



## **Australia and Cabo Verde Cooperation**

Australia's Direct Aid Program (DAP) has supported dozens of community development projects in Cabo Verde. The program supports organisations with expertise in education, health, water and sanitation, environmental protection, and gender equality. It seeks to contribute to sustainable development in local communities and strengthen bilateral relations.

A range of projects funded between 2020-2025 highlight how our partnership with Cabo Verde can transform shared priorities into meaningful action.

## Rehabilitation of the Figueiral School

The rehabilitation of Figueiral School No. 17 improved the learning conditions of more than forty young students in the rural community of Figueiral da Ribeira Grande. The project replaced the unsafe asbestos roof, installed new windows and doors, upgraded classroom floors, and refurbished bathrooms to meet essential hygiene and COVID19 prevention standards. This initiative was led by the Associação das Mulheres Solidárias de Figueiral, a local organisation that plays a key role in promoting community wellbeing and ensuring inclusive, safe and quality education for children in the region.



## One More Life!

The One More Life! project in Boavista and Santiago is helping improve maternal and newborn health in isolated communities. The initiative trained 50 maternal and child health technicians in safe delivery practices and primary health care, equipping them to better support mothers before, during, and after childbirth. The project also distributed 500 delivery kits to community health units, ensuring clean and safer conditions for women giving birth. Led by Estímulo – Centro de Estudos, this initiative strengthens local health capacity, supports young mothers, reduces risks linked to unsafe deliveries, and contributes to lowering infant mortality across vulnerable communities.



## Be Extraordinary

The Be Extraordinary project at Abílio Duarte Secondary School in Palmarejo, Santiago, supports 30 teenage girls from vulnerable neighborhoods by offering five years of free karate training, from beginner level to Black Belt. Led by Academia Cabotê – Associação Desportiva Solidária, the initiative empowers young women, strengthens confidence and resilience, promotes safer and healthier lifestyles, and contributes to greater gender equality within the school and wider community.



## Inclusive school garden

The project equipped a 121m<sup>2</sup> garden with irrigation systems, tools, seeds, and organic materials, enabling students to learn agricultural techniques while producing vegetables that support the school's hot meals program. This initiative was led by the Associação de Pais Amigos de Crianças com Necessidades Educativas Especiais, a local organisation that promotes inclusive education and strengthens the participation of young people with special needs in their community.



## Reconstruction of WCs

The reconstruction of accessible bathrooms at Chã de Cemitério School in São Vicente is creating a safer and more inclusive environment for the 227 children who study there. The project rebuilt two degraded bathrooms and adapted them for children with disabilities. Led by Escola Chã de Cemitério, this initiative strengthens hygiene, and promotes inclusion.



Australia recognised the Republic of Cabo Verde in 1975 and established diplomatic relations in 2009. The Australian Ambassador in Lisbon was first granted non-resident accreditation to Cabo Verde in 2009, with regular visits and active bilateral cooperation.

Our countries share a strong connection to the ocean, promotion of the blue economy, commitment to the protection of the marine environment, and concerns about the impacts of climate change, particularly on Small Island Developing States.

Australia has long been a reliable partner to these states, recognising their vulnerability to external shocks and the complex economic, social and security challenges they face. Australia works collaboratively to address these issues as a member of the Pacific Islands Forum and as an associate observer of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP). We also worked with the UN's High-Level Panel on developing a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) to help Small Island Developing States access development finance, and we co hosted an event with Cabo Verde at the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Antigua and Barbuda.

Our countries share a commitment to international law, and contribute actively to the work of the United Nations (UN). Australia and Cabo Verde have signed the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity beyond National Jurisdiction, the “BBNJ treaty”. The BBNJ treaty is a remarkable milestone in the protection of the world's oceans and a historic achievement for the multilateral system.

