

# **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**

**Response by UNDP  
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UNDP's is a demand-driven organization that aligns its support behind country priorities articulated through national development priorities and strategies. UNDP's efforts are centered in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), working with the UN development system. For SIDS, this includes the SAMOA Pathway. We engage and support the shaping of global processes in order for all three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental – to be considered.

UNDP is a country-facing organization. We utilize our global country reach to support and implement practical national level actions that impact positively on people and planet, while encouraging the protection of human rights, capacity development and the empowerment of women. For SIDS, this includes utilizing our multi-country and country offices in the Caribbean, Pacific and AIMS regions. At the regional level, UNDP has a variety of partnerships with regional organizations and agencies such as CARICOM and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to ensure the alignment of the SAMOA Pathway and agreed, new and emerging regional priorities.

UNDP contributes to the SAMOA Pathway in the following areas: sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable growth with decent work for all; sustainable tourism; climate change; disaster risk management (DRR); sustainable energy; oceans and seas; gender equality and women's empowerment; financing; capacity building; data and statistics; and broader UN system efforts on partnerships, institutional support to SIDS, and monitoring and accountability.

UNDP is committed to transparency and accountability in its efforts to support the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. It works in partnership with member states and other entities to support countries address priorities in the SAMOA Pathway. The SAMOA Pathway is a political commitment with clear priorities and not a planning tool. In line with the latter, UNDP is supporting countries to integrate these priorities into work programmes in respective entities, aligned to the priorities and requests from member states and based on the existing trade-offs that result from resource availability and needs identified within each country.

**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.**

## **Global**

*Vulnerability and Financing for Development* - UNDP is an active member on the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development. The issues concerning SIDS development financing challenges is a priority for UNDP. UNDP has been proactive in

raising awareness of the issues and working to expand the evidential base for a political conversation on ‘fit for purpose’ financing for SIDS. To achieve this, UNDP has sought to develop partnerships with other major stakeholders to address the issues of vulnerability, access to concessional finance, and what existing, new and innovative financing options SIDS have in looking to finance their sustainable development.

At the Addis Ababa Financing for Development (FfD) meeting, UNDP (and OHRLLS) launched a global report on “[\*Financing for Development and Small Island Developing States: A Snap Shot and Ways Forward\*](#)”. This has been complemented by a Caribbean regional report. A Pacific regional report is under development and will be finalized in 2017.

In 2016, UNDP and the World Bank established an informal technical working group to look at the metrics of vulnerability and its relationship with financing for development for SIDS. The Group includes other stakeholders in the UN (UNOHRLSS/DESA), Commonwealth Secretariat, OECD, and a number of Regional International Financial Institutions. This technical level work complements the UN Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on FfD follow up work on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

## Country

**Cabo Verde** – UNDP (Cabo Verde) is particularly active in the area of resilience in relation to disaster risk reduction. Within this area of work UNDP is implementing a pilot initiative to assess risks in urban areas which includes a vulnerability assessment of targeted cities, specifically assessing physical vulnerability of the urban environment (buildings, infrastructure) and a socio-economic vulnerability assessment of the population. UNDP also conducted capacity building for innovative GIS and remote sensing solutions to apply in risk assessment (32 technical staff trained). This was undertaken in partnership with ITC/UTwente Netherlands which is a specialized training center on Earth Observation techniques applied to disaster risk reduction.

**Guyana** - Recognising that SIDS continue to grapple with the adverse impacts of natural disasters, which have been exacerbated by climate change, and with the unique and particular vulnerabilities, since February 2016 UNDP (Guyana) has implemented an UNDP-FAO joint project “Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Agriculture Sector in Guyana”. This project aims to strengthen the enabling environment within the responsible institutions to support the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Reduction (DRR) mainstreaming in the agriculture sector and build livelihood resilience of farmers, livestock holders and fisher-folks against disasters.

**Pacific** - UNDP Programmes in the Pacific are specifically targeting the reduction of vulnerabilities of SIDS, in line with the SAMOA Pathway, including economic, political and environmental vulnerabilities. Examples include:

- the *Pacific Risk Resilience Programme* that focuses on ‘risk governance’ aims to mainstream climate change, disaster risk management and governance reforms to put in place a ‘development first’ approach to managing risks. The approach stresses the importance of engaging development decision makers and practitioners at all levels of governance for the management of climate change and disaster risks;

- the *Regional Disaster Resilience in the Pacific Programme* that focuses on enhancing capacity for climate-based early warning systems in the Pacific, enhancing disaster preparedness and recovery and piloting innovative and new methods for disaster risk financing;
- *the Ridge-to-Reef Programme* which works to restore, rehabilitate and enhance marine and terrestrial ecosystems, sustain livelihoods and improve resilience;
- *Governance programmes* supporting parliaments and civil society organizations in a number Pacific Island Countries (PICs) to strengthen governance institutions to enable a more equitable distribution of public resources to grassroots communities and the marginalized groups to enhance resilience.

