

## RESPONSE to the QUESTIONNAIRE (JAPAN)

### Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the MSI of the BPOA for the Sustainable Development of SIDS

Please note that strict word limits have been established for each question. The Secretariat is unable to consider any information beyond these established word limits. In this regard, you are requested to report only on new or updated information. Information conveyed in previous surveys will not be considered. Previous surveys can be accessed at <https://sidsnetwork.org/> and <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/small-island-developing-states> under reports.

#### PART A

#### VULNERABILITY REDUCTION IN SIDS

##### 1. Enhanced Support for a Resilient Post-COVID-19 Recovery in SIDS

Vulnerability is one of the most crucial challenges faced by SIDS. Briefly elaborate on any ex-ante interventions or proactive/preventive strategies that have been or are being implemented at national and/or sub-regional levels that aim specifically at reducing exposure to external shocks and improving resilience in SIDS. Please include information on any financial resources expended in this regard, if available (750 words).

##### 2. Enhanced and Tailored Development Cooperation for SIDS

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the urgent need to ensure that responses to vulnerability must be at the heart of international policy aimed at supporting SIDS, and that better tailored development co-operation approaches, calibrated to the specific needs, capacity constraints, and economic challenges facing SIDS, are necessary. Briefly elaborate on any planned or ongoing strategies/approaches to improve and deliver on more tailored development support to SIDS. Please include indications of resource allocations, if available (750 words)

Japan has delivered bilateral aid to more than 15 SIDS countries with the purpose of helping them face a variety of challenges. It has provided grant aid of US\$4.3million to

Vanuatu, Palau, and Fiji, which intends to strengthen border control systems in response to the COVID-19 crisis (support for isolation facilities at border control offices, provision of quarantine equipment, etc.) , aiming to establish safe and smooth border control systems. It has also offered grant aid of US\$20.86 million to 14 Pacific island countries in order to strengthen the health care system against the new coronavirus crisis. This project aims to further develop the cold chain, secure medical personnel, manage information on the vaccination status, and provide correct information on the vaccine, in order to strengthen the vaccination system. Japan's grant aid contribution of US\$1.39million has also been made to the Cook Islands. It is intended to contribute to the economic and social development of the Cook Islands by providing the government with health and medical equipment and water quality and sanitation management equipment (ultrasonic scanners, trailers, etc.) to strengthen the country's health and medical systems and improve the water and sewage infrastructure environment, thereby stabilizing the society. Another grant aid of US\$3 million has been extended to food assistance to Timor-Leste in response to the COVID-19 crisis and the Flood emergency in addition to just over US\$462,000 to deliver support for reducing disaster risk and enhancing emergency preparedness. Japan has also provided grant aid of approximately US\$3.6 million to Maldives which intends to strengthen the capacities of the health service providers (procurement of a sea ambulance for medical evacuation and humanitarian and disaster relief operations). Japan has also been delivering support through the Project for Strengthening Sargassum Management Capacities in the Caribbean (US\$12.3 million), which aims to support the enhancement of capacity of Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago for the removal and disposal of Sargassum seaweed.

Moreover, Japan has provided loan assistance (COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan (Phase2)) of US\$9.26 million to Fiji. Through improving the business and investment environment and strengthening the health system, this contributes to mitigating and containing the socioeconomic impact of the outbreak in the country and promoting socioeconomic stability and development efforts through financial support to the government, which implements measures in the economic, financial, and health sectors, including public financial management, strengthening policy-making and promotion functions, promoting private sector investment. Japan has also provided loan assistance of up to US\$ 200 million to the Dominican Republic for the purpose of supporting its reform program under the Program to Strengthen Public Policy and Fiscal Management in Response to the Health and Economic Crisis Caused by COVID-19 in

the Dominican Republic by the Inter-American Development Bank.

In addition, technical assistance (amount undisclosed) has been delivered for the "Project for Capacity Development of ICU Using Telemedicine Under COVID-19 Pandemic" in Fiji, Tonga, and Palau, and the "Project for Pacific Co-learning Towards Resilient Health System" in the Pacific Basin (Tonga, Fiji, Micronesia, and Kiribati).

Japan's assistance to SIDs, particularly in healthcare, has also been extended in cooperation with WHO. It has provided just over US\$2.7 million to be used by WHO to contribute to building a more resilient health system and mitigate the health and socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea. The funds are used to; Strengthen institutional capacity at national and provincial level to plan, mitigate and respond to COVID-19 through capacity building, partnerships and collaborations; Strengthen community engagement and ownership of the COVID-19 response through local partnerships with communities, civil society and youth, and; Improve infection prevention and control practices at health facilities to prevent surges of cases, and protect health workers and patients. Japan has also provided US\$697,101 to Republic of Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of Palau through WHO project "Enhancing COVID-19 Preparedness and Response in remote and outer-islands in Northern Micronesia". This project addresses these urgent needs by strengthening and establishing national emergency medical teams, providing logistics and capacity building support, prepositioning critical equipment and supplies, and engaging with health workers and the communities in the remote islands in Marshall Islands, FSM and Palau.

(703 words)