

OCHA inputs to the Secretary-General's report on the *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.

OCHA, through its Regional Offices, contributed to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and its recommendations in the Caribbean and Asia-Pacific through activities that have a link with disaster risk reduction, climate change and preparedness.

In 2016, OCHA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean was involved directly in mitigating the consequences of climate change and reducing vulnerabilities through response to several events such as Matthew Hurricane in Haiti and flooding in Dominican Republic. In addition, as a concrete example, OCHA supported the Government of Jamaica in its preparedness efforts. As a consequence in April 2017, two OCHA Regional Office staff members carried out a mission to assist the Humanitarian Country Team with the revision of the Emergency Response Plan together with the Government. In Dominican Republic OCHA supported resource mobilization for UNDP through UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery.

In the Asia-Pacific, OCHA Regional Office for Asia-Pacific provided targeted support to the Maldives and Papua New Guinea for preparedness to risk from flooding, drought and other natural disasters that are exacerbated by climate change. In 2016, OCHA was involved directly in mitigating the impacts of El Nino in Papua New Guinea through support to the UNCT for response planning and provision of funds from the Central Emergency Response Fund. This is being followed-up in 2017 with an El Nino Early Action workshop to improve planning to address long-term resilience.

OCHA Pacific has adopted a country-specific approach to preparedness that focuses on strengthening resilience of governments and communities. By thoroughly understanding in country capacity and capability, OCHA is developing specific preparedness actions to increase effectiveness of early action to avert disasters but also mount an effective humanitarian action when required. For slow-onset emergencies, such as El Nino, OCHA has mounted effective early warning campaigns that lead to early action by most Pacific Island countries to avert disasters requiring international humanitarian response.

In 2016, OCHA supported the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) in rolling out the Country Preparedness Package (CPP), which is a preparedness initiative to strengthen collaboration between national and international actors during a disaster response. The first phase of this exercise was rolled out in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. In this approach, national actors are made aware of not only the available international support options, but also how to activate or request them when necessary. The

CPP also ensures that international actors become aware of the existing national structures, which helps ensure nationally-led responses to disasters with appropriate international support working through the national system. Through this exercise, OCHA and humanitarian partners are making sure that humanitarian efforts have linkages with development activities as we seek improvement on the disaster risk management capacity leadership in each country.

OCHA has advocated for and supported the use of new and easily accessible technology for rapid data collection and analysis such as Kobo toolbox in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Fiji, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Tonga.

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.

N/A (Question referring to Government activities)

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?

In Asia-Pacific, the work of OCHA on emergency preparedness and policy engagement in disaster risk reduction is fully aligned with the SDGs, the Sendai Framework and the regional strategy from the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

ROLAC/OCHA works with the Caribbean Disaster Management Agency (CDEMA) to develop integrated ways of working to strengthen regional and national support in preparedness and response, including by working to establish joint standard operating procedures. OCHA has been collaborating with CDEMA, UNICEF and WFP on strengthening disaster response management, such as in the “Regional Orientation Seminar and Table Top Exercise” held on July 2016 in Antigua and Barbuda. The exercise included the participation of eight Caribbean States, donors and observers.

OCHA, through the PHT, has adopted a joint approach to preparedness that ensures alignment of support mechanisms, avoids overlaps and strengthens the overall regional capacity available to support Pacific Island Countries. Additionally, OCHA has partnered with the Secretariat for the Pacific Community to develop a joint approach to capacity development that ensures that disaster management training is based on capacity gaps identified by governments and unavailable opportunities by development partners.

In some countries like the Republic of the Marshall Islands, where phase one of the CPP has been implemented, extensive consultations were held with stakeholders on institutional strengthening to support disaster risk management. A list of preliminary areas for consideration has been shared with all partners and is now being targeted through development projects on long-term basis.

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.

In 2016, OCHA ensured adequate representation of SIDS through mobilization, involvement and funding of key government representatives for the regional consultations for the World Humanitarian Summit in the Pacific and Latin American and the Caribbean as well as the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. At the Summit, one of the seven high-level roundtables – “Natural Disasters and Climate Change: Managing Risks and Crises Differently” – in particular addressed priority concerns of SIDS.

OCHA regularly provides support to representatives from SIDS in the Asia-Pacific to attend regional meetings and events. This includes both government and civil society representatives. OCHA also supports inclusion of representatives and national disaster managers from the Pacific in meetings to ensure wider understanding of the challenges of SIDS. OCHA ensures on an annual basis adequate participation of National Disaster Managers at the annual PHT meeting that brings together disaster managers, academia, civil society and donors from across the Pacific to jointly strategize and identify priority areas for preparedness and response.

To complement the work undertaken at the field level, OCHA provides briefings to New York-based regional groups including SIDS countries to provide information on the international coordination tools and services available at the global and regional levels to support national governments.

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);**
- (ii) **indicate what partnerships have been contemplated or have been initiated; and,**
- (iii) **indicate whether additional partnerships have been registered on the SIDS partnership Platform.**

OCHA focused on strengthening regional humanitarian coordination/cooperation and preparedness in the Caribbean. Supporting a regional approach through CDEMA helped build capacity and raise awareness of the threats and vulnerabilities experienced by SIDS and avoid competition for funds to address these.

In the Asia-Pacific, OCHA focused on strengthening regional humanitarian coordination/cooperation and preparedness, including by supporting sub-regional preparedness for SAARC (Maldives) including supporting the SATHI (South Asia Together for Humanitarian Imperative) national NGO Network.