

## **UNICEF inputs in SG Report on SAMOA Pathway**

“Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”

**19 May 2016**

### **SG Report Outline**

#### **Part B. Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway**

##### **a. Partnerships for SIDS**

##### **b. The implementation of and support for SIDS**

- i. Urgent and concrete actions to address the vulnerabilities of SIDS and seek solutions in a concerted manner.**
- ii. Integration into national and regional policies and development framework and their impact at national and regional levels.**
- iii. Integration into Partner’s cooperation frameworks, programmes and activities.**
- iv. National sustainable development strategies and programmes**

##### **c. Linkages to the other key global processes**

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.

UNICEF has country programmes in 34 SIDS, including the Pacific Island Countries country programme covering 14 SIDS with a budget of US\$79,661,714, the Eastern Caribbean multi-country programme covering 8 SIDS with a budget of US\$31,000,000 and other stand-alone country programmes, such as those for Cabo Verde and Maldives.<sup>1</sup> Through these country programmes, UNICEF continued to support the implementation of the Samoa Pathway in 2016. UNICEF’s work covered a wide range of issues affecting children and their caregivers such as education, nutrition, water and sanitation, and health. Throughout SIDS, UNICEF paid particular attention to resilience building, disaster risk management and reduction addressing impacts of environment and climate change on children.

In Eastern Caribbean Area, UNICEF supported national authorities in the 12 countries and territories to adopt the Child Friendly School framework, including a Disaster Risk Management (DRM) component, at school level with children and adolescents’ participation. The inclusion of children and adolescents as key actors in the DRM will not only strengthen national response capacities but also protect children and adolescents. To date, more than 68,000 primary school and 18,000 secondary school students have been reached by UNICEF’s work. As a milestone of the work in this area, 12 countries<sup>2</sup> signed the “Antigua and Barbuda Declaration: School Safety in the Caribbean” in April 2017, securing political will towards actualizing a roadmap to implement specific actions at the national level to increase the resilience of the education system. In addition, an Out-of-School study in seven countries in Eastern Caribbean Area was completed identifying vulnerable populations within and outside schools. Aligned with the SAMOA Pathway and SDGs, the study will serve as a tool to advocate and support national authorities to tailor public policies and programmes to reach the most vulnerable children and families.

UNICEF’s efforts to boost capacity of the Ministry of Finance and relevant Ministries in Virgin Islands (UK) and Montserrat, continued in sectors of health, education, social protection, and child protection. This also involved UNICEF’s initiatives on public investment for children with an aim not only to strengthen efficient and effective allocation of resources for children but also to increase accountability of government to report on measurable outcomes for children. UNICEF also worked to address vulnerabilities faced by children especially due to migration and violence. The rights of migrant children from nearby SIDS to the UK Overseas Territories were

<sup>1</sup> “Comprehensive Review of United Nations System Support for Small Island Developing States: Final Findings”, Joint Inspection Unit, Geneva 2016. Direct source: UNICEF Executive Board documents.

<sup>2</sup> Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Guyana, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Turks and Caicos, and Virgin Islands.

advocated through the use of situation analyses highlighting gaps and need for language-specific communication materials and campaigns. UNICEF also worked to address both child abuse/neglect and restorative justice for adolescents taking into consideration gender variances. The areas of work included legislative reform, strengthening of social care policies and programmes as well as mobilization of public and private awareness and action on child sexual abuse, corporal punishment as a form of child abuse and a growing level of child neglect.

Since February 2016 in Guyana, in support of national ZIKV response led by the Civil Defence Commission (CDC), UNICEF together with partners has provided technical and logistical support to the 10 regions to strengthen disaster risk management both at sub-national and at community levels. Through the emergency coordination mechanism UNICEF provided support for volunteer training in community outreach for the elimination of vector breeding sites covering 90,000 people in 5 Administrative Regions led by the Vector Control Services (VCS) unit of the Ministry of Public Health. In partnership with the Guyana Red Cross Society (GRCS), psycho-social support training for clinic attendees, individuals, families, and communities were carried out to prevent and manage conditions associated with ZIKV in 5 Administrative Regions. Medically approved and culturally appropriate vector repellents were distributed to 16,000 pregnant women and women who may become pregnant with a special focus on teenagers.