**Seychelles** - The Seychelles with support from UNDESA and UNDP undertook a Vulnerability and Resilience Country Profile (VRCP), to better understand national vulnerabilities and resilience options, to support priorities in national development plans and implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

**Mauritius** – UNDP is implementing the Climate Change Adaptation in the Coastal Zones of Mauritius project, funded by the Adaption Fund. The project has installed an early warning system at the Meteorological Services and a coastal defence wall is being constructed at Riviere des Galets. In addition, a Refuge Centre is being constructed in Quatre Soeurs. At Mon Choisy, coastal vulnerability is being addressed through a hybrid solution comprising coastal reprofiling, artificial reef units and ecosystem based adaptation. All actions are designed to reduce natural vulnerabilities and increase resilience.

Additionally, the UNDP component of the Atlantic and Indian Ocean Integrated Water Resources Management Programme is managed out of Mauritius and supports pilots in Cabo Verde, Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius, Sao Tome & Principe, and Seychelles to reduce poverty and vulnerability through adaptive water governance

**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.**

UNDP supports governments in their national planning processes. Since the adoption of the SAMOA pathway and the SDGs this has included technical and advisory support to mainstream these international commitments into national and local planning processes.

**Global**

In 2016, UNDP piloted a number of Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) engagements in a number of countries, which aim to assist governments in preparing SDG-aligned national development plans or SDG implementation road maps. These engagements have focused on the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda, examining the kinds of cross-sectoral policy and programme initiatives needed for a country’s “SDG roadmap.” The Missions have drawn on the support and contribution of other UN system agencies, including regional commissions, specialised agencies and funds and programmes, where appropriate. For missions that have engaged in SIDS, this has also included the mainstreaming and alignment of the SAMOA pathway, where appropriate

and requested. To date, MAPS missions in SIDS have been undertaken in **Jamaica, Mauritius, Trinidad and Tobago, and Aruba**, with each tailored to address the specificities of country contexts and government demand.

**Cabo Verde** - Since December 2016, UNDP (Cabo Verde) has been supporting the government in the preparation of its five-year National Sustainable Development Plan (PEDS). UNDP developed a methodology - and a number of accompanying tools - to integrate the SDGs, as well as the SAMOA Pathway, into the PEDS. It is expected that the final Plan will be consistent and coherent with both the SDGs and SAMOA pathways.

**Mauritius** - Support was provided to The Prime Minister's Office to develop a draft Vision 2030 Blueprint (national development plan) by ensuring alignment with the SDGs. Once the plan receives initial approval support will be extended further on the development of the indicator framework, making this the first Mauritian national development plan that has monitorable indicators.

UNDP also supported **Mauritius** develop a Marshall Plan Against Poverty. The transformative plan aims to tackle the root causes of exclusion through a community-based approach to service delivery, while advocating for the transformation of social protection from "welfare" to "empowering" in support of the SDGs on poverty (1), gender equality (5), inclusive and sustainable growth (8) and inequality (10).

**Jamaica** – through MAPS engagements, UNDP provided assistance in identifying data gaps on SDG indicators, and developed a roadmap for SDG implementation in alignment with the country's Vision 2030, proposing critical accelerators for fast and sustained progress.

### **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?**

UNDP's operational, normative and thematic work on all issues is guided by the current Strategic Plan 2014-2017. The Strategic Plan, agreed and approved by the Executive Board, has been developed in close collaboration with member states and the other funds, programmes and agencies within the remit of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (Q CPR), including UNICEF, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, and WFP.

The UNDP Strategic Plan recognizes the special case for development for SIDS and the need for tailored development solutions. A new Strategic Plan (2018-2021) is currently under development and will continue to reflect UNDP's commitment to the specific development circumstances in SIDS.

