



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa



## **Report on the Implementation of the Global Compact on Migration in Cabo Verde**

### *I. Methodology*

The Government of Cabo Verde (GoCV) reviewed the implementation of the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration under the lead of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Regional Integration, in close collaboration and participation of the High Authority for Immigration. The MFA did not create a specific mechanism to this purpose but had bilateral consultations with several ministries to gather information on the progress of the implementation of the different objectives of the GCM in Cabo Verde. Information requests were sent to the Ministry of Communities, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Justice and Labour, the Ministry of Interior (namely the Aliens and Borders Department), the National Statistics Institute and the Observatory for Monitoring and Rapid Identification of Situations of Human Trafficking.

The draft report was sent to the partners with additional key questions on their activities/measures, according to their mandates and inputs were gathered from the above institutions.

The International Organization of Migration, as a member of the United Nations Country Team, supported the review process of the implementation of the GCM, by providing assistance to organize and compile the collection of information.

## II Policy and Enabling Environment

Although Cabo Verde did not set up a specific action plan to implement the GCM, the Government of Cabo Verde continued to implement its national migration policies, which are in line with the objectives of the GCM.

The GoCV developed and is implementing the II Action Plan for Immigration and Social Inclusion of Immigrants (2018-2021). Its overall objective is to strengthen the mechanisms for the reception, regularization and social inclusion of immigrants, through an integrated action of public services (central and local), private and civil society actors to reduce risks and vulnerabilities and enhance the positive effects of immigration to Cabo Verde.

Moreover, in 2020, the government established the High Authority for Immigration with the mission of

coordinating and implementing policies and measures in the field of Immigration, with a particular focus on the setting up and monitoring an integrated system at national level to the reception and integration of immigrants in Cabo Verde.

Most recently, in 2021, the GoCV set up a Ministry of Communities with the aim of materializing a policy of closer relationship with communities, contributing to strengthen the relationship between diaspora members, to a better integration of Capeverdeans in the host countries as well as to stimulating their greater participation in the economic and social development of CV.

### III. Progress on the GCM objectives

These are the progresses achieved since the adherence of Cabo Verde to the GCM, as per specific objective:

#### GCM Objective 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

- Cabo Verde developed its II National Migration Profile in 2021. It presents migration trends and migrant characteristics; the impact of migration on development; governance and policy frameworks; and international cooperation on migration. Data was collected from various statistical and administrative sources, academic research, and interviews with key governmental and non-state actors.

- The Report on Migration Governance Indicators in Cabo Verde (2020) measures the degree to which national policies facilitate and promote responsible, safe and regular migration. A national consultation was held in 2020 with governmental actors to discuss the draft of the report and collect inputs.
- The process of a diaspora mapping is being carried out by the GoCV, with the collection of data on nationals and descendants of CV per country of residence, areas of expertise and sectors of activity. A report on Lessons Learned from Diaspora Databases Worldwide was produced to structure and inform the process in Cabo Verde.
- Data from Census and the Multi-objectives Continuous Questionnaires from the National Statistics Institute collect data on migration. In the last Census (2021), questions on migration were added (for example, the level of qualification of those that migrated in the five years before the Census; the reasons for migrating to CV for those born abroad; the first nationality for those with double nationality). The responsible team for the Census will publish a specific report on Migration and is planning to make a specific questionnaire to migrants in 2022, in partnership with the High Authority for Immigration. Remittances' data as well as the amount of the emigrants' deposits are published online in a regular basis by the Bank of Cabo Verde.
- The National Statistics Institute has been an active participant in the discussions organized by ECOWAS to produce statistics related to migration. In preparing for these meetings, NSI has been working with the public administration in CV to produce and share their relevant data.

- A Study on the Potential and Contribution of Immigration to the Development of Cabo Verde is to be presented in the next coming months. The study analyzes the economic potential and benefits of immigration to Cabo Verde, specifically the socio-labor profile and the areas of professional activity of foreign communities and immigrants, the indicators of immigrants in relation to employment, the areas of contribution and estimate the contribution of immigration/immigrants in the national gross domestic product.

