



STDF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

APPLICATION FORM

The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) provides Project Preparation Grants (PPGs), up to a maximum of US\$50,000, for the following purposes (or a combination thereof):

- application of SPS-related capacity evaluation and prioritization tools;
- preparation of feasibility studies that may precede project development to assess the potential impact and economic viability of proposals in terms of their expected costs and benefits; and/or
- preparation of projects proposals that promote compliance with international SPS requirements, for funding by the STDF or other donors.

Applications that meet the STDF's eligibility criteria are considered by the STDF Working Group, which makes the final decision on funding requests. Complete details on eligibility criteria and other requirements are available in the *Guidance Note for Applicants*. The completed application should be submitted through the [STDF online application system](#).

PPG Title	Strengthening food safety control capacities in Cabo Verde
Budget requested from STDF	47.946 USD
Full name and contact details of the requesting organization(s)	Independent Health Regulatory Authority Avenida Cidade de Lisboa – Praia – Ilha de Santiago – Cabo Verde / (+238) 2626410
Full name and contact details of contact person for follow-up	Edson Cabral dos Santos / Edson.Cabral@eris.cv

I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

1. What is the purpose of this PPG? Explain whether it is requested to: (i) apply an SPS-related capacity evaluation or prioritization tool; (ii) prepare a feasibility study (prior to project development) to assess the potential impact and economic viability of proposals in terms of their expected costs and benefits; and/or (iii) prepare a project proposal for consideration by the STDF or other donors?

(i) apply an SPS-related capacity evaluation or prioritization tool:

1.1. General Objective

Develop a project to strengthen the food safety control capacities of the Independent Health Regulatory Authority of Cape Verde

1.2. Specific Objectives

This project has the following specific objectives:

- i. Implement FAO tool for assessment of Cape Verde Food Safety control system
- ii. Develop a multi-annual and multisector Work Plan aimed to promote improvement at Cape Verde food safety control system, defining activities to be developed by all entities that are part of it, including ERIS.

2. Explain the key SPS problems and/or opportunities to be addressed. Clarify why these issues are important, with attention to market access and poverty reduction. Describe, if relevant, how these issues relate to SPS priorities in the Enhanced Integrated Framework's Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS), the findings of SPS-related capacity evaluations, national poverty reduction strategies, sector development strategies or policies, etc. See Qn. 7. (b) – (d) of the Guidance Note.

With regard to food safety control in Cape Verde, there is some deficiency, first because it is carried out by several entities, causing a dispersion of competences, lack of harmonization, and some overlap, secondly because it is carried out with a lack of risk analysis tools and sanitary requirements, such as is required by the SPS standard. The ability to effectively manage food safety and quality is a key step towards safeguarding people's health and well-being and gaining access to national, regional and international markets. All these deficiencies have a great impact on the capacity to produce quality traditional products, such as Cape Verde goat's milk cheese, sugar cane brandy and vegetables products origin with impact on our export capacity.

The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures sets out the basic rules for **food safety** and animal and plant health standards to ensure that country's consumers are being supplied with food that is safe to eat, and at the same time to ensure that strict health and safety regulations are not being used as an excuse for protecting domestic producers.

On the other hand, the inexistence of specific food control plans, such as for the control of contaminants and veterinary drugs residues in food still create barriers to our ability to export, as well deficiencies in the sanitary registration/licensing of food companies. There are groups of food products that are directly affected by this lack of specific control plans, such as products of animal origin or mixed products, as well as products of vegetable origin, where sanitary measures are required to guarantee access to international markets.

We believe that applying for an SPS-related capacity evaluation or prioritization tool will allow us to improve, developed or harmonize our own standards and control tools, based on science and oriented by SPS Agreement. For example, in Cape Verde we still not have specific legal documents that set allowable maximum levels of pesticide residues or permitted use of certain additives in food, and some specific legal documents about sanitary measures apply to domestically produced food, as well as to products coming from other countries.

In another hand we need urgent capacity activities aiming to create human resource specialist in SPS Agreement, providing support on international trade, which it is important to support the continuous development of our country. More importantly, part of the PPG will be used to hire a consultant to develop a concept note for a project aiming to address the needs identified as a result of evaluation/assessment tool.

