



UNITED NATIONS
Mauritius and Seychelles



20 UNITED NATIONS
ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT
23 MAURITIUS
March 2024



THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development



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FOREWORD

On behalf of the United Nations Country Team for Mauritius, it gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Results Report 2023. In the final year of implementation of the Strategic Partnership Framework Agreement (SPF 2019 - 2023), this report demonstrates our joint efforts to support the country's development priorities, aligned to national priorities, the SAMOA pathway, Africa Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The report showcases the impact of the United Nations (UN's) work, in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Mauritius, to promote climate resilience and sustainable development that leaves no one behind.

Mauritius, being a small island state, is susceptible to unique risks and vulnerabilities despite its upper middle-income status. It has a significant higher exposure to global crises, exogenous shocks because of structural constraints, such as a limited domestic market and fiscal space, reliance on strategic imports, and limited economic diversification. These are further exacerbated by the increasing effects of climate change.

In the area of economic transformation, the focus was on fostering innovation and enhancing productivity across both traditional and emerging business sectors. These included institutional capacity building, boosting women's entrepreneurship, enhancing policy and regulatory frameworks, underpinned by the modernisation of the national statistical system. Contribution to digital transformation has streamlined government operations, with female entrepreneurs' participation championed in regional trade to advance gender inclusivity.

Promoting a resilient ocean economy is essential to Mauritius as the custodian of a large ocean space with an Exclusive Economic Zone of 2.3 million km².

The UN successfully fostered an integrated policy and regulatory environment to promote sustainable resource management. Initiatives included the development of a comprehensive Blue Economy policy, laying a strategic foundation for sustainable oceanic economic growth. Preserving the traditions and culture of Mauritius, the capacity of the artisanal fishing community to fish more efficiently was strengthened through technology, providing vital data. Strategic contributions included bolstering technical, legislative and policy frameworks against drug and human trafficking, and financial and maritime crimes.

The UN interventions in the areas of education, health, decent work, and culture emphasised the commitment to Leave No One Behind. Equitable access to education through digitalisation with the provision of ICT equipment to schools enhanced progress towards transforming the education agenda. The country's capacity to better address Gender Based Violence (GBV) was enhanced with the roll out of the mobile application - L'Espwar. The app's innovative, non-internet-dependent safety features were highlighted during campaigns against GBV, showcasing a blend of technology and advocacy to protect and empower women, contributing to the national goal of eradicating GBV and enhancing women's socio-economic and political empowerment. The multi-sectoral implementation of the noncommunicable disease (NCD) Action Plan (2022-2027) accelerated national progress in addressing NCD. Training provided to increase knowledge on victim care protocols for trafficking and the development of a "migrant worker hiring code of conduct" contributed to enhancing migrant rights.

In 2023, significant contributions were made by the UN to strengthening the country's resilience to climate change by fostering integrated policy frameworks

and community actions that underline climate and disaster resilience, biodiversity protection, and the shift towards renewable energy. Initiatives included an offshore wind feasibility study, setting the stage for wind farm technology adoption. Policy innovation in the area of sustainable consumption and production included the development of a Circular Economy Road Map. The first ever municipal-level Disaster Risk Reduction Management Strategy and Action Plan for BeauBassin/Rose Hill was developed. This will enhance the coordination, preparedness and response capacity to disasters.

The past five years of implementation of the Strategic Partnership Framework has allowed for visible joint results while also highlighting areas that need to be scaled up, improved upon and prioritised. This includes greater emphasis on policy coherence and SDG financing via capacity building with the Government on strategic foresight and systems thinking to maximise the impact of public policies, plans and budget. Other upstream engagement included key strategic support to the first regional review meeting held in Mauritius of the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS) SIDS, ahead of the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, in Antigua and Barbuda in 2024.

National ownership and partnership remain at the heart the UN's modality to accelerate progress on the SDGs. The successful joint design and launch of the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2024 - 2028, co-signed with the Government on 6th of November 2023, underscores the importance of this ethos. We look forward to working collaboratively with all our partners to ensure its successful implementation, to tackle the global challenges of today, head on. Our strength lies in unity and our commitment to place people at the centre of our work, for a resilient and sustainable future.



Ms. Lisa Simrique Singh
UN Resident Coordinator
for Mauritius & Seychelles

UN COUNTRY TEAM IN MAURITIUS

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AGENCIES UNDER THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) is composed of the heads of the UN agencies, funds and programmes active in Mauritius. The UNCT leads the implementation of the **Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) 2019–2023**, which constitutes agreed outcomes for development cooperation, between the Republic of Mauritius and the United Nations. We currently have three UN agencies with representatives in Mauritius.

RESIDENT AGENCIES



NON-RESIDENT AGENCIES WITH A PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN THE COUNTRY



NON-RESIDENT AGENCIES



KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY

Collaboration and partnership were central to the UNCT's efforts; supporting the Government's endeavors to enhance resilience, recover from the compounded impacts of external shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic and conflict, and achieve its development objectives.

Through technical and financial support from development partners, as well as and results-driven coordination with them, the effectiveness and impact of the UNCT's activities in Mauritius significantly improved in the following areas:

| | |
|---|--|
|  <p>CLIMATE CHANGE</p>   <p>Australian High Commission Mauritius</p> |  <p>GREEN ECONOMY & RENEWABLE ENERGY</p>   <p>PAGE</p> |
|  <p>ECONOMIC RESILIENCE</p>   <p>PAGE</p> |  <p>BLUE ECONOMY AND MARITIME SECURITY</p>    <p>INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION</p> |
|  <p>HEALTH SECTOR</p>  |  <p>FOOD SECURITY</p>   <p>JOINT SDG FUND</p> |
|  <p>GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT</p>   <p>Australian High Commission Mauritius</p> |  <p>MIGRATION</p>  |

In 2023, the UN continued to work closely with key stakeholders from the Government of Mauritius, the private sector and civil society in a variety of areas and sectors, to implement the outcomes set out in the Cooperation Framework and drive the momentum in the country to advance the SDGs. The main Ministries/institutions, private sector organisations and civil society organisations with which the UN partnered in 2023, as well as the areas of collaboration are encapsulated below:

| TOPIC | PARTNERS |
|---|--|
| Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Security • Transformation of the Agricultural Sector |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming of the SDGs • ACFTA • Human Rights • Diaspora Engagement |
| Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coral Restoration • Protection of Biodiversity in the Coastal Zone of Mauritius • Artisanal Fishing • Maritime Security |
| Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Solid Waste Management • Green/Circular Economy |
| Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management/ NDRMC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster Risk Reduction |
| Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Equality and Women Empowerment • Elimination of Gender-based Violence • Women Entrepreneurship |
| Ministry of Health and Wellness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of the Health Sector to Better Respond to Pandemics • Digitalisation of the Health System • Sexual and Reproductive Health |
| Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SME development • Green Finance • Green Economy • Industrial policy |
| Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities/MARENA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable Energy • Energy Efficiency |
| Minister of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Transformation • Business Continuity Plan for the Public Service • Women Leadership in Public Administration |
| Statistics Mauritius | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitalisation |
| Rodrigues Regional Assembly | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Empowerment and Sexual Reproductive Health • Mainstreaming of the SDGs |
| Economic Development Board | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Investments for the SDGs |
| Prime Minister's Office | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration • HIV/AIDS • Eliminating of Trafficking in Persons |
| Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Policy • Migrant Labour |



KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS



Sustainable development trends in Mauritius performed much better than expected in 2023. This occurred in a context of high inflation, rising geopolitical tensions and the resulting supply chain disruptions, as well as accelerating climate change.

GDP growth remained steady (7.1% vs 5% forecasted in March), unemployment continued to decrease (6.3% – the lowest in 27 years) and investment increased significantly (foreign direct investments by 21.1% and domestic private investments by 16.2%).

The main limitations to growth and job creation were inflation and supply chain disruptions, both of which impacted on Mauritius' economy due to its over-reliance on strategic imports, especially food, fossil fuels and economic inputs.

In terms of reducing poverty and inequality, the Government extended the coverage and depth of social benefits, and introduced a progressive tax system. This is likely to improve the otherwise stagnating trends in relative poverty and income inequality.

Food security remained a structural issue. It was exacerbated by recent conflicts, supply chain disruptions and the accelerating impact of climate change on staple food suppliers. The Government continued to support local production through various incentives and technical assistance.

Health and education systems resumed to function at pre-COVID standards, with some improvements, particularly in digital transformation. The e-health system began to be rolled out in hospitals in July, and ICT equipment upgrades continued in schools. An aging population and the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) continued to exert pressure on the health system, while the education system continued to evolve in order to cater for new skills requirements in the workplace.

Gender gaps, some of which narrowed in the preceding decade, remained relatively stable. For example the unemployment rate for women increased by 4 percentage points in 2023 compared to 3.8 percentage points in 2022. However, there was a notable increase in participation of women in the labour force, rising from 43% in 2022 to 48% in 2023. A series of measures introduced by the Government, including improved childcare in the workplace, participation of women in decision making in companies, and incentives for encouraging women's employment and entrepreneurship in micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME), will boost women's empowerment in Mauritius.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TRENDS IN MAURITIUS PERFORMED MUCH BETTER THAN EXPECTED IN 2023.

MAURITIAN COMPANIES HAVE ACTED BOLDLY THROUGH INVESTMENTS IN STORAGE AND CONNECTIVITY PLACING THEIR CONFIDENCE IN SUPPLY CHAIN REGIONALIZATION, WHICH HAS BEEN ACCELERATED BY COVID AND GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS.

The water-energy nexus continued to be a priority, with the share of renewables in the energy mix reaching 21% in November, a 3% increase from the year prior. Substantial public and private investments in the sector, as well as the publication of the biomass framework, should translate into significant improvements in renewable energy generation capacity in the coming years. An agreement to implement a rainwater harvesting programme and water management project was also signed between the Government, the Rodrigues Regional Agency, and the Agence Francaise de Development. This should lead to improvements in sustainable water management on both the main Island of Mauritius and the Island of Rodrigues.

Mauritius continued to experience an accelerated impact from climate change, with an increase in air temperature by up to 1.39 degrees Celsius. The sea level around Mauritius rose by 5.6mm – well above the global average of 3.3mm. Both the public and private sectors responded to the challenge of climate change by accelerating their transition to more sustainable business models.

While 2023 was the inaugural year of implementing the national strategy for the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), regional integration did not surge as anticipated. The share of Mauritian goods exported to Africa decreased from 32.3% to 27.6%, with imports going down to 12.7% from 13.6%. However there are promising signs of momentum on the horizon. Mauritian companies have acted boldly, through investments in storage and connectivity, placing their confidence in supply chain regionalisation, which has been accelerated by COVID-19 and geopolitical tensions.

It should also be noted that in 2023, the World celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), with the year-long Human Rights 75 initiative, led by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). As a "common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations", the UNDR is a global blueprint for international, national, and local laws and policies. It is a bedrock of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and so cuts across all priority areas of the SPF. Mauritius participated in a Southern Africa regional consultation in commemoration of *Human Rights 75*, under the theme "Eradicating Inequality as an Accelerator to Promoting Human Rights in Southern Africa".

