some other activities were cancelled or postponed, these included face-to-face trainings and workshops, international recruitment and procurement and sensitization campaigns.

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ Ibid

³² Ibid

³³ Ibid

³⁴ Ibid

³⁵ Ibid

For instance, due to closure of schools, sensitization campaigns could not be carried out and in some cases, the target number of participants for activities like trainings and workshops had to be reduced to meet the social distance requirements to prevent the spread of COVID-19³⁶. Second, due to the breakout of the pandemic, there were new and emerging priorities which resulted in stalled implementation of planned activities. For instance, most of the health sector staff had to be reassigned new roles and responsibilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic leading to disruption in planned response activities.

³⁶ Ibid

5 COHERENCE

EQ 1: Was the SPF supported with an appropriate Theory of Change?

EQ 2: How robust was the SPF Results Framework?

EQ 3: How aligned were UN programmes to the SPF Result Framework?

The SPF was supported by a comprehensive Theory of Change (ToC) albeit with room for improvement in its presentation format: The maiden SPF for the Seychelles had a comprehensive theory of change closely linked to the national development priorities, the SPF pillars, outcomes and outputs. The theory of change presented a coherent plan for the delivery of the SPF. However, the ToC was presented in a table format **without clearly defined causal impact pathways**. A visual diagrammatic presentation of the ToC could have enhanced its appeal.

The Seychelles SPF 2019-2023 was largely robust with carefully selected outcome indicators and outputs that could contribute to the achievement of the planned SPF and national outcomes:

An analysis of the SPF outcome indicators and supportive outputs in relation to national development indicators, suggested **a partially linked results framework** which would not result in a complete and logical results chain framework (rating could be **70% logical**). The evaluation also revealed that some of the outputs were not clearly linked to the outcome indicators while some of the outcome indicators were completely different from the national and global indicators that the UN agencies and government report on. This contributed to the failure by the UN and Government to comprehensively report on nearly all the indicators. The evaluation suggests a need for greater investment in the development of successor results framework where the outputs would be closely linked to the outcome indicators and the outputs pitched more as the UN contribution clearly showing UN footprint in the country. The evaluation found that almost 90% of the indicators had no baseline values and/or targets. A good results framework should have complete baselines and target for evaluability. Where outcome indicators are systematically and collectively selected, their accomplishment would more clearly contribute to the achievement of the outcome results and national targets. However, it should be noted that in terms of attribution to achievement of the results, the UN family could contribute partially to the achievement of the outcome while the other portions would be left to the government and role of other key stakeholder such as private sector and civil society.

Alignment of UN programmes to elements of the results framework in the SPF was relatively weak but the UN programmes were strongly linked to the national development priorities:

Interviews with both the UN Agencies and government officials suggested that some of the SPF outputs and indicators were not closely linked to the UN programme support to the government. This was attributed to several factors: i) the SPF was completed when some of the UN Agencies had already developed their country programmes; ii) the work of some of the agencies is determined by regional offices whose programmes are not necessarily country-specific; and iii) limited consultations in the development of the SPF results, which limited ownership of the results among some agencies and government officials. Related to the latter, the evaluation also attributed the situation to the limited knowledge of and interest about the SPF among some UN programme staff which in turn affected the popularity of the SPF among government and private stakeholders. This was evidenced by the fact that when tracking progress of their programmes or reporting to the RCO on the SPF, most agencies made use of their agency programme documents or strategy indicators. Specifically, very few UN agencies reported that they hardly consulted or made direct use of the outputs and indicators contained in SPF to inform their work and reporting. One UN agency reported that most of the output and outcome indicators in the SPF were totally different from the ones they work and report on with government. Such agencies tended to use their institutional CPs and results frameworks more than they did the CF results framework. The UN agency in question thus found it difficult to report on SPF implementation and progress in detail. This result identifies the need for greater involvement of all relevant UN agencies in the design of the successor SPF, including the development of the SPF results framework and the use of the

elements of the results framework in the design and implementation of agencies' programme support to the GoRS. Overall, despite the noted gaps in the M&E framework, the evaluation team noted that the SPF focus areas were much aligned to those for the government during the same period.

Most UN Agencies were thinly spread across the five outcomes, thereby weakening focus, impact and prioritization of their core mandates: Analysis of the distribution of UN agencies across the five outcome areas and also feedback from consultations with some UN agencies suggested a relatively weak prioritization on who does what in the five outcome areas. The analysis noted UN agencies running with outcome areas that were not their core mandates. This situation was also worsened by the fact 95% of UN agencies were non-resident, a development that affected their effective participation in their main core areas of focus. Against the unique nature of Seychelles and the fact that Seychelles was a high-income country, the analysis suggests the potential need for having only relevant UN agencies that fit neatly to the country's development challenges contributing to the SPF.

Noted gaps in the Results framework: As at the time of the SPF evaluation, as much as 90% of the SPF indicators had missing baseline values and targets, severely affecting the degree of the SPF evaluability. However, as the information was gathered through desk review, the missing targets were populated to allow for assessment.

Stakeholder Buy-In for Results Framework and SPF Programme: Results of the evaluation suggest limited buy-in of the SPF by strategic stakeholders to include the private sector. Given the focus of development challenges for Seychelles and the need to diversify the country's economy to reduce its vulnerability to economic and environment shocks, the role of private sector and CSOs was key in the delivery of the SPF. Consultations with private sector players noted their limited knowledge of the SPF let alone the results contained therein. However private sector acknowledged their participation in the UN agencies country programmes to a greater extent. The successor SPF should step up consultation of other stakeholders to ensure they appreciate the development problems, participate in the development of the results framework and also own them for them to be accountable for the performance of elements in the SPF for which they have responsibilities. While consultations with government stakeholders were relatively minimal, the evaluation findings suggest limited involvement in the monitoring of the results contained in the SPF. Joint implementation and monitoring of the SPF results will be critical for successor CF.

6 EFFECTIVENESS

EQ 1: To what extent were planned SPF results achieved (What were the facilitating and militating factors)?

This chapter presents results of the analysis of the performance of the planned results across the five outcomes for the SPF 2019 – 2023. For each of the outcome areas, a snapshot of the status and development challenges for each outcome at the start of the SPF (2019) is presented. Across the five outcome areas, performance will be rated as achieved (**green**), good progress (**blue**), satisfactory (**Orange**), not achieved (**red**), and no information (**grey**) as provided by the key below.

What follows is an analysis of the performance of each of the 5 outcomes.

6.1 The Blue Economy

Outcome 1: *By 2023, the Seychelles economy will be diversified and provides varying investment opportunities in the blue economy*

Overall, satisfactory progress was made toward the achievement of Outcome 1. There were 13 indicators rated as: Achieved (2); Good Progress Made towards Achievement (3); Satisfactory (1); and Not Achieved (1). No information (6). The UN contribution was significant. The analysis of the performance of outcome 5 during the SPF period is presented below. *An overall impression was that some of the indicators were too ambiguous, thereby making it difficult to set a target. For example, number of registered businesses operating in the blue economy. This indicator includes a wide range of businesses linked to fishing, tourism establishment, travel agencies, and car rental, among others. Having SMART indicators can go a long way in assessing recorded progress.*

Table 3: Performance of Outcome 1 indicators

Outcome 1 Indicators	Indicator Baseline (2018)	Target 2023	Status by Nov/Dec 2022 and source	Outcome rating
I.a Total investment (FDI & Domestic) as a % of National GDP	FDI 18.80% (2018)	Value of FDI 17.47 USD Million in 2023	17.02 USD Million	●
I.b Gini Coefficient	32.1 (2018)	TBD	32.1	●
I.c National Unemployment Rate	2.1% (Q4 2018)	4.20%	4%	●
I.d Percentage change in contribution of the sectors (tourism, fisheries, industry etc.) to National GDP	Fisheries 1.9% (2019) Tourism US\$432m Industry 14.99% share in GDP	Fisheries contribution to GDP 25% Tourism US\$946m	20% Fisheries 22% Tourism	●

Outcome I Indicators	Indicator Baseline (2018)	Target 2023	Status by Nov/Dec 2022 and source	Outcome rating
I.e Number of Legislative and regulatory framework reforms implemented	2 (Blue Economy Strategic Policy 2018-2030; Blue Economy Roadmap)	TBD	2	●
I.f Level of compliance with international best practices governance of the blue economy Ease of doing business index (EODB index) ranking	EODB index ranking - 95/190 (2019)	EODB index ranking 50/190	96/190	●
I.g Percentage increase in contribution of blue economy to GDP	30.6% (2018)	TBD		●
I.h Percentage increase in the contribution of the Tourism sector to National GDP	Contribution to GDP 22.3% (2019)	TBD		●
I.i Numbers of registered businesses operating in the blue economy	Fisheries – 45 licensed vessels Tourism – 697 registered hotels	TBD		●
I.j Percentage of Population employed in the blue economy (disaggregated by age and gender)	Total: 45% (2018) Tourism - 26% (2019) Fisheries 17% (2019)	TBD		●
I.k Number of types of economic activities in the blue economy (disaggregated by typology and annual turnover)	8	TBD		●
I.l Percentage increase in the contribution of the industry sector to National GDP	Industry contribution (2018) - 14.99%	Increase in manufacturing (10%)	8%	●
I.m Numbers of MSMEs operating in the Blue economy (disaggregated by Formal and Informal)	Fisheries – approx., 500 vessels in the artisanal sector (2022)	TBD		●

Notes: Where data was unavailable, the rating of the outcomes was done based on stakeholders' perceptions.

Key: Indicator Performance Rating:

● Achieved ● Good Progress Made ● Satisfactory ● Not Achieved ● No information

I(a) Total investment (FDI & Domestic) as a % of National GDP: The FDI was \$0.31B, a 147.19% increase from 2017, while 2019 and 2020 witnessed a decrease of 17.5% and 31%, respectively. According to UNCTAD's [2021 World Investment Report](#), FDI inflows to Seychelles declined by 15% to USD 122 million in 2020, compared to USD 144 million a year earlier, mainly due to the economic and health crisis triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions on international tourist travel. FDI inward stock closed at USD 3.3 billion in 2020. The fishing sector (smoked tuna, frozen fish) attracted a large share of FDI³⁷. Increased opening to foreign investors, notably Chinese, was expected to continue. The discovery of significant oil deposits on the coastlines of Seychelles was sparking new interest among investors (licenses for exploration and exploitation had been granted since 2013). As per Fitch Ratings, investment was set to pick up in 2022-23, as hotel construction/expansion projects that were paused in 2020 and part of 2021 resumed.

Foreign Direct Investment	2019	2020	2021
FDI Inward Flow (million USD)	144.00	122.00	157.00
FDI Stock (million USD)	3244.30	3285.10	3335.10
Number of Greenfield Investments*	4.00	3.00	1.00
Value of Greenfield Investments (million USD)	39.00	357.00	105.00

Source: UNCTAD (<https://www.lloydsbanktrade.com/en/marketpotential/seychelles/investing>)

The country's investment policies encouraged the development of Seychelles' natural resources, improvements in infrastructure, and an increase in productivity levels. Still, stakeholders stressed that this must be done in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner.

