



**SIDS Unit
Division for Sustainable Development Goals
UN-DESA**

***Work Programme of the SIDS Unit (2017 -2018)
&
Resource Allocation***

1. Since its establishment, the work programme of the UN-DESA SIDS Unit has been guided by two primary considerations, namely: the implementation of its core and additional mandates; and secondly, its overall alignment to the core functions of the Division for Sustainable Development (the Division)¹. The latter ensures the equitable allocation of resources to the Unit to enable it to carry out its ever-expanding mandates. For the year 2017-2018, the focus of the Division was directed to these five core functions: (a) support to intergovernmental processes on sustainable development; (b) analysis and policy development; (c) capacity development at the country level; (d) inter-agency coordination; and (e) knowledge management, communication and outreach². The Unit's Work Programme for this two years was tailored to ensure the implementation of its core and additional mandates and to mirror the Division's core functions.

2. The current full complement of the SIDS Unit was attained in January 2017 following the recruitment of the current Chief of Unit. The Unit's Work Programme in Table 1 & 2 below covers the period 2017-2018.

SIDS Unit Work Programme 2017		
Output 1	Support to UN Inter-Governmental Processes	Responsibility
	UN Ocean Conference 2017	
1.1	Support to the UN Ocean Conference	P5, P4, P2 & x 2 Admin Staff
1.2	Organization and support to SIDS Expert Group Meeting on Ocean (Jeju, South Korea, March 2017)	P5 & 1 x Admin Staff
	HLPF 2017	
1.3	Organization and Support to formal SIDS Session HLPF 2017	P4 & P3
1.4	Organization and Support to SIDS/SIDS Initiative (with the Singapore Mission) – Side Event in the margin of HLPF 2017	P5, P4 & 1 x Admin Staff
	UNGA Support – Legislative/Resolution/Processes	

¹ JIU/REP/2016 paragraph 14

² Ibid, see also: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/about.html>

1.5	Parliamentary Documentation: SG's Report on Implementation of SAMOA Pathway	P5, P4 & P2
1.6	Preparation and Secretariat support- Negotiation on Annual UNGA Resolution on the Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway	P4, P2
1.7	Support to BBNJ & Ocean and Sea Issues	P5
Secretariat Services		
1.8	Internal Correspondences: Drafting of Third Party Notes, Statements, Briefing Papers, Talking Points and Background Notes	P5, P4
Output 2	Capacity Building Initiatives & VNR³ Support	
	Support to the VNR Process	
2.1	Support to Belize & Maldives	P5 & P4
	Capacity Development Account Projects (VRCP⁴ Project)	
2.2	National Training Workshops: Guinea Bissau, St. Lucia and Seychelles	P4 & P2 & 1 x Admin Staff
	Technical Advisory Services (VRCP-Project)	
2.3	Provision for Technical Advice Services to: Barbados, Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau, Jamaica, Sao Tome & Principe, St. Lucia and Seychelles	P4
	Regional Workshops (VRCP-Project)	
2.4	AIMS ⁵ Regional Workshop on VRCP	P4
2.5	Caribbean Regional Workshop on VRCP	P4
Output 3	Inter-agency Coordination & Thematic Issues Coordination	
3.1	Chair of IACG ⁶ (Rotating basis with OHRLLS)	P5
3.2	UN Ocean Coordination	P5
3.3	FAO ⁷ Coordination on GAP ⁸	P4 & P2
3.4	Climate Change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COP23 Side Event • UNGA72 High-Level Breakfast 	P5 P5, P4, P2 and 2 x Admin Staff
3.5	Disaster Risks Reduction: Organize SIDS Side Event & Participation at 2017 Global Platform on DRR (Mexico, May 2017)	P5
Output 4	Stakeholders Engagement & SIDS Partnership	
4.1	Engagement with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS) • Pacific SIDS (PSIDS) 	P5, P4

