

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

DISASTER RISKS AND 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)**.

Sustainable, resilient and functioning agrifood systems are key for achieving sustainable development. By their nature, SIDS face multifaceted, unique and interconnected risks, including natural and human pressures, climate related shocks and stresses, and external economic shocks. Consequently, even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, FAO prioritized a holistic approach to building resilient agrifood systems in SIDS aimed at simultaneously responding to and recovering from emergencies, while contributing to address root causes of risks and vulnerabilities, as well as analysing and designing interventions that also prevent, anticipate, prepare for and absorb the impacts of the multiple, and often intertwined risks across agrifood systems.

FAO provides integrated support to SIDS to establish early warning and information systems to inform prevention, preparedness planning, monitoring and anticipatory actions, in addition to post disaster needs assessments, the provision of humanitarian response and rehabilitation and reconstruction of agrifood systems from the impact of shocks and stresses. The context-specific support that focuses on the most vulnerable whose livelihoods depend on agrifood systems includes the implementation of mutually reinforcing interventions to strengthen resilience¹. FAO's

¹ 1) Agro-climatic and disaster/crisis risk information systems, including food security information systems such as the IPC (and CH); 2) Multi-risk Early Warning systems with actionable alerts; 3) Anticipatory Action (linking to emergency preparedness and response); 4) Risk and crisis governance and finance (including investments); 5) Vulnerability, risk reduction and diversification measures at field levels (including livelihoods diversification); 6) Risk proofing of infrastructures along the food value chain; 7) Risk transfer and social protection mechanisms, specifically cash transfers, risk-informed and shock-responsive social protection,

work around these complementary interventions for resilience building is supported by the generation of data, information and analysis; to risk-inform policy dialogue; normative and standard setting; coordination, partnerships and coalitions; capacity development, advocacy and communication; knowledge generation, management and sharing, field work and financing. Moreover, these interventions complement FAO core functions.

FAO efforts in climate resilience in support of SIDS includes assistance to access catalytic investments to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change through the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness projects. FAO is currently supporting 10 readiness projects across the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Seas (AIS), the Caribbean and the Pacific. Moreover, as a GCF Accredited Entity, FAO is supporting a USD119 million project in **Cuba**, which seeks to strengthen climate-resilient production techniques to improve access to water, generate employment opportunities and strengthen local production to contribute to food security.

FAO also contributes to important alliances, such as the Climate Resilience Food Systems, where a group of diverse and strategic partners coalesce to support SIDS, and other countries, to transform their agrifood systems.

The multiple and systemic nature of risks that agrifood systems face, were further exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. FAO established its COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic, while strengthening the long-term resilience of agrifood systems and livelihoods through seven key priority areas². To date, between confirmed and pledged contributions, the Programme has reached approximately 35% of the USD 1.3 billion target.

Some examples of FAO support to SIDS include **Papua New Guinea**, where FAO has contributed to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 along the agricultural value chain and to mitigate its impact on food security and nutrition by supporting food production and income generation for smallholders through agricultural activities, coupled with the multiplication and distribution of drought-tolerant and early maturing seed and plant materials, while also supporting small livestock farming, apiculture and aquaculture. In **Haiti**, FAO developed communication materials in local languages and deployed a series of radio broadcasts to reach agriculture producers in remote areas, in combination with promoting resilient and sustainable agricultural practices, to boost community awareness on the risks of COVID-19 transmission and prevention measures along the value chain. In **Tuvalu**, cyclone Tino and the onset of COVID-19 affected the livelihoods, food security and nutrition of fisherfolk FAO provided support to recover fisheries' livelihoods of the most vulnerable, who relied both on fishing and on remittances.

The COVID-19 pandemic called for a further reflection on strengthening efforts towards building more resilient and sustainable agrifood systems, including the assessment of their capacity to absorb shocks and stresses. Accordingly, [*The State of Food and Agriculture 2021: Making Agrifood Systems More Resilient to Shocks and Stress*](#) recognized the complexity and

and insurance; 8) Nature-based solutions, including territorial and ecosystems and natural resource management; 9) Reducing food loss and waste; and 10) Inclusive, resilient and healthy diets.

² 1) Global humanitarian response plan; 2) Data for decision-making; 3) Economic inclusion and social protection to reduce poverty; 4) Trade and food safety standards; 5) Boosting smallholder resilience for recovery; 6) Preventing the next zoonotic pandemic; and 7) Food systems transformation.

interconnectedness of agrifood systems and provided a set of indicators –for over 140 countries– to assess the aforementioned capacity, which is one of the key capacities to strengthen when designing appropriate interventions.

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)

FAO delivers tailored, integrated, multi-stakeholder support to SIDS focused on empowering communities to adopt healthier lifestyles, building resilience to shocks and strengthening the enabling environment through [The Global Action Programme for Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS](#) and other initiatives.

