

# **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 UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) is the UN focal point for disaster risk reduction and oversees the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. As per paragraph 15, the Sendai Framework applies to “the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks.” Implementation of the Sendai Framework is critical for the successful implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. SIDS suffer from extreme vulnerability and exposure to disaster risk, with limited capability for risk prevention and absorption. The Sendai Framework recognizes SIDS particular vulnerabilities to disasters, which can impact their progress towards attainment of the 2030 Agenda, the critical need to build their resilience, and the importance of providing them with particular support in the area of DRR (para 42). Although UNDRR does not have a standalone SIDS strategy, SIDS are a priority for the organization. UNDRR is developing a consolidated ‘offer’ of programmatic support to SIDS and countries covered by Multi-Country Offices.

A key activity of UNDRR that supports SIDS is the monitoring of the Sendai Framework, which shares indicators with the 2030 Agenda and was recognized by the General Assembly as having complementarities and synergies with the future monitoring of the SAMOA pathway.<sup>2</sup> The number of SIDS currently reporting in the online Sendai Framework Monitor has increased from 12 in April 2020 to 22 in April 2021. In support of SIDS reporting through the Sendai Framework Monitor, UNDRR developed an online training in partnership with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC). In partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC), UNDRR is updating records of recent

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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.

<sup>2</sup> A/RES/74/3 p31(k), A/RES/74/217 p20, A/RES/75/215 p21

disasters in the Pacific Damage and Loss system. Support has been given to National Disaster Management Offices in the Pacific SIDS, including Fiji, Kiribati, and the Solomon Islands, to increase collaboration with National Statistics Offices and report disaster data. However, limited data entry and lack of disaggregated reported data remain a key challenge, and there is a need for further capacity strengthening.

The implementation of Sendai Framework Target E, the development of national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction, as well as the development of national disaster risk profiles are two of UNDRR's other activities in SIDS. Examples of the work of UNDRR towards this aim include the performance of a Disaster Risk Management Strategy Report performed in partnership with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center in the Maldives, used to inform revision of the country's DRR strategy, and the development of a policy landscape mapping in Comoros in consultation with national stakeholders to inform the development of a DRR strategy and establish a multi-stakeholder national platform for DRR. In close coordination with the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), UNDRR has technically and financially supported the development of national strategies for disaster risk reduction in 19 of CDEMA's Member States, in synergy with existing climate change adaptation initiatives and in line with the regional CDM Strategy 2014-2024. Through UNDRR's Coherent Approach, UNDRR and UNFCCC in partnership with a range of interagency partners plan support to 24 SIDS<sup>3</sup> in aligning policies, financing, and implementation of National Adaptation Plans and national DRR strategies. The Coherent Approach will help accelerate progress to achieve the 2030 Agenda by strengthening synergies between DRR and climate change adaptation, identifying mutually beneficial opportunities across policies and programs and enhancing the capacity of governments to do cross-sectoral planning while ensuring vertical alignment.

## **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.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, across all its regional offices and Headquarters, supports the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, including activities in support of SIDS.

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<sup>3</sup> Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Bahamas, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Comoros, Mauritania, Fiji, Kiribati, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

Priorities	Investment (USD)	Budget Allocation	FY/ Cycle/ 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			
Other			
<b>Total</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 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 combination of COVID-19 and concurrent hazards underlines the urgent need to implement the Sendai Framework as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda. National strategies for disaster risk reduction (DRR), the implementation of Sendai Framework Target E, helped countries respond. For example, the Maldives used selected provisions of the National Disaster Management Act to facilitate

multi-agency coordination, and the application of disaster risk management regulations also helped Pacific countries respond to the dual impact of disasters resulting from natural hazards, including Cyclone Harold, and COVID-19.

