UNDP Seychelles Annual Report 2021 **Building Forward Better**









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Amanda Serumaga,
Resident Representative
UNDP Mauritius and
Seychelles

Foreword

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Seychelles registered impressive progress in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, enabling the economy to rebound strongly from the severe contraction in 2020. This enabled early recovery of the tourism sector and progress in the restoration of the macroeconomic stability accompanied by the commitment from the new Government to implement a structural reform agenda.

During the first week of January 2021, the first cases of COVID-19 cases in the community surged by more than 36%, with the first fatality recorded on 3rd January. In response to the resurgence, Seychelles began its vaccination campaign on the 10th of January. By the end of January 2021, nearly 30,000 individuals (~30% of the population) had received at least one dose of vaccine and as of 31 December 2021, 78,263 persons had been fully vaccinated, representing nearly 80 percent of the total population.

In parallel to the vaccination campaign, the Government also indicated their ambitions to open the country for tourism and to rescind the social welfare measures in place by April 2021, to boost economic recovery. By March 2021, the country had fully opened for tourism but by May 2021, despite the high rate of vaccinations, a surge of infections prompted the authorities to impose new sanitary restrictions and extend school closures again. Tourism remained open, except for visitors from South-East Asia, and later restrictions on Southern Africa. Consequently, the pandemic resurgence worsened the country's debt to a GDP ratio estimated at 81.2 by the end of 2021, undoing a decade of fiscal discipline and macroeconomic reforms. Furthermore, the overall impact on supply chains resulted in vulnerable households struggling to meet the cost of living.

Amidst these challenges, the Government has set out an ambitious agenda to steer the economy towards a sustainable path of recovery





by implementing several interventions. Critical to this agenda is a comprehensive public sector reform aimed at enhancing the efficiency of public institutions and reducing resource wastage. There is also commitment to promote the private sector as part of the economic diversification agenda. Achieving these aims requires strengthening platforms for engagement, and articulation of priority areas that can leverage private capital of public-private partnerships. The Government is also advancing a digitalization agenda aimed at establishing efficiency in the public and private sector to reduce the cost of doing business.

Alongside the objective to deliver on economic recovery is growing discourse on the climate related vulnerabilities of Seychelles as a Small Island Developing State that could impede progress across various sectors. As Seychelles prepared for COP26, the President of the Republic of Seychelles, Mr. Wavel Ramkalawan, voiced his concern, requesting that partners move to action on the promises made under the Paris Agreement.











Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):

1.3M km²





World UNESCO Sites

- Aldabra Atoll
- Vallee Atoll
- Vallee De Mai

Seychelles:

455 km²

Number of islands:



Economic Freedom Index1:

2020:

GDP growth2:

Overall score:

Total land area:

(-5.2 compared to 2020)

9th (down 19 places from 2020)

2021²: +6.1%

Global Rank:



Regional Rank: 5th (down 1 place from 2020)

Ibrahim Index of African Governance3:

Overall Governance score:

Ranking:



Category scores:

Participation, Rights and Inclusion: **75.3**/100

Foundations for Economic Opportunity: **66.1**/100

Security and Rule of Law: 72.4/100

Human Development: 75.2/100

1 Source: https://www.heritage.org/index/country/mauritius



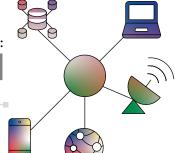


E-Government Development Index (EGDI):

Overall score:

Global Rank:

Regional Rank: 2nd





2021-2030 Environmental **Commitments –** updated NDC targets

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction by 2030:

26.4%

Corruption **Perception Index**

Overall score: Global Rank:

Blue carbon ecosystem protection targets seagrass and mangrove ecosystems protected: by 2025... ...by 2030



Adolescent birth rate per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years: 68.3

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament:



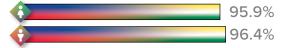
Proportion of women in managerial positions:



Proportion of women in managerial positions:



Literacy rate, age 15+:



2 Source: https://iiag.online/data.html?meas=GOVERNANCE&loc=MU&view=overview 3 Source: https://data.unwomen.org/country/mauritius









Above:

As part of Ecosystem Based Adaptation to Climate change in Seychelles, two new wetlands were reprofiled in the Baie Lazare watershed.

1.0 Key Results/ Highlights

2021 was a year that tested the national health systems and the efficacy of vaccines, and impacted business continuity in the Seychelles. There was also need to support economic recovery despite continued disruptions caused by COVID-19 and its variants. The UNDP played a key supporting

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