

QUESTIONNAIRE

Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the MSI of the BPOA for the Sustainable Development of SIDS

Please note that strict word limits have been established for each question. The Secretariat is unable to consider any information beyond these established word limits. In this regard, you are requested to report only on new or updated information. Information conveyed in previous surveys will not be considered. Previous surveys can be accessed at <https://sidsnetwork.org/> and <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/small-island-developing-states> under reports.

PART A VULNERABILITY REDUCTION IN SIDS

1. Enhanced Support for a Resilient Post-COVID-19 Recovery in SIDS

Vulnerability is one of the most crucial challenges faced by SIDS. Briefly elaborate on any ex-ante interventions or proactive/preventive strategies that have been or are being implemented at national and/or sub-regional levels that aim specifically at reducing exposure to external shocks and improving resilience in SIDS. Please include information on any financial resources expended in this regard, if available (750 words).

Response:

1. More than two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries in the Asia and the Pacific are gradually emerging, reopening and restarting their economies, ready to get back on track to recover better and stronger. To help member States in Asia and the Pacific emerge out of this health crisis stronger and more resilient, the ESCAP's [Framework on Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19](#) was developed to provide immediate and direct support to the member States. Guided by the [Resolution 77/1 on building back better from crises through regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific](#), ESCAP, solely or jointly across UN agencies and regional partners, has supported the

SIDS in the Pacific¹ (PSIDS) in: (i) disaster risk reduction; (ii) COVID-19 recovery strategies; (iii) enhancing national social protection systems; and (iv) regional cooperation, during the period 2020-2021, aiming at reducing their vulnerabilities to external shocks.

2. On disaster risk reduction, ESCAP has developed and launched the [Asia-Pacific Risk & Resilience Portal](#). The Portal includes country analysis of 50 member States and six associate members, across Asia and the Pacific region, nearly half of them SIDS. Climate change induced extreme events remain the single greatest threat to many PSIDS. The Portal aims to deepen policymakers' understanding of cascading risks from disaster-climate-health nexus, provide evidence-based analytics to conduct actionable risk assessments and develop risk informed planning and budgeting. This year, the [Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2022](#) delved into assessing the riskscape and recommending subregional pathways for adaptation and resilience.

3. On COVID-19 recovery strategies, ESCAP supported (i) assessing the COVID-19 impacts on fiscal needs to design fiscal recovery package in Samoa; and (ii) strengthening policy frameworks in Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu to improve alignment to development finance; and (iii) innovative climate financing instruments to support PSIDS in post COVID-19 pandemic recovery.

4. On social protection, support was provided to (i) Kiribati's legislative review for compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); (ii) enhancing capacity of Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste to harness demographic dividend; and (iii) the development of Samoa Social Protection Indicator Matrix.