**Cabo Verde** UNDP (Cabo Verde) is in the process of working with the government to develop the Country Programme Document (CPD) and, at the same time, is engaged in the preparation of the UNDAF. Within these two processes, UNDP is advocating the need to integrate the SAMOA and SDGs into the planning, especially the issues of resilience in relation to climate change and disaster risk reduction. It is expected that one or more UNDAF outcomes will make clear reference to resilience and a key sustainable development determinant.

In December 2016, UNDESA and UNDP jointly organised a one week training workshop in Cabo Verde on the methodology for the elaboration of the vulnerability profile and Resilience in SIDS. The workshop was timely in that it anticipated the launching of the preparatory process of the PEDS.

**Caribbean** - The UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF) in the Caribbean is the programming framework under which 18 English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries and territories and the UN will jointly achieve development results for the period 2017-2021. Aimed at ensuring that no one is left behind in national development efforts, the MSDF is fully aligned with the SDGs, the Samoa Pathway and the respective national development priorities.

Since they derive from the MSDF, UNDP's Country Programme Documents (CPDs) 2017-2021 fully integrate the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway in their proposed outcomes.

**Pacific** - In preparing the Pacific United Nations Development Assistance Framework UNDAF (UN Pacific Strategy (UNPS)) for 2018-2022, the UN ensured the alignment of the strategy with the SDGs and adopted SDGs indicators to measure results. The UNPS as a multi-country strategy, informed by the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs and many of its results indicators will draw on SDGs indicators, further enhancing alignment.

The UNDP Sub-Regional Programme Document 2018-2022 is under development and will focus on a number of priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway. It will be informed by the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and will support the implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP). The three UN Pacific Strategy Outcomes that UNDP is developing in its Sub-Regional Programme Document (SRPD) contribute to a number of SDGs. UNDP's current programmes, both at the regional and national level, are driven by country demands for support, which are informed by the Samoa Pathway commitments. At the national level, UNDP is supporting the Pacific Governments in localizing the SDGs and in ensuring a greater alignment between their national development plans and budgets and SDG targets. At the regional level, UNDP works closely with Regional Organizations in the Sustainable Development Task Force to localize the SDGs.

#### **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.**

The issues and concerns of the SIDS are given due consideration in all conferences and processes organized or supported by UNDP.

**AIMS** - UNDP Country Offices in Africa SIDS supported, both substantively and financially, Cabo Verde's hosting of the first Ministerial Meeting of Africa SIDS + Madagascar (SIDSAM) that took place in Praia, Cabo Verde in December 2016. The meeting officially formalised the creation of the SIDSAM group, which will be initially chaired by Cabo Verde, and agreed on the Praia Declaration. The declaration pledges group members to coordinate their positions, harmonize their actions and support one another in advocating policies and actions favourable to this group and to the progress of

the SAMOA Pathway, especially in relation to the African Union, its Agenda 2063 and the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development.

**AOSIS** - UNDP partnered with the Chair, Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), currently the *Maldives*, to provide financial support to enhance the Alliance's global voice on climate action. This includes the UNFCCC support programme which assists SIDS participate in global climate change meetings, facilitates strategy development and coordination across the AOSIS membership, and a fellowship programme that builds capacity of SIDS nationals to engage in international climate change negotiations.

**Jamaica** – In 2017, UNDP supported a national conversation among stakeholders, and the Jamaican population, to discuss and share knowledge about climate change adaptation and mitigation issues - a significant concern faced by the island nation. The conversation also allowed the government to share its plan to address climate change issues.

**Pacific** - The issues and concerns of all Pacific SIDS are central to all UNDP hosted meetings in the Pacific region. For example, the conference on “Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16 in Melanesia: Creating Political and Parliamentary Stability to Catalyse Development” organized by UNDP to discuss options for addressing political instability which negatively impacts the achievement of SDGs. UNDP is also providing support to the Fiji COP 23 Presidency of the UNFCCC Negotiations and Pacific SIDS Engagement. The objective is to support Fiji as the President of the COP 23 and to engender the voice of Pacific SIDS as well as the wider SIDS in UNFCCC negotiations and regional/global policy climate discussions.

**Mauritius** - With support from the UN system, Mauritius hosted the 5th high level meeting of African Ministers on Disaster Reduction and the 6th session of African Regional Platform in November 2016 that welcomed 750 delegates from 47 African countries. The outcomes of the meetings led to a Programme of Action for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa and the Mauritius Declaration adopted by African Ministers reaffirming their commitment to implement the Sendai Framework in Africa guided by the Programme of Action. In addition, anti-corruption officials from Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) convened in Mauritius in August 2016 to discuss countering corruption in public procurement and practices to prevent corruption in public procurement in SIDS.

