

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**).

- In **Guyana**, UNOPS supports the country to strengthen the health system by providing the critical medical equipment required for the care of patients affected by COVID-19 for a total budget of \$1,089,471 funded by MoFA Japan.
- In **Suriname**, UNOPS supports the country to strengthen the health system by providing the critical medical equipment required for the care of patients affected by COVID-19 for a total budget of \$1,012,603 funded by MoFA Japan.
- In **Trinidad & Tobago** UNOPS supports the country to strengthen the health system by providing the critical medical equipment required for the care of patients affected by COVID-19 for a total budget of \$1,320,325 funded by MoFA Japan.
- In **Belize**, UNOPS supports the country to strengthen the health system by providing the critical medical equipment required for the care of patients affected by COVID-19 for a total budget of \$1,173,716 funded by MoFA Japan.
- Digital transformations is another area of great interest to the Pacific. The COVID-19

global pandemic has hit the worker population particularly hard across the island countries due to the fact that workers were heavily concentrated in tourism-based industries which have been essentially decimated. Promoting the foundations of the digital economy, will support economic transformations and build greater resilience of communities across social, environmental and economic dimensions. This should be linked to a range of digitally enabled services that improve the wellbeing of livelihoods through positive impacts on financial security, nutrition, knowledge, skills development, climate change resilience and human rights. UNOPS and other UN agencies (ITU, ILO, UNICEF, FAO, UNESCO, UNODC, and OHCHR) will be advancing this agenda through 2 Joint SDG funds in 2022.

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)

- In **Sint Maarten**, UNOPS is partnering with the governments of the Netherlands and Sint Maarten to design resilient, sustainable and effective Long-Term facilities contributing to strengthening national infrastructure capacity in the correctional sector enabling adequate, safe and humane detention, which facilitates reintegration of offenders back into society.
- In **Saint Lucia**, UNOPS is partnering the Water and Sewerage Company of the Government of Saint Lucia on the identification, evaluation and planning for the development of the island's strategic water management infrastructure assets. Additionally, there is an ongoing cooperation to apply for GCF funding.
- **In the Pacific SIDS**, UNOPS is aiming to promote recovery with greater resilience through sustainable development solutions which are community centred and support to strengthen community resilience recognizing the ever evolving dynamic nature of communities and the underlying vulnerabilities that challenge them. To enable communities to strengthen resilience, these five elements are key: i) Risk informed – to be

resilient requires a broad understanding of risk and its consequences ii) holistic approaches, since communities are multidimensional systems within wider systems iii) proposing solutions that are demand-driven – responding to the community's own understanding of its risk iv) People-centred – listening to and understanding people's perspectives iv) inclusive.

- Nature based solutions for resilient communities, livelihoods and environments. Mangrove forests are important bulwarks against coastal erosion, storm surges and in the longer term coastal inundation. They are among the most carbon-rich and biodiverse ecosystems on the planet. Next to their climate adaptation and mitigation benefits, they provide a wide range of ecosystem services, such as water purification, and natural fish hatcheries, as well as important goods for local communities. They also support fisheries and are an important draw for tourism.
- Prioritising Nature Based Solutions (NBS) to enhance protection against climate hazards in the Pacific region and support low emissions climate resilient development, combined with economic development opportunities for vulnerable groups, offers a long term solution to Pacific SIDS' ability to develop effective, efficient and equitable solutions for climate adaptation, mitigation, sustainable economic development and biodiversity. This is an area UNOPS is exploring in collaboration with other UN partners.
- Promoting self reliance and sustainable economic development and reducing energy costs and GHG emissions, through institutional support and infrastructure that promotes more efficient end-user behaviours. Pacific SIDS NDC targets recognize the need for technical expertise and finance to achieve this goal to reduce fossil fuel dependency. A holistic approach to renewable and efficient energy should hence be treated as a priority.
- Protecting and enhancing freshwater resources are a high priority, as most PSIDSs water catchments come from captured rainwater and groundwater. Possibilities for developing a more secure water supply include both saline water purification technology at the household level and the improvement of rainwater harvesting and storage facilities. Improvement of flush toilets and septic tanks is also recognized as a priority.
- Pollution reduction is also a key priority for PSIDS sustainable development. With limited land and the expenses of exporting solid waste, SIDS have unique challenges in dealing with solid waste compared with other countries. Thus, a more streamlined and efficient solid waste collection and handling regime would benefit the efforts in not only reducing emissions but restoring fragile ecosystems and protecting water quality.

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.