In Suriname, UNICEF supported a Communication for Development (C4D) and ZIKV Workshop hosted by the Ministry of Health for 40 health sector responders including 5 from Guyana. This built upon the initial Ministry of Health/ UNICEF supported communication outreach covering 340,000 people in the first quarter of 2016. The participation of Guyana Health and C4D professionals enhanced cross-border interventions to prevent and manage ZIKV and its related Congenital Microcephaly Syndromes (CMS). UNICEF supported the training of over 70 health care workers based in the Interior Health Posts, with the additional health care workers to be trained by the end of 2017. Critical supplies including 6,000 repellants, 12,500 square meters of water barrel capping material, 3,500 info flyers and 200 posters have been distributed for vector control activities through community outreach activities. In 2016, Early Childhood Development (ECD) training for interior health care workers and for psycho social support for families affected by ZIKV was implemented by Medical Mission in 2016 with UNICEF support, covering one interior District. This is currently being scaled up in 2017 to cover all Interior districts to enhance the community outreach in promoting practices and ensure behaviour change.

The impacts of El Nino/ La Nina have emphasized the importance of a context-specific and local approach to reducing disaster risk. In Guyana and Suriname, under the Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Project in partnership with the Civil Defence Commission (CDC), UNICEF worked with community members and stakeholders to generate a greater understanding of the local hazard and vulnerability landscape and existing risk management systems. Particular attention was paid to the vulnerabilities of households with young children and individuals with disabilities, and the importance of incorporating indigenous and local knowledge to reduce risks.

In tackling climate change issues in Guyana, UNICEF worked through schools to ensure the awareness of effects of climate change amongst children and families. In an effort to more interactive programme to support children and their families with climate change behaviours to reduce carbon footprints, UNICEF enhanced the capacity of teachers through equipping them with learning materials and lesson guides across all grades. An innovative DVD entitled, "Our earth is heating up. Let's take action now" for nursery school children, produced by UNICEF in previous year has been now taken at the national level and being integrated within strategies for Caribbean region. UNICEF has partnered with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in Guyana and Suriname in developing programmes sensitizing children and the community on issues related to climate change, as part of activities leading to and following Earth Hour. Strategies to prevent and lessen effects from the recent expansion of the extractive industry and discovery of off-shore oil reserve are incorporated within the Guyana Ministry of Education's Child Friendly School (CFS) programme.

In cooperation with the Suriname Red Cross Society, UNICEF has supported the school based component of an integrated community DRM project in eight communities deemed at high risk for emergencies. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) led roll out of the Strategic Targeting

Methodology (STM) community risk assessment tool with the NCCR, UNICEF provided technical support to ensure the integration of a child focus in the process nationally.

In the area of disaster risk management, UNICEF's support to the Guyana CDC in commemorating International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction enhanced linkages between children, caregivers and the elderly in joint disaster risk reduction preparedness. The Health sector emergency plan was reviewed and updated through statutory committees in which UNICEF has provided technical guidance and inputs. UNICEF also provided technical guidance to improve coordination mechanisms for the Civil Defence Commission to integrate the Education and Child Protection Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans (EPRPs) within the overall national DRM plan. UNICEF together with CDC, supported the Ministry of Social Protection (MoSP) to update the social protection sectoral Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) with specific focus on emergency evacuation plans and first aid training for all staff attached to the care centres and institutions under their responsibility.

In Dominican Republic, UNICEF endeavored to improve resilience in WASH sector through system strengthening. The main strategy was to boost the capacity of national and local WASH actors such as the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Group (GASH in Spanish) to resist, respond, and recover from an emergency. With UNICEF's support, the GASH is now included in the annual work plan of the Ministry of Health with a budget. The Group is also being designated as a coordinating body for WASH sector in emergencies by MOH. To date, UNICEF supported MOH to institutionalize the GASH through development of training plan, decision making information tools, monitoring plan for local GASH, and stakeholders mapping. The GASH "model" was duplicated for Integrated Resilience Cluster for Nutrition (GRIN).

In response to Sao Tome and Principe's vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters, a training of trainers on emergency preparedness in schools was organized by UNICEF targeting 118 principals and supervisors nationally, representing 80% of the total. To support nutrition security and the reduction of anaemia among children under the age of 5 years, UNICEF implemented a micronutrient supplementation programme in both Islands of the country. Moreover, UNICEF provided technical assistance in the development of national programmes and policies to strengthen health systems; promoted universal coverage through purchase of vaccines for children under the age of one year; contributed with medical supplies and communication for development activities for paediatric HIV testing and treatment incentivizing people to lead healthier lives. In the area of water and sanitation, UNICEF helped develop a community-led total sanitation approach to reduce open defecation. Promoting social inclusion, UNICEF advocated for equal access of children to education, especially to early education.