I(b) Gini Coefficient: Statistics from 2019 for this indicator were not available. Gini index measures the extent to which the distribution of income (or, in some cases, consumption expenditure) among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. For this indicator, the available information was based on data for Seychelles from 2013 to 2018. The average value for Seychelles during that period was 39.45 index points, with a minimum of 32.1 index points in 2018 and a maximum of 46.8 index points in 2013. Having a target for 2023 (see Table 3) could have been helpful for this indicator and could have informed if a change was recorded or not during the period of the SPF.

I(c) National Unemployment Rate: The unemployment Rate in Seychelles increased to 4.8 percent in the first quarter of 2020 from 2.40 percent in 2019³⁸. In Seychelles, the unemployment rate measures the number of people actively looking for a job as a percentage of the labor force. According to the Ministry of Employment, an estimated 1,100 people lost their jobs in Seychelles since the beginning of 2020, mostly in the tourism sector due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, efforts were made to help those who lost their jobs through the Seychelles Employee Transition Scheme (SETS), which was created in April 2020. SETS is a non-profit public sector enterprise that helps people find jobs and add new skills.

I(d) Percentage change in contribution of the sectors (tourism, fisheries, industry etc.) to National GDP: In 2019, contribution of travel and tourism to GDP (% of GDP) for Seychelles was 61%, which declined to nearly 22 percent in 2020. In January 2021, the Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS) announced that from January to November 2020, tourism revenues decreased by 78 percent. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, tourism-related contributions to GDP fell from 22.3 percent in 2019 to 15.5 percent in 2020. The CBS estimated that the economy contracted 11.3 percent in 2020 compared to 3 percent growth in 2019³⁹. Following the reopening of borders in March 2021, tourism in Seychelles gradually picked up, with the country registering a total of 182,849 tourist arrivals for the January to December 2021 period, compared to 114,858 visitors for the same period in 2020 and 384,224 visitors in 2019. According to the IMF, real GDP

³⁷ <https://www.lloydsbanktrade.com/en/market-potential/seychelles/investing>

³⁸ <https://tradingeconomics.com/seychelles/unemployment-rate>

³⁹ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-investment-climate-statements/seychelles/>

grew by 6.9 percent in 2021, compared to a decline of 12.9 percent in 2020. The UN supported the preparation of Seychelles' SDG investor map to attract private capital. This support from the UN came after the UN undertook extensive consultation with high-profile representatives from the private and public sectors on how to diversify the economy of Seychelles. Another area of support the UN provides relates to improving public services and other government functions through digitalization. The equipment was supplied to some government ministries to facilitate remote working and digital archiving and to develop e-procurement systems.

I(e) Number of legislative and regulatory framework reforms implemented: A major challenge in Seychelles has been policies that in some cases were outdated and with the need for a review to reflect the current realities. The Blue Economy is essential for Seychelles' development and having policies and regulations that can ensure its optimal use and sustainability is not an option but imperative. Seychelles had developed a number of policies and regulations such as the Blue Economy Roadmap, by catch management policy, no-take zones, and size limits for fisheries, among others. Just like most indicators, there was no set target on the number of legislative and regulatory framework reforms to be implemented. A number of policies and strategies in Seychelles were outdated and needed to be revised and updated. This was a core area that was not captured in the SPF, and it raised the question regarding budget allocation for an indicator without a target.

I(f) Level of compliance with international best practices in governance of the blue economy: Ease of doing business index (EODB index) ranking: During the last three years, the Department of Investment had reviewed the business environment in Seychelles with the aim of bringing about consistency, predictability, and confidence in the business environment. The Department was also working with several partners from both the public and private sectors to review the investment procedures, policies, and regulations that impact the ability to do business. One of the key achievements was the Seychelles Investment Policy, with the broad principles that should guide the manner in which all local entities that were having any form of impact on the business environment should treat the investment and business. The UN contributed to the funding and preparation of a discussion paper on empowering the private sector to drive diversification and economic recovery in a post-pandemic scenario in Seychelles. The UN reiterated that the private sector was a significant driver of the country's economic recovery, which the UN emphasized in a discussion paper. Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) played an essential role in the development of the economy. MSMEs represented the primary source of new business start-ups and have great potential to contribute to economic growth and innovation.

I(g) Percentage increase in the contribution of the industry sector to National GDP: Seychelles industrial path adopted the commitments made on the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), African Union, Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) fronts. Seychelles had established the Industrial Land Allocation Point system which allocated industrial land in a fair and transparent manner to industries. Additionally, there existed a Policy on reclamation of industrial land by private Individuals which allowed those individuals to reclaim their land, rather than the Government providing it. In order to boost consumption and purchase of locally produced products, a National Seychelles Made Brand would be introduced in 2021 to empower local products. The Seychelles One District One Project was another initiative to boost the economic and industrial development of the country. The aim of the project was to make available operating spaces in terms of workshops and sales outlets including technology production in all districts. An Industrial Policy was being developed in Seychelles and the process started during the beginning of 2022 this year and would be completed by June 2023. This policy would provide guidance on industrial activities in Seychelles and contribute towards the attainment of the national development strategy.

Overall Performance of SDGs for Outcome I

SDGs	Focus		Description of Performance
7	Affordable and clean energy	↑	Increasing
9	Industry, innovation and infrastructure	↑	Increasing
12	Responsible consumption and production	↗	Moderately improving
13	Climate action	→	Stagnating
14	Life below water	↗	Moderately improving
15	Life on land	↗	Moderately improving

Source: Seychelles Sustainable Development Report, 2022⁴⁰

The performance of the SDGs for outcome I entailed that some progress had been made in Seychelles. Apart from the SDG 13 which was stagnating, progress towards SDGs 7 and 9 was improving, while that towards SDGs 12, 14, and 15 was moderately improving. There was a need to address issues around climate change given that Seychelles depended on livelihood activities that were climate sensitive and climate variability impact that have a cascading effect on the economy and sustainable growth as a whole.

6.2 Agriculture, Livelihoods, Food and Nutrition Security

Outcome 2: By 2023, the population, especially most vulnerable, has increased agricultural productivity, food and nutrition security and enhanced livelihood opportunities

Overall, considerable efforts had been made towards achieving Outcome 2 on enhanced food security and livelihood opportunities in Seychelles during the SPF period. There were nine indicators under this outcome and one indicator was rated as Achieved; Good Progress Made towards Achievement (1); Not Achieved (4); and No information (3). To a more considerable extent, the contribution of the UN was significant, although some statistics for other indicators were not available at the time of the evaluation. The evaluation noted that overall, satisfactory progress was made towards the achievement of Outcome 2. The following provides an assessment of the performance of Outcome 2 indicators at end line.

Table 4: Performance of Outcome 2 indicators

Outcome I Indicators	Indicator Baseline (2017)	Target 2023	Status by Nov/Dec 2022 and source	Outcome rating
2.a % Contribution of agriculture to national GDP	2.07%	TBD	2.3%	●
2.b National malnutrition rates (disaggregated by age)	Malnutrition 16%	Malnutrition: N/A	TBD	●
	Stunting 7.6% (2020)	Stunting: 3.04% (2026)	7.9% ⁴¹	
2.c Quantity of annual fish catch	11,200t (2017)	TBD	TBD	●

⁴⁰ <https://dashboards.sdindex.org/profiles/seychelles>

⁴¹ Global Nutrition Report (2022). Country Nutrition Profile: Seychelles

Outcome I Indicators	Indicator Baseline (2017)	Target 2023	Status by Nov/Dec 2022 and source	Outcome rating
2.d Total land cultivated using climate smart agro-practices	1540ha ⁴²	TBD	1540	●
2.e % increase in total crop and livestock production for 4 main products	Crop prod index 106.2 (2019)	TBD	100.4	●
	Livestock production index (80.9)		96.2	
2.f Number of local research publication and innovation in agriculture	N/A	TBD	N/A	●
2.g Number of agricultural officers equipped with skills to promote CSA	0	TBD	No statistic	●
2.h Percentage of population employed in agriculture	80%	TBD	70%	●
2.i Percentage of population below the national poverty line	25.3%	4% (Upper middle income country poverty level)	39.3%	●

Notes: Where data was unavailable, the rating of the outcomes was done based on stakeholders' perceptions.

2(a) Percentage contribution of agriculture to national GDP: The contribution of agriculture to national GDP slightly increased from 2.07% at baseline to 2.3% in 2021 against a set target of the country becoming self-sustaining by 2023. Since 2019 when the SPF was initiated, the UN had contributed significantly towards enhancing the contribution of the agricultural sector to GDP through development and implementation of a number of policy frameworks. The United Nations supported the implementation of the Seychelles National Agricultural Investment Plan (SNAIP) (2015-2020). The SNAIP aimed at enhancing food production, security, and nutrition in the country. It sets the country's agriculture, food security, and nutrition development for the next five years within the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) context. The SNAIP, was built upon existing initiatives, programmes and policies such as the CAADP and supported the successful implementation of the goals of the MTNDS. However, the implementation of SNAIP was affected by financial constraints as well as the impacts of the COVID-19. Through different projects, the UN created an enabling environment to facilitate farmers embrace and adopt new and appropriate technologies such as aquaculture, city farming, vertical farming, and film farming. Due to the negative impacts of COVID-19, which disrupted the importation of food into the country, the UN supported the development of subsistence agriculture for non-farming households through the home and school gardening in order for them to become self-sustaining rather than depending much on imported food. Complementing the Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EBA) project, the COMESA CSA project constructed two additional water tanks with a maximum capacity of 640 cubic meters for farmers in Val d'Endorre to mitigate the effects of drought and improve crop yields⁴³.

2(b) National Malnutrition Rates: Data on the national malnutrition rates was not available at the time of the evaluation. **Stunting:** The level of stunting for children under the years of 5 years was still very high at 7.6% in 2020 against a set target of 3.4% by 2023: Even though 7.6% of children under five years of age were still affected by stunting, which was, however, lower than the average for the Africa region (30.7%),

⁴² Land utilized in agriculture.