MAURITIUS AT A GLANCE

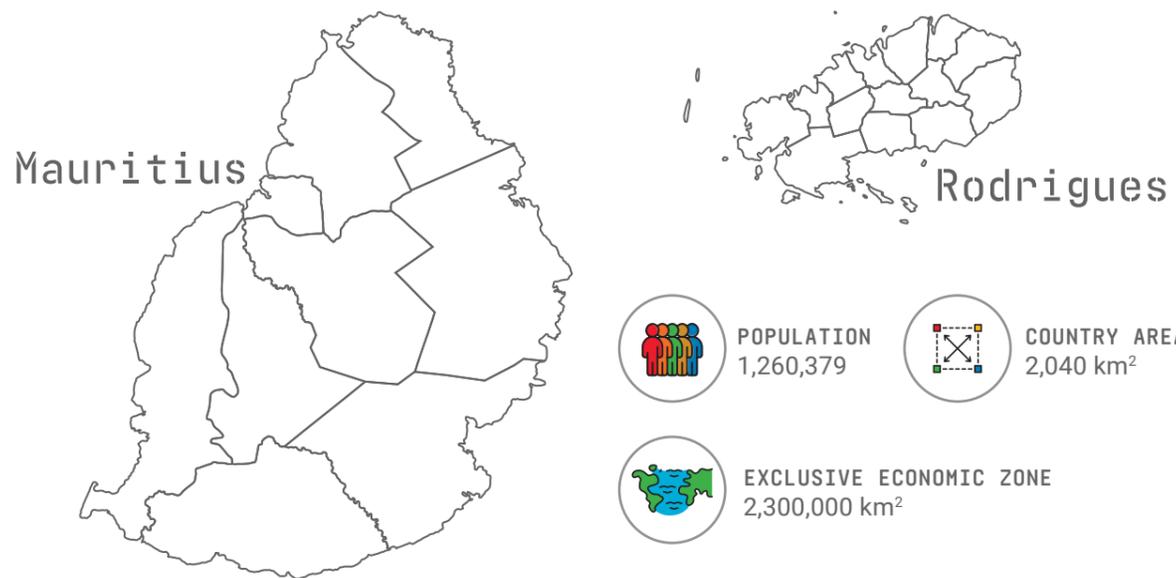


FIGURE 1 : POPULATION

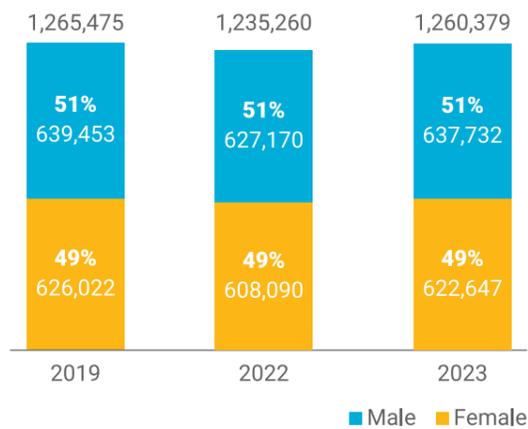


FIGURE 2 : UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY SEX AND AGE

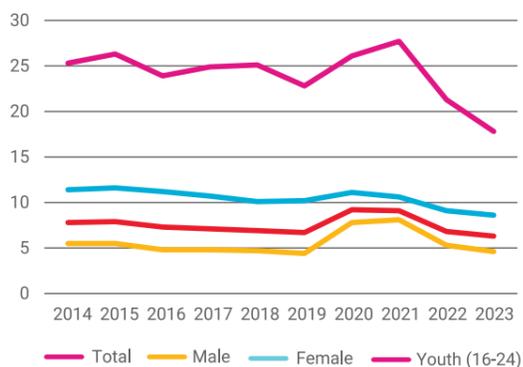


FIGURE 3 : EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRIAL GROUP ('000)

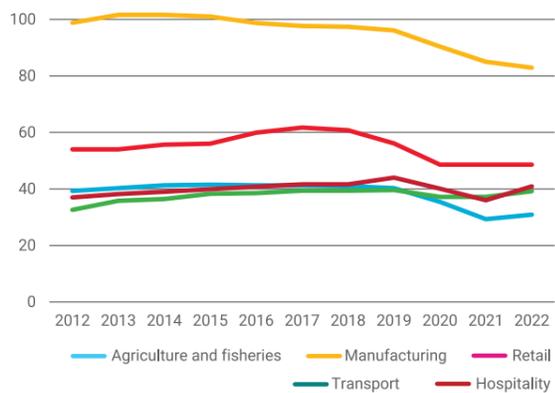
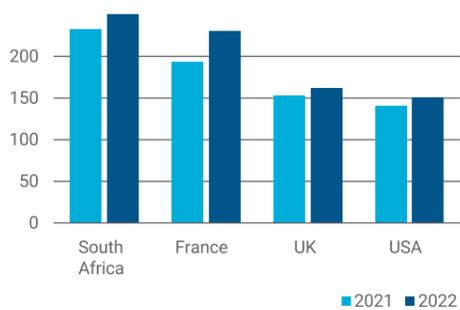


FIGURE 4 : MAIN DESTINATIONS OF MAURITIAN EXPORTS IN 2022 (MILLION USD)



Source: Statistics Mauritius

FIGURE 5 : SHARE OF SELECTED SECTORS IN THE ECONOMY (%)

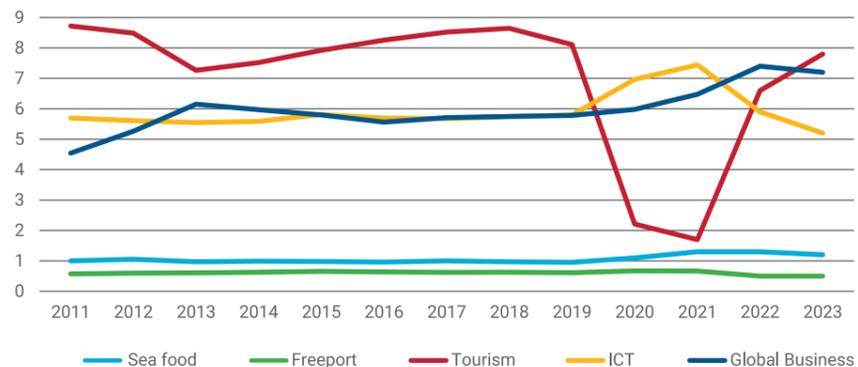


FIGURE 6 : ENROLMENT RATIO PRE-PRIMARY AND PRIMARY EDUCATION

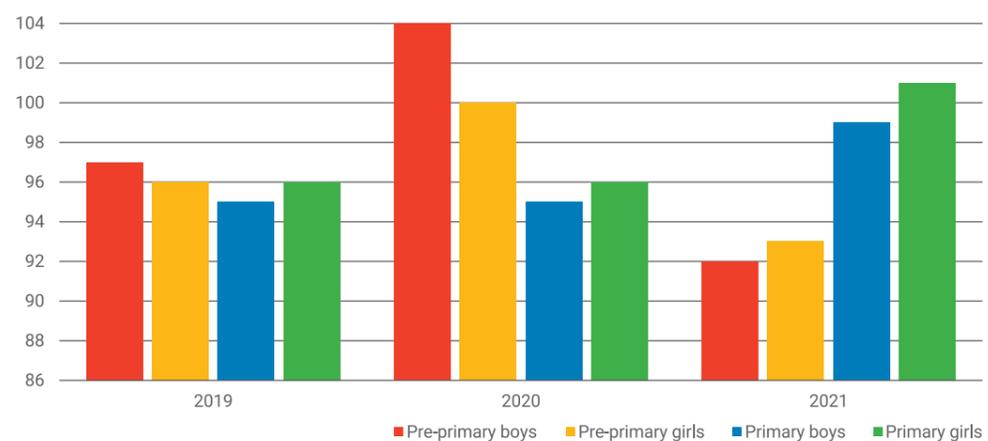
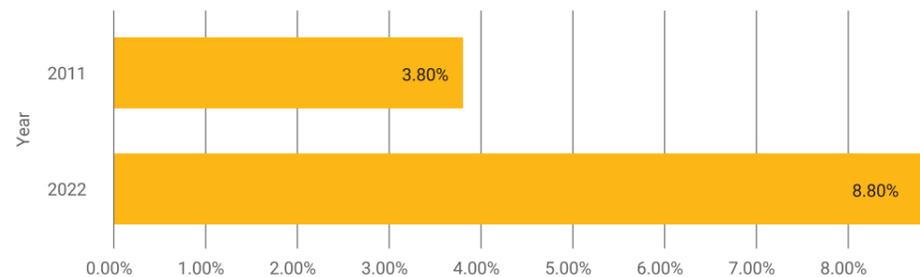


FIGURE 7 : PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WHO STUDIED UP TO TERTIARY LEVEL EDUCATION



Source: 2022 Population and Housing Census

FIGURE 8 : SENIOR POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES BY SEX

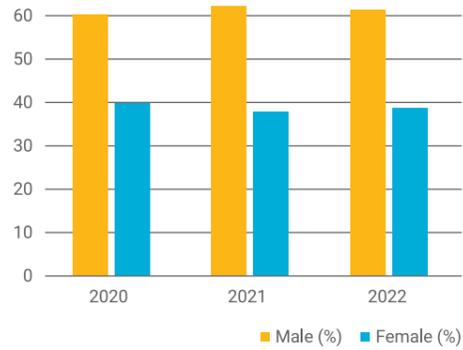


FIGURE 9 : PROJECTED GDP CHANGE DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN MAURITIUS (%)

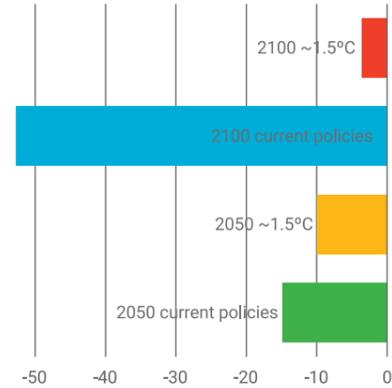


FIGURE 12 : BUDGET ALLOCATION BY SELECTED UNSDCF PRIORITY AREAS 2020-2024 (MILLION USD)

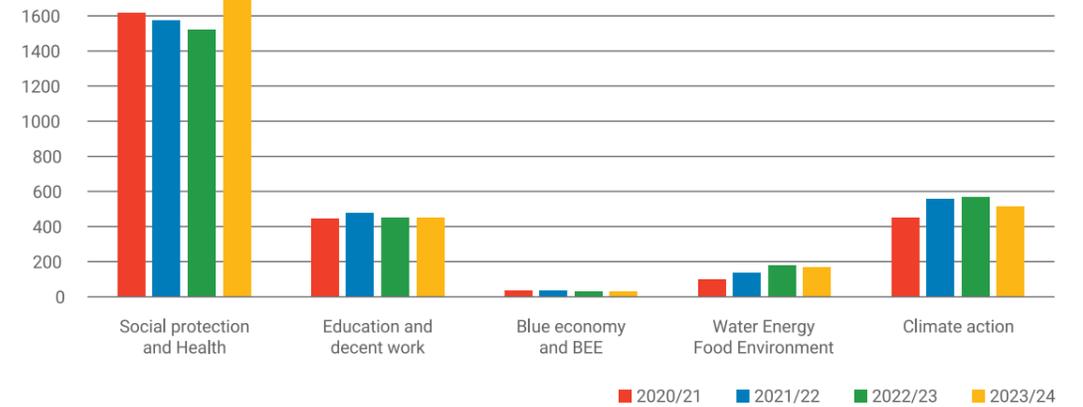
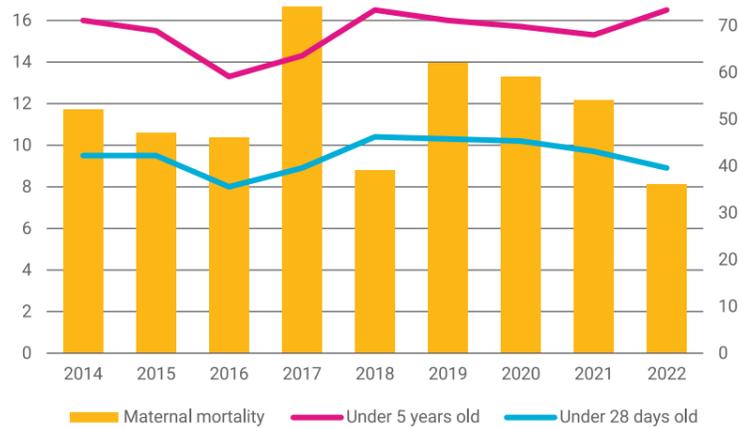


FIGURE 10 : MATERNAL MORTALITY (PER 100,000 LIVE BIRTHS) AND CHILDREN MORTALITY (PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS)



Source: Christian Aid, Lost & Damaged - Economic impact of climate change on vulnerable countries, 2021

FIGURE 14 : BUDGET ALLOCATION PER CF PRIORITY AREA (% OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE)