3. Which government agencies, private sector, academic or other organizations support this PPG request? Letters of support from each of these organizations would be advantageous (Appendix 1). See Qn. 7. (e) of the Guidance Note.

This PPG is supported by public sector stakeholders and local offices of International Organizations, including:

- Local office of the EU Delegation
- WHO local representation
- FAO local representation
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Agriculture and Environment
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Ministry of the Sea
- Ministry of Tourism
- National Codex Alimentarius Commission
- National Center for Artisan Products
- General Directorate of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine of Portugal
- Economic and Food Safety Authority of Portugal

4. How does this PPG complement and/or build on past, ongoing and/or planned national programmes and/or donor-supported projects? See Qn. 7. (f) of the Guidance Note.

With the approval of Cape Verde's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) in December 2007 and approval for ratification through resolution n° 73/VII/2009, Cape Verde became responsible for respecting WTO agreements, namely , the SPS.

In this sense, several initiatives have been promoted and implemented since that date, to strengthen food safety locally.

From July 2009 to December 2010, the Government of Cape Verde and FAO implemented a project called "*Appui au renforcement du système de contrôle de la sécurité sanitaire*" (source: <https://www.fao.org/3/as934f/as934f.pdf>), which advocated carrying out an assessment of the sanitary situation in Cape Verde including three subjects: zoosanitary, phytosanitary and food safety, mainly to updated the legal framework and also providing training sessions.

Also, in 2010, with a view to organizing, on a sustainable basis, the National Food Control System, it was recommended to establish a strategic plan of action in the area of food safety. To this end, an instrument called "Performance, Vision and Strategy" was applied, designed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to assist countries in the process of identifying, analysis and prioritization of needs, as well as the definition of a vision shared by stakeholders and strategic planning. This process had the wide participation of competent authorities and representatives of economic operators and consumers, with the final elaboration of a report containing a logical matrix of intervention, as a contribution to the formulation of programs and projects in the area of food safety.

Also, given the importance of *Codex Alimentarius* in guaranteeing safety of food, technical assistance was requested from FAO, which was approved through TCP/CVI 3301, called “*Assistance pour l’organisation et mise en place de la Commission Nationale du Codex Alimentarius au Cap-Vert*”. This project allowed Cape Verde to organize and implement the National *Codex Alimentarius* Commission - CNCA, which had its first meeting in 2013, and which continues to this day, with ERIS being the Codex Focal Point in Cape Verde and the CNCA secretariat.

In order to reinforce Cape Verde's participation in the meetings of the *Codex Alimentarius* Committees, Cape Verde received funding from the Trust Fund, since 2016 (source: <https://www.fao.org/cabo-verde/actualites/detail-events/es/c/1208354/>). In addition, an action plan financed by the Trust Fund has been running since 2019, aimed at strengthening the functioning of the National *Codex Alimentarius* Commission, with activities aimed at reviewing the legislation that creates this Commission, and also a website development, among other activities, which should be completed in 2022.

According to the report of the last assessment on the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) in Cape Verde, from 2019 (source: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/9789240014435>), it was found that there are still many deficiencies in our food safety system, namely, ensuring local harmonization of available international and regional standards, the elaboration of specific legislation and practical application of existing legislation, as well as the clarification of competences between different Authorities.

However, all these are the results of evaluations carried out in different frameworks, where food safety is just one of the indicators, analyzed in a simplified way.

Thus, Cape Verde still lacks a consistent assessment of the current situation in this area (Food Safety), covering all the stakeholders and the entire food chain, to identify the strengths and points for improvement, and based on this assessment, develop a consistent project to improve food safety, in a transversal way, covering the scope of action of all the competent authorities that work in this area, and also to serve as a basis for the construction of a gradual and evidence-based improvement.

Several gains can be seen from the implementation of this project, namely, the protection of public health and the access of economic operators to the new local and international market, as conditions are created for them to respect international regulations on food safety.

5. Have you discussed this PPG request – or funding for the project proposal which would result from it – with any potential donors (bilateral, multilateral, Enhanced Integrated Framework, etc.)? If so, provide details below and indicate potential sources of funding for the resulting project. See Qn. 7. (g) of the Guidance Note.