⁴³ UNDP 2020 Annual Report

Seychelles was making efforts towards reducing the levels of stunting.⁴⁴ The country was not on track towards achieving this target by 2023 based on the status. As such, the evaluation recommends that in the next cycle of the SPF, stunting should be prioritized by designing and implementing specific programmes targeting children under the age of 5 years in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

2 (c) Quantity of annual fish catch: Data on quantity of annual fish catch was unavailable. **However, the UN played a huge role in enhancing maritime security through expansion of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) by financing 30% of the EEZ as a marine protection area:** The fisheries sector dominated the country with an exclusive economic zone of 1.4 million square kilometres. It contributed about 5% of the total GDP, 7% of total employment, and 35% of exported goods. In 2021, Seychelles' EEZ ranked 7 out of 221 on the Ocean Health Index. The resilience of the fishing communities was strengthened through the UN REEFISH project, which benefitted 500 small-scale fisheries in Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles. The project aimed to improve livelihoods, food, and maritime security by strengthening the resilience of fishing communities. The UN through the REEFISH project restored coral ecosystems which helped the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in Seychelles. Complementing the REEFISH project, the Third South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project (SWIOFish3) by the World Bank improved management of marine areas in targeted zones and strengthen fisheries value chains. **Through these contributions, the quantity of annual fish catch was enhanced.**

2 (d) Total land cultivated using climate smart agro practises: The UN promoted the use of climate smart agriculture (CSA) practices such as aquaponics, hydroponics, and sheltered farming, targeting smallholder farmers to increase local food production in Mahe and Praslin which expanded the total land cultivated using CSA in the country: Seychelles experienced a food crisis coupled with a disruption in the supply of food items following the Ukraine crisis. Furthermore, the agricultural sector was prone to natural disasters such as climate change and floods. The use of the right technologies, such as CSA practices and frameworks which recognized agriculture as an enabler to sustainable development was a crucial enabler. The UNCT in Mauritius and Seychelles, therefore, mobilised resources to support both Governments in building resilient food systems. A demonstration project of Climate Smart Agricultural practices was also being set up. In promoting the use of CSA practices, the UN also in cognisance of the fact that women are the most vulnerable to food insecurity as such 2 of the 4 farms visited were operated by women and acknowledged the need to upgrade to mechanized farming through adoption of CSA practises. Through the TCPs, the UN had been building the resilience of farmers and was targeting about 575 producers in Seychelles.

2 (e) Percentage increase in total crop and livestock production for four main products: Data on this indicator was unavailable at the time of the evaluation as such there was need for the UN to put an effort towards improving availability of data in the next cycle of the SPF. However, the evaluation uses crop and livestock production indexes as proxy indicators. **The crop production index reduced from 106.2 at baseline to 100.4 in 2021 while the livestock production index improved from 80.9 at baseline to 96.2.** This showed a slight reduction in crop production which calls for more interventions in the sector to sustain and enhance crop production. However, there was considerable improvement in livestock production in Seychelles. These proxy indicators were rated as achieved and on track.

2 (f) Number of agricultural officers equipped with skills to promote CSA: As many as 700 persons constituting CSOs, agricultural officers, academics and other key stakeholders attended a hybrid mode regional dialogue on food systems, specifically on food security and food waste where capacities were built on crop production, food processing, livestock, and the whole value chain across food systems, fisheries, youth empowerment.⁴⁵ Statistics on the exact number of agricultural officers trained to promote CSA was not available at the time of the evaluation. The UN intervened through capacity strengthening of smallholder farmers to boost local food production. In 2020, the UN supported through evaluating agricultural land to support land resource management and helped formulate Seychelles food-based dietary guidelines. Furthermore, the UN facilitated the development of national capacity

⁴⁴ SDG targets used for 2026.

⁴⁵ UNCT 2021 Annual Report

to integrate nutrition issues in national and regional trade frameworks and the food industries value chain in Seychelles. Through the EBA project, UN provided capacity to smallholder farmers, households, and vulnerable groups such as unemployed women and youth on climate change adaptation techniques, through ecosystem-based methods of forest rehabilitation and watershed management. Furthermore, to enhance capacities in fisheries as it was one of the sectors which contributes significantly to GDP and employed a large number of the population, the UN through FAO provided training facilities to fishermen on how to make a catch, where to anchor their boats and how to reap the rewards from a catch. This enhanced livelihoods, food security and maritime safety through increased resilience of fishing communities.

2 (g) Percentage of population employed in the agricultural sector: *The total number of people employed in the agricultural sector reduced from 80% at baseline to 70%: The ministry of employment with support from UN improved skills training by equipping 225 young people and social partners with entrepreneurship and social innovation skills to become employable and self-sufficient in the agricultural sector.* The private sector of Seychelles remained the predominant source of employment and accounted for 67% of population formally employed. Jobs were more inclined in the accommodation and food services (19%) and construction industry (11%)⁴⁶ than in other sectors.

2 (h) Percentage of population below the national poverty line: *The proportion of population living below the national poverty line increased to 39.3% from a baseline value of 25.3% against a set end line target of 4%:* Poverty remained a key developmental challenge in Seychelles, where 40% of the population was in income poverty, 24% were in food poverty, and 39.3% fell under the poverty datum line.⁴⁷ This was mainly prompted by the fact that low agricultural productivity made the country a net importer, where almost 80%⁴⁸ of national food requirement was imported from other countries, which significantly increased general price levels of food. In 2020, the UN through the World Health Organization (WHO), supported the implementation of the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP) and its 2018-2021 Agriculture Comprehensive Plan to revive the agriculture sector of Seychelles. The primary purpose of the NFNSP was to recognize present and future opportunities and challenges, which would guarantee the right to safe, healthy and adequate food at all times and to satisfy the nutritional needs for optimal health for all persons living in Seychelles. Additionally, the UN supported the development of the draft National Forestry Policy and Legislation in 2020, Forestry and Agro Forestry Policy, evaluated agricultural land to support land resource management, updated a national programme to manage the stray dog population, developing national capacity to integrate nutrition issues in national and regional trade frameworks and the food industries value chain, and formulating Seychelles' Food-Based Dietary Guidelines.⁴⁹ In conclusion, the UN, through its implementing agencies, played a huge role in providing support in enhancing food and nutrition security, although some of the implementations of these processes were affected by COVID-19.

Overall Performance of SDGs for Outcome 1

SDGs	Focus		Description of Performance
1	No Poverty	↑	Increasing
2	Zero Hunger	→	Stagnating
13	Climate Action	→	Stagnating
14	Life below water	↗	Moderately improving

Source: SDG Index Dashboard 2022

The performance of the SDGs for outcome 2 showed that Seychelles had made progress towards attaining a high-income country. Despite the impact of COVID-19, the UN, through its agencies specifically UNDP supported the government of Seychelles towards the attainment of key development indicators related to SDGs 1: Life free from poverty; 2: Zero hunger; 13: Climate Action and 16: Life below water. *However, the*

⁴⁶ ILO Decent Work Programme (2019-2023)

⁴⁷ Government of Seychelles and United Nations (2019). Strategic Partnership Framework (2019-2023). Increasing human development for generations.

⁴⁸ Ibid

⁴⁹ United Nations Seychelles (2020). UN Country Results Report 2020. COVID-19 Response.

SDGs were still stagnant as such the UN, through the UNDP/EU-funded Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA+) project supported this through the construction of water outlets which helped farmers in mitigating sea level rise and adapting to climate-smart agricultural practices. Furthermore, the UNDP implemented the Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EBA) project in the management of watershed committees by introducing the use of CSA practices and ecosystem-based adaptation methods in the farming community, which enabled farmers to mitigate the effects of drought and flooding, thus contributing to the realization of Goal 2.


Overall observations for enhanced food and nutrition security and enhanced livelihoods: Overall, the UN contributed immensely towards the formulation and implementation of policy frameworks aimed at improving agricultural production, food, and nutrition security, as well as enhanced livelihood opportunities. The policy frameworks were designed in a bid to make Seychelles self-sufficient than solely depending on imports from other countries. Capacities were built from small scale farmers through use of new technologies such as CSA practices as well as innovation in fisheries to enhance the catch as well as -income realized. However, the implementation of the SPF was affected by COVID-19 which, to some extent, led to a shift in focus from the indicators to addressing the negative impact of the pandemic.

6.3 Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change Mitigation, and Resilience

Outcome 3: By 2023, national, sub-national, and community levels will have enhanced capacity for sustainable management of natural resources and the environment to mitigate and cope with disasters and the effects of climate change.

Overall, good progress was made toward the achievement of Outcome 3. There were 19 indicators rated as Achieved (3); Good Progress Made towards Achievement (5); and Not Achieved (1). No information (10). The UN contribution was significant. However, five of the indicators had no baselines from which progress could be measured. For these sets of indicators, measuring any form of progress during the SPF period was a major challenge.

Outcome 3 Indicators	Indicator Baseline (2018)	Target 2023	Status by Nov/Dec 2022 and source	Outcome rating
3.a % of public and expenditure in environment, natural resources conservation and climate change, as part of total public expenditure.	XXX	TBD		●
3. b Hectares of coastal ecosystems under management/restoration	1,293 ha Marine Protected Areas and Mangroves (2016)	4,020 hectares marine protected areas and 3,000 hectares sea grass beds (2020)	410,000 square kilometers (30% of its EEZ)	●
3.c Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	The percentage of stocks fished at biologically unsustainable levels increased from 10 percent in 1974 to 34.2 percent in 2017	TBD		●

Outcome 3 Indicators	Indicator Baseline (2018)	Target 2023	Status by Nov/Dec 2022 and source	Outcome rating
3.d Percentage of population employed across the fisheries value chain (disaggregated by sex, age and activities)	17%	TBD	15%	
3.e Number of sustainable natural resources utilisation and renewable energy related policies and strategies responsive to climate change developed	XXX	TBD	1	
3.f Percentage increase in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and other unsustainable natural resource exploits	The percentage of stocks fished at biologically unsustainable levels increased from 10 percent in 1974 to 34.2 percent in 2017	TBD		
3.g Area of watershed outside protected areas brought under integrated planning for sustainable development	0 Ha (2016)	TBD	2,800 ha	
3.h Area of forest managed to reduce flooding and protect water resources during drought	3,102 hectares (Morne Seychellois) 2016	5,337 hectares (2020)	5,102	
3.i Area of land managed sustainably under an in-situ conservation regime, a sustainable use regime and an access and benefits sharing regime	44,200 Ha protected areas estate 0 Ha terrestrial sustainable use areas, 0 Ha access and benefits sharing (2016)	121,695 ha protected areas 2,169 ha terrestrial sustainable use, access and benefits sharing to be determined (2020)		
3.j Number of Sector and Decentralised development action plans that mainstream climate change and environmental conservation	XXX	TBD	6 Sectors	
3.k Number and % of tourism sector service providers that adopt and implement climate smart practices	XXX	TBD		
3.l Number of renewable energy innovations developed and adopted	XXX	TBD		
3.m Ratio of population primarily reliant on renewable energy to fossil fuel energy sources	Renewable energy consumption (% of	TBD	1.6%	

Outcome 3 Indicators	Indicator Baseline (2018)	Target 2023	Status by Nov/Dec 2022 and source	Outcome rating
	total final energy consumption) - 1.24%			
3.n Number of households benefiting from grant and loan schemes for Renewable Energy Technology and Energy Efficient appliances (sex-disaggregated)	0 poor and 35 female-headed households (2016)	200 poor and 300 female headed households	500 Households	●
3.o Percentage of total renewable energy produced and consumed on the national grid	0%	TBD		●
3.p Level of alignment of national DRR framework with Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 according to assessment indicators.	0 /38	TBD		●
3.q Area of rehabilitated water provisioning and watershed flooding attenuation systems	0 hectares (2016)	3,300 hectares	2,800 ha	●
3.r National institutional structure for disaster and emergency preparedness and response fully functional in accordance with international standards.	Department of Risk and Disaster Management (formerly called Division of Risk Management) in place	TBD		●
3.s Value of Annual losses resulting from natural disasters	US\$2.8 million in combined direct losses from earthquakes, floods, and tropical cyclones each year.	TBD		●

Notes: Where data was unavailable, the rating of the outcomes was done based on stakeholders' perceptions.

