

Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Pacific SIDS for the 4th International Conference on SIDS

Assessment of SAMOA Pathway Progress

Pacific SIDS

Mr Sudip Ranjan Basu

Deputy Head, ESCAP – Subregional Office for the Pacific

Mr. Roy Trivedy

International Consultant & Former Resident Coordinator in Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea

Nuku'alofa, Tonga

16-18 August 2023

1

Introduction

Click to edit text

Introduction of SAMOA Pathway and Progress Report

- The UN General Assembly Resolution 76/203 paragraph 20(a) calls for the convening of a Fourth International Conference on SIDS in Antigua and Barbuda in 2024.
- In preparation for the 2024 conference, three regional preparatory meetings (one in each of the three SIDS regions) and an inter-regional preparatory meeting for all SIDS are being convened in 2023. The preparatory meetings aim to identify key priorities for the 2024 Conference, while maximising coherence and complementarity for development of the SIDS.
- The SAMOA Pathway report with focuses on five thematic priority areas shows the progress in the thirteen Pacific SIDS and how the Pacific SIDS have utilized the SAMOA Pathway to support national and regional development.



Pacific Regional 10-Year Review of the SAMOA Pathway

DRAFT PAPER



Subregional Office for the Pacific

SIDS Global Programme: Since 1994



- Climate change and sea-level rise, natural and environmental disasters, management of wastes

- Graduation from least developed country status, trade, sustainable production and consumption, health, knowledge management, and culture

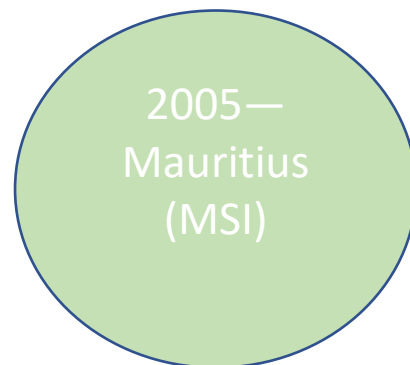
- Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Economic Growth with Decent Work for All, Climate change, Sustainable energy, DRR, Oceans and seas



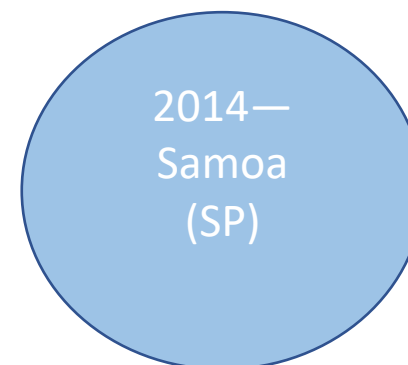
Identifying a new (+existing) set of priorities



14 –point
programme



19 –point
programme



15 –point
programme



SAMOA Pathway Priorities and 2030 Agenda/SDGs



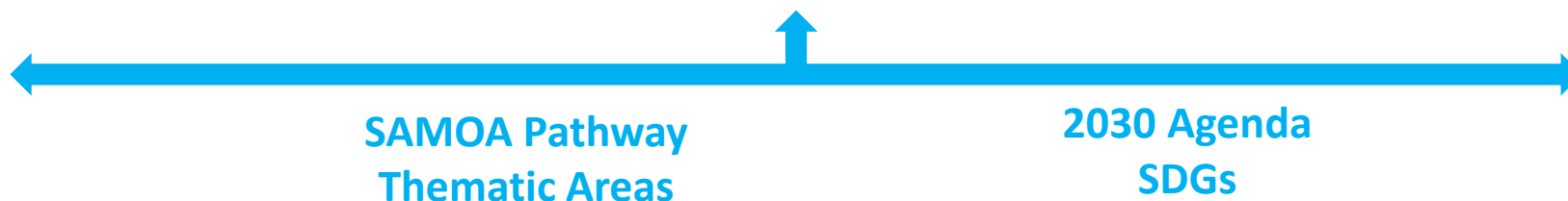
(1) Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth

(2) Act to mitigate climate change and adapt

(4) Improve human health and social development

(3) Protect the biodiversity and environmental health

(5) Fostering partnership



*SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway

2

Pacific SIDS Regional Overview

Background and context

Click to edit text

Background

Challenges

- SIDS face specific challenges based on **geographical locations** and their **remoteness from economic markets**, that affects their abilities to benefit from global supply chains and increases import, production and trading costs for energy and other material resources. This limits their competitiveness in tourism and other sectors and affects their abilities to attract inward investment.
- having relatively **small landmass**, small often **dispersed populations**, small size of economy and especially high exposure to external **environmental and economic threats** because of climate change.
- Most Pacific SIDS are susceptible to seismic movements and **volcanic eruptions**

Main resource of most SIDS in the Pacific includes:



Fish and seafood are major sources of food and income for most of the population of the SIDS, and many Pacific SIDS also export fish and seafood to other countries. Tuna is the most important fish species. The Pacific SIDS account for a significant share of the global tuna stocks.



Tourism - a major economic driver for many Pacific SIDS including the Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu. SIDS offer stunning scenery, beautiful beaches, and a variety of natural and cultural attractions. Tourism is a major source of foreign exchange for many SIDS. It creates employment and boosts economic growth.



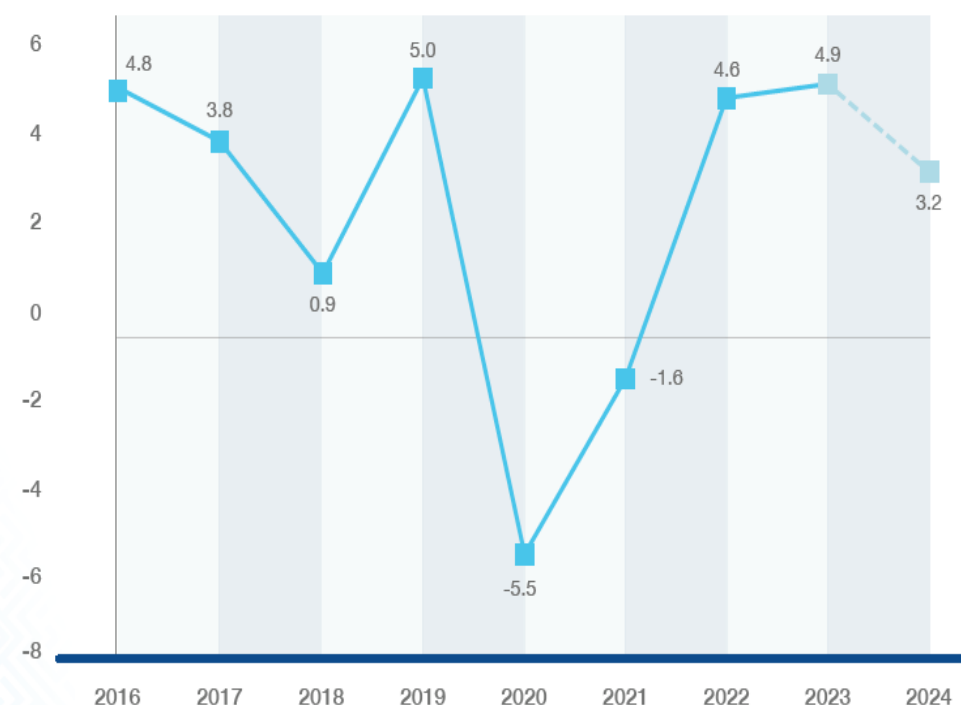
Agriculture and forestry are important sectors for most SIDS in the Pacific. Crops such as copra, bananas, coconuts, taro, sugar, palm oil, pineapples, tropical fruits, vanilla and coffee are grown on many SIDS, and they are exported to other countries. Subsistence agriculture is a major source of livelihoods, food and income in virtually all Pacific SIDS, and it helps to reduce poverty. Many people, especially women, depend on work in the informal sectors often linked to subsistence farming, fisheries and forestry.



Manufacturing – several Pacific SIDS have developed small manufacturing industries. Products such as clothing, electronics, and furniture are manufactured in several Pacific SIDS, and they are exported to other countries. Manufacturing is a significant source of employment for some SIDS, and it helps boost economic growth.

Economic growth

- GDP growth rates for the Pacific SIDS have fluctuated over the past decade. In general, economic growth has been slow, with an average annual growth rate of 2.2%.
- As the impact of the COVID pandemic gradually receded, national borders reopened and economic activities across the globe experienced a resurgence in 2021. However, the war in Ukraine, resulted in a simultaneous global economic slowdown and rising global food and energy prices in 2022.
- Foreign aid is a major source of financing for development in Pacific SIDS. However, the availability of foreign aid for the Pacific SIDS is declining.