³ Voluntary National Review

⁴ Vulnerability Resilience Country Profile

⁵ Atlantic Indian Ocean Mediterranean & South China Sea

⁶ Interagency Consultative Group On SIDS

⁷ Food and Agriculture Organization

⁸ Global Action Programme on Food and Nutrition

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caribbean SIDS • AIMS 	
4.2	Secretariat Support to the Steering Committee on SIDS Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official & Ambassadorial Meetings; and • The Global Multi-Stakeholders Dialogue 	P5, P4
Output 5	Communication & Outreach	
5.1	Quarterly Publication: “The Cowrie”- SIDS Times Magazine	P2 & 1x Admin Staff
5.2	Updates & maintenance of the SIDS Network Website	1 x Admin Staff
5.3	Updates: Digital, Social Media & Liaison with Division’s IT Support	1 x Admin Staff

Table. 1

SIDS Unit Work Programme 2018		
Output 1	Support to UN Inter-Governmental Processes	Responsibility
	HLPF 2018	
1.1	Organization and Support to formal SIDS Session HLPF 2018	P4 & P2
1.2	Organization and Support to High-level Side Event –Event in the margin of HLPF 2018	P5
	UNGA Support – Legislative/Resolution/Processes	
1.3	Parliamentary Documentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG’s Report on Implementation of SAMOA Pathway • Caribbean Sea • Needs Assessment 	P5, P4 & P2 P4 P5
1.6	Preparation and Secretariat support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiation on Modality of High-level Review of the SAMOA Pathway • Negotiation on Annual UNGA Resolution on the Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway 	P4, P2 P4, P2
1.7	Support to BBNJ & Ocean and Sea Issues	P5
	Secretariat Services	
1.8	Internal Correspondences: Drafting of Third Party Notes, Statements, Briefing Papers, Talking Points and Background Notes	P5, P4
	Secretariat Support to the Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway	
1.9	Organize and Support the Caribbean SIDS Regional Preparatory Meeting (Belize August 2018)	P5, P4, P2 & 2x Admin Staff
1.10	Organize and Support the Inter-Regional SIDS Preparatory Meeting (Samoa Oct-Nov 2018)	P5, P4, P2 & 2x Admin Staff

1.11	Support OHRLLS – AIMS Regional Preparatory Meeting (Mauritius May 2018)	P5, P2
1.12	Support OHRLLS – Pacific SIDS Regional Preparatory Meeting (Tonga June 2018)	P5, P4
1.13	Solicitation: Voluntary Trust Fund to support MTR Process	P5
Output 2	Capacity Building Initiatives & VNR Support	
	Support to the VNR Process	
2.1	Support to SIDS Countries presenting VNR in 2018, Bahamas, Bahrain, Cabo Verde, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Kiribati	P5 & P4
	Capacity Development -China Peace & Development Trust Fund	
2.2	VNR Training Workshops: PSIDS Region (Fiji September 2018)	P5
2.3	PSIDS 2019 VNR Country Workshop (Samoa November 2018)	P5
	Technical Advisory Services	
2.3	Organization and support: Juncao Technology Workshop (Fiji June 2018)	P5
	CDO-Projects	
2.4	Blue Economy “Abyssal Initiative”	P5
2.5	Caribbean Blue Economy Project	P4
Output 3	Inter-agency Coordination & Thematic Issues Coordination	
3.1	Chair of IACG (Rotating basis with OHRLLS)	P5
3.2	UN Ocean Coordination	P5
3.3	Organization of SIDS Expert Group Meeting on Climate Change “Loss & Damage	P5
Output 4	Stakeholders Engagement & SIDS Partnership	
4.1	Engagement with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AOSIS • PSIDS • Caribbean SIDS • AIMS 	P5, P4
4.2	Secretariat Support to the Steering Committee on SIDS Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official & Ambassadorial Meetings; and • The Global Multi-Stakeholders Dialogue 	P5, P4
Output 5	Communication & Outreach	
5.1	Quarterly Publication: “The Cowrie”- SIDS Times Magazine	P2 & 1x Admin Staff
5.2	Updates & maintenance of the SIDS Network Website	1 x Admin Staff
5.3	Updates: Digital, Social Media & Liaison with Division’s IT Support	1 x Admin Staff

Table.2

3. In implementing the above-mentioned Work Programmes, the SIDS Unit has had in the past and continues to benefit from tapping into resources and expertise available to it from other branches and divisions of UN-DESA. This arrangement has directly enhanced the Unit's support to SIDS, including the effective monitoring of the implementation of internationally agreed development agenda including the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda. In 2016, the JIU⁹ (see: Table 3) highlighted the percentage of time provided to the Unit by other branches in the Division. This percentage of extra support has remained more or less unchanged.