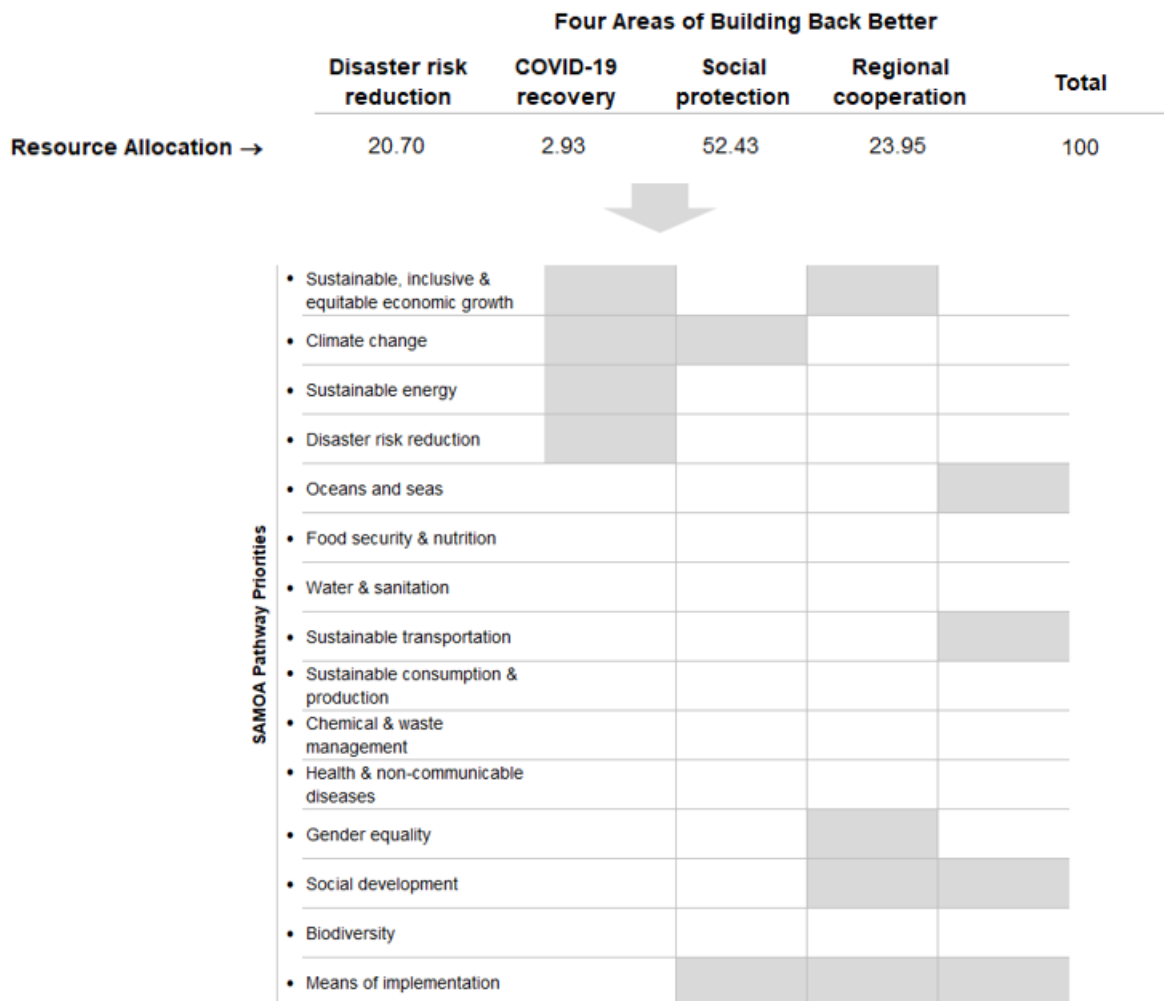
5. On regional cooperation, ESCAP supported the development a guideline to operationalize the strategic plan and costing for establishing a Pacific Internet Exchange Point (IXP) between Fiji, Samoa and New Zealand, and Tuvalu's National Trade Development Strategy. A legal and technical readiness assessment on cross-border paperless trade and the most effective and relevant trade facilitation measures during crisis was conducted for Tonga and Tuvalu ([ESCAP, 2022](#)).

6. Resources allocated to support activities in PSIDS increased 66 percent between

¹ SIDS in the Pacific (PSIDS) includes member States Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, as well as associate members American Samoa, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Niue and Northern Mariana Islands.

2020 and 2021, mainly driven by gender equality and social development related activities to support women entrepreneurship. Figure 1 presents the resource allocation of ESCAP's support to activities in PSIDS across the four areas set out in the Resolution 77/1 and the contributions to the SAMOA Pathway Priorities.

Figure 1. Resource Allocation of ESCAP's Support to PSIDS across the Four Areas, %, and the relevant SAMOA Pathway Priorities



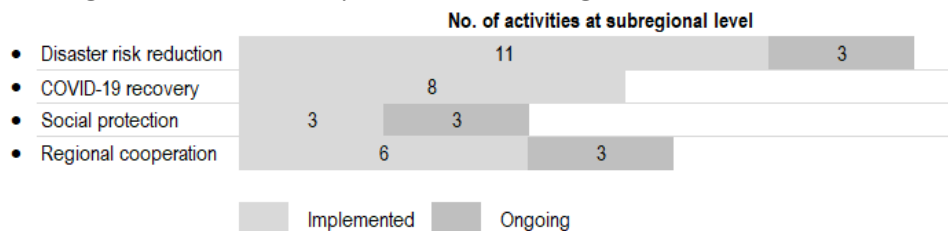
Source: SOP's own elaboration.