Real GDP growth - Pacific island developing economies

Demographics

- The largest of the SIDS in Asia and the Pacific by population is Papua New Guinea, with about 10.3 million people, followed by Timor-Leste, with about 1.3 million people.
- The smallest SIDS by population are Niue with 1,936 people, Tuvalu, with 11,400 people, followed by Nauru, with about 12,800 people in 2023.

❖ **The demographic profiles of most Pacific SIDS are characterized by**

- **Young populations**
- **High urbanization**
- **High out-migration**
- **Ethnic diversity**
- **Low income**
- **High levels of non-communicable diseases**



Remittances

- In 2010, remittances to the Pacific SIDS totalled \$2.7 billion. By 2020, this figure had more than doubled to \$5.7 billion.
- In 2020, Fiji received an estimated US \$1.2 billion from Fijians working overseas mostly in Australia and New Zealand; Tonga received the most remittances, with \$1.8 billion, or 38% of GDP. Other countries with high levels of remittances include Samoa (29%), Vanuatu (22%), and Kiribati (17%).



Social context

- In the Pacific, the Modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (mCPR) is estimated to be 18-48%, well below the 62% average for Low Income Countries
- The persistently high total fertility rate of 3-4% compared to 1% globally reflects the low mCPR and high unmet need for family planning in the Pacific SIDS
- Non-Communicable Diseases are the leading cause of death in the Pacific region, accounting for around 75% of all deaths.
 - ❖ **The most common NCDs in the Pacific SIDS are:**
 - **Cardiovascular diseases**
 - **Diabetes**
 - **Cancer**
 - **Chronic respiratory diseases**



Climate change and risks

- Natural disasters, climate change, sea level rise, coastal erosion, saltwater intrusion, and loss of biodiversity contribute to making the SIDS vulnerable to external and environmental shocks

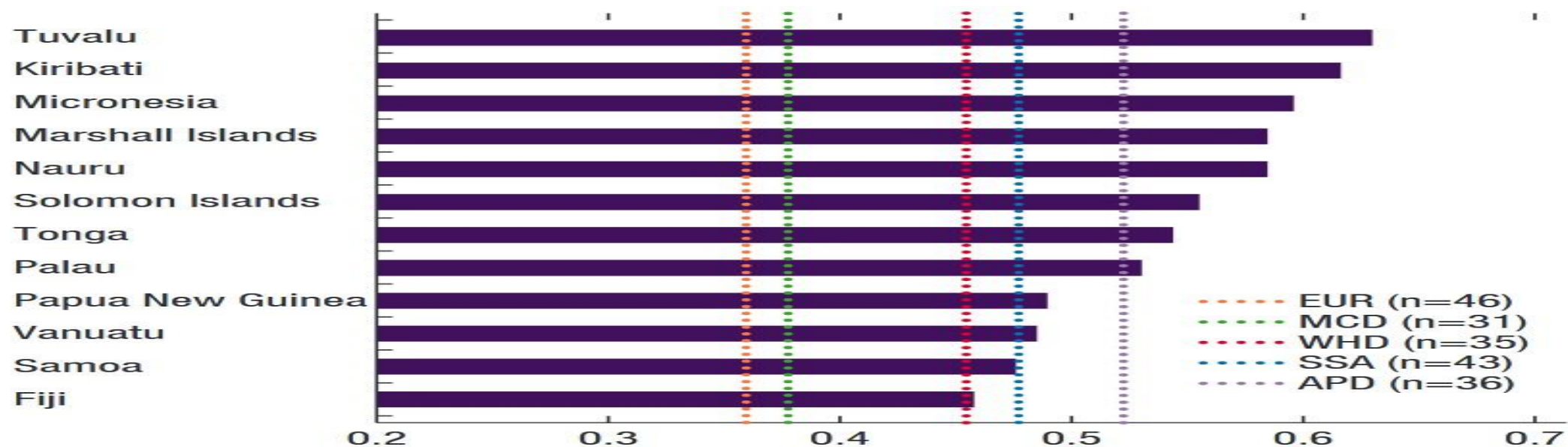


Figure 1. Index of Exposure to Climate Change, The World Risk Index 2021

Human Development

- **Variation in The Human Development Report for 2022 (Pacific):**

- Geographic location
- Climate change
- Economic development

SIDS ranked by HDI score

Country	HDI Score	Rank
Palau	0.801	1
Marshall Islands	0.736	2
Fiji	0.730	3
Vanuatu	0.722	4
Federated States of Micronesia	0.699	5
Kiribati	0.697	6
Solomon Islands	0.685	7
Cook Islands	0.661	8
Samoa	0.657	9
Tuvalu	0.647	10
American Samoa	0.672	11
Timor-Leste	0.634	12
Tonga	0.652	13
New Caledonia	0.754	14
Guam	0.742	15
French Polynesia	0.767	16
Cook Islands	0.667	17
Northern Mariana Islands	0.729	18
Niue	0.652	19
Papua New Guinea	0.629	20

Source: UNDP Human Development Report 2022

2

Pacific SIDS Regional Overview

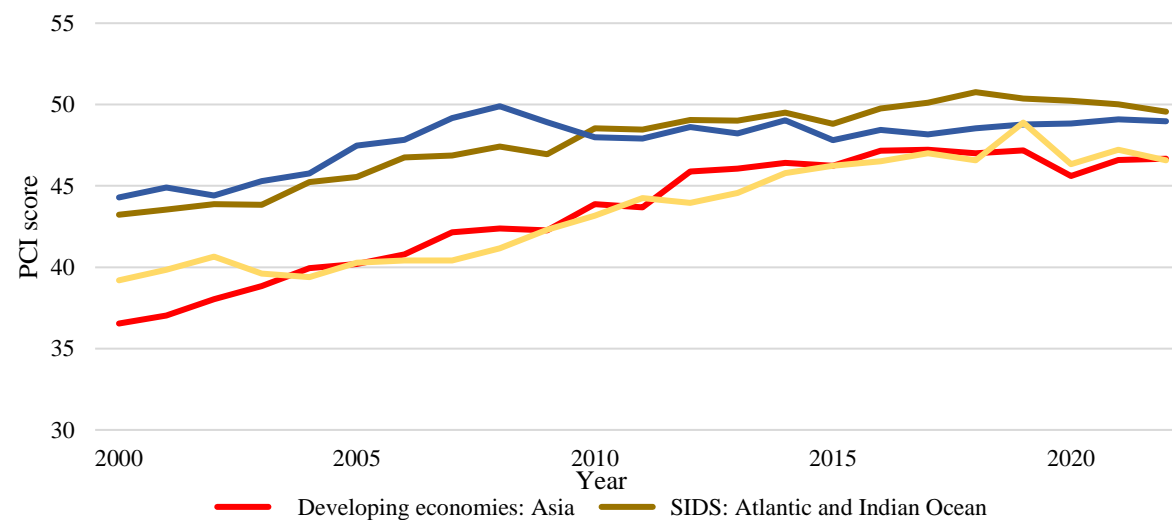
Assessment of the contributing factors to SAMOA Pathway progress

Click to edit text

Productive Capacities Index

- The PCI is a multidimensional index that covers eight components: Human capital; Natural capital; Energy; Information and Communication Technologies (ICT); Structural change; Transport; Institutions; and the Private sector.
- It assists policy makers to identify areas where targeted policies and interventions are needed to boost economic growth and achieve sustainable development.