Level	Branch	Time allocation to SIDS
D2	Director of Division	10%
D1	SIDS, Ocean and Climate Branch	20%
P5	Intergovernmental Support and Inter-Agency Branch	5%
P5	Outreach and Communication Branch	5%
P4	Outreach and Communication Branch	33%

Table. 3

4. However, despite the provision of extra divisional support, the three-professional staff of the SIDS Unit have constantly indicated, that in order to fully meet their deliverables, especially the provision for secretariat support and in the preparation of the mandated parliamentary documentations, including the monitoring of progress in the implementation of the sustainable development priorities of SIDS, they've all had to find time outside normal business hours to complete their undertakings. Table: 4 reflects the percentage of time taken by the Unit's individual professional staff members outside normal business hours to complete their tasks.

Level	Designation	Time outside normal working hours
P5	Chief of Unit	25%
P4	Sustainable Development Officer	20-25%
P2	Associate Sustainable Development Officer	15-20%

Table. 4

⁹ JIU/REP/2016/3 see: Paragraph 26

5. The deliverable or output of the UN-DESA SIDS Unit (Table.5) for the period commencing **January 2017 to July 2018** was as follows:

SIDS UNIT DELIVERABLE January 2017- July 2018			
1.	Number of Background Notes (BN) and Talking Points (TP) submitted	86	43 x BN 43 x TP
2.	Number of statement/interventions drafted & delivered	16	1 x Jeju Ocean Conference 1 x Ocean Conference S/Event 1 x High-Level Breakfast 2 x UNFCCC Side-Event 11 x 2018 Statements
3.	Number of report, publications, newsletters, including concept notes submitted	14	4 x SG's Report 4 x Issues of "The Cowrie" SIDS Times Magazine 1x Concept Note Ocean Conference 2 x Concept Notes HLPF17 &18 3 x SIDS Regional Reports
4.	Number of draft blogs, press releases, social media and tweets posted for all events	88	www.sidsnetwork.org
5.	Number of events organized in support of UNGA (including the Ocean Conference & Other Int'l Meetings)/HLPF/STI Forum)/IGF (workshops/EGMs/briefings, including those for MGoS)	11	1x EGM ¹⁰ (Jeju) 1 x S/Event Ocean Conf. 1 x S/Event DDR Global Platform 1 x SIDS/SIDS Event- HLPF17 1 x High-level Event -HLPF18 1 x High-Level Breakfast UNGA72 1 x High-Level Event COP23 1x SIDS Retreat 1x Juncao Technology Workshop 2x Regional Prep Meeting (MTR)
6.	Number of participants in the events organized in support of UNGA (including the Ocean Conference)/HLPF/STI Forum)/IGF/MTR	537	45 x Jeju SIDS Ocean 35 x Ocean Side Event 40 x DRR SIDS Side Event 50 x SIDS/SIDS- HLPF 60 x UNFCCC Side Event 105 x High-Level Breakfast 43 x SIDS Retreat 40 x Juncao Technology Workshop 46 x AIMS Regional Prep Meeting 73 x PSIDS Regional Prep Meeting

¹⁰ Expert Group Meetings

7.	Number of capacity building workshops/events organized, funded by DA/RPTC/2030 Agenda sub-fund/UNOSD/UNCRD/IGF Secretariat/other extra budget	12	10 x DA Funded (VRCP) 2 x UNOSD Funded
8.	Number of participants (national and international) attending the capacity building workshops/events, including MGoS	240	40 x each VRCP – Jamaica, St. Lucia, Guinea Bissau, Seychelles, Sao Tome & Príncipe, Cabo Verde

Table: 5

ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

6. In its assessment of the allocation of resources to the Secretariat, the JIU concluded that “*resources have remained stable over a period in which the mandates have significantly expanded through successive resolutions resulting in additional tasks*”¹¹ and recommended that “*Member States should consider increasing the resources allocated to the SIDS Units of both DESA and OHRLLS to equip them with adequate means to effectively respond to the expectations of SIDS and their development partners*”¹².