In Jamaica, UNICEF enhanced focus and capacities on Disaster Risk Management and Emergency preparedness with the national authorities. Key training activities were carried out and emergency supplies for schools as safe shelter and learning space were prepositioned.

In Cuba, through a joint programme with WFP and UNDP on "*Strengthening Resilience of families and vulnerable groups affected by drought in Santiago de Cuba*", UNICEF focused on increasing access to safe drinking water and improving hygiene practices both at the household and health facilities within an urban centre. With aim to support 36,000 people in 4,000 families, the programme include an early warning system to raise alerts prior to hydro meteorological events; control, distribution and provision of safe water in scarcity scenarios; and capacity strengthening for the efficient use of water for food production. This initiative will contribute in the design an integrated and sustainable water safety policy for urban centers facing similar conditions. Further more, UNICEF and the Cuban government have a long-standing tradition of promoting climate-related education and its linkages with Disaster-Risk Reduction (DRR). The education component of the Country Programme includes strengthening the capacity of the community, school and family to face natural disasters with the active participation of children. Over the last three years, the programme has reached 107 communities, 128 schools, 1,812 teachers and 14,178 children in the Eastern region.

In the Pacific Island Countries, UNICEF is supporting the governments in 14 Pacific countries and territories (PICTs), where eight of them are among the 20 countries in the world with the highest average

annual disaster losses scaled by gross domestic product. In 2016, UNICEF Pacific Office completed child centered risks assessment for Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu to highlight areas and regions that are vulnerable to natural hazards to inform and prioritise work of Governments, UNICEF and other agencies. In addition, UNICEF ensured vaccine security in 13 PICTs through the Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII) as well as technical guidance for forecasting and stock management. Support was provided for the OPV switch activities and the validation process in 10 PICTs; for the introduction of bOPV in eight countries; and for IPV supplies in 10 countries. Capacity of national health staff in 13 countries were also strengthened on cold chain and effective vaccine management.

In Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, UNICEF supported to enable communities, schools and health care facilities to assess and manage risks to their respective water and sanitation systems, improve overall preparedness and facilitate access to building resilient communities at scale. Installation of solar panels to supply electricity to schools in rural areas of Solomon Islands commenced and a Three Star Approach for WASH was introduced in schools to improve preparedness and response. In 2017, five out of a total 13 participants (Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands) from Government ministries and health, education and WASH partners successfully completed a 14-week course on designing, planning and monitoring WASH interventions in schools including in emergencies supported by UNICEF in the Pacific. The knowledge gained will support the scaling up of WASH in school programme for Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu led by the Ministries of Education of the respective countries.

In 2016, UNICEF in the Pacific responded to El Niño induced drought in Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Vanuatu. UNICEF conducted a rapid assessment to ascertain the scale of the drought and its impact on children and women to guide UNICEF assistance prior to the delivery of a calibrated response that focused on systemic sectoral concerns. Nutrition supplies and technical support was provided to Federated States of Micronesia to support national and state governments in strengthening prevention, screening, referrals and treatment of moderate and acute malnutrition and to address micronutrient deficiency among children and women. In Vanuatu, response to El Niño induced drought were integrated into the recovery programmes from tropical cyclone Pam. UNICEF continued to provide temporary learning spaces for school children due to delays in the reconstruction of schools. Worn out tents were replaced and more than 34,000 school children received learning materials.

In Fiji, UNICEF responded to the category 5 Tropical Cyclone Winston that hit the country in February 2016. By end of March 2017, almost 69,000 people had been provided with access to safe water and over 29,000 people had been provided with hygiene and sanitation supplies. Over 50,000 school children had benefitted from learning materials and temporary learning spaces. Almost 63,000 children were provided with psychosocial support. Expanded immunizations as well as other essential health and nutrition services were extended to health facilities in the most affected areas. Reliant and environmentally friendly solar fridges were installed 91 facilities without access to power to ensure the vaccine cold chain.