3(a) % of public and expenditure in environment, natural resources conservation and climate change, as part of total public expenditure: Public expenditures on natural resources management and other environmental issues are cross-cutting with several government ministries, departments and agencies involved in their implementation. Without providing a percentage per say, it's evident that a larger proportion of government expenditure is directed to the environment and natural resources conservation given that a healthy environment is key in sustaining the tourism industry which is the main economic pillar in Seychelles. More importantly, benefits to the environment in some cases might emanate as a positive externality that it's difficult to assign a value. For example, the implementation of the New Building Code in Seychelles provides several benefits ranging from rainwater harvesting, use of solar PV, energy efficiency, among other. However, adaptation to climate change is a national priority in Seychelles – a position that has been reinforced in the first NDC⁵⁰ and even in the Updated NDC⁵¹.

3(b) Hectares of coastal ecosystems under management/restoration: Information on this output could not be found.

⁵⁰ Government of Seychelles (2015). Intended Nationally Determined Contribution of Seychelles.

⁵¹ Government of Seychelles (2021). Seychelles' Updated Nationally Determined Contribution.

3(c) Area of watershed outside protected areas brought under integrated planning for sustainable development, and 3(d) Area of rehabilitated water provisioning and watershed flooding attenuation systems:

Climate change projections for Seychelles have shown that while rainfall in general will increase, its future pattern will become even more variable⁵². Much of the precipitation is falling in sharp bursts, creating heavy flooding in the wet season, while extended periods of drought occur during the dry season (GoS, 2009). As the country does not have a large water-storage capacity, and the topography of the islands constrains such infrastructure, water supplies are heavily dependent on rainfall. This has led to competition for water between domestic and agricultural uses, which is now an issue of major concern. This is because agriculture in Seychelles is highly dependent on irrigation, and livestock farming uses a lot of water in the production process. Therefore, farmers who depend on the Public Utilities Corporation (PUC) for water pay higher prices when compared to those utilizing water from irrigation schemes where a flat rate is paid irrespective of consumption. As such, the EBA Project sought to restore the ecosystem functionality and resilience of watersheds and coastal processes to secure ecosystem services such as critical water provisioning and flood attenuation. The Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE) in collaboration with the GoS-UNDP-GEF Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) were responsible for its implementation. The PCU is a local management system of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Seychelles that ensures the effective coordination and implementation of UNDP-GEF funded projects implemented by the Government of Seychelles (GoS) through the MACCE. The overall objective of the EBA Project was to reduce the vulnerability of Seychelles to climate change by addressing issues of water scarcity and flooding. Over 1000 ha of degraded wetlands have been restored, and through the active participation of community member, five rivers on Mahe island were managed, a total of 23 ha of degraded forest land on Praslin were planted with native tree species. Five watershed committees were set-up before the completion of the project.

3(e) Area of forest managed to reduce flooding and protect water resources during drought: Through the ongoing Ridge to Reef (R2R) Project., the UN in partnership of the Global Environment Fund (GEF), several trainings were provided to relevant stakeholders on topics such as sustainable forestry management, agroforestry, wetland management, and forest fire management, among others. A group of over sixty farmers trained in agroforestry could also receive further support for large boulders to be removed from their farmland to provide space for tree planting as part of the R2R project. Still, in this ongoing project, at least 50% of those trained for coral restoration were female.

3(f) Number of sector and decentralised development action plans that mainstream climate change and environmental conservation: Mainstreaming climate change objectives into existing policies and practices, as opposed to developing new or dedicated policies has several advantages for achieving sustainable change. Although the initial NDC of 2015 did take into account issues of mainstreaming, the Updated NDC of Seychelles fully ensure such consideration. Climate change is now mainstream into key sectors such as agriculture, fisheries/blue economy, tourism, infrastructure, waste management, health, etc. The UN was one of the contributors towards the development of the Seychelles' Updated Nationally Determined Contributions in which climate change has been mainstreamed across six key sectors. The NDC was a multi-sectoral and multi-agency engagement involving the World Bank, the European Union, and other institutions. Additionally, the UN, in collaboration with the Seychelles Energy Commission, reviewed emerging priorities to ensure that the legal environment would enable Seychelles to achieve the mitigation targets outlined in the NDCs.

3(g) Ratio of population primarily reliant on renewable energy to fossil fuel energy sources: Seychelles was among four countries in the African continent with 100% access to electricity, of which over 90% of the energy is generated from fossil fuels. The energy transition is a crucial enabler of sustainable development and climate resilience. Despite several policy and financial incentives that have been put in place by the Government of

⁵² GoS. (2009). Seychelles National Climate Change Strategy. Produced by the Seychelles National Climate Change Committee. Retrieved from <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sey191495.pdf>.

Seychelles, the level of adoption of renewable energy was still very low. An estimated 5% of the energy mix was from renewable energy, while just 1.6% of the population were reliant on renewable energy⁵³. Throughout 2019, the UN in Seychelles remained a keen advocate for SDG 13 Climate Change support both mitigation and adaptation measures, championing the uptake on energy efficient appliances and increased awareness on Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) amongst households.⁵⁴ The UN adaptation measures in the district of Baie Lazare and Baie Ste Anne Praslin benefitted the farming community with enhanced water storage capacity and efficient technologies to boost productivity of farms.⁵⁵ Building on the success of the UNDP/GEF funded Energy Efficiency project and the Photo-Voltaic projects, Seychelles became one of the Indian Ocean Nations that received a grant from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) on supporting adaptation measures to climate change.⁵⁶ Given the creation of the necessary enabling environment, there has been a continued uptake of energy efficient appliances and renewable energy technology for households and businesses.

3(h) Number of households benefiting from grant and loan schemes for Renewable Energy Technology and Energy Efficient appliances (sex-disaggregated): The PV democratization 2.0 project aimed to increase access to solar PV to households who could not afford a rooftop PV system, access a low-cost loan, or had a roof that was not conducive to installing a PV system. The project sought to create a financial vehicle for these consumers to own PV systems through a communal approach. The Government of Seychelles would identify large rooftops suitable for PV installation. Consumers could then buy a share of the system and pay it back by monthly installments through electricity bills or other mechanisms. A phase I of the democratization of solar photovoltaic (PV) project financed by a grant of US \$3.4 million from the government of India had already been finalized. The said project had benefitted 500 low-income households especially those that depends on the social security system for financial support. Through the Climate Investment Platform, the UNDP mobilized \$ 100,000 to support Seychelles develop an enabling environment to mobilize climate financing under two projects. These projects include i) the PV democratization 2.0 project, which aims to increase access to solar PV to households who cannot afford a rooftop PV system, access a low-cost loan, or have a roof that is not conducive to installing a PV system, and ii) improving the quality of potable drinking water by upgrading groundwater treatment processes on La Digue Island.

Overall Performance of SDGs for Outcome 3

SDGs	Focus	Description of Performance	
5	Gender equality	↓	Decreasing
6	Clean water and sanitation	↑	Increasing
13	Climate action	→	Stagnating
14	Life below water	↗	Moderately improving
15	Life on land	↗	Moderately improving

Source: Seychelles Sustainable Development Report, 2022⁵⁷

The performance of the SDGs for outcome 3 entails that the country needed to focus on some of the SDGs that were performing poorly, while ensuring that those with higher performance were sustained over time. SDG 5 on gender equality showed a decrease and it was an area that required urgent attention. On the other

⁵³ Etongo, D., Naidu, H. Determinants of household adoption of solar energy technology in Seychelles in a context of 100% access to electricity. *Discov Sustain* 3, 38 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43621-022-00108-4>

⁵⁴ <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/mu/UNDP-Seychelles-Annual-Report-2019.pdf>

⁵⁵ <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/mu/UNDP-Seychelles-Annual-Report-2019.pdf>

⁵⁶ <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/mu/UNDP-Seychelles-Annual-Report-2020-Interactive.pdf>

⁵⁷ <https://dashboards.sdindex.org/profiles/seychelles>

hand, SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation showed an increase, while climate action (SDG 13) was stagnating. Finally, SDGs 14 and 15 were moderately improving.

6.4 Human Capital Development and Quality of Life

Outcome 4: By 2023, the population of Seychelles, especially women, children, youth, vulnerable and high-risk groups, have increased access to quality, integrated healthcare, education and services that safeguard and promote quality of life.








Overall, limited progress has been made towards the attainment of outcome 4. This outcome lacked supportive information to assess the performance of the indicators. There were 24 indicators rated as: Achieved (2); Good Progress Made towards Achievement (6); Satisfactory (0); and Not Achieved (0); Not Rated/no information (16). For the indicators that could be rated, the UN contribution was significant.

An analysis of the performance of outcome 4 during the SPF period is presented below.

Table 5: Performance of Outcome 4 indicators

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Status	Rating
Outcome 4: By 2023, the population of Seychelles, especially women, children, youth, vulnerable and high-risk groups, have increased access to quality, integrated healthcare, education and services that safeguard and promote quality of life				
Neonatal mortality rate	14.6 per 1000 live births	<6.5	8.4 (2021)	●
Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease	Cardiovascular diseases (%) 31.5% Cancer (%) 26.7% Chronic respiratory diseases (%) 0.5% Diabetes (%) 9.8%	< 50% of all deaths	No rate, but number of cancer deaths = 126: 61M, 65F (2021)	●
Adolescent birth rate (10-14 years & 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	10 - 14 years - 15 -19 years - 94/1000	15 -19 years - <30 (2025)		●
Percentage of health facilities in target areas providing services for key populations (female sex workers etc.)	Xxx	TBD		●
NCDs incidence per 1,000 population	Cardiovascular diseases (%) 31.5% Cancer (%) 26.7% Chronic respiratory diseases (%) 0.5% Diabetes (%) 9.8%	'a 25% relative reduction in the overall mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and CRD by 2025'		●
Number of people reached through NCD/Lifestyles campaigns	Xxx	TBD		●

(disaggregated by sex, gender and geographical location)