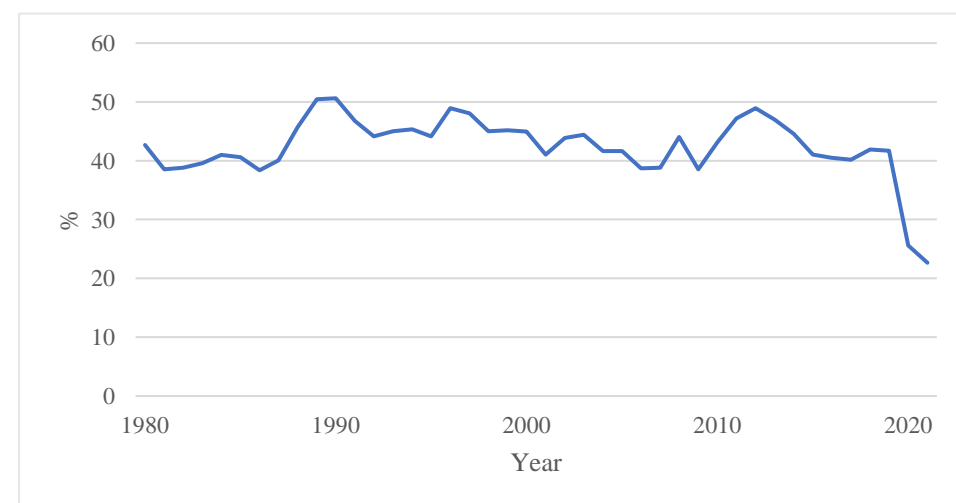
❖ Productive capacities index of selected regions, 2000-2022



Trade development and capacity

- Most middle-level and small Pacific Island countries depend on a narrow range of traditional export products, such as copra, cacao and handicrafts
- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) notes that the level of exports from SIDS in the Pacific and Asia for the period 2014 to 2022 has been relatively volatile.
- The main exports from SIDS in the Pacific and Asia were fisheries products, minerals, agricultural products, and tourism services.

Exports of goods and services (% of GDP) – Pacific Small Island States



Source: World Bank (2022)

Development Assistance

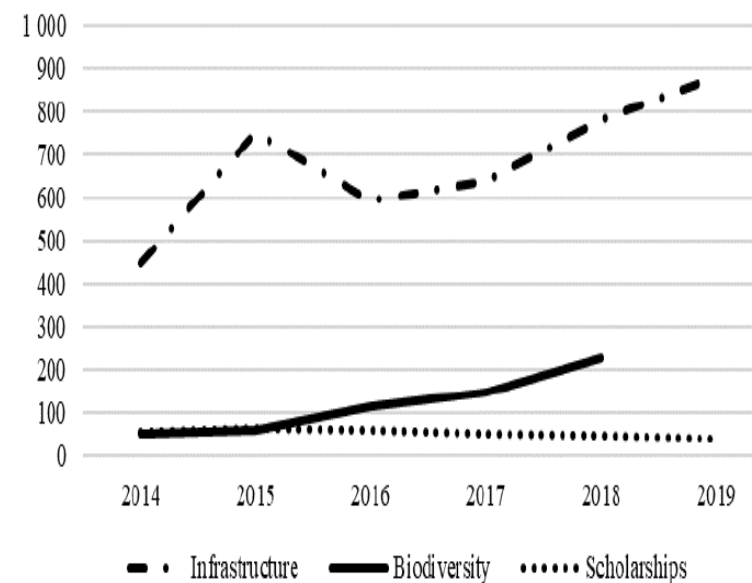
- Aid flows to the Pacific SIDS have been declining in recent years, and it has made it more difficult for these countries to invest in essential infrastructure, such as roads, schools, and hospitals
- The largest donors to the Pacific SIDS in 2023 were Australia, New Zealand, the European Union and the United States. The largest sectors receiving aid in 2023 were social infrastructure and services, economic infrastructure and services, and production

❖ Three points that we take note regarding the much of the data on official aid flows in the Pacific:

- ✓ First, the data focus on sovereign Pacific island countries
- ✓ The second point to note is that the data on ODA calculate net loans, which means that loan repayments are subtracted from aid that is provided.
- ✓ It does not include development assistance of emerging donors and partners

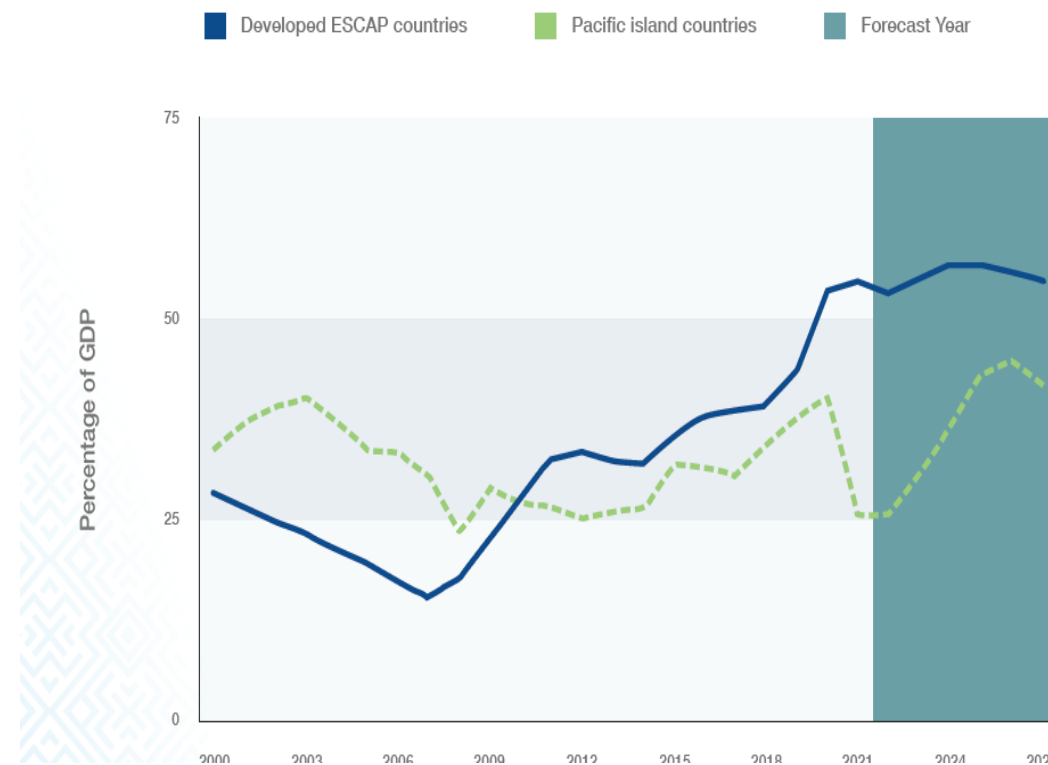
Official development assistance by type, 2014–2019

(Millions of United States dollars)



Debt distress

- Debt/GDP ratios in most countries in the Pacific have risen significantly relative to GDP, so that the average debt/GDP ratio is now over 40 percent of GDP, approximately a 10 percent increase since 2019.
- ‘Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, eleven out of twenty-two SIDS already had solvency problems (IMF, OECD)



