

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)**

UNDP's SIDS offer, *Rising Up for SIDS*, presents an integrated approach for tapping into areas with potential to accelerate green recovery and transform societies based on three interconnected pillars: Climate Action, Blue Economy and Digital Transformation. This work will put the natural capital at the center of sustainable development, promoting nature-based solutions – solutions that reflect cultural and societal values in the protection, conservation and use of ecosystems goods and services. UNDP's service offerings within each pillar work to realize ambitions across areas, addressing multiple SDGs with the digital mainstreamed throughout. With a greater investment and coordination across these key areas of development, UNDP expands its capacities to provide responsive and rapid technical and policy support, accelerating progress on realization of the SAMOA Pathway and 2030 Agenda.

UNDP's service offerings are rooted in two cross-cutting enablers of transformation, financing for development and capacity development and based on a commitment to fostering genuine, strategic and durable partnerships. A commitment to securing gender equality, promoting full and equal women's participation in all fields and strengthening women's economic empowerment is mainstreamed in UNDP's support.

As one of the most pressing issues for many SIDS globally, expanding access to finance for sustainable development is core to UNDP's support. The development finance landscape is shifting dramatically, traditional methods of financing must be complimented by innovative solutions and mechanisms to address the complicated, interconnected development challenges of our time. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNDP's offer was adapted to respond to the urgent need for support on debt relief and restructuring. Through this extended offer, UNDP is supporting SIDS to expand access to traditional and innovative finance, including through encouraging private sector investments, supporting the development of blended financial instruments, enabling financing for conservation and debt restructuring through mechanisms including blue bonds and leveraging domestic resource mobilization.

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.

Through the global offer for SIDS, UNDP has strengthened the coordination of global support provided to SIDS in order to bring coherence and efficiency in the support provided to Country Offices and Multi-Country Offices. This includes the establishment of strong internal SIDS-SIDS networks to support knowledge sharing across regions. UNDP's engagement with SIDS is rooted in UNDP's Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and is based on national demands and needs. It will include strengthening UNDP's programmatic engagement, increasing its ability to respond to urgent and emerging challenges, improving organizational agility and providing tailored, human-centered development. It builds on the organization's multi-sectoral and diverse programmatic portfolio, its broad development expertise and experience, and its valuable network of traditional and non-traditional partners. The offer is closely aligned with the spirit of General Assembly resolution 72/279 on a repositioned UN development system, particularly the Multi Country Office Review and the Regional Review.

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. 2020 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	\$ 40,950,220	\$ 61,793,925	2020
Climate Change	\$ 33,561,422	\$ 54,710,932	2020
Sustainable Energy	\$ 17,692,021	\$ 29,236,996	2020
Disaster Risk Reduction	\$ 18,895,579	\$ 27,679,971	2020
Oceans and Seas	\$10,243,914	\$ 12,980,251	2020
Food Security and Nutrition	\$ 5,630,910	\$ 6,665,079	2020
Water and Sanitation	\$ 8,430,017	\$ 10,393,078	2020
Sustainable Transportation	\$ 4,549,512	\$ 4,813,609	2020
Sustainable Consumption and Production	\$ 15,589,645	\$ 20,321,716	2020
Chemical and Waste management	\$ 5,586,548	\$ 6,081,725	2020

Health and NCDs	\$ 23,706,639	\$ 30,396,760	2020
Gender Equality	\$12,778,120	\$ 16,241,031	2020
Social Development	\$ 67,588,301	\$ 89,260,200	2020
Biodiversity	\$ 15,826,955	\$ 20,494,693	2020
Means of Implementation	\$ 43,242,780	\$ 65,758,978	2020
Other (COVID)	\$ 7,323,936	\$ 9,982,089	2020
Total	\$ 331,596,521	\$ 466,811,033	

About: The above estimated figures are based on mapping the UNDP projects in SIDS (560 approved and ongoing projects covering 50 SIDS in 2020) to SAMOA pathway priorities, to capture UNDP’s multidimensional approaches to complex development challenges. Financial figures are divided equally to the mapped SAMOA Pathway priorities. All project data is available at the [UNDP Transparency Portal](#).