International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness	score = 1 (2020) Emergency preparedness and response was not well. included in the NHSP plans and targets	Health Emergency governance structure developed and validated	Health emergency governance (PHEOC) Developed	
Health worker density and distribution (number and geographic distribution)	Practising doctors per 10,000 pop (2020) - 26 Practising nurses per 10,000 pop. (2020) - 66	TBD	Practising doctors per 10,000 pop (2021) - 22 Practising nurses per 10,000 pop. (2021) - 54	No geographical dimension in data
Proportion of the population with access to affordable medicines and vaccines on a sustainable basis	UHC index (77.6) Access to medicine is free to the public with 431 items on the Essential Drug List of the MOH	UHC Index >80 (2026)	UHC Index 70 (2019)	
Health worker to patient ratio (disaggregated by health worker typology and geographical location)	Practicing doctors per 10,000 pop (2020) - 26 Practicing nurses per 10,000 pop. (2020) - 66	TBD	Practicing doctors per 10,000 pop (2021) - 22 Practicing nurses per 10,000 pop. (2021) - 54	
Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population (by sex, age and key populations)	1.25 per 1000	HIV incidence – 50 (2026)	56 (new cases, in 2021)	
Contraceptive prevalence rate. Family Planning (Access to Modern Contraceptives)	38.10%	TBD		
Percentage of HIV+ patients on ART (Disaggregated by children 0-14 years, pregnant women, persons 15+)	72%	>90 (2026)	HIV treatment 87%	However, increase to 3.1% HIV related deaths (2021)
Alcohol per capita consumption (Aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol	consumption (11-17 Years) 48% 10% relative	reduction 20.51 TBD		
Total alcohol per capita (age 15+ years) consumption (11-17 Years) 48%	48% (2020)	10% relative reduction (2026)		

Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older	23.40%	30% relative reduction (2026)	●
Number of drug related offences recorded	749 (2019)	TBD	●
A National Health Management Information System established	Xxx	Exists	●
Number of legislative and policy reforms done to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination based on sex	Xxx	TBD	●
% Of population that experienced sexual or gender based violence in previous 12 months (Disaggregated by sex, age and location)	Women 58% Men 43%	TBD	●
Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	100%	100%	●
Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression in the past month	320 cases of child abuse	TBD	●
Proportion of children under 5 years who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex	Xxx	75%	●
Proportion of schools with access to:			
(a) Electricity; (b) Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes;	100%	100%	●
(d) Adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic hand washing facilities			
Percentage of reports submitted and recommendations from human rights mechanisms (UPR, TB, SP, Regional System)	Xxx	TBD	One report on CEDAW submitted ●

Notes: Where data was unavailable, the rating of the outcomes was done based on stakeholders' perceptions.

4(a) Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease: Data was missing to assess the indicator, but the evaluation noted that the number of cancer-related deaths at the end of 2021 stood at 126 (61 males and 65 females) representing 28% of the total NCD mortality and 14% of

total registered deaths.⁵⁸ In addition, although data was missing, the findings revealed that the UN supported the GoRS to increase awareness of the causes of cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and adoption of positive lifestyle practices that reduce incidence and prevalence of NCDs in the general population.⁵⁹

4(b) Health worker density and distribution (number and geographic distribution): The ratio of practicing doctors and nurses per 10,000 individuals dropped from 26 and 66 in 2020, respectively, to 22 and 54 in 2021, respectively.⁶⁰ This therefore calls for the need for increased support towards the training of health workers. Nonetheless, consultations with both the GoS and UN agencies revealed that the government and the UN had during the period under review facilitated trainings and implemented skills building programs to enhance the capacity of public and health sector professionals to respond to emerging demands of health management.⁶¹

4(c) Proportion of the population with access to affordable medicines and vaccines on a sustainable basis: Although there was a drop in the universal health coverage (UHC) index from 77.6 percent at baseline to 70% in 2022, the evaluation revealed that access to medicine was free to the public with 431 items on the essential drug list of the Ministry of Health (MOH).⁶² This was found to have been made possible by the continued high budgetary allocation to the health sector and the UN support towards strengthening strategies, policies, and legislation to ensure that Seychelles as an effective integrated health care system capable of responding to any health issues and emergencies.⁶³ The UN through the UNDP supported the GoRS in its efforts against the COVID-19 pandemic by procuring PCR test kits for Health.⁶⁴ Close cooperation and collaboration between the MOH, the WHO, and Department for Risk and Disaster Management (DRDM), was instrumental in the initial establishment and early COVID-19 response operations. Responding to a public health emergency of this magnitude required the close cooperation of all sectors of society.⁶⁵ Prior to the amendment of the Public Health Act (2015) in 2021 allowing the Emergency Use Authorisation of vaccines and medical products, all vaccine in use in Seychelles required WHO pre-qualification.⁶⁶ As assistance and COVID-19 response, the UN through WHO in 2020 donated to the MOH laboratory consumables and PPEs and provided technical assistance (5 consultants) in the areas of incident management, data management, case management, risk communication and logistics.⁶⁷

4(d) Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population: The incidence of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population increased from 1.25 per 1000 uninfected population at baseline (2019) to 56 in 2021. This was attributed to increased awareness and utilization of HIV/AIDs testing services among the population. The UN supported awareness raising and enhanced a utilization of the HIV/AIDs testing among the population during the period under review.⁶⁸ In 2019 guidelines for all aspects of Testing and Treatment in Seychelles were reviewed and developed with the help of the UN through the WHO.⁶⁹

⁵⁸ <http://www.health.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/2021-VITAL-STATISTICS-REPORT-1.pdf>

⁵⁹ Consultations with the UN

⁶⁰ http://www.health.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/APR-2021_Final14.09.22.pdf

⁶¹ Consultations with the UN

⁶² <http://www.health.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/NHSP-Final-20.12.22-web.pdf>

⁶³ Consultations with the UN

⁶⁴ <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/mu/UNDP-Seychelles-Annual-Report-2020-Interactive.pdf>

⁶⁵ http://www.health.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/APR-2021_Final14.09.22.pdf

⁶⁶ http://www.health.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/APR-2021_Final14.09.22.pdf

⁶⁷ <http://www.health.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/Annual-Health-Sector-Performance-Report-2020.pdf>

⁶⁸ Consultations with the UN

⁶⁹ https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/country/documents/SYC_2020_countryreport.pdf

4(e) Percentage of HIV+ patients on Ant-Retro Viral Treatment (ART): The number of HIV positive patients on ART increase from 72% in 2019 to 87% in 2022 against the national target of 90% by 2026. The positive development was partly attributed to UN's support through UNFPA to increase awareness of the importance and provision of HIV/AIDS testing, counseling and treatment services among the country's population particularly the high-risk populations (sex workers and homosexuals).⁷⁰

4(f) Percentage of reports submitted and recommendations from human rights mechanisms (UPR, TB, SP, Regional System): One report on CEDAW was submitted during the evaluation period. For the indicators that could be rated due to lack of data, the UN contribution was significant.. In addition, the evaluation findings revealed that the UN worked with the GoS to build the capacity of the health sector to generate and disseminate timely and reliable data for informed policy formulation, action and disease surveillance. This was evidenced by the introduction, development and implementation of customized demographic and health surveys by both the UN and government during the period under review. The evaluation team noted that data the government had generally data to assess, monitor and report on the health sector.⁷¹ Nonetheless, the findings also indicated that some of the plans aimed at improving provision of and access to health data such as capacity building for and operationalization of a Gender Information Management System had not been implemented. The UN in September 2020 extended technical support to Seychelles on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) through a virtual training.⁷² The Seychelles' 3rd cycle UPR was successfully submitted in March 2021 to be reviewed at the 38th session of the Human Rights Council in May 2021.⁷³ The UN also provided technical support aimed at strengthening the Seychelles Human Rights Commission (SHRC).⁷⁴

Health Systems Strengthening: UN contribution towards strengthening the health care system was significant. The findings revealed that the UN contributed to building a more resilient health system, helping the country progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The UN supported the COVID-19 response and health security preparedness and promoted healthier lifestyles through health in all policies. In February 2022, the MoH and WHO signed a joint two-year work plan to support Seychelles in strengthening its health system to achieve national health goals.

Capacities of Health Personnel to Respond to Health Challenges: To enhance the capacities of government and health sector professionals to respond to emerging demands (including COVID-19) in the health sector, the UN collaborated with the government and the private sector to train more than 200 health sector workers, as well as key personnel in other industries such as tourism in COVID-19 case detection, investigation and contact tracing. In 2020, another 70 healthcare professionals from the public and private sectors, including civil society organizations, received training on the UN Treatment, a drug dependence treatment training package. Other capacities built included improved management of national laboratories for COVID-19 testing and national health system strengthening to ensure infection prevention and control through protocols, training relevant staff, procuring protective gear, laboratory equipment, and supplies, and improved service delivery. This led to an expansion of the Seychelles laboratory network and enhancement of the capacity of staff at sampling stations to improve access to testing, thereby helping to reduce transmission levels. Further, the UN supported the Department of Health (DoH) in MoH with development of procedures and training health care workers in case management and operations, and logistics support with regard to procurement, pre-positioning, and distribution of supplies across the inner and outer islands.

⁷⁰ Consultations with the UN

⁷¹ Consultations with the UN




⁷² <https://unsdg.un.org/un-in-action/seychelles>

⁷³ <https://unsdg.un.org/un-in-action/seychelles>

⁷⁴ <https://unsdg.un.org/un-in-action/seychelles>

Immigration and Harnessing Demographic Dividend Policy Frameworks: Children's rights are protected, and all children have access to adequate growth and development opportunities, including access to quality education. UN's support towards the goal was significant. In 2019, the UN and the government developed a case for cooperation with the private sector to address the protection issues faced by children and youth. Technical assistance in this regard comprised: i) Conducting an in-depth assessment of the capacities and needs of the social work system; ii) Preparing a budget analysis of the child protection sector; iii) Developing a national plan of action for child protection; and iv) Reviewing and strengthening the professional organization of social workers. The partnership between the government and the private sector addressed vital child protection issues, including drug addiction and the widening income inequalities in 2020. To facilitate safe, regular, and orderly migration, the UN, in October 2019, supported the GoRS in formulating the National Labour Migration Policy and Action Plan, which aims to provide a coherent and responsive framework for regulating labour migration at the national level, contributing to improved balance of labour supply and demand, and ensuring decent and productive work for all workers. The policy aims to contribute to the long-term vision of sustainable development for the country by enhancing the benefits of labour migration and minimizing its negative impacts on the economy, society, and migrant workers. To strengthen the implementation of this policy, Seychelles also benefitted from its development partners' support, including technical assistance and expertise from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), to promote ethical recruitment, workers' rights and sustainable ways of doing business.

Overall Performance of SDGs for Outcome 4

SDGs	Focus	Description of Performance	
3	Health		Moderately Improving
5	Gender Equality		decreasing
8	Decent Work and Economic Growth		Stagnating

Source: Sustainable Development Report, 2022

The performance of the SDGs for outcome 4 entailed that the country was slowly towards a good quality of life for the people of Seychelles. SDGs 3 on health is moderately improving while the SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth remained stagnating. However, SDG 5 on gender equality was decreasing.

Overall Observation on the Quality of Life: Mercer's 2019 ranking screened 231 cities according to 39 criteria, ranging from crime and waste management to public transport, housing, economic attractiveness, culture and leisure, and more. These factors were evaluated in Mercer's Quality of Living Reports, which offer city-to-city comparisons. Seychelles' capital Victoria has been ranked 5th in Africa in an American consulting firm's quality of life survey.