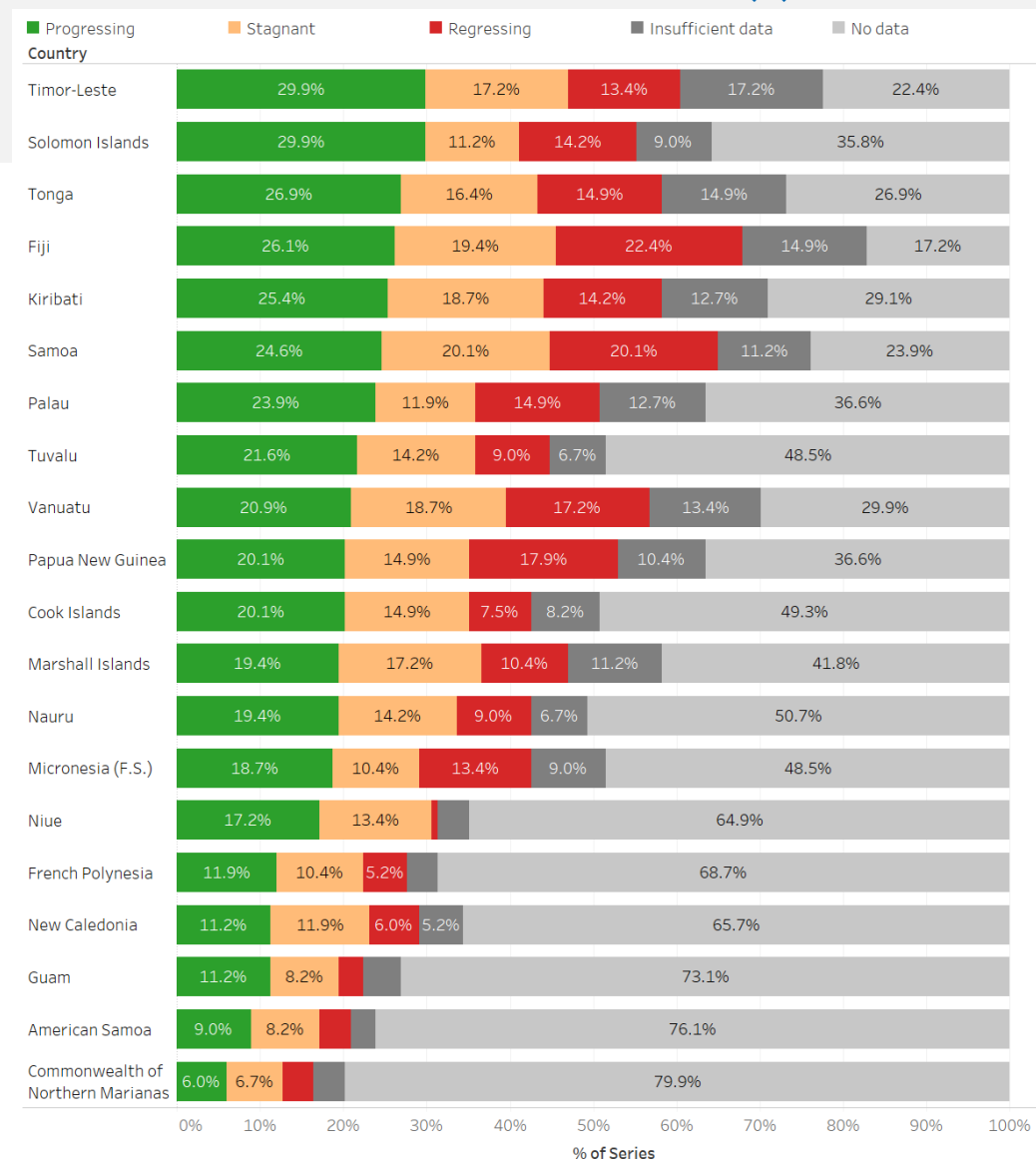
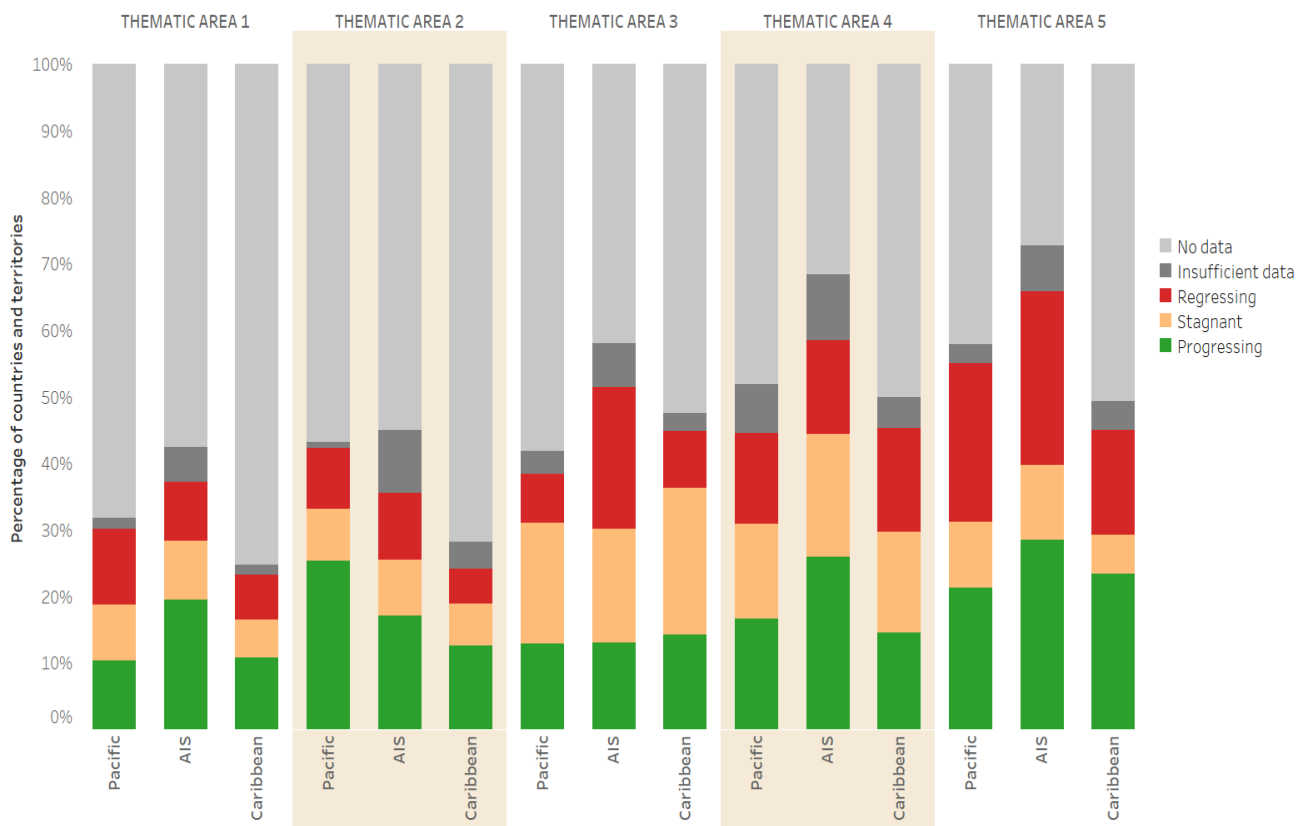
3

Findings and Analysis

Click to edit text

Pacific SIDS Overview

Overview of Thematic Area



Thematic Area 1: Promote sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, with decent work for all, sustainable consumption and production and sustainable transportation.

- Improve the quality of education, vocational training, skills enhancement and life-long learning
- Improve links between business and schools/colleges ...

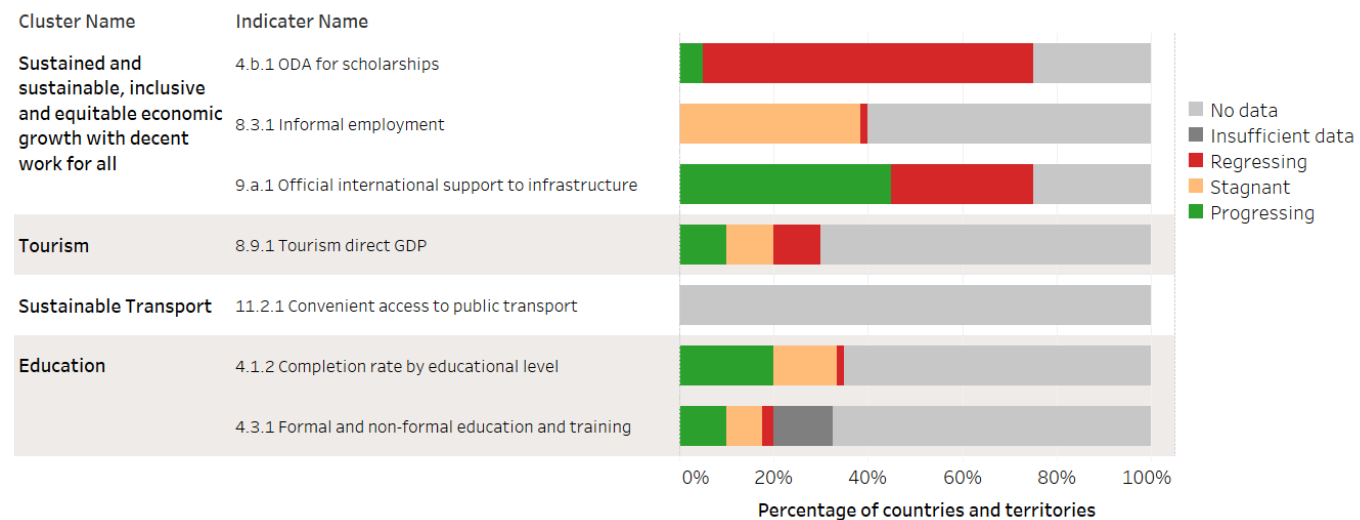
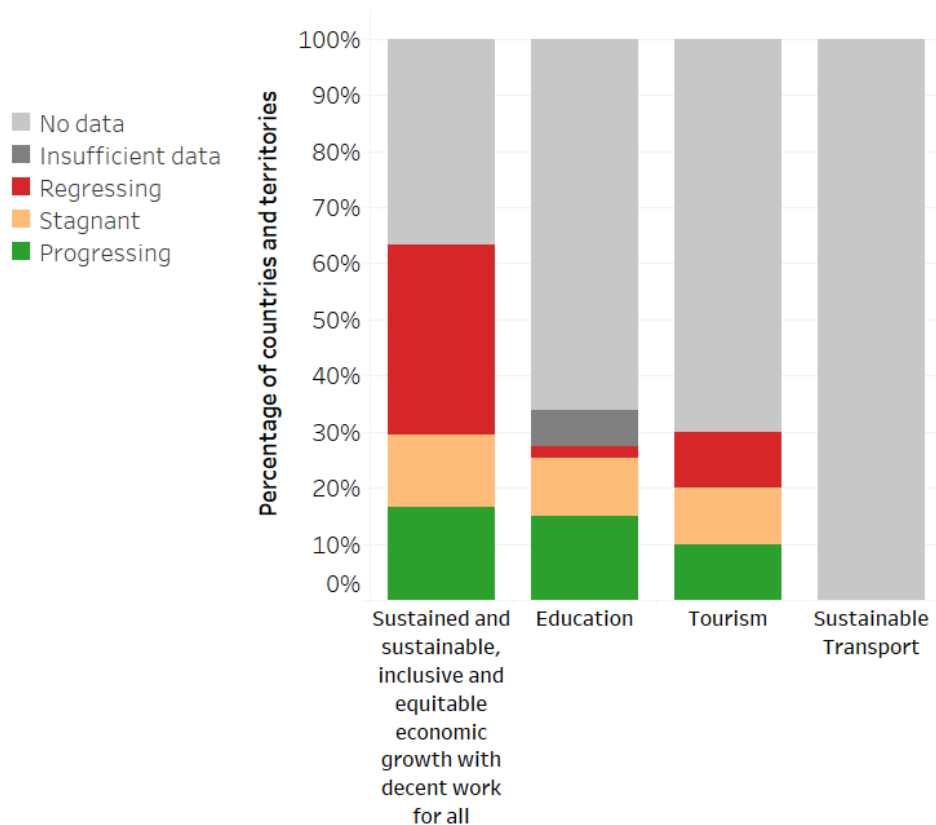
Promote decent work for all (including women and girls, people ties, youth and the elderly)