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

UNDP continues to implement and engage in the commitments and partnerships announced at the Samoa Conference. These are regularly updated on the SIDS Action Platform, which has the latest details and updates. For the reporting period, UNDP has not initiated nor registered additional partnerships on the SIDS partnership Platform”.

Example of updates include:

**Caribbean** - UNDP is implementing the regional climate change adaptation and mitigation project (Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership project). The regional programme on climate change seeks to support the regions climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts at the community and national levels, as well as through institutional

capacity building. Through the project a framework for the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions will be developed and community-based projects will be implemented in some communities. For example, in Jamaica, these projects are aimed at improving the management of water resources and enhancing sustainable agriculture. Improving irrigation through using renewable energy will be explored. The projects will build community resilience to impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

**Pacific** - The *Regional Disaster Resilience in the Pacific Small Island Developing States (RESPAC)* Project, funded by the Russian Federation, is under implementation and stakeholders met in Fiji in October 2016. The project is supporting countries in strengthening early warning systems and climate monitoring capacity, enhance preparedness and planning mechanisms and tools to manage disaster recovery processes, and increase the use of financial instruments to manage and share disaster related risk and fund post disaster recovery efforts, and is expected to improve the level of resilience of the Pacific SIDS. The project aligns with the Samoa Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2015-2030. It will support 14 Pacific countries including Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and the territory of Tokelau.

The *Pacific Adaptation for Climate Change (PACC) Project* aims to reduce vulnerability and to increase adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change in key development sectors identified by the 14 participating countries in the Pacific, which are coastal management, food security and water sectors. Key results include mainstreaming climate change in 24 national policies and 17 sector focused strategies, completed demonstration pilots for coastal management in 4 countries, food security in 4 countries and water in 6 countries. The total number of beneficiaries is 55,000 in 80 village communities in 14 Pacific Island Countries. With regards to water management, 33,000 people benefited in 30 communities in 5 countries; on food security 6,000 people benefited in 27 communities in 4 countries; on coastal management 13,000 people benefited in 23 communities in 4 countries.

The *Pacific Risk Resilience Programme (PRRP)* is under implementation and building 'risk governance'. PRRP is delivered in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu and funded by Australia. The PRRP is now expanding its partnerships to include Sweden on risk-informed and gender sensitive budgeting, as well as with UNDP's global Connecting Business Initiative (CBI) and the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization (PIPSO) on private sector engagement. PRRP has been effective in strengthening the risk governance building blocks (people, mechanisms and processes) as a foundation for risk informed development. Progress is most significant in Fiji followed closely by Vanuatu and then Tonga and Solomon Islands. The achievements to-date include: i) implementation of risk informed development; ii) behaviour change amongst partners with increasing 'buy-in' to the risk governance approach; iii) progress ensuring risk informed development is gender responsive (i.e. inclusive and equitable and addresses the vulnerabilities and priorities of different groups); iv) more meaningful and sustained engagement of the private sector in partnerships supporting risk informed development; v) progress towards sustainability supported by government ownership, leadership by senior 'champions' and mobilization of national funding for risk informed development; vi) evidence of replication to new geographical areas; and vii) diffusion of learning regionally and internationally including release of the 'Risk Governance Policy Brief'. These achievements are helping to

demonstrate how the new Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) is being implemented in countries.

The *Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme (CHICCHAP)* works towards enhancing food security, livelihoods and the environmental sustainability of the Choiseul people to address the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. CHICCHAP focuses on issues of drought, food security, conservation of biodiversity, etc within the local context of Choiseul Province. To date, CHICCHAP has assisted the provincial government mainstream strategies on climate change within their Provincial Midterm Development Plan to enable them to access funding for the sustainable development of the Province.

The *Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP)* is supporting PICs to join the Better than Cash Alliance (BTCA). Joining the BTCA is making a commitment to digitize financial systems and to use electronic payment channels for both payments and receipts in a way that improves lives and expands responsible digital financial services. The Alliance partners with governments, companies, and international organizations that are the key drivers behind the transition to make digital payments widely available. Papua New Guinea joined the alliance in 2015 and Fiji and Solomon Islands in 2017. Joining the alliance signals a commitment to inclusive financial policies.