6.5 Data Development and, Science, Technology and Innovation Development

Outcome 5: By 2023, Government has robust data, science, technology and innovation to support inclusive socio-economic development

Overall, good progress was made towards the achievement of Outcome 5. There were 10 indicators rated as: Achieved (0); Good Progress Made towards Achievement (3); Satisfactory (2); Not Achieved (1) and No information (4). The UN contribution was significant.

What follows is an analysis of the performance of outcome 5 during the SPF period.

Table 6: Performance of Outcome 5 indicators

Indicators	Baseline (2018)	Target (2023)	Indicators status (2022)	
<i>SPF Outcome 5: By 2023, Government has robust data, science, technology and innovation to support inclusive socio-economic development</i>				
Number of domesticated SDG indicators the national systems report on reliably	96	TBD	96	●
Framework and system for monitoring the SDGs and Agenda 2063 established	SDG National Oversight Committee established in 2017.		SDG Baseline Survey completed by 2019	●
Number of surveys and evaluations conducted	Xxx	TBD	7	●
Number of SDG and Agenda 2063 goals monitoring, and evaluation report produced	Xxx	TBD		●
Legislative policies enacted to enhance science, technology and innovation	Xxx	TBD	Science, Technology and Innovation Policy and Strategy (2016-2025).	●
Number of support structures, systems and institutions established to enhance access to data	The Data Protection Act 9 of 2003	TBD		●
Level of demand and supply driven science, technology and innovation uptake by sectors	Xxx	TBD	Introduction of a national STEM programme at extra-curricular level	●
Number of central and local government entities using HBS findings in planning and budgeting	Xxx	TBD		●
Number of local innovations developed to address challenges faced by most vulnerable (disaggregate by sources of funding/support)	Xxx	TBD		●
Percentage increase in contribution of the tourism sector to the National GDP	40.40%	TBD	22.9%	●

Notes: Where data was unavailable, the rating of the outcomes was done based on stakeholders' perceptions.

5(a). Number of domesticated SDG indicators the national systems report on reliably. Seychelles produced its first Voluntary National Review in 2020. However, significant data gaps made

it challenging to monitor the progress made in achieving all the SDGs. At the time of reporting, Seychelles was able to report on 96 SDG indicators⁷⁵. This shows that there has not been any change from the baseline report.

5(b). Framework and system for monitoring the SDGs and Agenda 2063 established. The UN provided technical assistance to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to support the process to address data gaps in data collection informing the Voluntary National Review on SDG progress. The country's first Voluntary National Review (VNR) which reported on the SDGs' attainment was finalized and published in 2020⁷⁶.

5(c). Number of surveys and evaluations conducted. Through UN support, a series of thematic assessments of the impact of the pandemic were carried out and these guided the Government and development partners in developing recovery plans. Some of the assessments include the gender assessment of the socio-economic impact; rapid assessment on food security; regional assessments on migration, trade and tourism impacts; a regional study on migration; surveys on the culture and museum sectors, intangible cultural heritage and world heritage⁷⁷. Situation reports helped to inform and create an evidence base for decision making. The UN also supported an empirical study on the impacts of COVID-19 on households and businesses. The strengthened capacity of the NBS through interventions from the UN helped improve the census implementation plan and preparedness. The National Bureau of Statistics strengthened the national labour market statistics by conducting "School to Work" transition and COVID-19 impact surveys.

5(d). Number of SDG and Agenda 2063 goals monitoring, and evaluation report produced. The UNDP published the "Empowering the Private Sector to Diversify Seychelles' Economy" paper in 2021. This paper drew on extensive national-level consultations and data analysis to stimulate debate on strategies for repositioning the private sector to effectively contribute to the country's economic diversification. The results of this report informed Government decision to prepare an SDG Investor Map for Seychelles, expected to commence in 2022.

5(e). Legislative policies enacted to enhance science, technology, and innovation. The UN supported the development of the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy and Strategy (2016-2025)⁷⁸. This document provided guidelines for other implicit national policies and strategies related to building and strengthening the foundation of governance and the four pillars of the knowledge-based economy: economic incentive and policy regime; an educated, knowledgeable, and skilled workforce, an efficient national innovation system and a modern and adequate information infrastructure.

5(f). Number of support structures, systems and institutions established to enhance access to data. With support from the UN, there was improved access to online tools on resilience, climate change, disaster risk reduction and groundwater resource management. The UN also supported the development of project document to map and measure the National System of Innovation in terms of institutional relationships and performance between the Government, knowledge-based institutions, industry and arbitrageurs. The project, once completed, would (i) improve evidence-based policy making, (ii) provide monitoring instruments for science and technology in the economy, (iii) identify the weaknesses in the national system, (iv) lead to an action plan for capacity building and evidence-based solutions.

⁷⁵ <https://dashboards.sdginde.org/profiles/seychelles/indicators>

⁷⁶ United Nations Country Results Report – Seychelles 2020

⁷⁷ United Nations Country Results Report – Seychelles 2020

⁷⁸ United Nations Country Results Report – Seychelles 2020

5(g). Level of demand and supply driven science, technology and innovation uptake by sectors. The National Institute of Science, Technology and Innovation (NISTI) launched a national STEM programme at extra-curricular level. The aim of the programme was to sensitize students on frontier technologies that were relevant to the Fourth Industrial Revolution. In addition, the UNDP supported the Government of Seychelles to implement the national digital strategy which entailed the purchase of 100 ICT equipment to facilitate transition towards paperless, efficient systems⁷⁹.

5(h). Number of central and local government entities using HBS findings in planning and budgeting. There was no information gathered during the evaluation to inform the performance of this outcome indicator.

5(i). Number of local innovations developed to address challenges faced by most vulnerable (disaggregate by sources of funding/support). There was no information gathered during the evaluation to inform the performance of this outcome indicator.

5(j). Percentage increase in contribution of the tourism sector to the National GDP. The contribution of the tourism sector to National GDP declined from 39% at baseline to 22% in 2020: Seychelles is mainly a service driven economy with tourism contributing significantly to the national GDP. This was mainly attributed to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the sector. The tourism sector was negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As indicated above, to enhance the capacities of government and health sector professionals to respond to the negative impacts of COVID-19 on the economy and health sector, the UN collaborated with the government and the private sector to train more than 200 health sector workers, as well as key personnel in other industries such as tourism in COVID-19 case detection, investigation and contact tracing. In 2020, another 70 healthcare professionals from the public and private sectors, including civil society organizations, received training on the UN Treatment, a drug dependence treatment training package. Other capacities built included improved management of national laboratories for COVID-19 testing and national health system strengthening to ensure infection prevention and control through protocols, training relevant staff, procuring protective gear, laboratory equipment, and supplies, and improved service delivery. These measures were found to have greatly contributed to the country's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 7: Performance of SDGs for Data, Science, Technology and Innovation (2022)

SDGs	Focus	Description of Performance	
2	Zero Hunger	→	Stagnating
3	Good health and well-being	↗	Moderately Improving
5	Gender equality	↓	Decreasing
6	Clean water and sanitation	↑	On track or Maintaining SDG achievement

Source: Sustainable Development Report 2022.

Seychelles had made significant progress in achieving some of SDGs associated with outcome 5. The country was on track with achieving SDG number 6 (Clean water and sanitation) while it was moderately improving

⁷⁹ 2021 Un Country Annual Results Report, Seychelles

with regards to SDG 3 (Good health and well-being). On the other progress in achieving SDG 2 (Zero hunger) progress had stagnated while SDG 6 (Gender equality) progress was regressing⁸⁰.

⁸⁰ Sustainable Development Report, 2022

7 EFFICIENCY

EQ I: How efficiently were resources of the SPF used in the implementation of the programme?

The evaluation results for Seychelles noted some good practices in contributing to efficiency and areas that require more attention. UNCT tended to coordinate efficiency efforts for both Mauritius and Seychelles together. Given that respondents for efficiency issues were the same for Seychelles and Mauritius, the sections for the two countries are more or less the same.

7.1 Operations Management Team (OMT)

This structure of the UNCT is critical for addressing efficiency in procurement and services that the UN agencies receive. The OMP developed the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) - a tool that outlines the various strategies the UNCT would employ to address issues of efficiency. The UN Agencies participating in Seychelles BOS included UNDP and WHO. IOTC under FAO was yet to decide on whether to join the OMT or not. The Evaluation results noted that OMT was much stronger in Mauritius than in the Seychelles, more so because of limited presence of UN agencies in Seychelles. The OMT only became operational in the Seychelles in 2022, towards the end of the SPF.

Noted challenges: The OMT did not meet regularly. This was because the UN agencies shared the same building and often went to each other desks when there were issues requiring attention. The Seychelles still had fewer UN agencies (WHO). However, of late there was an increase in footprint of UN agencies which could change the operations in future.

7.2 Delivering as One (DaO)

DaO operationalised but there was room for improvement: The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) developed the Standard Operational procedures for DaO. The 2030 Agenda also calls for a strong United Nations development system that delivers joint support. The standard operating procedures for DaO focused on promoting coherency and avoidance of duplication improving and improving standards and operating systems. Most of the UN agencies interviewed confirmed that, following the establishment of the local coordination office in 2021 they were better efforts by the UN to work as one family to enhance coordination and alignment of the UN work with the GoRS⁸¹, DaO was increasingly becoming a common feature of the UN work with and among the agencies, and is guiding the development, implementation and monitoring of UN joint programmes in Seychelles. Nonetheless, the findings identified the need for more systematic and deliberate joint programming planning, implementation and monitoring among programme staff to further actualise DaO principles. This was because DaO was more evident at the UNCT level than among the in-country UN programme staff. Key achievements on joint UN programming included the following:

- i) **SDG Leadership Lab:** In 2021 under the leadership of the RC and with support from DCO, the UNCT participated in the SDG Leadership Lab, aimed at enhancing holistic collaboration among the UN entities towards achieving SDGs. As such, strong bonds and commitment were established among the UNCT and PMT.
- ii) **UN Support towards COVID-19 Fight:** As part of its contribution towards the fight against COVID-19, the UN under the leadership of the RC collaborated with GoRS and the private sector to train more than 200 health sector workers, as well as key personnel in other industries such as tourism in COVID-19 cases detection, investigation and contact tracing. In addition, with the

⁸¹ The UN Seychelles Liaison Office was officially opened in 2021 to strengthen the UN's partnership with the government and to expand UN cooperation to new sectors.

pandemic highlighting food security issues, the UN supported Seychelles' National Food Systems Dialogues in preparation for the global UN Food Systems Summit in 2021. With input from the UN agencies, the country's national food systems pathway was elaborated with clear recommendations to be implemented in 2022 and beyond.

