

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.

UNOPS mainstreams resilience in its infrastructure work to address the negative effects of global warming and climate variability because sustainable and resilient infrastructure development is more about *how infrastructure is built* rather than *what needs to be built*. Low-lying coastal countries are all vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and variability so any infrastructure in the SIDS needs to be environmentally friendly and ready to withstand shocks and extreme weather conditions. In line with this, UNOPS adopts the notion of resilience into its planning for the future and some measures that are mainstreamed in all of UNOPS' infrastructure projects include: ensuring that critical base-line information including contextual risks are influencing risk informed planning and design strengthening governance and institutional capacities around the design, management and maintenance of infrastructure; and establishing the systems that enables infrastructure design to benefit from lessons learned from adversity. These measures are designed to protect and sustain development gains in addition to reducing the loss of lives and livelihoods and economic damage at a low price compared to the life time perspective of the infrastructure built.

To better build physical and natural infrastructure, UNOPS launched the **Resilience Pathways Model**, a tool to help countries integrate resilience planning across multiple sectors of their hard and soft infrastructure. While the issue of resilience is not new, the UNOPS Resilience Pathways Model represents a unique approach to addressing resilience within the context of all major global frameworks including the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for DRR. The foundation of RPM is based on five principles.

1. *Resilience is an outcome.* The basic premise is that for resilience to be achieved then all elements of development must be resilient.
2. *Resilience is a "state of being"* – Resilience is not an end goal in itself but a continuously changing state.
3. *Development should learn from adversity.* Understanding the reasons for failure as a result of the impact from specific shocks and stresses provides opportunity to extend the development trajectory to higher levels and avoid repeating the same mistakes.
4. *Development and humanitarian actions are inseparable.* Risks are inherent in existing development and new development often creates new risks. Well planned development can therefore minimize the extent of humanitarian response, whereas poor development decisions can result in increased humanitarian needs in the event of shock and stresses occurring.
5. *Promoting programmatic synergies.* This is the key to achieving resilience objectives within and across the global development agenda's.

Increasingly UNOPS will be gauging the value added of the resilience pathway model in supporting the development objectives of Small Island Developing State (SIDS).

UNOPS is also assisting the Government of Curaçao in its objective of adapting its management of infrastructure in a way that will be resilient to different changes that they will face in the future, from the effects of climate change to an economy that is less reliant on fossil fuels. The overall outcome should support the decision makers in allocation of resources in a strategic and optimized manner.

The approach proposed by UNOPS includes activities that have been identified during different scoping mission undertaken to date, as well as the launch of the integrated assessment of requirements related to the Ministry of Traffic, Transport and Urban Planning (MTTUP). This will lead to a holistic understanding of what is required on the short, medium and long term and what is the best strategy to use.

The following strategic areas are the main focus:

1. Launching of the Resilience Programme, through the Evidence Based Infrastructure Development Framework (EBIDF), in order to have a holistic understanding of the current infrastructure environment and its weaknesses to withstand future infrastructure related challenges due to Climate Change. This programme consists of data gathering for the a Fast Track Analysis, Asset Management, Vision-making for Infrastructure Development and Infrastructure Modeling to ultimately develop an infrastructure plan for the coming 50 years.
2. Formal assessment of its transport network, including traffic flow, road safety, alternative means of transportation.
3. Establish a pricing index that will enable the Ministry to fairly accurately anticipate the cost of building roads.
4. Technical support on industrial waste water management.
5. Study on Sustainability in alternative energy in partnership with the University of Oxford.

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

SIDS and SAMOA Pathway priorities related to the UNOPS mandate will be reflected in UNOPS 2018-2021 Strategic Plan, which will be concluded by the fourth quarter of 2017.

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?

UNOPS is integrating principles of the Samoa Pathway into its development work in Small Island Developing Stages in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS. The Samoa Pathway calls upon the UN system in collaboration with other stakeholders to strengthen coordination and support for small islands developing states that want to pursue green economy policies. In line with this UNOPS is already executing water resources management projects for a wide range of partners including through the GEF Trust Fund through UN

Environment and UNDP. The focus of these projects is on Cabo Verde, Comoros, Maldives, Mauritius, São Tomé & Príncipe and Seychelles and UNOPS adds value to these projects through its project management, capacity development and institutional strengthening capabilities. UNOPS is also involved in several projects in Haiti, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Maldives to build environmentally friendly infrastructure that withstands shocks and extreme weather conditions, also supporting the Samoa Pathway and the SDGs.

UNOPS' strategic plan 2018-2021 aligns with the direction of the UN system, the SDGs and the Agenda 2030, and through much of its work in the SIDS (in the Caribbean and the Indian Ocean), UNOPS is already working to implement SDG 14 on Oceans. In all projects around the world UNOPS mainstreams the implementation of all other SDGs in planning, implementation and cooperation frameworks supporting governments to attain the SDGs by 2030.

In preparations for the UN Oceans Conference UNOPS is working to support the implementation of SDG 14, and tackle marine pollution and litter from land-based sources; Land-based infrastructure (water, sanitation, ports) and capacity building; Infrastructure advisory and management capacity with emphasis on climate resilience.

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.

Oceans and SIDS are given high consideration within UNOPS. UNOPS leadership attended number of conferences of importance for SIDS:

1. 29 January 2016 – Aruba conference on Public Private Partnerships
2. 22 September 2016 - The first annual Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue
3. 21-23 February 2017 - Symposium on “Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SAMOA Pathway in Small Island Developing States (SIDS): Equipping public institutions and mobilizing partnerships”

Also, on 28 January 2017 UNOPS organized a presentation on its work to Alliance of Small Island States

In February 2017 the Executive Director of UNOPS Grete Faremo, officially launched a new partnership with the non profit organization We Are the Oceans (WATO) from London. With WATO's expertise in awareness raising and UNOPS significant implementation experience, the partnership will allow UNOPS to work closely together with a strategic partner, to inspire and educate people globally, about the impact of our actions on the world's oceans. WATO uses gaming, music and animation, specifically targeting millennials, to inspire people and brands to make more sustainable lifestyle choices that help oceans and the environment. WATO is an example of UNOPS commitment to this where UNOPS in collaboration with WATO are pushing the urgent agenda of solving problems with not only the pollution of Oceans but also when it comes to creating sustainable development for island nations and communities by bringing scalable projects for their communities.

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.**

In 2016 UNOPS has not registered any commitments and partnerships announced at the Samoa conference but is in the process of assessing which of the partnerships with the Pacific SIDS are active in order not to avoid duplication in programmatic support for the SIDS, especially with the Pacific SIDS. Areas where UNOPS intends to establish partnerships in line with the Samoa Pathway priority areas include:

- climate change
- sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth and Decent work for all
- Sustainable energy
- DRR for Resilience
- Oceans and Seas
- Water and Sanitation
- Sustainable transport
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Means of implementation including partnerships
- SIDS priorities for the post 2015 development agenda
- Monitoring and accountability

UNOPS and Government of Antigua and Barbuda have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish an innovation center in Antigua and Barbuda. The UNOPS innovation center will grow local talent pool, bring key innovation stakeholders and partners to the region, and promoting sustainable development goals particularly with inclusion of women and youth to create sustainable innovation ecosystem that best fits the local context of the Organization of eastern Caribbean states (OECS).

To achieve this UNOPS will bring tools such as education, incubation, investment and support for policy makers. Using specific educational resources to create entrepreneurship as well as policy support together with MIT.