Timor-Leste has realized several partnerships activities for SAMOA Pathway including the Coral Triangle Initiative on coral reefs, fisheries, and food security for sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation with other SIDS. Over the past years, UNICEF has supported the implementation of initiatives around Climate Change adaptation and mitigation through disaster risk reduction in schools, implementation of environmental protection measures during construction of schools and gravity fed water systems in communities, and use of solar water pumps. Especially in parts of the country suffering from drought in 2016, climate change and children became increased area of focus. UNICEF prepared a Climate Change Adaptation/Climate Change Mitigation (CCA/CCM) strategy note that assessed the baseline situation, identified priorities for the country on climate change and its potential impact on children and their families. UNICEF also provided technical inputs and engaged in the development of the National Climate Change Policy Framework, ensuring issues linked to children and their families are addressed.

In Comoros, with the support of development partners including UNICEF, the Ministry of National Education has developed and adopted a guide defining standards for school construction. This guide

addressed, among other issues, the vulnerability of the country's physical environment due to its rugged terrain and aggravated by deforestation, the extraction of sea sand along the coasts and the high rate of soil runoff in Anjouan and Mohéli. Standards have therefore been defined in order to make the school buildings stronger and more resistant to hazards, particularly seismic activities. Furthermore, The Government of Comoros, with the support of development partners including UNICEF, is working to improve access to water for the entire population. The government has adopted a national strategy to increase access to water and reduce the vulnerability of water resources due to the insularity of the country. The water code addressed water related issues including water governance, water use regimes and water-related risk prevention and management measures (flooding, droughts and other risks).

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 for IACG member agencies.

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?

UNICEF, through its (Multi-) Country Programmes, contributes to the child related aspects of the SAMOA Pathway. These (Multi-) Country Programmes contain integrated results frameworks with specific indicators, baselines and targets and progress is reported through on an annual basis (Annual Reports). In developing Country Programmes, UNICEF consults with national and regional bodies and other stakeholders to ensure alignment with their priorities as well as global agenda on SIDS and SDGs.

In addition, UNICEF Guyana and Suriname are fully participating within the Caribbean Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF) process which has a specific pillar relating to integrating the Samoa Pathway within Regional and National development processes relating to sustainable development and climate change adaptation. Within the UN-MSDF and the development of current cooperation agreements with the host governments, the SDGs were mainstreamed within the national development plans. For Guyana, UNICEF was engaged in the process for the development of Guyana Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plan, which is being finalized through the Office of Climate Change, Ministry of the Presidency. Through as co-leadership of the UN Emergency Technical Teams (UNETT) in both countries, UNICEF ensured UN support to the Governments of Guyana and Suriname to maintain and enhance networking linkages with regional and global disaster risk management forums linked to the Samoa Pathway, and the Sendai framework.

In Eastern Caribbean Area, the UNICEF Multi-Country Programme (MCP) (2017-2021), contributes directly to three Caribbean UN Multi Country Sustainable Development Framework outcomes: (1) Inclusive, equitable and prosperous Caribbean; (2), Safe, cohesive and just Caribbean; and (3) Sustainable and resilient Caribbean. The Programme is defined in the context of the 2030 Agenda, SAMOA pathway, national and regional frameworks. The overall goal of the MCP is to contribute to an inclusive, equitable and prosperous Eastern Caribbean that ensures the education, child protection, social protection and resilience of its children. The new programme will focus on supporting institutional capacity for implementation of policies and legislation to ensure realization of children's rights.

UNICEF ECA works in collaboration with the OECS Commission, ECLAC, sister UN Agencies and development partners to assess the data challenges related to children within the SDG monitoring agenda and assist with the prioritization of indicators based on the national context and needs. Support is provided to strengthen the analysis and use of disaggregated data to identify the most vulnerable groups including poor children. Increased effort is being made in sub-regional and development partners' platforms on the coordination of statistical initiatives and the unique needs and levels of assistance required by the Eastern Caribbean SIDS to effectively and systematically collect and analyze data for monitoring the SDGs and SAMOA commitments.