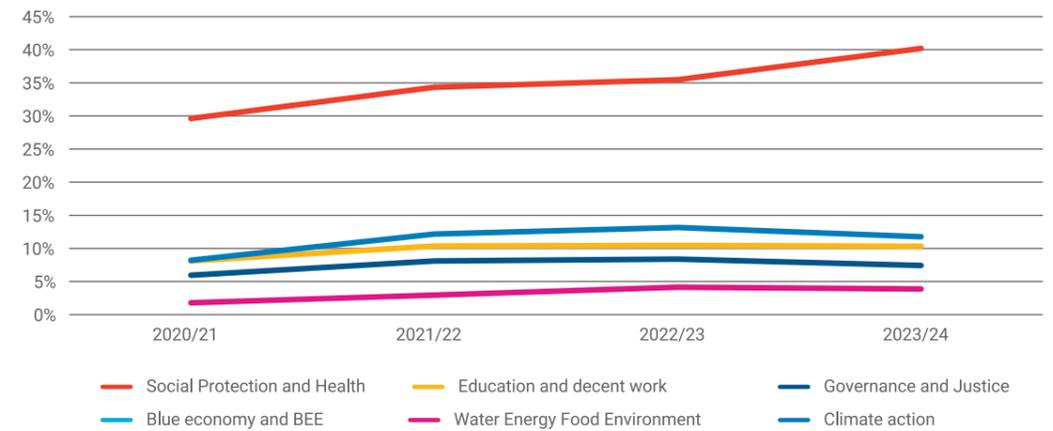


FIGURE 11 : BUDGET ALLOCATION BY NATIONAL PRIORITIES 2020-2024 (MILLION USD)

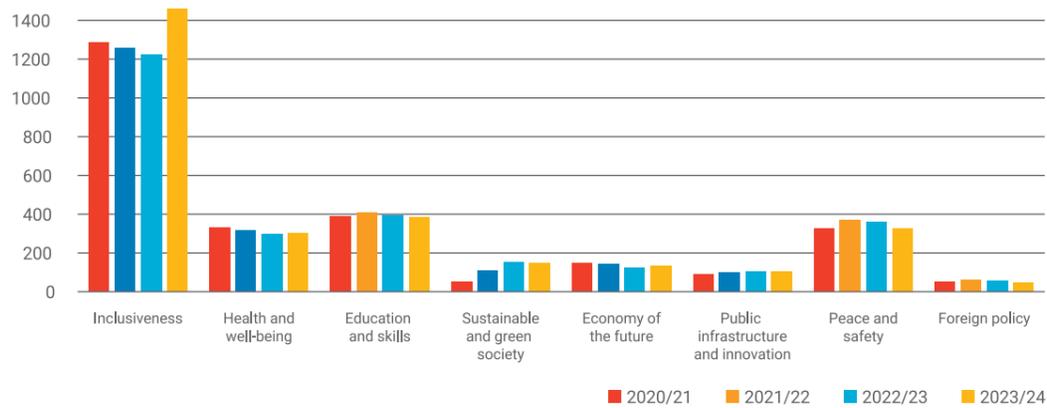
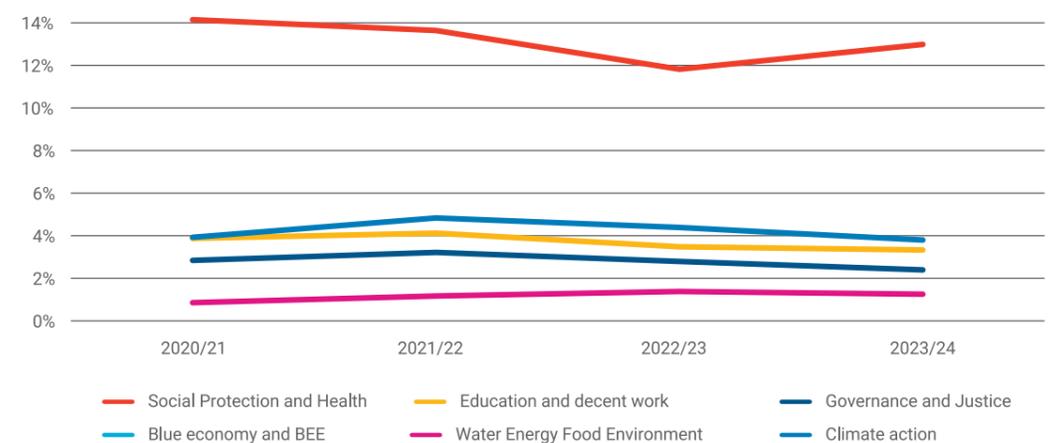


FIGURE 15 : BUDGET ALLOCATION PER CF PRIORITY AREA (% OF GDP)





UN SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL PRIORITIES

2.1 OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS

In 2023, the Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) between the United Nations and the Government of Mauritius culminated in a year marked by significant achievements and strengthened collaboration. The SPF catalysed increased synergies within the UN system, fostering an environment of enhanced cooperation and unity amongst UN agencies. This unified approach enabled the UN to support the Mauritian Government in adopting more strategic and innovative approaches to development challenges, directly contributing to the national agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through concerted efforts, the SPF successfully mainstreamed the SDGs into national policies and planning processes, ensuring policy coherence, and aligning Mauritius' development trajectory with global sustainability objectives. The collaboration underscored the UN's commitment to leveraging its collective expertise, resources, and strategic insight to support Mauritius in achieving sustainable development and resilience, showcasing a model of partnership that significantly impacts both national progress and global development goals.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDED

1

TRANSFORMED BUSINESSES

In 2023, under SPF Outcome 1, the UN significantly bolstered Mauritius' policy and regulatory landscape to foster innovation and elevate productivity across both traditional and emerging sectors. Sustainability and policy frameworks were enhanced. Key initiatives included the FAO's revitalisation of the tea sector through capacity building, gender inclusivity programmes and the integration of e-agriculture strategies. The EU-funded *Programme Régional de Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle* (SANOI) improved Geographic Information System (GIS) data management, vital for agricultural census and informed policy-making. United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) surveys on COVID-19 recovery trends informed resilience policies, while engagement surveys underlined the need for supportive work environments to nurture workforce growth. Capacity building on SDG impact standards also led to more sustainable business operations. Digital transformation streamlined government operations, with UNDP championing female entrepreneurs' participation in regional trade, promoting gender inclusivity. Strategic planning and investment advocacy for women's entrepreneurship, coupled with the modernisation of the national statistical system through ongoing support to Statistics Mauritius, marked significant strides towards economic empowerment, and enhanced policy and regulatory environments.

DIGITAL
TRANSFORMATION
STREAMLINED
GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS,
WITH UNDP
CHAMPIONING
FEMALE
ENTREPRENEURS'
PARTICIPATION IN
REGIONAL TRADE...



2

**AGEING SOCIETY, HEALTH,
AND LABOUR MARKET REFORMS**

In 2023, the UN played a pivotal role in addressing Mauritius' ageing population challenges, health reforms and labour market adaptations, aligning with comprehensive strategies for economic growth and health resilience. WHO's support was instrumental in strengthening tobacco legislation, regulating e-cigarettes, implementing plain packaging, and extending smoke-free areas, collectively mitigating tobacco's appeal to young people. The country's progress in noncommunicable disease (NCD) prevention and control was marked by the multi-sectoral implementation of the NCD Action Plan (2022-2027), improving its standing in the WHO Global NCD Progress Report. Food safety enhancements and reductions in harmful fats were achieved through revised food legislation. The National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS), developed with WHO coordination, bolstered health emergency preparedness. Strategic health financing assessments informed resource optimisation, enhancing healthcare cost-effectiveness. WHO-backed geriatric clinics, part of the National Integrated Care for Older People (ICOPE) plan, improved elderly care through early detection and intervention. UNDP's digital innovations in healthcare, including anti-epidemic robot donations, significantly advanced medical services. ILO's SCORE programme helped tourism SMEs, boosting economic resilience and workforce adaptability in the post-pandemic recovery. Further support included the establishment of a youth diaspora volunteering ecosystem by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Initiatives to increase knowledge on victim care protocols for trafficking and the development of a migrant worker hiring code of conduct, further enhanced Mauritius' labour market reforms and health system readiness.

THE COUNTRY'S PROGRESS IN NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASE (NCD) PREVENTION AND CONTROL WAS MARKED BY THE MULTI-SECTORAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NCD ACTION PLAN (2022-2027), IMPROVING ITS STANDING IN THE WHO GLOBAL NCD PROGRESS REPORT.

3

OCEAN ECONOMY AND TOURISM

In 2023, the UN's contributions were significant in advancing Mauritius' marine sector. This aligned with the goal of fostering an integrated policy and regulatory environment that promotes sustainable resource management. Initiatives included the development of a comprehensive Blue Economy policy paper, laying a strategic foundation for sustainable oceanic economy growth. Environmental awareness and conservation efforts were bolstered through the installation of informative signboards and sea-based boundary buoys across marine parks and reserves. Capacity building for artisanal fishers was enhanced with modern Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and the launch of the RodMoFAD mobile app, providing vital data for efficient fishing. Awareness campaigns educated fishers on best practices in fish preservation, while efforts to increase the participation of women and young people in post-harvest activities, exemplified a commitment to sustainable economic empowerment. Environmental protection received a boost with the procurement of organic scanners for better invasive species detection, contributing to marine biodiversity resilience. Strategic achievements were also made in bolstering technical, legislative and policy frameworks against trafficking, maritime crimes and drug use.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ARTISANAL FISHERS WAS ENHANCED WITH MODERN FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FADS) AND THE LAUNCH OF THE RODMOFAD MOBILE APP...

INCLUSIVE, QUALITY EDUCATION AND SKILLING

In 2023, the UN significantly propelled Mauritius towards achieving higher quality and better inclusivity, in education and skilling, in line with SPF Outcome 4. Through a UNDP-led capacity development programme, all district and municipal officials were trained, enhancing local governance and responsiveness and equipping them to better adapt to environmental changes. Technological inclusivity in education was demonstrated by outfitting the Guy Rozemont Government School with ICT equipment, setting a precedent for digital education transformation. Initiatives to ensure equitable education access provided 600 children from low-income families in Baie du Cap with essential school materials. The mental and emotional well-being of children in L'Escalier was addressed through art-therapy sessions under the 'Stepping Up Project', highlighting targeted support for vulnerable communities. Moreover, 38 women inmates were empowered with aquaponic and hydroponic skills, as part of post-incarceration reintegration efforts, with the aim of reducing recidivism and fostering community integration. This reflected an holistic approach to enhancing employability and educational outcomes across diverse segments of society.

4

INITIATIVES TO ENSURE EQUITABLE EDUCATION ACCESS PROVIDED 600 CHILDREN FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES IN BAIE DU CAP WITH ESSENTIAL SCHOOL MATERIALS.

SOCIAL PROTECTION AND GENDER EQUALITY

In 2023, the UN's efforts significantly reinforced Mauritius' progress toward enhancing social protection policies and advancing gender equality, as outlined in SPF Outcome 5. The OHCHR's socio-economic study in Southern Africa highlighted the importance of leveraging disaggregated data to craft informed, SDG-aligned, socio-economic rights policies. The Mauritius Human Rights Commission committed to fortifying partnerships focused on safeguarding vulnerable populations, with a special focus on rights pertaining to women, children, and healthcare. This period also saw a marked increase in the capacity of Mauritian civil society to engage in human rights mechanisms, fostering a more inclusive and rights-aware community. Furthermore, UNDP's promotional activities for the gender-based violence (GBV) application, L'Espwar, underscored the importance of gender-sensitive policing. The app's innovative, non-internet-dependent safety features were highlighted during campaigns against GBV, showcasing a blend of technology and advocacy to protect and empower women, contributing to the national goal of eradicating GBV and enhancing women's socio-economic and political empowerment.

5

THIS PERIOD ALSO SAW A MARKED INCREASE IN THE CAPACITY OF MAURITIAN CIVIL SOCIETY TO ENGAGE IN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS, FOSTERING A MORE INCLUSIVE AND RIGHTS-AWARE COMMUNITY.

