



Women Economic Empowerment and Gender Responsive Budgeting

Seychelles

Total Population mid-2019	97,625
	49.1% women
	50.9% men
Population Annual Growth Rate	0.9%
Adult Literacy	96.3% women
	95.4% men
Maternal Mortality Rate	60.5/100,000
Infant Mortality Rate	13/1,000 live births
Total Fertility Rate, per woman	2.5
HIV incidence (new infections) all ages 2017	112
HIV prevalence (% of people living with HIV) 2017	0.87%
Annual GDP (2018)	US\$1,589 billion
GDP Annual Growth Rate (2018)	7.9%

Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women

Mandatory paid maternity leave	98 days
Proportion of:	
Women who are Farmers	23%
Parliamentarians who are Women	21.8%

Seychelles is a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU), and is party to a number of treaties, protocols and other collaborative documents to advance gender development. Seychelles is signatory to development blueprints such as the AU Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights (2003) and the AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004). Seychelles is party to the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, and recognizes the SADC Gender Policy and the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (2015-2020).

Productive Resources and Property Ownership

Property rights for women include the right to attain or dispose of movable or immovable property and resources entitled to them or acquired through their labour. In terms of land access, although there are no clearly defined provisions for women and men, the Constitution clearly states that access is equal for all people in Seychelles. Section 26(1) says, *Every person has a right to property and for the purpose of this article this right includes the right to acquire, own, peacefully enjoy and dispose of property either individually or in association with others.*

Of the total number of people who make use of state land, 15 percent are women and 85 percent are men. With regards to private land an estimated 23 percent of farmers are women and 77 percent are men (SGDM, 2018). This variation between women and men in access to land in Seychelles can be as a result of the policies of the country which are said to be gender neutral without providing special provisions for women, who are in most cases more disadvantaged than men. The decline of agricultural activity on the islands has also seen land ownership plummet. This is because the economy has shifted from agro-based production and has since ventured into promoting its tourism and fishing industry, thus causing people lose interest in owning land for agricultural purposes.



ICT

Seychelles is one of the leading implementers of ICT systems and provisions in southern Africa. Being a member of the SADC regional block, Seychelles recognizes the region's Declaration on Information Communication Technologies which aims to push for better technological infrastructure as a way of advancing economies.

This declaration also advocates for the development of ICTs in the rural and remote areas as well as in underprivileged urban dwellings and educational institutions. In Seychelles, access to credit and ICT is available to both men and women (SADC, 2018).

The Seychelles Department of Information Communication Technology, has been over the years running with the e-government project. The thrust of this project is to put government services under a major transformation through integrating of ICT solutions to ease and modernise service delivery. The generality of ICT distribution in the nation is fair overall as can be noted from statistics in the table.

Information Communication	Total %	Men	Women
Connection to Internet	34	39	31
Dial-Up connection	6	6	4
Broadband post-paid	15	17	13
Broadband pre-paid	12	13	9
Internet through mobile phone	17	14	15
Mobile phone	94	93	94
Mobile phone-non smart phone	77	76	78
Mobile phone-smart phone	36	39	34
Mobile phone- both non smart and smart phone	32	29	34
Telephone landline	41	41	41
Access to radio	89	85	91
Access to television	95	94	96
Access to cable TV	40	42	38
Access to satellite TV	2	3	2
Access to daily newspaper	22	24	20
Access to weekly newspaper	23	26	21

Source Household Budget Survey 2013

Credit

Seychelles does not have specific institutions that stand for the provision of credit and needs related to women alone. The

Seychelles Credit Union (SCU) for example, is a financial aid institution which was introduced by the Seychellois government under its Ministry of Finance, Trade, Investment and Economic Planning. The aim of SCU is to provide financial aid to the citizens through allowing women and men to borrow, save and invest through various credit facilities. Despite it not being specifically set for women, the SCU has significantly assisted women through loans and enhanced financial capacity on investing borrowed money as well as saving profits realised from investment.

