

QUESTIONNAIRE

Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the MSI, BPOA for the Sustainable Development of SIDS

Please note that strict word limits have been established for each question. The Secretariat is unable to consider any information beyond these established word limits. In this regard, you are requested to report only on new or updated information. Information conveyed in previous surveys will not be considered. Previous surveys can be accessed at https://sdgs.un.org/topics/small-island-developing-states#sg_reports_2023 under reports.

PART A

VULNERABILITY REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING IN SIDS

1. Enhanced Support for achieving Resilient Prosperity in SIDS

The theme for the SIDS4 Conference is “Charting a Course toward Resilient Prosperity” as such resilience building will be at the core of the new Programme of Action for SIDS. Briefly elaborate on any resilience building interventions or strategies (proactive or preventative) that will be implemented at national or regional levels aimed specifically at improving resilience in SIDS. Please include indications of resource allocations, if available (750 words).

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) advocates for comprehensive, proactive, evidence-based and context-specific interventions to address the unique challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and to build their resilience against various threats.

At UNFCCC COP 28, FAO launched “[Achieving SDG2 without breaching the 1.5° C threshold](#)” offering a common framework to unite different stakeholders around practical solutions spread across 10 domains of action, 120 actions and 20 milestones toward ensuring good food for all, for today and tomorrow.

Consistent with this framework, FAO has a series of programmes and initiatives and to further these actions, including the [Initiative on Climate Change and Nutrition \(I-CAN\)](#) and the [Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation \(FAST\)](#).¹

FAO works with SIDS to enhance their climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts for climate-resilient and low-emission agrifood systems. In 2023, FAO supported 13 SIDS with the formulation and implementation of their national adaptation plans.

In the Caribbean, FAO promotes climate-smart cropping systems that integrate efficient, adapted and affordable practices and digital technologies to improve water and nutrient management. FAO has submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the USD 18 million Caribbean SIDS multicountry soil management initiative for integrated Landscape Restoration and climate-resilient food systems (SOILCARE

¹ Two SIDS (Dominican Republic and Fiji) in its governance structure to effectively advocate for their unique needs and concerns.

II). This initiative supports 14 SIDS², to implement sustainable soil and land management and meet their commitments under the UNCCD. FAO, along with other agencies, submitted a USD 67 million proposal to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) that seeks to strengthen the social, economic, and cultural resilience of 41 vulnerable communities in Dominica. FAO supports efforts to harness alternative solutions like valorizing fish waste and developing insect bioreactors to mitigate environmental degradation and promote local economic growth, empower marginalized communities, and reduce dependency on costly imports.

FAO submitted a subregional USD 15 million proposal³ to the GCF to catalyze adaptation and resilience of fisheries, ecosystems, and communities to climate change and disasters through the application of ecosystem-based approaches. FAO is also strengthening the capacity of Caribbean⁴ SIDS to select and develop more resilient value chains with higher market and production potential, and to calculate costs of production and profits using an online tool.

To enhance SIDS preparedness and response to multi-hazards, FAO is developing a spatially explicit decision-making support tool in the Caribbean to identify climate risk hotspots with a granular geographic resolution to develop tailored interventions in a multihazard, multisector, multiperiod framework; and provide multicriteria decision tools for identifying and prioritizing effective and viable investments and/or policies. In addition, FAO is supporting Dominica's early warning systems, focusing on precision, reliability, and effective dissemination, capacity development of farmers and policymakers and the development of real-time advisory tools.

In the Pacific, FAO is supporting the design of a USD 44 million GCF project to enhance the resilience of Fiji's forests and communities, using the ridge to reef approach. Through the GEF Food Systems IP, FAO will support the Solomon Islands to transform their agrifood systems to nature-positive, resilient and pollution reduced systems.

FAO's Digital Villages Initiative promotes digital innovations to enable rural communities to boost their livelihoods, improve their wellbeing and contribute to social inclusion in 18 SIDS⁵. FAO is also supporting six Pacific SIDS⁶ to develop their e-agriculture strategies, as well as to develop and digitalize food systems-based dietary guidelines (FSBDGs) and set up digital agriculture hubs.

FAO is also implementing The Joint Programme "Accelerating Progress Towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment" (JP RWEE) in four SIDS⁷ to bolster gender inclusion in agriculture, advance data-informed gender initiatives, and empower grassroots women's organizations. FAO is also promoting gender equality, women's and youth economic empowerment and supporting capacity development in SIDS⁸.

In Haiti, 80 Dimitra Clubs have been set-up to contribute to building resilience of rural populations by improving local governance, women's leadership and participation in decision-making processes.

Enhanced and Tailored Development Cooperation for SIDS

The New SIDS Programme of Action will require improved, tailored development co-operation approaches, calibrated to the specific needs, capacity constraints, and economic challenges

² Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

³ Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago,

⁴ Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia.

⁵ Belize, Comoros, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Grenada, Jamaica, Kiribati, Madagascar, Mauritius, Nauru Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, São Tomé and Príncipe, St Kitts and Nevis, Seychelles, and Solomon Islands.