- Increase investments in ICT for learning, improving access to services and enterprise development
- Promote employment opportunities in rural and remote areas

- Understand tourism trends and adapt plans accordingly
- Strengthen partnerships with SE4All and the SIDS Lighthouse Initiative
- Build partnerships for research, science and appropriate technologies
- Advocate for (and put into practice) the transition to renewables
- Make better use of the Innovation Solutions Platform

Thematic Area 1: Promote sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, with decent work for all, sustainable consumption and production and sustainable transportation.

Clusters in Thematic Area 1



Thematic Area 1: Promote sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, with decent work for all, sustainable consumption and production and sustainable transportation.

Examples, Initiatives

- Efforts have been made under the leadership of Marshall Islands to reduce maritime shipping emissions through IMO, in line with the Paris Agreement; and to establish a Micronesia Centre for Sustainable Transport to promote low carbon shipping in the Pacific.
- the Pacific Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework (2021-2030)
 - All Pacific SIDS together with the Pacific Islands Forum have made, and are making, considerable efforts to boost sustainable ‘eco-tourism’ as part of the ‘Pacific Blue Continent’. In response to COVID pandemic and disruptions to international travel and country lockdowns, a revised policy on tourism in the Pacific has been created – the Pacific Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework (2021-2030).

Thematic Area 2: Act to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts by implementing sustainable energy and disaster risk reduction programmes.

- Increase investment in DRR and Early Warning Systems – ensure all communities and groups know what to do in the event of different types of disasters
- Involve schools, colleges, businesses, faith groups, civil society organisations and others in regular DRR drills
- Improve outreach to farming and fishing communities on adaptation.

Implement NDCs

Protect Forests

Promote use of renewable energy (SE4All & SIDS Lighthouse Initiative)

Involve communities and local/national institutions

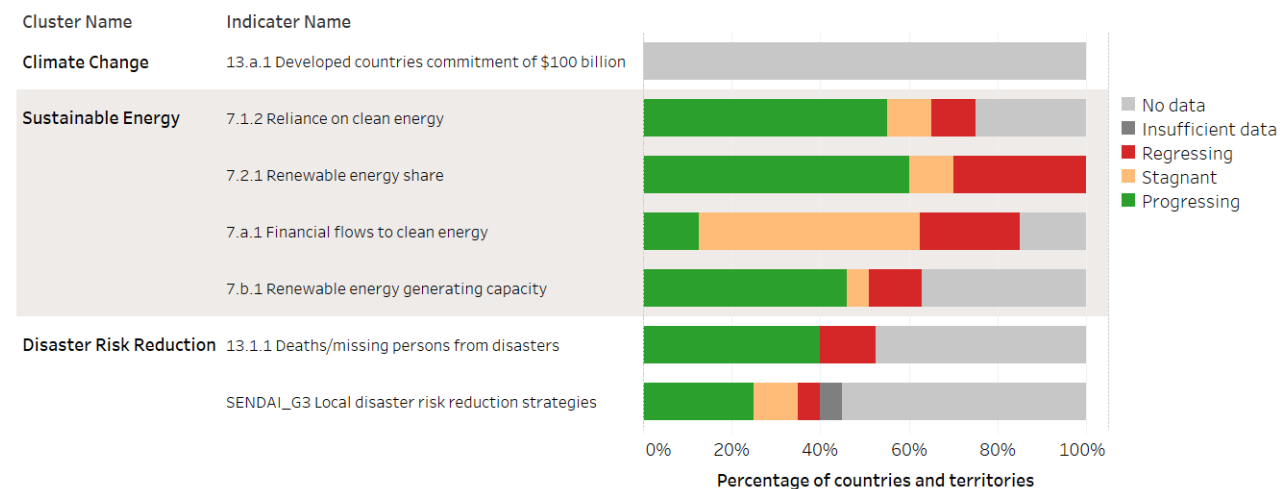
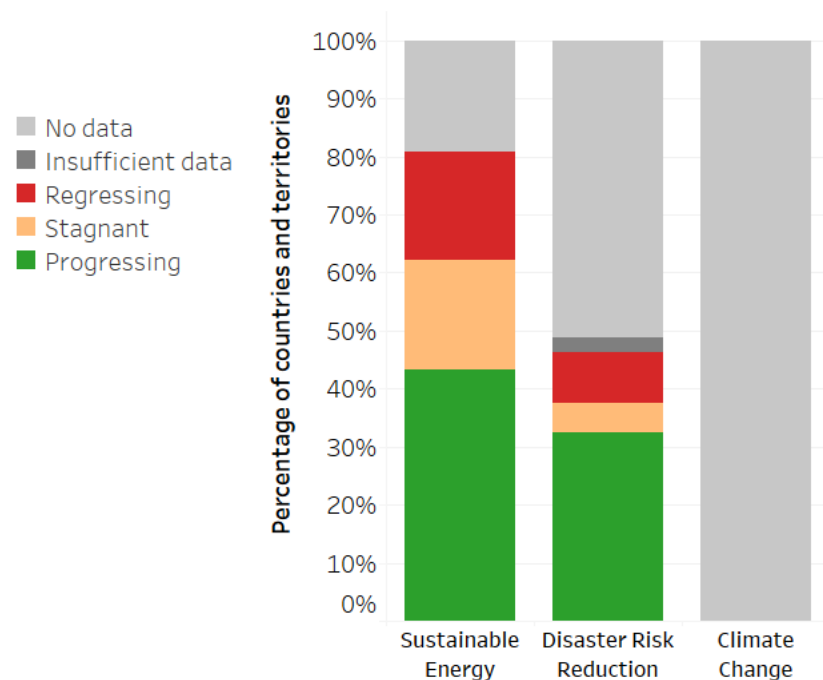
Conserve and protect clean water sources and harvest rainwater

Plant more mangroves and trees

Explore possibilities of greening urban areas

Thematic Area 2: Act to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts by implementing sustainable energy and disaster risk reduction programmes.

Clusters in Thematic Area 2



Thematic Area 2: Act to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts by implementing sustainable energy and disaster risk reduction programmes.

Examples, Initiatives

Strengthen the role of the Pacific Climate Change Centre

Improve links between the Pacific Meteorological Bureau and national DRR teams

Thematic Area 3: Protecting the biodiversity and environmental health of SIDS by mitigating the impact of invasive species and by properly managing chemicals and water, including hazardous waste, and protecting the oceans and seas.