7. In 2021, ESCAP has supported a total 28 subregional level activities implemented in the Pacific² and nine activities that are still ongoing (See Figure 2). 56 percent of these activities are capacity building activities, 32 percent are analytical, and the remaining are

² The subregional activities in the Pacific does not include Timor-Leste.

outreach efforts and engagement platforms to bring key stakeholders to discuss pressing and emerging issues

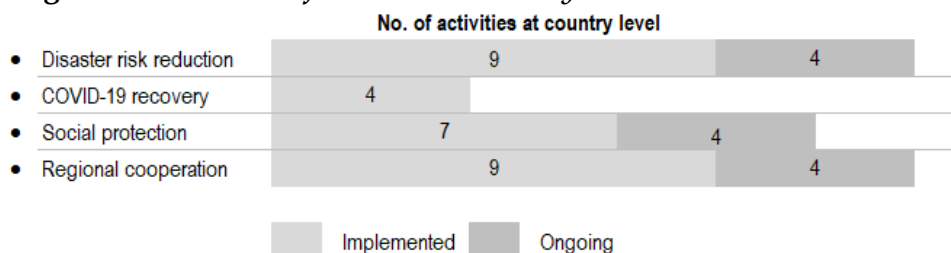
Figure 2. Number of ESCAP's Subregional Level Activities



Source: ESCAP's Strategic Programme and Management Division (SPMD)'s Programmatic Dashboard, accessed 30 May 2022.

8. ESCAP has also provided the PSIDS more targeted country-level support. In 2021, ESCAP have implemented 29 country-level activities to PSIDS, and 12 ongoing. These country-level supports mostly focused on capacity building, accounting for near 70 percent of the activities, and 30 percent analytical outputs (See Figure 3).

Figure 3. Number of ESCAP's Country Level Activities in PSIDS



Source: ESCAP's Strategic Programme and Management Division (SPMD)'s Programmatic Dashboard, accessed 30 May 2022.

Note: An activity at country level with at least one PSIDS identified as beneficiary.

9. ESCAP's two-pronged approach is an attempt to support PSIDS in achieving the high-level subregional overarching objectives by pulling PSIDS' resources together to scale up their propositions for SIDS-relevant solutions, while providing action-oriented country-level support to ensure the Pacific is moving in the same directions towards common goals, leaving no one behind.

2. Enhanced and Tailored Development Cooperation for SIDS

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the urgent need to ensure that responses to vulnerability must be at the heart of international policy aimed at supporting SIDS,

and that better tailored development co-operation approaches, calibrated to the specific needs, capacity constraints, and economic challenges facing SIDS, are necessary. Briefly elaborate on any planned or ongoing strategies/approaches to improve and deliver on more tailored development support to SIDS. Please include indications of resource allocations, if available (750 words)

Response:

1. As the PSIDS gradually return to the new normal, the challenges facing the region have not changed, although the magnitude has grown. Support to the PSIDS is guided by the ESCAP's Policy Strategy 2020-2024, focusing on the following areas, in line with the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

- (i) Climate change, seas and disaster risk reduction;
- (ii) Social inclusion;
- (iii) Regional integration and connectivity; and
- (iv) Data and policy coherence.

2. ESCAP takes an agile and flexible approach, through diverse forms of partnerships, to implement the ESCAP Pacific Strategy 2020-2024 to stay relevant and responsive to the needs of the PSIDS. At national, subregion and regional, ESCAP's Subregional Office for the Pacific (SOP):

- (i) Facilitates intergovernmental dialogue, sharing knowledge and networking;
- (ii) Conducts research and developing analytical knowledge products for policy advise and technical assistance;
- (iii) Provides capacity building support; and
- (iv) Supports the subregional architecture in the Pacific, including through cooperation with the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) agencies³ and United Nations Development System (UNDS).