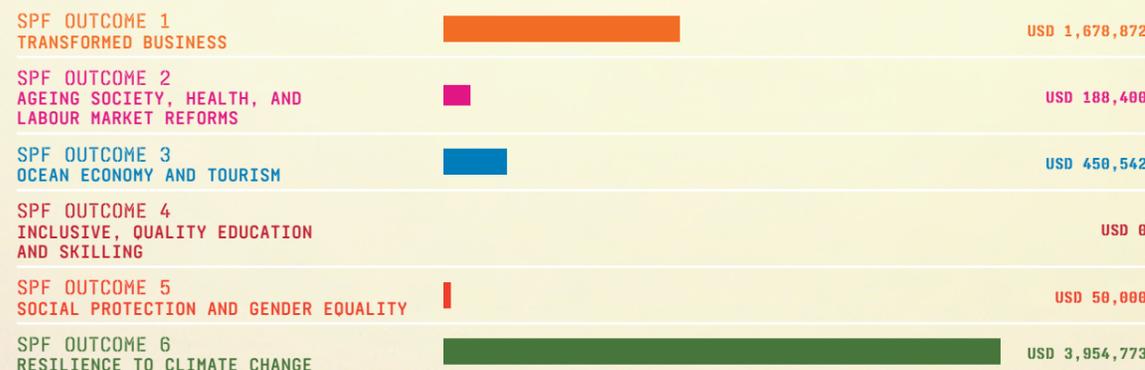
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RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

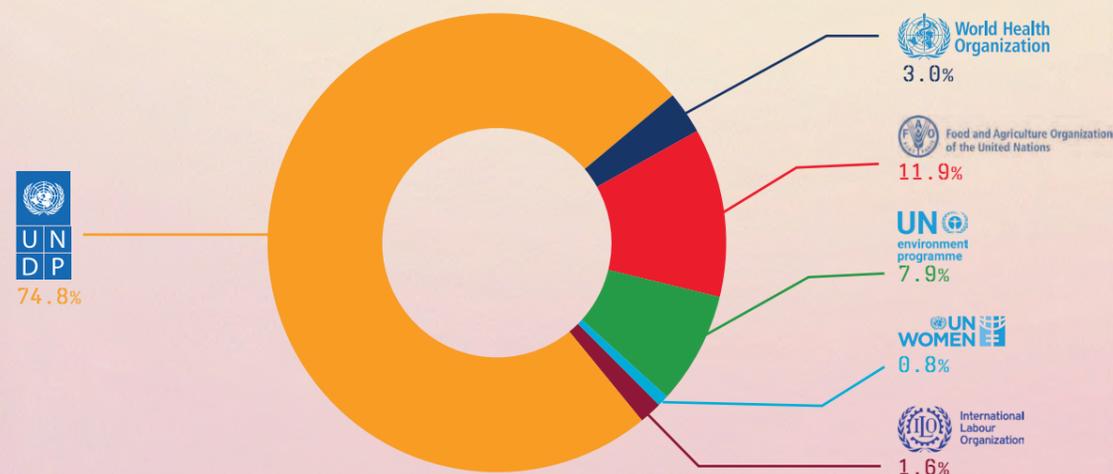
In 2023, the UN propelled Mauritius towards resilience to climate change, fostering integrated policy frameworks and community actions. These interventions supported climate and disaster resilience, biodiversity protection and a shift towards renewable energy. Initiatives included a Joint, SDG fund-supported, offshore wind feasibility study, setting the stage for wind farm technology adoption. With UNEP's assistance, a National Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan, inclusive of a Gender Action Plan, was developed, enhancing inclusive climate action. UNEP's expertise also facilitated project management improvements and secured Global Environment Facility (GEF) endorsement. Training sessions on climate finance and mitigation strategies aligned with Paris Agreement goals were provided. The UN's development and promotion of a Circular Economy Road Map and the enactment of the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Bill marked significant steps towards sustainable resource management. Furthermore, the establishment of the MauNDC Registry improved transparency in Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) reporting. UNDP's initiatives, including clean energy solutions for 1,628 households, the launch of a Renewable Energy Portal, and efforts to green the transport sector, notably through an electric bus project, underscored the shift towards low-carbon development. Updates to the Electricity Act and the completion of the National Parks and Conservation Service (NPCS) Needs Assessment bolstered conservation efforts. IOM contributed to sustainable migration strategies as climate adaptation measures, highlighting the interconnectedness of environmental sustainability, migration and climate resilience in Mauritius.

THESE INTERVENTIONS SUPPORTED CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE, BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION AND A SHIFT TOWARDS RENEWABLE ENERGY.

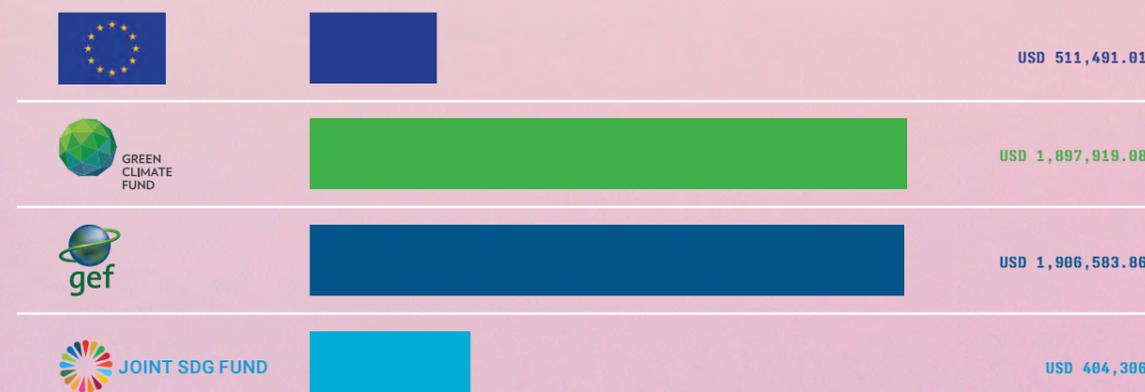
CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2023 BY STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS OF THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK



CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2023 BY UN AGENCIES



RESOURCE MOBILISED



2.2 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

OUTCOME 1

TRANSFORMED BUSINESSES

BY 2023, THERE IS A STRONGER POLICY AND REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT THAT PROMOTES INNOVATION AND INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY IN TARGETED TRADITIONAL AND NEW SECTORS.*

* ICT, PHARMA, RENEWABLE ENERGY AND AGRIFOOD, ETC



NATIONAL VISION | STRONG ECONOMY



Under Pillar 1, "Transform Business", significant strides have been made in transforming the business landscape in Mauritius. In 2023, the collaborative efforts of the UN and the Mauritian Government were focused towards enhancing agricultural innovation, boosting business resilience, and fostering a conducive environment for entrepreneurship and investment.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has been instrumental in advancing the tea sector in Mauritius through a comprehensive capacity-building programme. This initiative, complemented by a gender study, and the development of an e-agriculture strategy, has provided the Government with critical insights and tools to navigate the sector's challenges effectively. Further support was extended through a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP), focusing on technical assistance to refine and implement strategies aimed at revitalising the tea industry, underscoring a commitment to sustainable agricultural practices and gender inclusivity.

Within the scope of an EU-funded project, as part of the SANOI Programme, FAO enhanced the GIS data management and processing skills of 27 staff from national institutions. This effort aimed to support the technical preparation of the national agricultural census planned for 2024, enhancing the capacity for data-driven decision-making in agricultural policies and practices.

BOOSTING BUSINESS RESILIENCE

UNDP has played a pivotal role in increasing both public and private sector resilience. The third Business Pulse Survey, an assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on 500 businesses revealed a remarkable recovery trajectory amidst global disruptions. The survey highlighted areas for policy-level interventions to strengthen business resilience further. Additionally, a National Employee Engagement Survey, conducted in collaboration with Business Mauritius and the Human Resources Development Centre, spanned 21,600 employees across 267 businesses. The findings underscored the importance of creating work environments conducive to supporting both professional and personal growth, enhancing the country's workforce capability.

Strategic consultations with key private sector stakeholders on the implementation of the SDG Investor Map resulted in the development of a capacity-building programme on impact standards, set to be implemented in the first quarter of 2024. This initiative aimed to equip businesses with the necessary tools to integrate sustainable development goals into their operations, further solidifying Mauritius' commitment to sustainable business practices.



THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO) HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN ADVANCING THE TEA SECTOR IN MAURITIUS THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMME.



THE UNDP'S SUPPORT EXTENDED TO FEMALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP, SPONSORING THREE, MAURITIAN, FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE FAIR (IATF) 2023 IN CAIRO, EGYPT.

The Electronic Document Management System (EDMS), executed by the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms, and facilitated by UNDP with the financial assistance of Japan, went live in December following its launch in July. This collaborative initiative marks a significant milestone in improving document processes across government ministries and institutions in Mauritius. The E-Parliament System for the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA) was officially launched on 17 August by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritius. And a soft launch of the Parliamentary EDMS was completed by September.

PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INVESTMENT

The UNDP's support extended to female entrepreneurship, sponsoring three, Mauritian, female entrepreneurs to participate in the Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF) 2023 in Cairo, Egypt. This initiative was part of a broader effort to enhance women's participation in regional trade, as evidenced by the launch of the national plan for women's entrepreneurship development. The plan outlined eight key priority areas, marking a significant milestone in empowering women entrepreneurs.

The publication of five sectoral prospectuses, and their accompanying videos, for investors facilitated advocacy for investment opportunities in Mauritius. The sponsorship of the Les Assises de l'Entrepreneuriat event underscored the commitment to fostering an innovative, sustainable, and inclusive entrepreneurship ecosystem. This collaborative effort between the Government and the private sector paved the way for redefining entrepreneurship pathways in the country, highlighting the collective drive towards business transformation.

MODERNISING THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

UNDP and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continued, in 2023, to provide support to Statistics Mauritius, through the implementation of the eBusiness Plan. While MauStats is under development, UNFPA provided technical expertise to Statistics Mauritius to assist with the operationalisation of the census data thematic analysis, through the generation of thematic charts and tables, including reformatting of data, the development of data editing and tabulations. Demographic data were analysed and reported through the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) lens.

OUTCOME 2

AGEING SOCIETY, HEALTH, AND LABOUR MARKET REFORMS

BY 2023, THERE IS A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES POSED BY POPULATION AGEING INCLUDING ITS EFFECTS ON POPULATION HEALTH, THE LABOUR MARKET, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH.



NATIONAL VISION | STRONG ECONOMY,
A FULLY OPEN COUNTRY



In 2023, Mauritius achieved significant milestones under Pillar 2 of the Strategic Partnership Framework, demonstrating an holistic approach to addressing the challenges of an ageing society, improving public health and reforming the labour market. These efforts, underpinned by international collaboration and evidence-based policymaking, have not only contributed to the immediate improvement of health outcomes and economic competitiveness, but also laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and resilience against future challenges.

NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NCDs) AND PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

Mauritius has made commendable progress in combatting NCDs, which are the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the country. Through targeted public health initiatives, and adherence to WHO's MPOWER tobacco control measures, there has been a notable decrease in the prevalence of diabetes and tobacco use. The prevalence of diabetes has dropped from 22.9% in 2015 to 19.9% in 2021. And the percentage of Mauritians smoking tobacco has declined from 21% in 2015 to 18% in 2021. These achievements have made Mauritius a model, in Africa, for successful implementation of WHO tobacco control policies.

With WHO technical support, the revision of the Food Act and Food Regulations, aligned with the Codex Alimentarius, marked a significant step in enhancing food safety and promoting healthy eating habits, particularly among children in education. The establishment of a Food Standards Agency further strengthened the regulatory framework, ensuring the availability and sale of healthy food options.

STRENGTHENING HEALTH SECURITY

Notwithstanding effective disease control, increased globalisation and tourism heighten the risk of importing epidemic-prone illnesses, as demonstrated by COVID-19. Mauritius has prioritised bolstering the core capabilities required to ensure swift outbreak detection and response, as advocated by WHO, and vital for safeguarding public health in the face of evolving challenges. The development of the first National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) instilled the motivation to implement priority activities, including implementation of an Integrated Disease Surveillance Reporting (IDSR) mechanism. A core group of trainers have been empowered to roll out the IDSR mechanism. Three out of five health regions are now reporting on IDSR; 102 out of 160 healthcare facilities participating in IDSR ensured full e-reporting (from the regional to the central level) by December, compared to only 45 facilities in September.



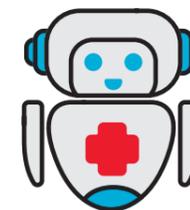
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HEALTH
REGIONS
ARE NOW
REPORTING
ON IDSR.

ADVANCING TOWARDS UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC) AND DIGITALISATION OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM

Mauritius is now equipped with Health Financing Progress Matrix assessment supported by WHO. The country is advancing its healthcare system through the development of a health financing strategy, a crucial step towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Accelerating the progress towards UHC is essential noting that while UHC Service Coverage Index improved from 49 in 2000 to 59 in 2010, it has been almost constant with a score of 66 between 2015 and 2021. Whilst the country does not have a written health financing policy statement guided by goals and based on evidence, a health financing progress matrix assessment has been developed. This is focused on the core functions of the health system – revenue raising, pooling of funds, and purchasing of services specific for the health sector.