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)**

UNDP has helped conduct Socio-Economic Impact Assessments in 18 SIDS and for the Asia Pacific region led in close cooperation with partners. These are a critical element for an adequate green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, enabling the ability to set proper baselines and conduct impact assessments to inform action on the ground and the development of evidence-based recovery plans.

Under first pillar of UNDP’s Offer, Climate Action, UNDP focuses on three entry points: energy transition; climate adaptation and resilience; and nature-based solutions. In 2020, UNDP supported 38 SIDS through its energy portfolio, with vertically funded projects amounting to USD 192 million from grants. **UNDP launched the [Climate Investment Platform \(CIP\)](#) launched alongside partners including IRENA and SEforAll, a partnership that aims to declutter the climate finance space and facilitate investments in clean energy.** Through the partnership UNDP is supporting governments of Sao Tome e Principe, Comoros and Vanuatu. Recently, the CIP has launched a call for proposals that aims to unlock investments in projects that advance climate action and energy security in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

UNDP is capitalizing on the Climate Promise to promote green inclusive recovery across SIDS. **UNDP is currently working with 28 SIDS to enhance their NDCs under the [Climate Promise](#)** (12 Caribbean, 10 Asia Pacific, 6 Africa). As part of Contingency planning is currently ongoing in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, including assessing shifting timelines for NDC submissions. UNDP is undertaking country-by-country analyses to provide insights on the practical adjustments needed,

the capacity and political will of governments, and the appetite for building climate action and NDC enhancement into COVID-19 recovery. The situation varies across countries and regions, given practical limitations and political will. In SIDS, addressing connectivity issues and preparing for simultaneous disaster risk is key. UNDP is working with SIDS to address their unique challenges and vulnerabilities to ensure that they can take ambitious climate action.

In support of SIDS' ambitions for a blue green recovery, and as part of the second pillar of the UNDP SIDS offer, **UNDP's Blue Economy investments have been scaled up to USD 210 million including current and upcoming projects.** UNDP is supporting and plans to support requests from several countries on developing National Blue Economy Strategies including Mauritius, Maldives, Papua New Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Solomon Islands. UNDP's MCO in Barbados and OECS is currently supporting 5 Caribbean SIDS in implementing Blue Economy activities. In addition, UNDP has supported blue economy scoping studies in Barbados and Dominica as well as a blue economy roadmap and strategy for the British Virgin Islands. A Blue Economy Scoping Study in Montserrat is being finalized.

Under the third pillar Digital Transformation UNDP is supporting SIDS to take advantage of the opportunities of a digital age, while managing the associated challenges and overcoming existing constraints in access and capacity. UNDP is furthermore receiving requests from SIDS to support the development of national digital strategies. **The Global SIDS Team and UNDP Chief Digital Office are rolling out a new a rapid [digital readiness assessment](#) to serve as an entry point for building national digital strategies** with governments by assessing priorities for a whole-of-society approach to digital transformation. The tool has been piloted in Dominica and Grenada and is set for expansion across SIDS in 2021. Furthermore, UNDP has piloted the development of a vision for a [Small Smart State in Grenada](#), embracing new technologies for whole-of-society transformation

The UNDP [digital micro-level impact assessment tool](#) is currently in use in 7 SIDS. It allows analyses at the macro, meso, and micro levels by combining secondary data reviews, harnessing the power of data science and leveraging innovative data sources including Big Data and satellite imagery. Household and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSMEs) surveys have been tailored to national objectives and contexts. The tool can inform a) government prioritization of resources for relief and recovery, and b) strategic planning on mitigating the secondary impacts of COVID-19 on households and MSMEs.

Examples across SIDS:

To support long-term economic resilience in SIDS, UNDP has ongoing initiatives to help governments diversify economies. The Sustainable Economic Empowerment and Development for SMEs (SEEDS) project in **the Maldives** aims to strengthen productive capacity in agriculture and promote food security through building entrepreneurship amongst farmers, – creating a new generation of agri-businesses that are innovative, productive and practice environment friendly agriculture.