The Project Proposal Grant request has not been discussed with any potential donors.

6. Briefly explain how gender and environmental issues are relevant for this PPG and, if appropriate, how they will be addressed.

Cape Verde is a country that soon understood the importance of gender equality and equity for its development process, with successive governments always placing this subject at the center of their governmental and political agendas, initially with the promotion and empowerment of women, and today oriented towards gender equality and equity.

Thus, there is a growing awareness, not only on the part of the public sector, but also on the part of the private sector and civil society, that gender equality and equity are crucial conditions both for the

success and the fulfillment of the challenges and expectations of the Capeverdeans, as well as for development, economic growth, cohesion and social solidarity.

In this context, in 2021 the Government approved the National Gender Equality Plan for 2021-2025, where it focused on three areas of women's autonomy - economic autonomy, physical autonomy and autonomy in decision-making, as strategic axes for a sustainable development, being a transversal Plan to the different sectors under development in Cape Verde, including Food Safety.

As mentioned before, SPS Agreement encourages the application of measures based on science, and currently embraced by the One Health concept, which includes the environmental aspect in guaranteeing health for all. We think that the project will help the application of practical measures that allow the protection of the environment.

II. IMPLEMENTATION & BUDGET

7. Who will take the lead in implementing this PPG? If particular national experts and/or international consultants are proposed, attach a copy of their Curriculum Vitae and record of achievements (Appendix 2). If no names are provided, the STDF will provide a shortlist of consultants if the PPG request is approved.

The Independent Health Regulatory Authority (ERIS).

- Main international projects managed by ERIS:
 - Project with EU – phase I: “Technical support to ERIS”:
 - Execution period 08/01/2014 to 01/31/2016
 - Budget: 209.000 USD
 - Management of the Trust Fund of the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission (from 2019 to date):
 - Execution period: from august 2019 to date
 - Budget: 105.000 USD

8. In the table below, briefly describe the main activities to be carried out under this PPG and specify who would be responsible. Provide an estimate of the budget required (e.g. for national/international expertise, travel and DSA of consultants, stakeholder meetings or workshops, general operating expenses, etc.).

Activity	Responsible	Estimated Budget (US\$)				
		Unit	Number	Cost	Total	
i. WHO facilitators costs						
International Consultant 1 Per diem	STDF	days	16	190	3.040	
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International Consultant 1 Air Ticket (Geneva)	STDF	Airfare	2	850	1.700	

International Consultant 2 Air Ticket (Brazil)	STDF	Airfare	2	4500	9.000	
Subtotal STDF					16.780	
Subtotal ERIS					0,0	
ii. Activities related to information gathering, stakeholder consultations and national travels						
<i>Focal Points Training</i>						
Air travel tickets for national participants, from different islands	ERIS	Participants	4	250	1.000	
Per diem for national participants, from different islands	STDF	Participants/days	4/7	58	1.624	
Space rental	STDF	days	5	300	1.500	
Catering services for break teas, coffee, meals and refreshments	STDF	Participant/day	30/5	17	2.250	
Training materials	STDF	Participants	20	8	160	
Subtotal STDF					5.534	
Subtotal ERIS					1.000	
<i>Final Workshop</i>						
Air travel tickets for national participants, from different islands	ERIS	Participants	4	250	1.000	
Per diem for national participants, from different islands	STDF	Participants/days	4/6	58	1.392	
Space rental	STDF	days	4	300	1.200	
Catering services for break teas, coffee, meals and refreshments	STDF	Participant/day	40/4	17	2.720	
Workshop communications materials	STDF	Participants	40	8	320	
Subtotal STDF					5.632	
Subtotal ERIS					1.000	

Total expenses to be cover by the STDF Fund	27.946
Prevision amount for hiring a PG consultant	20.000
International expert fee (US \$600 x 30 d)	18.000
International travel (1 mission)	2.000
Total STDF Project Budget	47.946
Total expenses to be covered by ERIS	2.000

Appendices

Appendix 1: to be delivered:

- Letters of support from each of the organizations supporting this proposal
- Any other document requested by the STDF team