

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)**

UNESCO has developed a SIDS Action Plan (2016-2021) to contribute to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway.

The plan revolves around the 5 priority actions:

1. Enhancing island capacities to achieve sustainable development through education and the reinforcement of human and institution capacities.
2. Enhancing SIDS resilience and the sustainability of human interactions with ecological, freshwater and ocean systems.
3. Supporting SIDS in their management of social transformations and the promotion of social inclusion and social justice.
4. Preserving tangible and intangible cultural heritage and promoting culture for island sustainable development.
5. Increasing connectivity, information management and knowledge sharing.

The Action Plan was reviewed in 2019, allowing for identification of specific activities for 2020-2021.

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.

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.

UNESCO supports SIDS through regular programme budget and extra budgetary funding. SIDS are also supported through the UNESCO Participation Programme and emergency assistance. The financial breakdown below gives only figures that directly benefit SIDS. As an UN organization with a mandate to strengthen international cooperation in its fields of competence, UNESCO's support to SIDS is broader and includes the delivery of an important number of intergovernmental programmes and activities that have global and regional coverage; this support is not necessarily reflected in the table below. UNESCO's gender equality related action is mainstreamed throughout all programmes and activities.

Priorities	Investment (USD)	Budget Allocation	FY/ Cycle/ Period
Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth	9,460 654	1,993,514	Jan-Dec 2020
Climate Change	559,703	547,898	Jan-Dec 2020
Sustainable Energy	-	-	-
Disaster Risk Reduction	567,588	548,108	Jan-Dec 2020
Oceans and Seas	455,734	554,276	Jan-Dec 2020
Food Security and Nutrition	-	-	-
Water and Sanitation	560,317	339,707	Jan-Dec 2020
Sustainable Transportation	-	-	-
Sustainable Consumption and Production	-	-	-
Chemical and Waste management	-	-	-
Health and NCDs	-	-	-
Gender Equality	580,030	206,279	Jan-Dec 2020
Social Development	6,389,724	3,917,181	Jan-Dec 2020
Biodiversity	421,578	351,043	Jan-Dec 2020
Means of Implementation	1,698, 581	1,375,207	Jan-Dec 2020
Other	1,693,076	1,030,898	Jan-Dec 2020
Total	22,386, 985	10,864,111	

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)**

In Education, UNESCO will support sector-wide education policy review, quality improvement focusing on skills development to address climate change and environmental challenges including teacher professional development. It will also strengthen capacities for the 'greening of TVET' and carry out policy advice and dialogue, capacity development and monitoring achievement of relevant normative instruments.

In Natural Sciences, UNESCO will continue to address climate change, DRR and resilience building, including reducing vulnerabilities to tsunamis through early warning systems. Support will be provided also to conservation, protection, management and sustainable use of biodiversity, oceans, seas and their resources, promoting open sciences and ocean science. Emphasis will be on the development and strengthening of inclusive policy systems and governance as well as strengthening capacities and increase opportunities of vulnerable groups, in particular of women, youth and indigenous peoples, including in STEM. UNESCO's leadership of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) through its the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission is a great opportunity for strengthening of Ocean Science and blue economies in SIDS.

Social and Human Sciences work focuses mainly on youth development and sport. Youth are supported in a number of ways through capacity building and networking programs such as the Caribbean Youth Climate Network, and sports through technical assistance for planning such as the Pacific Sport Physical Activity and Physical Education Action Plan.

In Culture, the focus will be on supporting cultural and natural heritage management and development of cultural and creative industries, addressing poverty, unemployment, inequality and exclusion through economic growth and diversification.

Reinforcement of capacities for preparedness and response is meant to increase resilience for the protection of SIDS cultural and natural heritage against natural hazards impact and climate change.

In Communication and Information, actions will prioritize supporting SIDS in fostering free, independent and pluralistic media, engaging them in international initiatives and national

assessments on the state of media and information literacy, as well as on internet universality. Support will also be given to advancing access to and preservation of information in the form of documentary heritage and building capacities of SIDS to develop Open Solutions policies, including on Artificial Intelligence and promote young people skills acquisition for innovation and digital technologies.

UNESCO is participating in the “multidimensional vulnerability index” joint initiative of Resident Coordinators Offices across SIDS. UNESCO is also part of the multi-country offices review and will continue to be engaged at the highest level on the implementation of this review.

UNESCO is equally fostering south-south cooperation and cross-regional learning by continuing developing innovative, multi-stakeholder South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation partnerships with governments, civil society and professional institutions to expand and deepen its support to SIDS to achieve long-term results. To strengthen policy and technical capacities available to SIDS and inform UNESCO's SIDS-specific global actions UNESCO is organizing consultations at SIDS-level on various topics including: the Ethics of AI, Media and Information Literacy, Open Science, Racism and Discrimination, Culture and Disaster Resilience.

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**)

Within the framework of its new Comprehensive Partnerships Strategy, UNESCO is actively engaging with SIDS Member States, focusing in capacity development activities, data and information management and strategic partnership building and resources mobilization. Advocacy will be carried out through a series of dialogues on specific issues of concerns with the SIDS and other partners in the specific domains of UNESCO.

In response to the by COVID19 induced school closure, UNESCO in collaboration with SDG4 partners has launched the Global Education Coalition bringing in partners for the development and access to distance and blended education modalities. Those modalities aim at reducing the digital divide and will also benefit SIDS and provide opportunities for improved delivery through 21st century technologies. Open and distance learning will also be promoted for the recovery of natural hazards induced disasters.

Through the UN Decade on Oceans Science, the opportunities for expanding economic gains by improved knowledge and good governance of oceans will be promoted while the International Decade on Ecosystems will provide an opportunity to enhance biodiversity promotion.

Looking at the adverse impact of the pandemic on the tourism sector and the related cultural and creative industries, UNESCO will support SIDS to enhance capacity building for cultural and heritage preservation, ensuring that culture is integrated in national recovery plans including through its World Heritage Sites programmes.