### GCM Objective 3: Provide adequate and timely information at all stages of migration

- In 2019, the GoCV produced 31 000 flyers on the types of visa and residence permits in English, French and Portuguese to be distributed among immigrants at the borders' entry points.
- The GoCV established a partnership with a community radio to disseminate information specifically targeting immigrants. It aims to facilitate the dissemination of information on projects and procedures but also to give institutions the opportunity to transmit messages they consider relevant to these communities, namely in terms of the rights and duties of immigrants in the country. The radio program had the participation of the former Directorate General of Immigration (that was replaced by the High Authority for Immigration), the Aliens and Borders Department, the Institute of Child and Adolescent, the National Directorate of State Revenues, the National Institute of Social Security, the General Directorate of Labour, the Ombudsman Office, the Institute for Gender Equality and Equity and the NGO

VerdeFam.

- The GoCV has been organizing several information sessions with community leaders and immigrants in the main islands of immigration (Santiago, Sal e Boa Vista), with the direct participation of key state institutions: National Police/Aliens and Borders Department, the National Institute of Social Security, the General Directorate of Registries, Notary and Identification, the National Directorate of State Revenues and the municipalities. Particular attention has been paid to inform and clarify immigrants about the processing of residence permits, the access to social security and to the nationality.
- Strengthening of the Hotline of *Casa do Cidadão* that since 2013 serves also as a line of communication between immigrants/foreigners and national institutions, giving them the opportunity to obtain information as well as make complaints and/or suggestions about the services provided in the different institutions involved in the management of immigration and which are linked to the integration of immigrants/foreigners in Cabo Verde. Staff from this service was retrained by several state institutions in 2018 in order to be able to disseminate accurate information to immigrants. At the time of the action of the recycling of knowledge, attendants revealed that the most frequent questions are those related to the regular permanence in national territory (applications for residence permit and visa), as well as those related to the processes of acquisition of nationality.
- Officials from the National Police/Aliens and Borders Department that are working in the airports and other borders were trained in the law on the entry, stay and exit of foreigners from the national territory

and the procedures for immigrants to accede to key state services.

- Cabo Verde provides support to its nationals working abroad through the dissemination of relevant information. The 2nd National Action Plan for Human Rights and Citizenship (2017-2021) sets out the dissemination of information on fundamental rights among emigrants; the provision of support for emigrants in the event of criminal proceedings or expulsion; and the provision of information to Capeverdeans wishing to emigrate on the legal framework, practices, and customs of the host country.
- On the pre departure, the Institute for Employment and Professional Training is implementing the Professional Mobility Service for Cape Verdeans, e.g., provides information and clarifications for people who want to live, study and work in other countries.
- The vast network of consulates and embassies from Cabo Verde continue to serve and inform nationals residing abroad.
- On a local level, several municipalities have immigrant support offices and there is a regular capacity building of the staff from relevant ministries.

#### GCM Objective 4: Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation

- The expansion of the National Police/Aliens and Borders Department to other municipalities/islands of the archipelago contributes to facilitate the access to adequate documentation, by decreasing the length of time for the processing of cases.

- A more modern and secure residence permit is available since 2020 in CV. In 2020, the Aliens and Borders Department concluded the process to start issuing electronic Resident Permits for Foreigners in Cabo Verde. It results in more efficiency in processing legitimate applications for residence permits and renewals.
- The Consular Webpage created in 2020 under the initiative of Digital Diaspora provides the possibility for nationals abroad of getting online documents such as electronic passports and certifications and the registration of documents. This webpage turned the services to emigrants more efficient and effective.

