

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)**.

The IAEA has recognized that a tailored programmatic approach was required to effectively address the unique developmental challenges of SIDS. A Sub-Regional Approach to the Pacific Islands (SAPI) is being implemented since January 2022 and will run for the next four years in the areas of nutrition, agricultural productivity, non-communicable diseases (cancer), marine and coastal environment, water resource management, and radiation safety, which will serve as an important complementary mechanism for greater effectiveness of the Pacific Islands' national programmes in the framework of the IAEA.

The IAEA has embarked on several key initiatives which directly support efforts to reduce exposure to external shocks and improve resilience in its Member States, including SIDS. Among these is the NUclear TEChnology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC Plastics) programme, which builds on the IAEA's efforts to address plastic pollution through recycling using radiation technology and marine monitoring using isotopic tracing techniques. The Caribbean region is benefiting from assistance to strengthen its ocean acidification and microplastics analysis capabilities through the procurement of equipment for laboratories including for Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

To improve Member States' capacity to prevent pandemics caused by bacteria, parasites, fungi, or viruses that originate in animals and can be transmitted to humans, in 2021 the IAEA launched the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC). Using a systematic and

integrated approach, ZODIAC will strengthen the preparedness and capabilities of Member States to rapidly detect and timely respond to outbreaks of such diseases. As part of the first phase of this initiative, laboratories from Guyana, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are being provided with equipment packages including serology, molecular diagnostic, and Whole Genome Sequencing – WGS, along with training in the use of the equipment.

Regarding the national programmes, in Fiji, the IAEA is supporting the implementation of a programme for pesticide-free suppression and management of fruit flies for sustainable fruit production to boost the sustainability of fruit production. Also, supporting the implementation of proper measures for good agricultural practices to ensure safe food/sustainable environment and solutions to farmers. Neither the monitoring capacity of pesticides residues and emerging contaminants in food and water nor the assessment of contamination levels by pesticides and emerging contaminants can be ensured without access to sensitive and powerful laboratory equipment. This provides the country the tools to efficiently carry out contaminant/residue monitoring by obtaining baseline information on contamination and enable the preparation of risk assessment for decision makers.

In Marshall Islands, the support provided focuses on improving the quality of clinical services in radiology for the two major hospitals in Majuro Island and Ebeye Island by remote training and equipment to enhance the diagnostic capabilities and safe use of the equipment. In addition, assistance is provided in developing national radioactivity monitoring capabilities with the cooperation of Australia.

In Palau, upscaling the capabilities for the delivery of diagnostic radiology services to establish a high quality and safe medical service has been a priority. It has also focused on improving the infrastructure at the Palau National Hospital for the implementation of a Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) and Teleradiology.

In Papua New Guinea, the IAEA is supporting the health sector with capacity building actions to enhance the country's cancer control capabilities by supporting long term training opportunities abroad (2- and 4-year training) as well as specific equipment to support the Port Moresby General Hospital to provide accurate and safe services to its patients and implementing best practices in clinical radiology services.

The IAEA has also supported Vanuatu strengthening the agro-food laboratory quality infrastructure of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Biosecurity and Livestock. An improved food safety and quality testing laboratory with better analytical (screening and confirmatory) and human resource capabilities following internationally acceptable standards contributes to boost the marketability of agricultural and livestock products.

In 2021, Samoa became the 173rd Member State of the IAEA. After initial consultations with the country, counterparts were nominated to participate in the SAPI with the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa (SROS), the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment as the main counterparts. In addition, Samoa also received emergency assistance provided to Member States to strengthen national capacities for the rapid detection of the COVID-19.

Twenty-four Small Island Developing States, which are also Member States of the IAEA

(Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Mauritius, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago) have received equipment for the detection of SARS-CoV-2.

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)

The IAEA has been supporting the development of strategic programme frameworks, together with its Member States, for the prioritization of activities for national and regional programmes during a period of 4-6 years. These strategic documents, the Country Programme Frameworks (CPFs), are aligned with national development plans and United Nations strategic documents and identify areas where nuclear science and technology has a comparative advantage to other techniques in addressing development needs and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

At the sub-regional level, targeted support is being provided to SIDS Member States in the Caribbean, guided by the Regional Strategic Framework for Technical Cooperation with the IAEA-CARICOM Member States for 2020-2026, which outlines the most pressing needs to be addressed through the application of nuclear technology in the areas of agriculture and food production, human health, environment, energy, radiation safety and radiation technologies. The region is being supported through 38 national projects and six regional projects across these thematic areas.

In the case of Pacific SIDS, the CPFs are aligned, to the extent possible, with the United Nations Pacific Strategy (UNPS) 2018-2022 and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018-2022.

In addition, cooperation and collaboration between the IAEA and the United Nations Country Teams has been strengthened by collaborating in the UNPS Joint Country Action Plans (JCAP) – 2021. These JCAP reflect the collective UN response to the national priorities and at the regional level.

The SAPI is a set of sub regional projects aim at improving and delivering a more tailored development support to SIDS and which will serve as an important complementary mechanism for greater effectiveness of the Pacific Islands' national programmes in different areas. With SAPI, support will broaden the spectrum of projects in which nuclear science and technology can contribute directly to achieve development priorities and goals. It promotes

South-South cooperation between SIDS to collaborate and share knowledge, skills, and successful initiatives but also triangular cooperation with other relevant stakeholders.

The SAPI seeks to establish a critical mass of scientific human resources and build institutional capacities to enable Pacific Islands to build back better after an external shock and improving resilience in SIDS. The aim is to optimize the delivery and impact of its technical cooperation programme in the Pacific SIDS Member States of the IAEA (Fiji, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Vanuatu).

The SAPI provides opportunities to develop and operationalise partnerships in the region such as with the Pacific Community (SPC), the University of Tasmania, the University of South Pacific, the United States, and Australia, through the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology (ANSTO) and the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA). The SAPI will enhance coordination and build valuable networks between the islands, providing more efficiency and value for money while still addressing the development needs of all countries.

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.