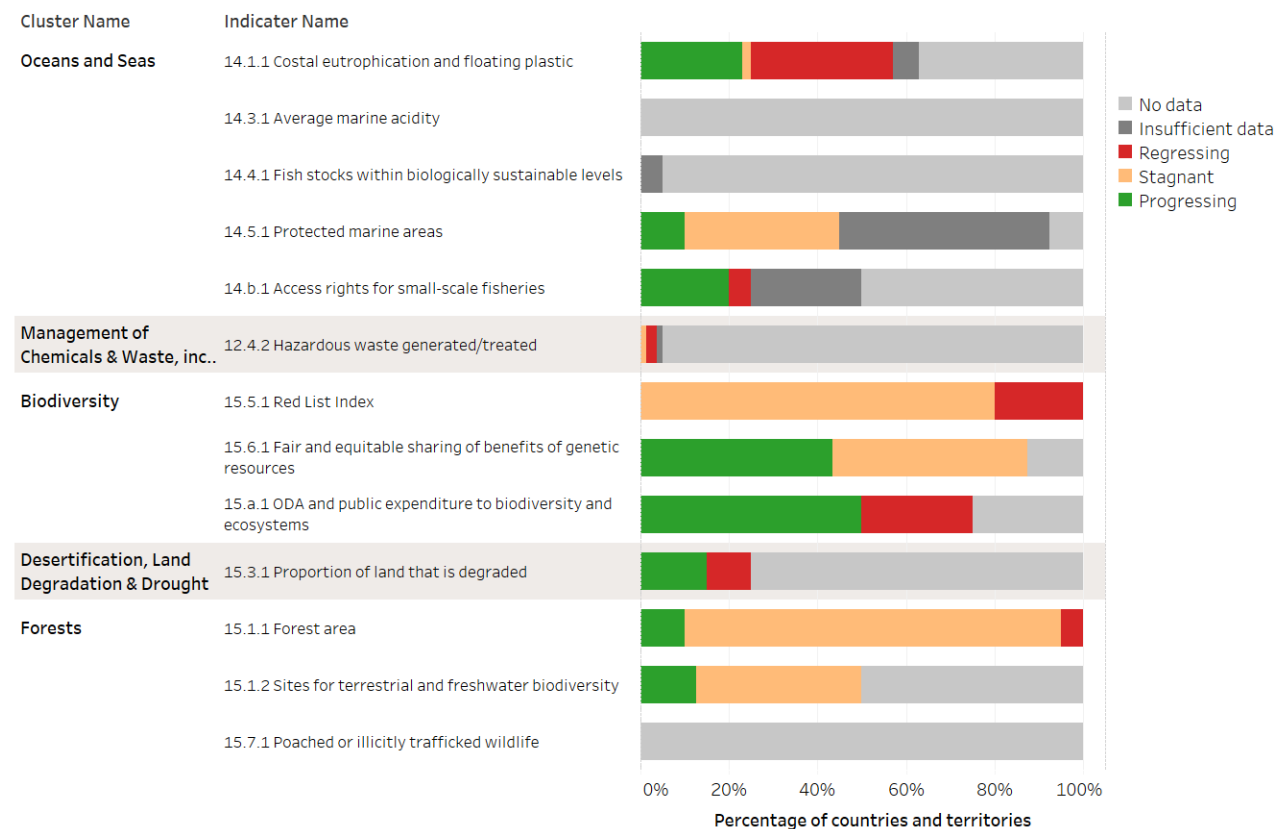
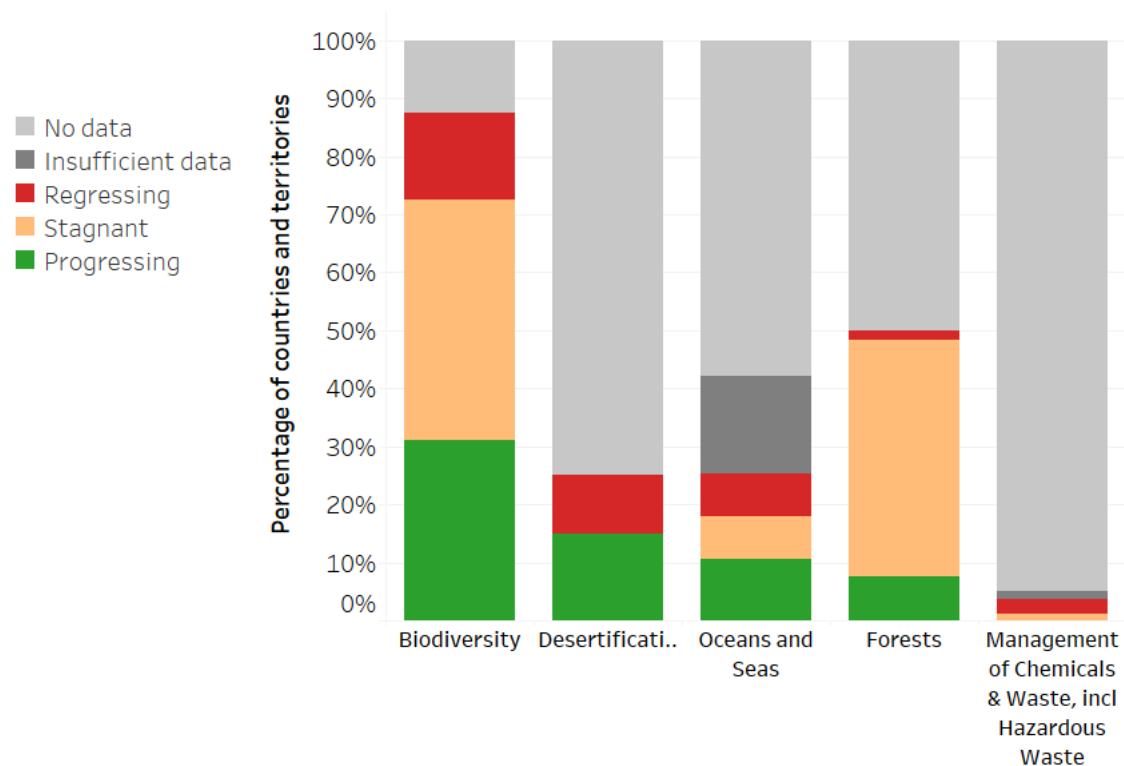
- Increase efforts to stop illegal fishing and deforestation
- Increase community engagement to tackle invasive species
- Reduce, refuse, reuse and recycle waste
- Explore ways of reducing hazardous waste

Seek to strengthen partnerships to protect biodiversity on land and seas

Consider scope for expanding the role of the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project

Thematic Area 3: Protecting the biodiversity and environmental health of SIDS by mitigating the impact of invasive species and by properly managing chemicals and water, including hazardous waste, and protecting the oceans and seas.

Clusters in Thematic Area 3



Thematic Area 3: Protecting the biodiversity and environmental health of SIDS by mitigating the impact of invasive species and by properly managing chemicals and water, including hazardous waste, and protecting the oceans and seas.

Examples, Initiatives

- The Suva Declaration on Invasive Species in 2015
- The Nauru Agreement on Marine Resources
- The Pacific Regional Invasive Species Strategy in 2017
- The Pacific Invasive Species Management Network (PIMSN), which is a partnership of organizations working to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species.
- The Pacific Regional Pest and Disease Management Centre (PRPMC), which provides technical support to countries in the region to manage pests and diseases.
- The Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), which provides a global platform for the exchange of information and best practices on invasive species management

=> These initiatives are helping to raise public awareness, building capacity for the management of invasive species and improving coordination

Thematic Area 4: Improve human health and social development through food security and nutrition and improved water and sanitation and by reducing the incidence of non-communicable diseases and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