In Samoa, the initiative, “COVID-19 Preparedness and Recovery: Diversification of the Economic Sector in Samoa” aims to accelerate socio-economic recovery through the revitalization, diversification and expansion of the agriculture and fisheries sector to unlock the potential of green and blue economy, while adopting a Human Security approach to create sustainable employment opportunities for the vulnerable, particularly women and youth.

As a key sector for many SIDS' economies, UNDP is supporting the rebuilding of more sustainable

and diversified tourism industries. For example, in the **Dominican Republic**, UNDP is supporting a National Plan for a Responsible Recovery of Tourism and promote local socioeconomic recovery, with a sustainable, inclusive approach. Similar efforts are ongoing in the Maldives, where an initiative aims to diversify the tourism offerings, taking a multidimensional, whole-of-society approach, ensuring a sector that is resilient to external shocks, inclusive and sustainable. The **Barbados and OECS Multi-country Office** are also focusing efforts on the [tourism sector](#), and continuing to support the reconversion efforts of MSMEs that need technical and financial assistance to transition from an in-person, physical interaction business model to a virtual one built around high quality, remote engagement.

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 contribution to the United Nations system's response to paragraph 8.a of the SIDS Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 2020 (A/RES/75/215), UNDP has developed a discussion paper entitled, [Towards a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index \(MVI\)](#). The proposed MVI reflects traditional and emerging risks facing not only SIDS but all developing countries. The analysis of which demonstrates that all but five SIDS are far more vulnerable than their income level would suggest. This implies the urgent need to reconsider eligibility for concessional financing, using the MVI, non-LDC SIDS could save close to 1.5% of GDP annually if their long-term external public and publicly guaranteed debt was funded at the same average interest rate of LDC-SIDS.

MCO Review: Innovative Finance Design Facility

In response to the call for coherent, effective and efficient UN coverage and collaboration in MCO settings identified through the 2019 MCO Review, the Inter-Agency Working Group committed to exploring the establishment of an Innovative Finance Design Facility. UNDP has been the penholder of developing a joint concept note proposing a facility that would enable countries and territories covered by MCOs to access to financial instruments, ensuring a coherent and coordinated approach, simplifying the point of access of support for countries.

Financing SDGs

SIDS are targeted for several existing initiatives at UNDP, including the [Global Fund for Coral Reefs \(GFCR\)](#) and the SDG Joint Fund programming. Related, the SDG Joint Fund call UNDP responded to has extensive opportunities for harnessing the blue economy, unlocking SDG financing, reinforcing national planning systems by aligning budgets and planning, operationalizing Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs):

- [SDG Programmatic bonds \(SPBs\)](#) that address the twin challenges of high debt and large SDG financing gaps. A US\$250 million SPB framework is proposed for the **Maldives**, as a means to achieve a government priority SDG target while also bringing in equity that would enable the government to restructure its foreign debt.
- UNDP has conducted [Development Finance Assessments](#) and [Integrated National Financing Frameworks \(INFF\)](#) inter alia in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste, Cook Islands, Niue and Cabo Verde. In light of the pandemic, the Pacific Office is pivoting developing financing efforts to cost National COVID 19 recovery strategies and also support the strengthening of INFFs.
- The **Global Coral Reef Fund** launched by UNDP with MPTFO and private partners currently piloted in two SIDS. The ambition of the Fund is to raise and invest at least USD 500 million for coral reef conservation by 2030. A blended finance instrument, it addresses the vast ‘coral reef funding gap’ by catalyzing private sector support (providing risk equity capital, debt and grant funding) to deliver smart solutions at scale to save coral reefs and related ecosystems.
 - Through the GFCR, UNDP and partners, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy in [Fiji will create a blended finance facility](#) and build capacity to mobilize private and public investment capital to invest in private sector initiatives with a focus on the conservation and protection of coastal reefs and marine life ecosystems.
- **Blue finance:** Through the [SDG Fund on Blue Finance](#), UNDP and partners will support governments in Barbados, Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines with the development of an enabling and supporting environment for financing the Blue Economy, by identifying policy and regulation gaps, developing a methodology to identify key Blue Economy opportunities, and defining specific financing mechanisms to achieve resilient growth. In the Pacific, a USD 1.5 million RFF project in cooperation with UNCDF will be used to put in place a Blue Bond.