

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)**

In addition to providing advocacy for SIDS, UN-OHRLLS' mandate is to ensure the mainstreaming of the SAMOA Pathway and SIDS related issues in the work of the UN system, and to build synergies between the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda. OHRLLS' mandate also includes the mobilization of international support and resources to support SIDS implementation and to enhance the coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes, including at the national, regional and global levels.

The implementation of the SAMOA Pathway is embedded in the Programme of Work of the SIDS Unit of OHRLLS. The overall programme of work supports the objectives set for each year, which are informed by mandates given by member states. The programme of work is underpinned by concrete deliverables, indicators and performance measures.

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/
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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.

			Period
Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth			
Climate Change			
Sustainable Energy			
Disaster Risk Reduction			
Oceans and Seas			
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 [Institutional support for SIDS]	<p>USD 65,828 for SIDS NFPs Network as part of UN-OHRLLS' effort to enhance the coordination between national, regional and global levels (Funded by Italy)</p> <p>USD 109,916 for SIDS Global Business Network (GBN) to enhance private sector engagement in implementation of the SAMOA Pathway</p>		Jan-Dec 2021

	(Funded by Denmark) USD 150,000 for SIDS GBN to enhance private sector engagement in implementation of the SAMOA Pathway (Funded by Ireland)		
Other			
Total	USD 325,744		Jan-Dec 2021

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)**

OHRLLS will continue to facilitate increased support and resources for SIDS in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in the broader context of building back better, as well as the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda in SIDS. Priority will be given to areas such as increasing access to finance, including through exploring the development of a multi-dimensional vulnerability index; helping to identify solutions toward debt sustainability in SIDS, including debt swap initiatives; and building resilience to exogenous shocks like global pandemics and the adverse effects of climate change, including through strengthening energy and food security and broadband connectivity. In this connection, OHRLLS will continue to partner with agencies such as IRENA, FAO and the Broadband Commission to develop advocacy activities to advance the priorities and concerns of SIDS. OHRLLS will also continue to strengthen the coherence in the UN support to SIDS at the national, regional and global levels, including through supporting the implementation of the MCO review.

A coordinated and integrated UN support to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda is crucial, even more so as we grapple with the impact of COVID-19. In 2020, the Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) for SIDS provided a platform for

discussions on the COVID-19, its impact and the response by the UN system, including sharing regional and country experiences from RCOs and lessons learnt on the support for SIDS. Through IACG, OHRLLS and DESA will continue to provide a platform for cooperation and coordination among the United Nations system and other international organization in support of COVID-19 recovery, and the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and 2030 Agenda. Areas of focus will also include coordination on other key thematic issues such as the MVI, disaster risk reduction, and monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

Inaugurated in 2018, the National Focal Points (NFP) network has continued to be an important mechanism to facilitate the strengthening of coherence and coordination at the national, regional and global levels on SIDS-related issues. In 2020, due to COVID-19, three virtual regional NFP meetings themed "Enhancing coherence - A focus on the COVID-19 response" were held in place of in person's meeting. The virtual meetings brought to the fore the unique ways COVID-19 is impacting the SIDS. The meetings highlighted that (i) vulnerabilities of the SIDS have been magnified due to COVID-19 leading to severe economic contractions and that (ii) regional mechanisms remain critically important for a coordinated response. In 2021, the network will continue to foster peer-learning and exchange of best practices on the implementation and follow up of the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other global frameworks, in the context of COVID-19 and the need to build back/forward better. The focus will be on financing implementation.

On climate, OHRLLS works closely with AOSIS on enhancing support for SIDS in a range of climate change fora, in the context of the UNFCCC. Advocacy efforts have focused on financing for climate action in SIDS, including operationalizing international mechanisms for Loss and Damage compensation and debt-for-climate action swaps to end the vicious circle of vulnerability, crippling debt and climate driven disasters. As part of this work, OHRLLS and DPPA have also held a series of meetings on climate change security in SIDS, including on the legal implications of sea level rise and internal migration. OHRLLS will build on this work over the remaining period of the SAMOA Pathway, identifying concrete initiatives for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in alignment with that of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda in SIDS.