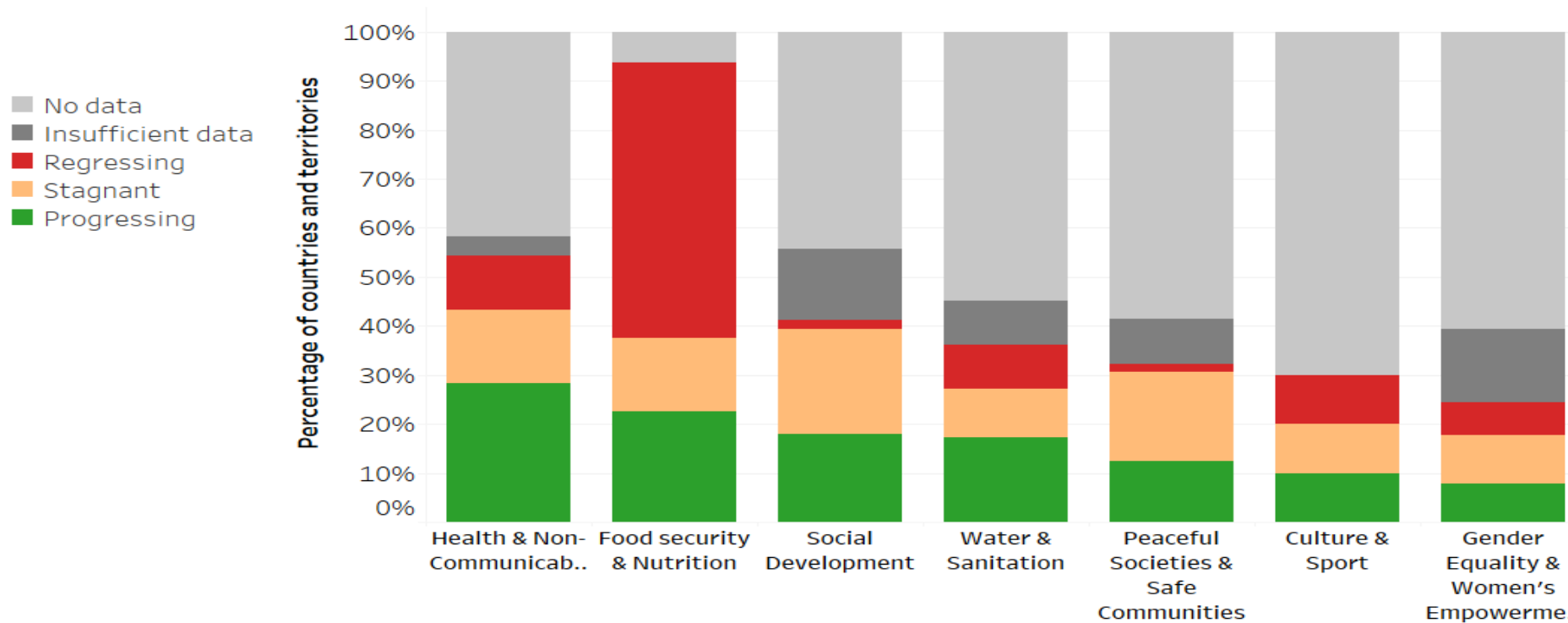
- Strengthen efforts to tackle NCDs and promote better health
- Increase efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment
- Improve investments in water and sanitation for all
- Promote gender equality and women's empowerment

Strengthen links with the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (explore scope for regional/sub-regional opportunities to improve nutrition for mothers, pregnant women, babies and under-5s, adolescents (especially girls))

- Explore scope to increase taxes on tobacco, alcohol and sugary drinks

Thematic Area 4: Improve human health and social development through food security and nutrition and improved water and sanitation and by reducing the incidence of non-communicable diseases and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

Clusters in Thematic Area 4



Thematic Area 4 (Cont'd):



Thematic Area 4: Improve human health and social development through food security and nutrition and improved water and sanitation and by reducing the incidence of non-communicable diseases and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

Examples, Initiatives

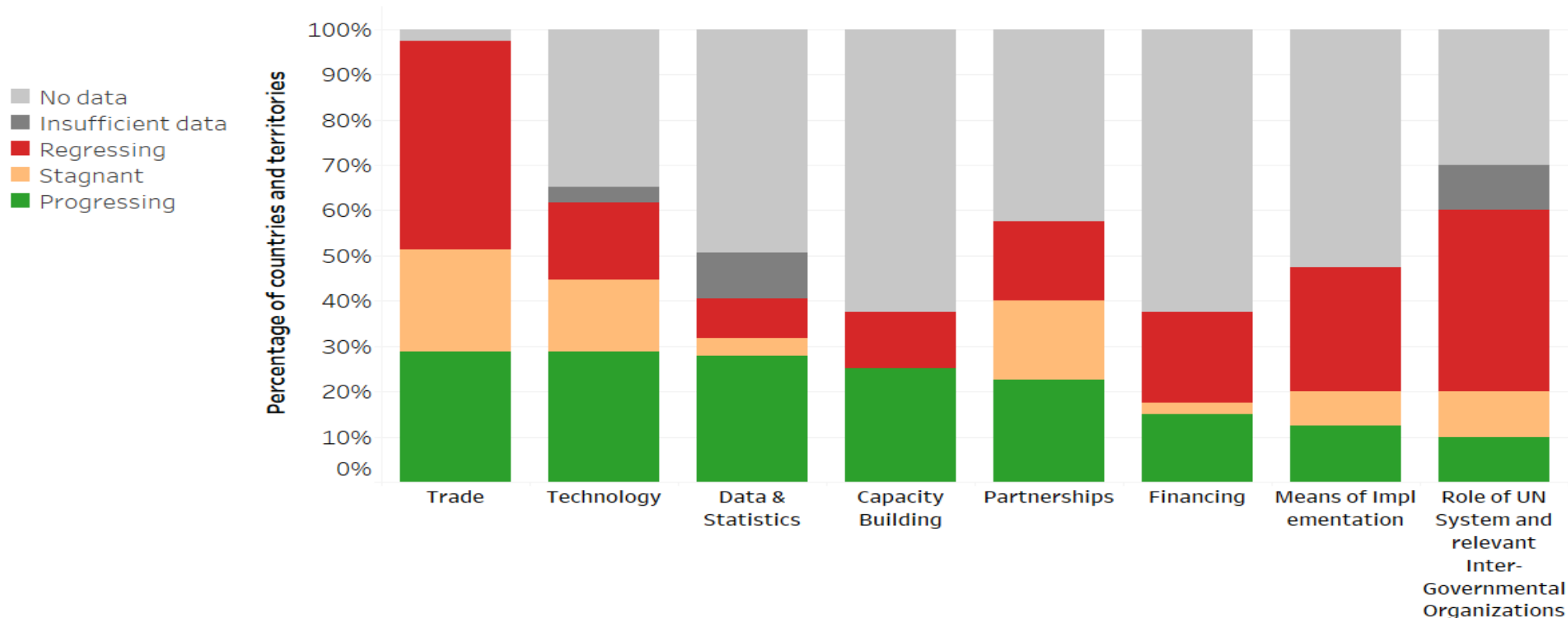
- In the period 2014 to 2022, fourteen of the Pacific SIDS have joined the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement. The SUN movement provides a platform to share experiences and learn from each other, as well as to access resources and support.
- , the infrastructure goal of the Kiribati Development Plan and the Kiribati Vision 20 years (KV20) intends to build capacity and resilience of communities in the outer islands through WASH initiatives.
- The SIDS Solutions Platform is a global initiative launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other partners to facilitate knowledge exchange, innovation and scaling up of solutions for sustainable development among SIDS.

Thematic Area 5: Fostering partnerships among small island developing states, United Nations agencies, development partners and others to achieve the goals

