# UNDP Mauritius Annual Report 2021 Building Forward Better





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United Nations Development Programme Mauritius ♦ Annual Report 2021





Acknowledgement: **UNDP** Mauritius acknowledges the Government of Mauritius, development partners, civil society, the private sector and implementing partners. who play a critical role in the transformational growth of our communities. The support and partnership received contribute towards the delivery of our programmatic interventions and the results captured in this report.

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This publication covers the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the possibility of errors or omissions cannot be excluded.

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Bas JANIS





Amanda Serumaga, Resident Representative UNDP Mauritius and Seychelles

### Foreword

Like the rest of the world, Mauritius has continued to face persistent uncertainties rebuilding the economy since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Although the country had successfully stamped out the widespread community infection from COVID-19 in 2020, the resurgence of local cases resulted in the second national lockdown from 10 March 2021. Government instituted gradual easing until October 1 when the economy was fully reopened. The country was expected to close the year with a GDP growth of 4.4 percent, lower than the 5 percent projected by the IMF. This was not unexpected given the slow recovery of the tourism sector and the pressure imposed on businesses, with 65 percent operating normally as opposed to 78 percent in 2020.

The negative impacts of the pandemic combined with the 2020 oil spill have continued to compound other vulnerabilities faced by the country. In May, Mauritius had 293 reported cases of domestic violence in just 18 days, mostly perpetuated against women - a similar trend registered in 2020.

By virtue of its status as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Mauritius is continually threatened by the impact of climate change which further constrains its ability to withstand other shocks. At the inter-ministerial council meeting of 28 September 2021, the Prime Minister noted Mauritius is in a 'state of climate emergency'. In 2021, Mauritius ranked 51st in disaster risk- a deterioration, after ranking 53rd in 2020.

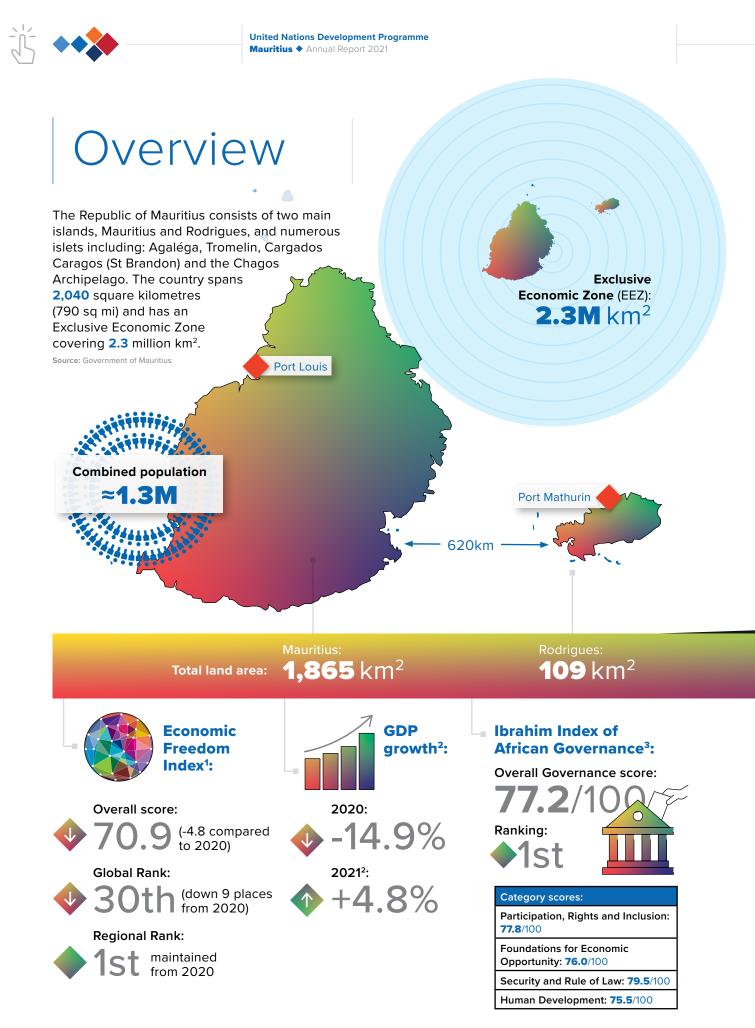
Despite these challenges, the Government remained proactive in its response, with the 2021-2022 budget announcing a forward-looking agenda focused on boosting investment, shaping a new economic architecture and restoring confidence. The country is also on course to devise comprehensive economy-wide reforms to address pre-existing structural challenges to bounce back better.