Partnerships for sustainable development in SIDS have a central role in the SAMOA Pathway. Within the context of the SIDS Partnerships Framework, OHRLLS has jointly organized a range of events over the period to facilitate partnerships. Within the context of the SIDS Global Business Network, OHRLLS organized a series of webinars and events to facilitate partnerships with the private sector between SIDS and beyond. In December 2020, a webinar was held on enhancing partnerships in ocean industries. Due to COVID-19, the

biannual SIDS GBN Forum was postponed as it is scheduled to take place in the context of the Our Ocean Conference in Palau. In April 2021, a virtual forum on sustainable ocean energy development in SIDS was organized in cooperation with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). OHRLLS will build on this work over the remaining period of the SAMOA Pathway, facilitating the creation and enhancement of private sector partnerships in SIDS, particularly in achievement of the ocean related priorities of the SAMOA Pathway and SDG14.

In September 2020, OHRLLS launched the [Most Vulnerable 91](#) campaign to track the amount of COVID-19 related funding that has been spent by international partners to support the 91 Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The campaign drew special attention to the overwhelming difference in funding being mobilized for the global COVID-19 response and that being disbursed to support some of the world's most vulnerable nations. OHRLLS presented the campaign and its analysis to various stakeholders including the UN Crisis Communications Group on COVID-19, Interagency Consultative Groups, Ambassadorial groups including the Bureau of AOSIS as well as through a social media campaign. The second phase of the campaign is being prepared for roll out in May 2021 with an additional focus on vaccine equity, or the lack thereof, and calling attention to the need to ensure that vulnerable nations such as SIDS are not left behind.

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**)

The economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic has hit SIDS particularly hard. In 2020, while developing countries' GDP decreased by 3.3% SIDS GDP decreased by around 9%.² The contraction was highest tourism dependent SIDS, like St Kitts and Nevis which lost around 19% of GDP and the Maldives which lost around 32%.³ Many of the most tourism dependent SIDS are middle-income countries, which have limited access to concessional finance and often resort to expanding external debt. 2020 has also continued the trend of increasing disasters and extreme weather events.⁴ For small countries, the costs of post-disaster

²UNCTAD 2021, Small Island Developing States face uphill battle for COVID-19 recovery, available at: <https://unctad.org/news/small-island-developing-states-face-uphill-battle-covid-19-recovery>

³ IMF 2021, World Economic Outlook, available at:

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2021/03/23/world-economic-outlook-april-2021>

⁴ FAO 2021, The impact of disasters and crises on agriculture and food security: 2021, available at:

reconstruction can be exorbitant. On average, natural disasters cause damage correspondent to 2.1% of GDP every year in SIDS.⁵ High levels of debt, limited access to concessional finance and growing challenges in accessing international capital markets reduce SIDS' resilience and adaptive capacity.

SIDS' external debt is significantly higher than other developing countries. Between 2000 and 2019, the external debt of SIDS increased by 2% as a share of GDP, while in all developing countries debt decreased by 6%. By 2019, external debt totalled 62% of GDP on average in SIDS, compared with 29% for all developing countries and economies in transition.⁶ The debt servicing cost is also particularly high as a share of government revenues for many SIDS. SIDS on average spent 15% of this income on debt servicing, which is twice the world average.⁷ SIDS are generally not eligible for existing debt relief mechanisms, including the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) by the G20 in response to COVID-19 for which only 5 SIDS are eligible.

OHRLLS has focused its advocacy efforts on financing for sustainable development and climate finance, in particular for increasing eligibility for SIDS through a potential Multidimensional Vulnerability Index and through developing guidelines for aid effectiveness in SIDS in cooperation with OECD, donors and other partners. OHRLLS will also build on its work, undertaken with AOSIS in the context of the Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond process, to identify short-, medium- and long-term debt solutions for SIDS.

<http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb3673en>

⁵ UNCTAD 2021, For heavily indebted small islands, resilience-building is the best antidote, available at: <https://unctad.org/news/heavily-indebted-small-islands-resilience-building-best-antidote>

⁶ UNCTAD 2021, based on IMF data from 2019, Small Island Developing States need urgent support to avoid debt defaults, available at: <https://unctad.org/news/small-island-developing-states-need-urgent-support-avoid-debt-defaults>

⁷ UN-DESA, 2020, The COVID-19 Pandemic Puts Small Island Developing Economies in Dire Straits, available at: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/un-desa-policy-brief-64-the-covid-19-pandemic-puts-small-island-developing-economies-in-dire-straits/>