Trade

Trade in Seychelles has been growing over the years to become a major stronghold of the economy and is monitored by the Ministry of Finance, Trade, Investment and Economic Planning. As a measure to ensure that the trade sector grows, the government has instituted a significant number of laws to achieve global status through transparency and accountability in the nation's trading regimes thereby boosting confidence within the business community both in the region and globally to invest and trade in Seychelles. Seychelles is a member of the SADC Free Trade Area which aims at achieving further liberalisation of intra-regional trade in goods and services, to ensure the improvement of the climate



for domestic, cross-border and foreign investment. This will in return profit the region by enhancing economic development, diversification and industrialisation of the region. With Seychelles eliminating its tariff lines from imports from other SADC members by 91.7 percent, estimation is that by 2026, 97.5 percent of Seychelles tariffs will be liberalised (WTO 2018). Statistics on the participation of women in trade in Seychelles are not readily available.

Employment

The Ministry of Employment, Immigration and Civil Status is set to play a pivotal role through employment creation to build a productive workforce and self-sufficiency, and improve living standards.

The majority of women in Seychelles are employed, this success can be owed to the fact that women in the country are educated with 93.6 percent of women being literate, a reflection that the education system is equipping women with knowledge and skills to be employed in various sectors. However, although women and men are afforded with equal opportunities for employment, the distribution of employment rates by sector is unequal. Men tend to dominate sectors such as mining and quarrying while women dominate the less technical and physical industries such as health and education.

In 2011, Seychelles launched the Seychelles Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) to improve employment opportunities and conditions for women and youth through maintaining a low rate of unemployment at 5

Industry	Men	Women
Mining & Quarrying	15.8	9.2
Manufacturing *	-	-
Construction	9.2	1.2
Education	2.6	9.2
Health	2.3	14.9

*data not available

Unemployment Rates

Unemployment Rates	Men%	Women%	Total%
Unemployment rate less than 25 years	14.5	15.1	13.7
Unemployment rate less than 25 years	14.5	15.1	13.7
Unemployed rate over 24 years	1.8	2.2	1.5
Unemployment rate from 25 to 54 years	2.0	2.6	1.5
Unemployment rate over 54 years	0.8	0	1.6
Total unemployment rate	3.6	4.2	3.0

Source: Household Budget Survey 2013

percent. In addition, the DWCP launched new employment policies, increasing maternity leave from 14 to 16 weeks and paternity leave from 5 to 10 days. The programme saw the increase of the national minimum wage, in-

roduction of a bonus, improvement in collection and analysis of labour market statistics and new and revamped employment programmes in the nation. The programme has seen decreased unemployment rates

Multiple Roles of Women

The preliminary findings of the Seychelles study found that women suffer from a greater burden of work and family balance than men men in juggling jobs, house chores, supervision and



education of children. Seychelles has no distinct divide between rural and urban population. The roles of women within the island are not highly variable regardless of their location. Seychelles does not provide for multiple roles of women in its policies, and time use studies have not been conducted.

Gender Responsive Budgeting

The Government of Seychelles does not have legislative and policy measures to ensure equal participation by men and women in formulation and implementation of economic policies, and no measures have been put in place to ensure Gender Responsive Budgeting at national, regional, district and sector levels. The Ministry of Family Affairs reported that the national budget is inclusive. Therefore the government does not have specific tracking, monitoring and evaluation measures for GRB but has one for the overall budget based on the Results-Based Management (RBM) policy (SGDM, 2018).

Seychelles has made efforts to collaborate at a regional level with other SADC member states to set in motion some gender budgeting activities. In 2012 Seychelles collaborated with gender



ministries in Eswatini, Namibia and Zambia along with other stakeholders to develop costed gender plans for action. This has been recognised as an affirmative step towards achieving gender equality across multiple sectors. According to the SADC Guidelines on Gender Responsive Budgeting (2014), the plan for action in Seychelles is fully planned around the 28 target areas of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

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