The Government of Sao Tome and Principe is currently developing its National Development Plan integrating the SAMOA Pathway and SDGs for a better monitoring of these frameworks. The Sao Tome and Principe faces the challenge of a double insularity, the distance among both islands and the need to adapt programmes and policies to the context of both of them. In addition, the country needs to develop its infrastructures (airport, port) to boost its limited market and economy, but this may have consequences to the environment that need to be effectively taken into account in any development plan or policy. Working as part of United Nations system, UNICEF in Sao Tome and Principe participated in the development of the UNDAF 2017-2021 which is fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda of the Government. The vulnerabilities of the country as a SIDS and the SDGs have been taken into consideration in the decision of structuring UN actions around 3 pillars: social cohesion, good governance and economic sustainable development and resilience. UNICEF has factored those in when developing its current Country Programme Document 2017-2021.

In line with the Samoa Pathway, UNICEF programme in Cuba acknowledged that the adverse impacts of climate change compound existing challenges in small island developing States and have placed additional burdens on their national budgets and their efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals. The programme aims to contribute to SDG targets related to building resilience, achieving universal and equitable access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene with focus on needs of women and girls through gender-specific data collection and empowering women in water management and resilience to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.

The UNICEF Pacific Multi-Country Programme strongly feed into the aspirations of eight of the SIDS partnerships announced at the Samoa Conference. UNICEF Pacific is a member of the Pacific SDGs working group and contributed to the development of the Regional SDG Roadmap which seeks to identify regional indicators in line with Pacific regional priorities to monitor progress on SDGs, Framework for Pacific Regionalism & SAMOA Pathway. The roadmap also seeks to integrate regional reporting & coordination mechanisms towards the SDGs, Framework for Pacific Regionalism & SAMOA Pathway.

The Pacific WASH Coalition remains a critical partnership framework for delivering on safe water and sanitation. UNICEF Pacific, the Asian Development Bank, UN-Habitat and the Water and Sanitation Programme of the World Bank worked with the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility to produce the report “Unsettled: Water and Sanitation in Urban Settlement Communities of the Pacific”. The report will guide the parties to the coalition to respond to specific of countries.

As the secretariat to the Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Care and Education (PRC4ECCE), UNICEF supported PRC4ECCE to continue its efforts in monitoring and documenting the implementation of the regional guidelines for the development of national quality frameworks for ECCE. Tuvalu, Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu have developed and endorsed quality standards using the regional framework. PRC4ECCE continued to engage with social networks and its partners. PRC4ECCE strengthened its social media presence In September 2017, PRC4ECCE, UNICEF and the World Bank will jointly support a high level regional conference on “Moving Forward with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Early Childhood” bringing together key government officials and stakeholders across all countries in Pacific to further their understanding of and commitment toward high-quality, equitable, and inclusive ECCE.

In Comoros, following the prioritization of the SDGs and their integration in the national development strategy by the government, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the UNICEF Country Programme will be updated and aligned accordingly.

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. B(c)

Wherever relevant, the issues and concerns of SIDS are given due consideration when supporting and organizing conferences and processes by UNICEF Country Offices in SIDS. Especially in Eastern Caribbean Area (ECA), many of the processes and conferences are related to addressing the limited human resource

capacities of the small island states to implement programmes and policies targeting the most vulnerable groups in their respective countries.

The UNICEF Latin American and Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO) have been also extensively engaged in putting a great emphasis on the issues of SIDS, and participated in global processes and conferences relevant to SIDS such as recently in Montreal and Cancun. At the sub-Regional level, UNICEF organised and facilitated joint disaster risk management planning sessions between CDEMA and the UNICEF country offices located within CDEMA's participating states in February 2017.

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

UNICEF Pacific Multicountry Programme contributes to eight of the SIDS partnerships announced at the Samoa Conference namely: Pacific Partnership for Action on Safe Water & Sanitation, Pacific Partnership for Atoll Water Security, Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Care and Education (PRC4ECCE), Protecting Children from Violence, Abuse and Exploitation in the Pacific, Scaling up the Maternal, Newborn & Child Health Programme and United Nations Pacific Interagency Task Force on Non-communicable Disease Prevention & Control, Pacific Youth Development Framework Partnership (PYDF), Supporting Comprehensive Sexuality Education in the Pacific. Through the various working groups and regional platforms, UNICEF has contributed to ensure effective follow-up and implementation at regional and national level.

In Jamaica, UN Humanitarian Country Team (UNHCT) conducted a joint training on emergency preparedness. In Eastern Caribbean Area, partnerships are explored or initiated with the Organizations of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), National Authorities of the twelve countries and UK territories, University of West Indies, and Caribbean Development Bank.