This assessment was instrumental in influencing the national health financing dialogues conducted in 2023, with the support of the Global Fund and African Union, as part of the initiative of Accelerating Sustainable Health Financing in Africa: The Africa Leaders Meeting (ALM) Declaration in Action. The health financing matrix will be a critical input for the development of the health financing strategy.



A NOTEWORTHY
HIGHLIGHT WAS
THE UNDP'S
DONATION OF
AN INNOVATIVE
ANTI-EPIDEMIC
ROBOT.

Under the digital health initiative, significant progress was made towards the integration of digital technologies within Mauritius' healthcare system, as shown by the successful delivery of a technical workshop. This initiative, led by UNDP, assessed the readiness of public health facilities for the eHealth project implementation, examining technology infrastructure and operational procedures, to ensure a smooth transition to digital healthcare solutions. Key outcomes included the optimisation of healthcare processes and the enhancement of healthcare professionals' competencies through specialised training programs, aimed at fostering the adoption of digital tools. A noteworthy highlight was the UNDP's donation of an innovative anti-epidemic robot, at the inauguration of the Quartier Militaire Mediclinic, marking a strategic intervention to bolster healthcare worker safety and elevate health infrastructure standards. The robot's deployment is set to revolutionise infection prevention and control measures, demonstrating the impactful role of advanced technology in enhancing public healthcare, particularly in rural settings. This initiative underscores the UNDP's commitment to improving healthcare delivery through digital innovation, signifying a transformative step towards elevated healthcare standards in Mauritius.



ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF AN AGEING SOCIETY

The ageing population and the associated rise in NCDs present significant challenges to the healthcare system. Mauritius' Health Strategic Plan, with assistance from WHO, prioritises integrated care for older adults, aligning with the WHO Integrated Care for Older People Strategy. This approach aims to offer a range of people-centred care, addressing the complex needs of the elderly population effectively.

HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

The Government of Mauritius is now equipped with a new HIV Strategic Planning Framework developed with the assistance of WHO. Mauritius continues to grapple with a concentrated HIV epidemic, with high prevalence among key populations. HIV prevalence among adults aged 15-49 was 1.4% in 2022. As of December 2022, 12,313 people in Mauritius were living with HIV, with 7,043 receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART). A treatment cascade analysis indicated a gender-based discrepancy in HIV testing and linkage to treatment, suggesting poorer access to HIV services for females. Low ART uptake and viral suppression rates signal ongoing high risk of HIV infection. Weak HIV prevention programmes and insufficient coordination were identified as root causes of low testing uptake. There was no articulated HIV prevention strategy or institutionalised HIV prevention training. The new HIV Strategic Planning Framework was published as a comprehensive strategy for enhancing Mauritius' HIV response. It focused on identifying and prioritising high-impact interventions, strengthening the support framework for harm reduction strategies, like Needle Exchange and Opioid Substitution Therapy and addressing existing gaps in these strategies. It also incorporated gender and human rights into the national HIV response, ensuring national ownership of the HIV plan, with greater involvement from Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

The Master of Training of Trainers modules developed was one of the approaches utilised in order to harmonise the delivery of HIV prevention services in the country and thereby contribute to a more effective and efficient HIV prevention programme in Mauritius.



HIV PREVALENCE AMONG
ADULTS AGED 15-49
WAS 1.4% IN 2022.

INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OF THE MAURITIUS NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL MASTERPLAN 2019-2023

The UN played a pivotal role in supporting the evaluation of Mauritius' National Drug Control Masterplan (NDCMP) for 2019-2023, which aimed at addressing the drug problem through supply and demand reduction, harm reduction and improved coordination. At the request of the Mauritian Government, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), along with World Health Organization (WHO), and under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO), mobilised resources for this Government-led independent evaluation. The UNODC Independent Evaluation Section (IES) led the technical aspects and guidance for the evaluation, with a team comprising of Government and UN representatives. The evaluation, supported financially by UNODC, WHO, and UNRCO, involved reviewing data and conducting more than 60 interviews, resulting in a comprehensive report. Key successes highlighted include the establishment of a National Drug Secretariat, a National Drug Observatory, enhanced port security, and the development of drug prevention and treatment services. However, challenges such as porous borders, internal drug proliferation, and entrenched drug cartels were identified. The evaluation's findings are intended to guide the development of Mauritius' next NDCMP, emphasising the need for evidence-based drug prevention strategies and improved coordination among agencies.



ENHANCING SME PRODUCTIVITY AND COMPETITIVENESS

In a strategic collaboration aimed at strengthening the economic resilience and workforce adaptability of Mauritius, the International Labour Organization (ILO) partnered with the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC) to implement the SCORE programme, significantly enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of tourism SMEs, a sector vital for post-pandemic recovery.

SKILLS MOBILITY AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Through the development of the Skills Mobility Framework and a rapid skill needs assessment in the burgeoning marine-based renewable energy sector, ILO was pivotal in addressing skills mismatches by facilitating targeted training and workforce development initiatives. ILO's commitment to fostering evidence-based decision-making and empowering stakeholders was instrumental in promoting decent work principles and best practices among government officials, employers, and workers. Under the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) project, a Labour Migration Unit was established within the Ministry of Labour. These comprehensive efforts culminated in the creation of a more enabling environment for decent work in Mauritius, laying a robust foundation for sustainable economic growth and the advancement of social justice, underscoring ILO's significant contribution to national development goals.

An exciting ecosystem for youth diaspora volunteering has been established in Mauritius. The pilot **Youth Diaspora Volunteering** project, developed with IOM, enabled the young people of Mauritian origin, from various parts of the world, to support and contribute to the sustainable development of the Island, in their relevant field of study/interest.

THE PILOT YOUTH DIASPORA VOLUNTEERING PROJECT

- A dedicated coordination structure was established to engage youth diaspora for the pilot project.
- Volunteering programme parameters were designed, and tools are developed.
- Young volunteers were identified and selected and provided with appropriate support and assistance, throughout their volunteering experience in Mauritius.
- Specific recommendations for the replication of the pilot project in Mauritius, were made available to stakeholders.



COMBATting TRAFFICKING IN PERSON AND ENSURING ETHICAL RECRUITMENT

Addressing human trafficking requires adequate tools and appropriate actions from those engaged in the fight against this scourge. IOM capacity-building activities led to an increase in institutional knowledge on utilising the standard operating procedures and tools for the identification and care of victims of trafficking in Mauritius. Support was also provided to the Government of Mauritius towards the opening of a shelter for male victims of trafficking. Social media activity increased public awareness of human trafficking through an anti-trafficking campaign. Diplomatic missions also supported this effort by designing targeted content in Hindi, Malagasy, Mandarin and Bengali, which was instrumental to the success of the campaign.

Ensuring that recruitment is conducted in an ethical manner is integral to the protection of migrant workers at all stages of the migration cycle and requires a collaborative effort of all relevant stakeholders. IOM, in close collaboration with the Mauritius Export Association (MEXA), finalised a code of conduct for the hiring and employment of migrant workers. The code of conduct, developed under the SAMM project, serves as an important tool to encourage employers, including those in the export sector, to incorporate the principles into their operations.

IOM also collaborated with other international and local stakeholders to facilitate the safe return and reintegration of immigrants into Mauritian society. In 2023, the IOM Office for Mauritius & Seychelles supported 14 immigrants, all of whom returned from France. Six of them benefitted from social reintegration support while 12 of them were assisted to start up a micro-business, generating income and employment. IOM also contributed to hosting three Malagasy women in shelters and facilitating the safe return to their home country.

OUTCOME 3

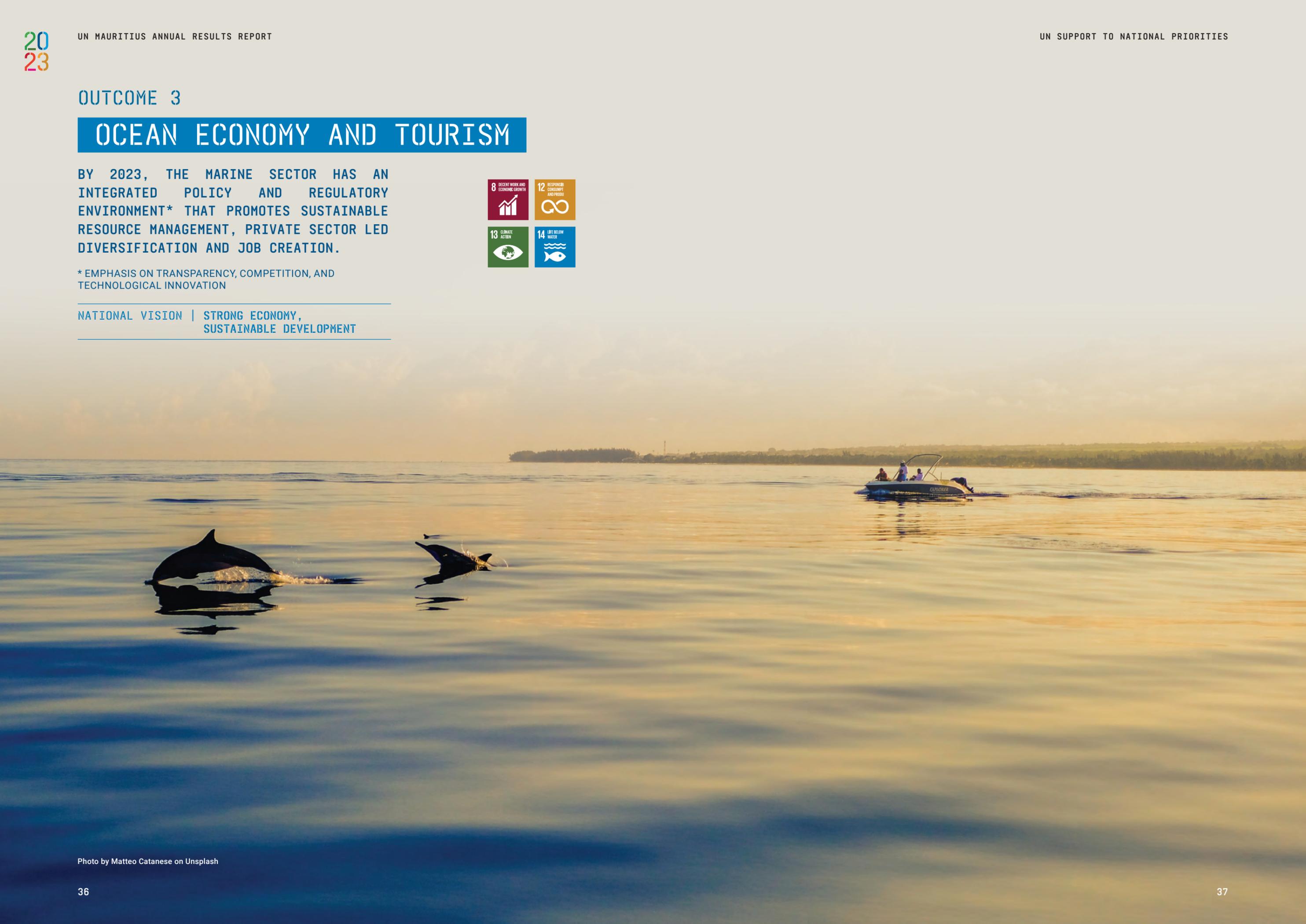
OCEAN ECONOMY AND TOURISM

BY 2023, THE MARINE SECTOR HAS AN INTEGRATED POLICY AND REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT* THAT PROMOTES SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR LED DIVERSIFICATION AND JOB CREATION.

* EMPHASIS ON TRANSPARENCY, COMPETITION, AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION



NATIONAL VISION | STRONG ECONOMY,
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



In 2023, under Pillar 3, Mauritius embarked on a transformative journey to revitalise its Blue Economy. The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) reported significant progress in leveraging the island's marine resources for sustainable economic growth, ensuring environmental conservation and promoting inclusive participation.

POLICY AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The cornerstone of the year's achievements was the development of a comprehensive policy paper for the Blue Economy in Mauritius. This document served dual purposes: as a strategic guide, articulating the vision and fundamental principles for the oceanic economy's sustainable expansion, and as a foundation for devising a detailed strategic action plan. This policy framework underscored the nation's commitment to harmonising economic growth, with environmental stewardship and social equity.

CAPACITY BUILDING ON ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND MARITIME CONSERVATION



Photo by UNDP Mauritius/ Jean-Yan Norbert

Efforts to enhance environmental awareness and maritime conservation saw the installation of 33 informative signboards and 24 sea-based boundary limit buoys across marine parks and fishing reserves. This initiative significantly contributed to fostering a collective consciousness about marine preservation and sustainable use among the local communities.