#### GCM Objective 5: Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration

- Amendment of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Cabo Verde on facilitating the issue of short-stay visas for citizens of the Republic of Cabo Verde and the European Union in 2021. This New Agreement contains provisions that significantly facilitate the mobility of Cape Verdeans in the territory of the European Union, namely by: 1) the reduction of the fees paid for the issuance of visas, 2) the extension of categories of persons receiving multiple-entry visas, 3) the simplification of procedures and evidence to be submitted, 4) the introduction of new categories of visas as business visas, 5) the issuance of short-stay visas up to ninety days in any period of 180 days and 6) the issuance of multiple entry visas with longer and longer periods
- The GoCV approves for ratification the bilateral agreement for the exemption of visas between Cabo



Verde and Mozambique, signed in 2014.

- The National Parliament of Cabo Verde approved the declaration to ratify the Mobility Agreement between the Member States of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries. This Agreement lays the foundations for the movement of people and goods within the Community, also enabling the conditions for greater mobility of art, culture, investment, trade, knowledge, and innovation, with important impacts on the development and, consequently, on the lives of citizens
- In 2018, a new residence permit – the Green Card - was created for those that invest in real estate and wish to establish secondary residence in Cabo Verde.

#### GCM Objective 6: Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work

- There are no measures in place to guarantee or regulate that international recruitment processes are fair and ethical. However, the Labour Code (2007) establishes that all non-nationals authorized to work in Cabo Verde have the same rights as citizens.
- The report from the GoCV on the implementation of the Convention of Migrant Workers in 2018 reveals the commitment from the state to respect and act in accordance with the international law.

## GCM Objective 7: Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration

- Cabo Verde has measures in place to economically assist nationals living abroad in times of crisis. Since April 2020, the National Centre for Social Installments has been responsible for managing government pensions allocated to emigrant communities that are socially and economically vulnerable.
- The GoCV has in place a project to assist and protect immigrants in a situation of greater risk or vulnerability (such as children, women, victims of trafficking of persons, discrimination and labour exploitation, persons readmitted from third countries). Purchase of medicines, food as well as a support to pay the accommodation and create an economic activity are provided in this framework.
- In 2020, the National Council on Immigration decided for the creation of an intersectoral body to coordinate and act in cases of emergence and humanitarian assistance to migrants.
- The Government of Cabo Verde provides consular assistance and protection to all its migrants in difficulty either by supporting them where they are, or by supporting their repatriation to CV. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, in which many borders were closed to commercial flights, the Government of Cabo Verde repatriated thousands of national citizens who were stranded in countries such as Portugal; France; Spain, China; Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Brazil among others.
- In order to mitigate the impacts of socio-economic developments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the GoCV supported immigrants and their families. The Single Social Registry is an instrument for identifying and characterizing socio-economic impact of the vulnerable population in Cabo Verde,

managed by the Ministry of the Family and Social Inclusion, and which allows the centralized recording of all information and support granted in the area of social protection. During the State of Emergency, the GoCV was actively registering immigrants in the platform. Data provided by the Ministry of Family and Social Inclusion indicate that 1,177 foreigners and immigrants were registered and covered.

### GCM Objective 10: Prevent, combat, and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration

- The GoCV is implementing the I National Plan Against Human Trafficking (2018-2021). This Plan is aligned with the international guidelines, including the UN Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in human beings, especially women and children. The Plan's desired outcomes include reinforcing the legal, judicial, and institutional framework for combating human trafficking; establishing prevention, protection and support mechanisms; creating and implementing the required institutional capacity to render accountable and reintegrate perpetrators; raising awareness and social mobilization; and developing mechanisms for partnerships.
- In 2018, the Government created the Observatory for Monitoring and Rapid Identification of Situations of Human Trafficking. This is the body that brings together all institutions with sensitivity and responsibilities in the fight against trafficking in persons, and functions as an instrument to prevent, identify and monitor suspicious manifestations of the practice of trafficking. It is composed by officials

from the Ministry of Justice and Labor, National Police, Judicial Police, Institute for Children and Adolescents, Institute for Gender Equality and Equity, Ministry of Education, Family, and Social Inclusion, other government institutions, NGOs, and civil society organizations.