⁶ Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru and Palau.

⁷ Fiji, Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, and Tonga.

⁸ Barbados, Cabo Verde, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Palau and Trinidad and Tobago.

facing SIDS. Briefly elaborate on any planned or ongoing strategies/approaches to improve and deliver on more tailored development support to SIDS. What are the expected results from these interventions in the targeted countries. Please include indications of resource allocations if available **(750 words)**

FAO's [Blue Transformation Roadmap](#) outlines targets and priority actions to achieve the effective management of all fisheries, sustainably intensify and expand aquaculture production, and upgrade value chains to ensure the social, economic and environmental viability of aquatic food systems.

The [Agrifood Systems Transformation Accelerator \(ASTA\) programme](#), co-led by FAO and UNIDO, supports Suriname with the sustainable development of its high-potential pineapple value chain with USD 2.2 million from the UN SDG Fund grant.

FAO is supporting the analysis of the cost and affordability of healthy diets in selected Caribbean countries⁹ with a view to implementing effective, evidence-based policies and strategies to facilitate access to healthy and affordable diets to eradicate hunger and all forms of malnutrition. Through the implementation of a network of information systems on agriculture, food security and nutrition in the Indian Ocean countries (STATSANOI), FAO supports the strengthening of national and regional information systems with a focus on on agriculture, food security and nutrition.

FAO is working with seven SIDS¹⁰ to strengthen deforestation capacities, monitor forests, achieve climate goals, support ecosystem restoration, and develop sustainable wildlife management models. For the UN Decade of Ecosystems Restoration, FAO in collaboration with other UN entities¹¹, developed the SIDS Restoration Flagship to integrate marine and coastal ecosystem restoration into inclusive economic recovery and growth in three SIDS¹². The Flagship aims to restore 113 000 hectares by 2030, supported by a USD 5 million grant from the UN Decade Multiparter Trust Fund.

FAO is assisting the formulation of a GEF funded project on Integrated Land Use Planning for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and Climate Change in Guyana as well as the development of land banks in two SIDS¹³ to support country reporting on LDN targets.

FAO will seek to engage with the UNFCCC Loss and Damage Fund, as well as to continue to support SIDS to access climate- related funding mechanisms including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and GEF. The FAO SIDS portfolio is approximately USD 137 million under the GCF and USD 321 million in grants and USD 1.58 billion in cofinancing under GEF. FAO will continue to support SIDS through the GEF Integrated Programs (IP).¹⁴

FAO supports 12 SIDS¹⁵ through the Hand-in-Hand (HiH) Initiative to accelerate agrifood systems transformation, employing advanced geospatial modelling and analytics, to develop robust investment plans and identify strategic partners to deliver on them. At the 2024 HiH Investment Forum, plans from four SIDS¹⁶ and the first phase of the Caribbean SIDS Regional HiH Initiative will be presented to a wide range of potential investors.

⁹ Grenada, Guyana and Jamaica.

¹⁰ Bahamas, Cuba, Guyana, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Suriname and Timor-Leste.

¹¹ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the UN Environment Programme

¹² Comoros, Saint Lucia and Vanuatu.

¹³ Grenada and St Kitts and Nevis.

¹⁴ IPs: Food Systems, the Blue and Green Islands, the Critical Forest Biomes, the Ecosystem Restoration and the Clean and Healthy Oceans.

¹⁵ Cabo Verde, Comoros, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, São Tomé and Príncipe, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Island, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

¹⁶ Comoros, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Papua New Guinea.

FAO will support 15 Pacific SIDS¹⁷ to produce an evidence-based programme to inform policy makers, the private sector and the local and international community, about key trends and challenges in food and agriculture and the related opportunities for policy intervention and investments.

Through the FAO-China South- South Cooperation (SSC) Trust Fund, enhancing digital literacy and capacities for transformation and innovation in agriculture in SIDS is currently underway through a USD 5 million project in 6 SIDS¹⁸ and an additional 12 SIDS will benefit from another USD 5 million project to strengthen the capacities of key agrifood system stakeholders to contribute effectively to the digital transformation of agrifood systems.

FAO is preparing a Framework on Inclusion to identify people vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition as a priority target group for nutrition-sensitive interventions. The Framework also prioritizes people living in remote and fragile agroecological environments and promotes programmes to strengthen the disaster risk management capacity and resilience to shocks of these communities.

In support of the Common Country Analysis/United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework process at country level, FAO was established a SIDS specific team FAO's knowledge and technical expertise into the UN integrated programming approach with a focus on agrifood systems transformation.

PART B

MULTIDIMENSIONAL VULNERABILITY IN THE WORK OF THE UN SYSTEM

Paragraph 13 of Resolution 78/232 Requests the Secretary-General to assess how multidimensional vulnerability is currently considered by the United Nations system. Please indicate how your entity considers multidimensional vulnerability in your policies, practices and Programmes (1000 words)

FAO recognizes that vulnerability in the context of food security is multidimensional, encompassing various factors such as socio-economic status, environmental conditions, access to resources, and resilience to shocks. In its policies and programmes, FAO employs a holistic approach that recognizes these complexities and seeks to address them through integrated strategies.

