



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

Cabo Verde

**Belgium's contribution
through the Special Fund for
Emergency and Rehabilitation
Activities (SFERA)**



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Belgium support vulnerable farming families affected by multiple crises

The situation in Cabo Verde has deteriorated significantly following five consecutive years of drought, the economic effects of COVID-19, rising prices and the impact of the war in Ukraine. This has affected the country's economy at national and local levels, as well as agricultural production capacities, livelihoods, and households' food security and nutrition. The number of people in acute food insecurity has increased fourfold compared with the country's historical average, with nearly 10 percent of the total population likely in Phase 3 and above between June and August 2022 – 43 000 people in Crisis (Phase 3) and around 3 000 in Emergency (Phase 4).

The war in Ukraine and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on global prices and trade/transport will continue to strongly impact Cabo Verde, as the country imports 80 percent of the food consumed. Based on the evolving situation in Ukraine, sustained price increases and stronger disruptions to trade in late 2022 and throughout 2023 are expected, requiring anticipatory actions to mitigate their subsequent effects on food security.

This SFERA-funded intervention is an example of the partnerships we need for Cabo Verde, thanks to the Kingdom of Belgium for making funds available to address emergency situations.

**Ana Laura Touza
FAO Representative in Cabo Verde**

In March 2022, following the request of the Government of Cabo Verde through the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, a joint assessment mission was carried out by the government, FAO and the World Food Programme (WFP), with the objective to analyse the functioning of the food supply chain, as well as the overall food security situation, including in the most vulnerable areas of the country.

For the Minister of Agriculture and Environment, Gilberto Silva, the risks are high and preventive actions must be taken now, *“If we prevent the situation today, we will be able to strengthen the resilience of families and respect human rights, ensuring adequate food. We are talking about people’s lives, it is always a priority before all else. The need to take measures today and not let hundreds, thousands of people suffer in this situation in our country, is fundamental”*.

“People are facing challenges in accessing food for their families and feed for their livestock. We are developing proposals and projects to support vulnerable livestock breeders. We are looking for partnerships to safeguard the livelihoods of farmers affected by the crisis, improve the food security and nutrition of farming families and school feeding. This SFERA-funded intervention is an example of the partnerships we need for Cabo Verde, thanks to the Kingdom of Belgium for making funds available to address emergency situations”, says the FAO Representative while presenting the SFERA – Anticipatory Action initiative.

To this end, thanks to funding from Belgium through SFERA, FAO is helping to safeguard the food security and livelihoods of affected vulnerable communities in the islands of Santiago and Santo Antão, and strengthen their resilience by facilitating access to income-generating activities to cover food needs. Specific activities will focus on the following:

- supporting more than 800 vulnerable families with income-generating activities;
- providing water for 13 000 livestock (small ruminants and others); and
- supporting local production chains in favour of school canteen programmes, thanks to increased production through training on good agricultural practices, harvesting and marketing.

FAO will implement activities in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, as well as local authorities, other technical partners and non-governmental organizations.



REQUIRED CITATION

FAO. 2022. *Cabo Verde | Belgium’s contribution through the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA)*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc1700en>



Some rights reserved. This work is available under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence

Contact

FAO Representation in Cabo Verde
FAO-CV@fao.org | fao.org/cabo-verde
Praia, Cabo Verde

Office of Emergencies and Resilience
OER-Director@fao.org | fao.org/emergencies
Rome, Italy

Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations