

## **Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States**

### **1. What specific activities or programmes, if any, has your government, organisation or agency implemented or introduced, specifically targeting the vulnerabilities of SIDS? Please cite examples of solutions seeking vulnerability reduction.**

- Household Scheme
  - Removal of Asbestos Roofing from Households and installing colourbond roofing. Water catchment systems restored ensuring greater water storage, relieving pressure and demand from the Reverse Osmosis Plant. (However strategy on removal and disposal of Asbestos from communities is still to be determined, this is vital given the health risks of exposed asbestos in the community)
  - Provision of Poly Water Tanks to vulnerable households identified in the Community.
  - Improving hygiene and sanitation by improving plumbing conditions of households.
- Strengthening Domestic Resource Mobilization
  - Nauru Revenue Office (NRO) continues to implement Phase I reforms which seek to broaden government revenue base. The Employment and Services Tax will see the collection of substantial revenues for Government.
  - The business profits tax is being implemented in this financial year. Australia is supporting tax reforms through the provision of Two Tax Advisers.
  - Customs duties applied to importation of vehicles has been increased from the current rate 8-20% to 10-75%, as well as slight increase on duties for alcohol and cigarettes.
- Ensuring Fiscal Sustainability - Establishing and investing in the Nauru Intergenerational Trust Fund (NTF) reduces vulnerability in terms of fiscal cliffs.
  - The NTF was capitalized in 2016 with a contribution totalling A\$30m with GON investing 20.4m and 10.3m from development partners (Aust, ROC Taiwan, ADB)
  - GON and development partners intend to make annual contributions to the NTF.
  - Nauru is seeking other bilateral donors to contribute to the Fund
- Investment in Education (Infrastructure)
  - In the 16-17 National budget 1.5million was allocated for the new Learning Village, jointly funded by the Australian Government. The new building is expected to be completed by the end of this year. The LV will house USP, TVET and a Community Library.

- Also in the 16-17 budget 2.1million was provided for the Nauru Education Assistance Trust Scheme (NEATS). This scheme is an incentive designed to improve school attendance which will subsequently decrease student drop out.
- Scholarships Offers are provided by development partners every year for various levels including Bachelors, Post-Graduate and Masters. Development Partners include Australia, New Zealand, ROC Taiwan, Japan, Israel and among others Malaysia.
- Energy (Vulnerable to external shocks- dependence on Fossil Fuel, Nauru spends around 25% of its national budget on Fuel) Funded by the EU EDF11 Program, ADB and UAE.
  - Reduce dependence on Fossil Fuel through the following Project objectives:
    - Increase reliability and efficiency of the electric network in Nauru
    - Increase renewable energy generation in Nauru
  - Target on using 50% renewable energy by 2020 is on track
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) Ongoing Projects (several projects include co-financing from other Development Partners)
  - **Port Development Project:** New Port Provision of the new port facilities are critical for the future of the inhabitants of the island as this is the only channel for importing goods into the country. The port represents a life line to the people of Nauru with the majority of imports (95%) arriving by sea. Any interruption to regular shipping, either the regular tanker deliveries (average of eight per year) or container vessels (up to 12 per year, but less at present with one operator withdrawing service), has the potential to severely impact on the population of Nauru in terms of power, food and water shortages. In particular, the consequences of the failure of the port facilities would be dire for the local economy, workplace and public safety, regional connectivity and the habitability of Nauru, as it relies upon import of bulk fuel which is used for power and water generation.
  - **Sub-regional undersea cable project:** ADB support in the ICT sector is progressing under the Submarine Cable Project. Work is progressing to determine project implementation arrangements, identify commercial users of ICT, and set up the Nauru Cable Company. The Government of Nauru is supporting this in ensuring the legislative framework for the required state owned enterprise will be in place as part of the pre-conditions for the project.
  - **Electricity Supply Security and Sustainability Project:** The roof rehabilitation works have been completed and the new 2 generators are on schedule to arrive in June 2017.
- **Climate Change:** Nauru has incorporated Climate Change challenges in the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2005–25, and

published the 2014 Framework for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (RONAdapt) to provide a roadmap to address climate change vulnerabilities. Nauru has also completed a study on climate change finance assessment to help make informed decisions and measures to improve access and manage climate change resources. However, more work is needed to integrate these climate change strategies into medium-term budget planning.

**2. To what extent has your Government mainstreamed the SAMOA Pathway and/or the SDGs into national development plans and/or programmes? Please indicate any challenges and/or opportunities.**

- The National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2005 – 2025 is currently under review. The major activities undertaken thus far under this process, is the stock taking exercise of activities implemented thus far. The major findings of the stock take exercise highlights low implementation due to capacity constraints, weak institutions and inter alia the lack of funding. These are related to the challenges that will be elaborated below and are to be addressed in the review.
- Headways have been made in the establishment of the Nauru Planning Development Committee (NPDC) to coordination and provide oversight on development matters as well as guide the NSDS review. The composition of this committee ensures that all sectors are represented and is chaired by the Minister of Finance and Sustainable Development to ensure ownership and leadership at the highest level.
- There have been a number of SDG awareness programs led by the UNDP as part of the UNPS consultation process. A number of workshops have also incorporated SDG awareness sessions including Women in Parliament workshop, Civil Society Workshop and a UNDP led Parliamentarians Seminar on Human Rights and SDG's.
- Challenges
  - The establishment of the NPDC is the first step toward creating and strengthening institutions to streamline and coordinate the development agenda as well as provide more effective monitoring and evaluation. However as experienced in the past there is a risk that the committee will not be able to perform as needed due to capacity constraints. Challenges in this area also includes:
    - Competing priorities of committee members since most of them are HOD's.
    - Organizing regular meetings, given the first point, travel schedules etc needs to be considered. To ensure the committee members gives priority to the NPDC meetings, PAD will need a strategy to appropriately convince members to champion NSDS/SDG's. The first meeting is crucial to gain full attention and support of members as well as build momentum for future meetings.