- iii) **UNECA and WHO Collaboration Example:** A UN Contribution Agreement enabled WHO Seychelles to assist UNECA to make in-country financial disbursements to facilitate the arrival, accommodation and participation of almost 100 delegates in support of the UNECA funded IC SOE conference. This was a Quality and high-level policy dialogue, a first of its kind gathering of UNECA member state representatives, senior officials from Eastern and Central Africa and experts from all over the world at the Savoy Resort Hotel and Spa. They convened to explore practical ways of 'Pursuing resilience, economic growth and diversification in the context of instability and shocks: Role of Special Economic Zones, Innovative Finance and African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
- iv) **Common Resource Utilisation:** Although not systematic, the evaluation noted cases of UN agencies sharing resources, including vehicles, meeting spaces as well as undertaking joint communications (e.g., retweeting of One UN Seychelles activities).

7.3 UNCT SWAP- Scorecard for Gender Mainstreaming

The Seychelles had not yet started to implement the **UNCT SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard**, an accountability framework for gender mainstreaming. Achieving gender equality



and empowerment of all women and girls is integral to the attainment of the 17 SDGs. In order to achieve the 17 SDGs, and their promise to leave no-one behind, the UNCTs are expected to systematically mainstream these principles in their delivery of work. The UNCT SWAP Score card is a standardized assessment of UNC Country level effort in gender mainstreaming. It is an accountability framework that incorporates fifteen performance indicators to support coordinated and coherent gender mainstreaming by UN country Teams. The UN Women is responsible for coordination of the implementation of this framework.⁸² The framework has 7 pillars: i) Planning; ii) Programming and Monitoring and Evaluation; iii) Partnerships; iv) Leadership and Organizational Culture; v) Gender Architecture and Capacities; vi) Resources and vii) Results.

The UNCT is expected to implement this framework starting with a baseline against which progress will be assessed. The evaluation findings observed that the Seychelles UNCT had not yet started implementing this

⁸² UNCT SWAP Gender Equality Score Card (2018) Framework and Technical Guidance.

important accountability framework. An effective implementation of such a framework should be supported by a UNCT Gender mainstreaming Strategy informed by the 7 pillars of the framework.

7.4 Integration of Gender and Human Rights

Gender and Human Rights was integrated across the pillars of the SPF: The design of the Seychelles SPF was anchored on the United Nations 4 principles of programming namely: i) Leave no one behind; ii) Human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment; iii) Sustainability and resilience; and iv) Data Development. As much as 50% of projects implemented in the country by the UN integrated youths and gender in the planning and execution processes⁸³. Gender and Human Rights acted as cross cutting issues across the priority areas. For instance, under the SPF strategic priority area three focusing on human capital development and quality of life, the fourth component sorely focussed on mainstreaming gender as it was viewed to be at the centre of the country's national development. Gender equality and protection of other vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities was considered a prerequisite towards achieving sustainable development in Seychelles. Likewise, in the other outcome areas, the evaluation team noted UN's support to the GoRS, private sector and the media to advance gender equality, women's economic empowerment, political participation and decision making at national and local levels and in the private sector. Specifically, the findings revealed that as part of ensuring equality, agencies across all outcomes implemented a number of projects and trainings targeting women and other vulnerable groups (elderly, youths and the disabled). In addition, to fight vices that are an hindrance to gender equality and human rights such as GBV and discrimination based on sex, the UN worked with different government ministries and departments including Ministry of Family Affairs, the Police and Office of the Attorney General to come up with legislative reforms, laws and policies that uphold gender equality and human rights. Further, to allow agencies and stakeholders to report on and monitor progress in governance, gender equality and human rights, the SPF provided for the collection and dissemination of gender-disaggregated data. **Women's rights and access to opportunities as well as protection against Gender Based Violence (GBV) was a priority during the implementation of the SPF.** Considering that women are the most vulnerable to food insecurity, under priority area two, the UN provided capacity-building trainings to smallholder farmers, households, and vulnerable groups such as unemployed women and youths on climate change adaptation techniques, through ecosystem-based methods of forest rehabilitation and watershed management. Furthermore, through support towards the legislation of the Domestic Violence Act, which is an amendment of the Penal Code, the evaluation team noted that the UN had during the implementation of the SPF strengthened Seychelles' capacity to fight GBV as well as violence against women and girls (VAWG). However, the findings revealed that there still exists a gap when it comes to the rehabilitation of GBV victims and limited awareness of GBV prevention measures. Further, the country still lags behind on the realisation of human rights and how it relates to social and economic development across sectors.

7.5 Other Normative Frameworks for Efficiency

The UN in Seychelles has applied the UN programming guidelines of Results-Focused; Partnership, Coherent Policy support, Capacity Building and Risk-Informed Programming: Analysis of UN programming across the 5 outcome areas suggested a strong adherence to the UN principles for integration programming. Across all the 5 outcome areas, UN agencies supported government in the development of respective policy and regulatory frameworks which would pave way for programming for better results. Institutional strengthening was also key component of the UN work. Capacities also were extended to beneficiary groups through CSOs. Most UN consulted confirmed their adherence to the integrated programming principles including risk assessment and risk mitigation measures in the design of the programmes.

⁸³ UNCT (2021). UN Country Annual Results Report 2021

Most of the programming principles LNOB, Human Rights, GEWE, accountability and use of quality data were to a large extent upheld by UN agencies in Seychelles: Analysis of programme delivery and results across the 5 outcome areas suggested that the UN applied the programming principles. A good number of programmes focuses on disadvantaged groups (PwDs, learners using Creole language, migrant groups in search of work opportunities. The programmes also addressed gender equality issues and women empowerment. However, the evaluation observed the absence of timely and up to date statistical data and information to inform performance of SPF results framework. This remains an area requiring attention for the successor SPF.

8 COORDINATION

8.1 Adequacy and Effectiveness of SPF Structures

The evaluation findings noted that due to the unique nature of Seychelles (a country with 95% of UN agencies being non-resident and also being the first time, the UN was having the cooperation framework with the Government of Seychelles), there were relatively fewer coordination structures than is the tradition in other countries. However, the few structures available were relatively very effective in delivering on multiple roles. The existing SPF structures included the Programme Management Team (PMT) and the Operations Management Team (OMT). Highlights of key achievements of the existing SPF structures are shared.

PMT: The evaluation noted strong leadership of the PMT chair (UNFPA) a non-resident agency. The PMT which served both countries (Mauritius and Seychelles), was unique in the sense that it played the roles of other non-existent SPF structures. The PMT also did resource mobilisation for joint programmes. It was also a clearing house doing quality control for key outputs of the UN including overseeing the operationalisation of the SPF evaluation. It also plays quality assurance, reviewing UN annual reports. The evaluation noted that the PMT had a strong and dynamic leader who was results oriented. Besides the majority of members being non-resident, the establishment of the PMT was not mandatory however this structure drove most key operations and it would benefit the UN in Seychelles if the structure could be maintained.

M&E - a missing and mandatory structure of the SPF: The absence of the M&E group made the compilation of the UN ARs difficult. Having an M&E group was mandatory for effective and continuous monitoring of the SPF. Evaluation results showed Mauritius did not have an M&E group. However, plans were underway to establish the group. RCO officials played key role in filling the gap but still this was overloading the non-programme team with the analysis and tracking of results. The M&E group would check on robustness of results framework, track indicators at least bi-annually and work with the RCO to operationalise the UNINFO platform which was developed but not utilised. The UNINFO could be used to track results of the successor SPF. The evaluators therefore recommend the establishment of the M&E group in time for the development of the successor SPF so that they can contribute to the development of robust M&E framework and ensure 100% evaluability of the successor SPF.

8.2 Management Accountability Framework (MAF)

The United Nations Sustainable Development Group has provided updated guidance for the role and functions of RC system and role of the UNCT including other areas of accountability.⁸⁴ Management Accountability Framework AMAF is a foundational piece in reinvigorating the RC system. It makes provisions for a clear unambiguous framework for management accountability by the RC, RCO and UNCT.

Evaluation Results suggested good progress by the operationalisation of the RC system as well and functionality of the UNCT: Through the leadership of the RC, the UNCT in Seychelles successfully developed its maiden CF, implemented and monitored it albeit in the difficult environment of the negative impact of COVID-19. There was evidence of a functional RC system executing its mandate as provided in the UNSDG guidelines. As discussed in earlier sections, despite the country having 20% of resident UN agencies, other structures critical for the implementation of the CF were in place (PMT, Communication and Advocacy Group; BOS). RC's leadership of the UNCT and engagement with host government and other stakeholder was evident. However, regularity of UNCT meetings expected every month was an area requiring attention.

Non completion of SPF results framework indicator data in most cases made some variables non-evaluable: Almost 90% of the results framework outcome indicators lacked either baselines or targets. This was partially addressed by a comprehensive desk review aimed at populating the results framework.

⁸⁴ Un Sustainable Development

Closely related to this issue was lack of statistical data to monitor the performance of some outcome indicators. Most of the SPF monitoring data was up to 2020 with huge data gaps for 2021 and 2022. This suggests the need for explicitly planning for generation of SPF monitoring data for the successor SPF.

9 LESSONS LEARNED

The implementation of the SPF has generated many lessons that are critical for the remaining part of period (2023) as well as the development of the next cycle SPF. The following are the main lessons:

Lesson 1 – Health Security a Priority: The COVID-19 response raised the importance of health security and enabled a collective view of pandemics as a threat to national security. As a result, the successor CF should include a built-in emergency response component supported by sufficient resources.

Lesson 2 - Non-physical presence of most UN Agencies in Seychelles (95% of Agencies) limit opportunities for joint programmes and coordination: The situation considerably reduced contact opportunities and generated delays in communication by UN agencies and implementing partners. To remedy this situation, some UN agencies opted for employment of local staff or recruitment of focal staff to represent them and oversee implementation of their programmes.

Lesson 3 - Inadequate data to effectively adapt to government needs: The high turnover of Seychelles government officials, presented a huge challenge in enhancing institutional capacities for reporting on implementation of the SPF.

Lesson 4 – Sustainability of SPF Results: To promote sustainability, it is imperative to strengthen post-implementation monitoring and maintenance arrangements prior to project completion and the hand-over of facilities. The absence of a clear hand-over exit strategy for the programme could potentially limit meaningful country ownership of support from the programme.

Lesson 5- Meaningful Engagement of Private Sector and CSO Vital: Non-involvement of the private sector at all stages of the programme design planning, launching, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, may in turn limit participation and benefit of vulnerable groups. When the private sector is meaningfully involved, they are more likely to effectively contribute toward the achievement of set SPF targets with the Government and UN able to closely monitor their contribution.

Lesson 6 -Non-Completion of SPF results framework indicator data. This in some cases made some variables non-evaluable. As much as 90% of the results framework outcome indicators lacked either baseline or end line data.

10 CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Conclusions



Key: NOT ACHIEVED

Relevance: The Seychelles SPF was strongly aligned to national development priorities and SDGs. It was therefore relevant to the country's development needs. Furthermore, the SPF was also aligned to SDGs, AU Agenda 2063. Given the country is a Small Island Development State (SIDS) status, the SPF was further guided by SIDS provisions.



