

QUESTIONNAIRE

Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway for the Sustainable Development of SIDS

Please note that strict word limits have been established for each question. In this regard, you are requested to report only on new or updated information. Previous surveys can be accessed at <https://sidsnetwork.org/> under reports.

1. Legal/Policy/Institutional Arrangements for SIDS and/or the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway¹

Does your entity/organization/government have a SIDS Strategy? If not, are there any plans to establish one, including with the appropriate resources for implementation. **(500 words)**

Ireland's Strategy for Partnership with Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was launched in June 2019 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney TD. The Strategy set out a multi-strand approach to deepening Ireland's relationships with SIDS, building on diplomatic, bilateral, multilateral, and international development links, and fostering closer bonds between our peoples. A partnership approach has been central to the formulation and ongoing implementation of the Strategy, with SIDS consulted regularly to ensure it is relevant to their priorities.

The SIDS' Strategy contains 36 commitments, of which 32 have been fully or partially implemented. They include:

- The establishment of a SIDS' Unit within the Department of Foreign Affairs to lead on SIDS' policy;
- A SIDS Fellowship Programme to bring promising individuals from SIDS to Ireland for Master's-level study;
- The establishment of regular dialogues (dubbed Ceilí) between Ireland and SIDS to inform our policy positions within the EU, UN and other multilateral fora;

2. Financial Arrangements

Please give an indication of the budget allocated to the SAMOA Pathway programme areas in

¹ This question seeks to examine the extent to which each respondent mainstreamed SIDS and the Samoa Pathway into co-operation frameworks, programmes and activities, national development plans etc, to ensure effective follow-up and implementation at regional and national levels in SIDS.

your government/organization/entity, if applicable, for the period Jan. - Dec. 2021 or the fiscal cycle that best fits this period. If the priority areas cannot squarely fit this chart, please report as closely as you can.

Priorities	Investment (USD)	Budget Allocation	FY/ Cycle/ Period
Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth		\$1.75m	2021
Climate Change		\$3.2m	2021
Sustainable Energy			
Disaster Risk Reduction		\$1.2m	2021
Oceans and Seas		\$850,000	2021
Food Security and Nutrition			
Water and Sanitation			
Sustainable Transportation			
Sustainable Consumption and Production			
Chemical and Waste management			
Health and NCDs			
Gender Equality			
Social Development			
Biodiversity			
Means of Implementation		\$150,000	2021
Other			
Total			

3. Enhanced Support for a resilient Post COVID 19 Recovery in SIDS

Overcoming the economic fallout of the pandemic and regaining growth momentum in SIDS will require a **robust, practical, tailored** and **impactful** solutions not only to keep SIDS afloat but also for the successful implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. Please elaborate on any proposed resilience building interventions/programmes for implementation in SIDS that are to be pursued over the remaining period of the SAMOA Pathway. (500 words)

As part of our Strategy for Partnership with Small Island Developing States, Ireland has committed €12m over the period 2019-2024 to the establishment, within the Asia Development Bank, of the Ireland Trust Fund for Building Climate Change and Disaster Resilience in Small Island Developing States, with €4.2m assigned so far. This funding is enabling projects which are enhancing the preparations and adaptations which small islands must make as they prepare for the effects of climate change. This includes supporting communities in Tonga and Vanuatu as they design more resilient infrastructure, and promoting the building of better coastal defences in Fiji, the Marshall Islands and Timor Leste.

Ireland has also used the Trust Fund to help SIDS respond to the unprecedented challenges of COVID19. Last year the Ireland Trust Fund allocated €2.1m to help bolster social protection supports, assist the most vulnerable in the worst affected states and toward building regional capacity to respond to future shocks. In addition, Ireland has allocated €1.3m to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Emergency Appeal for COVID-19 for Small Island Developing States in the Pacific, Caribbean and Africa regions, including the Indian Ocean from 2020-2021.

Ireland has also continued its support for the SAMOA pathway within the UN. The mid-term review of the process was co-facilitated by the Irish Permanent Representative, Ambassador Byrne-Nason, with President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins addressing a SIDS' Summit at the UN. In 2020 Ireland funded the recruitment of an expert to work on SIDS issues within the UN Secretariat.

4. Financing for Sustainable Development in SIDS

The road to recovery post-COVID-19 will be challenging for SIDS. They will need new strategies and financial instruments to mobilize adequate resources for recovery and reconstruction. Please elaborate on any proposed/planned programmes that will be delivered to reduce risks and build resilience in SIDS, and/or that alleviate the liquidity and debt vulnerability challenges facing SIDS (**500 words**)

Building back better and stronger must be a priority for the global community and the Blue Economy is a key mechanism for recovery and prosperity in Island States. Ireland is providing \$850,000 this year in support the World Bank's Blue Economy in the Caribbean project by funding a series of blue economy roadmaps and marine pollution assessments to strengthen the region's blue growth efforts.

In addition, Ireland is providing dedicated support of \$300,000 to the UN DESA and OHRLLS to bolster staffing in the SIDS partnerships unit in 2020-21. This will enhance the capacity of the Unit and contribute to work in the UN system on a multidimensional vulnerability index.

Ireland has also launched a SIDS' Fellowship Programme to bring promising individuals from Small Island Developing States to Ireland for Master's-level study – eight Fellowships were awarded in 2020 and an announcement on 2021 recipients will be made this summer.