FAO's approach to addressing multidimensional vulnerability begins with understanding the diverse factors that contribute to food insecurity and vulnerability among different populations. This understanding is informed by comprehensive data collection, analysis, and research, which help identify vulnerable groups, assess their specific needs, and evaluate the underlying causes of vulnerability. FAO collaborates with national governments, international organizations, research institutions, and civil society to gather data to support the development of evidence-based policies and programmes tailored to local contexts.

One of the central pillars of FAO's approach is the recognition of the interconnectedness between food security, poverty, nutrition, and environmental sustainability. FAO's policies and programmes aim to address not only immediate food needs but also the underlying drivers of vulnerability, such as poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation. For example, FAO promotes sustainable agricultural practices

¹⁷ Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Tokelau.

¹⁸ Barbados, Cuba, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

that enhance productivity, conserve natural resources, and build resilience to climate change, thereby reducing vulnerability among smallholder farmers and rural communities.

Another key aspect of FAO's approach is the promotion of inclusive and participatory decision-making processes that involve vulnerable groups, especially women, youth, indigenous peoples, and marginalized communities. By empowering these groups to actively participate in the design, implementation, and monitoring of food security interventions, FAO ensures that policies and programmes are responsive to their needs, priorities, and aspirations. Moreover, FAO advocates for gender equality and women's empowerment as fundamental to achieving food security and sustainable development.

Furthermore, FAO recognizes the critical role of governance, policy coherence, and institutional capacity in addressing multidimensional vulnerability. FAO works with governments to strengthen policy frameworks, legal frameworks, and institutional mechanisms that support food security, poverty reduction, and sustainable development. This includes promoting pro-poor and gender-responsive policies, investing in rural infrastructure and services, and fostering partnerships between government agencies, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

FAO also emphasizes the importance of building resilience to shocks and crises, such as natural disasters, conflicts, and economic downturns, which can exacerbate vulnerability and food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition. FAO's resilience-building efforts focus on improving risk management mechanisms, strengthening social protection systems and enhancing the adaptive capacity of communities and institutions. This includes promoting early warning systems, providing emergency assistance, and supporting livelihood diversification strategies that reduce reliance on single sources of income or food. FAO informs its policies, programming and interventions on comprehensive context, sector- and hazard-specific multirisk analysis that takes into consideration “all dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment” with emphasis on agrifood systems and related livelihoods of the most vulnerable.

Thus, a comprehensive multirisk assessment for agrifood systems needs to consider the array of hazards¹⁹ that are relevant for a specific context, how these may change in frequency and intensity in the future, and how these interact with the multiple vulnerabilities of people and of the agrifood systems on which they depend, determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes.

In line with its inclusive approach and working across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus, FAO adopts a people-centred approach that prioritizes the diverse needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups, regardless of gender, sex, age, disability, displacement and/or refugee status, Indigenous self-identification or any other socio-economic variable. The Organization fosters cross-sectoral collaboration with international, national and local partners to effectively address vulnerabilities, leveraging local capacities and knowledge to rebuild livelihoods and enhance resilience. The collection and use of disaggregated data, alongside context-specific livelihoods and vulnerability assessments, supports the design of needs- and data-driven interventions. Gender-transformative approaches are employed to better address women's needs and vulnerabilities during emergencies, including addressing gender-based violence, thereby enhancing their resilience and capacity to confront future shocks. FAO systematically integrates conflict-sensitive and do-no-harm approaches, contributing to the protection of affected people and groups while

¹⁹ Chapter 1.6, in FAO. 2022. The Future of Food and Agriculture – Drivers and Triggers for Transformation. The Future of Food and Agriculture 3. Rome, Italy: FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0959en>.

preventing its interventions from resulting in adverse outcomes by creating new vulnerabilities and dependencies.

FAO's work is informed by an analysis of all the key factors that affect agrifood systems and livelihoods, including the tools, assets and the environment in which they evolve, their exposure and physical fragility, location, as well as institutions. Otherwise, the cumulative impact of multiple risks and crises, if unchecked, would only continue to erode capacities and enhance vulnerabilities, leading into a negative spiral of destitution.

It is also worth noting that to tackle the unique nature of rural poverty, FAO together with Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford developed the Rural Multidimensional Poverty Indicator (R-MPI) that includes five dimensions²⁰ and 18 indicators.²¹ The R-MPI aims to capture rural livelihoods, and their specificity to the economy and the environment; the vulnerabilities of the rural livelihoods to shocks and changes in the natural environment including climate variability and related shocks; and coping strategies and other means to manage risks.

²⁰ Food security and nutrition, education, living standards, rural livelihoods and risks.

²¹ Food insecurity; child malnutrition; years of schooling; school attendance; cooking fuel; improved sanitation; drinking water; electricity; housing; assets; agricultural assets adequacy; low pay rate; social protection; child labour; extension services; credit denial; risk exposure; and risk of climate shocks.