

# 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)

- The ILO has developed a strategy for a *programme of work in SIDS*, which was presented in 2014 at the UN Conference on Small Islands Developing States. *SIDS-related issues are mainstreamed into the Office policy outcomes, in accordance with the ILO's Strategic Framework 2020-2021.*
- The ILO has also established institutional and work modalities that provide and facilitate its full engagement with SIDS and on the SAMOA Pathway. These include identification and assignment of roles and responsibilities relating to SIDS for officials and offices present in the relevant regions. The ILO has also made deliberate efforts to design its country programmes to take into account and respond to the specific needs of SIDS, including in the Caribbean. The elaboration of a clear organisational narrative providing clear objectives and implementation guidelines is also underway.
- The ILO has also worked towards the provision of additional human and financial resources to lead efforts in implementing the SIDS initiative. Resources are typically regular budget, with extra budgetary resources in some cases.
- Among the policy areas that the ILO works on, several are particularly relevant for SIDS, including employment promotion, social protection, international labour standards, supply chains, informal sector, child labour, skills development, rural economy, occupational safety and health, sustainable enterprises, and technical and vocational education and training.
- In Madagascar, in support of the ROAF, the ILO has worked on the blue economy for the 6 African SIDS plus Madagascar. A collaborative agreement is being concluded with the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC).
- In the Pacific, the ILO has partnered with various SIDS organizations and actively participated in the Third International Conference on SIDS in Samoa in 2014, where the publication "Decent Work and Social Justice in Pacific Small Island Developing States" was launched.
- At the same time, the ILO continues to contribute to the wider collective efforts of the UN family, through the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs), including the preparation of the CCA (Country Common Assessment), and the Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF), in the case of the Caribbean.

(334 words)

### 2. Financial Arrangements

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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.


### 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)**

- *The ILO intends to build on its ongoing efforts to build resilience in SIDS, by implementing programmes anchored on Recommendation No. 205 on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience and the ILO 'Guidelines for a Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies for All' for reference. The work of the ILO will continue to focus on mainstreaming Decent Work and social partnerships for more inclusive and comprehensive disaster preparedness and recovery processes.*
- *ILO efforts will be up-scaled within the framework of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), thus contributing to reframing economic policies and practices around sustainability to foster economic growth, job creation, inequality reduction, and strengthening the ecological foundations of SIDS' economies. In Africa, resources will be mobilized to implement the Programme Document on Blue Economy covering the 6 SIDS plus Madagascar. The Programme aims to promote climate-resilient, ocean-based industries and strengthening the collaboration between and within the United Nations systems and other international institutions, including South-South and Triangular Cooperation on Blue Economy matters in order to creating an enabling environment for the future of work in African Island States.*
- *In some contexts, including Bahrain, interventions will be focused on developing a whole-of-government approach for business continuity support and income support to vulnerable workers based on international and regional best practices. Such an approach will include promoting social dialogue mechanisms, including capacity building for social partners, and protecting migrant workers.*
- *ILO will focus on enhancing the capacity of constituents in SIDS to develop and implement the right policy sequencing and mix that provide immediate support to vulnerable workers and to the sectors most affected, while promoting structural transformation and longer-term transitions towards more sustainable and resilient economies. Productive transformations in labour markets will be a key component in several UNSDCF.*
- *On socio-economic recovery, efforts will aim to increase decent employment opportunities through the development and operationalization of national employment policies (NEP) and labour market information. Gender-responsive, data-informed national employment policies play an important role in providing a coherent framework to address the immediate jobs crisis due to COVID-19 along with longer-term country-specific future of work challenges, including those posed by climate change and natural disasters.*
- *Recovery efforts will also focus on strengthening social protection systems. A proposed programme in the Pacific will address issues of fragmentation and critical gaps for vulnerable populations, by improving articulation between safety net programmes and developing the critical missing pieces of a coherent social protection system. ILO will mobilize expertise to support national efforts in the creation of an integrated social protection system piloted in the region. Evidence and empirical experience will support the upgrading of national social protection strategy and programmes and help create a more holistic, coherent and effective model for scale-up. This will accelerate the achievement and monitoring of specific SDGs targets related to poverty reduction, social protection, and policy strengthening and gender equality.*

- *In the Dominican Republic, the ILO has developed an employment and livelihoods section as part of the COVID-19 Recovery Needs Assessment (CRNA), which is a joint effort by the RCO and other UN entities. The CRNA estimated COVID-19's impact on employment and income and identified recovery needs and priorities for transformative and resilient recovery. It will serve as input for the delivery of ILO cooperation in the Dominican Republic for the short- and medium-term.*

#### **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**)

- *As a non-funding Agency, the ILO will focus its energies on providing technical and advisory resources, including those available in social financing programme<sup>2</sup>, to inform the design of new strategies and financial instruments for recovery and reconstruction.*
- *In Africa, the ILO Regional Programme positions the development of the Blue Economy in African Island States (AIS) at the intersection of the ILO Centenary Declaration and Policy Outcomes, Decent Work Country Programmes and the national development priorities of AIS. In addition, it is aligned with SDGs and the Agenda 2063 - The Africa We Want, and international initiatives, such as the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). The programme aims to address socio-economic challenges, such as food security, poverty, gender equality, youth unemployment, labour migration, and sustainable economic development and transformation, by harnessing the opportunities offered by the Blue Economy in African Island States. The development objective is to contribute to a sustainable future of work and a just transition towards an inclusive low-carbon Blue Economy. The Programme Outcomes are as follows: (1) Sustainable Harvesting of Living Resources; (2) Sustainable Marine-Based Renewable Energy; (3) Sustainable Tourism, Commerce and Trade in and around the Ocean; and (4) Healthy Oceans.*
- *In the Pacific, strengthening the informal economy, addressing unemployment and supporting sustainable enterprises is of paramount importance for the socio-economic recovery. The ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries is currently leading a joint project with UNESCO, UNDP and IFAD on "Inclusive Economic Recovery through Sustainable Enterprises in the Informal Economies of Fiji, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu", funded by the UN COVID-19 MPTF. The project aims to create an enabling and inclusive business and employment environment that will address the business/employment deficits and challenges posed by COVID-19 on women, youth and persons with disabilities operating in the informal economy. Under this joint initiative, UN agencies work with national and regional institutions to introduce social security mechanisms for informal workers, as well as regulatory mechanisms for legally empowering the informal economy. These interventions are based on the recognition that formal legal rights and protections to marginalized groups contributes to strengthening informal business, increases people's resilience to economic hard times, and ensures stability and improved governance, promoting progressive and sustainable growth and development even among the most marginalised. The project engages the formal private sector, national trades unions, national training institutions, creative associations, and producer organizations in the design and deployment of BDS, social security and business continuity plans. Under-developed institutional capacities of public and private Business Development Services (BDS) providers and social security/pension will be supported to enable adequate delivery of relevant programmes, targeting women, youth and people with disabilities, and to meet the current demands of the "new normal" business and labour market conditions. In view of the growing number of unemployed (and the distant prospects for a return to previous*

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<sup>2</sup> The ILO Social Finance Programme works with the financial sector to enable it to contribute to the ILO's Decent Work Agenda. Social Finance engages with banks, microfinance institutions, credit unions, insurers, investors and others to test new financial products, approaches and processes.

*conditions), the project focuses on building skills and transferring knowledge and technologies as well as offering e-market platforms and other logistics solutions responsive to COVID-19 circumstances.*