Capacity building for artisanal fishers also intensified through the introduction of modern Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs). This initiative aimed at amplifying fishing efficiency while mitigating the overexploitation

EFFORTS TO ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND MARITIME CONSERVATION SAW THE INSTALLATION OF 33 INFORMATIVE SIGNBOARDS AND 24 SEA-BASED BOUNDARY LIMIT BUOYS ACROSS MARINE PARKS AND FISHING RESERVES.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS WERE STRATEGICALLY CONDUCTED, EDUCATING 101 FISHERS ON THE CRITICAL ROLE OF ICE IN FISH PRESERVATION.

of lagoon resources. Complementing this, the development and pilot testing of the RodMoFAD mobile application showcased a technological leap in fishing practices, offering real-time data on FAD locations and surrounding biomass, promising a future of informed and efficient fishing.

Awareness campaigns were strategically conducted, educating 101 fishers on the critical role of ice in fish preservation, thus promoting best practices in fish handling and contributing to quality maintenance within the value chain. Moreover, the inclusivity of the Blue Economy was strengthened through targeted sensitisation sessions, markedly increasing the participation of women and young people in post-harvest processing activities. These sessions utilised compelling video content to communicate the value and opportunities within the fish value chain, emphasising sustainable practices and economic empowerment.

ENHANCING BIOSECURITY

A notable advancement in environmental protection was achieved through the procurement and installation of three organic scanners. These devices are at the forefront of biosecurity, enhancing the capacity for risk-based management of priority pathways, species and ecosystems. By improving the detection of invasive alien species, these scanners play a pivotal role in safeguarding Mauritius' marine biodiversity and support the resilience of its Blue Economy.

STRATEGIC ACHIEVEMENTS IN BOLSTERING TECHNICAL, LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS AGAINST TRAFFICKING, MARITIME CRIMES AND DRUG USE

UNODC advanced Member State-driven support through scenario-based exercises, enhancing national capacities in detecting, investigating and prosecuting human trafficking, using relevant laws and policies. This initiative drew attention to legislative and coordination gaps, especially in victim protection, and the identification and prosecution of trafficking cases. In Mauritius, a joint exercise with national judicial and law enforcement bodies revealed a critical need for a victim-centred approach in trafficking cases, pinpointing the absence of victim and witness protection legislation as a barrier to successful prosecutions. UNODC's analysis prompted a proposal to the Prime Minister's Office to draft legislation to bolster witness protection and increase successful prosecutions.

The Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) by UNODC focused on disrupting maritime crime, including drug trafficking, through comprehensive training in the Western Indian Ocean region. Training encompassed a range of tactical and strategic maritime law enforcement skills, fostering regional cooperation and legal proficiency against maritime crimes. Significant legislative support and capacity-building initiatives were undertaken, including the establishment of a specialised maritime court in Mozambique and the enhancement of regional legal frameworks to address maritime crime effectively.

UNODC's initiatives extended to drug use and violence prevention through school-based and sports-related programmes in several African countries, aiming to impart life and social skills to young people. The Get Connected drug use prevention programme, launched in Mauritius, targets 12–14-year-old schoolchildren, aiming to equip them with necessary skills to prevent drug use. Inspired by the EU's Unplugged Programme, and aligned with UNODC's international standards, it received support from key educational and health ministries, the private sector, and NGOs. Initially rolled out in 24 schools for a pilot phase, with 23 additional schools serving as controls for evaluation, the programme demonstrated success, and garnered high-level political and financial support for expansion. Consequently, it was extended to all 148 secondary schools across Mauritius, engaging 296 teachers for implementation. This expansion, supported by a handbook for facilitators, underscores the programme's emphasis on evidence-based prevention strategies, skilled implementation and broad institutional backing, directly benefiting a significant number of young Mauritians, by fostering drug-use resistance skills.

A transformative capacity-building exercise in Mauritius, integrating training in maritime domain awareness, vessel maintenance and prosecutorial preparation, culminated in a comprehensive Maritime Rule of Law Tabletop Exercise. This facilitated a successful coordinated maritime operation, demonstrating the enhanced capability of Mauritian maritime law enforcement and judicial entities. These efforts were exemplified by Operation Yellow Fin, a joint operation with Seychelles, to combat illegal fishing, showcasing improved maritime law enforcement and judicial coordination. Additionally, regional training on oil spill and marine pollution enforcement addressed environmental disaster response challenges, contributing to climate and biodiversity protection objectives.

INITIALLY ROLLED OUT IN 24 SCHOOLS FOR A PILOT PHASE, WITH 23 ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS SERVING AS CONTROLS FOR EVALUATION, THE PROGRAMME DEMONSTRATED SUCCESS, AND GARNERED HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR EXPANSION.



OUTCOME 4

INCLUSIVE, QUALITY EDUCATION AND SKILLING

BY 2023, THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM OFFERS HIGHER QUALITY, INCLUSIVE SERVICES AND EQUIPS ALL LEARNERS⁹⁶ WITH KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR ENHANCED EMPLOYABILITY*

*INCLUDES ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS AND SKILLS FOR EMERGING BLUE, GREEN, AND DIGITAL ECONOMY JOBS, AND CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



NATIONAL VISION | COHERENT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & INCLUSIVE SOCIETY



In 2023, notable advancements to promote inclusive, quality education and skilling were made within Mauritius. Several initiatives aimed at bolstering the educational sector and enhancing skills development to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving socio-economic landscape, were launched. The achievements under this pillar are a testament to the commitment to the principle of Leaving No One Behind and the drive towards sustainable development.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNANCE

A pivotal initiative undertaken by UNDP, was the capacity development programme for councillors and officers of the District and Municipal Councils. This comprehensive programme engaged 75 officials across all districts, marking a 100% reach into local governance structures. The training provided these local authorities with enhanced capabilities in understanding their institutional mandates, and adapting service delivery, to navigate the challenges of a changing environment. Furthermore, the programme fostered an improved responsiveness among officials to public demands, encompassing areas crucial for community well-being, such as good governance, accountability, renewable energy, domestic violence, community policing and disaster management.

THIS COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME ENGAGED 75 OFFICIALS ACROSS ALL DISTRICTS, MARKING A 100% REACH INTO LOCAL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES.

ENHANCING EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS THROUGH ICT

Recognising the transformative power of digital technologies in education, UNDP facilitated the acquisition of ICT equipment for the Guy Rozemont Government School. Situated in a disadvantaged community, this intervention aimed at creating positive learning environments for all children, ensuring that education is both inclusive and of high quality. This effort not only benefited the immediate community but also served as a model for leveraging digital transformation to enhance educational outcomes across similar contexts.

SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

In alignment with its commitment to support vulnerable communities, UNDP's interventions extended to providing essential school materials to 600 children from low-income families in Baie du Cap. This initiative played a critical role in mitigating the educational barriers faced by children in poorer areas, contributing to equitable access to educational resources.

UNDP also implemented the 'Stepping Up Project,' which offered art-therapy sessions to 29 children in the locality of L'Escalier. This innovative programme not only supported the mental and emotional well-being of the participants, but also empowered them through creative expression. Additional support was extended to the communities of L'Escalier and Le Bouchon, areas identified as low-ranking according to the Relative Development Index, reinforcing the principle of targeting assistance to those most in need.

UNDP ALSO IMPLEMENTED THE 'STEPPING UP PROJECT,' WHICH OFFERED ART-THERAPY SESSIONS TO 29 CHILDREN IN THE LOCALITY OF L'ESCALIER.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SKILL DEVELOPMENT

THIS INITIATIVE EQUIPPED 38 WOMEN INMATES WITH VALUABLE SKILLS, POSITIONING THEM FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND A BETTER LIFE POST-INCARCERATION.

A noteworthy accomplishment was the introduction of aquaponic and hydroponic culture within prison rehabilitation and reintegration programmes. This initiative equipped 38 women inmates with valuable skills, positioning them for economic empowerment and a better life post-incarceration. This approach not only contributed to the individuals' personal development but also addressed broader societal objectives of reducing recidivism and facilitating successful reintegration into the community.

OUTCOME 5

SOCIAL PROTECTION AND GENDER EQUALITY

BY 2023, SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES ARE STRENGTHENED AND RATIONALISED TO REACH THE MOST VULNERABLE, ELIMINATE GBV, AND ENHANCE WOMEN'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT.



NATIONAL VISION | COHERENT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & INCLUSIVE SOCIETY, A SAFER LIVING ENVIRONMENT



Various initiatives aimed at bolstering social protection mechanisms led to significant progress on gender equality within Mauritius.

STRENGTHENING SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND SDGS ALIGNMENT

A pivotal contribution came from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which presented Mauritius with a crucial, explorative study titled "**An Intersectional Approach to Socio-economic Data in Southern Africa: Leveraging Data to Leave No One Behind.**" The study exposed the intricate relationship between economic, social and cultural rights, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a Leave No One Behind (LNOB) lens. It particularly emphasised the importance of leveraging disaggregated socio-economic data to gauge and monitor the extent to which marginalised and vulnerable groups enjoy their socio-economic rights alongside sustainable development outcomes. Recommendations from this study, encapsulated in an advocacy brief and an infographic, were directed towards national statistical offices, human rights institutions, and other key stakeholders, setting a foundational framework for data-informed policymaking and advocacy.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND PARTNERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

The Mauritius Human Rights Commission pledged to fortify partnerships with critical stakeholders, including civil society, during the Human Rights 75 high-level event. This pledge underscored a commitment to the protection of women and girls from violence and discrimination, ensuring the right to social security and healthcare services for all, and the continuous promotion of the best interests of the child.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The capacity of Mauritian representatives from civil society organisations to engage in human rights mechanisms was significantly enhanced. This was achieved through OHCHR sub-regional training, which aimed to bolster advocacy skills and support the protection of human rights defenders. Mauritius also received targeted recommendations from the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy, acknowledging the nation's comprehensive legal framework for privacy and data protection, while highlighting the need for effective implementation.

ADVOCACY AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

SOME OF THOSE WHO
TOOK PART INCLUDED
350 COUNSELLORS,
75 OFFICERS OF
THE WOMEN POLICE
OFFICERS NETWORK AND
VARIOUS NGOS.

In support to the 16 days of activism, and to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the UNDP spearheaded awareness sessions on the GBV mobile application, L'Espwar. Some of those who took part included 350 counsellors, 75 officers of the Women Police Officers Network and various NGOs. The sessions focused on gender-sensitive policing and the innovative use of the mobile application's panic button feature, which operates without internet connectivity, to access services from the Mauritius Police Force.



Photo by Luciano Roussety

UNFPA led and facilitated a stakeholder mapping exercise for the development of a GBV Essential Services Package in Mauritius. This was a first step in a sustained collaboration, with the Ministry of Gender and Family Welfare, to support comprehensive capacity strengthening of all stakeholders in the GBV response in Mauritius. It also enhanced coordination for an institutionalised GBV referral pathway. A scoping study was conducted for the development and operationalisation of a GBV Integrated Management System, in collaboration with UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO). The study will provide a roadmap for action to the Ministry of Gender and Family Welfare for the development of its GBV Information Management System (IMIS), which together with the GBV Essential Services Package, will strengthen data collection, and drive relevant and informed policymaking in favour of GBV victims and survivors.

OUTCOME 6

RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

BY 2023, INTEGRATED POLICY FRAMEWORKS AND ENHANCED COMMUNITY ACTION PROMOTE CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION, AND CREATE INCENTIVES FOR THE TRANSITION TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.



NATIONAL VISION SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, A SAFER LIVING ENVIRONMENT



Photo by UNDRR

With the support of the UN, Mauritius showcased substantial progress in advancing renewable energy, gender-inclusive climate strategies, transparency in NDC reporting and collaborative preparation for net-zero projects, positioning itself as a leader in sustainable development.

OFFSHORE WIND FARM FEASIBILITY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY INTEGRATION

Mauritius has achieved remarkable milestones in its journey towards a greener future. Under the Joint SDG Fund Project, supported by UNEP, the completion of a groundbreaking feasibility study for an offshore wind farm stands as a testament to the nation's commitment. This study not only identified two promising technological options – bottom-fixed and floating wind farms – but also outlined a pathway for ambitious scaling, surpassing the targets set in the country's Renewable Energy Roadmap. The study's impact resonated in the informed cabinet paper, resulting in the allocation of specific areas exclusively dedicated to future offshore wind farms. This strategic development positioned Mauritius to achieve its ambitious 60% renewable energy target in the energy mix by 2023.



