

## **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 Pathway<sup>1</sup>**

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)

ESCAP has a Pacific Strategy 2020-2024 (to be reviewed and updated after the 77<sup>th</sup> Commission) resulting from the Multi-Country Office (MCO) Review and with a focus on the Pacific SIDS. In response to key challenges (climate and disaster vulnerability, geographical remoteness and smallness, increasing hardship and exclusion, coordination challenges), and considering its comparative advantages, ESCAP prioritizes the following five areas to implement the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway:

- *Climate change and disaster risk reduction* to enhance the capacity of Pacific SIDS to manage the dual risks of climate change and disasters and build resilience.
- *Sustainable Management and Use of the Oceans* to unlock the potentials of sustainable ocean-based economies in the Pacific.
- *Regional Integration and Connectivity* to take advantage of sustainable growth opportunities and synergies in ICT, trade, energy and maritime transport.
- *Social inclusion, poverty alleviation and gender equality* to realize the vision of social inclusion and equality of opportunities in the SAMOA Pathway.
- *Partnerships, data, monitoring and reporting* to meet the unprecedented demand for authoritative data and statistics and genuine partnerships for transformative actions.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

The implementation of ESCAP's support to the Pacific SIDS is guided by the following three core functions of the organization:

1. *Convening Function*: To deepen the engagement of Pacific SIDS, ESCAP will: (a) support the preparation and in-person participation of Pacific SIDS at the annual Commission and the APFSD, as well as through sub-regional preparatory meetings; (b) support and participate in Pacific sub-regional coordination mechanisms for SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway; (c) co-lead and/or participate in the SIDS Priority Theme Groups for the Pacific being set up under the MCO Review.
2. *Thinktank and Knowledge Management Function*: To better integrate the priorities of the Pacific SIDS: (a) ESCAP's flagship publications will increase coverage of Pacific SIDS priorities and perspectives and the *Pacific Perspectives* of the Pacific Office will be strengthened and closely aligned with the latest call for actions under the SAMOA Pathway; (b) ESCAP and other UN regional entities will increase the sharing of relevant regional knowledge products and expertise through the Regional Knowledge Management Hub and the Asia Pacific SDG Gateway; and (c) coordinate/facilitate the reporting of VNRs and Pacific SIDS progress at the APFSD and HLPF.
3. *Capacity Building Function*: To respond to the call for more presence in the Pacific sub-region and tailored assistance, ESCAP will: (a) recruit new talents into the Pacific Office and solicit additional funding to leverage existing organization-wide resources and expertise in support of the Pacific SIDS; (b) with the approval of Member States, create a professional position to support the new MCO in the North Pacific; and (c) leverage support of host governments and partners in the Pacific to enhance support to the operations of the Pacific Office. In addition, ESCAP's Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific in its Strategic Plan 2020-2024 has identified the Pacific as a priority sub-region for targeted and tailored training and capacity-building.

Organizationally, the Section on Countries in Special Situations was moved from Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division to the Office of the Executive Secretary to strengthen entity-wide coordination and support to these member States, which include all SIDS in Asia and the Pacific.

## 2. Financial Arrangements

Please give an indication of the budget allocated to the SAMOA Pathway programme areas in 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	104,500	14%	Jan – Dec 2020
Climate Change	22,500	3%	
Sustainable Energy	31,500	4%	
Disaster Risk Reduction	-	-	
Oceans and Seas	11,000	1%	
Food Security and Nutrition	-	-	
Water and Sanitation	-	-	
Sustainable Transportation	100,000	13%	
Sustainable Consumption and Production	30,000	4%	
Chemical and Waste management	-	-	
Health and NCDs	-	-	
Gender Equality	51,750	7%	
Social Development	84,000	11%	
Biodiversity	-	-	
Means of Implementation	313,507	42%	
Other	-	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>748,757</b>	<b>100%</b>	

### 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 **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)**

Taking guidance from the global “UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19”, ESCAP developed a framework to support the socio-economic response of Asia and the Pacific. The framework's overarching principle supports building back better and involves three main streams of work: (1) protecting people and enhancing

resilience; (2) supporting economic recovery; and (3) restoring supply chains and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

(1) Under Stream 1, ESCAP is assisting Pacific SIDS to strengthen universal social protection, the protection for people moving in the context of climate change, and legislative and policy frameworks for disability-inclusive development:

- Under a Joint SDG Fund project on strengthening social protection systems ESCAP and UN partners provide support to member States to design risk-informed social protection systems that are appropriate to SIDS, given their high exposure to climate-related shocks.
- Under the UN Trust Fund for Human Security project on climate change and migration, ESCAP, UN and regional partners, support regional policy deliberations on a rights-based framework for climate change-related displacement, relocation, and migration. Policy readiness is needed in the context of increasing challenges resulting from climate-related mobility, and will help close protection gaps for vulnerable communities, increase their adaptive capacity and resilience.
- ESCAP, UN and regional partners support the advancement of the rights of persons with disabilities, including through legislative and policy reforms to meet member States' obligations under the CRPD. Reforms will help ensure full inclusion of persons with disabilities in national sustainable development.

(2) Under Stream 2, ESCAP will increase its support to SIDS improve connectivity and oceans sustainability:

- ESCAP will continue supporting Pacific SIDS to strengthen the affordable quality access to Internet through subregional cooperation, focusing on establishing a Pacific Internet exchange point (IXPs) and capacity building programmes. A Pacific Internet exchange point would better coordinate Pacific SIDS Internet traffic to connect each other 'locally', promote local content development and reduce costly international traffic routing.
- ESCAP will also support regional efforts to design and implement a green shipping policy to strengthen sustainable maritime connectivity. The reinforcement of sustainable and resilient maritime connectivity includes a strategy to decarbonize and digitize ports, which are essential logistics facilities of SIDS. Relatedly, ESCAP will continue to support the development of SDG 7 roadmaps using National Expert SDG Tool for Energy Planning (NEXSTEP).
- Support will be provided to build national capacities for the measurement and accounting of progress towards the sustainable development of the oceans, with the aim of improving the evidence base for better ocean management policies and practices. Leveraging ocean resources is considered key to achieving sustainable development especially among Pacific SIDS.

(3) Under Stream 3, through its *Catalysing Women's Entrepreneurship* project, ESCAP will continue to support building an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs, including women owned MSMEs. Solutions include improved access to information and ICT tools, improved access to finance, and revision of SME policies and strategies to include specific provisions for women entrepreneurs while also providing technical assistance to improve its implementation effectiveness. The project will also refocus its activities to better understand and better respond to the pandemic impacts on women entrepreneurs.

#### **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**)

ESCAP will contribute to strengthen financing for sustainable development across Pacific SIDS through Joint SDG Fund projects.

In Fiji, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, ESCAP will support capacity building among policy makers on methods and techniques for costing national plans and strategies, improving revenue management and public finance systems. In Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, ESCAP will also provide technical assistance to improve linkages between national plans and LDC graduation, budgets and external resources, including capacity building for associated reforms.

ESCAP will provide support to the costing of relevant parts of Samoa's National Strategic Plan and selected sector plans. Such costing effort will facilitate improved implementation through understanding of resource requirements, and closer alignment between national and sector development planning. In addition, ESCAP will conduct a stock-take of relevant financing instruments and undertake a feasibility study on improving existing and/or introducing new innovative instruments for sustainable development.