(a) Allocation of Human Resources

7. At its inception, the UN-DESA SIDS Unit consisted of two established posts: The Chief of Unit (P-5) and a Sustainable Development Officer (P-4). The Secretariat has since taken measures to strengthen the Unit through deployment of additional established posts: (a) an Associate Sustainable Development Officer (P-2), (b) a Website Assistant (G-6), and (c) a General Service staff member (G-4)¹³. A Sustainable Development Officer (P-4) position was requested in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009¹⁴. In addition, extrabudgetary resources was secured with the support of the Government of Greece to provide for an Interregional Adviser (L-4) for a period of one year¹⁵. An Associate Expert was later assigned to the Unit for two years, with the support of the Government of Italy, in 2008¹⁶. The current staff establishment of the Unit remains at five, three Professional Officers: P5, P4, P2 and two General Staff Officers: G6 and G4. The Unit continues to benefit from its interaction with the Division for Sustainable Development Goals.

¹¹ JIU/REP/2016/3 paragraph 23

¹² Ibid paragraph 32

¹³ A/62/945 paragraph 12

¹⁴ A/RES/58/213 paragraph 13

¹⁵ A/62/945 paragraph 12

¹⁶ Ibid

(b) Allocation of Financial Resources

8. Successive resolutions of the Assembly have repeated calls on the Secretary-General underscoring the importance of providing the Secretariat with adequate, stable and predictable funding to facilitate the full and effective implementation of its mandates in accordance with the priority accorded to it and in view of the demand for its services, in particular with respect to the provision of assistance and support to SIDS.

Table: 6 lists these repeated calls.

Year	Resolution	Paragraph(s)
1995	A/RES/50/116	9
1996	A/RES/51/183	2
1997	A/RES/52/202	7
2000	A/RES/55/202	9
2001	A/RES/56/198	8
2003	A/RES/58/213	13
2004	A/RES/59/229	7
2005	A/RES/60/194	7
2006	A/RES/61/196	7
2007	A/RES/62/191	7
2008	A/RES/63/213	14 & 15
2009	A/RES/64/199	20
2010	A/RES/65/156	8
2014	A/RES/69/15 (SAMOA Pathway)	119
2016	A/RES/71/225	19

Table. 6

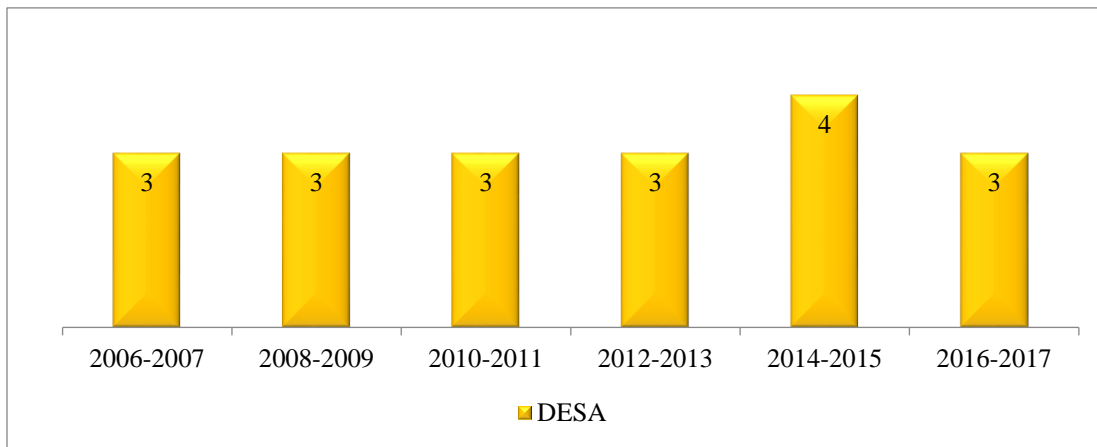
9. During the biennium 2016-2017, a sum of \$18,291,300, reflecting a decrease of \$2,589,100 was allotted to the Division for Sustainable Development, with \$17,390,000 for posts and \$901,300 for non-post requirements, including other staff costs, consultants, experts, travel of staff, contractual services, supplies and materials and furniture and equipment. The decrease in post resources results from the abolishment of 1 P-5 post in line with General Assembly resolution 69/264, offset in part by the establishment of 1 P-4 post in the Small Island Developing States Unit for the implementation of resolution 69/15 on the outcome of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SAMOA Pathway). The decrease in non-post resources reflected: the removal of non-recurrent requirements related to the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the support to the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States,

pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 66/288 and 67/207, respectively; and further reductions under travel of staff that took into account the impact of the standards of accommodation for air travel in line with General Assembly resolution 69/264.

