

GOAL Global Written Submission to the UN Ocean Conference 2022

Our shared Ocean is under threat from climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss and action is urgently needed. The impact human behaviour is having on the ocean is greatly increasing the risk of humanitarian crises particularly in coastal communities and coastal cities. GOAL Global is taking action through its innovative 'Resilience of the Blue Economy' programme under its Crisis to Resilience strategy.

The future of food security is Blue. Over 3 billion people depend on the oceans for their food security and the oceans offer the potential to provide a sustainable source of food for a global population of 10 billion people. GOAL supports and promotes sustainable Blue food to respond to food insecurity in fragile and conflict affected contexts such as Haiti and elsewhere.

GOAL welcomes the 2022 UN Ocean Conference (UNOC) as a platform for collaborative engagement on scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14. GOAL itself partnered with UNITAR, UNCTAD, IOI, One Ocean Hub, CAF and Marine Institute Ireland on an official UNOC side event [*"From Ocean Knowledge to Action: Developing capacity to create a sustainable ocean economy"*](#) on Thursday 30 June. This well attended side-event explored how ocean data, knowledge and literacy can powerfully impact ocean action and innovation with GOAL's Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean presenting on GOAL's 'Resilience of the Blue Economy' programme.

GOAL Global Recommendations

- GOAL considers a sustainable Blue Economy as an opportunity to address the global food security crisis and for building sustainable partnerships through local systems, as a way forward to scale up ocean action. GOAL therefore argues in favour of building partnerships through a local systems approach, particularly those relating to partnerships in support of Small Island Developing States and indigenous and marginalised communities.
- GOAL supports a focus on localization and putting the management of marine coastal resources into the hands of local communities. In our work, this local systems approach has driven successful management of natural resources ensuring equitable access to natural resources and incentivizes improved management. This is highlighted in GOAL's current work in using the Resilience for Social Systems (R4S) approach; a tool that analyses the resilience of critical socio-economic systems and proposes recommendations for their strengthening in order to build more inclusive and resilient societies.
- GOAL further supports the importance given to all integral dimensions of the Blue Economy and the necessity of fostering global and transnational cooperation towards a macro-regional approach. To this end, GOAL emphasizes the need for improved and strengthened cooperation among organisations and countries through existing frameworks, initiatives, and programmes. This is highlighted through GOAL's own

approach of delivering programmes in Emergency Response, Food & Nutrition Security, Resilient Health and Sustainable Livelihoods across 14 countries, with programmes like the 'Resilience of the Blue Economy' delivered through diverse partners throughout the LAC region. GOAL also promotes Global Citizenship, recognising that we all share responsibility for a better world.

- GOAL believes that authorities responsible for Research, Development and Innovation at national level should support further developments in the Blue Economy. GOAL suggests that stakeholders seeking to actively contribute to a sustainable Blue Economy, should develop a dedicated Research and Innovation Strategy that invests in and supports innovation.
- GOAL believes that access to programs and facilities (such as GOAL's Programme Innovation Lab) for innovative ideas in operational environments is essential to proofing performance, survivability, and reliability of solutions; it is necessary for the selection of "winning" ideas.
- In response to the lack of Deal Flow, GOAL emphasizes the need for an increased number of investment opportunities available to organisations in recognition of the significant investment potential and social impact investment interest in the Blue Economy.
- GOAL believes in the need for funding to support the development of partnerships and initiatives that can be presented for financing and eventually scaled. In particular, local systems approaches that provide sustainable solutions originating from Research and Innovation. Such approaches encompass the alignment of policy objectives, the coordination of policy and implementation instruments, programmes and the synchronisation of funding and investments.

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