

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)**

At the global level, WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW), which spans 2019-2023, has a platform for addressing the health effects of climate change in small island developing States. Global goals include tripling health-related climate finance by 2023 and ensuring that health systems in all small island developing States are resilient to the impacts of extreme weather events and climate-sensitive diseases by 2030. Additionally, WHO's Investment case for 2019-2023 identifies increased health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in small island developing states as a priority for funding.

WHO's programme budget for 2020-2021 operationalises the GPW and specifies that WHO will support small island States' capacity for assessing health vulnerability, risks and impacts due to climate change and to implement the action plan for the WHO special initiative on climate change and health in small island developing States.

In the Western Pacific Region, *For the Future* (the Region's implementation plan for the GPW 13) identified climate change, the environment and health as one of four main thematic priorities, acknowledging that more natural disasters associated with climate change are adding to the Region's trauma burden, and that rising sea levels are threatening to erode whole islands and atolls. There are also country cooperation strategies (medium-term strategies agreed between WHO and each country) and biennial workplans developed with Pacific and Caribbean based SIDS, based on their priorities. In addition, WHO/PAHO has a

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.

multi-country cooperation strategy for the Eastern Caribbean and a cooperation agreement for the UK Overseas Territories.

In the Pacific, there is a team based in the Division of Pacific Technical Support (a decentralized division of the Regional Office for the Western Pacific), that in collaboration with Manila-based divisions works with Pacific Island governments and partners to: enhance their capacity to assess health risks; develop and implement policies, strategies or regulations for the prevention, mitigation and management of the health impacts of environmental risks; and advocate for multi-sectoral engagement to address environmental hazards for which responsibility lies beyond health.

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 budget allocated to the Pacific Island States in WHO for the period 2020-2021 is approximately \$40 Million. This budget allocation predominantly applies to the Health and NCDs and Climate Change SAMOA programme areas, however it also would have application to the listed priority areas in the table of Water and Sanitation and Gender Equality.

In this report, WHO's presence includes that of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). PAHO is the oldest international public health agency in the world. Since 1949, PAHO, through its Directing Council and Sanitary Bureau, has also served as the WHO Regional Office and Regional Committee for the Americas, while maintaining its separate and independent status as PAHO. Caribbean activities are funded by PAHO and therefore budget data is not included in this report.

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			
Total			

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)**

WHO is convening a virtual high-level health summit for small island developing states on 28-29 June 2021 to address the way forward to a healthy recovery and future. The Summit will include a virtual signing of the SIDS Summit for Health Call to Action with 40 SIDS Heads of State/Government.

WHO has a strong physical presence in many of the SIDS to provide on-site policy and technical support on priority health issues.

WHO is supporting the participation of Pacific small island States in COP 26 (including the Race to Zero events).

The COVID-19 Pacific Joint Incident Management Team provides tailored support to the

Pacific small island States' COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts. COVID-19 has accelerated work to strengthen national systems for surveillance of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases, as well as health information systems to support vaccine pre-registration. Strengthening of health information systems is a priority intervention area for both Caribbean and Pacific small island States, for example, in the Caribbean islands, WHO is supporting implementation of IS4H (Information Systems For Health) which promotes the use of comprehensive information systems for the development of disease prevention, health promotion and healthcare throughout the life course. In the Pacific, WHO is also supporting small island States to work together to strengthen their health information systems, and convenes the Pacific Health Information Network (<https://phindigitalhealth.org/>).

Interventions related to the International Health Regulations and strengthening national epidemiological systems in have also been stepped up in the Caribbean small island States. In addition, through funding from a number of Development Donors, SMART Health Facilities, which are not only resilient to natural disasters (such as hurricanes) but also put into practice the “Greening” of health facilities with the use of solar energy, reduced water use and in general decreased carbon footprints, are being rolled out in most Caribbean islands either through retrofitting of current facilities or by working with Governments to have new facilities built with the SMART concept. In the Pacific, WHO recently supported Fiji to launch its national Guidelines for Climate Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Health Care Facilities, developed over several years.

Other interventions/programmes towards resilience include safe and affordable surgery (Pacific health ministers raised this as a priority in the 2019 World Health Assembly) and technical support and capacity building of Pacific small island States as per SAMOA Pathway/SDGs (eg: NCDs, Universal Health, Climate Change Adaptation for the Health Sector).

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**)

WHO/PAHO works systematically to support all the Countries, territories and departments in the Caribbean to access funds from different donors, multi-partner trust funds, international financial institutions etc. Many Caribbean countries are using the PAHO

Strategic and Revolving funds to procure drugs and vaccines. In the Caribbean, all bilateral programmes are individually funded, as agreed by relevant Member States, Territories and Departments. WHO/PAHO currently allocates specific funds to each of the independent countries in the Caribbean, each of the UK Overseas territories, and some of the bigger Dutch islands, while it has clustered funding for the smaller Dutch islands and the French territories in the Caribbean. This is aligned with the Biennial workplans which are developed in a bottom-up approach with prioritization identified by the Governments/Senior Officials of the individual Member State, Territory or Department. Recently, the Green Climate Fund approved an important multi-country climate change and health readiness project submitted by WHO and seven of the Caribbean Community Member States.

In the Pacific, WHO mobilizes resources for the Pacific small island States collectively, acknowledging the shared challenges and economies of scale offered by a common (but adaptable) solution. The Global Environment Facility approved 17.9 million US dollars for the largest ever health and climate project for health adaptation of the Pacific Least developed countries: Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) is funding health system strengthening so that Pacific small island States are more climate resilient. WHO is also supporting Pacific small island States in accessing Asian Development Bank and World Bank funds through the COVID-19 Vaccine Introduction Readiness Assessment Tool.