Coherence: The Seychelles SPF was supported by a comprehensive Theory of Change (ToC) albeit with room for improvement in its presentation. The ToC was closely linked to the national development priorities the SPF pillars Outcome and Outputs. However, the ToC was presented in a table format without showing clearly defined causal pathways of change. A visual diagrammatic presentation of the ToC could enhance the appeal. The SPF result framework was partially linked with a rating of 70% for logic. The evaluability assessment noted that 90% of the indicators were without baseline and target values. To make the SPF evaluable, an exercise to populate the results framework was conducted. Programmes of some UN agencies were not tightly linked to the SPF provisions for a number of reasons; i) The SPF was completed when some UN agencies has already developed their country programmes; ii) The work of some UN agencies is determined by regional offices whose programmes are not specifically country specific and iii) There was limited consultations in the development of the SPF which limited ownership of the SPF results.

Effectiveness: Performance of Planned results for the 5 Outcomes:

Outcome 1: The Blue Economy: COVID-19 pandemic impacted negatively on the economy and SPF implementation constraining the attainment of the planned results. FDI inflows to Seychelles declined by 15% to USD 122 million in 2020, compared to USD 144 million a year earlier, mainly due to the economic and health crisis triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions on international tourist travel. Unemployment increased, with an estimated 1,100 people losing their jobs mainly in the tourism sector due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Seychelles Employee Transition Scheme (SETS) was created in April 2020 as one of the response strategies. SETS is a non-profit public sector enterprise that helps people find jobs and add new skills. Tourism-related contributions to GDP fell from 22.3 percent in 2019 to 15.5 percent in 2020. Nonetheless, the findings indicated that the economy has been on the path to recovery, and GDP grew by 6.9 percent in 2021, compared to a decline of 12.9 percent in 2020. The UN provided some policy, capacity development, and technical support to assist the economy recovery process. The evaluation noted that overall, satisfactory progress was made toward the achievement of Outcome 1.



Outcome 2: Agriculture Livelihoods, Food and Nutrition Security: Considerable efforts were made by the UN and GoRS towards achieving Outcome 2. Since 2019, the UN contributed significantly towards enhancing the contribution of the agricultural sector to GDP through development and implementation several policy frameworks. At baseline, the contribution of agriculture to GDP was at 2.07%, significantly lower against the target for the country to self-food secure by 2023. Indicating progress, during the SPF period, the

contribution of the agriculture sector to GDP marginally increased to 2.3%. Through different projects, the UN contributed to creating an enabling environment to facilitate farmers embrace and adopt new and appropriate technologies such as aquaculture, city farming, vertical farming, and film farming. Seychelles made considerable efforts towards reducing the levels of stunting. Compared to other countries in the region, stunting remained relatively low at 7.6% in 2020 against the SPF target of 3.4% by 2023. To improve on the fish production, 30% of the exclusive economic zones were protected with UN support. The total number of people employed in the agricultural sector reduced from 80% at baseline to 70%. At baseline, 25.3% of the population were living below the national poverty datum line against a set end line target of 4%: There has been an increase in the population living below the poverty line to 39.3%. The evaluation noted that overall, satisfactory progress was made toward the achievement of Outcome 2.



Outcome 3: Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change Mitigation, and Resilience: Adaptation was considered a national priority in Seychelles, given its vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. The evaluation noted several projects (some ongoing and others completed) on sea walls, rock armoring, mangrove restoration, wetland rehabilitation, renewable energies such as PV, an extension of the La Gogue Dam, wind turbines, etc. The UN supported Seychelles in protecting its marine resources, especially by developing the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (SMSP). Through the Adaptation Fund, the UN-funded the Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change Seychelles project, which began in 2014 and ended in March 2022. Key achievement of this project includes the creation of five watershed committees to ensure the management of the restored wetlands, four upland wetlands in the Baie Lazare watershed have been enhanced with a retention or storage capacity of 43,402m³, and that of Caiman has been improved, with a retention or storage capacity of 8,000m³. The UN was one of the contributors towards the development of Seychelles' Updated Nationally Determined Contributions in which climate change has been mainstreamed across six key sectors. Through the Climate Investment Platform, \$100,000 mobilized to support Seychelles in developing an enabling environment to mobilize climate financing. Overall, good progress was made toward the achievement of Outcome 3.



Outcome 4: Human Capital Development and Quality of Life: Notwithstanding the failure to evaluate all the indicators on account of missing information, fair progress has been made towards the attainment of outcome 4. Considering mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease, the number of cancer deaths at the end of 2021 stood at 126 (61M, 65F). Suggesting the need for increased support towards the training of health workers, the ratio of practicing doctors and nurses per 10,000 individuals dropped from 26 and 66 in 2020, respectively, to 22 and 54 in 2021, respectively. Despite of the drop in the universal health coverage (UHC) index from 77.6 percent at baseline to 70% in 2022, the evaluation revealed that access to medicine was free to the public with 431 items on the essential drug list of the Ministry of Health (MOH). Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population increased from 1.25 per 1000 uninfected population at baseline (2019) to 56 in 2021 while the number of HIV positive patients on ART increases from 72% in 2019 to 87% in 2022 against the national target of 90% by 2026. Considering UN Contributions to policy and capacity building, the UN: i) contributed to building a more resilient health system, helping the country progress towards Universal Health Coverage; ii) collaborated with both the GoRS and the private sector to train more than 200 health sector workers in COVID-19 case detection, investigation and contact tracing; iii) developed a case for cooperation with the private sector to address the protection issues faced by children and youth; and iv) contributed to the generation of robust and credible gender-disaggregated data to monitor progress in governance, gender equality, and human rights. Overall, fair progress has been made towards the attainment of outcome 4.



Outcome 5: Data Development, Science, Technology and Innovation: Some of the indicators could not be assessed while others were partially evaluated due to missing information on baseline values and targets. Nonetheless, good progress was made towards achievement of Outcome 5. All the targeted 96 SDG indicators were domesticated as of 2022. With technical assistance from the UN, the Framework and system for monitoring the SDGs and Agenda 2063 was established in 2020. With UN support, a series of thematic assessments of the impact of the pandemic were carried out to guide the Government and development partners in developing recovery plans. These included the gender assessment of the socio-economic impact; rapid assessment on food security; regional assessments on migration, trade and tourism impacts; a regional study on migration; surveys on the culture and museum sectors, intangible cultural heritage and world heritage. The UN also supported an empirical study on the impacts of COVID-19 on households and businesses. The strengthened capacity of the NBS through interventions from the UN helped improve the census implementation plan and preparedness. The other achievements include: i) development of the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy and Strategy (2016-2025); ii) improved access to online tools on resilience, climate change, disaster risk reduction and groundwater resource management; iii) launch of national STEM programme at extra-curricular level to sensitize students on frontier technologies that are relevant to the Fourth Industrial Revolution.



Efficiency: The work of the OMT in harmonizing procurements and that of the RC in coordinating joint programme has contributed to efficiency by the UN in Seychelles. **Adequacy and Effectiveness of SPF structures:** The few structures available PMT, OMT and UNPCG effectively delivered on their mandate however the Monitoring and Evaluation Group was a missing important structure. **Delivering as One:** The evaluation noted some duplication in delivery of some programmes particularly around climate change. As such there is need for more systematic and deliberate joint programming planning, implementation and monitoring among programme staff to further actualise DaO principles. **Normative Frameworks:** Overall, the UN in Seychelles have successfully applied integrated programming principles (LNOB, Human Rights, GEWE, accountability and use of quality data).



Coordination: The fewer structures available (PMT, OMT, UNPCG) were relatively very effective on delivery of multiple roles. However, the country would require the establishment of Monitoring and Evaluation Group. Through the leadership of the RC the UNCT in Seychelles successfully developed and implemented her maiden CF. There is evidence of functional RC system executing its mandate as provided in the UNSDG guidelines.

10.2 Recommendations

The development of the recommendations that follow was informed by a systematic analysis of the emerging results of the evaluation against the terms of reference as well as suggestions generated during consultations with stakeholders who included UN agencies, government, private sector and CSOs.

RELEVANCE AND ADAPTABILITY

Table 8: High Level Recommendations

High Level Recommendations	Responsible	Time
RELEVANCE AND ADAPTABILITY		
i. The successor CF should be informed by the latest Common Country Analysis (2022) and continue to align the development of CF to national, regional and global development priorities that are relevant to the Seychelles.	- RCO - UN Agencies	By August 2023
COHERENCE		
ii. The UN agencies should be encouraged to develop their country programmes after the development of the SPF. This would enhance coherence of programmes in the country.	- RCO - UN Agencies - CSOs	By End 2023
EFFECTIVENESS		
iii. Coordinate an all-stakeholder (Government, Private Sector, CSOs and UN Agencies) planning for the successor CF by end March 2023 in order to increase buy in of result framework and effective delivery of the planned results of the CF.	- RCO - UNCT	By End Feb 2023
EFFICIENCY		
iv. The UN in Seychelles should have a clear plan for Joint programmes and in addition consider development and operationalisation of a Business Operations Strategy (BOS).	- RCO - UN Agencies - Government of Seychelles	By Early 2023
v. Consider appointment of UN- Lead Agencies for Outcome areas that are co-chaired by relevant government entities for greater ownership and accountability of results.	- UNCT	By August 2023

Table 9: Additional Recommendations

Additional Recommendations	Responsible	Time
COHERENCE		
i. The successor SPF should consider the development of a robust ToC that is supported by visual presentations showing pathways of change.	- RCO - UNCT	By Mid 2023
ii. The design of successor CF should consider wider consultation of all stakeholders in order to increase ownership and buy in of the provisions of the CF.	- UN Agencies - CSO - Private Sector	By End 2023
iii. The preparation of the successor SPF should consider evaluability and therefore ensure that the results framework is populated with baseline and target values. Furthermore, all UN agencies should develop their	- UNCT - Government of Seychelles	By August 2023

Additional Recommendations		Responsible	Time
country programmes that are aligned to the successor UNSDCF in order to enhance coherence.			
EFFECTIVENESS			
iv.	The RCO staff should facilitate training of all CF stakeholders (Government, CSOs, Private Sector and UN agencies). This could enhance better generation and tracking of planned results.	- RCO - UNCT	By End Feb 2023
v.	Consider full utilisation of UNINFO in order to track progress on the implementation of the SPF.	- UNCT	By End 2023
vi.	The RCO should consider the popularisation of the content of the SPF for buy in and joint implementation by all stakeholders.	- RCO	By Mid 2023
EFFICIENCY			
vii.	The UNCT and PMT should coordinate the development of Joint Work Plan with all participating UN Agencies and use them for reporting on the results framework.	- UNCT - PMT	By August 2023
viii.	The UN agencies should invest more in supporting institutions (National Bureau of Statistics Seychelles) for the generation of timely monitoring data through the leadership of the RCO.	- RCO - UN Agencies - Government of Seychelles	By Early 2023
COORDINATION			
ix.	The existing three coordinating structures (PMT, OMT and UNPCG) should be considered for the successor CF and an additional structure Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation group to be established.	- RCO - UNCT	March 2023