THIS STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT POSITIONED MAURITIUS TO ACHIEVE ITS AMBITIOUS 60% RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGET IN THE ENERGY MIX BY 2023.

NATIONAL MITIGATION STRATEGY AND GENDER-INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION

Under the GEF project on Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) for Low Carbon Island Development Strategy, Mauritius has scripted a narrative of resilience and inclusivity. The creation of a National Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan for both Mauritius and Rodrigues Island underscored the nation's commitment to achieving NDC targets. The innovative integration of a comprehensive Gender Action Plan ensured that gender considerations were woven into the implementation of climate actions, marking a significant step towards gender equality.

ENHANCED TRANSPARENCY FRAMEWORK AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The establishment of an Enhanced Transparency Framework, including the MauNDC Registry, exemplifies Mauritius' dedication to transparent reporting on NDC implementation. With UNEP, stakeholders have been trained on how to upload data to the platform. This collective effort allows Mauritius to meticulously track progress towards NDC implementation and identify the support both received and that which is still needed. Furthermore, a series of capacity-building activities has fortified national capabilities to plan, implement, and monitor climate action, fostering resilience and adaptability in the face of environmental challenges.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACCESS AND GENDER EMPOWERMENT

The UNDP facilitated the provision of clean, affordable, and sustainable energy solutions to 1,628 low/middle-income households, NGOs and religious bodies. Of these beneficiaries, 38% were led by women, and 49.6% by men, highlighting the programme's inclusivity. Additionally, 180 women, including individuals, entrepreneurs and members of associations, benefited from targeted capacity-building sessions and awareness campaigns on renewable energy (RE) technologies. This initiative not only enhanced their knowledge but also empowered them as stakeholders in Mauritius' green energy transition.

DIGITALISATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY PROMOTION

A pivotal step towards fostering a knowledge-based approach to renewable energy was the establishment of a Renewable Energy Portal by UNDP. This digital platform served as a comprehensive repository for RE technologies, facilitating access to information and promoting sustainable energy solutions across Mauritius. The mobilisation of alternative co-financing mechanisms within the RE sector also enabled the development of action plans to address the lifecycle management of photovoltaic (PV) panels and batteries, ensuring their sustainable end-of-use disposal.



EXTENSION OF RENEWABLE INITIATIVES AND TRANSPORT SECTOR GREENING

The Government's endorsement of extending renewable energy initiatives to Agaléga marks a significant leap towards transforming these islands into models of sustainable energy usage, with an ambitious target of sourcing 80% of their energy needs from renewable sources. Mauritius also embarked on a greening programme for its transport sector with UNDP's support. This included initiating an electric bus project and engaging in high-level exchanges with regional counterparts, to share insights and experiences. These efforts were complemented by initiatives to enhance the national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory and improve processes, strengthening the country's capacity for national and international environmental reporting.

ADVANCEMENTS IN WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

The enactment of the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Bill in April 2023 established a regulatory framework for the management of solid and hazardous waste, advocating for a circular economy approach. The development and implementation of 'Waste Segregation Regulations' further underscored commitment to environmentally sound waste management practices. Additionally, the completion of the National Parks and Conservation Service (NPCS) Needs Assessment, supported by UNDP, contributed to the legislative efforts in wetland conservation and invasive species management, particularly with the management plan for Mourouk, which aimed to address climate change-induced challenges.

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

With the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) support, Mauritius made strides in creating an enabling environment for renewable energy adoption. Improvements to the grid's absorption capacity, updates to the Electricity Act and the finalisation of grid codes for renewable technologies, have laid the groundwork for a sustainable low-carbon future. These measures ensured the proper accreditation of installers and the standardisation of renewable energy installations, facilitating Mauritius' transition to a low-carbon development model.

SUSTAINABILITY OF INTEGRATION, REINTEGRATION AND PLANNED RELOCATION PROGRAMMES, AS ADAPTATION STRATEGIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

IOM implemented a project entitled “**Mainstreaming Environmental Dimensions in Integration, Reintegration and Relocation Initiatives in Lesotho and Mauritius**” which aimed to contribute to the sustainability of integration, reintegration and planned relocation programmes, as adaptation strategies to climate change in Lesotho and Mauritius. In this respect, IOM supported qualitative research which explored in-depth:

- the impact of climate change on migration and reintegration in Lesotho and Mauritius (past trends, potential risks);
- how to empower, protect and reintegrate returnees, internal migrants (including populations at risk), individuals and communities affected by migration, as well as labour migrants and diaspora, in the face of current and anticipated climate change trends; and
- schemes to reskill or upskill returning workers and integrate incoming labour migrants to local or national labour markets and environmental needs.

A policy brief, including the key recommendations, was also published and circulated among key government stakeholders to ensure their mainstreaming in government strategies.

2.3 SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIP AND FINANCING FOR THE 2030 AGENDA

Achieving the sustainable development goals will require a paradigm shift from the usual siloed approach to one that promotes effective and inclusive partnerships. This will require that we build at national, regional and international level “collaborative relations between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and, as mutually agreed, to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits”.¹



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

In order to strengthen youth participation and engagement, ahead of the COP28 Summit, and on climate change issues, the United Nations in Mauritius collaborated with the **Australian High Commission, the National Forum of Colleges (NAFCO) and the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation**, to organise the second of the **Pre COP-Youth Summits** in Mauritius. The Summit brought together over 100 students from across Mauritius to discuss crucial climate-related issues, such as climate adaptation, youth engagement, sustainable energy, biodiversity preservation and international collaboration to identify potential solutions.



Young people can be a driving force in translating the 2030 agenda into the national context. In 2023, the **UNDP supported the Office of the Speaker of the National Assembly to organise the third edition of the National Youth Parliament**, with the aim of engaging young Mauritian citizens in the functions and operations of the national legislature, fostering youth leadership, and facilitating discussions on pressing issues of national and international importance in a parliamentary setting. **75 young Mauritians, aged between 14 and 23, were empowered with regards to mainstreaming SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy and SDG 13: Climate Action** into national policies and strategies, as well as with the drafting of resolutions on the two SDGs debated during the Youth Parliamentary Sessions.



¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/about>



With more than 50,000 migrant workers in Mauritius in export-oriented industries, it is crucial to ensure that their fundamental rights are respected and that the risks associated with migration, including human trafficking, are minimised. In 2023, **IOM catalysed a unique partnership with the Mauritius Export Association (MEXA) to develop a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment and Employment of Migrant Workers in Mauritius**. The Code of Conduct aims to ensure fairer and more ethical recruitment and employment practices; support sustainable business development; and support export-oriented companies in Mauritius in their efforts to align their policies and operations with international standards of responsible business practices. This initiative is supported by the SAMM Project.



Supporting maritime security and safety in the Western Indian Ocean is crucial to the development of the Blue Economy in Mauritius. However, in recent years, a rise in maritime related crimes has been observed, with transnational criminal organisations taking advantages of this trade route to create illicit trafficking networks. **UNODC has partnered in 2023, with the United States Department of State's, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), to support the Government of Mauritius to build its capacity to reinforce maritime security** in its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), through the launching of a “ship-in-a-box” simulator facility. The “ship-in-a-box” will support the capacity building of the Mauritian Revenue Authority to practice maritime tactics including visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) interventions on vessels.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS LEVERAGED FOR FINANCING SDG ACHIEVEMENT

In order to support Mauritius to build **its resilience to climate change and accelerate its transition to renewable energy, the UNDP has mobilised resources from the British High Commission in Mauritius**. Through a **MUR 23 million envelope from the United Kingdom**, a training and seed-funding programme will be implemented to support job creation in the renewable energy sector, including training women and young people with the necessary skills and knowledge to install solar photovoltaic systems. In addition, support will also be provided to the Government of Mauritius to develop a long-term strategy for climate financing and investment in low carbon development projects. This support will help Mauritius to achieve its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) targets as well as its goal of reaching 30% of Renewable Energy in its electricity mix by 2030.



Digital transformation offers a unique opportunity to support the development of SMEs in Mauritius and build their resilience. The UN in Mauritius mobilised resources from **the Government of Japan to support the development of the Enterprise Go Digital platform, in collaboration with the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC)**. The digital solutions provided by the Enterprise GO Digital platform will enable SMEs to better compete both in local and foreign markets namely through functionalities designed to aid operations around sales automation, inventory management to track and monitor stock, production management and enterprise marketing management.



In order to address the growing issue of gender-based violence in Rodrigues, **UNFPA mobilised funding from the British High Commission in Mauritius to develop a GBV Information Management System (GBV IMIS)**. The roll-out of the GBV IMIS will allow for better dissemination of services, including improved knowledge and awareness of GBV and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) issues in Rodrigues, and improved support to GBV survivors. Through this project, the capacity of the Commission for Child Development and other relevant government institutions in Rodrigues will be strengthened to provide GBV and SRHR services to women and youth.



SOUTH-SOUTH PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE THE 2030 AGENDA/SDGS

Through a Joint SDG Fund project on Resilient Food systems, the UNDP has catalysed potential collaboration between the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institution (FAREI) from Mauritius, and the Seychelles Institute of Agriculture and Horticulture (SIAH), in the areas of food security and climate smart agriculture in the two SIDS. Both countries are highly dependent on imported food products and have been implementing a series of measures to boost agricultural production locally. Through a series of exchanges, government officials from the two islands had the opportunity to discuss their respective strategies and challenges with sustainable agricultural techniques, **as well as potential areas of collaboration for the development of more resilient food systems in both countries.**



2.4 RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING TOGETHER

RC/UNCT

APPLYING SYSTEM THINKING TO SUPPORT A TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE TO ACCELERATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SDGS.

In 2023, through the development of the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2024-2028, the UN held intensive and inclusive consultations with government departments, the private sector, civil society organisations, development partners and vulnerable groups. These consultations increased the visibility of the UNCT and repositioned it to support the transformative agenda of the Government of Mauritius. The UNCT expanded with the number of UN agencies signatory to the Cooperation Framework (CF) increasing from 18 to 24. The overall budget committed by UN agencies to the CF more than doubled from USD 41.8m to USD 94.3m, an increase of 126%.

THE OVERALL BUDGET COMMITTED BY UN AGENCIES TO THE CF MORE THAN DOUBLED FROM USD 41.8M TO USD 94.3M, AN INCREASE OF 126%.

Multiple UNCT agencies, including UNDP, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), supported national consultations in Mauritius. They also contributed to the regional report on the implementation of the SAMOA pathway for the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, and South China Sea (AIS), which will feed into the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Antigua and Barbuda in 2024.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT TEAM (PMT)

In 2023, the PMT spearheaded the elaboration of two Cooperation Frameworks for Mauritius and Seychelles simultaneously. These extensive engagements resulted in increased awareness and buy-in from key stakeholders, and a better understanding of the catalytic role of the UN and its

contribution to the development of Mauritius. The PMT organised the first-ever Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) capacity-building workshop for the UNCT, the PMT and Operations Management Team (OMT), to ensure that PSEA is consistently mainstreamed in all programming, monitoring and reporting processes. Following the training, the PSEA Team also developed a budgeted PSEA action plan.



The PMT provided support to the CF final evaluation and the response to its findings. To support raising the voice of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the G20, the PMT supported the Government of Mauritius as an observer by producing policy briefs, highlighting the need to increase access to concessional and climate change financing. Additionally, the PMT supported Mauritius to strengthen its long-term strategic planning system and policy development, through institutional capacity building in a “system thinking” approach.

OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT TEAM (OMT)

INCREASED EFFICIENCY

The OMT supported the implementation and review of the Business Operation Strategy (BOS) 2020-2023. The BOS identified seven common services for collaboration, namely, common administration services; common cleaning services; common UN premises; common procurement services; common parking services; common security services; common gender responsive services; and common procurement sourcing. The UN Agencies participating in the Mauritius BOS are UNDP, WHO, UN and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Furthermore, the UNCT completed the common premises exercise, noting that three agencies are already co-located. The UN care and staff wellbeing activities, and the PSEA, were integrated into the BOS during the 2022 annual review. The OMT supported the Local Salary Survey and housing, resulting in an increase in housing support of 4.5% associated with the cost-of-living.