Key among these reforms is the re-orientation of the tourism sector to target high value tourism segments such as silver tourists and digital nomads, and expansion of reach beyond the traditional tourism markets; building integrated business continuity systems in the public sector to build system resilience; and systematically attracting private sector investment in priority areas.

Mauritius has also maintained its commitment to mitigate the impact of climate change, in part by aiming to reduce overall GHG emissions by 40 percent in 2030, and laying emphasis on green energy as a new pillar of the economy. Building on the foundation set in 2020, the Government also continued to invest in making health systems stronger and more resilient. In boosting the health response, the Government is also cognizant of the need to integrate health infrastructure with other productive sectors of the economy to achieve impact at scale.

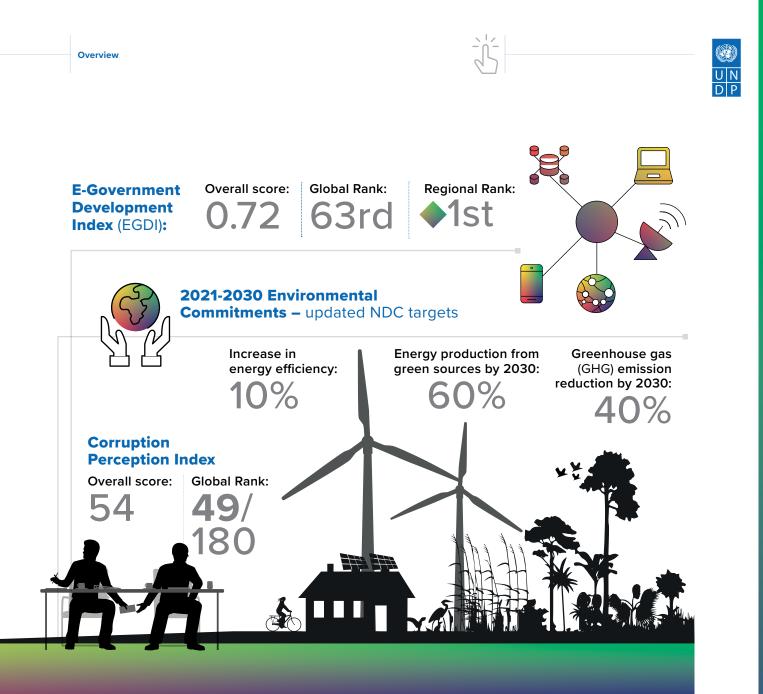
The support of the UNDP in addressing the above development challenges was anchored in the UN-Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP) for Mauritius, based on which manifold results have been achieved.

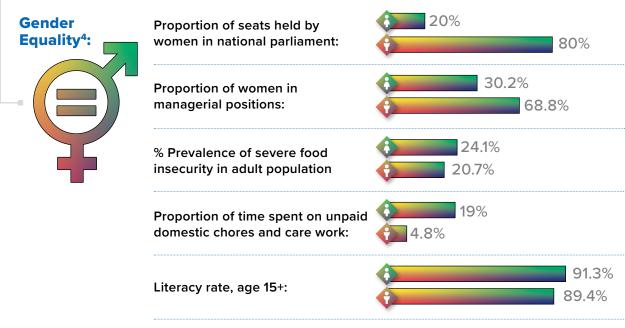


1 Source: https://www.heritage.org/index/country/mauritius

2 Source: https://statsmauritius.govmu.org/Documents/Statistics/ESI/2021/EI1628/NAE\_Dec21\_231221.pdf

3 Source: https://iiag.online/data.html?meas=GOVERNANCE&loc=MU&view=overview





4 Source: https://data.unwomen.org/country/mauritius







# 1.0 Key Results/ Highlights

Following the 2021-2022 budget policy on investing in rebuilding the tourism sector, UNDP's effort has focused on supporting the Government to reconsider the national tourism strategy. This engagement, which will conclude in the first Quarter of 2022, focuses on extensive analysis of market and tourism potential; creating market value; devising strategies

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