The FAO flagship [Hand in Hand \(HIH\) Initiative](#) – which currently includes eight SIDS countries – is an evidence-based, country-led, country-owned programme to eradicate poverty (SDG 1), end hunger and all forms of malnutrition (SDG 2) and reduce inequality (SDG 10). Participating member states use data and analysis, and an agrifood systems lens to identify subnational territories where innovative solutions and investments in agrifood systems can have transformative impacts. As part of the process, a sustainable value chain approach can be used to identify investments to address key constraints within a country.

The FAO Office of SIDS, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) (OSL) coordinates the Organization’s work in support of national priorities through an approach aligned to the specific needs of these populations.

Further, the [FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31](#), endorsed by the forty-second session of the FAO Conference in June 2021, supports the 2030 Agenda through the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind. FAO will implement the Framework through 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs), where FAO has the thematic, technical comparative advantage and expertise to deliver. FAO will apply four crosscutting "accelerators" to all its interventions to maximize efforts and synergies and facilitate the management of trade-offs, according to national priorities.

In this context, important work is ongoing across all PPAs and accelerators to support SIDS. For instance, given the large tracts of ocean with economic and social benefits and risks for SIDS, the Blue Transformation PPA, that aims to ensure efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable aquatic food systems, is particularly relevant to SIDS. To complement the work carried out through this

PPA, FAO has developed a number of instruments designed to sustainably manage the fisheries and aquaculture sector³.

Another example is the Climate Change Mitigating and Adapted Agrifood Systems PPA, that seeks to transform and build the resilience of agrifood systems to achieve sustainability and global climate goals. FAO supports SIDS to access multilateral climate finance, by working with SIDS to integrate agriculture and food security concerns into National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions. In parallel, FAO formulated a new climate change strategy, currently under deliberations at the FAO Governing Bodies, which will leverage further support for SIDS.

In order to provide the evidence-base to ensure that interventions in the agrifood sector achieve economic, social and environmental outcomes, FAO uses the [EX-ACT suite of tools](#) that support conceptualization, design and implementation of interventions. To date, the tools have been applied in 11 SIDS⁴.

Through the PPA on Achieving Sustainable Urban Food Systems, FAO is enhancing its work in the urban and peri-urban areas through the Green Cities Initiative, that is currently being piloted in, among others, Dominica and Solomon Islands while the Building Resilient Agrifood Systems and Responding to Agriculture and Food Emergencies PPA supports SIDS to reduce vulnerabilities to different shocks and stresses.

FAO supports Kiribati and Solomon Islands to strengthen women's capacities through training and mentoring programmes⁵ in agriculture and climate change. Participants are empowered to take active roles in negotiations and dialogues under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and actively engage in national policy and decision-making thereby ensuring gender inclusive development of NDCs.

To complement these efforts, FAO - in partnership with ITU - and the Government of Fiji co-hosted the first SIDS Solutions Forum in August 2021. The biennial Forum gathered among others, Heads of Governments, development partners, community development practitioners, entrepreneurs, women and youth to identify, discuss, share, promote and encourage home-grown and imported solutions to respond to the challenges posed by COVID-19 and by several risks that pre-existed the pandemic, with a particular focus on the role of innovation and digitalization in accelerating the achievement of the SDGs. During the Forum the [SIDS Solutions Platform](#) was launched as a knowledge exchange portal to showcase, scale up and replicate innovative ideas and practices to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

To build on and maintain the momentum of the Forum, the FAO Liaison Offices in Brussels, Geneva and New York together with OSL planned a series of events that will run between the sessions of the SIDS Solutions Forum. The events seek to exchange information and good practices that support the transformation of agrifood systems with governments and development partners.

³ Examples include the Port State Measures Agreement and Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries.

⁴ Belize, Cabo Verde, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Jamaica, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Timor-Leste.

⁵ Flexible Funding Mechanism sub-programme 149.

PART B

QUANTIFYING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY: TRENDS ANALYSIS OF ISSUE AREAS

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 74/217, a monitoring and evaluation framework has been developed for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. The framework is fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The Framework is available at **Attachment A** to this questionnaire.

The objective of the Framework is to quantify the progress made in each of the SIDS regions on implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, in the lead up to the preparations for the 4th international conference on SIDS, scheduled for 2024.

Using the data available in the Global SDG Data Portal (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>) and, where appropriate, from the UN regional commissions, Member States, custodian agencies and other relevant stakeholders are kindly requested to provide a Thematic Area by Thematic Area status update on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, following the monitoring and evaluation Framework referenced above (Attachment A).

PART C

ASSESSING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY: ASSESSMENT OF POLICY PROGRESS

The SAMOA Pathway contains a number of action areas that require policy formulation, programmes or projects to be implemented at national, subregional and/or regional levels. These have been identified as part of the monitoring Framework and are available at **Attachment B** to this questionnaire. By highlighting the changes in the national policies, their results and impact, the proposed analysis could further spotlight any progress in key priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway.

Using the framework referenced at Attachment B, Member States, relevant custodian agencies together with the Resident Coordinators/Offices in SIDS, are kindly requested to provide a brief status update for your country/region, under the overall coordination of the UN regional commissions, where appropriate.