

Concept paper

Country Plan for USAID Support to Recovery from Tropical Depression Renee

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Activity Title: Responding and supporting Recovery from Tropical Depression Renee in Cabo Verde

Country: Cabo Verde

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I. Brief description of the situation

Cabo Verde is a country vulnerable to several risks, namely risks related to volcanic activities, droughts, floods. The seismic and volcanic risks in the Cabo Verde Archipelago are closely linked to the volcanic origin of the islands.

The rains in Cabo Verde are primarily the result of inter-tropical convergence, which causes the wet season from July to October (known as water time or waterfalls). There is a concentration of precipitation observed in August and September (month of the highest frequency of floods), during which an average of 60% to 80% of the annual amount of precipitation falls. In many cases, the total rainfall per year is produced in two (2) or three (3) primarily isolated rainfalls. Nevertheless, Cabo Verde has already observed changes in seasonal, weather and rain patterns. The events of extreme rainfalls are often associated with slope movements, occurring throughout the archipelago of Cabo Verde, having their more significant expression in the islands that have a more rugged relief. About the typology of land movements, we can highlight the falls, landslides, and the streams as commonly occurring events. Extreme rainfall events in Cabo Verde, usually lead to floods that negatively affect society and the local economy. It is often accounted for considerable losses in the agricultural and livestock sectors (e.g., agricultural land, infrastructure losses and damage, road infrastructures; telecommunication; sanitation; electricity; and housing/buildings, etc); leading to the disruption of several productive sectors and affecting children, disabled people, and mono-parental families, led by women, disproportionately.

The impacts of climate change are already being strongly felt in the country, and the most recent occurrences, related to storms and floods, are: 2015, with Fred (the first hurricane passing by the Islands); 2016, with the floods in Santo Antão. which led to the declaration of the state of calamity in the Island); and, 2013, in São Miguel, affecting directly (8,467 people) and indirectly, their 15,000 inhabitants. These events are particularly prominent in the islands of Santiago and Santo Antão, with the most representative number of historical reported events, with 23 and 16 events respectively, assuming greater expression in August, September, and October.

The formation of Tropical Systems of low atmospheric pressure, in the Atlantic Ocean basin, has been, in recent years, more and more frequent and intense. 2020 has been identified as an atypical season in terms of the development of Tropical Systems. Despite low intensity in the formation of columns of masses of wind and precipitation, the development and trajectory of these systems in the vicinity of the Cabo Verde Archipelago constitutes a real threat to the fragile economic, social and environmental ecosystems.

The heavy rains that occurred on the 11th to the 14th of September, resulting from the development of the Tropical System in the western region of the African coast, exposed, explicitly and clearly, the socio-economic vulnerability of the population residing in the Municipalities of Praia and Mindelo, respectively in the islands of Santiago and Sao Vicente. The populations occupying the peripheral areas of the city, particularly the slopes and stream beds, were directly affected by floods and other damages.

According to data from the Pluviometric Bulletin of the National Institute of Meteorology and Geophysics (INMG), 173,0 mm of rain were recorded on September 12th (Quartel escola (Eugénio Lima) Pluviometric Post). This rainfall level happens after three years of drought in the country.

As a result of intense rainfall in the previous weeks, with consequent soil saturation, with this week's rains, there was a high level of surface runoff from rainwater from the various tributaries, furrows and ravines of the various basins and micro-basins of the municipality of Praia, mainly the Trindade river basin located upstream of the municipality of Praia.

In view of the proliferation of constructions (mostly precarious) on the steep slopes, especially in the towns of Vila Nova, Safende and Achadinha in Praia e Alto da Bomba em Mindelo, more than 100 houses were severely damaged by the flow of debris (runoff) from the areas and found upstream, and more than 100 families therefore lost their home and were relocated in the national stadium and in public schools.

On the other hand, due to the high flow of the watercourse in the areas that make up the beds of the streams, significant damages were registered in the houses (eg: Jamaica neighborhood, Pensamento, Várzea) and in some public infrastructures (roads and electricity poles).

Furthermore, several houses suffered from collapsing roofs due to the precariousness of the buildings. The collapse of soil containment structures (protective walls) on the side of roads in most neighborhoods and roads in the city has also been reported, and in some cases, the projection of wreckage has hit some homes.

Due to the high flow of the rainwater course, the bridge to the Vila Nova neighborhood suffered significant damage to its structure, due to the large amount of debris and solid waste deposited in the stream bed upstream and carried by the floods. This situation resulted in the overflow of water in the bridge structure causing the deviation of its main course to the public road and the neighborhood.

Similarly, flooding of public roads was reported, especially in the main arteries of the city (Avenida Amílcar Cabral - in front of the Government Palace) with accumulation of debris (mud and gravel). Some roads and accesses have been temporarily closed (e.g access road to the neighborhood of Paiol).

Several communities of lower catchments of the diverse Municipalities were affected, in particular Praia and Mindelo and losses and damage has prompted the government to declare the state of emergency and to reach out to development partners to help attenuate the predicament of these communities. It was estimated that economic losses exceed 258,500,000 ECV (2,500,000 USD). One fatal victim occurred

as a result of the flood, a 6-month-old child was washed away by the floods, at the time when his house was surprised by flooding during the night.

The government and local authorities have put effort on the ground aiming at responding with immediate emergency care. The need for supporting on early recovery activities has also been expressed by the local community of civil society which plays an important role to ensure the full participation of local communities. The need to advocate effectively for early recovery activities at an early enough time in the humanitarian setting is to complement ongoing emergency assistance as well as to shorten this phase and link it with early recovery and development. The initiation of the early recovery process would hopefully set into motion a multi – dimensional process, guided by development principles.