- A cooperation agreement was signed between the Observatories of Human Trafficking from Portugal and Cabo Verde.
- Standard operating procedures (SOPs) for victim identification and referral to services were developed and are in place. SOP were developed based on webinars with over 20 government agencies and civil society organizations. A Manual of Operational Procedures is also available, consisting of the description of the protocols in: referral and follow-up of cases, identification and screening, reintegration, investigation and prosecution.
- In 2021, the GoCV set up the Directorate General for Criminal Investigation, in the National Police, which has the mandate to investigate human trafficking situations.
- Staff from the Aliens and Borders Department and the Directorate General for Criminal Investigation benefited from training of experts from the Aliens and Borders Service from Portugal in order to better identify, refer and assist victims of human trafficking.
- There were new investigations into alleged trafficking cases and continued prosecutions. There were cases of traffickers convicted in the reporting period. Capacity building activities have been implemented to strengthen the skills and competences of the magistrates. The government also trained new police

officers on trafficking victim identification.

- The government's Institute for Children and Adolescents (ICCA) identified and provided assistance to approximately 200 vulnerable children per year during the reporting period, including potential trafficking victims. There are no shelters or services specifically for trafficking victims, but government-funded agencies provide emergency services, shelter, and psycho-social care to at-risk populations and female and child victims of crime, including trafficking victims. ICCA operates a hotline linked to the National Police hotline to report cases of violence against children, including trafficking.
- The GoCV conducted child protection campaigns using radio ads, television, posters, community engagement. ICCA continued to support 20 municipal Committees for the Defense of Children's and Adolescents' Rights to prevent child abuse, including child trafficking. The GoCV worked with maritime transportation services to prevent children from traveling alone to neighboring islands where they would be vulnerable to exploitation, including trafficking.

#### GCM Objective 12: Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment, and referral

- The High Authority for Immigration has an information desk to immigrants. The objective is to meet their needs in terms of any support to be granted, as well as in the areas of information. It also provides screening of documentation for instruction of different processes, referral and articulation with other

institutions related to the integration of immigrants in Cabo Verde.

#### GCM Objective 14: Enhance consular protection, assistance, and cooperation through the migration cycle

- Cabo Verde has signed an agreement on cooperation on migration issues with Guinea Bissau in 2021. The bilateral agreement between both parties includes: 1) strengthening cooperation and exchange of experience on consular services and management of emigrant communities 2) promoting the creation of legal frameworks to facilitate the integration and regularization of Cape Verdean and Guinean nationals with an irregular migratory status in respective countries, including through flexible requirements and special measures 4) ensuring, to the extent possible, the provision of consular assistance and protection to nationals of both countries in territories where only one party has diplomatic or consular representation.

#### GCM Objective 15: Provide access to basic services for migrants

- The Constitution (1992) guarantees “compulsory, universal and free basic education” to all and Decree-Law 13/2018 establishes that primary education is universal, mandatory and free of charge. Families pay a school fee for secondary education depending on their socioeconomic situation – the fee structure is the same for nationals and non-nationals, regardless of legal status.
- The GoCV has been organizing information sessions with immigrants with the aim of informing foreign

nationals about the available health services and the conditions of access. State institutions also raise awareness on the need to prevent and treat sexual transmitted diseases, to eliminate the barriers and stereotypes in the access to health. Similar activities have been implemented to raise awareness on the importance of education and professional training and on the mechanisms and conditions to get access to the education system in Cabo Verde. Officials from the Ministry of Education have been visiting neighborhoods with a significant presence of foreign nationals to disseminate the message and reply to immigrant's questions and doubts.

#### GCM Objective 16: Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion

- The High Authority for Immigration plans for the creation of local branches in 2021, called Local Units for Immigration, to serve as an interface between immigrants and the public services and guarantee a more direct and informed response to their needs. The municipalities of Praia (2020) and Boa Vista developed local action plans for the integration of immigrants.
- The GoCV has been investing in strengthening and promoting the social participation and immigrant associations, namely through capacity building sessions on “organization and management”.
- In the framework of the project “Promotion of the Social Integration of Immigrants”, the GoCV funded initiatives of immigrant associations and non-governmental organizations that are in line with the strategic axes of the National Policy on Immigration. Several initiatives with the objective of

guaranteeing access to an income, education and health were promoted.