³ The nine CROP Agencies are:

- (i) Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA);
- (ii) Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO);
- (iii) Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP);
- (iv) Pacific Power Association (PPA);
- (v) The Pacific Community (SPC);
- (vi) Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP);
- (vii) Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO);
- (viii) The University of the South Pacific (USP); and

3. In addition to the activities set out in [section 1 of Part A](#), ESCAP has been actively involved in other priority areas of the PSIDS to better respond regional challenges and unique needs of each member State:

- (i) Fiji and Samoa have benefited from the Catalyzing Women's Entrepreneurship programme that aims to create an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs with enhanced access and use of financial services, ICT and digital solutions;
- (ii) To follow up to a regional feasibility study on debt for climate swap, the Pacific Regional Debt Conference was held in April 2022 to discuss the policy options;
- (iii) Conducted an analysis and redesign the civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) process for Niue and Samoa. Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Palau, Samoa and Vanuatu received technical support to produce vital statistics on regular basis ([ESCAP, 2022](#));
- (iv) A [Smooth Transition Strategy](#) was developed for Vanuatu to ensure a smooth and sustainable move out of the least developed country (LDC) category ([ESCAP, 2022](#)), and follow-up technical support in collaboration with DESA. Support is planned for Solomon Islands in 2022, in collaboration with the UN Inter Agency Task Force on LDC issues;
- (v) Ocean accounts address the challenge of fragmentation of ocean data and offer a structure to collate data in a coherent and transparent manner to develop a more inclusive and sustainable ocean economy in Samoa and Palau ([ESCAP, 2022](#));
- (vi) The Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security (PCCMHS) Programme, a joint-UN agency programme, to develop a right-based Regional Framework on Climate Mobility for the Pacific;
- (vii) Development and launch of National SDG 7 Roadmaps of Tonga and Fiji in April 2021 and March 2022, respectively. The development of the National SDG 7 Roadmap for the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and Kiribati are expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2023;
- (viii) Workshop for initial rollout of the National SDG Tracker tool for the Pacific, to support member States in identifying and developing national SDG indicators, refining regional indicators for the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development and reporting in the Pacific SDG Quadrennial Report 2022; and

(ix) Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS).

- (ix) Technical assistance to prepare the Voluntary National Review (VNR) report for RMI in 2021, and preparatory workshop in Tuvalu for VNR reporting in 2022.
4. ESCAP supports the annual Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (PFSD), gathering key stakeholders to discuss pressing issues facing the region, emerging trends and opportunities, to find innovative SIDS-relevant solutions. The outcomes of the Fifth PFSD in November 2021 recommended priority actions in (1) climate ambition and action; (2) social protection and health; (3) climate-smart trade and energy; and (4) climate and disaster risk finance.
5. ESCAP is strengthening its partnerships with the regional organisations in the Pacific, having signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in April and November 2021, respectively. The renewal of the MOU between ESCAP and the PIFS is underway.
6. A Regional Advisor for the North Pacific has been appointed in March 2022, signifying ESCAP's commitment to foster greater engagement with the Governments of the five North Pacific member States, namely, the FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru and Palau. Through a resident Regional Advisor, to be based in FSM, ESCAP can respond more swiftly to their needs, bringing greater attention, awareness and understanding to their special situations, and coordinating actions nationally, regionally and globally to address challenges.
7. As the United Nations Pacific Strategy (UNPS) 2018-2022 concludes, ESCAP has been working closely with the UNDS, through the Multi-country Office (MCO) Fiji, Micronesia and Samoa, and the UN in Papua New Guinea, to develop the United Nations Sustainable Development Strategic Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the Pacific 2023-2027. Meanwhile, support to Timor-Leste continues to be guided by the UNSDCF 2021-2025.