- PAD capacity constraints given high staff turn over and struggle to recruit. Resources are stretched and operational and administrative concerns dominate the activities of PAD. The unit has to be responsive to a range of donors as well as manage multiple and often competing government priorities. PAD needs to be strengthened to fulfil functions.
  - Bureau of Statistics needs to be further strengthened. The burden will increase given the high demand of disaggregated data in the 2030 agenda. There is also a need to establish dedicated data collection units in other agencies and departments to administer regular collections on the full scope of the 2030 agenda holistically. Where skills are lacking greater focus should be on recruitment, training, and scholarships to obtain the required skills. International partnership plays a big role in alleviating the financial burden as well as provide the internship needed and expertise on the ground.
- Although the NSDS Review will incorporate SDG's, there is still the disconnect between the budget process and planning. There is a need to strengthen policy-planning-public expenditure links to ensure that expenditure programs are aligned with policy priorities set out in the NSDS. The MTEF framework is designed to specifically link planning and budgeting. However there are capacity constraints in the budget team. A possible solution could be to merge Planning and Budgeting, this was also recommended in the 2011 PEFA review.

**3. To what extent has your Organisation, integrated the Samoa Pathway and or the SDGs into co-operation frameworks, programmes and activities, to ensure effective follow-up and implementation at regional and national level?**

- Nauru is planning a nation wide consultation with key stakeholders later in the year. UNDP will be supporting this process both in creating SDG awareness and also in localizing and mainstreaming the 2030 agenda into Nauru national planning and budget process.
- At the regional level the regional SDG roadmap is being developed to be adopted in Sept 2017 by Pacific Island Countries (PIC) leaders. The Roadmap will be used to jointly monitor progress on the SDGs, the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, using existing work streams to avoid duplication, and reduce the reporting burden at country level. Nauru Bureau of Statistics (NBOS) has been involved in “regionalizing” the SDG targets for the purpose of monitoring and evaluation of SDG progress.

**4. Indicate the extent to which the issues and concerns of SIDS are given due consideration in conferences and processes organized or supported by your organization.**

N/A

**5. In relation to the implementation of the commitments and partnerships announced at the Samoa Conference: <http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/>**

**(i) indicate actions undertaken to date and their outcome(s);**

Ridge to Reef –GEF 5 Star (UNDP)

The project is a Four year project which commenced in 2015-19. The main target for the project is to preserve biodiversity, ecosystem services, improve climate resilience and improve livelihoods in Nauru. The project is piloted in 5 Districts.

- Raising Awareness through outreach programs and workshops in the Community and schools.
- Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) Tour Study – Tonga and Fiji. Participants learned to setup LMMA with jurisdiction similar to Nauru and community engagement to successful LMMA.

IRENA- SIDS Lighthouse Initiative

Nauru was able to develop and adopt the Nauru Energy Roadmap with the assistance of various development partners including IRENA.

**(ii) indicate what partnerships have been contemplated or have been initiated; and,**

As mentioned above UNDP have been initiated to assist, while GoN will lead in the design and implementation of its SDG related work plan UNDP will support Government activities by:

- Mapping Government's sector priorities to SDG targets.

Moving forward, the identification of gaps between national and sector priorities and the SDGs can start a discussion of whether missing targets are priorities for Nauru that can be reflected in national and sector plans and M&E frameworks. The mapping of all sector priorities into a single framework can also serve as a starting point for inter-sector discussions of national priorities. Disaggregation of data will also allow for more effective planning and policy formulation, including targeting specific areas of a country or on issues that impact differently on men and women.

- Assessing baseline national data and mapping to SDG indicators.

The SDGs include a set of indicators to monitor progress towards the goals and targets that can help support national and sector level monitoring and evaluation systems. A first step in this regard is the generation of a baseline assessment of available data across sectors. This entails aggregating the core monitoring indicators across different sector plans. A follow up step

is to map the baseline data to the SDG indicators, highlighting gaps and synergies. This analysis can serve as a starting point for Government to consider whether/how any identified priority data gaps can be filled, either through already existing collection efforts and/or through introducing new ways of collecting and managing data. While integrating all SDG indicators data collection efforts is unrealistic, the gap analysis allows for discussion on what indicators might be priorities and how they might be filled given available resources. Efforts will also be undertaken to collect available baseline data and assist in initiating National Development planning/monitoring and SDG efforts.

**(iii) indicate whether additional partnerships have been registered on the SIDS partnership Platform.**

Not aware of additional partnerships added to the SIDS Partnership Platform.