### GCM Objective 17: Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration

- The National Plan of Action for Immigration and the Social Inclusion of Immigrants II (2018-2021) contain provisions to protect immigrants against discrimination, including improving the legal framework to prevent discrimination and build capacity and raise awareness of immigration issues among public structures and institutions as well as of the public, via schools and universities.
- The GoCV has been implementing the project “Promoting Multiculturalism”. This is a project for the elaboration, systematization and dissemination of information, studies, and awareness-raising activities on immigration and the integration of immigrants. Through different types of intervention, this project aims to contribute to the implementation of National Strategy on Immigration which recommends public information and awareness of society as one of the necessary measures for the good management of immigration. On the other hand, because it is a project of information / training / and awareness of cultural diversity, the existence of various origins, cultures, and religions today in Cabo Verde, and the need for respect for difference, it also aims and contributes to a better social integration of immigrants in the country. This is done through studies, awareness raising campaigns, fairs, conferences, and lectures aimed at sensitizing civil society to the multicultural reality existing in Cabo Verde. Several lectures have been organized in schools and universities dedicated to discussing “What are we talking



about when speaking about immigration in Cabo Verde?” and “Myths and Truths about Immigration from Africa in Cabo Verde”.

- In addition, the GoCV is implementing several awareness raising events in the framework of the Campaign “One Cabo Verde for all”. For example, to celebrate the International Day against Racial Discrimination in 2018, the GoCV in partnership with the UBUNTU Academy of Leaders, held an open conversation session with students of secondary school based on the teachings of Nelson Mandela, to raise awareness of the promotion of a nation, based on equality, respect for race and non-discrimination. On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in 2019, a Seminar was organized on "Discrimination associated with mobility and immigration in Cabo Verde" in partnership with the National Commission for Human Rights and Citizenship, the Ombudsman's Office, the University of Cabo Verde, the Jean Piaget University and the Parliamentary Network for Population and Development. In 2021, the GoCV published the spot “Migration, Integration and Childhood” and the booklet Interculturality.

#### GCM Objective 18: Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualification, and competences

- The GoCV is investing in supporting the access of immigrants and foreigners to Portuguese Language Courses. Portuguese language courses for basic level foreigners (A1/A2) are being prepared in the

modality of distance training, based on: a) radio lessons; b) production of textbooks; and c) weekly tutoring meetings with trainees. The GoCV delivered a training to tutors to prepare them in the methodology to be used and the didactic material produced to be used during the course.

- The GoCV organized some professional courses dedicated to immigrants (in the areas of arts and tailoring, with modules on entrepreneurship and business management, for example) to promote the employability of immigrants.

#### GCM Objective 19: Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries

- Cabo Verde formally engages civil society organizations and the private sector in agenda-setting and implementation of migration-related issues. The National Council for Immigration holds at least one meeting per year to discuss immigration-related issues in which non state actors (including immigrant associations and the private sector) are invited to participate. The government has consulted its diaspora in different occasions. Only in the last nine months, visit tours were organized to held meetings between the recently established Ministry of Communities and the capeverdeans in Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, São Tome and Principe and the USA. A Council for Diaspora was created but is not yet operational. Moreover, several meetings were organized between the Ministry of Communities and diaspora associations as well as with the governments of major destination countries, such as Portugal

and France.

- With the aim of engaging members of the diaspora in the national development process, Cabo Verde encourages the return of nationals living abroad. Under Law 26/V/97 on the Code of Emigrants, any citizen abroad that lived for four years abroad returning definitively to Cabo Verde can benefit from fiscal and customs exemptions of personal goods. The Directorate General of Consular Affairs and Migration continued to provide support in the return and reintegration. It issues the document that certifies that a person is an emigrant and facilitates the customs clearance and tax exemptions of their goods to those who definitively return to the country.
- The Code for the Emigrant Investor created in 2020 aims to create a favourable framework to attract the investment and return of the diaspora, by introducing tax exemptions.