10. During the same period, extrabudgetary resources of \$1,565,000 was used to: (a) support the participation of representatives of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in a range of meetings related to sustainable development and in the intergovernmental meetings; (b) support analytical and technical cooperation work programmes related to energy and water; and (c) support activities relating to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including among others, the SAMOA Pathway. The funding for the SIDS Unit's VRCP Capacity Building Projects has been exhausted risking non-continuance of this initiative.

11. In 2016, the JIU conducted a thorough assessment of the level of resources allocated to the Secretariat spanning seven biennium (2006 – 2017) and concluded that “resources have remained stable over a period in which the mandates have significantly expanded through successive resolutions resulting in additional tasks.”¹⁷ Information in the paragraphs that follows contains data drawn from the JIU findings. These are reproduced here to highlight, reiterate and underscore the fact that not much has changed since in terms of allocation of resources to the Unit and additionally, to serve as a reminder of the need for serious consideration by the Assembly of the necessity to allocate additional provisions of resources to the Unit to enable their efficient delivery of the expended mandates given to them over subsequent years by the Assembly.

12. Graph: 1¹⁸ illustrates the number of professional and higher staff in the SIDS Unit for 2006-2015 and was approved for 2016-2017 biennium. The same has remained largely unchanged.



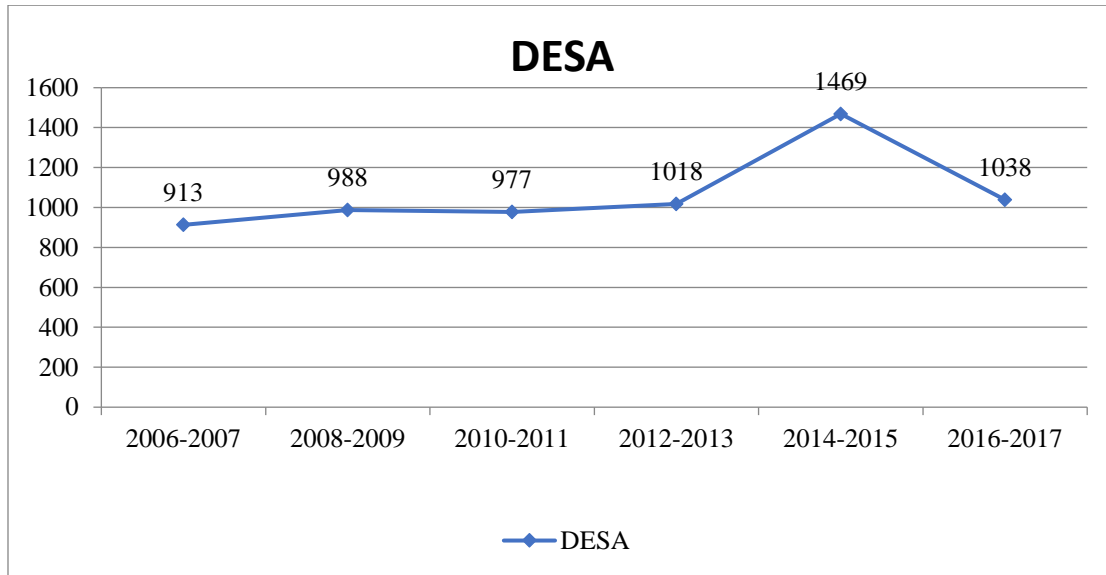
Graph: 1

¹⁷ JIU/REP/2016/3 paragraph 23

¹⁸ JIU/REP/2016/3 paragraph 23

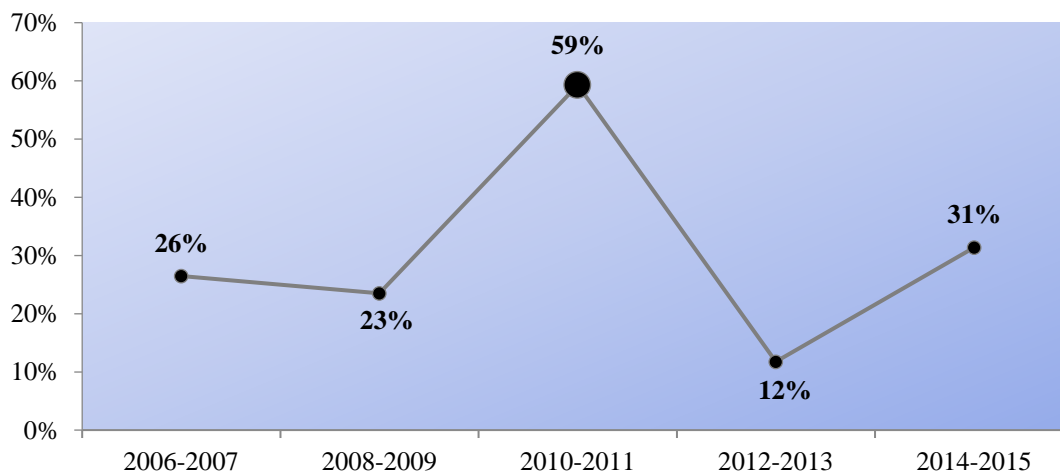
13. The estimated cost of (professional and higher) staffing of the Secretariat, which is financed through the United Nations regular budget, amounted to \$2,518,873 for the biennium 2014-2015 and approved for 2016-2017 (in USD thousands)¹⁹.

14. Graph 2 illustrate the cost of professional and higher staff for the SIDS Units of DESA from the regular budget for 2006-2015 and approved for 2016-2017 (in USD thousands).



Graph: 2

15. Concerning the evolution of extrabudgetary resources, those of the SIDS Unit of DESA fluctuated from one biennium to the other, peaking in 2010-2011 (see: graph 3 below).²⁰

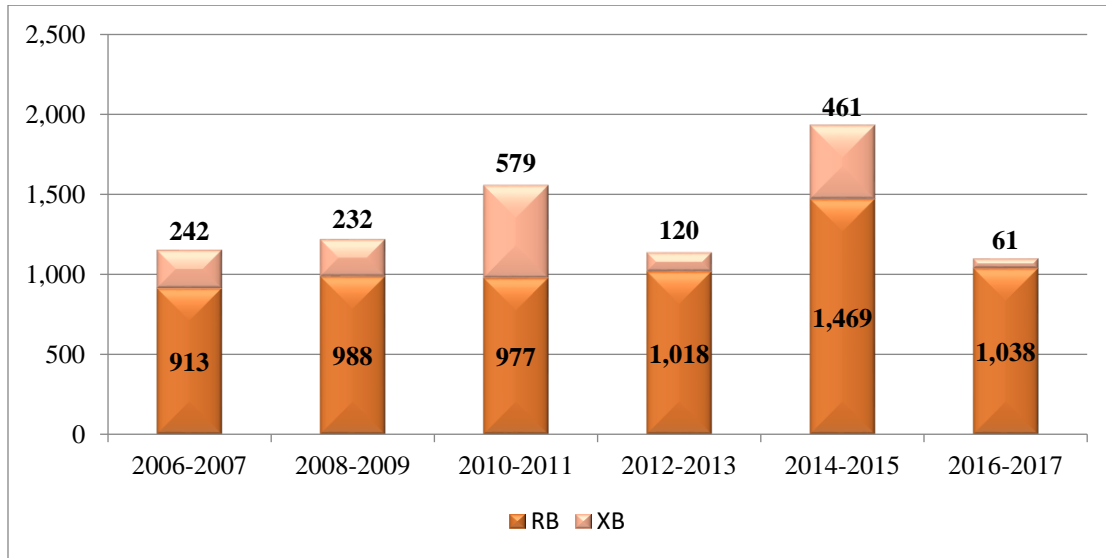


Graph: 3

¹⁹ Ibid paragraph 24

²⁰ See annex II for detailed figures on extrabudgetary-funded staff in the SIDS Unit of DESA.

14. Graph 4 illustrates the cost of professional and higher staff for the SIDS Unit of DESA: regular budget and extrabudgetary posts for 2006-2017 (in USD thousands).



Graph: 4

END