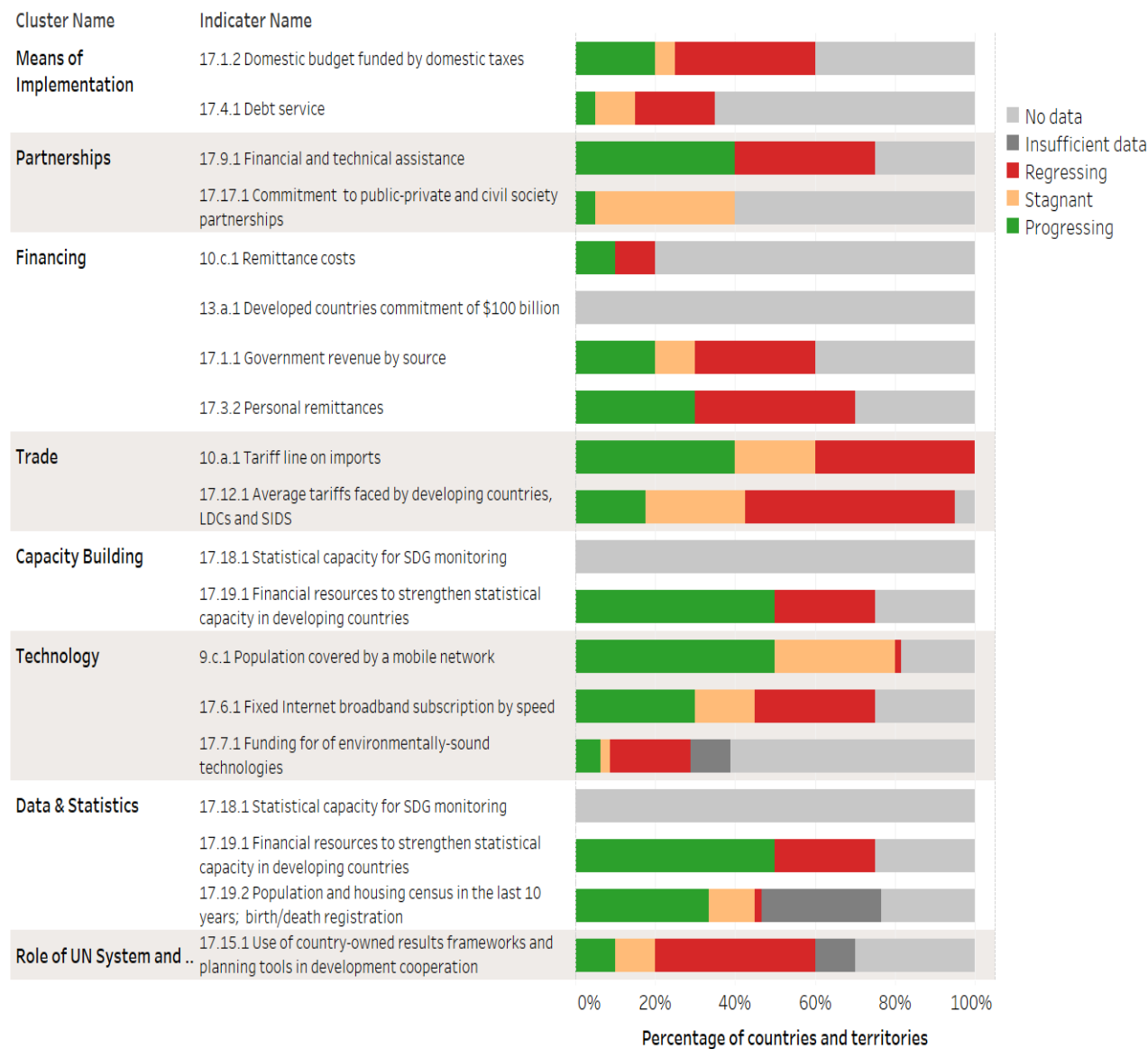
- Create more opportunities for regular discussions with key partners on SIDS priorities
- Use the MVI to discuss aid allocations and possibilities to promote fairer trade
- Seek opportunities to secure additional debt relief
- Explore ways of generating new additional finance via green, blue and diaspora bonds
- Strengthen the capacity of national statistics offices
- Explore ways of increasing the effectiveness of PACER Plus, PIFED, SPIRIT, PAFTS, PARTEC and other programmes to promote climate smart trade and investment
- Explore ways of increasing the value of remittances and reducing the costs of remittance flows
- Explore ways of utilizing South-South and triangular cooperation programs to accelerate progress
- Explore possible use the Global Partnership for Effective Development Monitoring Exercise at national level to reduce duplication and focus efforts

Thematic Area 5: Fostering partnerships among small island developing states, United Nations agencies, development partners and others to achieve the goals

Clusters in Thematic Area 5



Thematic Area 5 (Cont'd):



Thematic Area 5: Fostering partnerships among small island developing states, United Nations agencies, development partners and others to achieve the goals

Examples, Initiatives

Prioritization, implementation and improved coordination

- Each country needs to prioritize efforts on areas where they can achieve maximum leverage and get the best returns on investments over the next decade
- Accelerate progress in all five priority areas, given the high likelihood of increased challenges because of the impacts of future climate change and shocks
- Increase opportunities for systematic lesson learning, sharing of information and experiences

4

Gaps and Challenges

Click to edit text

Gaps and Challenges

1. The SAMOA Pathway has enabled the Pacific SIDS (together with other SIDS) to: (i) advocate and raise awareness of the specific needs of SIDS; (ii) organise as a grouping of countries with unique and special vulnerabilities and needs; (iii) mobilise financial and other resources from international partners.
2. Three key priorities for action are to: (i) revitalize their economies to ensure sustainable, inclusive and equitable growth and decent work for citizens; (ii) increase investment in reducing vulnerability and strengthening resilience of people and communities; (iii) increase efforts to protect biodiversity (on land and seas) through existing and new partnerships
3. to reduce fragmentation and duplication, prioritise more effectively and improve coordination. This could be assisted by conducting a Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation's monitoring exercise
4. To create safe, empowered, inclusive and engaged communities by deepening the commitment of civil society, academia, faith-based groups, the private sector.

Gaps and Challenges (Cont'd)

5. More discussion and increased collective action at regional and sub-regional levels to harness governmental, non-governmental and private sector partnerships
6. to strengthen lesson learning and sharing of experience by systematically improving data collection, monitoring and evaluation frameworks
7. the success of the SAMOA Pathway would ultimately depend on the support of the international community.
8. To prioritise some emerging trends in aid including using the multi-dimensional vulnerability index for aid allocation, reviewing the experience on aid for infrastructure, climate adaptation and mitigation, and on protection of biodiversity and the oceans

5

Recommendations for addressing identified gaps and challenges

Click to edit text

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING IDENTIFIED GAPS AND CHALLENGES

NATIONAL



REVITALIZE THE ECONOMIES



BUILDING STATISTICAL CAPACITIES



STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE



INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES



PROTECT BIODIVERSITY



**GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EFFECTIVE
DEPARTMENT COOPERATION'S
MONITORING EXERCISE**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING IDENTIFIED GAPS AND CHALLENGES

REGIONAL

PARTNERSHIPS

- Promote deeper discussion and collective action at regional and sub-regional levels to progress sustainable growth, reduce inequality, and enhance inclusion
- Strengthen links with key development partners including other SIDS regions
- Improve data collection and monitoring and evaluation frameworks



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING IDENTIFIED GAPS AND CHALLENGES

INTER-REGIONAL

Explore scope to enhance **PARTNERSHIPS** with other SIDS regions

along with



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING IDENTIFIED GAPS AND CHALLENGES

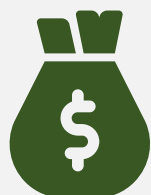
INTERNATIONAL



Shifting their patterns of production and consumption to reduce dependence on fossil fuels



Sharing knowledge, research and appropriate technologies



Effective debt relief measures, using the multi-dimensional vulnerability measures

Annex

Click to edit text



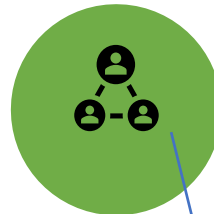
Timeline SAMOA Pathway Pacific Regional Final Review

March- July
[Background/Reports]



Preparatory process
UNESCAP with
UN System and
PIFS-CROP

June-July
[Studies]



Regional Process
UNESCAP with
UNDESA/OHRLLS

Substantive

- Statistical trend analysis
- Regional 10-year review report
- Policy briefs on thematic areas
- Analytical study

Pacific region:
16-18 August,
Tonga

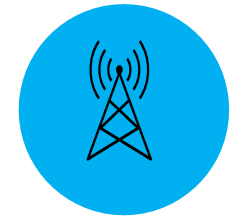


AIS region:
Mauritius, 24 and
25 July 2023

**Caribbean
region:**

Saint Vincent and
the Grenadines, 8
to 10 August 2023

**Pacific SAMOA
Pathway
Outcome Document**
[for Global report]



**Inter-Regional
Process**
(Cabo Verde, 30-
August-1 September
2023)

Global Process
-May 2024

References

<https://www.unescap.org/events/2023/regional-preparatory-meeting-pacific-region-4th-international-conference-small-island>

POLICY BRIEF

**Review of the Small Islands Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway in the Pacific Region:
Economic growth, social development and Partnerships**



POLICY BRIEF

**Review of the Small Islands Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway in the Pacific Region:
Climate change, biodiversity and Oceans**



POLICY BRIEF

**Review of the Small Islands Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway in the Pacific Region:
Scenario analysis**




PROMOTING SIDS PRIORITIES
A selected list of ESCAP Expert Opinion Blogs: 2018-2023

Follow us



www.unescap.org



[unescap](https://www.facebook.com/unescap)



[unitednationescap](https://twitter.com/unitednationescap)



[united-nations-escap](https://www.linkedin.com/company/united-nations-escap)



[unescap](https://www.twitter.com/unescap)



[unescap](https://www.youtube.com/unescap)



ESCAP

Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific