

Country Disease Outlook

Seychelles

August 2023



World Health
Organization

African Region

Background

The Islands of the Seychelles archipelago consist of 115 islands covering a surface area of 459 km² in the Indian Ocean with a population of 106,470 people in 2021. The capital and largest city Victoria is approximately 1,500 kilometres east of mainland Africa. Seychelles started to undergo the epidemiologic transition to chronic diseases more than three decades ago. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) form the most significant health burden.

Key points

- ◆ Seychelles has successfully met the SDG3 target for the under-5 mortality (13.9 per 1000 live births, compared to a target of 25) and the neonatal mortality rates (8.6 per 1000 live births, compared to a target of 12).
- ◆ Seychelles has a low burden of TB at 12 incidence cases per 100,000 population, and less than 1 TB deaths per 100,000 population. Approximately 750 people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021. The country is yet to achieve the 95-95-95 goals for HIV, reaching 91-87-86.
- ◆ Seychelles has historically achieved high vaccination coverage rates. Since 1989, DTP3 vaccination coverage has been above 94%. However, like many countries in the region, Seychelles' recent immunization trends suggest a dip in coverage of the basic childhood vaccines since 2020 and the country should prioritize restoring services and implementing catch-up vaccination strategies for the under-immunized and zero-dose children. Seychelles experienced a measles outbreak in 2020.
- ◆ Seychelles was certified free of Dracunculiasis disease (Guinea Worms disease) in 1998, and is not endemic to all NTDS earmarked for elimination.

UHC/CN

Universal Health Coverage/Communicable
and Non-communicable Diseases
WHO Regional Office for Africa





form the most significant health burden

Broad disease outlook

Seychelles started to undergo the epidemiologic transition to chronic diseases more than three decades ago. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) form the most significant health burden.

Communicable diseases

Malaria

The Islands of Seychelles were documented in the 1950s as being unable to support malaria transmission. The country was certified as malaria-free in 2012.

Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS

With an estimated burden of 12 TB cases per 100,000 in 2021, Seychelles is a low burden TB country. Estimates of mortality rates related to TB have steadily decreased since 2017 to less than 1 per 100,000 population. Approximately 755 people were receiving antiretroviral treatment in 2020. There are still gaps in knowledge on the number of people with HIV who know their status and progress against the 95-95-95 goals is yet to be fully achieved at:

- ▲ There is limited data on the number of people living with HIV that know their status.
- ▲ 81% of people living with HIV who know their status are on treatment.
- ▲ 91% of people living with HIV and on treatment who are virally suppressed.

Neglected tropical diseases

The country was certified free of Dracunculiasis disease (Guinea Worm) in 2004. It is non-endemic for any of the NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy. The major NTD is cystic echinococcosis.

Non-communicable diseases

NCDs are the major health problems in Seychelles. Like the neighbouring sub-regional countries, the age-standardised mortality rate across four major NCDs (Cardiovascular disease, Chronic Respiratory Disease, Cancer and Diabetes) was over 400 per 100,000 for both the male and female population. The three major areas with limited progress on NCDs include a ban on alcohol advertising, trans fats policies, and physical activity awareness.

Childhood Immunization

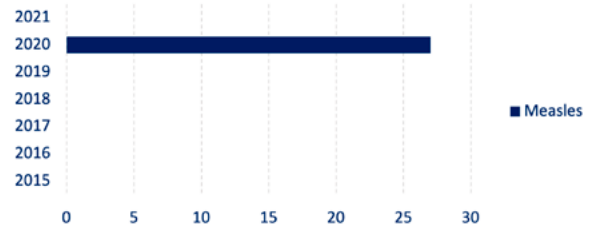
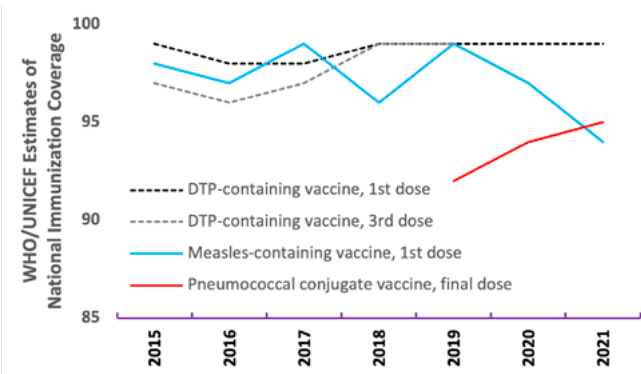
Seychelles has achieved relatively high vaccination coverage rates, with a DTP3 coverage above 96% since 1989, although this did fall to 94% in 2021. Similar to many countries in the region, this dip was also seen in the measles immunisation coverage rate in 2021 (94%). Seychelles experienced a measles outbreak in 2020 and other sub-regional countries experienced a similar outbreak in 2019. This suggests a need for sub-regional collaboration and maintaining a vigilance on outbreaks. The estimated number of zero-dose children in 2021 was only 16.

- ▲ Strengthening regional collaboration and the immunization catch-up campaigns to restore coverage.

Child survival

Based on the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) estimates derived from national data from censuses, surveys or vital registration systems, the under-5 mortality rate stands at 13.9 per 1000 live births and the neonatal mortality is 8.6 per 1000 live births, therefore the Seychelles has successfully achieved the SDG3 target of 25 per 1000 live births and 12 per 1000 live births, respectively.

EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION IN CHILDREN



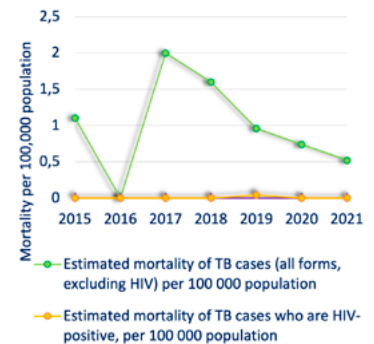
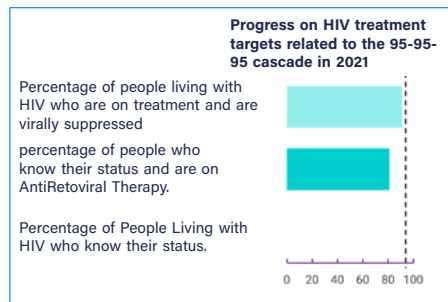
Zero dose children 16

Under-immunized 97

Despite historically high vaccination coverage of basic antigens (>90%), recent estimates suggest a slight disruption in measles coverage and just a few tens of zero-dose children or under immunisation. The Islands of Seychelles just had an outbreak of measles in 2020.

HIV AND TUBERCULOSIS

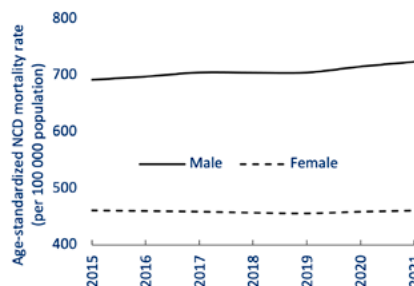
- 755** people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2020
- 100%** Treatment success rate for HIV-positive TB cases
- 0%** of children (aged < 5 years) household contacts of bacteriologically-confirmed TB cases on preventive treatment
- 95%** Domestic funding for TB
- 95%** Domestic funding for HIV



- Indicator 1 - Targets
- Indicator 2 - CRV Mortality
- Indicator 3 - Surveys
- Indicator 4 - NCD policy and Plan
- Indicator 5A - Tobacco taxes
- Indicator 5B - Tobacco smoke free/polution
- Indicator 5C - Tobacco health warning
- Indicator 5D - Tobacco advertising ban
- Indicator 5E - Tobacco media campaign
- Indicator 6A - Alcohol availability
- Indicator 6B - Alcohol advertising restrictio
- Indicator 6C - Alcohol taxes
- Indicator 7A - Salt policies
- Indicator 7B - Trans fats policies
- Indicator 7C - Marketing to children
- Indicator 8 - Physical activity awareness
- Indicator 9 - NCD guidelines

NCD PROGRESS INDICATORS

- Achieved**
- Partially achieved**
- Not achieved/Unknown**



NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

Endemic NTDS requiring Preventive Chemotherapy (PC)

- Lymphatic filariasis
- Schistosomiasis
- Soil-transmitted helminthiasis
- Trachoma
- Onchocerciasis

PC-NTDs treatment in 2021

- 0 targeted for MDA
- 0 treated with MDA
- Non-Endemic

OTHER MAJOR NTDS

- Cystic echinococcosis