In this context of natural disaster in addition of the COVID-19 pandemic, the main objective of this project support displaced children and their families to be in a clean, hygienic wellbeing environment, and to continue to have access to health, education and others basic social services. This project financed by USAID, trough UNICEF, will contribute to give a psychosocial and material support the families, including children, which has been reallocated to the National Stadium in Praia - Santiago Island and School of Monte Sossego in São Vicente island.

II. Duration

The project duration is 8 months

III. Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries will be 36 families (180 people, about 70 of them children) that lost their houses and are still sheltered in the national stadium of Cabo Verde, in Praia and 5 families (14 people, about 7 of them children) that lost their houses in Mindelo and are still sheltered in the School of *Montessossego*.

66 other families have been relocated already, by the Municipalities and the State. Both lack the capacity to relocate more families per the moment. These families, though relocated, will receive support from the project to cover their most urgent needs in terms of psychological and social support, hygiene practices, and health accompaniment.

The total of beneficiaries will therefore be 107 families, among them 300 children.

IV. Partnership strategy

The comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction Programme, sponsored by UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF is an important element of the current UN-Government cooperation framework (UNDAF 2018-2022). The Program takes a central role in providing essential hazard mapping allowing sectoral planning to come up with contingency plans to address the risks that could impair their normal operations. Focusing on the improvement of internal, multisectoral and multidisciplinary partnerships, this project aims at supporting the design of local systems for DRR management, by improving the institutional system for crisis preparedness, management and recovery.

The main strategies of the project is to help local municipalities, in coordination with the Ministries of Health and Social Security (MSSS), Education (ME) and the Civil Protection System, together with various line ministries. This partnerships allows for a resilient response and early recovery, to reestablish the livelihood of the families and children severely affected by the extreme events of last September.

V. Output and activities

Output 1: Most urgent needs of the displaced children and families are identified

Realize an impact assessment on socio-economic aspects with analysis of the consequences and all kinds of impacts such as social impacts (e.g. health and education), economic impacts (can include effects on employment) and/or environmental impacts for the national institutions and for the people - the children and families.

This assessment will permit to identify the real needs and the capacity level of the local and central institution on recovery planning and actions. It will also guarantee to identify interventions to ensure social and psychological response and provide the affected families with quick support to replace some assets lost, food and access to health and education services creating enabling conditions to begin provide for themselves, securing their income, increasing food security and restore access to basic services.

Output 2: Psychological and social support is provided for the displaced children and families

Provide a psychosocial support for children and families, on how to face stress to be displaced, to help families to find the alternatives options of income generation and to assist them benefits from educational and professional programmes

Provide minimum materials required to lodge families that have been displaced in order to provide a suitable quality of life.

Improve psychosocial well-being of the children, girls-adolescents and their families and to promote dignity and protection in emergencies.

Output 3: Access to WASH, Health and education services is ensured for the displaced children and families.

In the COVID-19 context, provide critical WASH material to ensure minimum hygiene practices (e.g. chlorine, soap, hand- sanitizer, hand washing stations for adults and adapted to children, etc.), and quick trainings on its proper use

Provide immunization and nutrition services to ensure the continuity of the immunization national calendar, deworming and the supplementation of micronutrients and MNPs fortification.

Output 4: Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

Reinforce dissemination of targeted messages and information on how to prevent disaster risk and COVID-19 and to profit and work with the families to raise awareness and promote healthy practices

The main purpose is to improve psychosocial well-being of the children, girls-adolescents and their families and to promote dignity and protection in emergencies.

Impact of USAID intervention on the affected population.

Children and adolescents from poor and vulnerable families have been seriously affected throughout several districts of the country. This natural disaster added an additional challenge to the already precarious situation of children and families, making them more vulnerable to the risk of not being able to exercise their rights to health and education. Families affected by the disaster who have lost their main sources of income no longer afford to continue the lives and to access to the social basic services.

This USAID support, through UNICEF, will contribute to ensure that children and their families affected by the disaster, to exercise their right to live, health and education and receive the necessary messages, equipment and materials.

VI. Budget

Activity	Timeframe	Budget USD
Output 1: Most urgent needs of the displaced children and families are identified		7,000
Elaboration of a socio-economic vulnerability's assessment	Oct-Nov	7,000
Output 2: Psychological and social support is provided		31,500
Provision of psychological and social support to face the issue of displacement	Nov-Mar	9,500
Provide families with minimum material for relocation (mattresses, sheets, etc.)	Dec-Jul	25,500
Output 3: Access to WASH, Health and Education services is ensured		48,500
Support to access to and use of WASH and Health equipment to prevent COVID19	Nov-Mai	45,000
Output 4: Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) is reinforced		10,000
Awareness-raising campaign among beneficiary families	Nov-Jun	10,000
Monitoring and reporting	Dec-Jul	3,000
Total		100,000

VII. Management Arrangements

The project will be implemented over a period of 8 months starting October/November 2020. Project activities will be executed by the ministries of Family and Social Inclusion, Health and Inclusion through municipalities of Praia and São Vicente.

A Project Execution Group will be formed by the representatives of the ministries and the UNICEF to undertake project assurance reviews at designated decision points during the running of the project and will be responsible for the project coordination, management and monitoring.

The UNICEF CO is the implementing partner responsible and accountable for managing the funds project with the government.

VIII. Monitoring and Evaluation

The project will be monitored through the monitoring and evaluation system defined jointly with USAID and based on the UNICEF mechanisms and procedures to monitor jointly projects and programs.

A progress report will be submitted after 6 months of implementation, and a yearly report (narrative and financial) will be provided of project implementation. In addition, a final report with certified financial reports will be submitted at the end of project implementation.