



**REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE**

**Strengthening Efforts to Eradicate Poverty and Hunger, Including Through the Global  
Partnership for Development**

**June 2007**

**Introduction**

Cape Verde<sup>1</sup> accepted the challenge m



In spite of the small productive base, the exports of goods and services underwent a positive evolution.

Food insecurity in Cape Verde is structural and results from agro-ecological constraints made worse by drought and desertification, partially due to human action.

The steady economic growth of recent years, with possibilities of consolidation and increase, didn't have an equitable impact. Actually, the unemployment rate rose from 17.4% in 2000 to 24.4% in 2005. Likewise, poverty incidence is high considering that 37% of the population is poor and 20% very poor.

Also, this economic growth had a modest impact on job creation. In 2001-2002 the unemployment rate was a little bit higher than in 24%; it decreased to 21% in 2000 and again in 2005, reaching 18.3%.

Regarding governance, the Government implemented several measures and policies which promoted the transparency of public management, the institutions democratic operation, the increasing participation of the civil society in public life, the promotion and protection of private property and investment, the respect for individual rights and liberties. Such measures have earned, as a rule, the consensus of political and social national stakeholders as well as of cooperation partners.

## **MDG 1: Reduce Extreme Poverty and Hunger**

### **Progress achieved and context evaluation**

**Target 1:** Halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty between 1990 and 2015

Notwithstanding the significant economic growth rates registered in recent years, poverty remains a problem in Cape Verde. The data%5.7( ) [ ) TgTw[th3 Dt ) J14.06 0 TDde woavaille in

In Cape Verde hunger is not a phenomenon that touches massively all social categories. The problem the country is faced with is rather a food security issue.

In fact, the smallness of arable land, climatic conditions unfavorable to agriculture, an agrarian situation that prevents productive investments, altogether explain the structural and chronic shortage of farming and cattle raising production. Therefore, we estimate that the national capacity of agricultural production, even in years of high rainfall, doesn't meet 20% of cereals needs.

Due to this, food insecurity constitutes a constant and core element of public policies.

The comparative table showing the evolution of indicators regarding the families' living conditions associated to well-being during the GPRSP I period ( see table in annex I) indicate substantial improvement in almost all benchmarks, whose actual performance rates are close to the established targets. The table underscores housing conditions, access to drinking water and sanitation, use of energy for lighting and cooking, access to health services as well as the stabilization of indicators concerning education level.

**Target 2:** Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

In Cape Verde, the problem of hunger is not a serious one because public programs support the populations at risk, allowing a significant number of people to have access to income from public employment. The central government and the municipalities administer several social protection mechanisms, both public and private, which cover another part of the population.

Thus, we agree that the challenges are: the control of the negative incidence of food insecurity and of the quantity and quality of calories consumed by many families, mainly the children. Indeed, food insecurity (see table in annex II) affects approximately 21% of the population.

In spite of the permanent food insecurity, the national context may be considered, in general, as favorable to food insecurity reduction.

The Capeverdean food diet is based essentially on cereals, namely, rice, corn and beans. Rice is not produced locally and local market needs are assured through importation.

*With regard to public policies, Cape Verde has a National Strategy for Food Security (ENSA), developed in 2002 but ending in 2015 and a Five-Year Program for Food Security (PSA 2002-2007), both adopted by a resolution of the Cabinet in 2004. The national program of food security for 2007-2011 was already prepared and it was submitted to the Government's approval. It is worth mentioning another important programmatic document, the National Strategy for the Development of Agriculture and Fisheries, which covers the period ending in 2015 and its Action Plan 2005-2008.*

The general objective of ENSA and its five-year program is to "assure the population's access to enough, healthy and nourishing food without prejudice to other basic needs", in conformity with the aim of "creating the conditions for a sustainable food security and structurally reducing poverty and inequalities in Cape Verde".

Specifically in the municipalities where the incidence of food insecurity is stronger, several actions with an impact on food insecurity and poverty reduction are under way, namely



## **The MDGs and Cape Verde's Graduation from LDC**

Cape Verde's graduation from the category of Least Developed countries (LDC) scheduled

Within the framework of UN General Assembly Resolution A/59/209 of December 20<sup>th</sup> 2004, a consultative mechanism named Transition Support Group, GAT<sup>2</sup> was created in May 2006. The GAT, in its third meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2007, adopted a Declaration on the effective and sustainable graduation of Cape Verde from the Least Developed Countries group, LDC. With that Declaration, GAT members reiterated their commitment in supporting the efforts of the Government of Cape Verde to transform its national economy in order to fight poverty. GAT strongly recommended the continuation of the efforts of the development partners and the international community, in general, to provide support to Cape Verde according to Paris Declaration about aid effectiveness.

In this particular one, the Government of Cape Verde signed in December of 2006, with six of its partners (Austria, Spain, the Netherlands, African Bank of Development, World Bank and European Commission), a Memorandum of Understanding on the Budget Support. This is the privileged modality of support for this stage of development for allowing to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the external aid at the same time that it supports the institutional development. This modality of aid allows:

- § To harmonize the processes and procedures of the Partners of development;
- § To increase the previsibility of the aid;
- § To minimize the costs of transaction as much for the Government as for its Partners of development; and
- § To strengthen the dialogue between the Government and the Partners in order to associate the commitments of financing to the priorities of development of the country, as defined in the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

The GAT also urges the donor community, in particular bilateral and multilateral development partners, as well as the private sector, to reinforce their partnership with Cape Verde taking into account the synergies between public and private investment, through the support to market access, improved access to funding and investments, capacity building to ensure the development process, and the emigrants' participation in the development and transformation of the country.

### ***The Formulation of a New Strategy***

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**Annex I – Distribution of poor and very poor population rate per island and municipality**

Municipalities	Poverty indicators in 2001/2002		
	Poor	Very poor	2015 (Poor)
BOAVISTA	14,9	2,2	7
BRAVA	43,4	20,8	21
MAIO	34,4	25,8	19

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## Annex II – Incidence of food security rate per island

Municipalities	Indicator	
	2005	2015
Boavista	10,1	5
Brava	14,4	7
Maio	11,0	5
Mosteiros	28,7	14
Paul	29,8	15
Porto Novo	28,2	14
Praia	26,3	13
Ribeira Grande	19,2	9
Sal	-	
Santa Catarina	23,2	11
Santa Cruz	21,4	10
São Domingos	32,1	16
São Filipe	13,2	6
São Miguel	18,1	9
São Nicolau	10,2	5

Annex III - Poverty rate at household level per municipality

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Total</b>
Ribeira Grande	81.4
Paul	94.4
Porto Novo	89.4
S. Vicente	75.5
Ribeira Brava	82.2
Tarrafal de S. Nicolau	81.5
Sal	57.2
Boa Vista	80.7
Maio	79.1
Tarrafal, em Santiago	82.7
Santa Catarina, em Santiago	81.0
Santa Cruz	88.4
Praia	72.0
S. Domingos	87.2
S. Miguel	77.6
S. Lourenço dos Órgãos	84.8
S. Salvador do Mundo	90.5
Ribeira Grande de Santiago	92.8
Mosteiros	89.3
S. Filipe	78.6
Santa Catarina, Fogo	78.0
Brava	81.0
<b>Cape Verde</b>	<b>78.0</b>
<b>Urban</b>	<b>68.4</b>
<b>Rural</b>	<b>87.7</b>