Moving forward, countries must review and update their national DRR strategies and legal frameworks to incorporate lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis and integrate the Bangkok Principles for the Implementation of the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework, which call for an inter-operable, multi-sectoral approach to promote systematic cooperation, integration and, ultimately, coherence between disaster and health risk management. UNDRR will continue to provide guidance to the development and refinement of national strategies for DRR, including to promote their alignment with National Adaptation Plans in line with its Coherent Approach.<sup>4 5</sup>

At the pandemic's onset, UNDRR rapidly adapted from offline capacity development programs to provide online webinars, courses, and knowledge exchanges on DRR. Webinars of particular relevance for a resilient post COVID-19 recovery in SIDS included those on a multi-dimensional risk lens for graduating countries in Asia-Pacific, DRR and health, addressing climate-related disasters during the COVID-19 pandemic, risk communication, and recovery planning. Relevant reports include "Practical Lessons for Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic: Principles for Recovery," published by the International Recovery Platform, which offers a set of guiding, action-oriented principles and practical cases to plan and implement recovery. The report "The COVID19 Pandemic: An opportunity towards a systemic approach to disaster risk for the Caribbean", developed jointly with ECLAC, points to the need for strengthened regional integration and cooperation across sectors to address multiple hazards, including those occurring simultaneously.

Partnerships will also be critical to build resilience in SIDS. UNDRR has developed roll-out strategies in four of the Pacific SIDS for 2021, and will support similar strategies in cities in the Caribbean SIDS for 2021 for its Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) campaign, aimed at building local resilience. UNDRR has also worked with the Caribbean Chambers of Commerce (CARICHAM) to promote business resilience and continuity through the implementation of UNDRR's ARISE Network<sup>6</sup> strategy.

#### **4. Financing for Sustainable Development in SIDS**

The road to recovery post-COVID-19 will be challenging for SIDS. They will need new

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<sup>4</sup> The Target E Coherent Approach, launched in November 2019 in partnership with the UNFCCC and other key partners, aims to accelerate climate sensitive and risk-informed development by promoting policy coherence and integrated national plans to accelerate action towards both the Sendai Framework for the Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the UNFCCC Paris Agreement within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

<sup>5</sup> For example, UNDRR has been collaborating with UNDP and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to develop its national DRR plan and enable alignment with its NAP and National Development Plan.

<sup>6</sup> The ARISE Network is a Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies is a network of private sector entities led by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

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)

Financing for disaster risk reduction (DRR) must have an increased focus on the prevention of the creation of new disaster risk and reduction of existing systemic risk. Disaster and climate risk management must also be embedded into core economic planning. DRR requires a layered financial approach to provide a range of tools in a common framework, as no single financial instrument is optimal for all risk scenarios. Financial instruments, policies and legislation should seek to incentivize risk reduction and finance 'building back better,' including by the private sector. Building on its 2019 Report "Opportunities to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate resilience into sustainable finance," UNDRR is finalizing a study that will address the report's 11 recommendations to outline critical steps and practical actions to be taken to advance these recommendations globally.

Since 2015, UNDRR and the Government of Singapore have been conducting trainings on the Sendai Framework, which in 2019 were open for ministries of planning and finance. In the Caribbean, UNDRR with the support of the Government of Singapore, is planning a course this year on Understanding Risk Management and Risk Financing for Disaster Resilience, which aims to support Caribbean SIDS to enhance their risk-financing and resilience governance and increase coherence between DRR, climate and sustainable development financing strategies. In addition to this, the UNDRR's report "The COVID-19 Pandemic: An opportunity towards a systemic approach to disaster risk for the Caribbean" presents measures to increase fiscal space for DRR.

In the Pacific, UNDRR is working with the Pacific Resilience Partnership to develop a M+E framework for the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific, which can be used as an opportunity to strengthen national disaster and climate financing systems and track funding's effectiveness. In partnership with UNDP, UNDRR organized a consultation on "Public Expenditure for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risks Reduction,"<sup>7</sup> which mapped current and ongoing initiatives in budget and expenditure tracking and opportunities for collaborative arrangements to inform and achieve Sendai Framework Targets E and F, and highlighted the need for integrated climate change adaptation (CCA) and DRR tagging and tracking systems to understand current trends and enable their integration into cross-sectoral development policies and plans.

In Africa, UNDRR published the São Tomé and Príncipe: Risk-sensitive Budget Review,<sup>8</sup> which analyses public investment planning for DRR. This report presents the findings of a Risk Sensitive Budget Review (RSBR) analysis of the country's budget from 2016 to 2018, performed by applying the OECD DAC DRR policy marker to São Tomé and Príncipe's domestically financed current and capital budgets.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.undrr.org/news/decoding-public-finance-disaster-risk-reduction-and-climate-investments>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.undrr.org/publication/sao-tome-and-principe-risk-sensitive-budget-review>