#### GCM Objective 20: Promote faster, safer, and cheaper transfer of remittances, and foster financial inclusion of migrants

- Cabo Verde is actively involved in promoting the creation of formal remittance schemes. Both the Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development (2017-2021) and the Government IX Legislature program (2016-2021) recognize the importance of remittances to the stability of the country's economy and seek to enhance the role of remittances in Cabo Verde's economic development. Banks offer migrants special accounts, and the Government has introduced a Special Emigrant Account with subsidized interest rates,

allowing for cheaper transfers of remittances.

- In response to a government request, a study on remittances, funded by the ACP EU Migration Action and carried out with the technical assistance of IOM, was finalized in 2019. A series of recommendations were made to the government bearing in mind the decrease of remittance's costs and a more productive use of the private funds.

### GCM Objective 21: Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration

- The GoCV formalized in 2019 the procedures and conditions for the Assisted Voluntary Return to foreign nationals in a vulnerable economic or social situation or in an irregular situation that asked for support to return to their countries of origin. This Assistance covers the accommodation before the travel, the air tickets and a pocket money during the journey. Approximately 30 immigrants in Cabo Verde received assistance from the GoCV to return to their countries of origin in the reporting period. The GoCV also liaises with the International Organization for Migration to further assist other migrants.
- The GoCV is aiming to establish dialogue and collaboration with institutions of social inclusion in the countries of origin of migrants enrolled in the voluntary return assistance. Guinea Bissau and São Tome and Principe were prioritized, and meetings were held with the respective embassies to discuss a sustainable reintegration of these returnees.

- The GoCV has developed the Programme for the Reception and Reintegration of Returned National Citizens but is yet to be implemented, due to budget constraints.

#### GCM Objective 22: Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits

- Cabo Verde has signed social security conventions with multiple countries that cover the portability of social security entitlements, including sickness and maternity benefits, old age pensions, and disability benefits. In 2018, Cabo Verde revised the agreement with the Netherlands.
- The GoCV is negotiating a bilateral agreement with Guinea Bissau to guarantee the equal treatment and portability of social security rights for nationals of both countries.

#### GCM Objective 23: Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly, and regular migration

- Cabo Verde is an active participant of the meetings under the framework of the Migration Dialogue for West Africa and the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

#### IV. Means of implementation

- The GoCV has a dedicated budget for the institutions that manage migration. Notwithstanding this, the state budget dedicated to these objectives shall be reinforced. The government has been supported by the international community (UN agencies, World Bank) to implement activities for a safe, regular and order migration.

#### V. Next steps

- the GoCV recognizes that more action is needed to:
  1. implementing, at national level, the integrated care system promoting greater access to documentation, regularization and other services relevant to social integration, and developing a policy that responds to the concerns and demands of foreign communities and immigrants residing in the country;
  2. promoting the active citizenship of immigrants through the strengthening of the immigrant association movement, the development of strategies for immigrants in vulnerable or at-risk situations and the prevention and combat of discrimination according to color, nationality, language, ethnic origin or religion;
  3. deepening the knowledge of the situation, dynamics and migratory trends in Cabo Verde and its

impact on the society and economy. More information is need on diaspora communities per country of residence. Another priority is to accelerate efforts to set up an Observatory for Migration;

4. elaborating the National Strategy for Communities Abroad;
  5. reinforce the mechanisms of monitoring and evaluation of the strategies and action plans, namely by promoting a more fluid communication channels and share of information among institutions.
- The GCM should be disseminated and explained to stakeholders to enable them to understand and appreciate their roles and contributions towards achieving the objectives of the GCM in facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration in respect to protection and promotion of migrants' human rights.