GENDER THEMATIC GROUP (GTG)

Gender Equality remains a challenge in Mauritius despite its upper middle-income country (MIC) status. To support the mainstreaming of gender equality and women empowerment (GEWE) in all programming, UNCT established the Gender Thematic Group that spearheaded the Gender Scorecard Assessment. Results of the Gender Scorecard Assessment allowed the UNCT to develop a tailored action plan to ensure GEWE remains at the heart of all joint programmes and guides the strategic advice to the Government, in order to support them on the path to achieving SDG5. To support the UNCT efforts for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) the GTG supported the creation of the PSEA 2024-2025 action plan.

COMMUNICATING AS ONE

During 2023, the United Nations Partnership and Communications Group (UNPCG) was integral in supporting the design process and launch of the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2024-2028 for the Republic of Mauritius. The UNPCG raised awareness of the design process to encourage the participation of a wide range of targeted stakeholders in the consultations at the Strategic Prioritisation Retreat (SPR). In addition to our main partner, the Government of Mauritius, stakeholders were mobilised to engage in the process representing the private sector, academia, media and civil society, including youth and women’s groups. The UNPCG actively engaged with the press to ensure their attendance at the opening of the SPR to begin the process of informing the public (a), what is a UNSDCF? And (b), why is it relevant to the country?

Key challenges identified in the Common Country Analysis (CCA) facing Mauritius as a country, and in particular the specific vulnerability of being a small island state (SIDS), were used as a starting point for the conversations. This was supported by the consistent use of key messages about the UNSDCF, jointly produced for use in interviews with the media, speeches, and press releases. The signing ceremony for the UNSDCF took place on 6 November which was supported by a social media campaign both prior to, and during, the ceremony. The ceremony itself was broadcasted on the UN in Mauritius and Seychelles Facebook page to ensure an inclusive event, providing access to the people of Mauritius and to strengthen buy-in for the UNSDCF.

The UNPCG also successfully supported UN global and regional advocacy campaigns by adapting to make them relevant to the national context. Social media channels were chosen to maximise resources and reach, which was a particularly effective means of collaboration for a UNCT with a majority of non-resident agencies.

For the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence from 25 November to 10 December, the UNPCG mobilised UN agency staff to provide a headshot and add a caption using the campaign slogan **#NoExcuse**, describing what action they take to **#EndViolenceAgainstWomen**. The message was then put on a social media card template with both the UN in Mauritius’ and the campaign’s logos. This coordinated action led to a significant increase in tweet impressions over the 16 days of 5,800 as compared to the norm for that month during the non-campaign period of 3,000. Tweet impressions importantly indicated an organisation's brand's presence by measuring how many times the tweet was shown to people across the platform. Overall Twitter followers of @UN_Mauritius increased by over 30%. Facebook followers on the UN in Mauritius and Seychelles page increased by 60%. In this way, the UNPCG engaged with followers through these channels to promote the process and results of the Cooperation Framework, SDGs and other development agendas.

X **30%**
INCREASE IN
FOLLOWERS

f **60%**
INCREASE IN
FOLLOWERS

2.5 EVALUATION AND LESSONS LEARNED

The conclusion of the Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) in 2023 offered a unique vantage point to reflect on the United Nations' commitment to Mauritius, a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) grappling with inherent vulnerabilities and external shocks. This period of engagement, notable for the non-resident status of 80% of UN agencies, and marking the first UN cooperation framework with the Government of Mauritius, has illuminated both achievements and challenges, providing critical insights for future initiatives.

The efficacy of the coordination structures in Mauritius, though limited in number when compared to other countries with traditional setups, underscores the potential for streamlined mechanisms to deliver multifaceted roles. This experience, though constrained by the COVID-19 pandemic and a volatile geopolitical landscape, underscored the resilience and adaptability of the framework. The pandemic's impact, particularly through the imposition of restrictions that led to delays and cancellations of activities, highlighted the need for more robust investment in strategic foresight tools, and risk management and mitigation strategies. It also underscored the vulnerability of development initiatives to unforeseen global crises.

The predominately non-physical presence of the UN in Mauritius has been a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it necessitated innovative approaches to maintain momentum, such as the local recruitment of staff or designation of focal representatives for UN agencies. On the other, it revealed the critical importance of direct engagement and the limitations imposed by reduced contact opportunities, which, in turn, affected communication timeliness and programme implementation.

A significant challenge encountered was the high turnover within the Mauritian Government's line ministries. This impacted the capacity for effective reporting and adaptation to government needs. Coupled with inadequate data production and delays, this posed significant hurdles to real-time monitoring of the SPF, emphasising the need for enhanced data management and human resource stability to support governmental collaboration.

The process of increasing stakeholder buy-in for the next Cooperation Framework emerged as a pivotal lesson. Despite the limited engagement with the current SPF, efforts initiated in 2022 to foster national consultations were instrumental in raising awareness and securing commitment for new frameworks. This engagement process was not only strategic for the effective implementation and monitoring of upcoming initiatives, but also vital for aligning with Mauritius' developmental aspirations.

Moreover, the challenge of non-completion of SPF results framework indicator data, which rendered some variables non-evaluable, highlighted a critical area for improvement. The absence of baselines or targets for nearly 10% of outcome indicators points to the necessity for more rigorous data management and statistical capacity building. This issue, closely tied to the broader challenge of inadequate statistical data for performance monitoring, calls for an enhanced focus on establishing clear, measurable indicators from the outset.

In conclusion, the lessons learned from the implementation of the SPF in Mauritius underscored the importance of strategic foresight, effective communication strategies, robust data management and more intensive stakeholder engagement. These insights are invaluable for shaping future cooperation frameworks, ensuring they are resilient, responsive, and aligned with both the UN's goals and Mauritius' developmental needs. The experience reaffirms the UN's commitment to supporting Mauritius in navigating its unique challenges as a SIDS, leveraging lessons learned to foster sustainable development and resilience against future shocks.

**IN CONCLUSION,
THE LESSONS LEARNED
FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE SPF IN MAURITIUS
UNDERScoreD THE IMPORTANCE
OF STRATEGIC FORESIGHT,
EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION
STRATEGIES, ROBUST DATA
MANAGEMENT AND MORE
INTENSIVE STAKEHOLDER
ENGAGEMENT.**

3.6 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

\$6,322,587 was contributed by the UN Country Team in Mauritius towards the SPF in 2023.

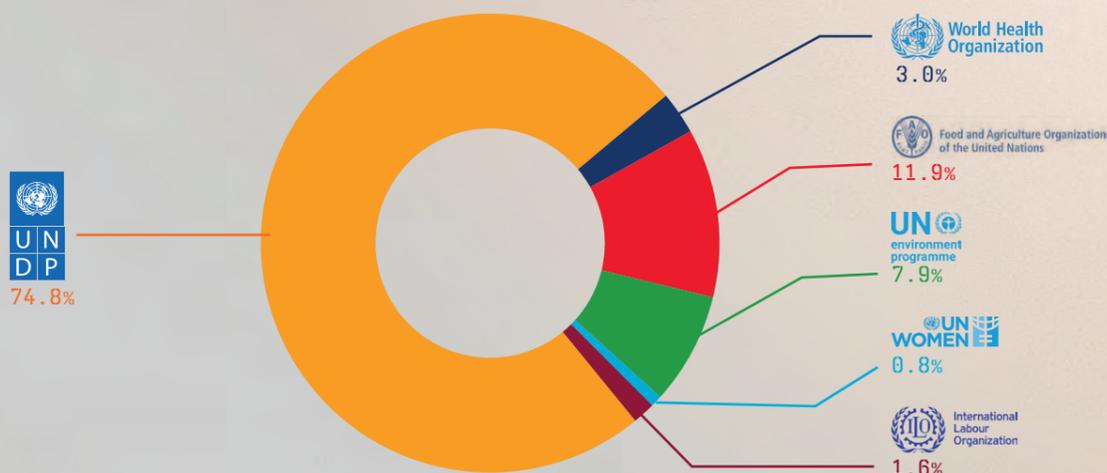


Representing **7.9%** of the total required budget to implement the SPF.

CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2023 BY STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS OF THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

| | |
|---|---------------|
| SPF OUTCOME 1 TRANSFORMED BUSINESS | USD 1,678,872 |
| SPF OUTCOME 2 AGEING SOCIETY, HEALTH, AND LABOUR MARKET REFORMS | USD 188,488 |
| SPF OUTCOME 3 OCEAN ECONOMY AND TOURISM | USD 458,542 |
| SPF OUTCOME 4 INCLUSIVE, QUALITY EDUCATION AND SKILLING | USD 0 |
| SPF OUTCOME 5 SOCIAL PROTECTION AND GENDER EQUALITY | USD 58,888 |
| SPF OUTCOME 6 RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE | USD 3,954,773 |

CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2023 BY UN AGENCIES



RESOURCE MOBILISED

In 2023, the UN Country Team in Mauritius mobilised resources from the Government, development partners and multilateral funds, to finance the implementation of the Strategic Partnership Framework.



\$ 5,710,191 was mobilised by the UN Country Team in Mauritius towards the implementation of SPF in 2023.





2024 UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR 2024

1

THE UN SYSTEM WILL IDENTIFY STRATEGIES AND MOBILISE RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT THE 2024-2028 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK.

In 2023, the UNCT developed the Cooperation Framework 2024-2028 through a comprehensive and inclusive consultative process. The CF identified three priority areas:

PEOPLE fostering a human development approach for an inclusive and thriving society.

PROSPERITY addressing structural vulnerabilities and boosting sustainable economic transformation.

PLANET enhancing resilience to the triple planetary crisis.

The UNCT also identified broad strategies, and the funding required, for the implementation of the CF and developed additional action plans to ensure LNOB. These include the PSEA, the Gender Scorecard Assessment, and disability inclusion.

During the first year of the implementation of the CF, the UNCT will develop Joint Work Plans, establish the CF governance structure and mobilise resources for a successful implementation of the CF. The UNCT will implement the recommendations from the Gender Scorecard Assessment and the PSEA action plan.

2

CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR POLICY COHERENCE AND SYSTEM THINKING.

In 2024, the UN will build on the partnership with the Government of Mauritius and academia, in collaboration with UNDESA and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), to bring to scale the SDG mainstreaming, system thinking, and its impact on decision-making and institutional reform, to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3

THE UNITED NATIONS WILL SUPPORT THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS TO CONDUCT “THEMATIC REPORTS” OF THE NATIONAL HOUSING AND POPULATION CENSUS OF MAURITIUS

Mauritius completed the 2022 NHPC National Housing and Population Census. The UN will support the National Statistics Bureau to conduct a “Thematic Report” based on international standards and the Government’s needs. The UN will also strengthen the capacity of the NSB in the utilisation of the “Census and Survey Processing System (CSPPro)” software package.

ACRONYMS

| | | | |
|---------------|---|---------------|--|
| AfCFTA | African Continental Free Trade Agreement | PV | Photovoltaic |
| AFD | Agence Française de Développement | SADC | Southern African Development Community |
| ATPC | African Trade Policy Centre | SAMM | Southern African Migration Management |
| CPI | Consumer Price Index | SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization | SERP | Socio Economic Response Plan |
| EU | European Union | SIDS | Small Island Developing State |
| FAO | Food and Agricultural Organization | SME | Small to Medium-Size Enterprise |
| GBV | Gender Based Violence | SPF | Strategic Partnership Framework |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product | SPR | Strategic Prioritization Retreat |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility | UN | United Nations |
| IAEA | International Atomic Energy Agency | USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| IFAD | International Fund for Agricultural Development | UNCT | United Nations Country Team |
| ILO | International Labour Organization | UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| IOC | Indian Ocean Commission | UN ECA | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration | UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| IORA | Indian Ocean Rim Association | UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| JICA | Japan International Cooperation Agency | UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| MARENA | Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities | UNIDO | United Nations Industrial Development Organization |
| NAP | National Action Plan | UNITAR | United Nations Institute for Training and Research |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization | UNODC | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |
| NPCC | National Productivity and Competitiveness Council | UNRCO | United Nations Resident Coordinators Office |
| OACPS | Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States | UNSDCF | United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework |
| OHCHR | Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights | UNWTO | United Nations World Tourism Organization |
| PAGE | Partnership for Action on Green Economy | WHO | World Health Organization |
| PIP | Productivity Improvement Programmes | | |

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23

UNITED NATIONS
ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

MAURITIUS

March 2024



UNITED NATIONS
MAURITIUS



DECADE
OF
ACTION

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