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/](https://sidsnetwork.org/) under reports.

1. Legal/Policy/Institutional Arrangements for SIDS and/or the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway\(^1\)

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)

Over the past few years, ITC has rapidly expanded its portfolio of trade-related technical assistance for SIDS throughout the Caribbean, Pacific and Sub-Saharan Africa regions. Considering the unique geographical and economic characteristics of SIDS, there is a need for ITC to develop a set of more bespoke offerings, which will address the specific challenges faced by these countries. A dedicated, more strategic approach to SIDS will also allow ITC to respond to what has happened in these countries due to the cascading impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters over the last year.

Against this background, ITC launched the SIDS taskforce in January 2021. The taskforce, comprised of representatives from across the organization, aims to lay a groundwork for a strategic and dedicated ITC corporate programme for SIDS.

Discussions in the group will result in ITC’s SIDS strategy, which is expected to work as an overarching framework for better coordination of its intervention for SIDS and further development of ITC’s TRTA offerings to SIDS in the future.

The strategy will address the reinforcement of a supporting ecosystem and a conducive business environment appropriate for the required economic transformation and the emergence and consolidation of resilient companies, sectors and countries.

The strategy is still under development, but it will likely comprise of three sections:

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\(^1\) 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.
1. Challenges: what are the challenges faced specifically by SIDS?

2. Solutions: how could ITC support SIDS to address these challenges with its expertise in TRTA?

3. Partnerships: how could ITC scale its partnerships with relevant stakeholders to deliver the solutions?

Discussions in the past meetings of the SIDS taskforce highlighted that main challenges faced by SIDS derive from their geographical and socio-economic vulnerability, remoteness from major markets and lack of economies of scale. Based on this analysis, the group is developing a theory of change in the form of logframe for ITC to develop and deliver customized offerings at the macro (government), meso (BSOs) and micro (MSMEs) levels.

The implementation of the SIDS strategy is expected to start in late 2021 with ITC’s own resources.

On a related note, ITC is also developing a tourism strategy, which will be critical for SIDS resilience and economic transformation. The strategy takes a pro-poor tourism approach with a particular focus on SIDS as well as LDCs and encompasses issues such as development of related MSME competitiveness, sustainable environmental practices, strengthened institutions, better government’s development strategies and interests of tourists.

The travel and tourism sector is one of the largest and, before Covid-19, one of most rapidly growing industries in the world. The sector was, however, hit particularly hard by the disruptions brought by the COVID-19 outbreak, which highlighted its high vulnerability to external shocks. In light of this, the tourism strategy will support the development of sustainable and inclusive tourism that will help SIDS build more resilient economy and society.

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.

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<th>Priorities</th>
<th>Investment (USD)</th>
<th>Budget Allocation</th>
<th>FY/Cycle/Period</th>
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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)

ITC is aiming at supporting the graduation process of Sao Tome and Principe. In this perspective, ITC will focus its interventions on:

1. Trade and market intelligence
2. Institutional capacity building (especially strengthening the capacity of business support organizations to better serve the private sector and MSMEs, women and
youth entrepreneurs)
3. Support the development of selected value chains on marketing, branding and E-commerce
4. Support Access to the new single market created through the African Continental Free Trade Area

In Cape Verde, ITC will focus its work on strengthening the ICT services sub-sector by connecting tech entrepreneurs with market opportunities.

Recognising the importance of trade in this crisis, ITC/the UK Trade Partnership Programme is actively supporting Fiji and Papua New Guinea (PNG) to keep trade and supply chains open and to build back better, by boosting resilience, diversification and deepening trade relationships (2019-2022). In Fiji, the programme supports smallholder ginger farmers and exporters through direct capacity-building interventions on topics such as export market requirements, agricultural value chain finance; good husbandry, postharvest & sustainable practices. In PNG, the programme provides tailored support for better export results in a time of uncertainty. Targeted SMEs in the specialty coffee sector benefit from training and coaching on meeting EU/UK quality requirements; marketing; and fostering market links with potential buyers. As part of its commitment to better gender outcomes, UKTP has committed to ensuring that 20 per cent of beneficiaries are women.

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)

In Fiji, ITC/the UK Trade Partnership programme is advancing different financing mechanisms to help channel funds to smallholder farmers of baby ginger.

In 2020, an innovative Agricultural Value Chain finance model was developed connecting suppliers, exporters, and the Fiji Development Bank which enabled dozens of farmers to secure loans for the purchase of equipment and agricultural inputs. In addition, a bridging finance facility targeting farmer spouses is currently being developed with the South Pacific
Business Development network of microfinance organisations.